US India Proposal on Defence Ties

Why in news?

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US has proposed to have reciprocal military liaison officers at India- US combatant commands.

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What is the proposed plan about?

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- The US, currently, has arrangements for military liaison officers with some of its NATO allies and close defence partners.
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- Which includes Australia, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, New Zealand and Great Britain.
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- In the same lines US has proposed to have ties with India,this will place India in the orbit of America’s closest allies.
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- According this plan liaison officers will be commissioned by Pacific Command of the US defence forces in Indian military headquarters.
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What is the significance of this proposal?

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- India-US signed the foundational military agreement, Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016.
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- Earlier US administration designated India a Major Defence Partner, current administration is also taking the same stand.
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- As a component of taking bilateral strategic relationship, to a new level US promised to take the element of military cooperation between the two

countries.
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- To deal with an assertive Chinese transgressions into Indian Territory, US ties would help India for geo-political manoeuvre to secure its interests.
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What is the stand of India over this proposal?

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- India is not averse to a strong partnership with any country, it remains rightly opposed to any military alliance which could impinge on its strategic flexibility.
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- Present US administration’s unpredictable pronouncements have adversely affected perceptions of America’s reliability as a partner and makes Indian government more cautious.
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- India is yet to see any benefits of being designated a Major Defence Partner, with no transfer of American defence technology for making major military platforms in India actually taking place.
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- India also seeks greater clarity over the role and charter of liaison officers to understand the value and quality of information that will be shared between the two militaries.
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- Due to some hard experiences from the US, India seeks greater economic concessions from US rather considering any military arrangements in first place.
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Source: The Indian Express

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