International Relations · GS - II

Examine the changing security environment in the Indo-Pacific and discuss its implications for Japan's defence policy and India's strategic interests.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 17/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Indo-Pacific geopolitics, China's military expansion, North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes, Russia–Ukraine conflict, Japan's defence spending, Article 9, US–Japan alliance, Quad, India–Japan strategic partnership, maritime security, freedom of navigation, regional stability.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Indo-Pacific has emerged as a major centre of geopolitical competition. Japan's 2022 National Security Strategy described its security environment as the most severe and complex since the end of the Second World War, citing developments involving China, North Korea and Russia.

Main Body

Changing security environment

1. China: Expanding military capabilities and maritime activities have increased regional security concerns.
2. North Korea: Nuclear development and repeated ballistic missile tests threaten regional stability.
3. Russia: The war in Ukraine has heightened concerns about the use of force and wider geopolitical instability.

Implications for Japan and India

1. Japan has increased defence spending, developed new military capabilities and strengthened its alliance with the United States. These developments reflect a gradual shift from its traditionally restrained post-war security posture.
2. For India, closer cooperation with Japan through the Quad supports maritime security, resilient supply chains, defence cooperation and a rules-based Indo-Pacific order. However, regional militarisation also increases the risk of strategic competition and escalation.

Conclusion

India and Japan should strengthen defence dialogue, maritime cooperation and diplomatic engagement while promoting regional stability. Their partnership can contribute to a secure, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

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