

Modi, Abe back 'free Indo-Pacific'

Defence ties dominate summit talks

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India and Japan outlined a vision for strengthened bilateral relations at the 13th annual summit here on Monday.

Enhanced strategic and defence cooperation dominated the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe.

Japan's formulation of a "free and open Indo-Pacific" received a central place in the vision statement is-

sued at the end of the talks, with both sides stressing their "unwavering commitment to it." The concept is usually seen as a response to China's growing dominance in the region.

Speaking to the press after his talks with Mr. Abe, Mr. Modi said the India-Japan bilateral relationship was invested in upholding the rule of law and democratic values.

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