India, Japan thrash out key areas of defence co-operation

The exchange comes before the 2+ 2 dialogue being held on Sept 8

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To further boost defence co-operation, India and Japan have identified projects in areas of UAVs, anti-drone systems, robotics, underwater communication, Li-ion battery technology and intelligence systems, said Anurag Bajpai, Joint Secretary (Defence Industries Production) in Defence ministry, on Tuesday.

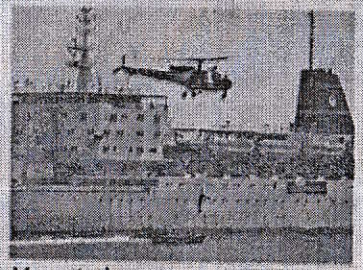
The defence co-operation assumes significance, given that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh along with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar are travelling to Tokyo to participate in the 2+2 dialogue between India-Japan on September 8, being organised at a time when China has upped the ante on Taiwan casting significant strategic repercussions on both the friendly countries.

At the maiden virtual India-Japan defence industry dialogue, Bajpai stated that the defence PSU Bharat Electronics (BEL) and Toshiba Corporation of Japan are in discussion for Li-Ion battery technology.

Defence industry dialogue

Similarly, "BEL has submitted a proposal to Jupitor Corporation, Japan, for supply of anti drone systems for the end requirement of Japanese MoD," the joint secretary is said to have told the audience.

The dialogue was organised primarily by Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), the apex body of Indian defence industry, and the International Security Industrial Council of Japan.



Move to boost co-operation between the two countries

Sharing other precise details of the co-operation, Bajpai, as per the SIDM, also stated that Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA) that is the research and development arm of the Japan Self-Defense Forces, and Defence Research and Development Organisation of the Indian Defence Ministry have collaborated in fields like UGV/ robotics project, silicon carbide (SiC) single crystal bulk growth, wafer fabrication process technology, underwater communication, underwater wireless power transmission, fabrication facility for development of case less brushless micro motors, nano uncooled thermal camera for nano UAVs, co-operative and distributive intelligence technologies etc.

High-tech defence systems

The Defence Ministry Officer also talked about a wide range of high-tech defence systems for air, land, sea and space applications that would interest the Japanese industries.

Indian ambassador to Japan, Sanjay Kumar Verma, joined the dialogue to invite Tokyo to take up the initiatives available due to Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme and two defence corridors in UP and Tamil Nadu. Referring to Joint Working Group on Defence Equipment and Technology Co-operation (JWGDETC), Verma suggested that the two industry bodies expedite progress on mutually identified dual-use items and technologies.

Self-reliance initiatives

Ambassador of Japan to India Satoshi Suzuki shared his country's interest in participating in the self-reliance initiative through co-development, co-design and co-manufacture including manufacturing under Make in India, said SIDM sources.

Interestingly, Suzuki said Japan, currently developing a successor to the F-2 aircraft that will be retired in the mid-2030s, can assist in India's attempt to develop an indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter and future generation naval vessels and submarines.