# Indo-Japan Strategic Partnership

## What is the issue?

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- India & Japan currently have a “Special Strategic and Global Partnership”.
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- New Delhi accords this status to no other partner.
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- However, it largly falls short of a full fledged alliance.
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## Why did India confer such a status?

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- **Geopolitics -** The rise of China and doubts about USA’s commitments in Asia has pushed both the countries towards this relationship.
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- **Economic Aspect -** Japan is investing heavily in Indian projects.
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- The two countries are also working on a joint infrastructure development and connectivity drive traversing the Indian Ocean.
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- Their projects span from Myanmar to Sri Lanka to Iran and encompass the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor.
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- **Defence –** Indo-Japan joint naval exercises are being regularly organised together with the U.S. Navy.
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- Major arms deals like the ShinMaywa US-2i amphibious aircraft are on the cards.
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- Japanese investments in the strategically places like the Andaman & Nicobar Islands is also likely to help India enhance its security sentinals.
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## How is this different from an alliance?

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- Alliances have lacked their relevance in the post-cold war era and strategic partnerships have increasingly become the norm.
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- **Lacking commitment** - Unlike alliances, strategic partnerships don't demand commitments to a partner's disputes with other countries.
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- New Delhi does not take a strong position on Japan's territorial disputes with China and Russia.
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- Likewise, Tokyo does not openly side with India in its quarrels with China and Pakistan.
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- Strategic partnership involves countries retaining their unconstrained diplomatic flexibility while continuing political engagement & economic cooperation.
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- **Collaborative Approach –** It also involves regular high-level interactions over a range of activities whereas an alliance is usually more pronounced in for defense & economy.
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- India and Japan are not only moving forward on economic and defence cooperation but are also cooperating on issues such as civil nuclear energy and UN reform.
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- It is also essential in the present times where states find themselves interdependent, even if their relationship is characterised by strategic tension.
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- e.g. India might confront China at Doklam but it also wants Chinese investment.
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### Source: The HIndu

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