



2+2 DIALOGUES - INTERNATIONAL (MAINS)

Q. Bring out the significance of 2+2 dialogue mechanism and enumerate the key highlights of the recent 2+2 dialogue between India and USA in the present geo-political context. (15 marks, 250 words)

News: *India, U.S. hold 2+2 ministerial dialogue with focus on Indo-Pacific, critical minerals and global challenges*

What's in the news?

- Recently, the 5th Edition of the India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue took place, where both countries highlighted progress in various areas of bilateral cooperation including defence, semiconductors, emerging technology, space, health etc.

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.

Key Highlights of the India-US 2+2 Dialogue:

1. Defence Deals:

- Both nations aimed to collaboratively co-develop and co-produce defence systems, fostering a deeper partnership in defence technologies.
- India and the U.S. are currently negotiating deals for the purchase of MQ-9B unmanned aerial vehicles and the licensed manufacturer of General Electric's F-414 jet engine in India.
- These deals align with India's goal of enhancing its defence capabilities.
- The Ministers looked forward to the finalisation of a Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA), a key priority in the Roadmap, which will further integrate the defence industrial ecosystems of both countries while strengthening supply chain resilience

2. Infantry Combat Vehicles and Future Plans:

- Both sides discussed infantry combat vehicles, particularly the Stryker, as part of the defence industry cooperation roadmap.
- Cooperation in infantry combat systems will be formalized once the Indian military's needs are finalized, and a concrete production plan is established through collaboration between Indian and U.S. industry and military teams.

3. Advancements in Defence Technology Cooperation:



- Both sides reviewed the progress of the India-U.S. Defence Industrial Ecosystem, INDUS-X, launched in June 2023, aimed at expanding the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation.

4. Membership in Combined Maritime Forces:

- India's decision to become a full member of the Combined Maritime Forces, a multilateral construct headquartered in Bahrain, was welcomed by the Defence Secretary of the US.
- This move signifies India's commitment to regional maritime security.

5. Maritime Security:

- Both nations shared a focus on maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region, acknowledging the importance of safeguarding vital sea lanes and promoting stability.

6. Space and Semiconductor Collaboration:

- The Ministers welcomed the rapid progress made under the India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) to build science and technology and critical technology value chain collaborations in both the commercial and defence sectors.
- They called on the respective governments, academic, research and corporate sectors to continue to proactively build these strategic partnerships in emerging technologies like quantum, telecom, biotechnology, Artificial Intelligence, and semiconductors to accelerate global innovation and benefit the economies of both countries.
- They welcomed the early meeting of the Strategic Trade Dialogue Monitoring Mechanism.

7. Discussion on Chinese Aggression:

- The US emphasized that the bilateral relationship extends beyond addressing the challenges posed by China.

8. India-Canada Row:

- The ongoing row between India and Canada, particularly concerning security concerns related to a Khalistan separatist based in the US and Canada, was addressed.
- India communicated its position on core security concerns to its partners.

Israel-Hamas War:

- India reiterated its stance on the Israel-Hamas Conflict, advocating for a two-state solution (Two countries officially demarcated and Internationally Recognised) and the early resumption of dialogue.
- Humanitarian assistance has been provided, emphasizing adherence to international humanitarian law and the condemnation of civilian casualties