

# Resetting India-Japan Relation in Modi Government

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**Abstract:** *As two of the biggest democracies in the most populous and dynamic region in the world, the many values that India-Japan share are crucial to ensuring stability in the Asia Pacific and beyond. In Asia, India has moved from its 'Act east policy' particularly with regard to foreign the foundations of a potentially far reaching economic, political and strategic partnership with Japan. PM Modi and Abe have declared that India-Japanese axis of interests and values could redraw the strategic map of Asia, ensuring the freedom of the Sea lanes knitting the India and Pacific oceans together to authoritarian challenges- "The Indo-Japanese strategic partnership: Asia's response to China's rise."*

**Keywords:** India, Japan, Asia, Pacific, Economic, Political, Strategic.

**Introduction:** Though cultural links between India and Japan date back to the sixth century with the spread of Buddhism from its birth place in India to the rest of the region including Japan, the two states found them in uncharted territory as world war-II came to an end. Japan's 1905 victory over Russia was viewed by many, including independent India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru, as the beginning of Asian resurgence and Japan's anti-colonial contributions, including support to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and his Indian National Army, trumped reservations about its militarism, that so bothered the rest of Asia. India's independence in 1947 and Japan's defeat in World War II meant that the two sides had to start building their bilateral relations by laying its very foundations

gnaw. However, unlike Japan's tumultuous past with its other Asian neighbors, there were no historical grievances to impede the evolution of India-Japan ties. After World War II, Japan signed a peace treaty with India in 1952 that established diplomatic relations between the two states. India and Japan growing ties over the last few years have generated significant interest as they underline the rapidly changing strategic realities in Asia. Relations between India and Japan have gathered momentum, with the two countries making a concerted attempt to interact at various levels, economic, political and strategic.

## Modi's Foreign Policy for Japan

Modi said that "India's foreign policy should be built on the foundation of our culture, tradition, historical and political background, economy, trade strategy and security. Modi's foreign policy, how will India-Japan relation proceed while the present equations can be interpreted as a relationship at convenience, it needs to be maximized keeping their respective national interests, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, it would be safe to assume that India's foreign policy has a vision and a clear strategic objective. This can be represented in the matrix of foreign policy. Modi want economic growth and defense capabilities with Japan. What can be described as prosperity and power?"

## PM Modi visit to Japan

PM Modi visited Japan on a five days official trip from 30<sup>th</sup> Aug, to 3<sup>rd</sup> September

2014, which is labeled as his first bilateral state visit outside the subcontinent. PM's visit strengthened the ties between Indo-Japan and resulted in several key agreements including the elevating at the already established strategic partnership to the "special strategic global partnership". During his visit official negotiations on the sale of US2 amphibious aircraft for the Indian Navy and the long pending civil nuclear agreements have both progressed.

### **Major agreements signed by PM during visit**

1. Japan has promised to give 35 US Billion to India through public and private funding over the next 5 years for development projects, including building of smart cities and clean up of river Ganga.
2. Signed five facts for defense exchanges, cooperation in clean energy, roads and highways, healthcare and bullet train project.
3. Both countries agreed to enhance their defense and strategic cooperation vowing to take to take their relationship from strategic to special strategic partnership.
4. Both countries have signed a MOU for cooperation in heritage conservation, city modernization, Art, Culture and academics cooperation.
5. Japan lifted ban on HAL and five other entities which had been impressed in the aftermath of the 1998 nuclear tests, amid Modi's assertion that cooperation between the two countries in defense and security will get a 'new direction'.

6. In Kyoto fact Varanasi will be developed on the pattern of Kyoto smart city with the cooperation of Japan.

### **PM Modi 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to Japan in Nov. 2016**

PM Modi was an official visit to Japan at the invitation of PM Abe. The two Prime Ministers held wide-ranging consultations on 11 November 2016, in Tokyo, during which they undertook a comprehensive review of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership as outlined in the "India and Japan Vision 2025" set forth on 12 December 2015. They acknowledged the significant progress in bilateral relations over the past two years since Prime Minister Modi's visit to Japan in August-September 2014.

### **Major agreements signed by PM during visit**

1. Agreement for cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
2. MOC on the manufacturing skill transfer promotion program.
3. MOU in cooperation in the field of outer Space.
4. MOU in marine and earth science technology.
5. MOC in field of agriculture and food related industry.
6. MOU for transport and urban development.
7. MOU in textile field.
8. MOU in cultural exchange.

### **India Japan nuclear deal**

India and Japan on Friday signed a bilateral civilian nuclear cooperation agreement seen as crucial for energy-starved India to access sensitive technologies to generate clean electricity. The pact is a major achievement for India as it is Japan's first civilian nuclear cooperation pact with a country that has not signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It was inked in Tokyo in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese host Shinzo Abe. Modi is on a three-day visit to Japan for the annual summit between the two prime ministers.

That it was signed with Abe at the helm of affairs in Japan is also key, given that he has been keen to forge close links with India to counter the rise of China. Ties between India and Japan have warmed considerably since Abe returned to office in 2012. The deal has been many years in the making because India was reluctant to limit its option to carry out more atomic weapons' tests in addition to the ones carried out in 1998—in case the need arose. And Japan being the only country in the world to have suffered the impact of nuclear weapons being dropped on it was uncomfortable with India having a nuclear weapons programme outside the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The 'Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy' pact provides for "the development of nuclear power projects in India and thus strengthening of energy security of the country, an Indian foreign ministry statement said. "The present agreement would open up the door for collaboration between Indian and Japanese industries in our Civil Nuclear programme, India signed a landmark nuclear deal with the US in 2008, clearing the path for the country to source nuclear power plants and technology from international markets. But with Japanese companies in possession of critical technologies, such as steel shields covering a nuclear reactor core, an accord with Japan was pivotal for India.

