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## INDIA, US SIGN 'BECA' DEAL TO DEEPEN MILITARY TIES AMID CHINA TENSIONS

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The pact represents a deepening of military ties, a testament to the rapid warming of bilateral relations in a span of two decades

NEW DELHI: <u>India and the US</u> on Tuesday signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (Beca) that will allow India access to crucial information that will have implications in any potential military conflict, a person familiar with the matter said.

These include access to a range of topographical, nautical and aeronautical data considered key to map hostile movements and precise and real-time information on enemy positions accessed from US military satellites during any potential border conflict.

The signing of the pact happened after India and the US held their third 2+2 talks. The pact represents a deepening of military ties, a testament to the rapid warming of bilateral relations in a span of two decades.

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