Defence & Security · GS - III

India-Japan defence cooperation is expanding beyond traditional military exercises to include defence manufacturing, maritime security and emerging technologies. Examine its significance for India's national security and the stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

2+2 dialogue, defence industrial cooperation, joint exercises, maritime security, Indo-Pacific, AI, cybersecurity, technology transfer, strategic autonomy, QUAD.

Model Answer

Introduction

India and Japan have strengthened their strategic partnership through defence dialogues, military exercises and technological cooperation. Their expanding engagement reflects shared concerns regarding regional stability and emerging security threats.

Significance for India's National Security

1. **Defence preparedness:** Joint military exercises and live-fire training improve interoperability and operational capabilities.

2. **Defence manufacturing:** Industrial cooperation can promote technology transfer, indigenous production and diversification of defence supply chains.
3. **Maritime security:** Naval cooperation strengthens surveillance, maritime domain awareness and protection of critical sea lanes.
4. **Counter-terrorism:** Intelligence sharing and coordinated international action can help address transnational terrorist networks.
5. **Emerging technologies:** Cooperation in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity can improve preparedness against evolving threats.

Importance for the Indo-Pacific

India-Japan cooperation contributes to a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific. It complements broader initiatives such as the QUAD and strengthens cooperation on maritime security, regional connectivity and international law.

Challenges and Way Forward

Differences in defence procurement systems, technology restrictions and operational priorities may constrain cooperation. Both countries should promote regular strategic consultations, joint research, defence co-production and information-sharing mechanisms.

Conclusion

India-Japan defence cooperation can strengthen India's strategic autonomy while contributing to regional security. Its effectiveness will depend on sustained institutional coordination, technological collaboration and respect for international law.

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