

Fact Sheet: U.S.-India Defense Cooperation

Grounded in shared interests, the U.S.-India defense relationship has grown from solely military-to-military links into a mature partnership that encompasses dialogues, exercises, defense sales, professional military education exchanges, and practical cooperation. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama expressed their determination to take concrete steps to deepen defense cooperation as both countries work to address international political, economic, and security challenges. The leaders reaffirmed the importance of maritime security, unimpeded commerce, and freedom of navigation, in accordance with relevant universally agreed principles of international law. Prime Minister Singh and President Obama agreed that the United States' and India's converging security interests and shared values make the countries natural partners.

President Obama welcomed India's decision to purchase key defense systems from the United States, ensuring that India's armed forces have the benefit of the most technologically advanced and reliable equipment in the world. The leaders noted that India is making a strategic as well as an economic decision when it makes large defense purchases and welcomed the additional cooperation that will follow. The expected agreement to purchase C-17 Globemaster III heavy lift transport aircraft will support more than 20,000 U.S. jobs and provide a strategic lift capability unique in the region.

A continued robust slate of exercises and exchanges will expand contacts between the U.S. and Indian militaries. The leaders highlighted that India currently conducts more exercises and personnel exchanges with the United States than with any other country. The United States and India reiterated their commitment to regular staff talks, reciprocal distinguished visitor exchanges, and other bilateral and multilateral exchanges. The leaders recognized that cementing a fully formed bilateral relationship requires more than formal visits and high-level dialogues and pledged to work enhance close U.S.-India defense cooperation.