

India Canada Research Initiative

Track 1.5 Dialogue: Defence-Industrial and Security Cooperation in India-Canada Relations

Date: November 26, 2025

Time: 9.00 AM – 12.00 PM

Venue: CSDR Conference Room, New Delhi

A. Organizers: Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR) & the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

B. Overview:

India's indigenous defence production industry, valued at approximately [US\\$15 billion](#) in 2023-2024, boasts strengths in naval systems, unmanned aerial vehicles, and missile technologies. Exports surged to over US\$2.5 billion in FY 2023-24, reaching more than 100 countries through public sector undertakings. Canada's defence sector, contributing over [CAD\\$9.6 billion](#) to GDP in 2022 while supporting 81,200 jobs, excels in aerospace platforms, advanced simulation training via CAE Inc., and satellite communications through MDA Space, underpinned by a robust ecosystem of over 1,600 firms.

India and Canada are well-positioned to advance defence-industrial and security cooperation, in line with the October 13, 2025, joint statement that prioritizes public safety and enhanced strategic alignment. Discussions during Foreign Minister Anita Anand's October 2025 visit to India spotlighted synergies in cybersecurity and counter-terrorism.

This Track 1.5 dialogue aims to initiate a process of exploring the potential for bilateral security and defence collaboration, as well as synergies in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the maritime domain. It will also identify opportunities for defence-industrial cooperation within the broader context of enhancing economic engagement between the two countries. Furthermore, the dialogue will emphasize the importance of building mutual trust and addressing challenges, such as export restrictions, to harness the true potential of bilateral cooperation fully.

In the context of escalating Indo-Pacific maritime tensions, this discussion will scrutinize opportunities for co-development of dual-use technologies, joint capacity-building exercises, and streamlined export policies. By integrating Canada's remote sensing prowess with India's scalable manufacturing, the partnership could bolster maritime domain awareness, enhance counter-piracy efforts, and mitigate hybrid threats. The discussion aims to produce recommendations for co-production ventures, technological cooperation, and bilateral military exchanges, thereby cultivating enduring defense-industrial resilience for both countries in an increasingly volatile geopolitical environment.

A background note produced by CSDR/APF Canada will frame the discussion.

C. Format

0900 – 0915 hrs: Opening remarks by

- Dr. Happymon Jacob – Founder & Director, CSDR
- Amb. Ajay Bisaria – Chair, India Canada Research Initiative, CSDR
- Ms. Vina Nadjibulla - Vice-President, Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

0915 – 1015 hrs: Remarks by government stakeholders from both sides

1015 hrs – 1145 hrs: Roundtable Discussion chaired by Amb. Ajay Bisaria and Ms. Vina Nadjibulla

Discussion Questions:

1. How do Canadian and Indian interests intersect in the Indo-Pacific? How can the two countries leverage their synergies and overcome the roadblocks to deepen cooperation?
2. What steps can be taken to enhance cooperation in the domain of maritime security?
3. What are the opportunities for collaboration in the security and defence-industrial sectors, including areas such as aerospace, cybersecurity, and emerging and advanced technologies?
4. How might regular military training exchanges and people-to-people initiatives rebuild trust for deeper defence-industrial collaboration?
5. What strategic adjustments to the paused CEPA framework are essential to prioritize defence co-development and supply chain integration?

1145 hrs: Closing Remarks

1200 hrs: Networking Lunch

D. Participants

Canada:

- Ms. Sara Wilshaw, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, International Trade and Chief Trade Commissioner of Canada
- Mr. Christopher Cooter, High Commissioner of Canada to India
- Mr. Jeff David, Consul-General of Canada in Mumbai
- Mr. Jeff Biggs, Senior Director, Natural Resources Canada
- Mr. Justin Lau, Natural Resources Canada
- Mr. Ed Jagger, Minister (Commercial), High Commission of Canada in India, in New Delhi
- Mr. Geoffrey Dean, Canadian High Commission in India
- Mr. Scott Matthies, Managing Director, Trade and Investment India, Government of Saskatchewan
- Mr. Kapil Malhotra, Trade Commissioner, Ontario Trade & Investment Office in New Delhi, Government of Ontario
- Mr. Haranjan Jan Singh, Senior Economic Officer to India, Government of Ontario

- Mr. John McDonald, Managing Director, Singapore Office, Indo-Pacific Hub, Government of Alberta
- Mr. S. Yash Kalash, Senior Fellow, Centre for International Governance Innovation
- Mr. Nadir Patel, Former Canadian High Commissioner to India
- Mr. Trevor Kennedy, Vice President, Asia-Pacific, Business Council of Canada
- Ms. Photinie Koutsavlis, Vice President, Economic Affairs and Climate Change, Mining Association of Canada (MAC)
- Dr. Luisa Moreno, Director of the Critical Minerals and Industrial Resilience Institute (CMIRI)
- Mr. Jonathan Berkshire Miller, Senior Fellow, Macdonald-Laurier Institute
- Ms. Nadira Hamid, CEO, Indo-Canadian Business Chamber
- Ms. Vina Nadjibulla, Vice-President, Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

India:

- Amb. Ajay Bisaria – Advisor, CSDR
- Dr. Happymon Jacob – Founder & Director CSDR
- Capt. Sarabjeet S. Parmar - Distinguished Fellow, CSDR
- Dinakar Peri - Fellow, Security Studies program at Carnegie India.
- Lt. Gen Sanjay Verma - Distinguished Fellow, CSDR; Former DG Acquisitions, MoD
- Lt. Gen P.S. Rajeshwar - Former Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) of the Indian Armed Forces
- Colonel Shailendra Arya (Retd) – Former Advisor, International Cooperation, Ministry of Defense
- Sanjeev Kumar Bhola - Chief General Manager, Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd. (GOI, Enterprise)
- Mr. K. Nagaraj Naidu - Additional Secretary (AMS - USA & Canada), Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India
- Mr. Vivek Bansal- Chief Executive Officer, SPRY Technocon
- Capt. Amol Merwade- Vice President, SPRY Technocon
- Mr. Cole Baker-Senior Trade officer, Alberta's Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade
- Mr. Rahul Sharma- Managing Director, Alberta New Delhi Office, Government of Alberta

Notes:

- *The discussion will be held under Chatham House Rules with no media presence*
- *Some pictures will be taken for documentation, but no audio/video recording will be made*