



**DPG-JIIA  
7<sup>th</sup> India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum  
(10<sup>th</sup> India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue)**

**“India and Japan: Partners for Asian Stability and Progress  
New Delhi, November 18-19, 2024**

**Joint Statement**

The Delhi Policy Group (DPG) and The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) convened the 7<sup>th</sup> India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum in New Delhi on November 18-19, 2024. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue co-anchored by DPG and JIIA. The event was hosted by DPG with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The JIIA delegation was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan.

The DPG and JIIA delegations were led respectively by Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh, Director General, DPG, and Ambassador Sasae Kenichiro, President of JIIA.

The dialogue brought together distinguished strategic experts from think tanks and academia with government officials from both sides in order to deepen intellectual exchanges, enhance understanding of each other's national aspirations and regional objectives, and foster a deeper bilateral partnership based on mutual trust and shared interests, thereby contributing to Indo-Pacific order, stability and prosperity.

Deliberations at the Forum were structured into three closed-door sessions and a special keynote session, culminating in a public panel discussion. Recognising the importance of basing bilateral relations on shared values, strategic trust, public goodwill, and the pursuit of mutual interest, the first of the closed-door sessions focused on enhancing understanding of the respective geostrategic positioning of India and Japan. The second closed-door session assessed India-Japan convergences, contributions, and the role of the Quad in bolstering Indo-Pacific stability, security and prosperity. The third closed-door session examined efforts to accelerate bilateral relations across the realms of security, technology and people-to-people relations. The special keynote session provided an opportunity for high level interaction with participants. The concluding public session was aimed at disseminating to the wider national and regional audiences perspectives on the rise of Asia and the Indo-Pacific in the global order, as well as the outlook for greater strategic coordination between India and Japan.

The Minister of External Affairs of India, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, delivered virtual addresses at the Forum.

Participants at the Forum noted that over the past year, challenges to international peace and stability have become more formidable. Ongoing conflicts and great power competition have escalated, generating pervasive volatility in the international system. At this juncture, as Asia's leading democracies committed to the rule of law, India and Japan bear special responsibility to uphold a global order based on the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, international law, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, and sustainable development of all nations. Together, they need to prioritise dialogue and diplomacy to resolve conflicts and disputes peacefully, and to call on all nations to exercise restraint and refrain from attempts to unilaterally change the status quo.



Participants concurred that at a time of severe disruptions to the global order, the combined efforts of India and Japan can help build broader and more inclusive convergences on international security and cooperation, including among the emerging powers of the Indo-Pacific and the nations of the Global South. As India and Japan invest in enhancing their own defence capabilities as well as bilateral defence cooperation, they must also become better aligned on the critical security issues of the Indo-Pacific. The decision of the India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi on August 20, 2024, to prepare an updated framework for security cooperation in keeping with contemporary realities, marked a welcome step in that direction.

In their deliberations on the Indo-Pacific, experts welcomed the maturing of the Quad's leader-level format and looked forward to further progress at the next Summit to be hosted by India. They underlined the Quad's growing strategic alignment as a force for good that delivers real benefits for peoples and nations across the Indo-Pacific, while respecting the leadership of regional institutions such as ASEAN, IORA and PIF. Speakers emphasised the importance of focusing on capacity-building efforts for Southeast Asia, Indian Ocean and the Pacific Island nations under the Quad framework, highlighting the need to support these third countries in addressing their specific challenges. They also recommended greater coordination between India and Japan on regional connectivity and socio-economic development.

Attendees took note of the evolving national goals and priorities of the two countries in a changing global landscape, and encouraged India and Japan to raise the level and broaden the content of bilateral relations. They called in particular for greater cooperation in the area of economic resilience and security, trust-based collaboration in critical and emerging technologies, and greater synergy on strategic trade and technology issues.

Participants also encouraged greater attention to people-to-people exchanges as a vital area for transforming India-Japan relations. While acknowledging the progress being made, they urged a sharper focus on building contemporary ties across the realms of language, culture, education, workplace skills, manpower mobility, and tourism. They also called for travel between India and Japan to be made easier, with reciprocal and harmonised visa regimes cutting across all areas of travel.

Recalling that this year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, participants reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to consistently elevate the public policy relevance of this pivotal Forum in future years.

On behalf of the JIIA delegation, Ambassador Sasae Kenichiro thanked DPG and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for their hospitality and excellent arrangements. The 8<sup>th</sup> India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum (11<sup>th</sup> India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue) will be hosted by JIIA in Tokyo in 2025, with dates to be finalised through mutual consultations.

Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh  
Director General, DPG

Ambassador Sasae Kenichiro  
President, JIIA

New Delhi,  
November 18, 2024