Joint Statement : Fourth India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting

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Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Motegi Toshimitsu and Minister of Defence of Japan Mr Koizumi Shinjiro held the fourth India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo on November 19, 2026.

The Ministers underscored the growing strategic convergence and trust between the two countries in an increasingly complex and uncertain international environment and stressed the importance of closer coordination under the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership in addressing present geopolitical, economic and security challenges. As leading democracies and major economies of the world, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining and strengthening an international order which is free, open and based on the rule of law, respect for principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and peaceful resolution of disputes without resorting to threat or use of force. They underlined the need for all countries to refrain from any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo.

The Ministers appreciated and committed to enhancing the synergy between the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) & Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (MAHASAGAR) and the updated "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" that contributes to a peaceful, prosperous and resilient Indo-Pacific.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction the significant development of bilateral cooperation since the last 2+2 Meeting in 2024. They welcomed the outcomes of the 15th and 16th India-Japan Annual Summits held in August 2025 and July 2026 respectively that provided leader-level strategic direction to deepening defence and security cooperation, economic partnership including economic security, energy resilience, technology, and innovation as well as people-to-people exchanges in developing a mutually complementary relationship. In advancing bilateral cooperation, they concurred on further enhancing bilateral policy consultations between the diplomatic authorities on regional affairs such as Africa, Asia and Middle East/West Asia and multilateral agenda including UN reform, space, maritime domains, climate change, terrorism, and the Arctic as well as policy planning.

The Ministers welcomed the growing defence and security partnership between both countries in line with the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, adopted at the last Annual Summit in August 2025. Minister Motegi and Minister Koizumi explained the ongoing efforts to revise Japan's National Security Strategy, National Defence Strategy, and Defence Buildup Program, which would contribute to enhanced cooperation with India to maintain peace and security in the region and beyond.

The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the expansion and deepening of bilateral exercises, including the two air services, following the first-ever visit to India by Japan Air Self-Defence Force fighter aircraft during the India-Japan Air Force exercise "Veer Guardian 26", as well as the visit to India by the Chief of Staff of the Air Self-Defence Force conducted in conjunction with the exercise. They concurred on further deepening cooperation in bilateral exercises through enhanced complexities, integration of unmanned systems and pursuing bilateral and multilateral exercises at short notice. They welcomed the signing of LOI (Letter of Intent) toward the utilization of firing ranges in India, whereby Japan Self-Defence Forces would, for the first time, conduct live-fire training etc., including those involving surface-to-ship missiles, at firing ranges in India. They concurred on accelerating coordination between the defence authorities of the two countries toward its early realization.

The Ministers expressed their expectation for an early formulation of the UNICORN related arrangements, and the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) by India by February 2027 and looked forward to further strengthening of defence industrial cooperation under the framework of "Design with Japan, Make in India". They welcomed the convening of the 3rd India-Japan Defence Industries Forum in Tokyo in October 2026.

Welcoming the recently signed Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation, the Ministers concurred on moving swiftly to realize concrete outcomes between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force to serve their respective strategic and operational needs, including cooperation in the fields of Maritime and Air Domain Awareness (MDA), Search and Rescue (SAR), Information Sharing and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). They affirmed that defence authorities are committed to enhancing mine countermeasures capabilities and exploring the possibility of joint development in naval ship building and design. They welcomed the expanding cooperation between the two countries' coast guards, including the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) to be held in India in February 2027, a framework which was initiated by the Japan Coast Guard.

The Ministers concurred on holding a dialogue between the consular authorities of India and Japan to discuss a wide range of consular-related matters, including holding a tabletop exercise (TTX) regarding cooperation on assistance of their respective nationals abroad.

The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening secure and resilient digital connectivity in the Indo-Pacific. They concurred on enhancing bilateral cooperation in developing trusted, redundant and high-speed undersea cable networks, including through industry partnerships, and to share best practices for ensuring the security, reliability and resilience of critical undersea communications infrastructure.

Taking note of the increasing incidence of cyber-attacks, the Ministers concurred on the need to strengthen cybersecurity cooperation, including on AI-enabled cybersecurity and the security of AI systems, with particular attention to critical infrastructure. They directed their teams to renew the existing Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of Cybersecurity and convene the next edition of the India-Japan Cyber Dialogue at an early date.

The Ministers concurred on expanding cooperation in the space field, including in Space Situational Awareness (SSA), the use of space for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), space-related international rules and norms, and other areas of mutual interest. They concurred on the need to hold the next edition of the India-Japan Space Dialogue at an early date.

Recognising the synergies between India-Japan bilateral cooperation and the Quad's four priority areas, namely maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity and security, maritime and transnational security, critical and emerging technologies, and humanitarian assistance and emergency response, the Ministers underscored their commitment to leveraging bilateral cooperation to complement and reinforce Quad initiatives and deliver tangible benefits to partners across the Indo-Pacific. In this regard, they welcomed the holding of a series of Quad Foreign Ministers' Meetings as well as the Quad Leaders' Summit held in November 2026.

The Ministers also highlighted the importance of cooperation with ASEAN Member States to strengthen regional resilience and promote peace, stability and prosperity. In this context, they welcomed the first India-Japan-Philippines Trilateral 1.5 Dialogue this October as well as the first trilateral naval PASSEX exercise involving India, Japan and Indonesia in February 2026.

