

FROM THE INDO-PACIFIC TO THE MEGA-REGION: OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE U.S.-INDIA RELATIONSHIP

WORKSHOP ON THE INDO-PACIFIC

Hoover Institution Office

1300 New York Avenue, NW, 5th Floor

Washington, DC 20005 | March 12, 2026

AGENDA

- 7:30 – 8:00 AM Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 – 8:20 AM Welcome remarks and Introductions by Admiral Gary Roughead, US Navy (Ret), Distinguished Military Fellow, Hoover Institution
- 8:20 – 9:50 AM
- SESSION 1
- Title: **Opening the Aperture: From Today's Indo-Pacific to Tomorrow's Mega-Region**
- This panel will explore:**
- What major political, economic, and security changes are taking place in the Indo-Pacific that are leading to the creation of a mega-region?
 - Perspectives of the U.S. and India on the mega-region.
 - What are the key threats and points of friction that could arise in the mega-region?
 - What are the repercussions for the mega-region's nuclear-armed states?
 - How will regional groups (ASEAN, AUKUS, etc) evolve in the mega-region and what new groupings could emerge?
- Moderator: Admiral Gary Roughead, US Navy (Ret), Distinguished Military Fellow, Hoover Institution
- 9:50 – 10:50 AM
- SESSION 2
- Title: **The Mega-Region's Blue Economy: Rewiring the Economic Fabric**
- This panel will explore:**
- How will the search for a blue economy, including fishing, seabed mining, seabed infrastructure, and energy policies, define the mega-region?
 - How significant will the blue economy be in the evolution of the mega-region?
 - Which country in the mega-region is best positioned to harness the blue economy?
- Moderator: Russell Berman, Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution

AGENDA



- 10:50 – 11:05 AM Break
- 11:05 AM – 12:15 PM SESSION 3
Title: **From Deterrence to Defense: Security Relationships in the Mega-Region**
This panel will explore:
- Where does defense technology alignment and cooperation stand in the region?
 - What are possible security expenditures in the mega-region?
 - What opportunities should the U.S. and India pursue for improving bi-lateral and multilateral cooperation?
- Moderator: Vice Admiral Kevin Donegan, US Navy (Ret), Distinguished Fellow, Middle East Institute
- 12:15 – 1:15 PM LUNCH
Title: **The Mega-Region: A Commercial Maritime Perspective**
Moderator: Mr. William Woodhour, CEO, Maersk Line, Ltd.
- 1:15 – 1:30 PM Break
- 1:30 – 2:45 PM SESSION 4
Title: **India as the Hinge State of the Mega-Region?**
This panel will explore:
- What are U.S. expectations of India's role in the security of the mega-region?
 - How is India approaching geopolitical relationships in the Indian Ocean and Eurasia, especially in the face of increasing competition from China?
 - What advantages and challenges does it face due to its geography?
 - What are the implications for its maritime security interests and obligations in the mega-region?
- Moderator: Dinsha Mistree, Research Fellow, Hoover Institution



2:45 – 4:15 PM

SESSION 5

Title: **The Mega-Region in 2040: Envisioning an Alternative Security Construct**

Presenters:

- U.S. perspective:
 - Seth Cropsey, President, Yorktown Institute
- India Perspective:
 - Admiral Nirmal Verma, Indian Navy (Ret.), Professor & Distinguished International Fellow, U.S Naval War College
- Middle East Perspective:
 - Shay Khatiri, Senior Fellow, Yorktown Institute

Moderator: Sumit Ganguly, Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution

4:15 – 4:30 PM

Closing Remarks by Admiral Gary Roughead, US Navy (Ret).
Distinguished Military Fellow, Hoover Institution

