

## India, US Strengthen Military Ties at Talisman Sabre 2025

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Top military officials from India and the United States convened on Sunday for bilateral discussions during the ongoing Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025, a major multinational training operation hosted by Australia. The meeting comes as the two countries continue to fortify their defense relationship amid a shifting strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), held talks with Lieutenant General Joshua Rudd, Deputy Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command. The engagement was part of India's expanded participation in the large-scale, joint military exercise that includes key regional allies.

According to a statement from the Integrated Defence Staff, the dialogue focused on strengthening operational readiness, exploring future joint missions, and reinforcing regional stability. "Various avenues for strengthening #DefenceCooperation and collaboration, as well as future operational opportunities, were discussed. #India – #USA Defence engagements underscore mutual resolve towards #RegionalSecurity and stability in the #IndoPacific," the staff noted in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

These conversations are emblematic of the broader trajectory of India-US defense ties, which have steadily advanced over the past decade through foundational agreements, increased joint exercises, and growing defense trade. Washington has recognized India as a key partner in maintaining a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific, a region increasingly contested by China's assertive military posture.

Exercise Talisman Sabre, held every two years, provides a vital platform for enhancing interoperability among participating nations. For India, its engagement reflects not only its defense priorities but also its geopolitical alignment with like-minded democracies seeking to ensure freedom of navigation and territorial sovereignty in the region.

The meeting between the two senior military leaders demonstrates a unified intent to bolster coordination in air, land, and maritime domains. As tensions continue to simmer in strategic chokepoints such as the South China Sea, these efforts are seen as crucial to deterring aggression and supporting a stable balance of power.

While the current UK government has focused on internal matters, Washington and New Delhi appear determined to increase their defense engagement as part of broader regional and global security efforts. As the international landscape grows more volatile, the value of reliable, transparent partnerships like the one between the United States and India cannot be overstated.