

Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement

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Along with Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), and Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), BECA is one of the **foundational military communication agreements** between the US and India.

Features of Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement

- BECA will **allow India to use US geospatial maps to get pinpoint military accuracy** of automated hardware systems and weapons such as cruise and ballistic missiles.
- It will **enhance the operational efficiency of the U.S. platforms** currently being operated by India. Getting accurate locations will allow Indian weapons systems and military platforms to accurately hit their targets.
- BECA was an important precursor to India acquiring armed unmanned aerial vehicles such as the Predator-B from the US.
- BECA was the pending third foundational military pact with the United States. A country needs to sign these three pacts to obtain cutting-edge weapons and communications systems from the United States.
- When the US had shared the draft agreement of BECA with India, India had certain reservations in view of its national security.
- The **COMCASA** allows the US to **transfer communication equipment** to India which **facilitates secure transmission of data and real-time information** between the armed forces of the two countries.
- The **LEMOA**, on the other hand, allows Indian and US defence forces to **use each other's facilities and establish procedures of easier access** to supplies and services required by them.

- India and the United States have come close in recent years, seeking ways to **counter-balance China's spreading influence** across Asia, especially in Pakistan, Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean.
- The US has emerged as India's **second largest arms supplier**, closing deals worth \$15 billion in the last 10 years.