



India-Japan

Why in News

The **Prime Minister in a telephonic conversation with his Japanese counterpart** discussed various issues including **high technology, skill development and fighting the [Covid-19](#) pandemic together.**



Key Points

- **About:**

- **On Covid-19 Situation:**

- Highlighted the **importance of close India-Japan cooperation** to overcome challenges posed by the pandemic, such as by working together to **create resilient, diversified and trustworthy supply chains**, ensuring **reliable supply of critical materials and technologies**, and developing **new partnerships in manufacturing and skill development.**

- In this context, the two leaders **emphasized the need for early operationalization of the Specified Skilled workers (SSW) agreement** in order to synergize their strengths and achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.
- They also **highlighted the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project** as a shining example of their cooperation.

- **On Cooperation for Indo-Pacific:**

- Confirmed the **importance of Japan-India bilateral and multilateral**

cooperation, including **Japan-Australia-India-US quadrilateral cooperation**, towards realising a free and open Indo-Pacific.

◦ **On Possible Cooperation in Various fields:**

- Like 5G, submarine cables, strengthening of industrial competitiveness, diversification of supply chains and development projects in the northeastern state.

▪ **Other Recent Developments Between India and Japan:**

- Recently, **India, Japan and Australia** have formally launched the **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)** in a move **to counter China's dominance of the supply chain in the Indo-Pacific region.**
 - The SCRI **aims to create a virtuous cycle of enhancing supply chain resilience** with a view to eventually attaining strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the region.
- **Japan has finalised loans** and a grant totalling around 233 billion yen for **several key infrastructure projects in India**, including for a project in the Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- In **2020**, India and Japan **signed a logistics agreement** that will allow armed forces of both sides to coordinate closely in services and supplies. The agreement is known as the **Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA).**
- In 2014, India and Japan upgraded their relationship to '**Special Strategic and Global Partnership**'.
- The India-Japan **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** that came into force in **August 2011** covers trade in goods, services, movement of natural persons, investments, Intellectual Property Rights, custom procedures and other trade related issues.
- **Defence Exercises:**
 - India and Japan defence forces organize a series of bilateral exercises namely, **JIMEX** (naval), **SHINYUU Maitri** (Air Force), and **Dharma Guardian** (Army). Both countries also participate in **Malabar exercise** (Naval Exercise) with the USA.

Way Forward

- More collaboration and cooperation can prove beneficial to both nations, since India needs sophisticated technology from Japan.
- There is a huge potential with respect to **Make in India**. Joint ventures could be created by merging Japanese digital technology with Indian raw materials and labour.
- Close cooperation is the best measure to combat China's growing role in Asia and Indo-Pacific, in physical as well as digital space.

Source: TH