

# TOPIC OF THE WEEK

NOV'18 (01 to 07)

## India-Japan: Agree to start '2+2' dialogue

India and Japan decided to have a 2+2 dialogue mechanism between Defence and Foreign ministers as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe in Tokyo. This aimed at giving political muscle to the existing diplomatic, security and defence cooperation.

After the summit, the two sides exchanged 32 MoUs or agreements including USD 75 billion currency swap agreement.

### Background:

So far, India only had 2+2 dialogue between Defence and Foreign Ministers with the US. India and Japan had 2+2 at the secretary-level. This new mechanism will replace the 2+2 dialogue between Foreign and Defence secretaries, while separate dialogues between NSAs and Defence Ministers will continue.

**Key Highlights:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Japan to attend the India-Japan Annual Summit with the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. It led to:

- Memorandum of Understanding between KAGOME Co Ltd. of Japan and Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- Joint Venture Agreement between State Bank of India (SBI) and SBI Payment Services Pvt. Ltd; and Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Nissan Steel Industry Co. Ltd. of Japan and Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- Letter of Intents and Acknowledgements of Private Sector Investment Project Proposals by 57 Japanese companies to make investment in India and 15 Indian companies to make investment in Japan.
- To enhance financial and economic cooperation, the two governments signed an agreement to conclude a Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) worth USD 75 billion.

Week: 01<sup>st</sup> to 07<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018

- At least 32 pacts, ranging from defence to economic, health to agriculture, and many on infrastructure development, were signed.

### **Significance:**

During the Summit, Japan has announced to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by submitting the instrument of ratification on October 29, 2018. As of now, there are 70 countries that have signed the ISA Framework Agreement and 47 countries that have ratified it.

Japan will be the 71st country to sign and 48th country to ratify the ISA Framework Agreement.

Apart from these Japan agreed to provide loans of about 316.458 billion yen for seven major infrastructure projects in India. These include:

- Project for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet or high speed train
- Project for Renovation and Modernisation of Umiam-Umtru Stage-III Hydroelectric Power Station in Meghalaya

Week: 01<sup>st</sup> to 07<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018

- Project for Sustainable Catchment Forest Management in Tripura
- Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (Phase 3)
- North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project (Phase 3)

### **Conclusion:**

This will give the two defence forces access to each other's military bases for logistical support, just like the one with the US. Also in view of the geo-political contest in Indo-Pacific region, the two sides decided to deepen their maritime domain awareness.

Also big achievement is that both the sides have agreed for a 2+2 dialogue between Foreign Ministers and Defence Ministers. Faced with an assertive China in their neighbourhood, this will lead to world peace and stability.

**Suggested Reading:**

- <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-japan-decide-to-have-22-talks-between-defence-foreign-ministers-5424430/>
- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-japan-agree-to-hold-22-dialogue-to-enhance-security-in-indo-pacific/articleshow/66415113.cms>