

MQ-9B Drone Deal

Source: HT

Recently, India signed a **defence deal** worth **USD 3.5 billion** with the **US** to acquire <u>31 MQ-9B</u> <u>Predator armed drones</u> for its armed forces. **General Atomics**, the manufacturer of the drones, will set up a **maintenance**, **repair and overhaul (MRO) facility** in India.





Max Gross Takeoff Weight: 5,670 kg

Fuel Capacity: 2,721 kg

Payload Capacity: 2,177 kg across 9 hardpoints (8 wing, 1 centerline)





Crew:

Two pilots in ground control stations



Weapons

Laser guided missiles Anti-tank missiles Anti-ship missiles



Missions

- Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief
- Search and Rescue
- Law Enforcement
- Border Enforcement
- Defensive Counter Air
- Airborne Early Warning

Missions



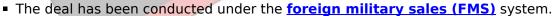


Anti-Submarine Warfare •

Airborne Mine Counter Measures •

Long-Range Strategic ISR •

Over-the-Horizon Targeting •



- FMS is the US Government's program for transferring defence articles, services, and training to its international partners and international organisations.
- It will first help India boost "deterrence by detection" enabling India to detect early adversarial advances on land and at sea, particularly from China, helping to prevent conflict.
 - These <u>high-altitude long-endurance (HALE) drones</u> are capable of remaining airborne for **over 35 hours** and can carry **four Hellfire missiles** (short-range tactical missile) and around **450 kgs of bombs.**
- India-US Defence Partnership:
 - The US was the **3rd largest supplier of arms** to India during **2018-22** after **Russia and France.** Defence procurements from the US stands at almost **USD 20 billion** in **2023.**
 - Key defence agreements include the <u>Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement</u> (2016), <u>Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement</u> (2018), Industrial Security Agreement (2019), and <u>Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement</u> (2020).

INDIA-US PARTNERSHIP

Economic Relations



- US became India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23 followed by China and UAE
- The bilateral trade has increased by 7.65% in 2022-23 (compared to 2021-22)

Defence Cooperation



- India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X), 2023: Start-ups and tech companies to collaborate on the co-development and co-production of advanced technologies
- Fighter Jet Deal, 2023: GE's F414 engine technology and manufacturing will be transferred for India's Tejas Mk2 jet, enhancing its indigenous capabilities
- Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI), 2012: To facilitate collaboration in defence manufacturing, research and development, and technology transfer
- New Framework for India-US Defence Relations, 2005: Updated for 10 years in 2015

India intends to procure armed MQ-9B SeaGuardian UAVs

Science & Technology



- Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET), 2022: Cooperation on CETs in areas including AI, quantum computing, semiconductors and wireless telecommunications
- Critical Minerals Partnership: Recently, India joined the US-led Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) to boost global critical energy and minerals
- Collaboration in Space: NASA to train ISRO astronauts, aiming for a joint International Space Station (ISS) mission in 2024
- Artemis Accord: A US-led alliance seeking to facilitate international collaboration in planetary exploration and research; signed by India
- NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR): For understanding changes in Earth's ecosystems and other environmental changes

Civil Nuclear Deal

 Civil Nuclear Cooperation: Bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement signed in October 2008

Energy & Climate Change



- Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Centre (JCERDC), **2010**: To promote clean energy innovations by teams of scientists from India and the United States
- © Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership: Launched at the Leaders
- Global Biofuel Alliance (India, Brazil and US), 2023: Aimed at facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels, including in the transportation sector

Security (



 Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Initiative, 2010: To expand collaboration on counter-terrorism, information sharing and capacity building

Four Foundational Agreements:

- General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), 2002: Allows militaries to share intelligence gathered by them
 - Industrial Security Annex, 2019 is a part of GSOMIA
 - Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), 2016: Both countries gain access to designated military facilities for refuelling and replenishment.
- Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), 2018: A legal framework for the transfer of highly sensitive communication security equipment from the US to India
- Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Intelligence (BECA), 2020: Allow both countries to share geospatial and satellite data with each other

In 2015, both countries issued Delhi Declaration of Friendship and adopted a

Popular Visa Among Indians include H-1B, L. Indian citizens set to become



Read More: India Approves Acquisition of MQ-9B Armed Drones from the US

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/mq-9b-drone-deal