CHINA PLAYS DOWN 2+2 DIALOGUE

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India's inaugural 2+2 ministerial dialogue with the United States on Thursday has "symbolic" significance, but is unlikely to yield a structural change in regional security, says a posting on a People's Liberation Army (PLA) website.

"From a long-term perspective,...it's unlikely to have any significant impact on the regional security layout and strategic balance," says an article in China Military Online, underplaying the talks.

'Regular exercise'

The Chinese Foreign Ministry in its regular media briefing described the 2+2 dialogue as an exercise of "normal bilateral relations between the two sides."

"We also hope that in this process they will do more to regional peace and regional stability," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying observed.

The online article spotlights United States' "wariness and distrust with India" by insisting that the two countries "should sign a Communications Compatibility and Security agreement (COMCASA) first and military communications security measures can be transferred only when equipment such as attack drones are sold."

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