



India-Japan Relationship And Its Potential

Relevancy

- ✓ G.S. Paper 2,3
- ✓ Potential of Indi-Japan relations
- ✓ India and Japan yet to reach its potential
- ✓ How issues can be solved among two countries

Recently:

- ❖ The two governments in recent times have worked hard to upgrade ties.
- ❖ Regular high-profile bilateral visits have resulted into memoranda of understanding, some big-ticket projects, notably Japanese investment in India's first bullet train, and political avowals to grow the economic relationship exponentially.
- ❖ There are now 1,369 Japanese companies and over 4,800 Japanese corporate offices active in India.
- ❖ Japan currently ranks as the third largest investor in India.

How India Japan relationship has the potential to grow?

- In theory, it's hard to find two nations that make a better economic fit than fast-growing, populous India and rich, demographically challenged Japan.
- India needs technical expertise and investments to develop its infrastructure, while Japan has the capital to spare and know-how to share.
- They have a common strategic objective in countering Chinese hegemony in Asia, a goal that can be best met in collaboration.
- They enjoy a rare historic amity, being geographically and culturally close, but not too close and, therefore, free of contentious issues such as border disputes.

India and Japan yet to reach its potential-

- The India-Japan economic relationship remains underwhelming both in relation to its potential, and to the ties that each nation shares with China.
- According to Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) data, China received about five times more Japanese investment between 1996-2015 (\$116 billion) than India did (\$24 billion).
- Japan-India two-way trade — \$13.48 billion in 2016-17 — is also a fraction of the \$350 billion China-Japan trade relationship or even India-China trade (\$84.44 billion in 2017).
- The share of India-Japan trade in Japan's total trade basket is barely 1% and it is a little over 2% of India's trade with the rest of the world.

Why haven't they reached the potential yet?

- Issues that plague foreign investors face in India like inadequate infrastructure, complex tax regulations and land acquisition problems.
- It takes Japanese companies in India longer than their Korean or Chinese counterparts to learn how best to localise their products for the Indian market.
- The greatest challenge is cultural and an outdated and negative image of India.
- The larger corporations may realise India's potential, but small and medium enterprises are the worst culprits of this attitude.
- Japanese corporations are strongly risk averse which makes it difficult for them to cope in the freewheeling, jugaad-proud environment of India, where flexibility and impromptu decision making are necessary skills in the businesses.

How can the issues be resolved?

- Roping in Indian companies to develop and design Japanese products for the South Asian market could be one way forward in deepening the bilateral engagement.
- The recent collaboration between Japan's Panasonic and India's Tata Elxsi to develop smart solutions and products for Panasonic customers in India and the neighboring region is a good start.
- The use of India as a manufacturing base for markets in Africa, a trend that is interesting to Japan's business strategists is another way to move forward.
- Overall, the G (government) to G relationship is far ahead of the B (business) to B." Closing this distance is what is required.

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National Medical Commission Bill 2017 And The Bridge Course!

Relevancy

- ✓ G.S. Paper 2
- ✓ The bridge course provision in National Medical Commission Bill 2017
- ✓ Aims of MNC bill 2017
- ✓ Need for the bridge course
- ✓ Concerns about India's healthcare sector
- ✓ Significance of AYUSH doctors

Recently:

- ❖ A "bridge course" provision in the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill 2017 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

What is the bridge course provision about?

- As per the provision, doctors of Indian systems of medicine and homoeopathy (AYUSH) will be allowed to prescribe limited allopathic medicines upon passing the course.

What does the NMC bill 2017 attempt to do?

- The National Medical Commission Bill 2017, attempts to facilitate integration of the different systems of medicine in a much broader sense.
- The bridge course will only be introduced if all the members present at a joint sitting of the NMC, the Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH), and the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) vote in its favor.
- The Bill proposes specific educational modules or programmes to develop bridges across the various systems of medicine.
- The bill also specifies that the members present in the joint sitting can spell out the health conditions for which AYUSH practitioners will be allowed to prescribe certain allopathic medicines.

What is the need for the bridge course?

- In accordance with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act Rules, some State governments have issued orders allowing AYUSH doctors to prescribe allopathic medication.
- The validity of such orders has been upheld by the Supreme Court.
- In this scenario enhancing the supply of allopathic doctors is undoubtedly the main goal but achieving the ideal doctor-population ratio could take decades.
- For that cause India wants to achieve Medical pluralism which is already a reality in several countries like China, Japan, etc.
- Thus the bridge course is aimed to serve an important part of a broader effort to empower and better utilise the capabilities of AYUSH practitioners for healthcare delivery.

What are the concerns in Indian healthcare sector?

- India has only one allopathic doctor for approximately 1,613 people as against the WHO's norm of 1 :1,000 ratio.
- This assumes that 80 per cent of the 10.23 lakh doctors registered with the Medical Council of India or State medical councils are in active service.
- But Indian Medical Register does not reflect doctors who have retired, left the country or passed away.
- Therefore, the total number of doctors in the country might actually be smaller than the official figures.
- The shortage is compounded by the concentration of medical colleges in Southern States, as well as the reluctance of doctors to serve in rural areas despite measures such as compulsory rural internships.

What is the significance of AYUSH doctors?

- AYUSH includes Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy system of medicine.
- In India nearly 8 lakh AYUSH practitioners in the country have been providing primary healthcare in several areas.



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- Students of homoeopathy, for instance, are trained in almost every subject that an MBBS student is taught during their five-and-a-half-year undergraduate course.
- It is often the case that textbooks, faculty and even the lecture halls where students of MBBS and Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS) are taught, are the same.
- Like their MBBS counterparts, BHMS students also undertake an internship, including a six-month stint at a hospital.
- When compared with public healthcare allopathy doctors the AYUSH doctors performed better in terms of time spent with patients, as well as adherence to medical history checklists.



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