

Defense News Conclave

Stories of U.S. - India Defense Partnership

QUARTERLY NEWS WRAP

Issue #3, April-June 2022

The past quarter witnessed continuing high-level engagements between India and the U.S. to strengthen their strategic partnership. Considerable bilateral achievements were realised, driven by a recognition of India's value as a key strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific. Both sides sought to maintain a conducive environment in their high-level meetings.

The quarter began with the fourth 2+2 dialogue between the two countries, which set the tone for further cooperation. The leaders of both countries met in May on the sidelines of the Quad summit. The U.S. led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) was also launched in May, which India joined along with 13 other members.

In India, there was significant activity on the maritime front, with the launch of warships and significant coordinated patrol (CORPAT) exercises. India also joined the Combined Maritime Forces Task Force as an Associate Partner, a step which will further enhance naval cooperation in the region. The next round of the India-U.S. Defense Cyber Dialogue will be held in the coming months, along with inaugural editions of a Defense Space and an Artificial Intelligence (AI) dialogue.

Through the project titled, '[*Defense News Conclave: Stories of U.S.-India Defense Partnership*](#)', CUTS International aims to raise awareness among relevant stakeholders and the wider public about the importance of U.S.-India defense relations. It also seeks to counter possible wrong narratives based on misinformation/disinformation that seek to undermine the growing defense partnership.

The third edition of this Quarterly News Wrap covers prominent developments in U.S.-India defense relations in the past quarter.

HIGHLIGHTS

US values bilateral ties with India; it is 'key strategic' partner in Indo-Pacific: White House

Press Trust of India, India Today
June 22, 2022

White House representatives underlined that India is a [key strategic partner](#) in the Indo-Pacific. And there are many ways in which that partnership presents itself, ranging from economic to defense and security.

India a global security power: U.S. top diplomat

Sriram Lakshman, The Hindu
June 15, 2022

We see Indian naval vessels now transiting many parts of the globe. You (India) are not only a security provider in the narrow Indian Subcontinent, you are [a global security power now](#), and that's what's in the interest of the United States - that you are militarily ready, but that you are also able to project that power far beyond your borders, because we are partners that share a common view of the security of Asia and of the world and we want India to be able to project that power.

Helping India Replace Russia in the Value Arms Market

Vasabjit Banerjee and Benjamin Tkach, War on the Rocks
May 20, 2022

It is in the interest of the Quad member states, India's non-Russian partners, and America that India become [a capable arms exporter](#) over the coming decade. If Washington and New Delhi both take the right steps, India will be able to fill Russia's position in the value market, thus, preventing China from doing so.

India-US defence relationship is trusted one: says ex-Pentagon official

Press Trust of India
April 21, 2022

The [defence relationship between India and the United States](#), the world's largest and oldest democracies, over the years has become a trusted one, Heidi Grant, a former top Pentagon official and now a senior Boeing executive has said.

India and the US: Defense Collaboration is Key

Yusuf Unjhwala, The Diplomat
April 19, 2022

Assisting India in developing [a robust military-industrial complex](#) will most likely shift India's inclination toward the U.S. for critical weapons imports, as it has with Russia thus far. As cost constraints tighten, U.S. defense companies will benefit from partnering with India in their supply chain, taking advantage of lower costs

Indo-US 2+2 dialogue led to substantial gains

Yogesh Gupta, The Tribune
April 16, 2022

Bilateral ties between India and the US have made a huge progress and [acquired a new momentum](#), which could not have been imagined a decade earlier. These issues were further amplified by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in his opening remarks explaining that the bilateral trade of \$160 billion, our two lakh students studying in the US, growing investment levels and rapidly expanding energy, trade and defence cooperation pointed to huge progress in mutual ties by any standard.

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

Greater civil-military jointness must to further strengthen national security & deal with future challenges, says Raksha Mantri at the inauguration of 28th Joint Civil-Military Training Programme at LBSNAA

Press Information Bureau, Government of India

June 13, 2022

The [Joint Civil-Military Programme](#) was initiated in 2001 with the aim of fostering structured interface between civil servants and Armed Forces officers for a shared understanding of national security. The objective is to familiarise the participants with challenges to management of national security, emerging external and internal security environment and impact of globalisation; to provide an opportunity for the participants to interact and exchange ideas on the subject and expose them to the imperatives of civil-military synergy.

