DPG-JIIA
9TH INDIA-JAPAN INDO-PACIFIC FORUM
(12TH INDIA-JAPAN DIALOGUE)

"India and Japan: Anchoring Global Order and Indo-Pacific Stability"
New Delhi, November 16-17, 2026

Event Profile

This edition of the DPG-JIIA India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum will be held against the backdrop of extreme volatility in the international system. With radical changes in great power behaviour, long-standing presumptions of a relatively predictable world order based on international law and the UN Charter have unravelled. The global scene is marked by rampant geopolitical competition, armed conflict, economic coercion, unilateralism, and the erosion of strategic trust. Nations are responding with efforts to diversify options, build resilience and preserve interests. As alliances and partnerships come under strain, there is greater fragmentation.

In this stressed, uncertain and complex environment, the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership (SSGP) is an ever more important factor for sustaining normative order, peace, security and prosperity across Asia and the Indo-Pacific. Both nations are taking steps to build national resilience and comprehensive power, which will better enable them to meet the spectrum of economic and security challenges they confront. They are also continuing to advance strategic relations with the U.S. and regional partners.

Japan has affirmed its resolve to play a proactive role "in building an international order based on freedom, openness, diversity, inclusivity and the rule of law"[1]. It has also revamped its "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" (FOIP) taking into account structural changes in the international order, which demand that "the capability to have freedom to decide for themselves and resilience are necessary to determine our own destinies". India has continued to focus on its role as a responsible power and factor of stability across its extended neighbourhood. It has expanded its regional and maritime vision (MAHASAGAR) globally, integrating it into the broader Indo-Pacific and Global South partnerships. The strategic significance of the Indian Ocean as an indispensable connector for trade and energy flows has grown. Both India and Japan are shaping their respective regional engagements in the areas of economy, security and connectivity in line with their own interests and those of partner nations, with the focus on sustainable order.

The 16th Annual India-Japan Summit, held in New Delhi on July 2, 2026, marked an important new phase in the India-Japan SSGP. Reflecting the high degree of mutual trust between leaders, the Summit produced wide-ranging outcomes across economic security, defence, critical and emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, resilient

[1] H.E. Prime Minister TAKAICHI Sanae's Foreign Policy Speech at Vietnam National University, Hanoi. May 2, 2026

supply chains, clean energy and people-to-people exchanges. The adoption of the first standalone India-Japan Joint Declaration on Economic Security, the advancement of the UNICORN defence co-development project within the framework of Japan's evolving defence export policy, the decision to convene the next 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue within the year, and several sectoral agreements reflected the growing strategic depth of the partnership. Significantly, the Summit also recognised Japan's updated FOIP vision and India's MAHASAGAR initiative as complementary expressions of a shared strategic outlook for the Indo-Pacific and beyond. These outcomes provide an important backdrop for this year's Forum, which will deliberate on how they can be translated into sustained institutional cooperation among government and private sector stakeholders.

The 9th India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum will seek to forge a broad understanding on the role and shared interests of India and Japan as maritime democracies and indispensable strategic partners for Indo-Pacific stability and progress.

The first of its closed-door sessions will review the state of global order and the respective strategic positioning of India and Japan amidst ongoing turmoil and transformations. The second session will assess the regional situation across the Indo-Pacific, identify convergences and outline their joint contributions to FOIP, including the role of the QUAD in bolstering Indo-Pacific stability, security and prosperity. The third session will deliberate on accelerating bilateral relations across the realms of diplomatic coordination, defence and security, economic security, critical technologies and people-to-people ties.

Panelists at the concluding open/public session of the Forum will aim to disseminate to the wider national and regional audiences their perspectives on global and regional issues, as well as the outlook for greater strategic coordination between India and Japan.

In keeping with established practice, the general trend of deliberations at the 9th India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum will be summarised in a DPG-JIIA Joint Statement.

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November 16-17, 2026
Juniper Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Agenda and Programme

November 16, 2026, Monday*	
0845-0915 IST (1215-1245 JST)	**Registration and Tea/Coffee**
0915-1000 IST (1245-1330 JST)	**Opening Session** ➢ Welcoming Remarks by **Amb. Hemant Krishan SINGH**, Director General, Delhi Policy Group (DPG) ➢ Opening Remarks by **Amb. Kenichiro SASAE**, President, The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) ➢ Remarks by **H.E. Mr. Keiichi ONO,** Ambassador of Japan to India

Session 1: Global Order at Crossroads ***Geostrategic positioning of India and Japan; Great Power equations and assertions; Breakdown of International Law; Impact on Alliances and Partnerships.*** Moderator: **Amb. Hemant Krishan SINGH**, Director General, DPG (5 minutes)	
1015 -1145 IST (1345-1515 JST)	**Presentations** [6-8 minutes each] **Japan** ➢ **Mr. Takashi ARIYOSHI**, Deputy Director-General, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, MOFA ➢ **Prof. Ken ENDO**, University of Tokyo, Adjunct Fellow, JIIA **India** ➢ **Amb. Nalin SURIE**, Distinguished Fellow for Diplomacy, DPG ➢ **Amb. Ruchira KAMBOJ**, Senior Fellow for Global Affairs, DPG **Discussion** [40 minutes]

1145-1200 IST (1515-1530 JST)	**Tea/Coffee Break** [15 minutes]

*All sessions on November 16 will be closed-door, conforming to the Chatham House Rule.

