

## **Indo-US defence ties**

### **Why in news?**

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Recent summit between US and India concluded with continuity in the bilateral defence and security relationship.

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### **What is the status of India-US defence relations?**

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- The growth of the defence relationship has been astonishing.
- In the span of about a decade, defence trade shot from \$1 billion to over \$15 billion.
- The US and India take part in numerous and combined exercises.
- The US now authorises the sharing of sensitive technologies with India on a level commensurate with America's closest allies.
- There has also been a substantial deepening of the security partnership, with a focus on counter-terrorism cooperation and intelligence sharing.

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### **What is the importance of such relations?**

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- The defence partnership has proven to be a low velocity, high inertia affair slow, steady, but unlikely to change course absent a major disruption.
- This has been due, in part, to the fact that it has been under-girded by a common view of the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, and a shared concern over China's reach across Asia.

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- This strategic rationale for defence cooperation is citing a set of “common principles” such as respect for international law and state sovereignty,
  - The defence statement reaffirmed the imperative for US-India cooperation across Asia embodied in the 2015 Joint Strategic Vision.
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## **What are the major Indo-US defence cooperation?**

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- **Exercise** - Deeper collaboration on maritime domain awareness,
  - The annual US-India-Japan MALABAR exercise, which is “the largest maritime exercise ever conducted in the vast Indian Ocean,” and which included a focus on anti-submarine warfare.
  - **Defence trade** - The summit’s flagship deal was the announcement that the US had offered a multi-billion dollar sale of 22 Sea Guardian Unmanned Aerial Systems.
  - Procuring them should be a boon to India’s maritime surveillance.
  - **Counter Terror** - This the area in which both might eventually see closer cooperation.
  - The tough language on Pakistan along with the US designation of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen leader Syed Salah Uddin .
  - The announcement of a new consultative mechanism on terrorist designation listings US may be more willing to take Pakistan to task and prioritise India’s grievances.
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**Source: Business Line**

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