During the last prime ministerial summit in New Delhi in December, India and Japan announced that they had reached a basic agreement on the pact. India currently has 5.7 GigaWatts (GW) of nuclear power generation capacity. This accounts for 2% of the total power capacity, but this is expected to change with a sharp increase in power generation from atomic plants over the next 16 years as Asia's third largest economy moves away from fossil fuels for its energy needs. India's Department of Atomic Energy's target is to have 63GW of nuclear power capacity by 2032.

Among the other agreements signed was one to skill "30,000 Indian youth in the Japanese styled manufacturing in the next 10 years", a government statement said. "This would be achieved through the programmes of Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM) and the Japanese Endowed Courses (JEC) in select Engineering colleges," it said. Pacts on cooperation in space, earth sciences, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, transport and urban development and sports were the others signed.

### **Japanese PM Shinzo Abe visit to India**

PM Abe visited to India 11-13 Dec, 2015. Both country signed agreements in key areas. Abe said that "A strong India is in the best interest of Japan and a strong Japan is in the best interest of India. The two countries increasing closeness represents a major transformation of their past relationship. The two individual leader share a close rapport, and the economic and security partnership between both sides, the factor has transformed & boost in India Japan relation since Modi came to power.

### **Major agreement were signed between India-Japan.**

1. Cooperation in peaceful uses of Nuclear energy.
2. Pact for High speed train between Mumbai to Ahmadabad high speed corridor. Japan assist India to train technologies and financial assistance.
3. Pact concerning of defense equipment and technology & cooperation in Research, Development and production of defense equipment.
4. Agreement concerning security measures for the protection of classified military information.
5. MOC technological cooperation between India's Research Designs and standards organization (RDSO) and Japan's Railway Technical Research Institute (JRTRI)
6. Agreement for the cooperation programme between India's Department of Science & Technology and The Japan Science and Technology, Agency.
7. MOC in the field of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

### **Political Relation**

PM Modi visited Japan from 30 August – 3 September, 2014 for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit meeting with PM Shinzo Abe. During the visit, the both sides upgraded the relationship to a 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'. During the visit both sides agreed to established the 'India-Japan Investment Promotion Partnership.' PM Shizo Abe visited India for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit with PM Modi from 11-13 Dec, 2015. Both country agreeing to expand bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas including in the fields of Civil Nuclear energy, high speed train, defense equipment & technology, taxation and science & technology. Japan agrees to Invest 1.3 trillion USD in make in India policy. Civil Nuclear energy deal is the biggest example of India-Japan Political relations.

### **Economic Relations**

The India-Japan comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) took effect in Aug 2011, which will eliminate about 94% at the tariffs between Japan and India within 10 years. Agreement between India and Japan on social security was signed in Nov, 2012. India has been the largest recipients of Japanese ODA loan for the recent years. Bilateral trade between India-Japan reached 20.31 USD billion in 2015-16. India's primary exports to Japan have petroleum, chemicals, non-metallic, mineral ware, fish, metalliferous, ores & scrap, clothing & accessories, Iron & steel products, textile fabrics and machinery etc.

### **Cultural Relations**

Both Govt. held "India Japan exchange year 2007" both in India and Japan to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the cultural agreement. A cultural agreement was signed between both on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1956; the Exhibition of Buddhist Art at Tokyo National Museum on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015, A Festival included a symposium on Buddhist Manuscripts at Tokyo in India-Japan literary festival 2016.

### **Defense & Security Cooperation**

India and Japan also have close military & defense ties. They have shared interests in maintaining the security of Sea-lanes in the Asia pacific and Indian Ocean, and in cooperation for fighting international crime, terrorism, piracy and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

- a. India and Japan concluded a security pact on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2008
- b. In July 2014, 2015, 16, the Indian US & Japan navies, reflecting shared

perspectives on Indo Pacific maritime security.

- c. Make Japan a partner in the Malabar navel exercise
- d. Modi signed strategic ties with Japan in 2015, for India-Japan security cooperation. In Indo Pacific region to check China`s influence.

### **Buddhist Factor and India-Japan**

Buddhism had been introduced to Japan in 538 AD by a Korean king. IN 752Ad, Bodhisena, an Indian monk performed consecration or eye-opening at a statue of the Buddha Sakyamini at the Todaji Temple. In Nara, The spread of Buddhism in Japan may be indirect but Buddhist teaching and philosophy has a great impact on Japanese life and culture. Many of the Buddhist Sanskrit words were introduced into Japanese language. PM Modi`s placing of Buddhism at the centre of India`s diplomatic initiatives is a creative idea. In fact, he has shown a much greater propensity to use Buddhism even to strike directly at the spiritual linkage with Japan. It seem PM Modi & PM Abe have evidently acknowledged that the shared spiritual heritage could potentially bring back the traditional depth of India-Japan relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, PM Modi working on Buddhist connectivity may prove to be a game changer, especially for changing the future of India-Japan.

- India – Japan have agreed to develop the Kyoto-Varansi-Nalanda as cultural site.

**Conclusion:** India`s strengthening relations with Japan is an important counter measure for Japan too, close cooperation with India is quite desirable. PM Modi`s ascent to power

constitutes a historic confluence of interests and opportunities. Modi`s greatest challenge will be a successfully coordinate and accommodate domestic concerns with foreign policies. Upon overcoming these challenges, India will be poised to take leap forward to become a major global power.

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