

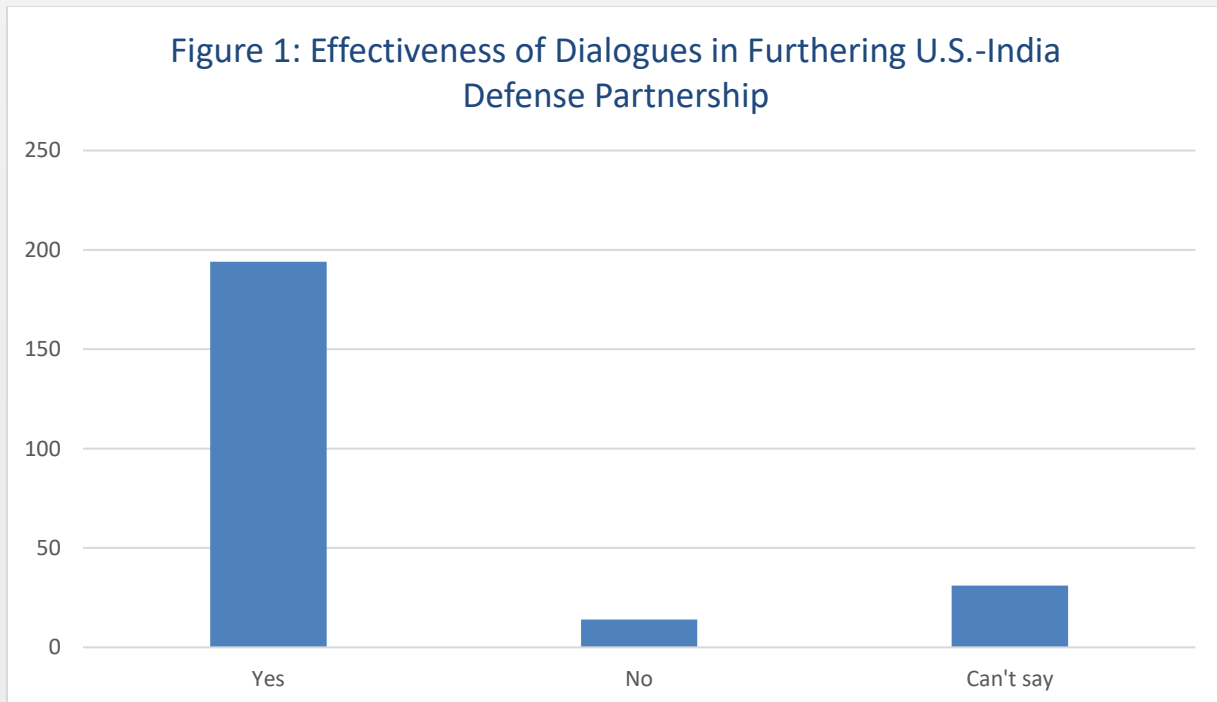
# Defense News Conclave

## *Stories on U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership*

### Feedback from Participants

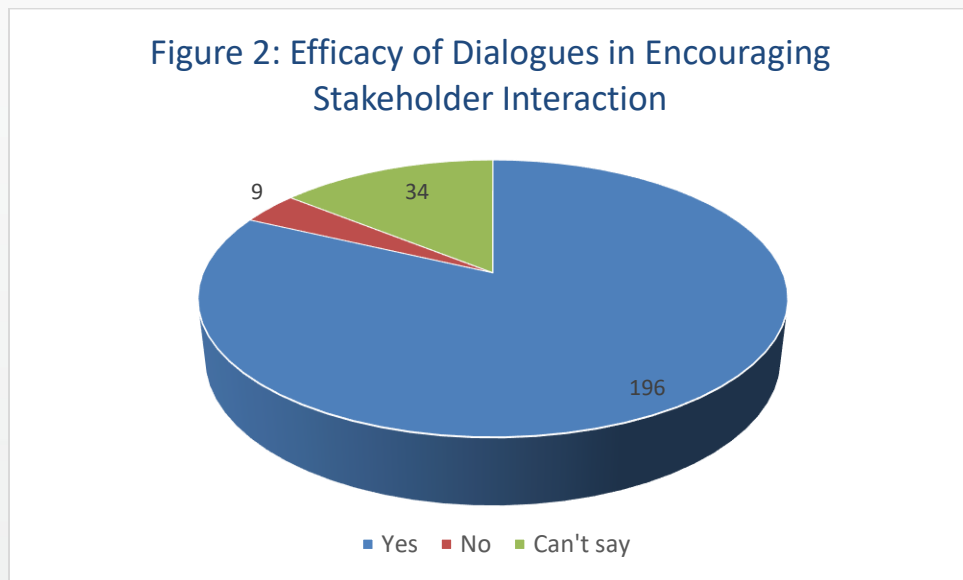
Feedback forms were distributed to participants who attended the 'Dialogues on Deliverables to Deliveries' workshops. These workshops, held in five major cities across India — Kolkata, Jaipur, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Chennai — and the Mega two-day Conclave in New Delhi, were designed to enhance the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership through in-depth discussions and interactive sessions.

These workshops, which featured expert speakers and panel discussions, focused on enhancing the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership through in-depth discussions and interactive sessions. A total of 239 participants provided their