

Far and Wide

Every week we share selection of six news from six continents that we believe will impact our world in the near or distant future

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Elevating U.S.-India Relations: Key Highlights from NSA Sullivan’s Visit

Welcome to the latest edition of Far and Wide, where we embark on a journey to explore intriguing stories and global developments.

The U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan’s visit to India emphasized on strengthening the U.S.-India partnership. Ajit Doval and Jake Sullivan reviewed advancements under the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET). Key discussions with Indian NSA Ajit Doval focused on developing technology and defence supply chains to create a resilient innovation ecosystem. Strategic technology collaboration spanned sectors such as semiconductors, biotechnology, clean energy, cybersecurity, and advanced telecommunications. Notable initiatives include the Bio-5 Consortium, U.S.-India-ROK Technology Trilateral, and Quad collaborations, demonstrating a commitment to multilateral cooperation.

Space technology cooperation took center stage with agreements for NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite launch and astronaut training at NASA’s Johnson Space Center. The two nations agreed to advance joint astronaut missions, facilitate commercial space technology collaboration, and enhance lunar exploration efforts. On defence, partnerships included Ultra Maritime and Bharat Dynamics Limited’s sonobuoy co-production, discussions on MQ-9B drone acquisitions, and advancements in co-developing fighter jet engines with GE Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. A clean energy and critical minerals partnership was also highlighted.

Other priorities included semiconductor supply chain collaboration, AI, and quantum technology development, with efforts to enhance national security applications and foster innovation. National security concerns were addressed through enhanced technology protection measures, reducing overcapacity in critical sectors, and facilitating bilateral industrial cooperation. This visit showcased the enduring strategic collaboration between the two nations.

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Europe

India-EU Human Rights Dialogue Strengthens Commitment to Democracy and Freedom

The 11th India–European Union (EU) Human Rights Dialogue held on January 8, 2025, in New Delhi where both the parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to democracy, freedom, and the rule of law. The dialogue being co-chaired by Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Europe West), and Hervé Delphin, EU Ambassador to India, focused on promoting and protecting human rights while addressing mutual concerns. The discussions began by celebrating the democratic spirit of the 2024 Indian General and European Elections, celebrating the political and electoral rights of citizens. Key topics included civil, political, social, and economic rights, with a focus on gender equality, LGBTQI+ rights, children’s welfare, and combating discrimination. Topics such as Freedom of religion, countering religious hatred, and supporting civil society were also featured prominently.

Source : India News Network

<https://www.indianewsnetwork.com/en/20250109/india-and-eu-hold-11th-human-rights-dialogue-reaffirm-commitment-to-shared-values>

India stressed on The Right to Development, while the EU advocated abolishing capital punishment. There were certain emerging concerns like the impact of technology on human rights, migrant rights, and corporate responsibility were also discussed. Both sides pledged to increase collaboration in multilateral forums, particularly at the UN, to address shared priorities. The dialogue highlighted India and the EU’s commitment to democratic values, human dignity, and encouraging inclusive societies. The dialogue is scheduled to continue in 2026, aligning with broader bilateral cooperation under the EU-India strategic partnership roadmap, expected to deepen ties across trade, climate, and security.

North America



Elevating U.S.-India Relations: Key Highlights from NSA Sullivan’s Visit

During U.S. NSA Jake Sullivan’s visit to India, discussions with Indian NSA Ajit Doval focused on deepening collaboration under the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET). The dialogue emphasized strengthening technology and defence supply chains to foster a robust innovation ecosystem. Strategic cooperation covered areas such as semiconductors, biotechnology, clean energy, advanced telecommunications, and cybersecurity. Notable initiatives included the Bio-5 Consortium, the U.S.-India-ROK Technology Trilateral, and Quad collaborations, highlighting a shared commitment to multilateral technological progress.

Space technology cooperation was a key highlight, with agreements for the launch of the NASA-ISRO NISAR satellite, astronaut training at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, and joint lunar exploration projects. defence partnerships progressed through collaborations on sonobuoy co-production, MQ-9B drone acquisitions, and co-developing fighter jet engines with GE Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Additionally, clean energy partnerships focused on deploying small modular reactors, advancing civil nuclear cooperation, and processing critical minerals like lithium and vanadium.

The discussions also prioritized semiconductor manufacturing, AI, and quantum technology development to boost innovation and national security applications. People-to-people ties were enhanced with new consulates, expanded visa opportunities, and initiatives like “Bio-X” to strengthen biotechnology competitiveness. The visit highlighted a lasting strategic partnership described as spanning “from the seabed to the stars



Source: Stratnews Global

<https://stratnewsglobal.com/sngoriginals/from-the-seabed-to-the-stars-10-takeaways-from-u-s-nsa-jake-sullivans-visit/>

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South America

India-Argentina Joint Expedition Highlights Growing Defence and Strategic Ties



Source: Financial Express

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-historic-joint-military-expedition-to-mt-aconcagua-a-milestone-in-india-argentina-defence-relations-3708780/>

The Indian Army and Argentine Army, for the first time, have collaborated on a historic joint expedition to Mt. Aconcagua, the Americas' highest peak at 6,995 meters. This expedition, taking place from January 3 to 20, 2025, symbolizes the strengthening of bilateral defence cooperation between India and Argentina. The venture will highlight the growing military bond between the two nations, combining expertise in high-altitude mountaineering and operational training. Beyond physical achievement, it lays a foundation for any future defence collaborations focusing on shared knowledge and best practices in extreme conditions.

