



# Defense News Conclave

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

### QUARTERLY NEWS WRAP

*Issue #11, April - June 2024*

#### **India and the US Strengthen Strategic Partnership in Critical and Emerging Technologies**

In the latest quarter, we present our eleventh series of QNW to deliver comprehensive coverage of the latest significant developments between India and the US in the Indo-Pacific, India and the US, in particular have strengthened their strategic partnership through significant engagements and exercises, marking pivotal advancements in regional cooperation and global leadership.

India and the United States reaffirmed their commitment to technological innovation and strategic collaboration with the successful second meeting of the India-US Commercial and Economic Talks (i-CET). This dialogue focused on advancing cooperation in cutting-edge fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, and cybersecurity. The discussions underscored both nations' mutual commitment to addressing global challenges through technological advancements, solidifying their bilateral ties.

Meanwhile, RIMPAC 2024, the world's largest maritime exercise hosted by the United States Navy in Hawaii, saw participation from 28 nations. This biennial event aimed at enhancing interoperability, strengthening maritime partnerships, and promoting regional security across the Indo-Pacific. It served as a critical platform for fostering cooperative security measures amidst evolving geopolitical dynamics in the region.

On the diplomatic front, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with US delegations underscored India's robust commitment to cultural and diplomatic exchanges. Notably, the visit to the Dalai Lama, despite objections from China, highlighted shared values on human rights and religious freedom between India and the US. This interaction solidified the strategic partnership, emphasising mutual support for global peace and democratic principles in the region.

Additionally, the 50th G7 summit convened leaders from the world's largest advanced economies in Italy, focusing on global economic recovery and climate change mitigation. Held in Sicily, the summit emphasised coordinated efforts to address economic disparities, enhance digital and energy security, and accelerate sustainable development goals. The leaders' collective commitment underscored the importance of international cooperation in tackling pressing global challenges, setting a unified agenda for global stability and prosperity.

For more detailed coverage and additional news from India and the US and beyond, continue reading below in our comprehensive Quarterly News Wrap.

## HIGHLIGHTS

<p><b>RIMPAC 2024 Kicks Off in Hawaii</b> <i>US Department of Defense</i> June 28, 2024</p>	<p>Approximately 29 nations, 40 surface ships, three submarines, 14 national land forces, over 150 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel will train and operate in and around the Hawaiian Islands during the exercise, which runs until Aug. 1. <a href="#">RIMPAC</a> provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans.</p>
<p><b>India and the US Strengthen Strategic Partnership in Critical and Emerging Technologies</b> <i>Financial Times</i> June 18, 2024</p>	<p>India and the United States are forging ahead with their strategic partnership in critical and emerging technologies, as evidenced by the second meeting of the India-US <a href="#">Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology</a> (iCET). This significant meeting, chaired by Indian National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and US National Security Advisor (APNSA) Jake Sullivan, took place in New Delhi, marking a pivotal moment in the collaboration between the two nations.</p>
<p><b>PM Modi meets US delegations who visited Dalai Lama despite China's objection</b> <i>Economic Times</i> June 21, 2024</p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with a US Congressional delegation on Thursday, following their visit to Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, earlier this week.</p> <p>The delegation, including former US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, congratulated PM Modi on his third consecutive term and expressed "deep appreciation" for the scale and transparency of India's recent general elections.</p>
<p><b>India's participation in the "Summit on Peace in Ukraine"</b> <i>PIB</i> June 16, 2024</p>	<p>Shri Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, represented India at the <a href="#">Summit on Peace in Ukraine</a>, hosted by Switzerland at Burgenstock on 15-16 June 2024. The Indian delegation attended the Opening and Closing Plenary Sessions of the Summit. India did not associate itself with any communique/document emerging from this Summit.</p>
<p><b>Here's how the US Army's multidomain task force is contributing to AUKUS</b> <i>Defence News</i> May 18, 2024</p>	<p>The U.S. Army's 3rd Multidomain Task Force, headquartered in Hawaii, is getting officers from both Australia and the U.K. this summer and will work on advancing technology that's focus of the second pillar of the <a href="#">AUKUS pact</a>, according to U.S. Army Pacific Commander Gen. Charles Flynn.</p>
<p><b>US attacks Russia for vetoing UNSC resolution on Outer Space Treaty</b> <i>Business Standard</i> April 25, 2024</p>	<p>The United States <a href="#">slammed Russia</a> on Wednesday for vetoing a UN Security Council resolution on the Outer Space Treaty that put a legally binding obligation that countries should not be putting weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including nuclear weapons, in orbit.</p>

## OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

<p><b>Deputy Secretary Campbell's Meeting with Indian Foreign Secretary Kwatra and Deputy National Security Advisor Misri</b> <i>U.S. Department of State</i> June 18, 2024</p>	<p>Deputy Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell met today with Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra and Deputy National Security Advisor Vikram Misri in New Delhi, India to discuss their enduring commitment to strengthening <a href="#">the U.S.-India partnership</a>.</p>
<p><b>Joint Statement of the 14th Defense Trilateral Talks</b> <i>U.S. Department of Defense</i> April 25, 2024</p>	<p>Republic of Korea (ROK) Deputy Minister for National Defense Policy Cho Chang-rae, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner, and Japan Director General for Defense Policy Kano Koji convened the 14th Defense <a href="#">Trilateral Talks</a> virtually on April 24, 2024.</p>
<p><b>Readout of Deputy Secretary of Defense Hicks' Meeting with Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra</b> <i>U.S. Department of Defense</i> April 12, 2024</p>	<p>Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks hosted Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra at the <a href="#">Pentagon</a> today to discuss priorities for strengthening the U.S.-India defense partnership, including the implementation of the Roadmap for U.S.-India Defense Industrial Cooperation.</p>

## POLICY MATTERS

<p><b>India and USA extend the Transitional Approach on Equalisation Levy 2020 until June 30, 2024</b> <i>PIB</i> June 28, 2024</p>	<p>India and the United States joined 134 other members of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework (including Austria, France, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom) in reaching agreement on the Statement on a <a href="#">Two-Pillar Solution to Address</a> the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy.</p>
<p><b>JOINT FACT SHEET: The United States and India Continue to Chart an Ambitious Course for the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology</b> <i>The White House</i> June 17, 2024</p>	<p>Today, U.S. National Security Advisor (APNSA) Jake Sullivan and Indian National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval chaired the second meeting of the <a href="#">U.S.-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology</a> (iCET) in New Delhi.</p>
<p><b>Readout of the Second U.S.-India Advanced Domains Defense Dialogue</b> <i>U.S. Department of Defense</i> May 24, 2024</p>	<p>Dr. Vipin Narang, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy, and Mr. Vishwesh Negi, India's Joint Secretary for International Cooperation, met for the second annual U.S.-India <a href="#">Advanced Domains Defense Dialogue</a> (AD3) on May 23, 2024, at the Pentagon, Washington DC.</p>
<p><b>Joint Report of the U.S.-India Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Working Group</b> <i>U.S. Department of State</i></p>	<p>The United States and India renewed their <a href="#">shared commitment</a> to open, interoperable, reliable and secure digital connectivity and ICT networks to support growth of the digital economy during a meeting of the U.S.-India Information and Communications</p>

May 14, 2024

Technology Working Group, hosted in-person on May 15-16, 2023.

## DEFENSE TRADE

### India, U.S. in talks for Stryker infantry vehicles and Javelin missiles

*The Hindu*

June 27, 2024

India has expressed interest in the [co-production of the Stryker](#) infantry vehicles and it is in “relatively” early stages of talks with the U.S. on the Stryker and the javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM), according to the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell.

### US still reviewing one bomb shipment for Israel

*The Financial Express*

June 20, 2024

Contract for design & development of indigenous [High Altitude Pseudo-Satellite](#) (HAPS) for the Indian Navy, under the iDEX initiative, signed with M/s New Space Research & Technologies. Enhancing the Navy's prowess with extended surveillance period, this is a strong move towards ensuring Future Proof Navy in consonance with GoI's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat," the Navy said in a statement.

