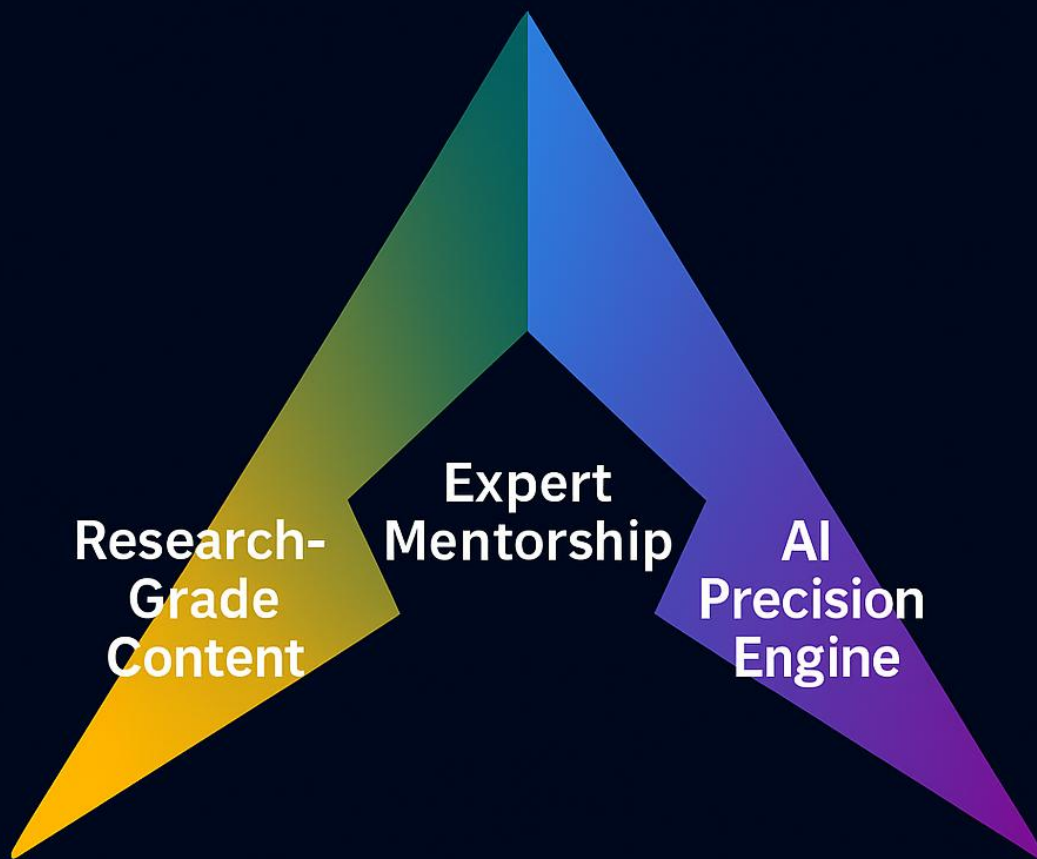


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GS Paper II: International Relations

1. India–Japan Summit: Deepening Strategic, Economic and Technology Partnership

a. Introduction

India and Japan share a Special Strategic and Global Partnership founded on democratic values, the rule of law, respect for international law and a shared commitment to a Free, Open and Inclusive Indo-Pacific (FOIP). Over the past two decades, bilateral relations have evolved from a predominantly economic partnership into a comprehensive strategic relationship encompassing defence, maritime security, resilient supply chains, emerging technologies and regional connectivity.

During the 16th India–Japan Annual Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi unveiled a new roadmap to deepen cooperation in economic security, energy resilience, critical minerals, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Indo-Pacific maritime security. The summit reflects the growing convergence between the two countries in addressing twenty-first century geopolitical, technological and economic challenges.



b. Background Context

India and Japan have steadily expanded cooperation through annual summits, defence dialogues, infrastructure partnerships and technology collaboration. Japan remains one of India's largest development partners through Official Development Assistance (ODA), long-term infrastructure financing and industrial investment.

The changing geopolitical environment—characterised by supply-chain disruptions, technological competition and maritime security challenges—has further strengthened the strategic relevance of the partnership.

Against this backdrop, the sixteenth Annual Summit sought to broaden bilateral cooperation from traditional infrastructure projects to emerging domains such as economic security, trusted technology and resilient supply chains.

c. Key Outcomes of the Summit

Joint Roadmap on Economic Security

- Adoption of a comprehensive roadmap to strengthen:
 - Resilient supply chains.
 - Trusted technologies.
 - Strategic industrial cooperation.
- Enhances long-term economic resilience against geopolitical disruptions.

New Mobility Framework

- Facilitates greater movement of:
 - Professionals.
 - Students.
 - Skilled workers.
- Strengthens people-to-people ties and supports economic cooperation.

India–Japan Artificial Intelligence Partnership

- Establishes cooperation for developing:
 - Safe.
 - Secure.
 - Human-centric.
 - Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence.
- Promotes innovation consistent with shared democratic values.