Session 2: Securing Peace in the Indo-Pacific ***Challenges to regional peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific; Building convergences and regional partnerships; Enhancing the role of the Quad; Defence and security cooperation.*** Moderator: **Amb. Kenichiro SASAE**, President, JIIA (5 minutes)	
1200 -1330 IST (1530- 1700 JST)	**Presentations** [6-8 minutes each] **Japan** ➢ **Prof. Shino WATANABE, Sophia University** ➢ **Mr. Takashi ARIYOSHI,** Deputy Director-General, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, MOFA **India** ➢ **Shri Kakanur Nagaraj NAIDU,** Additional Secretary (AMS), Ministry of External Affairs **(Virtual Remarks)** ➢ **Dr. Titli BASU,** Associate Professor, JNU ➢ **VAdm Anil CHOPRA (Retd.),** Distinguished Fellow, DPG **Discussion** [40 minutes]
1330-1430 IST (1700- 1800 JST)	**Lunch** **(Venue: Marigold Hall, India Habitat Centre)**
Session 3: India-Japan Bilateral Special Strategic and Global Partnership ***Advancing a Partnership of Strategic Convergence and Trust for Shared Growth, Prosperity and Resilience across priority areas: economic partnership including economic security, energy resilience, technology, and innovation; and people-to-people exchanges*** Moderator: Amb. Nalin SURIE, Distinguished Fellow for Diplomacy, DPG (5 minutes)	
1430 -1615 IST (1800-1945 JST)	**Presentations** [6-8 minutes] **India** ➢ **Ms. Tseten Nordon CARGYAL,** Director (Japan and Korea), Ministry of External Affairs ➢ **Dr. V. S. SESHADRI,** Senior Fellow, DPG ➢ **Dr. Nisha TANEJA,** Senior Visiting Professor, ICRIER **Japan** ➢ **Prof. Kunihiko SHINODA**, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) ➢ **Mr. Daisaku YUKITA**, Chief Director General, JETRO New Delhi **Discussion** [40 minutes] * ***Dr. Prabir De**, Professor, RIS* * ***Mr. Satoshi JIMBO**, Minister (Political Affairs), Embassy of Japan in India*

1615 – 1630 IST (1945-2000 JST)	**Concluding Remarks** ➢ **Amb. Hemant Krishan SINGH**, Director General, DPG ➢ **Amb. Kenichiro SASAE**, President, JIIA

1630-1645 IST (2000-2015 JST)	**Tea/Coffee** [15 minutes]

1900 IST (2230 JST)	**Dinner (By Invitation)** **(Venue: MED Restaurant, 5th Floor, India Habitat Centre)**

November 17, 2026, Tuesday	
0930-1000 IST (1300-1330 JST)	**Tea/Coffee** [30 minutes]

Public Session: Anchoring Global Order and Indo-Pacific Stability

➢ **Navigating uncertainty, buttressing regional partnerships**

➢ **Enhancing strategic coordination between India and Japan**

Co-Moderated by

➢ **Amb. Hemant Krishan SINGH, Director General, DPG**

➢ **Amb. Kenichiro SASAE, President, JIIA**

1000 – 1010 IST (1330 – 1340 JST)	**Opening Remarks by Moderators**
1010 – 1030 IST (1340- 1400 JST)	**Keynotes (**Recorded Video Messages) ➢ **H.E. Dr. S. JAISHANKAR**, Minister of External Affairs ➢ **H.E. Mr. Toshimitsu MOTEGI**, Minister for Foreign Affairs
1030 – 1200 IST (1400 – 1530 JST)	**Panel Discussion** Brief Opening Remarks (5 minutes per speaker) followed by Discussion and Q&A **India** ➢ **Amb. Nalin SURIE**, Distinguished Fellow for Diplomacy, DPG ➢ **Lt. Gen. Deependra Singh Hooda (Retd.),** Distinguished Fellow for Military Strategy, DPG ➢ **Dr. V. S. SESHADRI,** Senior Fellow, DPG ➢ **Dr. Ashok Kumar CHAWLA,** Senior Fellow, DPG

	Japan ➢ **Dr. Ken ENDO**, Professor, University of Tokyo and Adjunct Fellow, JIIA ➢ **Dr. Shino WATANABE**, Professor, Sophia University ➢ **Prof. Kunihiko SHINODA**, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) ➢ **Mr. Yosuke SATO**, Senior Representative, JICA India

