



4th India- US '2+2' Dialogue

For Prelims: '2+2' Dialogue, Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)

For Mains: Bilateral Groupings & Agreements, Indo-Pacific, India as net provider of security, India US relations

Why in News?

Recently, the **fourth '2+2' dialogue** between **India and the United States** took place in **Washington DC, US**. **India's External Affairs and Defence Ministers** meet with their American counterparts.

- This meeting was held on the sidelines of a **virtual meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the US**.

What are the Key Points of this Meeting?

- **Space Situational Awareness Arrangement:** India and the US have signed a **bilateral space situational awareness arrangement**.
 - This lays the groundwork for more advanced cooperation in space.
- **Inaugural Defense Artificial Intelligence Dialogue:** They also agreed to launch an **inaugural Defense Artificial Intelligence Dialogue**, while expanding joint cyber training and exercises.
- **Military Supply Chain Cooperation:** The US asserted that it supports India as a defence industry leader in the **Indo-Pacific and a net provider of security in the region**.
 - In this context, new supply chain cooperation measures were launched that will let both countries more swiftly support each other's **priority defence requirements**.
- **Observing Crisis in Ukraine:** They agreed to maintain close consultations on the **ongoing crisis in Ukraine**, including on humanitarian assistance efforts, and **echoed support for an independent investigation** into the brutal violence deployed against civilians.

What is the Status of India's 2+2 Dialogue with the US?

- The US is India's oldest and most important 2+2 talks partner.
- The first 2+2 dialogue between the two countries was held during the **Trump Administration in 2018**.
- India and the US have signed a troika of **"foundational pacts"** for deep military cooperation:
 - **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)** in 2016,
 - Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) after the first 2+2 dialogue in 2018,
 - **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) in 2020**.
- The strengthening of the mechanisms of cooperation between the two militaries are of significance in the context of an increasingly **aggressive China**.

What is the 2+2 Dialogue?

- 2+2 Ministerial is the **highest-level institutional mechanism** between the two countries.
- It is a format of dialogue where the **defence/foreign ministers or secretaries** meet with their counterparts from another country.
- India has 2+2 dialogues with four key strategic partners: **the US, Australia, Japan, and Russia.**
 - Besides Russia, the other three countries are also India's partners in the **Quad.**

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