#### **INDIA NEWS**

Indian delegation. The Australian government provides funding for the program. Officials will receive training in the finest practices in sports administration, management, and sports science from administrators and specialists from the University of Canberra, a top university for sports education. Sessions on improving India's sports systems will be led by the Australian Institute of Sport, which has coached many of Australia's gold medalists. In the development of high-performance sports and sports participation, the AIS is a global leader. The Commonwealth Games Association will be met by participants to discuss preparations for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Participants will also view Australia's cutting-edge sporting venues.

The two countries' bilateral relationship was upgraded to a "Strategic Partnership" as a result, and a Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation was issued in 2009. A variety of institutional mechanisms have been established over time to foster bilateral cooperation, including the exchange of high-level visits, the Framework Dialogue of Foreign Ministers, the Joint Trade and Commerce Ministerial Commission, staff talks, energy security dialogues, the Australia-India Education Council, and Track-2 dialogues like the Australia-India Leadership Dialogue.

# Aspects of a joint working group for defence technology research



By Maitreyi Upadhyay, Student, B.B.A. LL. B. (Hons.), Bennett University, India

In an effort to strengthen the relationship and address the shared concerns about the rise of Chinese dominance in the Indo-Pacific, India, and Australia have focused on strengthening bilateral defence research and materiel cooperation.

Rajnath Singh, India's defence minister, praised the strengthening ties between the two nations and referred to Australia as "India's close and trusted partner." Singh and Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles held a bilateral meeting in New Delhi where Marles echoed Singh's statement and added that the meeting was a step forward "in advancing defence ties." Further, the meeting of the India-Australia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Research and Materiel Cooperation will take place in Australia, as stated in the bilateral statement.

The Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), which also makes it easier to expand overall defence cooperation, enables the forces of the two nations to use each other's bases for supply replenishment and repair. In November 2020 as well as the previous year, the Australian Navy participated in the Malabar naval exercise that was hosted by India.

India and Australia signed an agreement for reciprocal access to military bases for logistics assistance in June 2020, elevating their relations to a complete strategic alliance. The comprehensive strategic partnership that India and Australia signed, included a joint vision on maritime security, a defence science and technology research initiative, and a significant defence logistics agreement, with cooperation in defence and security being one of its key pillars.

India – Australia relations in the context of China's rise



By Maitreyi Upadhyay, Student, B.B.A. LL. B. (Hons.), Bennett University, India

Since 1780, the relationship between India and Australia has grown primarily through business ventures. Given the shared principles derived from Commonwealth traditions, the relationship has been cordial. India and Australia share many similarities in safeguarding national interests and balancing relations with the US and China

in light of China's ascent and the intensification of the US-China conflict, which helps to advance relations between the two nations. Through official statements and practical implementation measures, the two-way relationship has undoubtedly advanced. The promotion of the partnership to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" has opened the door for deeper and broader cooperation in a range of disciplines, from high-level to grassroots politics. Regarding the efficiency of bilateral activities, there are still issues. First, India and Australia rarely speak out against China's unilateral moves in the Indo-Pacific, despite embracing the principle of respect for the rule of law at sea. Despite the fact that China has been steadily on the rise, India and Australia would need some

time to respond and advance due to their dependence on and divergent views of their intricate relationships with China. These shortcomings are partly due to differences in the two countries' views of the China factor and each country's strategic vision. Australia only considers China's expansion as an issue of influence. Hence, Australia's countermeasures and policies revolve around issues that can affect the country directly or indirectly. Meanwhile, India has territorial conflicts with China and considers China a vital factor in its long-term strategy. On the other hand, Australia considers the US an important ally and wishes to maintain this link, while India has committed not to align with any countries and would implement multi-alignment in mandatory situations. This may lead to different trends in longterm goals and the process of India-Australia cooperation.



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