



## India-Italy Bilateral Summit

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### Why in News

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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

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- 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 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP26)** of the UNFCCC, which will be **organised in 2021 by the UK** in partnership with Italy.

**Source: PIB**