The Ministers reiterated their grave concerns regarding economic coercion, including through arbitrary export restrictions, and non-market policies and practices that result in overcapacity, which disrupt global supply chains in critical industries. They concurred on the importance of maintaining a fair competitive global environment and establishing and safeguarding resilient and reliable supply chains among like-minded partners to promote collective resilience.

Based on such views, the Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Joint Declaration on Economic Security Cooperation at the 16th Annual Summit and concurred on promoting concrete, project-based cooperation in strategic sectors, including semiconductors, critical minerals, information and communication technology, clean energy and pharmaceuticals. Welcoming the progress made under the second round of the Economic Security Dialogue and the inaugural Private-Sector Economic Security Dialogue, they encouraged closer engagement between relevant government agencies, industry and research institutions to identify opportunities for strengthening resilient and diversified supply chains and reducing strategic vulnerabilities. They concurred on the early convening of the inaugural meeting of the Track 1.5 Dialogue and the Follow-up Mechanism.

The Ministers affirmed that India and Japan are strategic research and development partners in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). They welcomed the adoption of the India-Japan Joint Statement on cooperation in the Field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the Leaders' Summit Meeting and concurred on further deepening cooperation on the AI

ecosystem under the "Japan-India AI Cooperation Initiative (JAI)." They confirmed to cooperate to enhance the national capability of both countries and called for accelerating co-creation of the AI ecosystem to address their strategic, economic, and societal priorities.

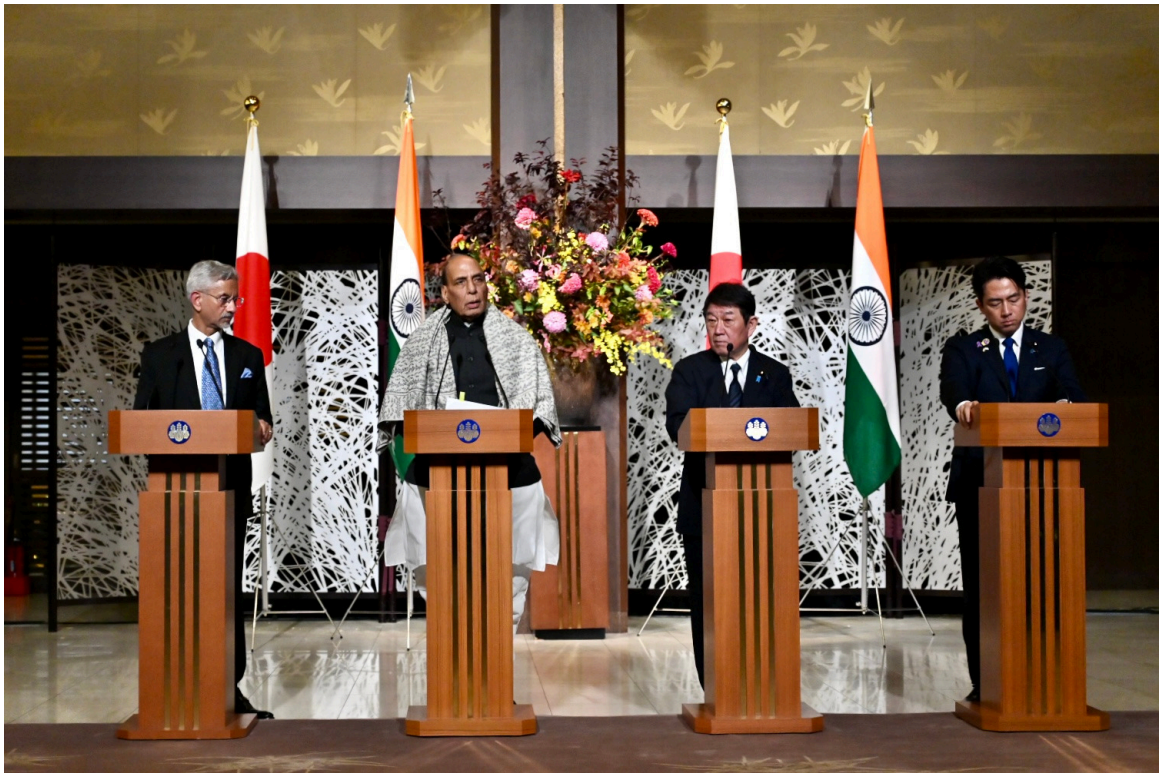
The Ministers unequivocally and strongly condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, and called for concerted actions against all UN-listed terrorist groups and entities including Al Qaeda, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and their proxies, and to take resolute actions to root out terrorists' safe havens, eliminate terrorist financing channels and its nexus with transnational crime, and halt cross-border movement of terrorists.

The Ministers reiterated their commitment to reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), including expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories, which a majority of Member States support, to better reflect the current geopolitical realities. They expressed their mutual support for each other's candidatures for a permanent seat in a reformed UNSC. They also noted with appreciation that India and Japan have confirmed mutual support for respective candidatures to non-permanent seats in the years 2028-29 and 2033-34.

The Ministers concurred on celebrating with commemorative programs throughout the year the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2027 as the India-Japan Year of Shared Horizons. They welcomed the announcement of the official logo for the 75th anniversary. They also welcomed the holding of the India-Japan Cricket Match held at Sano City, Japan as the curtain-raiser to the celebrations. They concurred that this milestone would provide an important opportunity to further strengthen friendship and mutual understanding and to expand exchanges between the peoples of the two countries.

The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to holding regular consultations on regional and international security developments and to further strengthen exchanges in this regard. They decided to hold the next 2+2 Ministerial Meeting in India at a mutually convenient date.







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