This joint effort also reflects India's increasing global influence, particularly in South America, highlighting its commitment to expanding defence diplomacy and encouraging multilateral cooperation. The expedition reinforces India's dedication to peace, security, and collaboration beyond its immediate region, marking South America as an emerging area of strategic interest.

In future, this initiative could lead to regular joint expeditions, formalized defence dialogues, and capacity-building programs in high-altitude warfare, disaster response, and peacekeeping. The success of this partnership between the two nations will strengthen their relations, setting the stage for broader defence engagements and strategies, signaling a joint vision for enhanced military ties.

Asia



India-Malaysia Security Dialogue: Strengthening Strategic and Bilateral Ties

The inaugural India-Malaysia Security Dialogue took place in New Delhi on January 7, 2025, co-chaired by India's National Security Adviser Shri Ajit Doval and Malaysia's National Security Council Director General Raja Dato Nushirwan Bin Zainal Abidin. This high-level meeting marked a significant milestone in bolstering bilateral security and defence cooperation. Discussions encompassed the global and regional security landscape, focusing on counter-terrorism, cyber security, de-radicalization, defence industries, and maritime security. Both sides also explored potential collaborations in critical minerals and rare earths. A key outcome was the decision to institutionalize the dialogue as an annual event, ensuring sustained progress.

The dialogue was rooted in Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim's August 2024 visit to India, where bilateral relations were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This partnership highlighted a shared commitment to advancing ties across multiple domains, particularly security.

People-to-people ties form a vital foundation for relations, with Malaysia hosting 2.75 million Persons of Indian Origin, the second-largest globally. Recent initiatives, such as visa-free travel for Indians and increased air connectivity, have further boosted collaboration in tourism and civil aviation, enhancing the longstanding partnership.



Source: ANI

<https://aninews.in/news/world/asia/inaugural-india-malaysia-security-dialogue-held-in-new-delhi20250107175453>

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Australia

India-Australia Workshop Advances Sustainable Innovation in Critical Minerals Research

IIT Hyderabad, in collaboration with Monash University, Australia, organized a two-day workshop on January 3-4th under the Australia-India Critical Minerals Research Hub (AICMRH). The event aimed to advance research and innovation in critical minerals, focusing on sustainable methods for exploration, extraction, and recycling. The workshop brought together experts, researchers, academicians, and industry leaders from both India and Australia to discuss critical mineral technologies.

During the inaugural session, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka emphasized the importance of critical minerals in driving sustainable development, particularly in renewable energy, battery storage, and green hydrogen. He reiterated the Telangana government's commitment to advancing green energy and innovation, aiming to produce 20,000 MW of green energy by 2030.

Source : New Indian Express

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telangana/2025/Jan/04/iit-hyderabad-hosts-workshop-on-critical-minerals>

IIT Hyderabad and Monash University hosted a workshop on critical minerals, emphasizing sustainable exploration and recycling. Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Australian Consul Hilary McGeachy highlighted its role in advancing green energy, innovation, and bilateral collaboration.

Africa



India-Ethiopia Ties Strengthen Through BRICS, Focus on Economic Growth

Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Anil Kumar Rai, has highlighted Ethiopia's potential to emerge as a leading African economy characterized by a large population, vast landmass, and robust infrastructure. Speaking to TV BRICS, Rai has praised Ethiopia's economic reforms and their alignment with BRICS' significant initiatives, which provide opportunities in sectors like industry, mining, agriculture, textiles, and services. Rai emphasized on the fact that BRICS, now expanded to include Ethiopia and other nations, facilitates economic transformation through modern digital technologies and offers unique financial instruments benefiting developing countries. He also highlighted the role of BRICS in addressing critical areas such as agriculture, food security, and human capital development, which are pivotal for Ethiopia's progress.

India and Ethiopia recently signed a memorandum of understanding on digital public infrastructure, strengthening their bilateral cooperation. Rai stressed the importance of education in equipping Ethiopia with skilled manpower, essential for its economic growth.

Established in 1948, India-Ethiopia diplomatic ties have grown significantly, particularly within the BRICS framework. Ethiopia joined BRICS on January 1, 2024, alongside Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, adding to the diversity of the bloc's global economic influence.



Source: ANI News

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/others/ethiopia-can-establish-itself-as-a-strong-player-says-indian-ambassador-to-ethiopia20250110021243/>