

At meet with PM Modi, Japanese PM Kishida agrees to boost defence manufacturing

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had bilateral meetings with his Japanese and Australian counterparts, Fumio Kishida and Anthony Albanese, on the sidelines of the Quad summit in Tokyo on Tuesday. Modi and Kishida agreed to further enhance bilateral security and defence cooperation, including in the area of defence manufacturing. They also decided to hold the much delayed 2+2 dialogue very soon, according to the Indian government.

In his meeting with Albanese, Modi congratulated him for his victory in the elections and invited him to India. "Both leaders reviewed the multi-faceted cooperation under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including in trade & investment, defence manufacturing, renewable energy including green hydrogen, education, science and technology,

agricultural research, sports and people-to-people ties. Both prime ministers affirmed their desire to continue the positive momentum in the bilateral relationship," said the government in a statement.

In the Japan bilateral, Modi and Kishida agreed that both sides should work jointly towards implementing their decision to have five-trillion yen in public and private investment and financing from Japan to India in the next five years, said the government in a statement. Modi urged Kishida to support greater investments by Japanese companies in India. Such investments would help in creating resilient supply chains and be mutually beneficial, he said.

They also discussed regional and global developments including the Ukraine situation. Chinese military aggression in the region also came up during the meeting. "They noted the convergences in their respective approaches to the Indo-Pacific and reaffirmed their commitment towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region," said the government.

Modi and Kishida also discussed the progress in implementation of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project and welcomed the signing of exchange of notes of the third tranche of the loan for this project. They also discussed possibilities of collaboration in critical and emerging technologies such as 5G, Beyond 5G and semiconductors.

Modi raised the issue of further easing of travel restrictions in order to facilitate quarantine free entry into Japan for travellers from India carrying Covaxin and Covishield vaccination certificates. "Kishida also appreciated India's contribution and recalled that Indian-made vaccines delivered under the Quad Vaccine Initiative were received with gratitude in Thailand and Cambodia recently," said a source.