Indo-US defence ties

Why in news?

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Recent summit between US and India concluded with continuity in the bilateral defence and security relationship.

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What is the status of Indio-US defence relations?

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- The growth of the defence relationship has been astonishing.
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- In the span of about a decade, defence trade shot from $1 billion to over $15 billion.
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- The US and India take part in numerous and combined exercises.
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- The US now authorises the sharing of sensitive technologies with India on a level commensurate with America’s closest allies.
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- There has also been a substantial deepening of the security partnership, with a focus on counter-terrorism cooperation and intelligence sharing.
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What is the importance of such relations?

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- The defence partnership has proven to be a low velocity, high inertia affair slow, steady, but unlikely to change course absent a major disruption.
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- This has been due, in part, to the fact that it has been under-girded by a common view of the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, and a shared concern over China’s reach across Asia.

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- This strategic rationale for defence cooperation is citing a set of “common principles” such as respect for international law and state sovereignty,
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- The defence statement reaffirmed the imperative for US-India cooperation across Asia embodied in the 2015 Joint Strategic Vision.
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What are the major Indo-US defence cooperation?

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- **Exercise -** Deeper collaboration on maritime domain awareness,
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- The annual US-India-Japan MALABAR exercise, which is “the largest maritime exercise ever conducted in the vast Indian Ocean,” and which included a focus on anti-submarine warfare.
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- **Defence trade -** The summit’s flagship deal was the announcement that the US had offered a multi-billion dollar sale of 22 Sea Guardian Unmanned Aerial Systems.
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- Procuring them should be a boon to India’s maritime surveillance.
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- **Counter Terror -** This the area in which both might eventually see closer cooperation.
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- The tough language on Pakistan along with the US designation of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen leader Syed Salah Uddin .
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- The announcement of a new consultative mechanism on terrorist designation listings US may be more willing to take Pakistan to task and prioritise India’s grievances.
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Source: Business Line

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