

Defense News Conclave

Stories of U.S. - India Defense Partnership

QUARTERLY NEWS WRAP

Issue #5, October-December 2022

The year 2022 marking the 75th anniversary of India's diplomatic ties with the U.S. has been a remarkable and historical year for the U.S.-India relationship. During the year, President Joe Biden met Prime Minister Narendra Modi thrice. At first, on the sidelines of the Quad summit in Japan in May, second on the margins of the G-7 summit in Germany and finally at the margins of the G-20 summit in Indonesia in November.

In the past quarter, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met his U.S. counterpart, Secretary of State, Antony Blinken on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit (EAS) in Cambodia and held productive discussions on the entire gamut of Indo-U.S. relations and the way forward. Elizabeth Jones assumed the role of Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in New Delhi until a full-time Ambassador is sent to India.

The quarter also witnessed strategic military exercises such as the 18th edition of India-U.S. joint training exercise 'Yudh Abhyas', conducted at Auli, India in November, 'Malabar' Naval exercise comprising of Quad countries and 'Sangam', a joint naval special forces bilateral exercise. The exercises were carried out to counter the hybrid tactics of adversaries, and to strengthen defence cooperation. The exercises also focused on the human assistance and disaster relief operations covered under the UN mandate and safeguarding the Indo-Pacific region.

A call between the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark A. Miley and his Indian counterpart, Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan took place amidst increased tension between India and China on the border in November. The defence chiefs shared their assessment of the regional and global security environment and discussed ways to deepen U.S.-India military ties.

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

The fifth edition of this Quarterly News Wrap covers prominent developments in U.S.-India defence relations.

HIGHLIGHTS

The year 2022 has been a remarkable and historic year for the India-US relationship

Press Trust of India Bureau

December 28, 2022

The year 2022 saw further consolidation of the [India-US bilateral partnership](#) in the direction and vision set by Prime Minister Modi and President Biden, stated India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

Defence chiefs of India and the US discuss global security, bilateral cooperation

Joint Chiefs of Staff Official Media

December 21, 2022

The two military leaders shared assessments of the regional and global security environment and discussed ways to [deepen bilateral military ties](#) and interoperability.

Joint Naval Special Forces exercise at Goa

Press Information Bureau, Government of India

December 04, 2022

The three weeks special forces exercise wherein personnel exercised and honed their [skills in Maritime Interdiction Operations](#), Direct Action Missions, Combat Free Fall Jumps, Special Heliborne Operations, and various other evolutions. This was the seventh edition of exercise *Sangam*, a joint Naval Special Forces exercise between Indian Navy MARCOs and US Navy SEALs.

India and the U.S Joint military training exercise at Auli, Uttarakhand

Press Information Bureau, Government of India

November 15, 2022

[The 18th edition of Indo-US joint training exercise "Yudh Abhyas"](#) was conducted with the aim of exchanging best practices, tactics, techniques and procedures between the Armies of the two nations. The 15 days exercise was held in Uttarakhand, India and facilitated both armies to share their wide experiences, skills and enhance their technique through information exchange.

Malabar naval exercise between the navies of India, Japan, US, Australia

Asian News International

November 09, 2022

[The multilateral exercise, Malabar 2022](#), between the navies of India, Japan, the United States and Australia commenced with the opening ceremony hosted by the Japan maritime self-defense force onboard JS Hyuga at Yokosuka in Japan.

Release of the President's National Security Strategy

U.S. Department of State Release

October 12, 2022

The United States' [National Security Strategy](#) lays out a vision for a free, open, secure, and prosperous world and a comprehensive plan to realize it, territorial integrity, and political independence; where countries are free to determine their own foreign policy choices; information is allowed to flow freely; universal human rights are upheld; and the global economy operates on a level playing field – providing opportunity for all.

