

India Japan Bilateral Relations

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The friendship between India and Japan has a long history rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilizational ties. India's earliest documented direct contact with Japan was with the **Todaiji Temple in Nara, where the consecration or eye-opening of the towering statue of Lord Buddha was performed by an Indian monk, Bodhisena, in 752 AD.**

Political Relations

- During Prime Minister Mori's path-breaking visit to India in **2000**, the **Japan-India Global Partnership** in the 21st century was launched.
- The Joint Statement signed by Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Shinzo Abe in 2006 factored in the new challenges, and the relationship was upgraded to a **Global and Strategic Partnership** with the provision of annual Prime Ministerial Summits.
- A **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Japan and India was concluded in 2011.**
- During the Indian PM's visit to Japan in **2014**, the two sides upgraded the relationship to a '**Special Strategic and Global Partnership**'. Both sides also agreed to establish the 'India-Japan Investment Promotion Partnership'.

Economic Relations

- Japan's interest in India is increasing due to a variety of reasons including India's large and growing market and its resources, especially the human resources.
- Japan has been extending **bilateral loan and grant assistance** to India **since 1958**, and is the **largest bilateral donor for India.**

- The **Ahmedabad-Mumbai High Speed Rail, the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor** with twelve new industrial townships, the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) are all mega projects financed by Japan.
- In FY 2017-2018 India-Japan **bilateral trade reached US\$ 15.71 billion**. Exports from Japan to India during this period were US\$ 10.97 billion and imports were US\$ 4.74 billion.
- Japanese FDI into India has mainly been in **automobile, electrical equipment**, telecommunications, chemical and pharmaceutical sectors.