

Japan-India Indo-Pacific Forum

“India and Japan: Partners for Asian Stability and Progress”

Namaskaar. Good morning. I am IWAYA Takeshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs. Let me express my heartfelt congratulations on the convening of the 7th Japan-India Indo-Pacific Forum.

This Forum has played an important role since 2016, as a part of the “Track 1.5” dialogue.

The theme of this year's Forum, “India and Japan: Partners for Asian Stability and Progress” is quite timely as the international community faces the severe security environment.

At a time when the existing international order is being challenged in various ways, efforts to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” are becoming increasingly important.

Furthermore, Japan and India, which share common fundamental values, such as the rule of law and democracy as well as strategic interests, have a great responsibility for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

In recent years, both countries have strengthened cooperation in a variety of areas and dramatically developed the bilateral relationship.

In the security field, last year, Japan and India held an inaugural fighter exercise and the first Joint Service Staff Talks, and shared strategies in the Indo-Pacific and possibilities for future Japan-India defense cooperation.

In August this year, both countries held the Third Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting and determined to revise the "Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India". Both countries also confirmed further cooperation in the security field, such as multilayered joint exercises and defense equipment and technology cooperation.

On the economic front, steady progress is being made toward the "5-trillion-yen target of public and private investment and financing from Japan to India in the next five years", which was set in 2022. In addition, Japanese companies based in India are working to export to the third countries, including Africa, where future growth is expected.

The Japanese government hopes to contribute to "Make in India, Make for World" by providing support to such activities of Japanese companies and work together for the growth and prosperity of not only Japan and India but also the whole world.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the "Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership." The Government of Japan intends to continue to strengthen relations with India in a wide range of areas, including the security field as well as economic and

people-to-people exchanges. In addition, Japan will also further develop cooperation among like-minded countries including Japan, India, the United States, and Australia.

Finally, I sincerely hope that today's discussion will broaden the possibilities for further collaboration between Japan and India.

Dhanyawaad. Thank you for your kind attention.