### India, US to expand naval ship repair network

*Live Mint*

May 1, 2024

The US and India are auditing Kolkata port as they eye a new Master [Ship Repair Agreement](#) (MSRA) that will allow US warships to access repair services at the port, according to persons aware of the matter.

This is part of attempts by New Delhi and Washington to make India a major hub for maintenance and repair of US Navy ships in the Indo-Pacific

### Cochin Shipyard signs ship repair agreement with U.S. Navy

*The Hindu*

April 8, 2024

As [India and the United States](#) look to expand cooperation in ship repair and maintenance to turn India into a regional hub, Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) became the third Indian shipyard to enter into a Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MRSA) with the U.S., which will enable to repair U.S. Navy ships.

### Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Satellogic Announce TSAT-1A Satellite Launch Success

*Satellogic*

April 8, 2024

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (“TASL”), India’s leading private sector player for aerospace and defense solutions, and Satellogic Inc. (NASDAQ: SATL) (“Satellogic”), a leader in sub-meter resolution Earth Observation (“EO”) data collection, today announced the successful deployment into space of TASL’s [TSAT-1A satellite](#) aboard the Bandwagon-1 mission, which SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket launched from Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA, at 23:16 UTC on April 7, 2024.

## TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

<p><b>Nvidia pushes out Apple, Microsoft to become world's most valuable company</b> <i>The Washington Post</i> June 18, 2024</p>	<p>Nvidia, the computer chip maker at the center of the artificial intelligence boom, continued its spectacular stock market rise Tuesday, eclipsing <a href="#">Microsoft and Apple</a> to become the world's most valuable public company. Nvidia's shares rose more than 3 percent Tuesday, giving the company an overall market valuation of \$3.34 trillion.</p>
<p><b>India emerging as promising alternative to China for chipmaking equipment firms</b>  <i>ET Telecom</i> June 14, 2024</p>	<p>The <a href="#">chipmaking equipment</a> industry is looking to establish operations in India, as the country emerges as a promising alternative to China amid tensions between Beijing and the West.</p> <p>The international chip industry group SEMI is set to host its Semicon exhibition in India for the first time in September.</p>
<p><b>Chandigarh to house India's first of its kind Centre for Cyber Operations</b> <i>Economic Times</i> May 10, 2024</p>	<p>Setting up the new age digital infrastructure to take on the future cyber security challenges, the Centre has laid the foundation of one of its one-of-a-kind <a href="#">cyber security centre</a> in Chandigarh that will strengthen the security apparatus around the digital ecosystem.</p>
<p><b>Defense Innovation Unit Launches First CSO Under New Emerging Technology Portfolio</b> <i>Defence Innovation Unit</i> May 9, 2024</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Defense Innovation Unit</a> (DIU) announced the first Commercial Solutions Opening solicitation under its newest portfolio focused on Emerging Technology - Transition of Quantum Sensors (TQS). Sensors designed at the atomic level offer the promise of significant improvements in precision, accuracy, and sensitivity compared to classical sensors.</p>
<p><b>Brainwave Science, Inc. Introduces Groundbreaking Advancements in iCognitive Technology, Revolutionising Field Investigations and Deception Detection</b> <i>Business Wire</i> April 3, 2024</p>	<p>Brainwave Science, Inc., a leader in <a href="#">Brain Computer Interface</a> (BCI) technology and concealed information detection, is thrilled to announce significant advancements in its iCognitive technology with the launch of the new iCognitive Web Application. This innovation represents a significant leap forward, setting a new benchmark in the fields of security, investigation, and truth verification technologies.</p>

