

## INDIA-JAPAN RELATION: INTERNATIONAL RELATION

**NEWS:** India, Japan officials meet, discuss PM's visit, bullet train project

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Indian Foreign Secretary **Vikram Misri met Japanese ministers** to enhance strategic ties and review major bilateral projects. Discussions included progress on the **Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (Shinkansen)** project and challenges in **critical mineral supply chains**.

### Historical & Civilizational Ties

- India and Japan share a **Special Strategic and Global Partnership**, rooted in **spiritual, cultural, and civilizational links**.
- **Bodhisena**, an Indian Buddhist monk, played a key role in **consecrating the Buddha statue at Todaiji Temple, Nara (752 AD)** – marking early cultural ties.
- Prominent Indian figures associated with Japan include:
  - **Swami Vivekananda** – propagated spiritual philosophies in Japan.
  - **Rabindranath Tagore** – fostered intellectual exchanges.
  - **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose** – led the Indian National Army with Japanese support.
  - **Rash Behari Bose** – took refuge in Japan and supported Indian independence efforts.
  - **Justice Radha Binod Pal** – only judge to dissent in the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal verdict.
  - **JRD Tata** – contributed to India-Japan industrial links.
- Symbolic diplomacy: **PM Nehru gifted an elephant** to Japan's Ueno Zoo in 1949, rebuilding ties post-WWII.

### Defence and Security Cooperation

- Defence is a **core pillar of the strategic partnership**.
- The **Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation (JDSC)** was signed in **2008**, enhancing bilateral defence cooperation.
- Both nations share a **common Indo-Pacific vision** – emphasizing **peace, stability, and rule-based order**.
- **JIMEX**: A bilateral naval exercise between **Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF)** held regularly to boost maritime security coordination.
- Increasing **defence technology collaboration** and strategic dialogues at **2+2 Ministerial levels**.

## **Economic and Commercial Relations**

- The **India–Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** came into effect on **1 August 2011**.
- CEPA covers trade in **goods, services, investment, intellectual property, and customs cooperation**.
- **Bilateral trade (FY 2023–24):**
  - Total: **US\$ 22.85 billion**
  - Japan's exports to India: **US\$ 17.69 billion**
  - India's exports to Japan: **US\$ 5.15 billion**
- **Trade rankings:**
  - India is Japan's **18th largest trading partner** (1.4% of total trade).
  - Japan is India's **17th largest trading partner** (2.1% of total trade).
- **Major Indian exports to Japan:**
  - Organic Chemicals
  - Automobiles (non-rail)
  - Nuclear Reactor components
  - Aluminium articles
  - Fish and aquatic invertebrates
- **Major imports from Japan:**
  - Nuclear Reactors
  - Electrical Machinery
  - Copper articles
  - Inorganic Chemicals
  - Iron and Steel

## **Cooperation in Other Strategic Areas**

- **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI):**
  - Launched in **April 2021** by **India, Japan, and Australia**.
  - Aims to **diversify supply chains** and reduce dependency on single-source countries like China.

- **India–Japan Act East Forum** (established December 2017):
  - Facilitates projects under India’s **Act East Policy** and Japan’s **Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision**.
  - Focuses on **Northeast India’s development** via connectivity, infrastructure, and industrial linkages.
- **Civil Nuclear Agreement:**
  - Signed during PM Modi’s visit to Japan in **November 2016**.
  - Enables **peaceful use of nuclear energy**, including **transfer of nuclear technology and materials**.

### **Latest Developments**

- **Japan to supply two advanced E-10 Shinkansen trains** to India.
- **Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project** (Bullet Train):
  - Original completion target: **2022**
  - Revised completion timeline: **December 2029**
  - Funded via **soft loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**.
- Strategic dialogues addressed **supply chain challenges** for **critical minerals**, especially due to **China’s export restrictions** impacting **EV battery production**.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-japan-officials-meet-discuss-pms-visit-bullet-train-project/article69866627.ece>