

High-Level Talks at Talisman Sabre Underscore Deepening India-US Defense Partnership



Top military officials from India and the United States held significant bilateral discussions on Sunday, July 27, 2025, amidst the ongoing Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 in Australia. These crucial talks, aimed at strengthening strategic military cooperation and regional security in the Indo-Pacific, highlight the accelerating momentum in defense ties between the two nations.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), met with Lieutenant General Joshua Rudd, Deputy Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command. The discussions, which took place over tea, focused on enhancing defense collaboration, exploring future operational opportunities, and coordinating joint efforts to uphold peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, according to India's Integrated Defence Staff. Their engagement at this major multilateral exercise, hosted by Australia and involving 19 nations, serves as a testament to India's growing role in global defense diplomacy.

Exercise Talisman Sabre, an eleven-year-old biennial drill, is designed to enhance military interoperability and strengthen partnerships across land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace. India's participation as a staff planner at various levels of joint operations, control, safety, and logistics underscores its commitment to collaborative security in the region.

This high-level interaction follows recent discussions earlier this month between India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth at the Pentagon. During that meeting, Jaishankar notably referred to the defense partnership as "one of the most

consequential pillars" of the bilateral relationship. Secretary Hegseth, for his part, expressed enthusiasm for India's increasing integration of US defense systems and outlined a shared vision for expanding industrial cooperation and defense production.

The deepening defense cooperation between India and the United States reflects a mutual resolve toward regional security and stability in the Indo-Pacific. This includes the ongoing integration of US-origin platforms into India's military inventory, such as C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft and P-8I Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft, along with discussions for co-production of systems like Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missiles. Such engagements at exercises like Talisman Sabre are vital for building trust, sharing best practices, and ensuring both nations are better prepared to address evolving security challenges in the Indo-Pacific.