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20 August 2026 ·

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India and Japan Sign Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Japanese Defence Minister **Shinjiro Koizumi** signed a **Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA) on Maritime Security Cooperation** in New Delhi on **August 20, 2026**, a day after Koizumi's Mumbai visit to Western Naval Command.

What the MoA Covers

The agreement establishes a framework for maritime domain awareness, information sharing, search and rescue cooperation, joint exercises, and ship-repair and logistics cooperation between the two navies, and opens exploratory discussions on **joint naval shipbuilding**.

Why This Matters

The MoA builds on the existing **India-Japan Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA, 2020)**, extending **bilateral** defence cooperation from mutual logistics support into dedicated maritime-security coordination. It comes amid deepening Indo-Pacific hedging by both countries against an expanding Chinese naval footprint in the Indian Ocean Region, and follows Koizumi's maiden visit to India, during which he inspected the indigenously built stealth destroyer INS Chennai at Mumbai.

UPSC Relevance

This connects GS2 bilateral relations (**Act East Policy**, the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership) with GS3 internal and maritime security (coastal security architecture, Sea Lines of Communication protection). A useful Mains angle examines whether reciprocal port-access and information-sharing arrangements with Indo-Pacific partners are compatible with India's doctrine of strategic autonomy.

 FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**INDIA-JAPAN MARITIME SECURITY MOA:**

Signed: New Delhi, August 20, 2026, by Rajnath Singh and Shinjiro Koizumi

Covers: maritime domain awareness, information sharing, search and rescue, joint exercises, ship-repair/logistics cooperation

Builds on: India-Japan ACSA (2020)

Context: Koizumi's maiden visit; inspected INS Chennai (Kolkata-class destroyer) at Western Naval Command, Mumbai, on August 19

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

India-Japan ties operate under the Special Strategic and Global Partnership framework

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Defence

Source: India and Japan Sign Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation — Ujjayari.com |
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