INAS 325 Commissioning

Press Information Bureau, Government of India

May 31, 2022

[Indian Naval Air Squadron \(INAS\) 325](#), operating the indigenously built ALH MK III aircraft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at an impressive ceremony held at INS Utkrosh, Port Blair on 31 May 22. The newly inducted aircraft flew for the first time over the Andaman Islands earlier this year and were officially inducted on 28 Jan 2022. The unit is the second ALH MK III Squadron commissioned into the Indian Navy.

Maritime preparedness in ever-changing global situation must to safeguard national interest: Raksha Mantri at 39th Commanders' Conference of Indian Coast Guard

Press Information Bureau, Government of India

May 30, 2022

The Raksha Mantri stressed on the need to maintain [maritime preparedness](#) in the constantly-changing global scenario, terming it as a crucial aspect which safeguards the economic and strategic interests of a nation. He pointed out that there has been a shift in India's maritime security needs due to the ever-evolving global situation.

Raksha Mantri launches two indigenous frontline warships - Surat & Udaygiri - in Mumbai

Press Information Bureau, Government of India

May 17, 2022

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh launched two frontline warships of the Indian Navy – '[Surat](#)' and '[Udaygiri](#).' 'Surat' is the fourth Guided Missile Destroyer of P15B class, while 'Udaygiri' is the second Stealth Frigate of P17A class. The Raksha Mantri described the warships as an embodiment of the government's unwavering commitment to enhance the country's maritime capability.

Landmark policy decision to indigenise 101 more weapons and platforms to speed up 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence

Press Information Bureau, Government of India

April 07, 2022

The [third positive indigenisation list](#) of 101 items lays special focus on equipment/systems, which are being developed and likely to translate into firm orders in next five years. These 101 items will henceforth be procured from local sources as per provisions of Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020.

POLICY MATTERS

<p>Six months after General Bipin Rawat's demise, India still awaits its new CDS <i>Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh, Firstpost</i> June 10, 2022</p>	<p>The importance of having a CDS as the country's highest-ranking military officer lies in the crucial role he is required to play as the formal 'one point' source of advice to the government on operational and administrative matters pertaining to the military. The delay in appointing the CDS is impacting national security, and not benefiting the system.</p>
<p>Defence preparedness improved in eight years of Modi, but military must begin to punch hard <i>Snehash Alex Philip, ThePrint</i> June 3, 2022</p>	<p>The IAF is still desperately seeking 114 new fighters, tender for which has been pending. Rather than be perturbed by the controversy surrounding the Rafale contract, the Modi government should quickly move in and decide on more fighters for the Air Force.</p>
<p>Shah's right, India lacks formal defence policy. Past govts were busy avoiding liability <i>Lt Gen H S Panag (Retd), ThePrint</i> June 2, 2022</p>	<p>India does not have a formal NSS or a NDP. Functionally, there are a fair number of policy documents or letters issued by foreign, defence, home and finance ministries concerning national security. In the absence of NSS, the process lacks synergy and accountability. The impact is most pronounced in military matters, where there is a lack of clarity on the threats and type of wars the nation may have to fight and the capabilities that we need to develop.</p>
<p>For a stronger navy, India needs to fast-track the submarine project <i>Arun Prakash, The Indian Express</i> May 16, 2022</p>	<p>This long-neglected project brooks no further delay and is important enough to attract the time and attention of our highest decision-makers. A practical way forward is for one of the strategic partners and DRDO to jointly seek a foreign collaborator for P-75I who will install the indigenous air independent propulsion system (AIP) on the selected submarine and conduct collaborative trials.</p>
<p>Future wars will use indigenous weapons: Army Vice Chief <i>Dinakar Peri</i> May 07, 2022</p>	<p>Most of the AoNs would be given to Indian industry, at least 90% and above, he stated. They were also working on simplifying the service requirements issued for equipment so that industry could meet the specifications. This is in line with the recent amendment that Services have to make all procurements from domestic industry and go for direct imports only as an exception.</p>
<p>India's defence offset contracts are in shambles, need a revamp <i>Snehash Alex Philip, ThePrint</i> May 06, 2022</p>	<p>India is one of the few countries that does not count the quality of an offset package as a bid evaluation criterion for assessing competing tenders, and this could have played a role in the quality of offsets received.</p>

