

Maximum Nuclear, Maximum Deterrence? Energy Policy and Strategic Signalling in Japan

ABSTRACT

Japan's Three Non-Nuclear Principles have anchored its postwar security identity, but rising regional threats and doubts about U.S. extended deterrence have revived debate over their future. Under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, discussions on revising the "non-introduction" clause and expanding military capabilities signal strategic recalibration. The article argues that Japan remains a threshold nuclear state where intent not capability, will determine whether it pursues doctrinal change or continues calibrated hedging under the NPT framework.

Aita Dey

Research Fellow, FORESIGHT Research

Index

Maximum Nuclear, Maximum Deterrence? Energy Policy and Strategic Signalling in Japan.....2

February News Summary.....6

References.....18

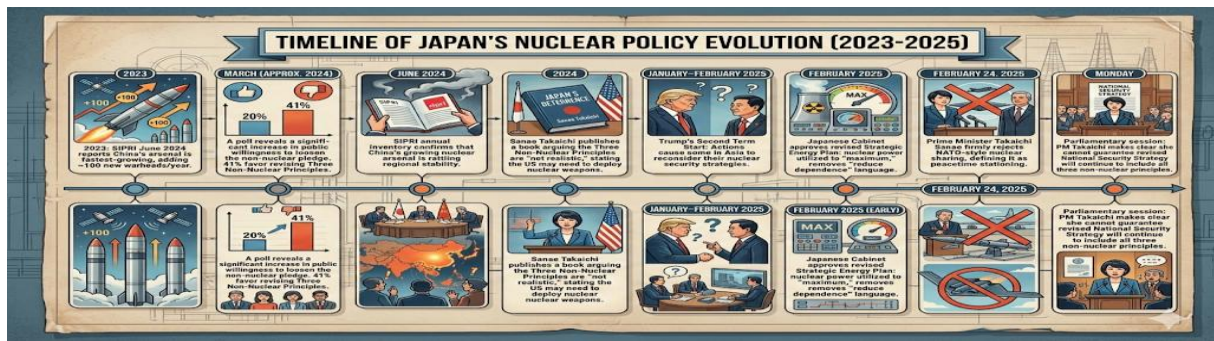
Maximum Nuclear, Maximum Deterrence? Energy Policy and Strategic Signalling in Japan

Abstract

Japan's Three Non-Nuclear Principles have anchored its postwar security identity, but rising regional threats and doubts about U.S. extended deterrence have revived debate over their future. Under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, discussions on revising the “non-introduction” clause and expanding military capabilities signal strategic recalibration. The article argues that Japan remains a threshold nuclear state where intent not capability, will determine whether it pursues doctrinal change or continues calibrated hedging under the NPT framework.

Introduction

Since 1967, Japan's Three Non-Nuclear Principles—non-possession, non-production, and non-introduction have anchored its postwar security identity, rooted in the legacy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and sustained under the U.S. nuclear umbrella within the NPT framework. Today, however, intensifying pressures, China's rapidly expanding arsenal (estimated at roughly 600 warheads by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute), North Korea's advancing missile capabilities, and Russia's nuclear signalling in the Ukraine war—are testing this foundation. Under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Tokyo has reaffirmed non-possession and non-production while signalling possible flexibility on non-introduction, a debate echoed by the Japan Innovation Party. Simultaneously, Japan is undertaking its most significant postwar military shift raising defence spending to 2% of GDP, adopting counterstrike capabilities, expanding U.S. procurement (including Tomahawk missiles and F-35 upgrades), considering nuclear-powered submarines, and relaxing arms export rules while responding to intensified Chinese grey-zone coercion in the East China Sea around the Senkaku Islands. Parallel expansion of nuclear energy under the 2025 Revised Strategic Energy Plan, targeting 20% nuclear power by 2040 and retaining full fuel-cycle capability with roughly 45 metric tons of separated plutonium under oversight of the Nuclear Regulation Authority, reinforces Japan's status as a nuclear latent state. With domestic opinion gradually shifting, 41% now supporting revision of the principles, the central issue is less capability than intent, suggesting a strategy of insurance hedging that preserves nuclear option value while formally upholding non-nuclear commitments.



Case Study 1: Japan Introduces U.S. Nuclear Weapons

Scenario: Limited Nuclear Hosting under an Alliance Contingency Doctrine

This scenario envisions Japan reinterpreting the “non-introduction” component of the Three Non-Nuclear Principles to permit the temporary or conditional presence of U.S. nuclear weapons on its territory during a severe regional crisis.

Trigger Conditions

The most plausible catalyst would be a major Taiwan Strait contingency involving direct U.S.–China confrontation. Escalatory Chinese nuclear signalling, such as missile dispersals, elevated alert levels, or explicit deterrent messaging could prompt Washington to redeploy tactical nuclear assets to reinforce extended deterrence in the Indo-Pacific. If U.S. credibility appeared weakened by nuclear coercion by Russia constraining Western intervention, Tokyo could fear alliance decoupling.

Policy Shift Mechanism

Rather than a formal repeal through the Diet, Japan could adopt a narrow reinterpretation of the “non-introduction” clause. Mechanisms might include:

- Strategic ambiguity regarding whether U.S. naval vessels entering Japanese ports are nuclear-armed.
- Temporary forward deployment arrangements during declared contingencies.
- Executive reinterpretation embedded in alliance operational planning without legislative codification.

Such an approach would preserve formal adherence to the “non-possession” and “non-production” commitments under the NPT while altering the operational meaning of non-introduction.

Strategic Rationale

The objective would be to reinforce deterrence by denial and punishment: forward-deployed U.S. nuclear assets would shorten response times, strengthen signalling credibility, and complicate adversary planning. It would signal firm alliance cohesion, reduce incentives for independent nuclearization, and approximate aspects of NATO-style nuclear sharing without granting Japan operational control.

Immediate Consequences

Regionally, the move would likely provoke strong reactions from China and North Korea, including expanded missile deployments and intensified grey-zone tactics. South Korea and ASEAN states could view it as a destabilizing precedent, while Japan's standing within the NPT community would face scrutiny despite technical compliance. Domestically, polarization would deepen, straining political cohesion along generational and ideological lines.

Long-Term Implications

Over time, Japan would transition from a nuclear latent state to a nuclear hosting state. While still not possessing weapons, the symbolic threshold crossing would erode regional non-proliferation norms. South Korea might face pressure to seek similar arrangements, and China could justify further quantitative or doctrinal nuclear expansion.

Strategic Assessment

This scenario represents a doctrinal rupture, strengthening short-term deterrence by visibly integrating Japan into the U.S. nuclear posture but eroding its non-proliferation credibility and risking regional nuclear competition. The trade-off is immediate deterrence gains versus long-term stability costs, contingent on adversary reactions and alliance cohesion.

Case Study 2: Policy Remains Unchanged

Scenario: Reinforced Non-Nuclear Identity with Advanced Conventional Capabilities

In this scenario, Japan retains all Three Non-Nuclear Principles while substantially strengthening its conventional deterrence posture. Rather than reinterpreting the “non-introduction” clause, Tokyo doubles down on its long-standing non-nuclear identity and compensates through technological, doctrinal, and alliance enhancements.

Trigger Conditions

This pathway assumes a stable but competitive U.S.–China rivalry in which crises remain contained below direct great-power war. Continued reassurance from the United States through visible force posture, strategic dialogues, and reaffirmation of extended deterrence reduces fears of alliance decoupling. China's nuclear arsenal display at its military parade in September 2025 could potentially FastTrack Japan's military use of nuclear technology plans

Policy Position

Under this approach, Japan explicitly reaffirms all Three Non-Nuclear Principles in its National Security Strategy. The government continues to reject NATO-style nuclear sharing arrangements and clarifies that no reinterpretation of “non-introduction” is under consideration. This preserves reliance on U.S. extended deterrence without introducing nuclear weapons onto Japanese territory.

Strategic Compensation Measures

To address rising regional threats, Japan is accelerating conventional modernization expanding counterstrike capabilities to target adversary missile sites and command nodes. Deployment of long-range systems such as Tomahawk cruise missiles, alongside enhanced Aegis-based missile defence, strengthens layered deterrence without nuclear escalation. Consideration of nuclear-powered (non-armed) submarines improves endurance and sea-denial capacity, while deeper joint planning with U.S. forces enhances interoperability and alliance signalling.

Consequences

This approach sustains Japan’s moral authority within the global non-proliferation regime and reinforces its identity as a responsible NPT-compliant state. It avoids provoking an immediate regional arms race, particularly with China or South Korea, and reduces the likelihood of rapid nuclear escalation during crises. At the same time, the alliance with the United States remains credible through visible conventional integration and forward-deployed U.S. capabilities.

