(Press Release: Provisional Translation)

November 19, 2026
Ministry of Defense

Fourth Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting

On November 19, Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Mr. KOIZUMI Shinjiro, Minister of Defense of Japan, held the Fourth Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting with H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India, and H.E. Mr. Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence of India for 90 minutes from 2:40 p.m. until 4:10 p.m. in Tokyo. The overview of the meeting is as follows. A Joint Statement was issued after the meeting.

1. Overview

The Ministers confirmed that, amid an increasingly severe international security environment, Japan and India, as "Special Strategic and Global Partners," share a common responsibility to uphold a free and open international order based on the rule of law. Minister MOTEGI stated that, as the international security environment becomes increasingly uncertain, Japan and India, should serve as an anchor for regional stability, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. The Ministers discussed cooperation toward the realization of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)”, bilateral security and defence cooperation, and regional and global issues and concurred to continue to work closely together.

2. Cooperation towards realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific

(1) The Ministers confirmed that “the Updated FOIP,” announced by Japan in May this year, and India’s “Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)” and “MAHASAGAR” share a common vision of realizing a resilient and prosperous Indo-Pacific. The Ministers also confirmed that they would work together with allies and like-minded countries, including through efforts under the Quad, to translate this shared vision into tangible outcomes.

(2) Building on this, the Ministers reaffirmed their opposition to unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the Indo-Pacific region. The Ministers also concurred that Japan and India would further strengthen their cooperation to maintain the maritime order, including ensuring the stability of sea lanes of communication (SLOCs).

(3) Minister Motegi and Minister Koizumi explained Japan’s intention to revise the three security-related documents, including the National Security Strategy. The Ministers concurred that they would continue to maintain close communication on their respective security and defense policies.

3. Security and Defence Cooperation

The Ministers concurred on the following points regarding security and defence cooperation:

(1) Review of the progress made in security and defense cooperation since the revision

of the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India in August last year, and further concretization and advancement such cooperation.

(2) The importance of conducting multilayered bilateral and multilateral joint exercises.

(3) The use of firing ranges in India by the Japan Self-Defense Force (JSDF) and the acceleration toward its implementation.

(4) The importance of cooperation in the field of protecting respective nationals overseas., including through tabletop exercises between the Consular Affairs Bureaus of the Foreign Services of Japan and India.

(5) The promotion of bilateral cooperation in the areas of defence equipment and technology, including the acceleration towards the early realization of the transfer of the Unified Complex Radio Antenna ("UNICORN").

(6) The importance of cooperation between their respective navies, cooperation among maritime law enforcement agencies, and support for enhancing the maritime security capabilities of coastal states, with a view to ensuring the SLOCs.; the welcoming of the signing of the Memorandum on Japan-India Maritime Security Cooperation between the defense authorities of the two countries in August this year.

(7) Progress in cooperation between Japan and India with like-minded partners involving third countries, and the importance of cooperation in areas including United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

4. Regional and Global Issues

The Ministers exchanged views on regional issues, including the situation in the East China Sea and the South China Seas, North Korea including abduction, nuclear and missile issues, South Asia, the Middle East and Ukraine, and confirmed their collaboration on these issues. Furthermore, the Ministers reiterated their grave concerns regarding economic coercion, including through arbitrary export restrictions, as well as non-market policies and practices.