

Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.

India-Japan Bilateral Relations

A. Introduction

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication on Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Embassy Profile Report for 31.12.2025 depicting the Embassy of Japan.

2. 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 in Japan.

B. 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 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’”. India and Japan also announced 2023 as “India-Japan Year of Tourism Exchange” with the theme “Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji”. Ministry of Environment of Japan and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India, signed an Aide Memoire on the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).

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). 15th round of Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 28 July 2023. The Foreign Ministers met on 22 September 2023 on the sidelines of the 78th UNGA Session in New York.

Environment Ministers of India and Japan met on the sidelines of the India-Japan Environment Week held between 12 -13 January 2023 in New Delhi. The then State Minister of Foreign Affairs YAMADA Kenji attended the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting that was held between 1-2 March 2023. The then Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa participated in the QUAD Foreign Ministers Meeting on 03 March 2023, held a working lunch with EAM on the sidelines and also participated in Raisina Dialogue 2023. Minister for Digital Transformation KONO Taro visited India between 11-12 March, to hold deliberations with Minister for

Electronics & Information Technology on co-operation in emerging technologies.

PM Modi met current PM Ishiba on 10 October 2024 in Vientiane, Laos on the sidelines of ASEAN related summit meetings. They also met more recently during the G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada on June 18, 2025. On 24 April 2025, PM Ishiba also called PM Modi and expressed condolences at the loss of lives in the terror attack in Pahalgam. Prior to this telephone call, condolence messages were also issued by PM Ishiba and FM Iwaya, in this regard.

EAM met FM Iwaya on 1 July 2025 during his visit to Washington D.C. to attend the QUAD Foreign Ministers Meeting. 17th round of Foreign Ministers Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 20 August 2024. 3rd round of 2+2 Ministerial meeting was held in New Delhi on 20 August 2024. Defense Ministerial Meeting was also held on the sidelines of 2+2 Ministerial. The latest and 5th round of NSA level dialogue was held in November 2019 in New Delhi. 3rd Deputy National Security Advisors meeting was held in November 2024 in New Delhi. EAM visited Tokyo and attended the QUAD Foreign Ministers Meeting on 29 July 2024. EAM and FM Iwaya met on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Italy on 26 November 2024, and on the sidelines of the QUAD Foreign Ministers Meeting in Washington, D.C. on 19 January 2025, during which they launched the “India-Japan Science Technology and Innovation Exchange Year”. Foreign Secretary held the Foreign Secretary – Vice Minister Dialogue and also co-chaired the Inaugural round of India-Japan Dialogue on Economic Security with the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan in November 2024. Foreign Secretary met with Vice Foreign Minister, National Security Advisor and Senior Deputy Foreign Minister during his visit to Japan in May 2025. Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs met Foreign Secretary in Delhi on July 28.

More recently, Textiles Minister Shri Giriraj Singh visited Tokyo from 14–17 July 2025. Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, visited Japan during 21-24 January 2025, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav, visited during 28-31 January 2025, Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K. Sangma visited during 14-21 April, 2025 Chief Minister of Telangana Shri A. Revanth Reddy visited during 16-23 April 2025, and held Roadshows/ receptions to attract investment and collaborations for their respective states. From Japan side, Governors of Yamanashi, Ibaraki, Shizuoka, Toyama, Ehime, travelled to India and signed MoUs in Uttar Pradesh (both Yamanashi and Ibaraki), Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, respectively in 2024-2025.

3. Parliamentary Exchanges: Regular exchanges have been held between parliamentarians since 2016. Former Prime Minister and current Chairman of Japan India Association Yoshihide Suga visited India with the Ganesha Group of MPs and a business delegation during 05-08 July 2023. During the visit he also met the Prime Minister. Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan, Mr. Nukaga Fukushima, visited India along with a delegation of Japanese parliamentarians and business leaders and met PM Modi on 01 August 2024. He again visited India from 01 – 05 May 2025 and held meetings with Lok Sabha Speaker and External Affairs Minister. A delegation of Members of Indian Parliament, headed by Mr. Arun Singh, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha visited Japan in February 2025. The All-Party Parliamentary Delegation led by MP Sanjay Kumar Jha visited Tokyo from 22–24 May 2025, and met with former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Speaker Fukushima Nukaga, Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, and other senior officials to underscore India’s zero-tolerance stance on terrorism.