1200 – 1300 IST (1530 – 1630 JST)	**Concluding Session** **Rapporteur's Summary of Discussions** ➢ **Mr. Sanjay PULIPAKA**, Chairperson, Politeia Research Foundation **Signing of DPG-JIIA Joint Statement** **Closing Remarks** ➢ **Amb. Hemant Krishan SINGH**, Director General, DPG ➢ **Amb. Kenichiro SASAE**, President, JIIA **Vote of thanks** ➢ **Dr. Ashok Kumar CHAWLA,** Senior Fellow, DPG

1300-1400 IST (1630-1530 JST)	**Concluding Lunch** **(Venue: Marigold Hall, India Habitat Centre)**

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List of Participants

INDIA	

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	
Dr. S. JAISHANKAR	Minister of External Affairs (Video Message)
Ambassador Raj Kumar SRIVASTAVA	Dean, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), Ministry of External Affairs
Ambassador Kakanur Nagaraj NAIDU	Additional Secretary (AMS), Ministry of External Affairs
Ms. Soumya C.	Joint Secretary (PP&R), Ministry of External Affairs
Ms. Tseten Nordon CARGYAL	Director (Japan and Korea), Ministry of External Affairs
Under Secretaries / Consultants	EA and PP&R Divisions, Ministry of External Affairs
DELHI POLICY GROUP	
Ms. Chhaya SHRIRAM	Chairperson and Managing Trustee
Ambassador Hemant Krishan SINGH	Director General
Ambassador Nalin SURIE	Distinguished Fellow for Diplomacy
Lt. Gen. Deependra Singh HOODA (Retd.)	Distinguished Fellow for Military Strategy
V.Adm. Anil CHOPRA (Retd.)	Distinguished Fellow
Ambassador Biren NANDA	Senior Fellow for Act East Diplomacy
Cmde. Lalit KAPUR (Retd.)	Senior Fellow for Maritime Strategy

Dr. V.S. SESHADRI	Senior Fellow for Economic Security
Ambassador Ruchira KAMBOJ	Senior Fellow for Global Affairs
Dr. Ashok Kumar CHAWLA	Senior Fellow for India-Japan Security Studies
Mr. Shreyas Durgadasrao DESHMUKH	Research Associate
Ms. Muskan RAI	Research Associate
Ms. Awantika Singh SENGAR	Research Associate
Ms. Arushi JAIN	Research Associate
THINK TANKS/STRATEGIC EXPERTS	
Ambassador Naveen SRIVASTAVA	Former Ambassador to Nepal and Additional Secretary (East Asia), MEA
Lt. Gen. Sanjay VERMA (Retd.)	Distinguished Fellow, Council for Strategic and Defence Research (CSDR)
Dr. Nisha Taneja	Senior Visiting Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)
Dr. Prabir DE	Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries
Mr. Sanjay PULIPAKA	Chairperson, Politeia Research Foundation
Mr. Aman Raj KHANNA	Partner and Managing Director-South Asia, The Asia Group
Dr. Titli BASU	Associate Professor, School of International Studies (SIS), JNU
Mr. Vineet JAIN	Partner, Nomura Research Institute Consulting & Solutions India
Prof. (Dr.) Gitanjali Sinha ROY	Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean, O.P. Jindal Global University
Ms. Anshita SHUKLA	Senior Associate for South Asia, The Asia Group
Dr. NABAM Tunia	Associate Fellow, NMF
Ms. Kajal Kiran JENA	PhD Scholar, JNU

JAPAN	
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN	
H.E. Mr. Toshimitsu MOTEGI	Minister for Foreign Affairs (Video Message)
H.E. Mr. Keiichi ONO	Ambassador of Japan to India
Mr. Takashi ARIYOSHI	Deputy Director-General, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, MOFA
Mr. Satoshi JIMBO	Minister (Political Affairs), Embassy of Japan, New Delhi
THE JAPAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	
Ambassador Kenichiro SASAE	President, Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)
Dr. Ken ENDO	Professor, University of Tokyo and Adjunct Fellow, JIIA
Prof. Kunihiko SHINODA	Professor, Executive Advisor (GRIPS Alliance), Director, Global Leadership Development Program, The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
Dr. Shino WATANABE	Professor, Faculty of Global Studies, Department of Global Studies, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan
Mr. Naoki TAKIGUCHI	Research Fellow, JIIA
Ms. Maki HAYASHI	Research Assistant, JIIA
Mr. Yosuke SATO	Senior Representative, JICA India Office, New Delhi
Mr. Daisaku YUKITA	Chief Director General, JETRO, New Delhi
EMBASSY OF JAPAN	
Mr. Kei SASAKI	First Secretary (Political Affairs)
Mr. Kota TAKAHASHI	First Secretary (Political Affairs)