## INDO-PACIFIC DEVELOPMENTS

<p><b>Russia and North Korea sign partnership deal that appears to be the strongest since the Cold War</b> <i>The Columbian</i> June 19, 2024</p>	<p>Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un <a href="#">signed an agreement</a> Wednesday that pledges mutual aid if either country faces "aggression," a strategic pact that comes as both face escalating standoffs with the West.</p>
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<p><b>US blasts ‘aggressive’ China over South China Sea collision with Philippine ship</b> <i>CNN</i> June 18, 2024</p>	<p>The United States on Monday <a href="#">condemned China</a> over a collision with the Philippines in the disputed South China Sea, the latest in a series of increasingly fraught confrontations that have raised the potential of a flashpoint for global conflict in the vital waterway.</p>
<p><b>U.S. shows Japanese officials ICBM launch procedures</b> <i>Nikkei Asia</i> June 18, 2024</p>	<p>Japanese officials have toured a U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile base in the state of Wyoming, <a href="#">learning about the specific procedures leading up to a nuclear missile launch</a>.</p> <p>The visit took place during the bilateral Extended Deterrence Dialogue at Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne</p>
<p><b>Narendra Modi flashes his 'multi-alignment' diplomacy at G7 summit</b> <i>Nikkei Asia</i> June 15, 2024</p>	<p>Indian Prime Minister <a href="#">Narendra Modi used his first trip</a> abroad since his ruling party lost its outright majority to show that his "multi-alignment" foreign policy remains intact.</p> <p>Modi appeared to indicate that his electoral setback earlier this month will not sidetrack his diplomatic tightrope walk between Western influence and Russian supplies of arms and oil.</p>
<p><b>South Korea, U.S. accelerate space cooperation amid missile threats</b> <i>Indo-Pacific Defence Forum</i> May 30, 2024</p>	<p>South Korea and the United States are expanding their initiatives to shape military cooperation in the <a href="#">space domain</a>. The longtime allies’ move comes amid growing threats in the region, including North Korea’s first successful spy satellite launch and its increasing illegal exchange of weapons and resources with Russia, officials said.</p>
<p><b>AUKUS Partners Consider Cooperation With Japan</b> <i>The Department of Defense</i> April 8, 2024</p>	<p>The U.S., Australia and the United Kingdom, members of the AUKUS partnership, are considering cooperation with Japan on advanced capabilities projects.</p> <p>An aim of <a href="#">AUKUS is identifying</a> the optimal pathway for Australia to acquire conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability, as well as cooperation on a range of other advanced defense technologies.</p>

## RELEVANT EVENTS AND VISITS

S. No.	Events/Visits	Major Outcomes
1.	<p><a href="#">US NSA Jake Sullivan two day India Visit</a></p> <p>June 17, 2024</p>	<p>US National Security Adviser (NSA) Jake Sullivan began a two-day visit to India on Monday with a meeting with external affairs minister S Jaishankar, during which the two sides discussed bilateral, regional and global issues.</p>
1.	<p><a href="#">Tarang Shakti 2024: Indian Air Force gears up for largest multinational exercise in Jodhpur</a></p> <p>June 8, 2024</p>	<p>Indian Air Force (IAF) will be conducting its biggest-ever multinational exercise "Tarang Shakti 2024", wherein the fighter jets from some of the most advanced air forces across the globe scheduled to roar in Jodhpur skies in August.</p>

2.	<a href="#"><u>Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Lu's Travel to India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh</u></a> May 10 – 15, 2024	Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu will travel to India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh May 10—15. His trip will strengthen bilateral cooperation with each country and demonstrate U.S. support for a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.
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**About U.S. Consulate, Kolkata:** *The Consulate General of the United States in Kolkata represents the interests of the United States government in Kolkata, India, and nearby surrounding areas. The Consulate General serves the Indian states of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. It is the U.S. Department of State's second oldest Consulate and dates from November 19, 1792.*

**About CUTS International:** *Established in 1983, CUTS International is a global public policy think and action-tank, working on trade, regulation, and governance. With its headquarters in Jaipur, India, CUTS has its offices in Lusaka (Zambia); Nairobi (Kenya); Accra (Ghana); Hanoi (Vietnam); Geneva (Switzerland); and Washington DC (USA).*



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