

2+2 dialogue of India and US

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In news—The fourth '2+2' dialogue between India and the United States was held in Washington DC recently.

Key highlights of recent dialogue-

- As part of the dialogue, India's External Affairs and Defence Ministers, S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh met their American counterparts, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin.
- The Dialogue was preceded by a virtual meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joseph Biden.
- Both sides have agreed on the **need to revitalise the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)** with joint projects on advanced and emerging and critical military technologies, to be executed quickly.
- Both sides have reaffirmed their commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

About '2+2' dialogue-

- The 2+2 dialogue is **a format of meeting of the foreign and defence ministers of India and its allies on strategic and security issues.**
- A 2+2 ministerial dialogue **enables the partners to better understand and appreciate each other's strategic concerns** and sensitivities taking into account political factors on both sides, in order to build a stronger, more integrated strategic relationship in a rapidly changing global environment.
- **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.
- The inaugural 2+2 dialogue with Australia was held in September 2021 in New Delhi.

- India held its first 2+2 dialogue with Russia in December 2021 in India.
- The first India-Japan talks in the 2+2 format were held between the two countries in November 2019 in New Delhi.
- **The US is India's oldest and most important 2+2 talks partner.**
- The first 2+2 dialogue between the two countries was held during the Trump Administration (the late Sushma Swaraj MEA and then Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman) in New Delhi in September 2018.
- The second and third editions of the 2+2 dialogues were held in Washington DC and New Delhi in 2019 and 2020 respectively.
- Over the years, the strategic bilateral relationship with its partners, including the dialogues held in the 2+2 format, have produced tangible and far-reaching results for India.
- **India and the US have signed a troika of “foundational pacts” for deep military cooperation, beginning with the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016,** followed by the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (**COMCASA**) after the first 2+2 dialogue in 2018, and then the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (**BECA**) in 2020.