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Digest

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Japanese PM visits Vietnam, Australia

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi [embarked](#) on a four-day visit to Vietnam and Australia between 1 and 5 May. In Vietnam, her first stop, she [held](#) summit meetings with both To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party and President of Vietnam, [and](#) Prime Minister Le Minh Hung. The two sides agreed to further deepen bilateral exchanges across a variety of domains, with economic security as a new priority area. The Vietnamese expressed interest in securing Japanese assistance in replenishing depleted stocks of oil and in strengthening critical minerals supply chains. They also agreed to take forward deeper security cooperation. Takaichi invited President To Lam to Japan in the second half of 2026. During the summit meeting with Prime Minister Le, both leaders engaged in a substantive review of all major aspects of their bilateral relationship as well as regional issues of concern.

A highlight of the Vietnam leg of Takaichi's visit was her [articulation](#) of a new iteration of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific concept articulated by Japan. In a [speech](#) delivered to students and dignitaries at the Vietnam National University on 2 May, Takaichi put her own gloss on the FOIP concept, which was previously 'updated' by former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in 2022. The updated version of FOIP now includes the realisation that 'it is essential for countries in the region to acquire autonomy and resilience in the economic, social, and security spheres in order to determine their own future in an increasingly complex web of

interdependence'. In order to achieve this, Takaichi committed to working on 'three priority areas in order to strengthen the autonomy and resilience of countries: (a) building an economic infrastructure for the age of AI and data including strengthening supply chain resilience for energy and critical materials; (b) co-creation of economic growth opportunities through public-private collaboration and rule sharing; and (c) enhancing cooperation in the field of security to ensure regional peace and stability.'

On 4 May, Takaichi, now in Australia, [held](#) a summit meeting with her Australian opposite number Anthony Albanese before calling on Governor-General Samantha Mostyn. During her 80-minute [meeting](#) with Prime Minister Albanese, both sides expressed the desire to further deepen bilateral relations across a wide range of fields, focusing on the next 50 years. They welcomed the signing of the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Economic Security Cooperation as well as joint statements on critical minerals and energy security, and agreed to add further muscle to their robust security cooperation. They issued a Leaders' Statement on security cooperation and agreed to launch a Japan-Australia Strategic Cyber Partnership and Japan-Australia Leadership Dialogue to promote greater interactions on cybersecurity and people-to-people connections respectively.

India-Japan ministerial meetings on S&T, healthcare held

Economic Security Minister Kimi Onoda, in her concurrent charges as Science and Technology and Healthcare Policy

Minister, visited India for ministerial summits with her counterparts, Shri JP Nadda and Dr Jitendra Singh. On 5 May, Onoda and Shri Nadda [co-chaired](#) the third iteration of the Joint Committee Meeting on Healthcare between India and Japan at Bharat Mandapam. Shri Nadda pointed out that India-Japan collaboration on healthcare was based on ‘a shared vision of strengthening health systems, improving accessibility and promoting innovation for better health outcomes’, while Onoda underscored ‘Japan’s continued engagement in advancing healthcare cooperation through innovation, technology and research, while expressing commitment to further strengthening bilateral collaboration’. Discussions during the meeting revolved around four key areas: Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Supply Chain Resilience and Access to High-Quality Medical Products and Services, Digital Health and Human Resource Development and Exchange.

The next day, Onoda [called on](#) Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh with a high-level delegation, this time in her capacity as Minister for Science & Technology Policy and Minister of State for Space Policy. Both sides discussed collaboration on medical devices, critical and emerging technologies and the India-Japan partnership in strategic technology development. The meeting resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of health and medical devices and a Letter of Intent (LoI) on cooperation in Quantum Science and Technology.

Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

On 26 May 2026, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting was [held](#) in New Delhi. Japan’s Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi attended the meeting alongside his Indian, Australian and United States counterparts. The four chief diplomats reviewed the progress of past Quad initiatives and announced two new ones. The Indo-Pacific Energy Security Initiative is designed to bring to bear each country’s strengths on resolving the problem of energy security for smaller Indo-Pacific states, while the Critical Minerals Initiative Framework is expected to implement the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative agreed during the July 2025 foreign ministers’ meeting. Additionally, all four partners agreed to create a Common Operating Picture for the Indo-Pacific through the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness initiative launched in 2022.

The day after the meeting, Motegi [held](#) bilateral talks with United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio, where they discussed regional issues such as the Taiwan Strait and Iran. Rubio took the opportunity to brief Motegi on the recently-concluded US-China Summit, while Motegi called for an early resolution of the Iran crisis. The two sides agreed to work closely on supply chain security. In similar meetings with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Dr S Jaishankar, Motegi underscored the importance of securing energy supplies and promoting resilience in critical supply chains.