

# SENATE BILL GRANTS INDIA NATO ALLY-LIKE STATUS

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The U.S. Senate has passed a legislative provision that brings India at par with America's NATO allies and countries such as Israel and South Korea for increasing defence cooperation.

The National Defense Authorisation Act, or NDAA, for the fiscal year 2020, which contained such a proposal, was passed by the U.S. Senate last week.

Introduced by Senate India Caucus co-chair Senator John Cornyn with the support of Senate India Caucus co-chair Senator Mark Warner, the amendment provides for increased U.S.-India defence cooperation in the Indian Ocean, in the areas of humanitarian assistance, counter-terrorism, counter-piracy and maritime security.

Last week, House India Caucus Co-Chair Brad Sherman, along with Congressmen Joe Wilson, Ami Bera, Ted Yoho, George Holding, Ed Case and Raja Krishnamoorthi, introduced a similar legislative proposal to the House FY2020 NDAA that would greatly enhance relationship between both the countries.

The Bill would be signed into law after both the chambers of the U.S. Congress — the House of Representatives and the Senate — passes it.

The House is expected to take up its version of the NDAA sometime in July before legislators adjourn for the month-long August recess on July 29.

In a statement, the Hindu American Foundation commended Senators Cornyn and Warner for their efforts in advancing the U.S.-India strategic partnership.

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