

# India and US finalise roadmap for def-industrial cooperation

**Rajat.Pandit@timesgroup.com**

**New Delhi:** India and the US on Monday set the stage for clinching the mega project to co-produce fighter jet engines during PM Narendra Modi's visit to Washington later this month, while also deciding to further strengthen operational military cooperation in the

Indo-Pacific with an eye firmly on "the bullying and coercion" by China.

The delegation-level meeting between defence minister Rajnath Singh and US secretary of defence Lloyd Austin here concluded a new ambitious defence-industrial cooperation roadmap to fast-track

technology collaboration and co-production of existing as well as futuristic weapon systems and platforms. The areas range from air combat, infantry combat vehicles and ISR (intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance) systems to long-range artillery, smart munitions and underwater

domain awareness.

The immediate takeaway will be the inking of the major pact between US company General Electric (GE) and defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics to jointly produce GE-F414 turbofan engines in the 98 Kilonewton thrust class in India.