International Relations · GS - II

‘The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.’ Comment.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

India–Japan relations; Indo-Pacific; maritime security; economic cooperation; infrastructure investment; technology; supply-chain resilience; defence cooperation; regional stability; strategic autonomy

Model Answer

Introduction

India and Japan share democratic institutions, expanding economic ties and a common interest in a peaceful, stable and rules-based Indo-Pacific. Their partnership has acquired strategic significance amid changing regional power dynamics.

Areas of Cooperation

- **Strategic and maritime security:** Cooperation through the Quad and bilateral exercises supports maritime awareness, regional stability and freedom of navigation.
- **Economic partnership:** Japanese investment in Indian manufacturing, infrastructure and technology can support industrial development and employment.

- **Connectivity:** Projects such as the Mumbai–Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor demonstrate cooperation in advanced transport infrastructure.
- **Supply-chain resilience:** Collaboration in semiconductors, critical technologies and manufacturing can reduce excessive dependence on concentrated supply chains.
- **Technology and innovation:** Cooperation in clean energy, robotics, digital technologies and research can support sustainable growth.
- **Global governance:** Both countries have interests in reforming multilateral institutions and strengthening international cooperation.

Challenges

Trade imbalances, project delays, regulatory barriers and differences in strategic priorities can constrain cooperation. India also maintains strategic autonomy and diversified international partnerships.

Conclusion

A stronger India–Japan partnership can contribute to economic development, technological advancement and a stable Indo-Pacific. Sustained cooperation, mutual trust and practical implementation are essential to realise its regional and global potential.

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