feedback, offering valuable insights into various aspects of the workshops. Their responses were carefully collected and analysed to gauge the effectiveness of the sessions, the content's relevance, and the discussions' overall impact. The feedback covered several key areas, including the quality of the dialogues, the level of engagement, the opportunities for stakeholder interaction, and the educational value of the workshops in promoting best practices and joint production possibilities within the defense sector.



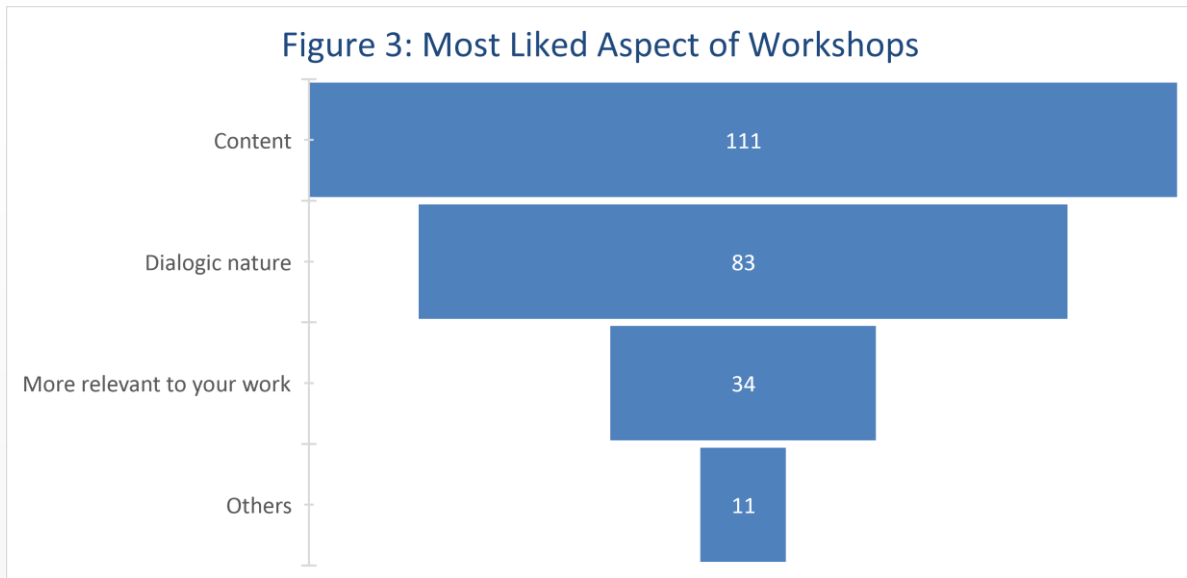
A maximum number of respondents (194) opined that workshops such as 'Dialogues on Deliverables of Deliveries' effectively further the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership. A meagre (14) answers said the dialogues could be effective in furthering the U.S.-India Defense partnership. A total of 31 respondents stated 'Can't Say'.

Most respondents (94 per cent) found the dialogues effective in advancing the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership. This overwhelmingly positive response underscores the value of these workshops in strengthening bilateral relations. However, the small percentage (six per cent) who were unsure or did not find the dialogues effective indicates a need to explore and address the reasons behind their scepticism.



The dialogues notably fostered interaction among stakeholders, with 82 per cent of respondents affirming that dialogues encourage stakeholder interaction in the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership. The highest number, 196 respondents, said that the Dialogues on Deliverables to Deliveries were effective in encouraging stakeholder interaction in the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership. Some respondents (34) answered Can't Say to the question of whether the Dialogues on Deliverables to Deliveries were effective in encouraging stakeholder interaction on the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership.

The fewest respondents (9) answered the negative statement that the Dialogues on Deliverables to Deliveries effectively encouraged stakeholder interaction on the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership. The low percentage (four per cent) of negative responses suggests that while the format is mainly effective, there is room for enhancing engagement, particularly by addressing the concerns of those uncertain about these interactions' efficacy.

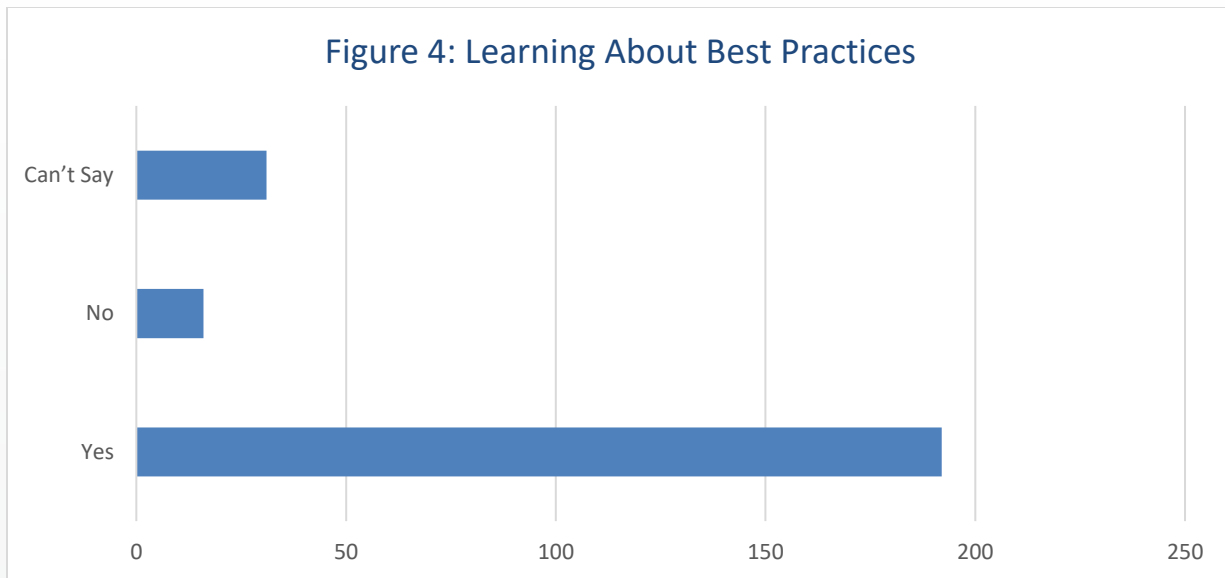


The content of the dialogues was the most appreciated aspect, with participants finding it relevant and engaging as the majority of the respondents to the feedback form (111) said they liked the content of the dialogues. A total of 83 said they liked the dialogic nature of the workshops. The number of respondents who said it is more relevant to their work was 34. The positive reception of informal discussions and specific presentations highlights the importance of incorporating diverse presentation styles and informal networking opportunities into future workshops.

