



## Prime Minister's visit to Japan, 2025: An Analysis

**Kanika Yadav**

Department of Political Science, Ram Lal Anand College, University of Delhi, India,

Email ID: kanika31529@gmail.com

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19543558>

### ARTICLE DETAILS

**Research Paper**

**Accepted:** 27-03-2026

**Published:** 10-04-2026

### Keywords:

*Artificial intelligence,  
Bilateral cooperation,  
Climate change, Global  
partnership, Investment,  
Next generation  
infrastructure.*

### ABSTRACT

This article focuses on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's August 2025 visit to Japan. The different areas of cooperation and various MoUs (memorandum of understanding) that were signed between the two countries. The paper also examines the cultural exchange witnessed through gifts. This paper provides a detailed understanding of how India and Japan are looking forward to establishing their relationship much more strongly. Both nations are discussing economic, business and trade exchanges along with digital and technological collaboration among their companies and not just that, the space cooperation between their respective space agencies has been discussed. The paper elaborates on the cultural and environmental ties between the countries. This article shows how India and Japan are looking forward to strengthening their defence ties through various maritime exercises they perform together. The two leaders have appreciated the historical ties through this visit in 2025 and maintaining balance for prospects as well. The paper concludes with the upcoming developments and exchanges.

### Introduction

Following an invitation from Japanese Prime Minister H.E. Shigeru Ishiba, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Japan for the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit on August 29–30, 2025. The leaders of both countries talked about strategies for mutual partnership and future cooperation. They also



valued the relationship between Japan and India over the past ten years. The "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" between the two nations was discussed by the two prime ministers during their visit.

The PM's visit to Japan covered 5 areas that India has broadly focused on: manufacturing, technology & innovation, next-generation infrastructure, skill development, green energy technology, and people-to-people ties. They signed 13 MoUs according to the official date received from the Ministry of External Affairs.

### **Economic security and mineral resources**

During the meeting, the Prime Minister emphasised India's economic growth to expand business opportunities and boost Japanese investment, which would benefit both countries, claiming that India has been the fastest-growing major economy and that it will be the third-largest economy. Japan announced to invest nearly ₹5.96 lakh crore in India over the next decade. The focus remains on multiple sectors, including AI, semiconductors, the environment, and medicine.

Japan and India launched an Economic Security Initiative with the following goals in mind: robust supply chains, bilateral cooperation in essential minerals, clean energy, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, and new technologies

The two Prime Ministers signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for mineral resources between the two countries to cooperate on critical minerals and expand future business opportunities. The Memorandum of Understanding in this field emphasises cooperative mining and exploration investments as well as improved supply chain resilience for significant minerals.

### **Technological and digital partnerships**

The two Prime Ministers signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) that mainly deals with Digital public infrastructure, Multilateral cooperation on artificial intelligence, research and Joint innovation programs. They also discussed the importance of startups and promoting them; they came up with JISSI (Japan–India Startup Support Initiative)

The document includes increasing bilateral cooperation in digital infrastructure, cultivating digital talent, and collaborative R&D. The main emphasis is still on cutting-edge technologies like semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT).



The Chandrayaan-5 mission agreement was signed by the Japanese space agency, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and the Indian space agency, Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO). Prime Minister Modi and his Japanese counterpart, Shigeru Ishiba, decided that both nations' space agencies would work together on the Chandrayaan-5 mission to jointly investigate the southern area of the Moon.

### **Defence and maritime security**

Long-standing defence security cooperation between India and Japan continues with this visit. They highlighted Tokyo's fourth round of the 2+2 summit.

The two nations have been practising military exercises such as MILAN Exercises by Japan Maritime Self-Defence Forces and Tarang Shakti hosted by India, but Japan too was involved. They appreciated ongoing collaborations and looked forward to more.

### **Exchange of diplomats**

The Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs inked another significant Memorandum of Understanding to encourage the interaction of professionals, researchers, officials, academics, and diplomats to develop a sophisticated understanding between the parties in the area of foreign policy.

