



## The 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue Impetus for Indo-U.S. Relations

10-29 December 2019

*For India and the U.S., the year 2019 in general and the Second 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue on December 18, 2019 in particular amplified their mutual commitment on defence, security, economic and strategic fronts. Not only will the initiatives undertaken help deepen the government to government, government to business, business to business and people to people engagements but also prepare grounds for accelerating ties in the years to come. It is time for both the countries to expand economic prosperity, peace and stability for them as well as for the entire Indo-Pacific region.*

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>India-US strategic partnership registers rapid growth in 2019  <b>The Economic Times</b>            December 29, 2019</p>	<p>India-US strategic partnership witnessed rapid growth in 2019 with the two sides inking a crucial deal to facilitate transfer of defence technology and their leaders - President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi - meeting a record four times post-May elections, displaying growing ties between the world's two <a href="#">largest democracies</a>.</p>
<p>Industrial Security Annex to deepen industry collaboration between India, US: Nisha Desai Biswal  <b>The Economic Times</b>            December 28, 2019</p>	<p>"I think the most important outcome (of 2+2) was the signing of the ISA. I believe the ISA signing will make it possible to deepen the industry <a href="#">collaboration</a> and to enable the release of more advanced technology and information to Indian industry that is working in partnership with US industry on a number of these projects," Nisha Desai Biswal, president of US-India Business Council, said.</p>
<p>US, India announce establishment of annual Parliamentary Exchange  <b>PTI</b>            December 20, 2019</p>	<p>The <a href="#">US-India Parliamentary Exchange</a> is expected to begin sometime in 2020, a press release stated. The new exchange will feature members of the India Caucus in the US and Indian parliamentarians travelling to each other's respective countries every other year to discuss issues of strategic importance to the bilateral relationship," the release said.</p>
<p>US India resolve to realise the full potential of the bilateral strategic partnership  <i>By Lalit K Jha</i>  <b>The Week</b>            December 20, 2019</p>	<p>India and the US have resolved to work together to realise the full potential of the <a href="#">bilateral strategic global partnership</a>, which they stressed is rooted in shared values of freedom, justice, human rights, and commitment to the rule of law.</p>

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<p>After 2+2, Indian side meets Trump <b>Hindustan Times</b> December 20, 2019</p>	<p>India and the US had earlier in the day announced the conclusion of a key <a href="#">defence agreement</a> to further enhance the interoperability of their militaries and discussed the threat of cross-border terrorism India faces from Pakistan. They had also discussed a whole range of issues, including trade, the United States joining the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure, a key global initiative launched by India at the last UNGA; H-1B visas and on-going and increasing restrictions; Iran; the need for free and open Indo-Pacific and China; and the drawdown of US troops in Afghanistan.</p>
<p>Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue: Major agreements for stronger military trade between India and the US <b>Financial Express</b> December 19, 2019</p>	<p>India and the US reiterated their commitment to advancing a free, open, inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. And the 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue in Washington DC on Wednesday, both sides agreed to further strengthen their <a href="#">military-to-military cooperation</a> between the Indian Navy and the US Navy Fleets under US Indo-Pacific Command, Central Command, and Africa Command.</p>
<p>What India &amp; US are expecting from their security deal signed during 2+2 talks <b>The Print</b> December 19, 2019</p>	<p>The signing of ISA is also expected to facilitate the case of American defence giants Lockheed Martin and Boeing, which are looking at a \$15 billion fighter jet deal to supply 114 warplanes to the Indian Air Force under the <a href="#">Make in India</a> programme.</p>
<p>Second 2+2 dialogue is a chance to set ambitions high: US defence expert <b>India Post</b> December 19, 2019</p>	<p>“India-US defence ties remain very strong and growing. The second 2+2 is a <a href="#">chance to set ambitions high</a>,” said Vikram J Singh, former Pentagon and State Department official during the previous Obama Administration. “Operationally, we’ve seen breakthroughs like tri-service exercises and the robust engagement of the QUASD (India and the US with Japan and Australia),” Singh, who is currently a senior advisor for Defense and Aerospace for the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), said.</p>
<p>Industrial Security Annex opens Indian private partnerships for U.S. defence firms <b>The Hindu</b> December 19, 2019</p>	<p>The ISA is a part of the General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), which India signed with the U.S. long back. It became critical as India opened up the defence sector to the private sector and the <a href="#">Strategic Partnership</a> policy, which has few big military platforms and is reserved for the Indian private sector. U.S. companies are in the race for multi-billion dollar deal for 114 fighter jets, among other deals.</p>
<p>Interoperability of India, US Naval Ships: Tactical Data inter-linking to be discussed at 2+2 Dialogue <b>Financial Express</b> December 10, 2019</p>	<p>Despite the existing Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) framework for the interchange of <a href="#">encrypted communication</a> between India and the US, effective joint operations using ships, submarines and aircraft shall be possible only when interoperability is achieved at the tactical level through the Tactical Data Link (TDL) of each Force. This is one of the many issues that will be discussed at the forthcoming 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue in Washington DC.</p>