Joint Statement on Energy Resilience

- Reaffirms commitment to:
 - Diversifying energy sources.
 - Strengthening energy security.
 - Promoting clean and sustainable energy transitions.
- Enhances resilience against geopolitical and market disruptions.

Cooperation in Critical Minerals

- Expands collaboration in securing reliable supply chains for:
 - Semiconductors.
 - Batteries.
 - Electric vehicles.
 - Renewable energy technologies.
 - Advanced manufacturing.
- Reduces excessive dependence on concentrated global suppliers.

These outcomes demonstrate that India–Japan cooperation now extends beyond bilateral trade towards building resilient strategic capabilities.

d. Strategic Significance

Strengthening Economic Security

- Secure and resilient supply chains are increasingly integral to national security.
- Reduces vulnerabilities arising from supply disruptions and economic coercion.
- Promotes trusted production networks.

Enhancing Energy Resilience

- Diversifies energy sources.
- Improves resilience against geopolitical conflicts, market volatility and climate-related disruptions.

- Supports long-term energy security.

Advancing Technology Cooperation

- Expands collaboration in Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors and digital technologies.
- Encourages joint research, innovation and trusted technology ecosystems.
- Supports India's technological transformation.

Securing Critical Mineral Supply Chains

- Critical minerals are indispensable for clean energy, semiconductors, batteries and advanced manufacturing.
- Diversified supply chains enhance industrial competitiveness and strategic autonomy.

Reinforcing the Indo-Pacific Partnership

- Strengthens cooperation for a Free, Open and Inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- Supports freedom of navigation and respect for international law.
- Enhances maritime security and regional stability through the Quad.

Beyond these strategic gains, the summit reinforces the broader importance of India-Japan relations in shaping India's economic and geopolitical future.

e. Why the Partnership Matters

Major Development Partner

- Japan remains one of India's largest investors.
- Japanese investments have significantly contributed to:
 - Manufacturing.
 - Industrial corridors.
 - Urban infrastructure.
 - High-speed rail.
 - Metro systems.

Building Resilient Supply Chains

- Both countries seek to reduce excessive dependence on concentrated global production networks.
- Promote diversified, transparent and reliable manufacturing ecosystems.

Supporting the Rules-Based Order

- Shared commitment to:
 - International law.
 - Peaceful resolution of disputes.
 - Freedom of navigation.
- Strengthens strategic coordination under the Quad.

Promoting Trusted Technology Ecosystems

- Supports India's ambition to become a global hub for:
 - Advanced manufacturing.
 - Innovation.
 - Digital technologies.
- Enhances long-term strategic autonomy.

Sustaining this momentum requires translating summit-level commitments into concrete institutional and industrial outcomes.

f. Way Forward

Operationalise the Joint Roadmap on Economic Security

- Convert strategic commitments into investment projects.
- Establish institutional mechanisms for long-term implementation.

Expand Emerging Technology Cooperation

- Deepen collaboration in:
 - Semiconductors.
 - Artificial Intelligence.
 - Clean energy.
 - Critical minerals.
 - Advanced manufacturing.
- Build secure and diversified technology ecosystems.

Strengthen Maritime Security

- Enhance maritime domain awareness.
- Expand defence exercises.
- Improve information sharing.
- Deepen strategic dialogue under the Quad.

Build Resilient Regional Supply Chains

- Promote trusted manufacturing networks.
- Reduce exposure to geopolitical and economic disruptions.

Promote Innovation Partnerships

- Encourage collaboration among:
 - Industry.
 - Universities.
 - Research institutions
 - Startups.
- Accelerate technology transfer and long-term innovation.

Conclusion

The 16th India–Japan Annual Summit marks another important milestone in one of India's most consequential strategic partnerships. As technological competition, supply-chain realignment and Indo-Pacific geopolitics reshape the global order, India and Japan are increasingly collaborating to build secure, resilient and future-ready economic and strategic ecosystems. Sustained cooperation in emerging technologies, critical minerals, energy security and maritime governance will strengthen not only bilateral relations but also contribute to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Reader's Note — About This Current Affairs Compilation

Dear Aspirant,

This document is part of the PrepAlpine Current Affairs Series — designed to bring clarity, structure, and precision to your daily UPSC learning.

While every effort has been made to balance depth with brevity, please keep the following in mind:

1. Orientation & Purpose

This compilation is curated primarily from the UPSC Mains perspective — with emphasis on conceptual clarity, analytical depth, and interlinkages across GS papers.

However, the PrepAlpine team is simultaneously developing a dedicated Prelims-focused Current Affairs Series, designed for:

- factual coverage
- data recall
- Prelims-style MCQs
- objective pattern analysis

This Prelims Edition will be released separately as a standalone publication.

2. Content Length

Some sections may feel shorter or longer depending on topic relevance and news density. To fit your personal preference, you may freely resize or summarize sections using any LLM tool (ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc.) at your convenience.

3. Format Flexibility

The formatting combines:

- paragraphs
- lists
- tables
- visual cues

—all optimised for retention.

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The complete Monthly Current Affairs Module will be released soon, optimized to a compact 100–150 pages — comprehensive yet concise, exam-ready, and revision-efficient.

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