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75th Anniversary of Hiroshima Bombing

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Why in News

Japan marked 75 years of the atomic bombing on Hiroshima on **6th August, 2020.**

Survivors, relatives and foreign dignitaries attend the anniversary of Hiroshima every year to honour victims of the bombings and call for **world peace.**

Key Points

- **About:**
 - On **6th August 1945**, a US bomber dropped the **uranium fission bomb**, codenamed **Little Boy**, on **Hiroshima**, a city in Japan.
 - Three days later it dropped another bomb codenamed **Fat Man**, on **Nagasaki**.
 - The explosion and resultant firestorms are believed to have killed around 80,000 people in Hiroshima and around 40,000 people in Nagasaki.
 - Thousands more died in the following years due to the **exposure to radiation** from the blast and also from the **black rain** that fell in the aftermath of the explosions.
 - **Long-term effects** of the attack included birth defects, malnutrition, cancer and other illnesses
 - This bombing marked the end of **World War II**, with **Japan surrendering** to the **Allies** on 14th August 1945.
 - The Allies were one of the two major alliances during World War-II, led by **Great Britain, the United States**, and the **Soviet Union**.
 - The other alliance, **Axis** was led by **Germany, Italy**, and **Japan**.

- **Aftermath:**

- The attacks were widely criticized around the world for being **crimes against humanity**.

- Some historians argue the **bombings ultimately saved lives** by avoiding a land invasion that might have been significantly more deadly.

The United States has never apologised for the bombings.

- However, in Japan, the attacks are widely **regarded as war crimes** because they targeted civilians indiscriminately and caused unprecedented destruction.

- After the war, Hiroshima tried to reinvent itself as a **City of Peace** and continues to **promote nuclear disarmament** around the world.

- The survivors of this attack are known as “**Hibakusha**”, many of whom suffered physically and psychologically after the attack.

- Japan's wartime experience has led to a **strong pacifist movement in the country**. At the annual Hiroshima anniversary, the government usually reconfirms its commitment to a **nuclear-free world**.

Japan signed the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons** in February 1970.

Way Forward

- The 75th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki reminds us of the power that nuclear weapons possess. In present times, we have much more powerful bombs , like **Hydrogen bombs**, which can unleash much more massive destruction than the nuclear bomb.
- Division, distrust and a lack of dialogue threaten to return the world to unrestrained strategic nuclear competition. Though **Non-Proliferation treaty** and **No First Use Policy of India** are significant steps, much needs to be done to totally **eliminate the danger of nuclear war**.

Source: TH