

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION FOR STORAGE AND REPATRIATION OF
REMAINS BETWEEN**

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, LABOUR, AND WELFARE OF JAPAN

AND

**ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

This Memorandum of Cooperation for Storage and Repatriation of Remains between the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan and the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) (hereinafter individually referred to as a "Participant" and collectively as the "Participants") provides the guidance for storage and handling of the remains believed to be of the Japanese war dead from World War II that were recovered by or unilaterally turned over to the MHLW and its designated organization, Japan Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties (JARRWC) (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Japanese side").

1. The AnSI, through the Ministry of Culture of India, intends to provide storage space in its ancient skeletal repository, or other locations as mutually determined, to conduct a Joint Physical Anthropological Review of human remains recovered during the missions of the Japanese side in India.
2. The Japanese side intends to:
 - a. Investigate and excavate/recover remains and material evidence at specified locations, and
 - b. Obtain permission(s) of the local people/government in the area where human remains are recovered as this is a necessary part of the accepted ethical guidelines.
3. The Japanese side intends to provide the following technical details of planned excavations and its results to the AnSI:
 - a. Recordings of the artifacts;
 - b. Mappings of the location of the artifacts found;
 - c. Layers/strata, which are planned for excavation and preparation of the layer;
 - d. Types of materials being collected;
 - e. Identification of artifacts and skeletal remains;
 - f. Documentation of the excavation;
 - g. Site photographs; and
 - h. Excavation logs.



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4. The Japanese side intends to bring the remains and associated artifacts to the AnSI's Kolkata facility or other locations as mutually determined.
5. The Participants intend to maintain chain of custody documentation for all items.
6. The Japanese side and the AnSI intend to store the remains at the AnSI's Kolkata facility, or other locations as mutually determined, until a Joint Physical Anthropological Review is conducted, and if authorised, repatriate the remains from the Republic of India to Japan.
7. The anthropology experts of the Japanese side and the AnSI intend to conduct a Joint Physical Anthropological Review on the remains recovered. The AnSI intends to establish a committee of experts who examine and document the remains jointly with the Japanese side.
8. The Japanese side and the AnSI intend to prepare the documentation required for the remains (photography, dimensions, qualitative descriptions, etc.) during the examination of the remains in accordance with the procedure mutually decided by the Participants in advance, and keep copies of the documents for the Japanese side and the AnSI.
9. If the remains are determined to have high probability of being Japanese war dead by the Joint Physical Anthropological Review, the Japanese side intends to bring samples from those remains to Japan and conduct advanced scientific analysis including DNA analysis on the samples. Once results are obtained, the Japanese side will report the results to the AnSI. For the remains which are identified to as the Japanese war dead, the elements except for the samples will be repatriated to Japan.
10. After conducting physical anthropological analysis and advanced scientific analysis including DNA analysis, if it is determined that the remains do not belong to Japanese war dead, the Japanese side intends to arrange to return the remains to the AnSI as soon as possible, and the AnSI intends to store the remains in its repository with full documentation while notifying the Government of India (Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Culture, and Ministry of Defense) and the relevant state government in India.
11. The Participants intend that the activities will be accomplished within mutually determined timeframes and all expenses associated with the transfer and return of materials will be borne by the Japanese side.
12. The Japanese side will endeavor to provide training programmes for the scientific officials of the AnSI as a measure to deepen their understanding for the recovery procedures etc. of the Japanese side so that the scientific officials can better assist the Japanese side's activities in India.



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13. The Japanese side intends to pay the travel cost, accommodations and food expenses of the AnSI scientific officials accompanying any contracted or partnered team during the excavation missions, in accordance with the Government of India.
14. The Participants intend to protect information received from the other Participant from disclosure in accordance with the legislation of Japan and India.
15. The appropriate members of the Participants will consult and exchange relevant information in support of the activities referred to this Memorandum of Cooperation.

This Memorandum of Cooperation will come into effect upon signing by the authorised representatives of the Participants and will continue to have effect for a period of five (5) years. This Memorandum of Cooperation may be extended in writing for a further period of five (5) years by mutual consent prior to the discontinuation of the original Memorandum of Cooperation. This Memorandum of Cooperation may be modified in writing by mutual consent of the Participants.

Signed in two originals in the English language.

For AnSI



Date: 24/02/2025

Place: Kolkata

Prof. B. V. Sharma
Director
Anthropological Survey of India

For MHLW



Date: 6 February 2025

Place: Tokyo

Ms. HIHARA Tomomi
Director-General
Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare