
INDIA SIGNS DEFENSIVE AGREEMENT WITH US FOLLOWING HIMALAYAN STANDOFF WITH CHINA

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James Griffiths

The United States and India have reaffirmed their defensive and security relationship, as Washington continues to rally allies in Asia amid concerns over increased Chinese military activity in the region.

During a press conference Tuesday in the Indian capital, US Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh announced the signing of the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), enabling greater information-sharing and further defense cooperation between the two countries.

"The defense ties between our two nations remains a key pillar of our overall bilateral relationship," said Esper. "Based on our shared values and common interests, we stand shoulder to shoulder in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific for all, particularly in light of increasing aggression and destabilizing activities by China."

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