

■ **US, India to Collaborate on Semiconductor Development, Defence Production**

National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval recently visited Washington to co-chair the meeting of the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) with his US counterpart Jake Sullivan at the White House. iCET aims to position the two countries as trusted technology partners by building technology value chains and support the co-development and co-production of items. During the meeting, the United States backed the growth of a fabrication ecosystem in India for semiconductors and encouraged joint ventures and partnerships for mature technology nodes and advanced packaging. The two countries have agreed to constitute a task force comprising India's Semiconductor Mission, India Electronics Semiconductor Association and the US Semiconductor Industry Association to conduct a readiness assessment and advance the development of semiconductor ecosystems. India and the US have also agreed to focus on joint production of key defense items of mutual interest by creating a quantum coordination mechanism with participation from industry and academia of both sides. A new Innovation Bridge will connect defence startups in both countries. Meanwhile, the US has committed to a swift review of General Electric's license application to produce jet engines in India for the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft. A public-private dialogue covering 5G, 6G and Open Radio Access Network (ORAN) will be initiated using trusted sources.