

Indo- US ' 2+2 ' Dialogue Third meet

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With the growing influence of China in the Indo-Pacific region, India and the US are cautious of enhancing peace and stability across the region by elevating strategic consultations. The recent 2+2 dialogue is one such formal mechanism. From main point of view, one should know the strategic partnership agreements between India and the US and their importance.

In news: The 3rd India-US 2+2 dialogue was held recently in New Delhi.

Placing it in syllabus: Foreign affairs

Dimensions

1. In news
2. What is 2+ 2 Dialogue ?
3. Importance of Basic Exchange Cooperation Agreement

Content:

In news:

- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** held the third edition of the 2+2 talks with **US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark T Esper**.
- India and the US inked Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (**BECA**).
- The two countries agreed to **work together to confront the threat China posed** to security and freedom.
- They sealed an **MoU on Technical Cooperation in Earth Observations and Earth Sciences**.
- An agreement to extend the duration of the **MoU regarding**

the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership was signed.

- The two sides signed an **agreement on electronic exchange of customs data** and a letter of intent regarding **cooperation in traditional Indian medicines**.
- The two sides also decided to **expand joint capacity building activities with partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region**.

What is 2+ 2 Dialogue ?

- It 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 holds such talks with Australia, at the foreign secretary and defense secretary level but with Japan and the US at the ministerial level.
- The **1st 2+2 meeting** with the US was held at **New Delhi** in 2018 and the **second 2+2** meeting was held at **Washington** in 2019.

Importance of BECA:

- BECA enables **exchange of geo-spatial information**, enhancing the operational efficiency of the U.S. platforms currently being operated by India.
- It is the **final of the three basic agreements that the US signs with close partners**, enabling interoperability of forces and exchange of sensitive and classified information.

The other three foundational military communication agreements between the India and US are:

- General Security Of Military Information Agreement.
- Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement.
- Communications and Information Security Memorandum of

Agreement.

- Data received under the agreement will be useful for **long-range navigation and missile-targeting** with enhanced accuracy.
- Items that can be exchanged include maps, nautical and aeronautical charts, commercial and other unclassified imagery, geodetic, geophysical, geomagnetic and gravity data.
- This could be in **digital or printed format**.
- While most of the information to be shared will be in the unclassified category to bring about standardisation, **BECA includes the provision of sharing classified information as well, with safeguards in place to ensure that it is not shared with any third party.**
- The cooperation also includes **sharing of high-end satellite images, telephone intercepts, and data exchange on Chinese troops** and weapons deployment along the Line of Actual Control.

Mould your thought:

1. Explain the importance of the Basic Exchange Cooperation Agreement (BECA) and 2+2 dialogue in containing the China factor?

Approach to the answer:

- Write about the 2+2 dialogue
- Write about BECA and its importance
- Conclusion