### **Environmental collaboration**

This Memorandum of Understanding aims to foster collaboration in areas such as waste management, pollution management, and sustainable use. The signing of a distinct MoU for wastewater and decentralised wastewater management was essential for environmental protection, sustainable development, and public health.

### **Exchange of gifts & its significance**

Towards the end of the meeting, it was concluded that the key areas of focus were: Focus on Economic Partnership, to deepen people-to-people ties, Security and defence cooperation

Ramen Bowl to Japan's PM: Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave his Japanese counterpart, Ishiba, a set of antique precious stone bowls with silver chopsticks. Inspired by the donburi and soba traditions of Japan, it had four smaller moonstone bowls and a huge brown one (taken from Andhra Pradesh, AP). The



Japanese PM's spouse received a pashmina shawl. Additionally, he gave the spouse of Japan's prime minister a hand-painted papier mache box.

The gift exchange serves as a way to express goodwill, honour the host country and depict a cultural exchange of their heritage.

Prime Minister Modi's trip to Japan was an attempt by India to forge a strategic partnership and ensure regional peace and security in an uncertain world order. During the tariff war, the visit made it abundantly evident to the Trump administration that India would not compromise on its national interests and could forge close ties with the Indo-Pacific area.

According to a report from Japan Forward, which highlights cultural exchange and various investments in India. Both countries share a common vision for Indo-Pacific.

PM's visit to Japan in August 2025 was a success for their relations as well to ensure balance in the Indo-Pacific collaboration, both sides had reaffirmed their commitment to elevating the "special strategic and global partnership" with Ishiba, highlighting successful collaboration in investment, manufacturing and technology.

## **Conclusion**

In December 2025, Prime Minister Modi met current Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, where both leaders agreed to further advance the India–Japan Special Strategic Partnership.

Recent developments under the Japan-India human resources exchange and cooperation action plan demonstrate this dedication in practice. The Japan National Tourism Organisation in India is hosting the Japan Travel Fair 2026 with the goal of promoting travel and cross-cultural interaction. Japan's national cricket team jersey was symbolically given to India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar by Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi during the Japan-India Strategic Dialogue. "It also carried meaning," stated Noriaki Abe, a minister at the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi. Cricket, a sport deeply ingrained in Indian culture, is creating an unexpected yet powerful bond between our two nations.

"The bilateral trade was \$21 billion USD in 2023–2024, which increased to \$25.17 billion in 2026," the research stated. It comes to the conclusion that Japan-India relations are gradually moving away from conventional diplomacy and toward a comprehensive alliance based on common democratic principles, technology, and security.



## References

- Walia, Simran (2025). *Why Narendra Modi's Upcoming Visit to Japan Is Strategically Significant*. The diplomat
- The Hans India. (2025). *Japan-India ties gain fresh momentum with stronger security, technology push: Report*
- Ministry of External Affairs (India). *Prime Minister attends India-Japan Economic Forum* (August 29, 2025)
- Ministry of External Affairs. *List of Outcomes: Prime Minister's Visit to Japan* (August 29 – 30, 2025)
- Firstpost (2025). *From Chandrayaan to AI initiative, why PM Modi's Japan visit is a big win for India*
- <https://affairscloud.com/overview-of-pm-narendra-modis-visit-to-japan-from-august-29-to-30->
- Pmindia.gov (2025) *India – Japan Joint Vision for the Next Decade: Eight Directions to Steer the Special Strategic and Global Partnership*
- <https://www.manoramayearbook.in/current-affairs/india/2025/08/30/pm-modi-in-japan-explained.html>
- Pandit, Rabi (2025). *List of Key Outcomes of PM Modi's Visit to Japan 2025*. Barristery *List of Key Outcomes of PM Modi's Visit to Japan 2025* | BARRISTERY.in - An Educational Platform
- Upadhyaya, Pranay *PM Modi to visit Japan, China for key summits from August 29*. *India today*, New Delhi, UPDATED: Aug 22, 2025 21:24 IST Written By: Avijit Das