DEFENSE TRADE

<p>What ails India's arms exports? <i>Priyan R Naik, Deccan Herald</i> June 27, 2022</p>	<p>A way forward to together meet higher export targets and also cut imports is to earnestly pursue the defence ministry's indigenisation lists mandating the manufacture of some 300 odd equipment and weapon systems such as lightweight tanks and mounted artillery gun systems that will be banned from future import in phases.</p>
<p>India emerges frontrunner for Malaysian fighter jet order <i>Manu Pubby, The Economic Times</i> June 22, 2022</p>	<p>India has emerged as the frontrunner for a Malaysian requirement of light combat aircraft, with a package deal on the table that would include maintenance and spares for the nation's Russian origin Su 30 fighter jets.</p>
<p>Astra missile contract with BDL: Is it another step in opening an export pathway? <i>Shreya Mundhra and Aritra Banerjee, Financial Express</i> June 19, 2022</p>	<p>Apart from the technological developments, the contract signed by the MoD with BDL has boosted self-reliance in the defence sector, too. The Transfer of Technology (ToT) from DRDO to BDL for missile production is already completed. The indigenous production of the Astra missile is also likely to create opportunities for several micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in aerospace technology.</p>
<p>India dangling Akash missiles before Vietnam <i>Gabriel Honrada, Asia Times</i> June 09, 2022</p>	<p>India is renewing efforts to sell its indigenous Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) to Vietnam, with the dual aim of reinforcing its defense industry's indigenization while strengthening its strategic partnership with Hanoi. The proposed missile deal may also signal India's attempt to tilt the military balance in Southeast Asia to refocus China away from the Himalayas.</p>
<p>India 3rd largest military spender, 50% defence exports go to Myanmar, shows data from SIPRI <i>Raghav Bikhchandani, ThePrint</i> April 26, 2022</p>	<p>As per the report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India's military spending in 2021 is the third highest in the world at Rs 5.87 lakh crore or \$76.6 billion; behind the United States and China. The report also shows that roughly 50 percent of India's defense exports from 2017 to 2021 were to its immediate neighbour Myanmar, followed by Sri Lanka.</p>
<p>India as an emerging weapons exporter <i>Ajay Banerjee, The Tribune</i> April 05, 2022</p>	<p>'Make in India' in defence equipment manufacturing is no more an elusive mirage. New Delhi is emerging as a supplier for international arms manufacturers and correspondingly is making more equipment for itself, eschewing imports.</p>

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

<p>Can India turn Quad into an instrument to realise its significant potential as technological power? <i>C. Raja Mohan, The Indian Express</i> May 24, 2022</p>	<p>Delhi needs to move quickly and boldly to create the right internal environment for technological leapfrogging and seize the emerging external opportunities for deeper technological partnerships with the US and the Quad.</p>
<p>As drones usher in new era of warfare, India's growing UAV industry begins to take flight <i>Suchet Vir Singh, ThePrint</i> May 23, 2022</p>	<p>Incentives from the government, and the growing local base of drone manufacturers and exporters add to the drone industry sentiment. In the Indian military, the ethos around drones is seeing a change. Drones are now being used by the Indian Army for surveillance purposes at the LAC, as the stand-off with China continues.</p>
<p>Technology as game changer for Network Centric Operations in a battlefield scenario <i>Cdr. Gautam Nanda, The Economic Times</i> April 26, 2022</p>	<p>In addition to its core capabilities, robust Network Centric Operations (NCO) has the potential to act as a key enabler for other maturing technologies viz. Augmented Reality (AR)/ Virtual Reality (VR), Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics. These technologies have potential applications that span across the areas of training and simulation, automation, vehicle to everything (V2X communication), edge applications, etc.</p>
<p>Rethinking innovation in defence <i>Naushad Forbes, Business Standard</i> April 26, 2022</p>	<p>India could then move on from being the world's largest importer of weapons. Defence R&D that delivered innovation would lead to more autonomy in defence production. Along the way we might even realise the strategic autonomy we have long claimed for our foreign policy.</p>
<p>How the CHAFF technology developed by DRDO will protect India's warships and fighter jets <i>Firstpost</i> April 22, 2022</p>	<p>The Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy have tied up with the DRDO for the CHAFF technology to shield warships and aircraft against missile attacks. India is only the second country after the United States to develop this technology.</p>
<p>India shares document outlining military tech cooperation with US <i>Manu Pubby, The Economic Times</i> April 20, 2022</p>	<p>India has shared a document with the US outlining emerging areas where military technology cooperation can be undertaken by the two nations and specialised teams are likely to conduct visits in the coming weeks to take the proposals forward.</p>

