Deeping Indo-Japan Ties

What is the issue?

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- In recent times there is evidence of improving Sino-Japanese Ties.
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- Amidst such a scenario, India must recalibrate its strategic partnership with Japan.
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What are the existing bilateral ties between India and Japan?

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- **Infrastructure -** Between 2000 and 2017, Japan invested $25.6 billion in domains including infrastructure, retail, textiles, and consumer durables.
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- Japan is involved in big-ticket projects like the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train, and set up around 12 industrial parks across different States.
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- India signed a joint high-speed rail project with Japan, for which the first installment of Rs. 5,500 crore was released by Japanese Industrial Cooperation Agency (JICA).
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- **Defense co-operation -** India and Japan had hosted various bilateral exercises, recently naval cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) has held in the Indo-Pacific region.
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- **Developmental Projects -** Together, both nations have constituted the Japan-India Act East Forum with an objective of spearheading development cooperation in north-eastern States bordering China, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
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- JICA has signed a $610-million pact with the Centre for phase I of the North-East connectivity projects.
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What is the significance of Indo-Japan ties?

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- Both India and Japan are confronting challenges with volatile global order in the Indo-Pacific region.
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- Therefore, cooperation between them, and that too on multiple fronts is both obvious and desirable.
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- Their collective interest in forging better and stronger ties has been demonstrated by both the quantity and quality of the reciprocal state visits witnessed in recent years.
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- Besides, it is said that the nations' personal rapport and the fact that both of the premiers exhibit similar right-wing nationalist sentiments seem to have brought them on the same page.
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What is the status of Sin0-Japan ties?

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- The Sino-Japan bilateral trade equals $300 billion in 2017, a 15 percent increase from the previous year.
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- Japanese Logistics Corporation has partnered with its Chinese to open up a trial logistics route from the eastern coast of China to Western Europe and Central Asia.
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- The Japan-China rapprochement is governed by multiple factors. Japan needs access to China's market.
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- While for China, whose ambitious BRI project is facing hurdles and opposition over the issues of transparency and is constantly being reviewed by successive governments, partnering with Japan will be a

much-needed boost to its image.
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- China’s economy and currency are facing tough times owing to trade spatting with the US and is willing to partner with other regional powers.
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What are opportunities before India?

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- The Japan-America-India (JAI) trilateral summit on the sidelines of G-20, reiterating a free and open Indo-Pacific, hints that the Sino-Japan rapprochement could be “tactical” at best.
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- However, these recent developments negate the typical “cold war” dynamics between China and the so-called democratic “Quad” that is increasingly being used to analyze the international politics in Asia.
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- Major Asian powers are engaging with each other guided by economic rationale.
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- Therefore, Asia is witnessing a strategic flux where power is diffused and demarcation of geopolitical interests are blurred.
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- Given the scenario, it is pertinent for New Delhi to not adopt a zero-sum game approach and objectively contextualize the Indo-Japan strategic partnership amidst interchangeable variables of the emerging strategic equation.
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Source: Business Line

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