Strategic Assessment

This pathway reflects calibrated hedging, not doctrinal rupture, preserving flexibility while limiting escalation. Japan strengthens conventional deterrence and alliance integration while retaining nuclear latency as a strategic fallback. The approach balances alliance credibility, non-proliferation commitments, and sovereign technological leverage, but its durability depends on U.S. extended deterrence credibility and the pace of China’s military expansion.

What’s in it for India?

Japan’s evolving nuclear and strategic posture creates calibrated opportunities for India under the India–Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Even if Tokyo retains its Three Non-Nuclear Principles, expanded conventional deterrence and civil nuclear capacity open avenues in dual-use technology, maritime domain awareness, and supply chain resilience.

The Agreement Concerning Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy provides a framework for collaboration in nuclear safety regulation, advanced reactors (including SMRs), fuel-cycle management, and non-proliferation best practices. In defence, interoperability can deepen under the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement, with expanded coordination through the Malabar Exercise in ASW, ISR integration, and sea-lane security. Cooperation in propulsion safety standards and undersea domain awareness would further strengthen maritime deterrence.

Through QUAD mechanisms and the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative, both states can enhance intelligence fusion and infrastructure security in response to grey-zone coercion.

Ultimately, India's scope lies in high-technology defence integration, civil nuclear innovation, and operational interoperability anchoring Indo-Pacific stability in coordinated conventional deterrence rather than nuclear escalation.

Monthly news table

Sr. No.	Date	Sector	News Headline	Source
1.	24/02/26	Politics	<u>Japan's Diet Begins Debate on Takaichi's Budget Plans, 'Proactive Fiscal Policy' -The Japan News</u>	Japannews Yomiuri
2.	25/02/26	Politics	<u>Japan PM draws criticisms for gifts to LDP lawmakers, denies illegality</u>	Kyodonews
3.	26/02/26	Politics	<u>Yamaguchi District Court Iwakuni Branch rejects suspension of operation of Ikata nuclear power plant - Nihon Keizai Shimbun</u>	Nikkei
4.	24/02/26	Politics	<u>Prime Minister Takaichi says he has no proposal for nuclear possession: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
5.	21/02/26	Politics	<u>PM Takaichi Spells out Plans to Advance Bold Policy Shifts in Speech at Diet - The Japan News</u>	Japannews Yomiuei
6.	16/02/26	Politics	<u>Liberal Democratic Party appoints former Justice Minister Mori as Speaker of the House of Representatives: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
7.	16/02/26	Politics	<u>TEPCO supplies power from nuclear power plant for the first time in 14 years from Kashiwazaki-Kariwa to the Tokyo metropolitan area Mainichi Shimbun</u>	Mainichi
8.	19/02/26	Politics	<u>Kei Uno, 170,000 pieces of personal information may have been leaked due to unauthorized access: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
9.	19/02/26	Politics	<u>Cyber Hattack on Advantest - Possibility of ransomware: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
10.	18/02/26	Politics	<u>Over 110,000 pieces of personal information leaked confirmed by cyber attack -Asahi GHD: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji

11.	19/02/26	Politics	<u>2nd Takauchi Cabinet begins full-scale with aggressive fiscal policy and efforts to strengthen security; Vice-ministers and parliamentary vice-ministers selected - Sankei News</u>	Sankei
12.	6/02/26	Politics	<u>Japan Restarts World's Largest Nuclear Fukushima February 9</u>	CNBCIndonesia
13.	9/2/26	Politics	<u>Japan Election: Japan's Sanseito Party Keeps Momentum Going, Increases Seats in House of Representatives - The Japan News</u>	Japanese yomiuri
14.	9/2/26	Politics	<u>Japan Election: Record 27 Million Ballots Cast in Early Voting Amid Heavy Snow Forecasts - The Japan News</u>	Japanese yomiuri
15.	9/2/26	Politics	<u>Liberal Democratic Party landslide victory, over 310 seats, Takaichi government continues, two-thirds alone - moderate defeat, Noda announces resignation, takes office, future advances [2026 House of Representatives election]: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
16.	10/2/26	Politics	<u>Special Diet session convened on the 18th, second Takauchi cabinet to be inaugurated - Meiji Restoration cabinet to be entered with next reshuffle: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
17.	24/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan Shows Importance of S. Korea Ties with Reserved Decision on Takeshima Day Ceremony - The Japan News</u>	Japanese yomiuri
18.	24/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan's Shinjiro Koizumi Assures Pacific Islands of Growing Ties at JPIDD Meeting- The Japan News</u>	Japanese yomiuri
19.	24/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney set for Japan visit - The Japan Times</u>	JapanTimes
20.	24/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan pushes back decision on joining Trump's Board of Peace - The Japan Times</u>	JapanTimes
21.	25/02/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japanese government demands release of one Japanese national detained in Iran in January: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji

22.	24/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japanese and German leaders hold telephone talk to discuss understanding of China: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
23.	22/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>U.S. and Japan discuss China's 'destabilizing' nuclear buildup and testing - The Japan Times</u>	JapanTimes
24.	21/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Russia says no peace dialogue ongoing with Japan over territorial dispute - The Japan Times</u>	JapanTimes
25.	22/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Trump boosts new tariff rate to 15% a day after announcing 10% - The Japan Times</u>	JapanTimes
26.	22/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>South Korea protests on "Takeshima Day", relieved that response is similar to previous years: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
27.	22/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Working-level talks between Japanese and U.S. foreign affairs and defense authorities; Japanese side emphasizes the importance of Russia and China's participation in future arms control discussions NHK News Nuclear/missile, nuclear weapons-related, United States</u>	NHK
28.	16/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan Moves to Strengthen Europe Ties at Munich Security Conference as China Exploits U.S.-Europe Divide - The Japan News</u>	Japannews Yomiuri
29.	16/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan to strengthen Indo-Pacific strategy amid 'new challenges' - The Japan Times</u>	Japannews Yomiuri
30.	15/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japanese government strengthens support for Indonesian remote islands, South China Sea, China check: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
31.	14/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan-U.S. foreign ministers hold talks in Munich to coordinate for March summit: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji

32.	14/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan Launches Probe into China's Tiktok Operator over Copyright Violations; Videos Featured AI-Generated Takaichi, Detective Conan, Ultraman - The Japan News</u>	Japannews Yomiuri
33.	14/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Takaichi reiterates willingness to meet with North Korean leader - The Japan Times</u>	JapanTimes
34.	17/02/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Deepening Japan-U.S. cooperation on economic security: 84 trillion yen investment and loan begins: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
35.	19/02/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan and India sign memorandum on domestic AI development, human resources utilization, business creation: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
36.	17/02/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Government to donate approximately 1.378 billion yen to UNESCO to support Ukraine and other countries NHK News Historical and cultural properties, Takauchi Cabinet, Israel and Palestine</u>	NHK
37.	18/02/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Director of the National Security Agency will visit the US tomorrow to meet with Secretary of State Rubio NHK News Security, Japan-US Summit, Takauchi Cabinet</u>	NHK
38.	16/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>China's top diplomat warns Japan of 'ghosts of militarism' in rebuke of Takaichi -The Japan Times</u>	Japanese yomiuri
39.	6/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan to send election observer mission to Bangladesh for Feb-12 polls</u>	unb
40.	6/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Bangladesh, Japan sign historic EPA</u>	unb

41.	7/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>SCAF: the Élysée reaffirms its attachment to the Franco-German partnership for military aircraft - Le Parisien</u>	Le parisien
42.	7/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan's PM Takaichi to Meet Trump in U.S. on March 19 - The Japan News</u>	Japanese yomiuri
43.	7/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>China OKs several Japan-bound rare earth exports under tightened controls</u>	Kyodonews
44.	7/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>The President of Turkmenistan received Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan BUCHAREST, ROMANIA - EMBASSY OF TURKMENISTAN</u>	Romania
45.	10/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>U.S. plans to boost security and economic cooperation with Japan after LDP win -The Japan Times</u>	JapanTimes
46.	11/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Germany considers participation in Japan-UK-Italy fighter jets, considering development stalled with France: Jiji.com</u>	jiji
47.	10/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Akazawa to discuss first investment in the US with US Secretary of Commerce; visit to US from 11th - Nihon Keizai Shimbun</u>	Nikkei
48.	11/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Fujifilm opens UK factory for contract manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals, investing approximately 83 billion yen - Nihon Keizai Shimbun</u>	Nikkei
49.	2/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan, Britain PMs agree on collaboration in critical mineral supply chains</u>	NikkeiAsia

