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1. '2+2' dialogue: India-US sign military communications pact, agree to speed up Delhi's NSG bid

- What is 2+2 dialogue? What is its significance?
- With this dialogue, are India and US converging strategically?
- What is the way forward?

GS paper 2 (Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and /or affecting India's interests)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

Express Web Desk . (2018, September , 07).
'2+2' dialogue: India-US sign military communications pact, agree to speed up Delhi's NSG bid. Indian Express. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-us-talks-sushma-swaraj-sitharaman-nsg-comcasa-h1b-5343101/>

What is the context about?

- India and the US on Thursday held the first edition of the 2+2 dialogue in New Delhi.
- The major takeaways of the dialogue were the signing of the long-pending Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) and setting up of a hotline between External Affairs Minister and Defence Minister with their American counterparts.

What is 2+2 dialogue?

- ❑ 2+2 Dialogue between India and US was agreed during visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to US in June, 2017.
- ❑ It is similar to India-Japan 2+2 dialogue format between foreign and defence secretaries and ministers of the two countries. It replaces earlier India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue.
- ❑ The dialogue is aimed enhancing strategic coordination between both countries and maintaining peace and stability in Indo-Pacific region. It puts strategic, defence and security relationship between two countries at forefront and centre stage.

What is its significance?

- ❑ The dialogue is an indication of the deepening strategic partnership between our two countries, and India's emergence as a net security provider in the region.
- ❑ It is a significant development but one that appears perfectly logical when seen against the two-decade-old trend line of India-U.S. relations.
- ❑ The trend line between two countries has not been smooth but the trajectory definitively reflects a growing strategic engagement. From estranged democracies, India and U.S. can worst be described today as prickly partners.

With this dialogue, are India and US converging strategically?

Three factors have contributed to the emerging strategic convergence between India and US.

- ❑ First, the end of the Cold War provided an opportunity to both countries to review their relationship in the light of changing global and regional realities.
- ❑ Second, with the opening of the Indian economy, the American private sector began to look at India with greater interest. If U.S. foreign direct investment in India is more than \$20 billion, Indian companies too have invested \$15 billion in the U.S., reflecting a sustained mutual interest.
- ❑ The third factor is the political coming of age of the three-million-strong Indian diaspora. Its influence can be seen in the bipartisan composition of the India Caucus in the U.S. Congress and the Senate Friends of India group. The U.S. is used to dealing with allies and adversaries. India is neither, and is also determined to safeguard its strategic autonomy.

What is the way forward?

- ❑ Creative thinking will be needed in the 2+2 dialogue to overcome these challenges, which should also ensure that difficult issues are settled through quiet diplomacy.
- ❑ In order to realise the Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region (2015), both countries

will have to nurture the habit of talking and working together to diminish some of the prickliness in the partnership.