

significance of people-to-people exchanges and the movement of skilled human resources from India to Japan.

■ India and Australia Strengthen Bilateral Defence Engagements in 8th Defence Policy Talks

India and Australia conducted the 8th India-Australia Defence Policy Talks in Canberra, exploring new initiatives to bolster bilateral defence cooperation. Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership based on shared values of democracy and the rule of law. Co-chaired by Special Secretary in the Ministry of Defence Ms. Nivedita Shukla Verma and Acting Deputy Secretary in the Department of Defence, Australia Mr. Steven Moore, the talks focused on enhancing partnerships in co-development and co-production of defence equipment. India highlighted its defence industry's potential to cooperate with the Australian Armed forces in shipbuilding and maintenance plans, strengthening their shared vision for a free, open, inclusive, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.