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

<p>“Excited about what lies ahead in 2023”, US’s Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs <i>Economic Times</i> December 28, 2022</p>	<p>The India-US relationship is one of the most consequential relationships in the world. Excited about what lies ahead in 2023, the US diplomat Donald Lu said “India has the G20 presidency for the first time, and the United States looks forward to working closely with India at all levels of government in support of this important position”.</p>
<p>“India stands for free & rules-based Indo-Pacific crucial for economic development of the region & wider global community” <i>Press Information Bureau</i> November, 25 2022</p>	<p>At Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue in New Delhi, Indian defence minister mentions, “Dialogue only civilized mechanism for resolving disputes & creating global order”. India does not believe in a world order where few are considered superiors to others, multi-aligned policy only way to shared prosperity, he added.</p>
<p>Indian PM Modi, US President Biden review India-US ties during their meeting in Bali on the side lines of G-20 <i>The Indian Express</i> November 16, 2022</p>	<p>Describing India as a “strong partner” of the US, President Joe Biden said that “he was looking forward to supporting his friend Prime Minister Narendra Modi during India’s G20 presidency. They reviewed the continuing deepening of the India-US strategic partnership including cooperation in future oriented sectors like critical and emerging technologies, advanced computing, artificial intelligence, etc.”.</p>
<p>Ambassador Elizabeth Jones as Charge d’Affaires ad interim at Embassy, India <i>U.S. Department of State Release</i>, October 24, 2022</p>	<p>Ambassador Jones carries the highest Foreign Service rank of Career Ambassador. In India, Ambassador Jones will join the Embassy and Consulate interagency teams in advancing and expanding the partnership between the two governments and people, a partnership that Secretary Blinken has called one of the most consequential in the world.</p>
<p>‘Defence Attaches’ as the bridge between India and friendly foreign countries for mutual defence cooperation <i>Press Information Bureau</i>, October 13, 2022</p>	<p>Indian defence minister urged the defence attaches to promote Indian defence production capabilities under Aatmnirbhar Bharat and understand the technological innovations taking place in Indian defence production sector, both public and private sector so as to showcase and promote these in their respective countries of accreditation.</p>
<p>‘Invest for Defence’, the first ever marquee event of Ministry of Defence <i>Press Information Bureau</i> October, 13 2022</p>	<p>The 12th DefExpo held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between October 18-22, 2022. The event witnessed participation from the big industry names, both Indian as well as foreign OEMs, such as L&T, Adani Defence, Bharat Forge, Saab, Airbus, Lockheed Martin etc., besides participation from Domestic and Foreign Institutional Investors and Venture Capitalists. The event targeted to promote investment in the defence sector and ‘Make in India’ initiative.</p>

POLICY MATTERS

<p>Tamil Nadu launches Aerospace & Defence Industrial Policy <i>Deccan Herald,</i> November 08, 2022</p>	<p>The aim is to make Tamil Nadu the preferred destination to invest, innovate and create products and services in the aerospace and defence sector while focusing on creating a robust, world-class, high technology, and efficient aerospace & defence manufacturing ecosystem.</p>
<p>India to soon make transport, commercial planes for world <i>Manu Pubby, Economic Times</i> October 30, 2022</p>	<p>India will emerge as a major manufacturer of transport and commercial aircrafts in the future that will not just meet domestic requirements but also cater to the global market, Prime Minister Modi has said.</p>
<p>India Plans Military Drill with the US near China Border <i>Rajat Pandit, Times of India</i> October 27, 2022</p>	<p>Warships, submarines, fighter jets, aircrafts and helicopters will be deployed by India, US, Japan and Australia off Yokosuka in Japan. India has lined up a flurry of combat exercises before this year ends to further bolster military interoperability with friendly nations and like-minded strategic groups.</p>
<p>Indian Defence Minister invites US defence companies to set up manufacturing units in India <i>Saurav Anand, Livemint</i> October 20, 2022</p>	<p>Indian defence minister, Rajnath Singh has invited US companies to set up manufacturing units in India and develop technology collaborations with Indian industries to create a global supply chain free from vulnerabilities and uncertainties.</p>
<p>Atmanirbharta in Defence: PM Modi at Defexpo'22 <i>Huma Siddiqui, Financial Express</i> October 19, 2022</p>	<p>In the inaugural speech at the defence expo, PM Modi, stated that the Indian defence exports increased eight times in the last eight years. And also announced the fourth positive indigenisation list of 101 items which will help to further strengthen India's defence Industry's indigenisation journey.</p>
<p>PM Modi Launches 'Mission DefSpace' <i>Shishir Gupta, Hindustan Times</i> October 18, 2022</p>	<p>By synergising the defence PSUs with the private sector and startups, PM Modi has signalled that India is striving towards space, the next generation of national offence and defence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Defence Space Mission, at the the DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.</p>

DEFENSE TRADE

Bharat Forge, General Atomics Partner to Manufacture Key Components for advanced UAVs In India

