



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

JAPAN

Digest

November 2021

- Japan to Increase Defence Capacity
- Advancing Japan's Interoperability with Indo-Pacific partners
- US-Japan 2+2 and Quad Meeting



Japan to Increase Defence Capacity

In late November, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, together with the Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi reviewed troops at the Ground Self-Defense Force's (GSDF) Camp Asaka in Tokyo. Prime Minister Kishida underscored that Japan will bolster necessary defence capacities in the backdrop of intensifying regional security situation with Pyongyang's advancement of new technologies including hypersonic glide weapons and missiles with irregular orbits on the one hand and Chinese massive military modernisation and unilateral attempts to change the status quo on the other. Prime Minister has argued that "all options including the acquisition of enemy base strike capabilities" are on the table as Japan reviews its National Security Strategy by 2022.

In a separate development, Japan has approved a supplementary defence budget of ¥773.8 billion or US\$ 6.8 billion for FY 2021. It is dubbed as the 'defence-strengthening acceleration package'. Together with the ¥5.34 trillion initial budget, the total defense budget amounts to more than ¥6 trillion. The supplementary budget allocates ¥97.8 billion for the development of integrated air and missile defense system. Japan will reportedly purchase Patriot Advanced Capability 3 (PAC-3) Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE), and acquire the surface-to-air missile (SAM) system to defend JSDF bases from cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles. Additionally, there are indications to acquire 3 Kawasaki P-1 maritime patrol aircraft, increase naval mines, and Type 12 lightweight torpedo, Type 18 heavyweight torpedo and the Type 07 Vertical Launch Anti-submarine rocket.

Furthermore, JGSDF plans to set up casern of a new camp on the Ishigaki Island in Okinawa where Japan will deploy surface-to-air and anti-ship missile batteries, along with a few hundred troops.

Advancing Japan's Interoperability with Indo-Pacific partners

In mid-November, Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) conducted several joint exercises with key allies in pursuit of a Free and Open Indo Pacific. For instance, JMSDF together with the US Navy conducted anti-submarine warfare exercise for the first time in the South China Sea. The aim was to augment tactical interoperability between the allies and bolster deterrence. The exercise involved JS Kaga and JS Murasame, P-1 patrol aircraft and submarine, USS Milius and P-8A maritime aircraft.

Separately, Japan-Australia bilateral exercise "Nichi-Gou Trident" was conducted south of Shikoku from November 10-12. During this exercise, asset protection of Australian forces, in keeping with Article 95-2 of the Japan Self-Defense Force Law was conducted. This is the first time JSDF have protected warships beyond the US Navy. JMSDF sent Murasame-class destroyer JS Inazuma to escort the Australian navy's Anzac-class frigate HMAS Warramunga. Japanese defence ministry indicated that "protection of the Australian military represents enhanced interoperability and closer co-operation with our special strategic partner Australia." Earlier, Japan and Australia have finalised the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA).

Subsequently, Japan together with the US, Australia, Canada and Germany conducted

a multilateral naval exercise, called the ANNUALEX in the Philippine Sea from November 21-30. The primary objective of this tactical exercise reportedly is to augment maritime communication tactics, anti-submarine warfare and air warfare operations, replenishments-at-sea, and maritime interdiction manoeuvres. The idea is to enable the navies to manoeuvre in difficult maritime environments with integrated surface and air engagements, and bolster mutual “war-fighting readiness, maritime superiority, and power projection in the Indo-Pacific”. JMSDF conducts this annual exercise with key Indo-Pacific partners to bolster strategic coordination, and further advance existing combat interoperability amongst allies and strategic partners, boost readiness across all platforms. The goal is to advance navy-to-navy cooperation and preserve regional security.

It is important to note that ANNUALEX 2021 marks the first time in two decades that German naval vessels participated in maritime exercise in the Indo-Pacific. Germany, with its recent Indo-Pacific outreach, expects to augment naval interoperability and further advance maritime cooperation with key Indo-Pacific powers. To demonstrate its commitment to the Indo-Pacific, Germany intends to despatch a frigate every two years. In a separate development, the German frigate, Bayern, conducted joint exercise with the JMSDF in the Pacific in early November. Japanese defence ministry confirmed that Bayern is the first German naval warship to make a port call in two decades. Previously in August, the frigate performed training in the Gulf of Aden with their Japanese counterparts. Furthermore, Japan and Germany signed an Agreement on Security

of Information which enables exchange of confidential information and intensify cooperation on security policy and military technology. In recent months, Japan has intensified its defence and security cooperation with not just Germany but other European stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific, especially France and the UK. Strengthening maritime security cooperation with various allies is imperative to maintaining regional peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

US-Japan 2+2 and Quad Meeting

Reports indicate that Japan and the US may schedule their 2+2 dialogue involving the foreign and defence ministers in January 2022. Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi will hold discussion with their US counterparts Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin to further bolster the US-Japan alliance, especially discussing denuclearization of Korean Peninsula, and preserving stability in the Taiwan Strait. Prior to that, Japan is reportedly expected to finalise the contentious issue of sharing more of the costs related to stationing American troops. The last 2+2 meeting was hosted in Tokyo.

Separately in upcoming summitry, Kurt Campbell has confirmed that Japan will host the next in-person Quad meeting in 2022. Separately, China has extended invitation to Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi after he assumed office. While stabilizing China-Japan relation is vitally important, foreign minister has confirmed that “nothing is set, and no arrangements are being made” for the visit.