Defence Cooperation

4. Defence Ministerial Meeting and other high-level exchanges: The second Defense Ministerial Meeting was held in September 2022 in Tokyo. Gen Bipin Rawat, the then Chief of Army Staff visited Japan on an official visit in December 2019. Gen Yamazaki Koji, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff has visited India from 14 to 17 January 2020 to participate in Raisina Dialogue- 2020. The First Joint Service Staff Talks was held in Tokyo on 11-12 September 2023. 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 for the first time ever since its inception in 2018. Exercise Shinnyu Maitri was also conducted between the transport wings of IAF and JASDF in March 2023. JIMEX 23 was conducted in Bay of Bengal from 05-10 July 23. General Morishita Yasunori, the Chief of Staff, JGSDF visited New Delhi from 24-28 Sep 2023 for the IPACC 23. More recently, a MoI for co-developing the UNICORN mast for Indian Navy ships was signed on 15 November 2024.

C. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures

5. India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (CEPA): India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (CEPA) came into effect from 1 August 2011. The Agreement is most comprehensive of all such agreements concluded by India and covers not only trade in goods but also services, movement of natural persons, investments, intellectual property rights, custom procedures and other trade related issues. The CEPA envisages abolition of tariffs over 94% of items traded between India and Japan over a period of 10 years. In order to further expand and strengthen the economic and business ties and address the CEPA implementation issues, various Sub-Committees have been established under CEPA in areas of Rules of Origin, Customs Procedures, Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment Procedures & SPS Measures, Trade in Services, Improvement of Business Environment, and Movement of Natural Persons & Cooperation.

6. Bilateral Trade: Bilateral trade between India-Japan totaled USD 25.27 billion during FY 2024-25. Exports from Japan to India during this period were USD 19.02 billion and imports were USD 6.25 billion. India's primary exports to Japan are petroleum products, organic chemicals; fish and crustaceans, mollusks and other aquatic invertebrates; nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, parts thereof; vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories 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.

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

Export-Import statistics between India-Japan from 2020-21 to 2024-25
(USD Billion)

Year	Total trade	Import	Export
2020-21	15.33	10.90	4.43
2021-22	20.57	14.39	6.18
2022-23	21.95	16.49	5.46
2023-24	22.86	17.70	5.16
2024-25	25.27	19.02	6.25

(Source: Department of Commerce, India)

8. **Japan's Investment in India:** According to JBIC's 2024 survey, India remained the top medium term investment destination (58.7% vote share) and ranked 1st for the 15th consecutive year as the most promising country for the next 10 years. Japanese companies cited India's growth potential as a key attraction, though concerns about legal clarity and competition were noted. Japanese FDI in India has risen, totalling USD 1.79 billion in 2022–23, USD 3.1 billion in 2023–24, and USD 2.5 billion in 2024–25. Cumulative FDI since 2000 stands at USD 44.4 billion, with key sectors including automobiles, electronics, telecom, chemicals, finance, and pharmaceuticals.

9. **Japanese Companies in India:** The number of Japanese companies registered in India are 1400 as of October, 2022 with manufacturing firms accounting for half the total, according to the latest joint survey by the Embassy of Japan in India and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). These Japanese companies have in all 4901 business establishments in India. They include liaison and branch offices in India as well as local subsidiaries. More than 100 Indian companies are working in Japan. India's Net Foreign Direct Investment in Japan during FY 2020-21 is USD 40.91 million.

10. **Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA):** Japan has been extending bilateral loan and grant assistance to India since 1958. 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 USD 3.28 billion).

11. **India-Japan Energy Dialogue** was set up in December 2006 to promote cooperation in the energy sector in a comprehensive manner. India-Japan Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) was launched in March 2022.

12. **India-Japan Cooperation on Textile:** The exchange and signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Textiles Committee, India and M/s Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre, Japan for improving quality and testing of Indian textiles and clothing for the Japanese market took place virtually on 27 January 2021. The last meeting of the JWG was held virtually on 11 July 2023.

13. **India – Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership:** India – Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership – A Memorandum of Cooperation between the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) on India – Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership was signed on November 16, 2021 to jointly explore the possibilities of

enhancing India's industrial competitiveness with a view to enhance the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two countries. Under the arrangement, Joint Working Groups (JWG) in different sectors ranging from Textiles and Logistic to Steel and Food Processing have been formed. The 5th meeting of the India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership was held in Tokyo on 28 February 2023. The meeting was co-chaired by Secretary, DPIIT from India and Vice Minister for International Affairs, METI from Japan. Joint Working Groups on MSME, Capital Goods, Logistics, JITs, Textiles, Food Processing and Automobiles have also met recently.