First Post

December 21, 2022

“GA-ASI is eagerly looking forward to working with Bharat Forge in the critical field of aerostructure manufacturing,” Vivek Lall, Chief Executive, General Atomics Global Corporation said in a statement. India is likely to purchase [MQ-9 Reaper drones](#) in a billion-dollar deal with the US. These drones, which use laser-guided Hellfire missiles for precision strikes, fall in the category of hunter-killer Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

Kalyani strategic systems gets howitzer export order

Economic Times

November 09, 2022

In a major success for Indian firm KalyStrategic Systems Limited on Wednesday announced receiving an [order worth USD 155 million for supplying howitzers](#). The company has been working with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to develop the advanced tower artillery gun system (ATAGS) and has also developed an ultra-light howitzer.

Boeing order could bring in more investments to India

Manu Pubby, Economic Times

October 21, 2022

The company estimates that the project will have a \$ 3.6 billion impact on the Indian economy. This, the company says, would come from creating a supply chain, research and engineering and even incremental manufacturing of the jets that could be brought to India. [Ted Colbert, CEO, Boeing Defence, Space and Security](#) remarked.

MoUs worth Rs 1,53,000 Crore Signed at DefExpo'22

Outlook

October 21, 2022

This is a step in the direction of ‘Make in India’ and defence ‘Atmanirbharta’ campaign. [Conclusion of 451 MoUs](#), Transfer of Technology agreements, product launches and orders to domestic businesses, worth Rs 1.5 lakh crore, reflected India’s progress towards achieving ‘Aatmanirbharta’ in Defence and integration between the Armed Forces requirements, R&D and defence production by public and private players.

Collaborations between US & Indian defence companies

Press Information Bureau

October 20, 2022

Indian Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh invited [US companies to set up manufacturing units in India](#) and develop technology collaborations with Indian industries to create a global supply chain free from vulnerabilities and uncertainties.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

<p>The year 2022 saw tangible Outcomes in technology collaboration <i>Lalit K Jha, The Print</i> December 28, 2022</p>	<p>The year saw tangible outcomes – resolution of some old market access issues, the first-ever maintenance of a US Naval Ship in India, the Quad focus on STEM, signing of an Investment Incentive Agreement, the launch of Technology Innovation Hubs as a collaboration of the respective science agencies, record level of trade and investments, etc.</p>
<p>Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) signs 150th contract <i>Press Information Bureau</i> December 21, 2022</p>	<p>The contract relates to an Indian Navy project of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 7) SPRINT edition. The challenge was titled ‘Expendable Mobile Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Training Target (EMATT) capable of simulating the sound and movement of a submarine’ and the winner was Altair Infracsec Pvt Ltd, Pune.</p>
<p>India’s Space Defence Mission <i>Press Information Bureau</i> December 09, 2022</p>	<p>Mission DefSpace was launched by Hon’ble Prime Minister during DefExpo in October, 2022 with 75 Defence Space Challenges relevant to the end users. The government has taken several policy initiatives in the past few years and brought in reforms to encourage indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence manufacturing & technology in the country.</p>
<p>US-India partners in high-end technology and next-generation equipment <i>Dinakar Peri, The Hindu</i> November 02, 2022</p>	<p>“We want to be the partner of choice for India,” said a senior U.S. defence official on Wednesday while stating that they are the best partner when it comes to sharing high-end technology and next-generation equipment in the backdrop of India diversifying its military arsenal from heavy dependence on Russia.</p>
<p>India-US Corridor: The next big opportunity is Deep Tech <i>Arun Kumar, Times of India</i> October 28, 2022</p>	<p>The advancement of deep tech presents a generational opportunity development of sophisticated technology, rooted transformational innovations, propelled by blended teams of India and US talent and addressing markets in both countries.</p>
<p>India’s export target of \$5 billion by 2025 <i>Press Information Bureau</i> October 20, 2022</p>	<p>Addressing a seminar, themed on “New Frontiers in US-India Defence Cooperation: Next Generation Technology, Innovation & Make in India”, the Indian defence minister stated that a \$5billion dollar export target set for 2025 reflects the intent of the Government for export-oriented manufacturing.</p>

