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Digest

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Japan sends combat aircraft to participate in multinational exercise in Australia

Amidst an increasing threat perception from China and North Korea's nuclear missile programme, Japan on 3 September for the [first time sent combat aircraft](#) to Australia to participate in a multinational air combat exercise named Pitch Black. , Five F-2As from the third squadron based at Hyakuri, northeast of Tokyo were sent to participate. Briefing the media about Japanese participation in the exercise, Col. Mastaka Todano said that the country's participation was necessary to improve capabilities and interoperability with partner nations and beyond. Further, the Japanese forces intend to gain more experience in large force employment in a coalition setting. He added that the exercise also allowed Japanese personnel to train with countries and aircraft they had never encountered before, specifically India's Sukhoi Su-30s and France's Dassault Rafales.

As per reports, fighters flew both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions, alternating between friendly and adversarial forces during daytime and night drills. The Japanese division supported by a KC-767 tanker of Japan's 404th Squadron from the Komaki air base, made its way to Australia via a stopover in Guam. During the exercise, the F-2s used Australian KC-30A tankers for mid-air refuelling.

Japan-India 2+2 Defence and Foreign Ministerial Dialogue

On 8 September Japanese Minister of Defence Hamada Yasukazu and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi Yoshimasa met their Indian counterparts Rajnath Singh and Dr. S. Jaishankar in Tokyo for the second [Japan-India 2+2 Dialogue](#). The ministers discussed regional and global issues of mutual concern, bilateral security and defence cooperation, and coordination among like-minded countries. Considering their respective presidencies of the G7 and G20 next year, the ministers confirmed that both sides would work closely to lead the international community. At the end of the Dialogue, the two sides issued a [joint statement](#).

Besides [acknowledging](#) their commitment towards realising the common goal of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), the two sides also reaffirmed that unilateral change of status quo is unacceptable not only in the Indo-Pacific but also in any region. Addressing the media in a joint press conference, Rajnath Singh informed that the two countries will be launching the "Joint Service Staff Talks" involving the Joint Staff of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces and the Integrated Defence Staff of India. Reportedly, [issues relating](#) to enhancing existing defence cooperation and discussion over the Reciprocal Provision of Supply and Services Agreement were taken up during the one-on-one meeting.

Japan-India conduct JIMEX 2022

The sixth edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) 2022 was [conducted](#) from [12 to 17 September](#). The Indian Navy (IN) hosted the exercise in the Bay of Bengal and Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, led the Indian Naval ships. The Japan Maritime Self- Defense Force (JMSDF) ships were led by Rear Admiral Hirata Toshiyuki, Commander, Escort Flotilla Four. The [Japanese warships](#) in the exercise included JMSDF ships *Izumo*, a Helicopter Carrier and *Takanami*, a Guided Missile Destroyer, whereas the Indian side sent its three [indigenously designed and built warships](#) *INS Sahyadri*, a multi-purpose stealth frigate, and Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes *INS Kadmatt* and *INS Kavaratti*. Besides, the Guided Missile Destroyer, *INS Ranvijay*, the Fleet Tanker, *INS Jyoti*, the Offshore Patrol Vessel, *INS Sukanya*, submarines, MIG 29K fighter aircraft, Long- Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft and a number of ship-borne helicopters also participated in the exercise. According to the [press release](#) issued by the Indian Navy, JIMEX 2022 involved some of the most complex exercises undertaken jointly by the two navies. The two sides engaged in advanced level anti-submarine warfare, weapon firings and air defence exercises. Shipborne helicopters, fighter aircraft and submarines also participated in the exercise. The Indian Navy and JMSDF ships replenished each other at sea under the agreement on Reciprocal Provision for

Supply and Services (RPSS). The exercise marked the tenth anniversary of JIMEX since its inception in Japan in 2012.

PM Kishida addresses the UNGA

The Japanese Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida [addressed](#) the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 20 September. Calling for reforms that would allow the United Nations (UN) to defend world peace better, he expressed disappointment over the UN Security Council's failure to overcome the Russian veto and respond to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As Russia's aggression towards Ukraine has shaken the foundation of international order, he urged the international community to gather power and wisdom to maintain the rules-based international order. He also re-affirmed Japan's commitment towards maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific. Kishida who represents a constituency from Hiroshima, one of the two Japanese cities to have suffered a nuclear attack during the Second World War, [remarked](#) that Russia's nuclear blackmailing poses a serious danger to world peace and is totally unacceptable. Speaking on North Korea, he reiterated his willingness to hold talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un without any preconditions.

Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On 23 September, the [foreign ministers](#) of Japan, Australia, the US and India convened in New York for the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Following the

meeting, a Joint Readout, a Fact Sheet on “Guidelines for Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the Indo-Pacific,” and a statement on ransomware were released.

As per the [press release](#) by the Japanese Foreign Ministry, the four foreign ministers held candid discussions on regional issues and signed the “Guidelines for [the] Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the Indo-Pacific” which laid out the commitment of the four countries to cooperate in disaster response. In the course of the meeting, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific and highlighted Quad’s vision for a rule-based international order and strong opposition to unilateral change of status-quo. Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa explained Japan's position on the East and South China Seas, Taiwan, North Korea, and other issues. He also urged other ministers to understand and cooperate with Tokyo for immediate resolution of the issue of Japanese abductees. Further, Minister Hayashi underscored the UN’s role in combating global challenges such as pandemics, food and energy security as well as climate change, and called for reform of the United Nations Security Council. On the issue of cooperation with ASEAN, he stressed the importance of supporting ASEAN unity and centrality and of concrete cooperation for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). At the end of the meeting, all the leaders agreed to

hold the next Quad Foreign Ministers’ meeting in New Delhi in early 2023.

PM Modi visits Japan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Japan on 27 September to [attend](#) the funeral of the former Japanese premier Shinzo Abe. During his participation in the ceremony, he observed that “people of India remember Abe San very much, remember Japan very much”. Recalling current Prime Minister Fumio Kishida’s contribution to development of India-Japan ties as Foreign Minister, PM Modi expressed the hope that India-Japan partnership under Kishida’s premiership will deepen and scale greater heights. A [press statement](#) released by India’s Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) informed that in his one-on-one meeting with Kishida, PM Modi noted Abe’s contribution in strengthening the India-Japan partnership as well as conceptualising the vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. The two leaders also had a productive exchange of views on further deepening bilateral relations and discussed regional and global issues of mutual concern. Reportedly, the leaders renewed their commitment towards further strengthening the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, and in working together in the region and in various international groupings and institutions. Following the state funeral, PM Modi also met Mrs. Akie Abe at the Akasaka Palace and conveyed his condolences to her.