

Editorial

I am pleased to present the first issue of 2025, a special issue focusing on “India–US Defence Cooperation”. Consisting of ten articles and two commentaries, this special issue provides a useful perspective on the past, present and future possibilities of defence cooperation between India and the US.

The first article titled “History of Cold War Estrangement to Strategic Partnership and the Evolution of India–US Defence Cooperation”, by Col Guru Saday Batabyal, traces the evolution of Indo-US defence ties, and the transition from Cold War estrangement to strategic partnership, with special reference to defence cooperation post-1962 Indo-China war. It is followed by Dr Sankalp Gurjar’s article titled “Sailing on the Seven Seas: Indo-US Strategic Partnership in the Indo-Pacific”. This article begins by locating India and the US in the Indo-Pacific region and then moves to the specific area of naval cooperation, including Malabar exercises, tsunami relief operations, formation, fall and resurrection of the Quad, and India’s association with the US-led Combined Maritime Forces.

In the third article titled “Customised Defence Agreements: Foundation for a Strong Indo-US Defence Partnership”, Dr Joshy M. Paul talks about the four defence agreements signed between India and the US, and how they have elevated India’s role in shaping the regional security architecture concerning Asia, especially the Indo-Pacific region. The next article titled “Indo-US Defence Cooperation: Punching Below Its Potential”, is by Mr Rahul Manohar Yelwe and Prof. Arun Vishwanathan, in which they assess the Indo-US relations in different time periods, focusing on defence cooperation. While they point out the missed opportunities, they also propose measures that can further strengthen the defence relationship between the two countries.

In the fifth article titled “Analysing India–US Cooperation in the Context of Changing Nuclear Order”, Prof. Manish and Ms Aditi Saxena analyse the developments and challenges in the India–US defence cooperation in the face of the ongoing decay of the nuclear order, especially in the current geopolitical

landscape, and suggest how India and the US can cooperate towards building a stable nuclear order.

Considering the serious economic and national security repercussions of cyber threats like ransomware attacks, it has become crucial to tackle cybercrime effectively through coordinated, focussed and sustained efforts from the global community. India–US cooperation on cybercrime over the years and the prospects for future relations between them in addressing the issue of cybercrime, has been covered in detail in the sixth article titled “Defending Cyberspace: India–US Joint Efforts Against Cybercrime”, by Mr Rohit Kumar Sharma.

The next article titled “Enhancing Interoperability and Strategic Convergence: India–US Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific”, is by Dr Shayesta Nishat Ahmed. The article examines how the multi-stakeholder HADR engagement between India and the US can enhance interoperability, thereby maximising the potential of this highly significant partnership.

In the last two decades, a number of agreements have been signed by India and the US for collaboration in various fields including defence technologies, of which iCET is the most promising initiative. Titled “India–US Defence Cooperation: Opportunity to Achieve Technological Superiority for Indian Armed Forces”, the eighth article by Maj Gen AK Srivastava examines India’s need for technology transfer, track record of technology transfers from the US, and analyses the current agreements, while also identifying opportunities and challenges and recommending a way forward.

The ninth article titled “Balancing Strategic Partnerships and Sovereignty: The Impact of Technology Transfer Concerns on India–US Defence Cooperation”, is by Mr Abraham Ename Minko. This article provides a comprehensive understanding of the complex interplay between technology transfer concerns and defence cooperation, offering insights into how these issues can be managed to enhance strategic collaboration between India and the US.

The last article of this special issue is titled “The Race for Tech Supremacy between US and China: Implications for the World, US and India”, by Prof. Varaprasad S. Dolla. The article attempts to map the trajectory of the tech race between the US and China, which can be described as ‘Tech Race 2.0’. Focusing on their approaches to S&T development, S&T capabilities and some of the frontier technologies, this article explores the contours of the race for tech supremacy and examines the implications for the world, especially the US and India.

This special issue also features two commentaries—“Guiding Principles of Indo-US Strategic Partnership: Strategic Autonomy or Strategic Interest?”, by Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra; and “Defence Diplomacy through the Prism of Soft Power: US–India Defence Partnership”, by Dr Parama Sinha Palit.

We hope that this special issue will be received well by our readers. We would also like to thank the authors and the referees who assisted us in the peer review process. We would appreciate feedback from our readers about topics they feel should be addressed by the journal. We hope that along with our growing readership, we will see a further increase in the number of contributions for our future issues.

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