While 11 respondents stated their reason as ‘Others’. The respondents specified several aspects they found valuable or noteworthy about the workshop. The informal discussions during the tea break were highlighted as a productive part of the event. Some participants praised the exceptional lectures given by Gen. Saha and Prof. Mahapatra, noting that these presentations helped them better understand the issues and sparked increased interest in the subject, particularly for those involved in writing about it.

Others appreciated the ideas and processes discussed during the workshop, with one participant encouraging the organisers to continue holding such progressive talks in the future. Some responses were more specific, mentioning Sectors I and II as areas of interest, while others valued the subject-specific nature of the discussions. The speakers' professionalism was also commended.

One interesting suggestion was to include representatives from the Fourth Estate (the press and media) as panellists in future events, indicating a desire for a broader perspective and discussion. These varied responses suggest that participants found value in different aspects of the workshop, from the formal presentations to the informal talks and from the specific subject matter to the overall professionalism of the event.



The majority of feedback survey respondents (192) said that the workshops on dialogues, deliverables, and deliveries helped them learn about good practices in the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership, including joint production possibilities of equipment and materials, opportunities and challenges of various sectors involved.

The workshops effectively impart knowledge about best practices in the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership, including joint production possibilities and sector-specific challenges. The affirmative response from the majority (192 respondents) suggests that the content was well-aligned with the learning objectives. However, a small group of participants (8 per cent) did not find the workshops helpful, indicating a potential area for improvement in content delivery. The number of respondents answered 'no' (16).

### **Enhancing Indo-US Relations: Areas for Deeper Discussion**

The dialogues on Deliverables to Deliveries on the India-U.S. Defense and Security Partnership were comprehensive, yet participants highlighted several areas where deeper exploration would be beneficial. Firstly, more American perspectives, particularly from strategic thinkers, were suggested to offer a balanced view and enrich the discussions.

A significant interest was expressed in analysing the evolving geopolitical landscape, particularly the China threat and strategic dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, including the South China Sea. Participants also wanted more detailed discussions on India's defense manufacturing capabilities, focusing on technology transfer challenges, reciprocal defense cooperation, and enhancing self-reliance in arms production.

A recurring theme was addressing limitations and challenges in the bilateral relationship. Participants called for candid discussions about trust issues, structural hurdles in joint agreements,

and the political or diplomatic fallout from defense partnerships. Acknowledging these challenges is crucial for finding solutions and strengthening the partnership.

Beyond defense, there was interest in exploring non-defense cooperation, such as economic relations, space collaboration, and joint initiatives in emerging technologies like AI and quantum computing. The role of media in shaping public perception was also highlighted, with suggestions for a deeper discourse on the media's capacity to communicate the complexities and benefits of the bilateral relationship.

Practical insights through case studies and examples were recommended to illustrate the successes and challenges of Indo-US cooperation. Additionally, participants advocated for greater involvement of industry representatives and private sector stakeholders to provide practical perspectives on collaboration dynamics and supply chain issues.

Finally, participants sought detailed discussions on emerging security challenges like cyber warfare and information warfare, emphasising the need for joint strategies to address these modern threats. By addressing these areas comprehensively, India and the U.S. can build a more robust, resilient, mutually beneficial partnership.

