Press Release

November 19th, 2026
Ministry of Defense, Japan

Japan-India Joint Press Statement

On 19 November 2026, H.E. Mr. Shinjiro Koizumi, Minister of Defense of Japan, and H.E. Mr. Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence of the Republic of India, held a Japan-India Defence Ministers' Meeting in Tokyo.

The two Ministers welcomed the steady materialization of Japan-India defence cooperation through close communication between them, including the holding of their third Defence Ministers' Meeting within a short period of time, following their meetings in August and October this year.

They welcomed the signing of LOI (Letter of Intent) toward the utilization of firing ranges in India, whereby Japan Self-Defense 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 two Ministers welcomed the steady progress in materializing maritime security cooperation under the "Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation" signed in August this year. In particular, they confirmed that the Working Group, headed at the JS/DG level, would follow up on working level talks on areas including enhancing mine countermeasures capabilities and exploring the possibility of joint development in naval shipbuilding and design. The two Ministers further concurred on deepening cooperation toward creating an environment that would facilitate information sharing between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Indian Navy.

The two Ministers welcomed the deepening of cooperation through joint exercises between the respective Services, including the multilateral naval exercise "Malabar2026" involving Japan, the United States, India and Australia, and the Japan-India Maritime Exercise "JAIMEX26", both conducted in Japan in November this year. They also concurred on further advancing exchanges between their respective Special Operations Forces.

Regarding defence equipment and technology cooperation, the two Ministers shared their expectation for an early conclusion of the UNICORN related arrangements, and the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) by India by February 2027. They also affirmed that they would materialize defence R&D cooperation between DRDO and ATLA in the field of state-of-the-art missile and defence technologies.

The two Ministers concurred on promoting cooperation between the two air services in the field of Air Domain Awareness (ADA) and confirmed that the working level talks would also be followed through the Working Group, headed at the JS/DG level.

Amid an increasingly complex and uncertain security environment in the Indo-Pacific region, the two Ministers concurred on further promoting multilateral defence cooperation, including trilateral cooperation, in addition to bilateral defence cooperation between Japan and India, and on advancing practical cooperation for peace and stability in the region.

The two Ministers shared their determination to steadily implement these concrete areas of cooperation and elevate Japan-India defence cooperation to greater heights, thereby contributing together to the peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.