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**INDIA, JAPAN SIGN AGREEMENT TO GIVE SKILLED INDIAN WORKERS ACCESS TO JAPANESE JOB MARKET**

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Hindustan Times (18 January 2021)

India and Japan on Monday signed an agreement to boost the mobility of skilled Indian workers in 14 fields, including nursing, industrial machinery, shipbuilding, aviation, agriculture and the food services industry.

The two countries have stepped up trade and economic cooperation across areas, ranging from the steel industry and investments to creating alternative and more resilient supply chains, amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Foreign secretary Harsh Shringla and Japans ambassador Satoshi Suzuki signed the memorandum of cooperation (MoC) on a framework for partnership for specified skilled workers (SSWs), whereby Indian workers in 14 categories who meet skill requirements and pass Japanese language tests will be eligible for employment on a contractual basis.

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