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LEMOA Fully Operationalised

Why in news?

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It was officially announced that the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) has been fully operationalised.

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What is LEMOA?

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- LEMOA is a tweaked India-specific version of the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA) of the U.S.

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- India had concluded the LEMOA with the U.S. in 2016.

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- It is one of the foundational agreements, as referred to by the U.S.

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What are the foundational agreements?

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- These are the agreements that the U.S. signs with countries with which it has close military ties.

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- India had signed only three of these four agreements -

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1. General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002

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2. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016

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3. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018

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- The last one remaining is the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA).

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What is the significance?

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- LEMOA gives both countries access to designated military facilities on either side.

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- It can be availed for the purpose of refuelling and replenishment in primarily four areas.

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- These are: port calls, joint exercises, training, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

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- The biggest beneficiary of the LEMOA is the Indian Navy as it interacts and exercises the most with foreign Navies.

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- Also, fuel exchange gets subsumed into the LEMOA and does away with the need for a separate agreement.

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- So far, the three services had individual accounts from which payments were being made during military exercises.

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- Under the LEMOA, the standard operating procedures (SOPs) are applicable to all three services.

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- LEMOA also gains more significance following the recent signing of COMCASA.

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- The COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) is meant for secure encrypted communications.

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- All these improve the interoperability between the militaries and allow transfer of high-end military platforms.
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Source: The Hindu

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