

## India-Japan friendship for Global Peace and Prosperity

### What is the issue?

70 years after diplomatic relations were established between India and Japan, they have evolved into natural partners

### How was the prehistoric relationship between India and Japan?

- The goodwill between the people of the two countries was deeply rooted through business, academic and cultural exchanges.
- A long history of people-to-people exchanges can be traced back to the sixth century.
- **Buddhism** was brought to Japan and, in 752AD.
- **Great Buddha Statue at Todai-ji** - An Indian monk, Bodhisena, performed the consecration ceremony for the Great Buddha Statue at Todai-ji
- This is one of the most important temples in Japan.
- **Trade** - During the Meiji Restoration in 19th Century Japanese travelled to India to purchase cotton, iron ore, etc to modernise its industry.
- **Art and Literature** -The exchanges among artists is notable. This includes an interaction between the Nobel Laureate in literature, Rabindranath Tagore and Okakura Tenshin, a Japanese philosopher.

### How was relationship Post-Independence?

- Formal relations between Japan and India began in 1952.
- India wanted honour and equality to be ensured for Japan to rejoin the international community.
- After WW2, instead of signing the multilateral San Francisco Peace Treaty, India opted for concluding a bilateral peace treaty with Japan,
- This is the cornerstone of our long-standing friendship.
- In 1951, India invited Japanese athletes for the first Asian Games hosted by India in New Delhi.
- This was one of the first occasions where the Japanese flag was hoisted after WWII.
- This experience soothed the minds of Japanese people who were struggling to rebuild their country.

### What are the present Areas of Cooperation?

- Today the relationship grew into a “Special Strategic and Global Partnership”.
- **Democracy** - Both India and Japan are democratic countries in Asia.
- We share common political, economic and strategic interests based on our common values and traditions.
- **Promoting Global Peace** - India and Japan work together for

- Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)
- Building a rules-based free and open international order.
- Various other global issues
- Partnership is based on a deep respect for each other's contributions in promoting peace, stability and development in Asia and beyond.
- **Economic Relations** - Japan has been the largest ODA (Official Development Assistance) donor to India. For example, Collaboration in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project.
- Both countries have also promoted economic cooperation in other countries to enhance social infrastructure and connectivity.
- Our economic partnership can further strengthen the economy of the Indo-Pacific, as well as the world economy.
- There are a plethora of fields that we can cooperate in security issues including cyber security, outer space and economic security.
- **Cultural Relations** - This including literature, movies, music, sports and academics
- The number of Japanese learners is increasing in India.

## What the 70th anniversary celebrations signify?

- The year 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India.
- The entire year will be marked by celebratory events.
- This is an opportunity to reminisce, be mindful of the present and envision our future.
- The 70th anniversary is based on the theme "building a future for our centenary"

### Reference

1. <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-japan-diplomatic-relations-7728623/>

