



2024 US-India Indo-Pacific Track 2.0 Dialogue

Kaua‘i | June 24-25, 2024

Hilton Garden Inn Kaua‘i Wailua Bay | Kuhio Ballroom

Agenda

Sunday, June 23, 2024

Participants arrive in Kaua‘i

Monday, June 24, 2024

8:25 - 10:35 **Visit to Kaua‘i’s Hindu Monastery**

Meet in the hotel lobby at 8:00 am

11:00 **Aloha Meets Namaste: Opening Remarks**

Introduction by Akhil Ramesh

Keynote remarks by U.S. Congressman Ed Case, Hawai‘i District 1 (virtual)

Speakers: Dr. David Santoro and Dr. Ram Madhav

11:30 **Session I - From Hawai‘i to the Himalayas: Challenges and Opportunities in the US-India Partnership**

The US-India bilateral partnership is one of the most dynamic bilateral partnerships in the world. From outer space to the deep seabed, the two nations and their people are working together to solve regional and global challenges. The partnership that spans economic, trade, technology, and security domains has evolved to address modern-day challenges from both state and non-state actors. The armies of the two nations engage in military exercises as a show of strength to common adversaries and engage in naval exercises in the Indian and Pacific Oceans to improve interoperability. That said, both nations have found it extremely challenging to move past the muscle memory of the Cold War. Old partnerships and relationships continue to be a bone of contention and a barrier to smooth sailing. Where is Washington’s relationship with its indispensable partner headed? Are the US and India in different universes: the US in unipolar and India in multipolar?

Moderator: Akhil Ramesh

Speakers: Dr. David Santoro & Dr. Ram Madhav

12:50

Lunch

13:45

Session II - US-India Cooperation in the Pacific

The increasing role of the PRC in port development, particularly in strategic ports in the Indian Ocean region such as Mongla and Chattogram ports in Bangladesh, has made headlines. While the “string of pearls” theory was conceptualized with Hambantota in Sri Lanka and Gwadar port in Pakistan as early cases of China’s predatory investments, since then, the scholarly community working on China’s predatory economic practices and economic coercion has not rang the alarm bells on its practices in the Pacific. From the South Pacific to the north, the US and India face headwinds from China’s security pacts, bilateral political deals, and debtor-creditor relationships with smaller nations. India’s engagement with Pacific Island nations has historically taken the form of development assistance and people-to-people ties in places like Fiji. Washington, however, has a legacy in the region and a lot to overcome as it begins to increase engagement with these Islands eyeing support in a Taiwan contingency. What are India and the US getting right and wrong? Where and how can the two Indo-Pacific nations work together in the Pacific Islands?

Moderator: Akhil Ramesh

Speakers: Amb. Ashok Sajjanhar & Cleo Paskal

15:00

Chai break

15:20

Session III - New Frontiers and New Challenges (Technology)

The partnership’s rise started with information technology trade in the backdrop of the Y2K crisis. Two decades have passed, and India’s role in both the software value chain and in critical and advanced technology manufacturing has only increased in the global value chains and as a result a centerpiece in the US-India bilateral partnership. While this session is not intended to dive deep into the technology partnership, it will provide a bird’s-eye perspective on the advancements and developments in space and avenues for increased attention. From semiconductors to EV batteries, initiatives such as the iCET have transformed into larger trilateral and quadrilateral initiatives. This session will address the following questions: how can the US and India jointly support smaller

island nations in the Pacific (eg. undersea cables)? What are the trilateral and quadrilaterals that can be developed or enhanced?

Chair: Dr. David Santoro

Speakers: Kaush Arha & Haseeb Drabu (virtual)

16:30 **End of Day I**

19:00 **Chai & Cocktails by the water**
Mamahune's

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

8:45 **Opening remarks by Mayor of Kauai County Derek Kawakami**

9:15 **Session IV - Security Cooperation in the Pacific & Beyond**

“Indo-Pacific” denotes different geographies to the US and India. The geographic scope of the Indo-Pacific defined by New Delhi includes several Indian Ocean nations, including in sub-Saharan Africa. However, the US only recently renamed its Asia Pacific Command to the Indo-Pacific Command and made a concerted effort to include India and its immediate neighbors in the broader security discussions. In the broad definition of the Indo-Pacific, Washington’s naval command is split between CENTCOM, INDOPACOM, SOUTHCOM and AFRICOM. In mid-May, the US and India had the second dialogue on Africa. New Delhi for its part, is yet to proactively explore cooperation with LATAM and nations in the Eastern rim of the Pacific, such as Chile, Peru and Columbia.

What lessons can the US draw from India’s active diplomacy in Mauritius and East Africa? Similarly, what lessons can India draw from Washington’s engagement with LATAM? How will divergences over issues such as Diego Garcia affect the US-India bilateral partnership? What role can New Delhi play in a deep-sea port such as Chancay in Peru?

This session will explore both conventional and non-conventional security cooperation opportunities.

Moderator: Amb. Ashok Sajjanhar

Speakers: Michael Rubin & RADM Sudarshan Shrikhande

10:30

Session V - US-India Relations in the Media

The bilateral partnership is among one of those bilateral relationships of the US that undergo death by media trial. This repeated contestation of the relationship, by both dailies and the scholarly community hampers progress at the track-2 level and consequently the people-to-people ties. India was once among the “Eat, Pray and Love” nations in popular American discourse. Over the last few years, headlines in popular journals have come to question the democratic credentials of the nation. Often endorsed by the usual suspect think tankers in Washington, this bleak picture of India, while not in the near term, but in the longer term could erode India’s goodwill and reputation among policymakers and officials. As we’ve witnessed with recent protests on American university campuses, popular opinion is shaped by vested interests. This session will address questions such as – are US-India relations a success at track 1 and a failure at track 2? What lessons can be drawn from other bilateral relationships?

Moderator: Akhil Ramesh

Speakers: Samir Kalra & Krishna Chaitanya Baalam

11:00

Amb. Sripriya Ranganathan addresses the delegation (virtual)

11:45

Session VI - What’s Next?

This session will draw on the day-and-a-half-long discussion in various thematic sessions. This session will serve as a prelude to the Indian Ocean portion of the dialogue to take place in early 2025 and discuss the tangible outcomes of the concluding dialogue.

Chair: Dr. David Santoro

12:45

Closing Remarks

13:15

Lunch

14:30

Free Time

Below are some recommendations for attractions and places of interest close to the hotel:

- Lydgate Beach
- Ali‘i Kayaks & Water Sports
- Wailua Kayak & Canoe
- Smith’s Wailua Cruise to Fern Grotto
- Smith’s Garden & Park

- Coconut Marketplace
- Hikinaakalā Heiau – Wailua River State Park
- Wailua Heritage Trail

17:30

Ahi Uila Fire Show and Dinner

Mamahune's Lawn