



## India-Japan Defence Policy Dialogue

**For Prelims:** India-Japan Defence Exercises, G-20, QUAD, G-4.

**For Mains:** Significance, Challenges in India-Japan Relationship.

### Why in News?

Recently, the 7<sup>th</sup> [India-Japan Defence Policy Dialogue](#) was co-chaired by Defence Secretary of India and the Vice Minister of Defense for International Affairs of Japan in New Delhi.

### What are the Key Details of Dialogue?

- **About:** The Defence Policy Dialogue is an institutionalized mechanism between India and Japan to discuss bilateral defence cooperation.
  - The purpose of the meeting is to **discuss a wide range of issues** related to **defence cooperation** between the two countries.
- **Highlights of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dialogue:**
  - The two countries discussed Service-level exercises and engagements, regional security issues and cooperation in **defence equipment & technology**.
    - The **Japanese** Vice Minister presented policy updates from their recently released National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy.
  - Both countries appreciated the **growing cooperation** between the **Services through Staff talks and exercises**.
  - They welcomed the conduct of the inaugural fighter exercise '[Veer Guardian](#)' between the **Indian Air Force and Japanese Air Self Defence Force** in January 2023 in **Japan**.
    - The Defence Secretary emphasized that both the countries should aim to deepen collaboration between the respective **defence industries**,
    - Japanese defence industries were invited for investment in India under the '[Make in India](#)' initiative.
  - Both sides agreed to diversify cooperation in new and emerging domains like **defence space and cyber**.

### How are India's Relations with Japan?

- **Defence Cooperation:** Japan is one of the few countries with whom India has [2+2 ministerial dialogue](#)
  - India and Japan's defence forces also organize a series of bilateral exercises such as:
    - [JIMEX](#) (naval), [Malabar exercise](#) (Naval Exercise), '[Veer Guardian](#)' and [SHINYUU Maitri](#) (Air Force), and [Dharma Guardian](#) (Army).
- **Common Groupings:**
  - Both India and Japan are members of [Quad](#), [G20](#) and [G-4](#), [International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor \(ITER\)](#).
  - **India-Japan Act East Forum** was established in 2017 which aims to provide a platform for India-Japan collaboration under the rubric of India's "[Act East Policy](#)" and Japan's

"Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy".

▪ **Investment and ODA:**

- India has been the largest recipient of the Japanese **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** Loan for the past decades for.
  - Delhi Metro is one of the most successful examples of Japanese cooperation through the utilization of ODA.
- **India's Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)** project is funded by a soft loan provided by Japan International Cooperation Agency.
  - Japan and India had committed to build a High-Speed Railways in India.

▪ **Economic Relations:** Japan's bilateral trade with India totaled US\$ 20.57 billion during FY 2021-22. India was the 18<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner for Japan, and Japan was the 12<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner for India in 2020.

▪ **India-Japan Digital Partnership: Discussion** is going on for the "**India-Japan Digital Partnership**" with a view to enhancing the digital economy through the promotion of joint projects in the area of **IoT (Internet of Things)**, **AI (Artificial Intelligence)** and other emerging technologies.

- Japan is looking forward to attracting more highly skilled Indian IT professionals to contribute to the Japanese ICT sector.

▪ **Strategic Clean Energy Partnership:** For cooperation in areas such as electric vehicles, storage systems including batteries, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, development of solar energy, hydrogen, ammonia, etc.

- Along with Digital Partnership, it was also announced at the **14<sup>th</sup> India-Japan Annual Summit**



## What are the Challenges Related to Defence Cooperation?

- **China Factor:** While both countries have sought to strengthen their relationship as a counterbalance to China's influence, their approaches to dealing with China have differed.
  - India has been more vocal in criticizing China's actions, while Japan has been more cautious in its approach.
- **Defence Exports:** India is looking to export defence equipment to other countries, which could potentially compete with Japan's own defence exports.
- **Influence of US-China Rivalry:** The intensification of **Chinese-American rivalry** contributes to disturbance of **regional security** in **the Indo-Pacific**.

## Way Forward

- India and Japan are required to transform their military strategy and build on the common interest in preventing the rise of a securing hegemony in the Indo-Pacific (US and China).
- More collaboration and cooperation can prove beneficial to both nations. There is also 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.

### UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q1. In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20? (2020)**

- (a)** Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
- (b)** Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- (c)** Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
- (d)** Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea

**Ans: (a)**

**Exp:**

- The G20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, EU, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, UK and USA. **Hence Option(a) is correct.**

**Source: PIB**

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/india-japan-defence-policy-dialogue>

