

US India Proposal on Defence Ties

Why in news?

\n\n

US has proposed to have reciprocal military liaison officers at India- US combatant commands.

\n\n

What is the proposed plan about?

\n\n

\n

- The US, currently, has arrangements for military liaison officers with some of its NATO allies and close defence partners.

\n

- Which includes Australia, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, New Zealand and Great Britain.

\n

- In the same lines US has proposed to have ties with India, this will place India in the orbit of America's closest allies.

\n

- According to this plan liaison officers will be commissioned by Pacific Command of the US defence forces in Indian military headquarters.

\n

\n\n

What is the significance of this proposal?

\n\n

\n

- India-US signed the foundational military agreement, Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016.

\n

- Earlier US administration designated India a Major Defence Partner, current administration is also taking the same stand.

\n

- As a component of taking bilateral strategic relationship to a new level US promised to take the element of military cooperation between the two

countries.

\n

- To deal with an assertive Chinese transgressions into Indian Territory, US ties would help India for geo-political manoeuvre to secure its interests.

\n

\n\n

What is the stand of India over this proposal?

\n\n

\n

- India is not averse to a strong partnership with any country, it remains rightly opposed to any military alliance which could impinge on its strategic flexibility.

\n

- Present US administration's unpredictable pronouncements have adversely affected perceptions of America's reliability as a partner and makes Indian government more cautious.

\n

- India is yet to see any benefits of being designated a Major Defence Partner, with no transfer of American defence technology for making major military platforms in India actually taking place.

\n

- India also seeks greater clarity over the role and charter of liaison officers to understand the value and quality of information that will be shared between the two militaries.

\n

- Due to some hard experiences from the US, India seeks greater economic concessions from US rather considering any military arrangements in first place.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Indian Express

\n

