

# India Surpasses Japan In Asia Power Index

## Why In News

- **Asia is the fastest-growing region** globally, and nearly all major international powers want to expand their horizons here. **Asia Power Index Report 2024** by the **Lowy Institute, an Australian think tank**, suggests that India's power in Asia is growing, and the country has overtaken Japan to bag third spot for the first time.



## All You Need To Know

- **Asia Power Index measures** resources and influence to rank the “relative power of states in Asia”. The **Index ranks 27 countries** and territories in terms of their capacity to shape their external environment — its scope reaching as far west as Pakistan, as far north as Russia, and as far into the Pacific as Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.



- **Index evaluates nations based on eight thematic measures:** military capability, defence networks, economic capability and relationships, diplomatic and cultural influence, resilience, and future resources.
- Resilience is the capacity to **deter real or potential external threats** to state stability, while future resources are measured in terms of estimated economic, defence, and broad resources in 2035, as well as working-age population forecasts for 2050.



- India, however, is yet to reach its full potential, the report noted. India's influence according to the **Lowy Institute remains well below** the levels promised by its resources and thus still has ample potential for further growth as a major power. **United States and China rank** in first and second positions.

- Overpopulation in India is sometimes seen as a curse, but the same has come as a boon in raising **India's power in the region**.
- **"India's great strength in Asia** is the resources it brings from its huge population, landmass, and economy," according to the Asia Power Index Report 2024.

## How Is India Expanding Its Power

- The **Strong post-Covid-19 economic growth** pushed India's economic capability by **4.2 points**.



- It also grew well in all other resource measures, especially future resources, where its **score increased by 8.2 points**. This growth reflects that India's **youthful population may** deliver a demographic dividend over the decades ahead, unlike many other countries in Asia, including rival China, that are rapidly ageing and whose workforces are contracting.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global leadership and strategic ambition** have also helped increase India's diplomatic influence. In contrast, India's score for defence networks declined for the third year in a row, falling to ninth place.

## Cultural Influence And Economic Relations Pull Back India

- In comparison to 2023, India gained scores in resilience, economic capability, diplomatic influence, and military capability. However, the **cumulative scores gained by all these were less** than those lost in economic relationships or cultural influence. Notably, India's overall score increased due to different weights of categories.

