

DPG-JIIA
3rd INDIA-JAPAN INDO-PACIFIC FORUM
6th India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue

New Delhi and Tokyo
November 18, 2020

Joint Statement

The Delhi Policy Group (DPG) and the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) organised the 3rd India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum on November 18, 2020. This was the 6th edition of the India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue series, 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. Owing to travel restrictions necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic, the dialogue took place on a virtual platform.

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

H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India and H.E. Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan, delivered keynote addresses at the opening session of the Forum. This affirmed the importance attached by the two governments to this premier forum for strategic communication between think tank experts and senior officials from both sides, with a view to harnessing greater policy coordination on wide-ranging issues of the Indo-Pacific.

The 3rd India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum took place against the backdrop of extraordinary stress and uncertainty in the international order. In the year since the last session of the Forum, the Indo-Pacific region has witnessed the intensification of competitive geopolitics, great power rivalry and challenges to rules-based order. This trend has been accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has pushed the world into its worst health crisis and deepest economic recession in a century.

Deliberations at the Forum were organised in three sessions, focusing on Global Order and the Indo-Pacific (Session 1), India-Japan Bilateral Relations (Session 2) and Economic Cooperation, Investment and Trade (Session 3). Sessions 1 and 2 were closed-door and governed by the Chatham House Rule. Session 3 was live-streamed via social media.

Participants at the Forum observed that in the prevailing global and regional environment, it was more necessary than ever before for India and Japan to stand together to bridge the Indo-Pacific and reinforce regional prosperity and stability. Growing strategic imbalances in the Indo-Pacific had highlighted the importance of regional security architecture to shape the rules-based behaviour of States. Quad meetings have become regular, supporting ASEAN centrality and upholding national sovereignty, freedom of the global commons, good order at sea and regional stability. Meanwhile, the pandemic had underscored the importance of building national capacities for critical public goods as well as the creation of secure and resilient supply chains among trusted democratic partners.


In terms of bilateral relations, participants felt that with the basic framework of a comprehensive strategic partnership already in place, it was time for both sides to establish stronger benchmarks for bilateral diplomatic, economic and security ties, expedite coordinated contributions to regional connectivity and provide viable and transparent alternatives for sustainable development across the Indo-Pacific. Indian Participants were also of the view that at a time when India is incentivising domestic manufacturing in priority sectors, Japan can make a vital difference in India's participation in global supply chains.

Participants recalled the major contributions to India-Japan relations made by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during his terms in office. They welcomed the fact that Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Yoshihide Suga had already held a cordial conversation and decided to carry forward this legacy. They looked forward to the next 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue as well as the Bilateral Summit to define and intensify the future direction of bilateral relations in various fields.

Finally, the participants affirmed their commitment to continually enhance the public policy relevance of this important Forum over the coming years.

Attendees included expert delegates, representatives of both governments and diplomatic officials from their respective Embassies in Tokyo and New Delhi.

The Members of the JIIA delegation led by Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae expressed their deep gratitude to the DPG and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for their excellent arrangements in hosting the Forum. JIIA will host the fourth edition of the Japan-India Indo-Pacific Forum/7th Japan-India Track 1.5 Dialogue in Tokyo during the course of 2021, suitable dates for which will be decided through mutual consultations.



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Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh
Director General, DPG



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Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae
President, JIIA

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