

Embassy of India

India-Japan Bilateral Relations

India and Japan share ‘Special Strategic and Global Partnership’. Friendship between the two countries has a long history rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilizational ties. In contemporary times, prominent Indians associated with Japan were Swami Vivekananda, Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, entrepreneur JRD Tata, freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Rash Behari Bose and Justice Radha Binod Pal. The Japan-India Association set up in 1903 is the oldest international friendship body existing in Japan.

A brief account of major high level political engagements

- India-Japan relations were elevated to ‘Global Partnership’ in 2000, ‘Strategic and Global Partnership’ in 2006, and ‘Special Strategic and Global Partnership’ in 2014. Regular annual summits have been held between India and Japan ~~in~~ *since 2006 (the last summit was held in March 2022).*
- PM Kishida visited India between 19-23 March, 2023 and held a bilateral meeting with PM Modi. PM Kishida also delivered a policy speech titled “the Future of the Indo-Pacific—Japan’s New Plan for a ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific’”.
- In May 2023, PM Modi visited Japan to attend the G7 Summit in Hiroshima as an invitee country. During the visit, PM Modi held bilateral meetings with a number of leaders, including with PM Kishida.
- On 9-10 September 2023, PM Kishida visited New Delhi for the G20 Summit and met with PM Modi. They discussed their priorities for their respective G7 and G20 Presidencies, particularly in bringing the aspirations of the Global South to the fore.
- Apart from the annual summits, regular exchanges take place at other high levels including Foreign Minister, Defense Minister, and National Security Adviser (NSA).
- Finance Minister Suzuki Shunichi and Bank of Japan Governor UEDA Kazuo attended the G20 Finance Minister and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Gandhinagar on 17-18 July, 2023.

Defense Cooperation

Defense Ministerial Meeting and other high-level exchanges: The first Bilateral Fighter Exercise Veer Guardian was held in Japan in January 2023. The Army-to-Army exercise- Exercise Dharma Guardian was held in Japan in February 2023. JIMEX 23 was conducted in Bay of Bengal from 05-10 July 23.

Economic and Commercial Relations

- Bilateral trade totaled to US\$ 21.96 billion during FY 2022-23. Exports from Japan to India during

this period were US\$ 16.49 billion and imports by Japan from India were US\$ 5.46 billion. India's primary exports to Japan are petroleum products, organic chemicals; fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates; thereof etc. India's primary imports from Japan are machinery, electrical machinery, iron and steel products, plastic materials, non-ferrous metals, parts of motor vehicles etc.

The export-import statistics for the last five years as per India's Ministry of Commerce data bank are as follows:

(US Dollar Billion)

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
India's export to Japan	3.85	4.73	4.86	4.52	4.43	6.18	5.46
India's import from Japan	9.75	10.97	12.77	12.43	10.9	14.39	16.49
India-Japan bilateral trade	13.60	15.71	17.63	16.95	15.33	20.57	21.96

(Source: DGFT, Dept. of Commerce; figures include trade in goods only)

- **Japan's Investment in India:** Japanese outward FDI to India in 2021-22 and 2022-23 stood at USD 1.49 billion and USD 1.79 billion respectively. Cumulatively, from Year 2000 until June 2023, the investments to India have been around **US\$ 39.94 billion** ranking Japan fifth among source country for India's FDI. Japanese FDI into India has mainly been in automobile, electrical equipment, telecommunications, chemical, financial (insurance) and pharmaceutical sectors.
- **Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA):** Japan is the largest bilateral donor to India. Japanese ODA supports India's efforts for accelerated economic development particularly in priority areas like power, transportation, environmental projects and projects related to basic human needs. Japan's ODA disbursement to India in 2021-22 stood at about JPY 328 billion (approx. **US\$ 3.28 billion**).

Other Major Areas of Cooperation Include

- **India-Japan Joint Working Group Cooperation on Textiles**
- **India-Japan Digital Partnership (IJDP) and Start-up Hub**

- **India-Japan Joint Working Group on Skill Development**
- **Japan-India Joint Committee on Healthcare-** Both sides have recognized synergy between India's AYUSHMAN Bharat Programme and Japan's AHWIN and are working on cooperation in areas such as health-care logistics, ICT for tertiary health-care, and human resource development. The AYUSH Information Cell was launched on March 11, 2023 in the Embassy of India, Tokyo.
- **Education, Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges-** The 1st Japan-India Universities Forum meeting was held in January 2023, which brought together the top 10 Universities of India including several IITs and top 12 Universities of Japan to discuss areas of mutual cooperation, collaboration in areas of research, faculty Trainings and exchange programs and sought to promote further student exchanges. The 2nd **India-Japan Universities Forum** was held on 30 September 2023. The **India- Japan Edu-Connect** was launched on September 30, 2023.
- **Railway Cooperation-**The first High Speed Rail (HSR) corridor is being implemented from Mumbai to Ahmedabad with technical and financial assistance from Government of Japan. The project envisages 'Make in India' as well as 'Capacity Development' to enable Indian workforce acquire skills relevant for Shinkansen technology. National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) has been modelled as a Special Purpose Vehicle for implementing the project. The project is monitored at the apex-level in the form of Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) co-chaired by Hon'ble Minister for Railways from the Indian side and Special Adviser to Prime Minister of Japan, on the Japanese side.
- **Metro Rail Projects-** Presently, six Metro Rail projects (Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai) are being implemented with technical and financial support from Government of Japan. JICA has extended ODA to develop these Metro systems and redesign the urban landscape through green transportation systems.

India-Japan Forum Second edition was held in New Delhi on 28-29 July 2023 and was inaugurated by EAM and Foreign Minister of Japan Mr. Yoshimasa Hayashi. The forum sees participation of eminent representatives of both Governments, Parliament, industry, think tanks and academia. The Forum has been launched with the purpose of bolstering cooperation, leveraging opportunities, exchanging ideas, building mutual trust and developing a joint agenda for future cooperation between India and Japan.

Source: www.mea.gov.in/ October 2023