



## Homeland Security Dialogue between India and US

**For Prelims:** Homeland Security Dialogue, QUAD, Four foundational defence agreements, Defence exercises, NISAR.

**For Mains:** Indo-US Defence and Security cooperation, Significance of Indo-US relations, Different aspects of India-US relations.

### Why in News

Recently, a **Homeland Security Dialogue** was held between the officials of India and US.

- In October 2021 the Ministry of Defence signed a [deal with the US Government](#) for procurement of MK 54 Torpedo and Expendable (Chaff and Flares) for the Indian Navy, under Foreign Military Sale (FMS).
- In July 2021 the [US Secretary of State visited India](#).

### Key Points

- **About:**
  - The Indo-US homeland security dialogue was **launched in 2010** as the mechanism to a sequel to the signing of the India-US counter-terrorism initiative.
    - **First Homeland Security Dialogue was held in May 2011.**
  - The latest virtual meeting came after in **March 2021**, the US President Joe Biden administration had announced the **re-establishment of the Homeland Security Dialogue** which was discontinued by former US President Donald Trump's administration.
  - There are **six sub-groups formed under the Indo-US homeland security dialogue** which cover the areas of:
    - Illicit finance, Financial fraud and counterfeiting.
    - Cyber information.
    - Megacity policing and sharing of information among federal, state and local partners.
    - Global supply chain, transportation, port, border and maritime security.
    - Capacity building.
    - Technology upgradation.
- **India- US Relations:**
  - **About:**
    - India-US bilateral relations have developed into a "**global strategic partnership**", based on shared democratic values and increasing convergence of interests on bilateral, regional and global issues.
    - In 2015, both the countries issued a **Delhi Declaration of Friendship** and adopted a **Joint Strategic Vision for Asia-Pacific** and the [Indian Ocean Region](#).
  - **Civil-Nuclear Deal:**
    - The [bilateral civil nuclear cooperation](#) agreement was signed in October 2008.

- **Energy and Climate Change:**
  - As a priority initiative under the **PACE (Partnership to Advance Clean Energy)**, the US Department of Energy (DOE) and the Government of India have established the **Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Centre (JCERDC)** designed to promote clean energy innovations by teams of scientists from India and the United States.
  - **India-US Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership** was launched at the Leaders climate summit 2021.
- **Defence Cooperation:**
  - Defence relationship has emerged as a major pillar of India-US strategic partnership with the signing of '**New Framework for India-US Defence Relations**' in 2005 which was further updated for 10 years in 2015.
  - India and US inked important defence pacts in the last few years and also formalised the four nation alliance of **QUAD** (India, US, Japan and Australia).
    - The alliance is seen as an **important counter to China in the Indo-Pacific**.
  - The **Malabar exercise** in November 2020 portrayed a high point in Indo-US strategic ties, it was the first time in 13 years that all four countries of QUAD came together sending a strong message to China.
  - India now has access to American bases from **Djibouti in Africa** to Guam in the Pacific. It can also access advanced communication technology used in US defence.
  - India and US have **four foundational defence agreements:**
    - **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Intelligence (BECA).**
    - General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA).
    - Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).
    - **Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA).**
  - **India-US Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Initiative was signed in 2010** to expand collaboration on counter-terrorism, information sharing and capacity building.
  - A tri-services exercise- **Tiger Triumph**- was conducted in November 2019.
  - Bilateral and regional exercises include: **Yudh Abhyas** (Army), **Vajra Prahar** (Special Forces), **RIMPAC**, **Red Flag**.
- **Trade:**
  - The US is India's second largest trading partner and a major destination for India's exports of goods and services.
  - The US replaced Mauritius as the second largest source of **foreign direct investment** into India during 2020-21.
  - The previous US government **ended India's special trade status (GSP withdrawal)** and also imposed several bans, India also retaliated with bans on 28 US products.
  - Current US government has allowed all the bans by the previous government to expire.
- **Science & Technology:**
  - **Indian Space Research Organisation** and **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** are working together to realise a joint microwave remote sensing satellite for Earth observation, named **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR).**
- **Indian Diaspora:**
  - There is a growing presence of Indian diaspora in all spheres in the US. For example the **current Vice-President (Kamala Harris)** of the US has a strong Indian connection.

## Way Forward

- The **stage has been set for transforming India's partnership with the US**. Afghanistan remains a key area of continuing concern for both India and the US and both sides are now looking at the bigger challenges emerging in the Indo-Pacific, driven by the rise and assertion of China.
- There is a **huge potential to boost bilateral trade between the countries especially on**

**account of increasing anti-China sentiment** in both the nations.

**Source: IE**

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