National Defense Authorisation Act 2018

Why in news?

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The US House of Representatives has passed a $621.5 billion defence expenditure bill that proposes to advance defence cooperation with India.

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What happened?

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- An amendment in this regard was adopted by a voice vote by the House as part of the **National Defense Authorisation Act (NDAA) 2018**.
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- Following the passage of the NDAA, the Secretary of Defence and Secretary of State will have 180 days to develop a strategy for advancing defence cooperation between the United States and India.
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- NDAA needs to be passed by the Senate before it can be sent to the White House for the US President to sign into law.
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- The previous **NDAA-2017** had designated India as a **major defence partner** which brings India at par with closest American partners in terms of defence trade and technology transfer.
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What is the significance?

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- The relationship creates a high level of dialogue in the Pentagon on a range of issues.
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- It is vitally important to develop a strategy that advances defence cooperation between our two nations.
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- It **addresses critical issues** like common security challenges, the role of partners and allies, and areas for collaboration in science and technology.
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- It would **enhance both of our defence** and our ability to meet the evolving security challenges of the 21st century.
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- We have the same interests in upholding this international system that upholds the rule of law and favours freedom of navigation, open sea lanes of communication, and freedom of over flight.
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- Those are values that are critically important to the United States and India to our economic prosperity and to our access in the region.
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Source: Financial Express

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