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India-Japan Logistics Agreement

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Why in News

Recently, 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 **Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)**.

India has similar agreements with the **USA, Australia, France, Oman and Singapore**.



Key Points

- **The Agreement:**

- It is **aimed** at greater maritime cooperation and can **upgrade India-Japan naval exercises** as both countries are expected to share maritime facilities for mutual benefit.
- It **establishes the enabling framework** for closer cooperation between the armed forces of both countries in **reciprocal provision of supplies and services** while engaged in bilateral training activities, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian International Relief and other mutually agreed activities.
 - The supplies and services include food, water, transportation, airlift, petroleum, clothing, communications and medical services etc.
- It will also **enhance the interoperability, assist in maintaining regional security** and further **increase the bilateral defence engagements** between the two countries.
- It will **remain in force for 10 years** and will be automatically extended for periods of 10 years unless one of the parties decides to end it.
- The agreement is being interpreted as a coming together of Japan and India when India is having a **border standoff with China at Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in eastern Ladakh.

- **India-Japan Defence Cooperation:**

- In 2019, India and Japan held the first-ever ministerial-level **2+2 dialogue**. This dialogue involves the Defence and Foreign Ministers on both sides and is seen as an endorsement of the special strategic partnership between **India and Japan**.
 - Both nations share a common vision of a free, open, inclusive and rules-based **Indo-Pacific region** in which the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity are ensured.
 - India and Japan defence forces organize a series of bilateral exercises namely, **JIMEX (naval exercise)**, **SHINYUU Maitri (air force exercise)**, and **Dharma Guardian (military exercise)**. Both countries also participate in **Malabar exercise** with the USA.
- Both the countries are also part of **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)**.

Way Forward

- India needs sophisticated weapons and technology from Japan, so more collaboration and cooperation can prove beneficial to both nations.
 - US-2 Amphibious Aircraft** can land on either land or water. It is operated as a short takeoff and landing aircraft (STOL) Search and Rescue Amphibian by Japan's Ministry of Defense.

- There is huge potential as far as **Make in India** and defence deals are concerned. Joint ventures could be created by merging Japanese technology with Indian raw materials and labour.
- Closer cooperation is the best measure to combat China's growing role in Asia and Indo-Pacific.

Source: TH