



India-Italy Bilateral Summit

Why in News

Recently, a **virtual Bilateral Summit between India and Italy** has been held to comprehensively review the broad framework of the bilateral relationship and also strengthen cooperation against common global challenges, including the [Covid-19 pandemic](#).



Key Points

- Both nations decided to adopt the **Action Plan for an enhanced Partnership between India and Italy (2020-2024)** to set up priorities, strategic goals and mechanisms of a bilateral partnership.
- [Economic Engagement](#):
 - **Agreed to coordinate closely at multilateral fora especially G-20.**
 - **Italy will assume the Presidency of G-20 in December 2021 followed by India in 2022.**
 - [Saudi Arabia is holding the current presidency](#) of G20.
 - **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP)**, an Italian investment bank and [National Infrastructure Investment Fund \(NIIF\)](#) to **promote innovative financial schemes** capable of supporting bilateral investments.
 - Italy is **India's fifth-largest trading partner in the [European Union \(EU\)](#).**
- **Defence Cooperation**:
 - Underscored the need to **further expand defence engagement** through greater two-

way collaboration and technology cooperation, co-development and co-production.

- Recognised the opportunity to **consolidate defence relations with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness of peacekeeping activities** within the framework of the [United Nations](#) (UN).

▪ **Cooperation During Covid-19 Pandemic:**

- **Italy thanked India for extending support during the pandemic** by supplying medicines and personal protection equipment (PPE).
 - The Indian community in Italy is the **second-largest community of Indians in Europe after the UK**.
- Reiterated that the pandemic calls for an inclusive multilateral approach to health protection, especially in the framework of the UN and the [World Health Organisation](#) (WHO).
- Welcomed the **World Health Summit**, which will be held in Italy in 2021, in cooperation with the **European Union** (EU) Commission.
 - The World Health Summit is **one of the world's leading strategic forums for global health** and is held in **October every year**.

▪ **Science, Technology and Research Collaboration:**

- Welcomed the progress made under **India-Italy Science and Technology Cooperation** and the **India-Italy Executive Programme of Cooperation**.
- Welcomed the **establishment of Thematic Working Groups** as a method of work between the **Italian Space Agency** (ASI) and the [Indian Space Research Organisation](#) (ISRO) as well as the creation of the **first joint ASI-ISRO working group in heliophysics**.
 - **Heliophysics** is the study of the effects of the Sun on the Solar System.

▪ **Cooperation for Counter-Terrorism and Security:**

- Pledged to strengthen cooperation in the **fight against terrorism and transnational crime** both at a bilateral level and in multilateral fora and also agreed to hold the next meeting of the '**India-Italy Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism**' to further advance cooperation, exchange of expertise and capacity building in 2021.

▪ **Regional Cooperation and Connectivity:**

- India and Italy acknowledged the potential of new international organisations such as the [Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructures](#) (CDRI) and the [International Solar Alliance](#) (ISA).
 - India welcomed Italy joining ISA after it coming into force of the universalisation of ISA.
 - India also welcomed Italy's engagement in the [Indian Ocean Rim Association](#) (IORA) and **Italy's new status as Development Partner of ASEAN**.

▪ **Multilateral Cooperation on Environment:**

- Reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) and its [Paris Agreement](#) and their respective [nationally determined contributions](#) (NDCs).
- Highlighted the **significance of cooperation in the run-up to the 26th Conference of Parties** (COP26) of the UNFCCC, which will be **organised in 2021 by the UK** in partnership with Italy.

[Source: PIB](#)