50.	2/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Pokemon card event at Japan's Yasukuni shrine canceled after China protests</u>	NikkeiAsia
51.	31/1/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan, South Korea eye defense cooperation to complement US deterrence</u>	NikkeiAsia
52.	31/1/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan, US eye synthetic diamonds to kick off \$550bn investment plan</u>	NikkeiAsia
53.	3/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Bangladesh and Japan Sign Agreement on Defence Equipment and Technology Transfer</u>	BDMilitary
54.	5/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan vows to work with U.S. on disarmament as nuclear treaty expires</u>	KyodoNews
55.	4/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>PH, Japan sign loan agreement for MRT-3 rehab</u>	Inquirer
56.	4/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>Japan, Nepal Agree to Strengthen Friendship: Nations' Leaders Meet for Talks During Nepalese President's First Official Japan Visit - The Japan News</u>	JapanNews
57.	4/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>The Embassy of Japan in Turkmenistan conducted origami classes at an Ashgabat school</u>	TurkmenPortal
58.	4/2/26	Foreign Politics	<u>UAE President's visit to Japan as state guest postponed due to UAE side's wishes Chief Cabinet Secretary Kihara NHK News UAE = United Arab Emirates, Iran, Takauchi Cabinet</u>	NHK
59.	24/2/26	Defence	<u>Japan to invite visits by defense officials from Pacific island nations - The Japan Times</u>	JapanTimes
60.	24/2/26	Defence	<u>Japan looks to strike up partnerships with Europe's defense sector - The Japan Times</u>	JapanTimes
61.	25/2/26	Defence	<u>Annual anti-terrorism drill in India GSDF: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji

62.	24/2/26	Defence	<u>Large-scale joint military exercise in Thailand, 30 countries including Japan and the US participate: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
63.	24/2/26	Defence	<u>Yonaguni Island missile deployment in 2030: Defense Minister Koizumi reveals plan: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
64.	21/2/26	Defence	<u>Japan Coast Guard Hosts SE Asian Officials on Training Flight, Sharing Skills for Tracking Suspicious Vessels - The Japan News</u>	Japannews Yomiuri
65.	22/2/26	Defence	<u>Another Chinese ship appears around the Senkaku Islands for 100 consecutive days; Japanese patrol boats equipped with machine guns continue to warn -Sankei News</u>	Sankei
66.	15/2/26	Defence	<u>Japan to Strictly Control Exports of Lethal Defense Equipment</u>	Japannews Yomiuri
67.	15/2/26	Defence	<u>Japan-Australia Defense Ministers Meeting Japan and Australia agree to promote cooperation as the core of like-minded cooperation NHK News Security, Australia, and the Indo-Pacific situation</u>	NHK
68.	19/2/26	Defence	<u>Two Chinese ships belonging to the Japan Coast Guard near the Senkaku Islands, both equipped with machine guns, for 97 consecutive days - Sankei News</u>	Sankei
69.	26/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Yokohama to Test Out Renewable-Powered Offshore Floating Data Center - The Japan News</u>	Japannews Yomiuri
70.	25/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan Authorities Begin On-site Inspection of Japanese Microsoft Subsidiary on Suspicion of Violating Antimonopoly Law - The Japan News</u>	Japannews Yomiuri

71.	25/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>China and Japanese companies “color-coded” to stabilize trade with Japan: Jiji.com</u>	Jiji
72.	24/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan asks U.S. for fair treatment over latest tariff measures</u>	Kyodonews
73.	25/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Asahi Beer System failure due to cyber attack Most shipments expected to resume in April Sales to recover with new products NHK News Business/Management, Cyber IIAttack</u>	NHK
74.	23/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan’s Major Real Estate Firms Expanding Overseas Businesses to Secure Future Growth, Focusing on Europe, U.S., Asia - The Japan News</u>	Japannews Yomiuri
75.	23/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Annual income wall of 1.3 million yen Requirements for dependents to be eased from April Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare NHK News Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, work/work style, tax reform</u>	NHK
76.	16/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan’s GDP falls below estimates in fourth quarter with 0.2% increase - The Japan Times</u>	Japantimes
77.	16/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Takaichi to Hold First Meeting with BOJ Chief Ueda Since Election Win - The Japan News</u>	Japannews yomiuri
78.	16/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Three major domestic automakers end up in the red after nine months of financial results NHK News Automobiles, financial results, America</u>	nhk
79.	16/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Toyota moves forward with reimporting US-produced vehicles; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism establishes new system to simplify safety inspections - Nihon Keizai Shimbun</u>	Nikkei

