



**DPG-JIIA
INDIA-JAPAN INDO-PACIFIC FORUM
4th India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue**

**New Delhi
October 15-16, 2018**

Joint Statement

The Delhi Policy Group (DPG) and the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) organised the India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum in New Delhi on October 15-16, 2018. This was the 4th edition of the India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue, co-organised 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.

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

General V.K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, delivered the keynote address at the event.

Since the inception of this series of India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogues four years ago, DPG and JIIA have aspired to grow and transform this Dialogue into the premier forum of strategic communication between the two countries, bringing together think tanks, strategic experts, academics and senior officials from both sides. This determination has been strengthened by the Prime Ministers of India and Japan, who at their annual summit on September 14, 2017 "encouraged interactions among senior officials, strategists and experts in leading think tanks and universities on wide ranging issues in the Indo-Pacific region", with a view to achieving greater policy coordination and deepening intellectual exchanges between our two countries.

DPG and JIIA have accordingly worked over recent months to develop an updated concept and agenda for an expanded Track 1.5 Dialogue, which has now been aptly renamed the India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum.



On the Indian side, 23 expert delegates and 10 representatives from the Government of India participated in the Forum. The 17 Japanese delegates included five senior functionaries of the Government of Japan.

There were intensive discussions at the Forum regarding the potential of India-Japan relations across the domains of politics, diplomacy and strategy; defence and security; and energy, innovation and technology. The three conference sessions were followed by a panel discussion on the major outcomes and the way forward for an enhanced India-Japan partnership.

Participants at the Forum observed that the global scene is witnessing disruptive transformations and that the Forum provides a timely platform to exchange assessments regarding the evolving scenarios in the Indo-Pacific, which is the main arena for the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. To play a decisive role in the Indo-Pacific, India-Japan ties must expand strategically in all areas – economic, technological, security and defence. India and Japan must also assume greater regional responsibilities as Asia's leading maritime democracies to promote accommodation and respect for the sovereign interests of all regional states, mitigate unilateral assertions and help sustain peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

Finally, in advance of the forthcoming India-Japan bilateral summit, delegates identified specific areas of strategic collaboration that will advance the shared interests of India and Japan across the Indo-Pacific in the years ahead.

The members of the JIIA Delegation led by Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae expressed their deep gratitude to the Delhi Policy Group and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for their excellent arrangements and hospitality in hosting the Forum. JIIA will host the next edition of the India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum/5th India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue in Tokyo during the course of 2019, suitable dates for which will be decided through mutual consultations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hemant Singh', written over a horizontal line.

Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh
Director General, DPG

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kenichiro Sasae', written over a horizontal line.

Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae
President, JIIA

New Delhi,
October 16, 2018