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Daily news summary**India Japan Mutual Recognition Agreement Trade Standards**

UPSC Civil Services · 26 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- Indian industry forums recommended regulatory harmonisation and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) with Japan.

CONTEXT OF INDIA-JAPAN TRADE FRAMEWORK

- Bilateral economic ties operate under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- The 5-trillion-yen (\$5 billion target equivalent) investment goal set for 2022-26 was achieved two years ahead of schedule.

PROPOSED REGULATORY INTERVENTIONS

- **Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs):** Accepting test reports and industrial certifications issued by each country to bypass duplicate testing.
- **Standards Harmonisation:** Aligning technical parameters in electronics, automotive components, and pharmaceuticals.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Eliminates non-tariff barriers (NTBs) hindering bilateral merchandise trade.
- Facilitates seamless integration of Indian manufacturing firms into Japanese global value chains.

KEY TERMS

- **Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA):** An international agreement upon which countries recognize each other's conformity assessment results.
- **Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs):** Trade restrictions resulting from administrative rules, technical standards, or testing requirements rather than direct import tariffs.

PAPERS

GS2, GS3

PRELIMS FACTS

- India signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Japan covering goods, services, and investments.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Examine how non-tariff barriers impact India's trade balance with East Asian partners despite formal trade agreements.

KEY DATA

- **Bilateral Agreement:** Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) - Foundational trade agreement between India and Japan governing tariffs and market access.

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