

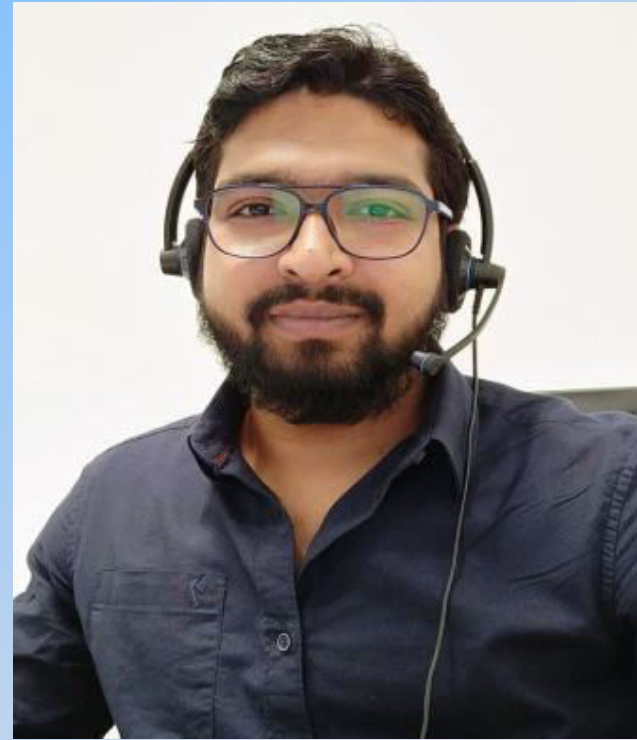
Business News › News › Defence › India and US agree to re-establish Homeland Security Dialogue

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India and US agree to re-establish Homeland Security Dialogue



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The News

- Joe Biden administration has recently announced the **re-establishment of the Homeland Security Dialogue with India** that was discontinued by the previous Trump regime.
- US Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas spoke with India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu and expressed desire to **further strengthen the partnership between India and US.**

What is Homeland security?

- Homeland security is an American national security term for "the national effort to ensure a homeland that is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards".



Background

- Homeland security dialogue was announced by India **PM Manmohan Singh and US President Barack Obama in 2010.**
- It was a part of the global strategic partnership between India and the United States.
- **First India-US Homeland Security Dialogue** was held in 2011 in India.
- **Second India-US Homeland Security Dialogue** was held in 2013 Washington DC.
 - Note: Since 2013, ministry level dialogues did not take place but **working groups from both nations continued dialogue.**

Background

- In October 2020, India and US carried out a 2+2 dialogue. In this dialogues, the two countries decided to “reinvigorate” the HSD between the US Department of Homeland Security and the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The first round of the re-started dialogue is expected to take place later in the year in 2021.

Significance of the dialogue

- US and India have shared concerns about terrorism, cyber threat, organized crime threat etc.
- HSD provides a platform to discuss important issues such as cybersecurity, emerging technology and how to address violent extremism.
- The HSD enabled open line of communications and rapport between the leading officials from both nations.
- The sharing of information on sources of cyberattacks, the tactics, and potential countermeasures proved helpful for both nations.
- HSD is a testimony of strategic importance of cooperation for the security of the two countries and their people, who share common base of democracy and openness.

Concerns

- **HSPD-6 (Homeland security presidential directive) is a model text agreement proposed** by the United States to India for exchange of terrorist screening information between Terrorist Screening Centre (TSC) of the US and an Indian agencies.
- **The agreement has been subjected to criticism by the Indian intelligence agencies specifically IB** citing that arrangement protects US interests rather than Indian.