



India signs landmark defence pact with U.S.-Both sides tell Pak. to end terror attacks

Posted at: 07/09/2018

Outcomes of '2+2' Ministerial Dialogue

- India and the United States sealed the landmark Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) that will lead to a new generation of bilateral military partnership.
- Apart from the agreement that was signed at the end of the inaugural India-U.S.
- '2+2' Ministerial Dialogue, both sides also called on Pakistan to stop terrorist strikes on 'other countries' and urged for maritime freedom in the Indo-Pacific region.
- U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Secretary of Defence James N. Mattis led the American delegation, and the Indian team was headed by their counterparts Sushma Swaraj and Nirmala Sitharaman.
- "They welcomed the signing of a Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement that will facilitate access to advanced defence systems and enable India to optimally utilise its existing U.S.-origin platforms," a Joint Statement issued at the end of the bilateral dialogue declared.
- With Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), India has concluded three of the four foundational agreements with the U.S. that had been planned for years.

GSOMIA & LEMOA

- India has already signed two of them - General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002 and the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016.
- The COMCASA will allow the U.S. to transfer specialised equipment for encrypted communications for U.S.-origin platforms like C-17, C-130 and P-8I aircraft.
- It comes into force immediately and is valid for 10 years.
- A person-in-charge will be specially designated in U.S. Central Command for coordination between India and the U.S. on this.
- Officials said the government had negotiated an India-specific agreement and "specific additional provisions" had been incorporated in the text to safeguard security and national interests.
- India and the U.S. will also hold a first-ever tri service joint exercise on the east coast of

India in 2019, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced.

Role for private sector

- Ms. Sitharaman and Secretary of Defence James N. Mattis also announced their readiness to begin negotiations on an Industrial Security Annex (ISA) that would allow Indian private sector to collaborate with the U.S. defence industry.
- The GSOMIA allows sharing of classified information from the U.S. government and American companies with the Indian government and defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) but not with Indian private companies.
- To further defence innovation, a Memorandum of Intent was signed between the U.S. Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and the Indian Defence Innovation Organization - Innovation for Defence Excellence (DIO-iDEX), which will look into joint projects for co-production and co-development projects through the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).
- Ahead of the 10th anniversary of the 26/11 terror strikes in Mumbai, India and the U.S. resolved to combat international terrorism and asked Pakistan to bring those responsible for recent acts of terrorism against India to justice.

[The Hindu](#)

[The Hindu](#)