### **Enhancing Engagement in Indo-US Dialogue Sessions**

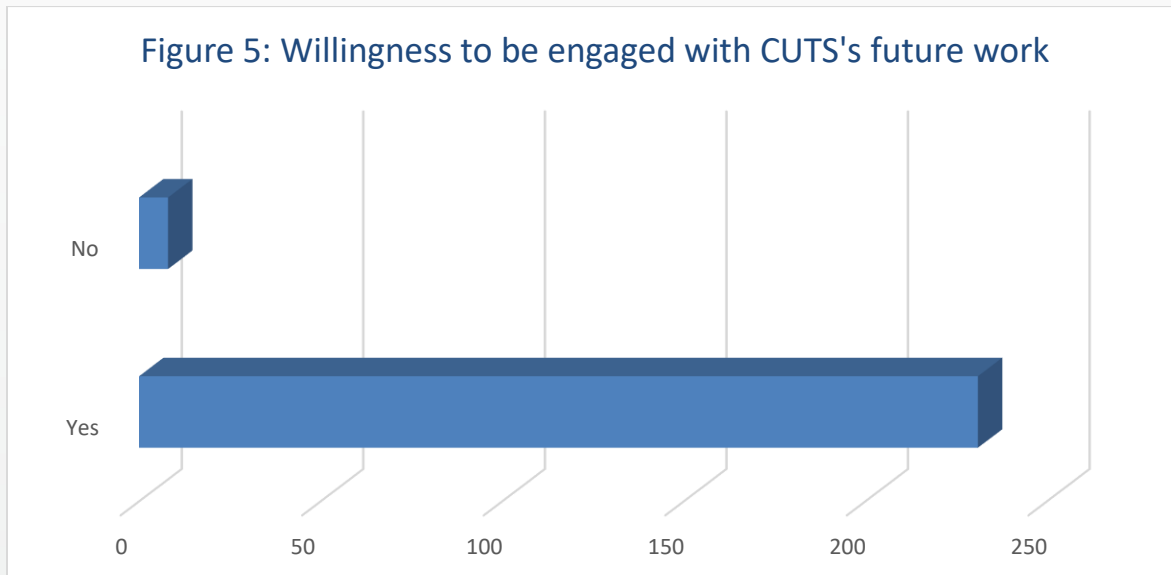
In recent Indo-U.S. dialogue sessions, participants provided valuable feedback on making future workshops more engaging and effective. A recurring suggestion was the need for increased interaction, particularly through longer Q&A sessions. Many participants felt that more time for audience questions would allow for a deeper exploration of topics and allow attendees to engage more directly with panellists. The desire for more interactive sessions, as opposed to one-way presentations, was also emphasised, with recommendations to reduce the use of PowerPoint slides in favour of more dialogue-driven formats.

Another common theme was the inclusion of diverse voices, particularly from American participants. Attendees expressed the need for greater participation from U.S. defense personnel, government officials, and industry representatives to balance the discussions and provide a more comprehensive perspective. Some suggested inviting scholars, industry leaders, and even young intellectuals to add fresh insights and innovative ideas to the conversation. There was also a call for including other Indo-Pacific actors, such as the remaining QUAD members, to broaden the scope of the dialogue.

To enhance the practical outcomes of these sessions, participants proposed integrating more case studies, action plans, and focused discussions on specific topics. They also recommended greater private sector involvement, including SMEs and MSMEs, to address real-world challenges in India-U.S. collaboration. Additionally, some attendees suggested holding these dialogues in

different locations across India and incorporating more regional perspectives, which could increase accessibility and participation.

The technical aspects of the sessions were also noted, with calls to address disruptions in virtual transmissions and to allow more interactive engagement for online participants. Finally, organising more frequent workshops was widely supported, with some proposing these events be held quarterly to maintain momentum and continuity in the dialogue. These suggestions underscore the desire for a more dynamic, inclusive, and impactful exchange in future Indo-US engagements.



The majority, 231 respondents, stated that they are ready to engage with CUTS's future work on the India-U.S. Partnership. An encouraging 97 per cent of respondents expressed willingness to engage with CUTS in future work on the India-U.S. Partnership. This readiness reflects a strong interest in the subject matter and a commitment to ongoing collaboration, providing a solid foundation for future initiatives. Only 8 respondents (3 per cent) said they are not interested in engaging with CUTS's future work on this subject.

These insights indicate that while the dialogues have been successful in many respects, they can be enhanced by incorporating more diverse perspectives, deepening the focus on key issues, and increasing opportunities for interaction. The high level of participant readiness to engage further with CUTS suggests significant potential for sustained and meaningful collaboration in the future.