INDO-PACIFIC DEVELOPMENTS

<p>Novel India-Vietnam axis emerging in Indo-Pacific <i>Swaran Singh, Asia Times</i> June 10, 2022</p>	<p>Guided by their civilizational values, both believe in socializing and restraining China's behavior by engaging with it and not by confronting or alienating it altogether. This is what promises to see the India-Vietnam axis emerging as a novel alternative locomotive of change in evolving realignments in the Indo-Pacific region.</p>
<p>Twin hurdles hinder India's maritime role <i>Dinakar Peri, The Hindu</i> May 29, 2022</p>	<p>As the Quad grouping consisting of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. looks to roll out an Indo-Pacific maritime domain awareness (MDA) initiative for information sharing and maritime surveillance across the region, two issues limit India's ability to further expand its role, say government officials. These are infrastructure constraints and continued delay in posting Indian liaison officers at others facilities and centres in the region.</p>
<p>Quad Summit Indicates Growing Strength <i>Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan, The Diplomat</i> May 26, 2022</p>	<p>The Quad countries also recognized the important role of maritime domain awareness (MDA) in order to be able to respond to a number of challenges, including natural disasters and illegal fishing. The new Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) is useful in this regard, but its relevance to monitoring China's naval activities is especially significant.</p>
<p>Eye on China, India & US plan sea patrols and intel sharing <i>Rajat Pandit, Times of India</i> April 21, 2022</p>	<p>India and the US now plan to undertake 'sea patrols' and share intelligence in real-time to further expand their bilateral maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific as well as partner in new domains of space, cyber and artificial intelligence, with an eye firmly on a belligerent China.</p>
<p>India and Sri Lanka Sign Pacts to Enhance Maritime Security <i>Arundathie Abeysinghe, The Diplomat</i> April 15, 2022</p>	<p>During the visit of Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to attend the 8th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) meeting in March in Colombo, India and Sri Lanka signed several agreements including a defense-related pact to expand maritime security.</p>
<p>Looking to scale up engagement, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visits Hawaii command <i>The Economic Times</i> April 14, 2022</p>	<p>The minister will visit the USINDOPACOM headquarters, the US Pacific Fleet and be taken for a tour of the training facilities of the joint command. The visit comes as several engagements are planned, including the Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference and Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar that India will be co-hosting.</p>

RELEVANT EVENTS AND VISITS

S. No.	Events/Visits	Major Outcomes
1.	<u>INS Satpura Conducts Special Yoga Protocol at Guam</u> (June 16, 2022)	The visit to Guam is a precursor to RIMPAC22, one of the largest multilateral Naval Exercises in which the Indian Navy is participating with INS Satpura, one P8I maritime patrol aircraft and a shore contingent
2.	<u>A 13-member United States Congressional Staff delegation visited Headquarters, Western Naval Command</u> (June 04, 2022)	Enhanced India-U.S. naval cooperation
3.	<u>U.S. Navy Announces 28th RIMPAC Exercise</u> (May 31, 2022)	The biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise is scheduled from June 29 to August 4
4.	<u>Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America</u> (May 24, 2022)	The leaders discussed broad-ranging issues, including defense and security cooperation. An India-U.S. Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies was launched
5.	<u>Quad leaders' meeting in Tokyo</u> (May 24, 2022)	The Quad leaders convened in Tokyo to renew their commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient
6.	<u>Investment Incentive Agreement signed between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America</u> (May 23, 2022)	The Agreement will facilitate continued investment support in India in sectors of shared priority such as healthcare, renewable energy, SMEs and infrastructure
7.	<u>Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the event to launch the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)</u> (May 23, 2022)	The IPEF seeks to strengthen economic partnership amongst participating countries with the objective of enhancing resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region
8.	<u>Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy interacted with Admiral John C Aquilino, Commander US INDOPACOM</u> (April 27, 2022)	Both the Admirals discussed avenues to further enhance the existing cooperation between the two Navies through capability enhancement and cooperative engagements

9.	Visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to US Indo-Pacific Command headquarters in Hawaii (April 13, 2022)	Enhanced engagements between the USINDOPACOM and the Indian military. These include a number of military exercises, training events, and exchanges
10.	Fourth Annual U.S.-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue (April 11, 2022)	The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the U.S.-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership to international peace and security
11.	Virtual meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joseph R. Biden (April 11, 2022)	The two leaders had an extensive exchange of views on several regional and global issues
12.	Training of First Batch of Indian Navy Aircrew - MH 60R (April 08, 2022)	Indian Navy's first batch of MH 60R 'Romeo' aircrew successfully completed their training at Naval Air Station, North Island, San Diego, USA on 01 April 2022



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