14. India-Japan Digital Partnership (IJDP) and Start-up Hub: "India-Japan Digital Partnership" (IJDP), launched in 2018. The 7th Joint Working Group under India-Japan ICT Comprehensive Cooperation Framework was also held on May 13, 2022 through hybrid mode. An India-Japan Digital Partnership Webinar was held online on February 28, 2022 which included discussions on digital transformation and preparing for post-COVID-19 international competition. A delegation comprising representatives from National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) International, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY), India, and TCS visited Japan in July 2023 and held meetings with Digital Agency and other government and private sector stakeholders on the possibility of deploying UPI in Japan.

15. Skill Development: Under the India-Japan MoC signed in 2016, Japanese companies have established 35 Japan-India Institute of Manufacturing (JIM) in India and 11 Japanese Endowed Courses (JEC) in Indian Engineering Colleges. India and Japan also cooperate under Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP) and "Specified Skilled Worker" (SSW) initiative of Japan. In January 2022, Japan initiated implementation of language and skill test for nursing care and 'agriculture' category at a test centre in Gurugram. Subsequently, Guwahati (Agriculture) and Bangalore (Agriculture, Caregiving and Language) have been added. Hon'ble Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Raieev Chandrasekhar announced the launch of 'India-Japan Skill Connect' and a "Skill Facilitation Cell at the Embassy on 04 August 2023. The 4th round of India-Japan Joint Working Group meeting on Skill Development was held in Tokyo on 03 October 2023, followed by an event at the Embassy titled "India-Japan Skill Connect: Re-imagining Institutional Frameworks". Embassy has been conducting several events all across Japan to maximize outreach in the area of Skill Development.

16. Healthcare Cooperation: Second meeting of the Japan-India Joint Committee on Healthcare was held by Health Minister of India and Japan's Minister of Healthcare Policy on 15 May 2023. 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.

Railway Cooperation

17. Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project: The first High Speed Rail (HSR) corridor is being implemented from Mumbai to Ahmedabad with technical and financial assistance from Government of Japan. With total twelve stations in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the corridor has a length of 508.17km. HSR will be operating at a speed of 320 kmph at an elevated track above the ground on a viaduct all along except 26km in Mumbai, which will be underground. 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. The

last JCM was held in April 2025.

18. 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. Propulsion and control systems are also supplied by Japanese manufacturing companies with their base in India.

19. Environmental Cooperation: In May 2018, the 2nd Japan-India Government-Private Workshop for Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency was held for implementing the Japan-India Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Cooperation Plan. They discussed issues on Air Pollution, Sustainable Technologies and Transports, Climate Change, Marine Litter, Fluorocarbons, COP 26, etc. On January 12-13, 2023, Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Japan, and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India (MoEFCC) held the “India-Japan Environment Week” in India.

20. Educational, Cultural and People-to-people Exchanges: Cooperation in the field of education is being conducted through partnerships between education and research institutions, student and teacher exchanges, government scholarships, promotion of Japanese language education in India etc. There are 665 academic and research partnerships (including student exchanges) between more than 138 universities/institutes of Japan and around 227 universities/institutions of India. DPG and JIIA jointly organized the 5th round of Indo-Pacific Forum, a track 2 dialogue on 23 November 2022. 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 30th September 2023

21. Japan is hosting the **World Expo 2025 in Osaka**, Kansai, under the theme "Designing Future Society for Our Lives." India Pavilion "Bharat" was inaugurated in May 2025 at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. Since its opening, it has been ranked among the top five pavilions at the Expo, alongside those of the United States, Italy, Japan, and France. As part of India's cultural outreach, the International Day of Yoga was celebrated at the Pavilion, witnessing enthusiastic participation from over 1,300 individuals.

22. India-Japan Forum: The inaugural India-Japan Forum was held on 20 July 2021. 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. Third edition of the forum was held in New Delhi in December 2024.

23. Indian Community in Japan: In recent years, there has been a change in the composition of the Indian community with the arrival of many professionals, including IT professionals and engineers. The Nishikasai area in Tokyo is emerging as a “mini-India”. Their growing numbers had prompted the opening of three Indian schools. Over 54,000 Indians currently live in Japan, of which 282 are students with 30-40% pursuing doctoral courses. Also, there are around 150 professors and 50 research visa holders.

Source: www.mea.gov.in