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Strategic Convergence: The Third India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Meeting

The recent meeting of the Indian and Japanese Foreign and Defence Ministers in New Delhi marks a significant development in the strategic partnership between the two democracies aimed at preserving peace, stability and rules-based international order. The decision to update the 2008 Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation reflects a growing convergence of interests in the face of a changing regional order.

The Indo-Pacific region is witnessing growth in geopolitical tensions and unilateral assertions of power raising concerns for India and Japan. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of both nations to a rules-based international order, a veiled reference to China's disregard for international law in the South China Sea and buttressing the QUAD partnership.

This commitment to a rules-based framework is not merely rhetorical, it is a strategic necessity. For both India and Japan, navigating the complex security landscape of the Indo-Pacific requires a clear stance against any unilateral attempts to alter the status quo by force.

The meeting's strong support for ASEAN's unity and centrality, as well as the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AIOP)" underscores their recognition of Southeast Asia's important role in maintaining regional equilibrium.

Beyond defence and security, the relationship between Japan and India is being strengthened through efforts to enhance cultural and people-to-people ties. Initiatives like the establishment of India's new Consulate in Fukuoka and upcoming cultural exchange programmes reflect a comprehensive approach to their bilateral relations.

Alongside addressing security concerns, the Ministers unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its manifestations. They urged for decisive measures to dismantle terrorist networks and disrupt their support structures, underscoring their shared commitment to global peace and security.

The pow-wow reflects the growing economic ties between Japan and India and their mutual interest in diversifying supply chains. The partnership between India and Japan is strengthening, with increased defence ties, joint military exercises, and enhanced defence information sharing.

India is also participating in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), highlighting its strategic role in the region and the expanding collaboration with Japan. Both countries value the United States as a vital partner in maintaining regional security and are not aiming to exclude any other country.

In conclusion, the Third India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Meeting is a positive step forward for a strategic partnership that is becoming increasingly important in the Indo-Pacific region. The convergence of security and economic interests points towards a deepening relationship that will contribute to a stable and prosperous regional order.

Pradeep S. Mehta
Editor

P.S.: *Following his visit to Russia Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also visited Ukraine. Despite his appeal for peace, it does not appear to have any impact, as both countries are hell-bent upon rigid stands.*

Message for our Readers

This is the seventy-sixth edition of the Monthly Brief from the Centre, which carries select published news or comments on a relevant issue. There are equally important issues which may have been missed out to keep the Monthly Brief short and swiftly readable.

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Readers are encouraged to send their own views and suggestions at: cutsglobal@cuts.org



British Airways Axes One of its 'Most Important' Routes Amid Russian Airspace Ban

British Airways is suspending its London-Beijing route from 26 October 2024 due to competition from Chinese airlines, which offer shorter, cheaper flights by flying over Russia. Passengers are advised to claim refunds and rebook with Chinese carriers.



- [Vietnam PM Sets Ambitious Target of \\$20 Billion in Bilateral Trade with India](#) | The Economic Times (Paywall)
- [Doubling India-Africa Trade by 2030, More Economic Integration in Focus: Govt](#) | Money Control
- [India, and the US Discuss Energy Cooperation, Focus on Grid Modernization and Manufacturing](#) | ET Energy World
- [Arab Gulf States double down mining efforts](#) | Mining.com
- [India Surpasses China to Become Russia's Top Oil Buyer in July 2024](#) | Reuters

Strategic Issues

India, US Military-to-Military Relationship Strong: Pentagon

The Pentagon highlighted the strong military-to-military relationship between India and the United States. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Washington for a four-day visit to enhance the comprehensive global strategic partnership. He is set to meet U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin at the Pentagon.



- [Biden Approved Secret Nuclear Weapons Strategy Focusing on China](#) | New York Times
 - [India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue: Strategic Talks in New Delhi Amidst Global Tensions](#) | Financial Express
 - [NATO Must Wake Up to Russia's Nuclear Power Deal with Turkey](#) | Middle East Institution
 - [While we wait for the new BanglaDress](#) | The Times of India
 - [China-Philippines South China Sea Sabina Shoal Escalation](#) | Foreign Policy
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Energy and Climate



UN chief urges climate justice for Pacific nations beset by rising oceans

In Samoa, UN Chief António Guterres highlighted the resilience of Pacific islanders against climate change but criticised the lack of promised funding. He urged international financial reforms and increased climate finance to support vulnerable nations like Samoa, advocating for the use of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index in funding decisions.



- [LNG Exports to India & Southeast Asia Hit New High as European Demand Slumps](#) | FirstPost
- [Japan, Indonesia, Others Agree to Build Sustainable Fuel Supply Chain](#) | Nikkei Asia
- [India and Japan Sign Agreement for Green Ammonia Export](#) | Hindu Business
- [Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon Rainforest Is Down to Lowest Level Since 2016](#) | AP News

Geo-Politics



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar says 'era of uninterrupted dialogue with Pakistan is over'

The EAM was speaking at a book launch event in Delhi where he made some crucial comments on India's relationship with Pakistan. "The era of uninterrupted dialogue with Pakistan is over. Actions have consequences. So far as J&K is concerned, Article 370 is done. So, the issue is what kind of relationship we can contemplate with Pakistan," Jaishankar said.



- [Chinese Dam Construction In Afghanistan: Implications for Pakistan](#) | The Diplomat
 - [Honest talks are needed, Starmer tells Chinese leader](#) | BBC
 - [The Middle East's problems extend far beyond Gaza](#) | Financial Times (Paywall)
 - [What the US should do on Iran-Israel — and what it should not](#) | Financial Times
 - [US Move to Boost Security Alliance With UK, Australia Just the Start, Officials Say](#) | US News
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PM Modi Proposes "Global Development Compact" At Global South Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed a human-centric "Global Development Compact" at the third Voice of the Global South Summit, aiming to facilitate trade, technology sharing, and concessional financing without burdening developing nations with debt. He emphasised collaboration on food, energy security, and terrorism challenges, with India committing funds to support these initiatives.



- [Time has come for interest rate cut, says Fed chair](#) | BBC
 - ['Huge benefits' in greater debt relief for lower-income countries, study finds](#) | The Guardian
 - [Japan to offer \\$2bn in trade support for Central Asia projects](#) | Nikkei Asia
 - [India, Malaysia upgrade strategic partnership, discuss BRICS membership](#) | The Hindu (Paywall)
 - [Indonesia moves to reduce Chinese ownership of nickel projects](#) | Financial Times
 - [Big Tech in China doubles AI spending despite US restrictions](#) | Financial Times
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India among critical tech leaders, behind only US and China in AI

India has become a global research leader, ranking in the top five for 45 out of 64 critical technologies in 2023. It ranks second in seven areas, notably in biological manufacturing and distributed ledger technology, but faces challenges due to fragmented research and a lack of standout institutions.



- [What if South Korea got a nuclear bomb?](#) | The Economist
- [Google's online search monopoly is illegal, US judge rules](#) | BBC
- [Mpox triggers second global alert in 2 years as new variant spreads rapidly](#) | Business Standard
- [How the war in Ukraine is reviving Russia's rustbelt](#) | Financial Times

Articles

- [India's good bet: Quad in the Indian Ocean](#) - By Pradeep S Mehta, Purushendra Singh and Madhvendra Singh.
- [Quad's Two Decades of Strategic Synergy in the Indo-Pacific](#)- Anjali Shekhawat and Dhruv Bansal
- [More Than Just Flight: India's Drone Age](#) – Dhruv Bansal and Anjali Shekhawat