

Testimony on U.S.-India Relations
SFRC Subcommittee on the Near East, South Asia,
Central Asia, and Counterterrorism

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Chairman Murphy, Ranking Member Young,

Our relationship with India is one of the key partnerships that will determine the security of Asia, the United States, and the world. This is a relationship that we must get right. And the only way we will get it right is if the Administration and the Congress work together.

I will today share our thinking about India-China relations, the future of the Quad, climate and clean energy, cooperation on counterterrorism, defense sales, and human rights and religious freedom in India. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, of course, is foremost on our minds, and the Department continues to engage India closely to underscore the importance of a collective response condemning Russia's invasion.

Just as an increasingly provocative PRC is challenging the United States, it is also provoking India at every turn. India staged a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Olympic Games after the PRC selected the regiment commander responsible for the attack on the Indian border that resulted in the death of 20 Indian soldiers in 2020 as an Olympic torchbearer. Beijing also recently published new PRC maps reiterating claims to large swaths of territory in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, renaming its cities with new Chinese names. We remain committed to accelerating progress in our Major Defense Partnership and strengthening India's capacity to deter PRC provocations, through robust naval cooperation, enhanced information and intelligence sharing, and increased cooperation in emerging domains such as space and cyberspace.

I joined Secretary Blinken in Melbourne for the Quad Ministerial last month. I was struck by how much the Quad is accomplishing and the determination of all Quad partners to support a free and open Indo-Pacific. The Quad is making huge strides in achieving our goal of delivering 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the world. The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation provided \$50 million in long-term financing to Biological E Ltd to develop manufacturing capacity to produce at least one billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines by the end of 2022. We have held

discussions via the Quad on critical and emerging technologies and are also cooperating to support clean energy and decarbonization efforts in the Indo-Pacific region, including through green shipping and clean hydrogen initiatives. The Quad is also working together on maritime cooperation and security. We are sharing data on maritime domain awareness, fighting illegal fishing together, and our four countries have conducted complex and large-scale naval exercises in the annual Malabar exercise.

India will be the largest source of global energy demand growth through 2030 and could become the world's largest carbon emitter unless it can change its current trajectory. We are focused on mobilizing finance and technology to accelerate India's clean energy transition through the U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership.

We also share concerns with India about terrorism. With the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, both of our countries are concerned about the resurgence of terrorist groups operating from there. We have worked to hold accountable terrorist groups responsible for the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack that killed 166 people, including six Americans. Our cooperation over the last year has included meetings of the Counterterrorism Joint Working Group, the Quad Counterterrorism Tabletop Exercise, and working groups of the Homeland Security Dialogue.

India is the world's second largest importer of defense technology. Over the last 22 years, U.S. defense sales to India have grown to over \$20 billion, and India is considering purchasing six additional P-8I maritime surveillance aircraft for \$2.1 billion. Since 2011, India has reduced its arms imports from Russia by 53 percent and increased its defense purchases from the United States and other partners, as well as increasing its own domestic production capability.

India continues to report infiltration by militants into Jammu and Kashmir, although rates of infiltration have reduced markedly over the past two years. Since the 2019 Pulwama attack which killed 40 Indian security officials and under pressure from the international community, Pakistan has taken positive steps to address cross-border terrorism. We continue to encourage Pakistan to prosecute terrorist leaders and dismantle all terrorist groups.

As the world's largest democracy, India has a vibrant civil society, a free media, and an independent judicial system. However, we are concerned about human rights challenges, including the lack of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and reports of ongoing human rights abuses. Similarly, across the country, we are closely monitoring reports of discrimination against Muslim communities and other religious minority groups, as well as limits on free speech and NGOs. It is critical that India's partners speak up when we witness troubling events, but that we also support India's democratic institutions which are the country's key defense against the erosion of human rights.

In conclusion, we see a growing strategic convergence between the United States and India. I look forward to working with Congress to push forward this indispensable relationship between our two great countries.