80.	16/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Wholesale prices for soybean oil used in mayonnaise hit the highest in three years, reflecting the weaker yen and higher raw material prices - Nihon Keizai Shimbun</u>	Nikkei
81.	18/02/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan convenience store chain Lawson to branch out into India - The Japan Times</u>	Japantimes
82.	18/02/26	Economy/Trade	<u>IMF urges Japan to avoid lowering consumption tax</u>	KyodoNews
83.	19/02/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Rakuten and Google partner to send customers from YouTube to Rakuten Market -Nihon Keizai Shimbun</u>	Nikkei
84.	18/02/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Kagawa Prefecture and NVIDIA are the first local government in Japan to enter into a partnership agreement to utilize AI Mainichi Shimbun</u>	Mainichi
85.	6/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Ten overseas funds hit highs; Japanese stocks and infrastructure are booming</u>	ChinaTimes
86.	6/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>News Analysis - TSMC JASM upgrades and transforms into Nanke Fab 18 backup production capacity</u>	ChinaTimes
87.	9/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan's real wages fall 1.3% in 2025, down for 4th straight year</u>	Kyodonews
88.	6/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan IT Groups Urge Apple, Google to Waive New Commissions - The Japan News</u>	Japannews yomiuri
89.	6/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Amazon, Japan's JERA Energy Firm Sign Deal on AI, Data Centers - The Japan News</u>	Japannews yomiuri

90.	11/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>FOCUS: Selling of yen, bonds to continue after LDP's huge Japan election win</u>	Kyodonews
91.	12/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan watching currency moves with "vigilance": senior official</u>	Kyodonews
92.	10/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan debt at record 1,342 tril. yen, puts Takaichi fiscal policy in focus</u>	Kyodonews
93.	10/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Nikkei ends at record high for 2nd straight day after LDP's election win</u>	Kyodonews
94.	2/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japanese companies face stiffer Chinese competition in Vietnam: JETRO</u>	NikkeiAsia
95.	2/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan's foreign workforce tops 2.5m for first time</u>	NikkeiAsia
96.	3/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>AA Japan opens Sri Lanka office</u>	DailyMirror
97.	5/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan PM meets CEO of Taiwan's TSMC on advanced chip production in Kumamoto</u>	KyodoNews
98.	3/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan's Public, Private Sectors Plan to Sell Dual-Use Products to Nordic Countries as Delegation Touring Europe - The Japan News</u>	JapanNews
99.	3/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan Takes Step Toward Rare Earths Independence With Sea Mud Excavation -The Japan News</u>	JapanNews
100.	3/2/26	Economy/Trade	<u>Japan's annual farm exports rise to new record 1.7 trillion yen</u>	KyodoNews
101.	15/2/26	Health	<u>Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare reorganizes to accelerate Maina insurance cards, electronic medical records, and medical DX; top position</u>	Nikkei

			<u>becomes director-general level - Nihon Keizai Shimbun</u>	
102.	10/2/26	Environment	<u>Heavy snow damage: Approximately 13 billion yen in special allocation tax to be delivered early to 87 municipalities NHK News Heavy snow/cold, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Meteorology</u>	nhk
103.	2/2/26	Environment	<u>Heavy snow in northern Japan blocks roads and causes dozens of deaths</u>	AP
104.	3/2/26	Education	<u>Calls grow to improve Japanese language education</u>	JapanTimes

Bibliography

1. Ministry of Defense, Japan. (2025). *Defense of Japan 2025 (Annual white paper)*. Ministry of Defense. <https://www.mod.go.jp>
2. Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). (2025). *Strategic Energy Plan (Sixth Revision)*. Government of Japan. <https://www.meti.go.jp>
3. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2025). *SIPRI yearbook 2025: Armaments, disarmament and international security*. SIPRI. <https://www.sipri.org>
4. Hughes, C. W. (2023). *Japan as a “normal” military power? Security policy in the 21st century*. Routledge.
5. Lind, J. (2018). Japan’s security evolution. *International Affairs*, 94(2), 295–312. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iix233>
6. Smith, S. A. (2019). *Japan rearmed: The politics of military power*. Harvard University Press.
7. Government of India & Government of Japan. (2016). *Agreement for cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of India*. Ministry of External Affairs, India. <https://mea.gov.in>
8. Government of India & Government of Japan. (2020). *Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)*. Ministry of External Affairs, India. <https://mea.gov.in>
9. Samuels, R. J. (2007). *Securing Japan: Tokyo’s grand strategy and the future of East Asia*. Cornell University Press.
10. Green, M. J. (2022). *Line of advantage: Japan’s grand strategy in the era of Abe Shinzo*. Columbia University Press.
11. Nippon.com. (n.d.). *Japan’s current and future energy mix [Infographic]*. Based on the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy’s Seventh Strategic Energy Plan. <https://www.nippon.com/>

