



Roundtable Discussion

“India-US Defence Cooperation”

April 24, 2025

1100 - 1330 hrs

I. Concept Note

Background

US-India defence relations have expanded significantly over the past two decades, transitioning from a buyer-seller dynamic towards a robust strategic partnership. At their summit meeting on February 13, President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a new initiative – the “U.S.-India COMPACT (Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) for the 21st Century.” The two leaders also announced that the US would expand defence sales and co-production with India to strengthen interoperability and defence industrial cooperation.

In light of rising global and regional tensions, increasing assertiveness of adversarial powers, and persisting supply chain vulnerabilities, there is an urgent need to make progress on these commitments.

The Delhi Policy Group will host a closed door roundtable under the Chatham House Rule to discuss India-US defence cooperation, with a primary focus on strengthening co-production arrangements and technology transfer.

Venue and Date

The roundtable will be held at the Delhi Policy Group, Core 5A, India Habitat Centre, on **April 24, 2025**, from 1100-1330 hrs, followed by lunch.

Objectives

1. Identify areas where the defence acquisition system needs to be reviewed to facilitate co-production and technology transfer.
2. Address barriers in joint production, including policy misalignments, bureaucratic hurdles, and export control restrictions.
3. Evaluate the potential for co-development in specific areas that could serve as a stepping stone for greater engagement.
4. Draw lessons from the co-production experience of India with other defence partners like Russia, France, and Israel.
5. Discuss ways to enhance self-reliance while ensuring supply chain resilience.

Outcomes

- Policy recommendations for enhancing US-India defence cooperation.
- A framework for mitigating challenges in defence trade and regulatory compliance.
- Identification of specific defence technology areas suitable for immediate co-development initiatives.
- A framework outlining actionable next steps for public-private partnerships (PPP) and government-to-government (G2G) collaborations.
- Strategies for ensuring robust and resilient defence supply chains.

II. Programme

1030 - 1100	Arrival of Participants and Tea/Coffee
1100 - 1105	➤ Welcoming Remarks by Amb. H.K. Singh, Director General, DPG
1105 - 1110	➤ Special Remarks by Nagaraj Naidu Kakanur, Additional Secretary (AMS), Ministry of External Affairs
1110 - 1130	➤ Opening Remarks by Lt. Gen Deependra Singh Hooda, Distinguished Fellow for Military Strategy and Moderator
1130 - 1240	➤ Remarks by Panellists (5 mins each)
1240 - 1330	➤ Moderated Discussion
1330 -1400	Lunch

III. List of Participants

PANELLISTS	
1.	R. Adm. S Ahuja (Retd), Former Managing Director, Boeing Defence India
2.	V. Adm. Ravneet Singh (Retd), CEO, General Atomics
3.	Col. Baljinder Singh (Retd), Director Aerospace and Defence, United States India Strategic Partnership Forum
4.	Vikas Khitha, Vice President & Head - Corporate Office Delhi, L&T Defence
5.	Maj. Gen. Naresh Badhani (Retd), Senior Advisor, The Global Education and Leadership Foundation
6.	Lt. Gen. Sanjay Varma (Retd), Advisor, DRDO

DPG PARTICIPANTS	
1.	Amb. H. K. Singh, Director General
2.	Amb. Nalin Surie, Distinguished Fellow for Diplomacy
3.	V. Adm. Anil Chopra (Retd), Distinguished Fellow
4.	Lt. Gen. Deependra Singh Hooda (Retd), Distinguished Fellow for Military Strategy
5.	Amb. Biren Nanda, Senior Fellow for Act East Diplomacy
6.	Cmde. Lalit Kapur (Retd), Senior Fellow for Maritime Strategy
