



Indo-Japan Initiative for Multipolar Asia

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India and Japan has historical connection from 7th century AD when Buddhism made its way into Japan through India. The evidence is that Japan helped Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian national army during India's freedom struggle to expel the British from India. When Japan gained victory over zaniest , it gave a great impetus to Asian national movements against the imperial powers. Jawaharlal Nehru in his autobiography mentioned the effects of the Japanese victory.

In 1949, Jawaharlal Nehru donated 2 elephants to the Tokyo zoo¹ that was a beam of hope for the Japanese who still had not recovered from the world war II subsequently India and Japan signed a peace treaty and developed diplomatic relationship.² in April 1952 which was the first peace treaty from Japan after the war. Japan began to provide to yen loans to India after Nobusuke Kishi, then then prime minister of Japan, paid a visit to India in 1957.

World war II ended with the defeat of Japan. When India got freedom in 1947, it expressed its support for Japanese interests. The Indian delegation was sympathetic and concerned about rebuilding their national and in developing their finance and industrial sector in 1957, Indian prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru visited Japan and in 1958, India received its first overseas development assistance (ODA) form Japan. However, considering border disputes between India and China and wars between India and Pakistan, Japan favored to follow the middle path and did not take any side.

The new Epoch in India - Japan ties.

After the end of the cold war, India introduced its "look-east-policy" in the early 1990s and opened up its economy. Its main purpose was to revitalize its connection with the southeast Asian and east Asian countries through out chronicles of its history. India also supported the anti-colonial movement in south east Asia the summoning of the Asian relations conference in 1947 a special conference on Indonesia in January 1949 After its look east policy, India's economic links with the ASEAN countries have seen a constant improvement in 2009 -2010, the trade agreed to work towards meeting an ambitious trade target of us \$ 70 billion by 2012.³

The China angle

Economic and military rise of China is one of the significant development of the country in 21st century. It is one of the rapid growing economics of the world and had largely come out unharmed from the world economic debacle. India is the second after China in fast growing economy of the world. According to the reports China into become the world largest economy in 2023 and grow to be 20 percent large than the United states 2050.⁴

In may 2007 India and Japan set up a new grouping the quadrilateral initiative (Q1) which should their apprehension about China. Though the Quadrilateral initiative. Fizzed out soon because none of these countries wanted to antagonize China, something similar could be resurrected between the Japan and India in the near future. Nautical cooperation is one of the most important fields of cooperation between India and Japan there is no doubt that China has been the main factor in the strategic relationship between India and Japan. However, both the countries have reasons to be worried about the future role of China on the global scene. Since, India and Japan are next door neighbours of China, so they both are concerned that Beijing's accumulating power could fashion a Sino-centric Asia.

The building strategic confluence

Japan is largely relied on power supplies from the middle east and the safety of its sea lanes of communications SLOC are an important security interest . in this contest, Japan needs India's support to keep its SLOCs safe as the Indian navy has a daunting presence in the region between the straits of Hormuz and the straits of Malacca. India, in the past, has collaborated with other countries of the region in organizing joint patrolling in the malacca straits.

Between the coast guards, collaborated exercises on anti-piracy, search and rescue have been conducted every year since 2000, they visited each other's countries almost every year. When the commandant, Ishikawa, visited India in November 2006, both the coast guard exchanged a memorandum on cooperation. Both the counties have established a number of strategic dialogues involving their foreign and defence ministers and national security advisers as well as eservice to service exchanges including bilateral and multilateral exercises.⁵

Commercial relationship between India and Japan

Commercially India and Japan have close connection several high profile projects which are founded by Japan including the western corridor of the dedicated freight corridor DFC and the Delhi Mumbai industrial corridor DMIC . The DIMIC is expected to get foreign investment worth about US \$ 92 billion to India. India exports items like crude petroleum and products jewelry and gems, iron, ore, marine products etc. to Japan while it imports electronic goods, iron and steel, transport equipment and machine tools.

The US factors.

The increasing ties between India and united states is the main factor that led to improve ties between India and Japan. Japan has always been a very close sociate t united states and in the post-cold stage, both India and the united states have expressed their mutual apprehensions to one another. The relationship was temporary jerked because of the India's nuclear tests, however bill Clinton's visit to India in march 2000 signaled that the US - India relationship had come of age.

The Indo-US non-military nuclear deal is enough testimony to the complete change in the relationship between the two countries. On October 10,2008 both the countries made an agreement for cooperation regarding the peaceful uses of nuclear energy marked the end of India's nuclear isolation.⁶

The future of the tactical connection.

In the domain of nuclear energy, India wants to gain high-end technology from Japan. One of the essential requirements for the development of India is power or energy. Presently, coal accounts for more than half of the country's energy consumption. But the low quality of coal and lack of technology to clean it makes it a big environmental menace.

India is taking to nuclear power generation in a large way. At the present times, India meets only 3 % of its total energy needs from nuclear power. But, it has ambitious plans to produce 200 more from the nuclear sector by 2020 for the amount of 3700 more at present. It will assist India to get its target of the nuclear suppliers group (NSG).

Indeed Japan and India are close allies with out having any negative background however, Japan's decision to end the nuclear deal with India is not welcomed in India. India has a great non proliferation record and has declared a voluntary moratorium an nuclear tests . however there may be irrigation in the ties since both the countries want to become permanent members of an expanded UNSC (United Nations Security Council). India and Japan also differ in their views of how close they would like to get united states. However, being nature partners, India and Japan should be able to overcome these perforations in their bilateral relations.

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