INDO-PACIFIC DEVELOPMENTS

<p>Multi-agency HADR exercise, “Samanvay 2022” held in Agra <i>Dinakar Peri, The Hindu</i> November 29, 2022</p>	<p>India has emerged as a regional power and net security provider in the Indo-Pacific, as stated by India’s defence minister at the multi-agency Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise ‘Samanvay’. This exercise also witnessed representatives from ASEAN member nations.</p>
<p>Indo-Pacific regional dialogue (IPRD-2022) <i>Press Information Bureau</i> November 23, 2022</p>	<p>The overarching theme of the event – “Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative” (IPOI) – the thematic sessions, which focused on three specific ‘pillars’ or ‘spokes’ of the IPOI namely, “Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport”, “Capacity Building and Resource Sharing”, and “Maritime Resources”. This event was organised by National Maritime Foundation.</p>
<p>ASEAN Defence Ministers Plus Meet in Cambodia <i>The Financial Express</i> November 23, 2022</p>	<p>To commemorate 30 years of India-ASEAN relations, India and Cambodia co-chaired the India-ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meet. Various initiatives to boost India-ASEAN defence relations including ‘India-ASEAN initiative for women in peace keeping operations’ and ‘India-ASEAN initiative on marine plastic pollution’ were proposed for further expanding the scope and the depth of defence relations.</p>
<p>Japan hosts Malabar Naval Exercise <i>U.S. Mission India Press Release</i> November 14, 2022</p>	<p>The ‘Malabar’ exercise provides another opportunity for the Indian Navy to enhance interoperability and mutual understanding with the participating navies in keeping with the national vision of security and growth for all in the region. The four participating nations demonstrated the combined ability to exercise across the entire Western Pacific and Indian Ocean.</p>
<p>Indian Ocean Region (IOR+) Defence Minister’s Conclave <i>Avinash Nair, The Indian Express</i> October 20, 2022</p>	<p>On the sidelines of Defexpo’22, Indian defence minister said, India is ready to supply weapons to friendly countries in Indian Ocean Region countries to help counter the challenges. India can supply weapons to fight terror, drugs in Indian Ocean Region.</p>

RELEVANT EVENTS AND VISITS

S. No.	Events/Visits	Major Outcomes
1.	<u>Joint HADR Exercise (SAMANVAY)</u> (November 28-30, 2022)	The annual joint HADR exercise had various stakeholders from within the country and representatives from ASEAN member countries as well. The exercise tested the efficacy of all available HADR resources.
2.	<u>India Australia Joint Military Exercise (Austra Hind)</u> (November 28-11 December, 2022)	This is the first exercise in the series of <i>AUSTRALIA HIND</i> with participation of all arms and services contingents from both armies.
3.	<u>Visit of Secretary of US Navy to India</u> (November 17-21, 2022)	The U.S. Secretary of the Navy visited the Indian Navy's Southern Naval Command at Kochi and INS Vikrant at Cochin Shipyard.
4.	<u>Indian Navy two-day coastal naval exercise "Sea Vigil", 2022</u> (November 15-16)	The conceptual and geographical expanse of Sea Vigil included contingencies ranging from peace to war-time across the entire coastline and EEZ of the country.
5.	<u>Heads of States meet on the sidelines of G-20 summit in Bali</u> (November 15, 2022)	Prime Minister N. Modi, US President J. Biden and President of Indonesia J. Widodo met on the margins of G-20 Leaders Summit in Bali.
6.	<u>East Asia Summit</u> (November 13, 2022)	External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and discussed Ukraine-Russia war, Indo-Pacific geopolitics and larger bilateral ties in Cambodia. Both met on the sidelines of 17 th East Asia Summit Heads of the State meet on the sidelines of G-20 summit in Bali
7.	<u>Visit of US Treasury Secretary to India</u> (November 11, 2022)	US Treasury Secretary, Dr. Janet L. Yellen's maiden visit to India for the ninth India-U.S. Economic and Financial Partnership was full of productive discussions on a range of subjects including multilateral engagement, Russia-Ukraine war and measures to combat the financing of terrorism.
8.	<u>Special Meeting of United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC)</u> (October 28-29, 2022)	Heads of delegations of CTC called on the Indian President. The two-day special meeting was held in Mumbai and Delhi.

9.	Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) (October 26-30, 2022)	The Indian Navy hosted the 29 th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise at Visakhapatnam. The exercise was conducted in two phases.
10.	India France Bilateral Air Exercise (Garuda) (October 26-12 November, 2022)	This was the seventh edition of the bilateral exercise, and it was held at Air Force station in Jodhpur. Along with India Air Force (IAF) the French Air and Space Force (FAF) participated.



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