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Digest

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16th India-Japan Summit Meeting

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi [visited](#) India between 1 and 3 July for the 16th edition of the India-Japan Summit Meeting. The Summit, held in New Delhi on 2 July, saw Takaichi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi engage each other on a host of issues and advance the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership into the next decade.

The meeting [commenced](#) with a review of the regional situation, with the two leaders agreeing on the fundamental congruence between Japan's 'updated Free and Open Indo-Pacific' (FOIP) concept and India's MAHASAGAR doctrine. Issues relating to China, North Korea and West Asia were discussed. This session was followed by substantive discussions on bilateral relations, with both sides agreeing to 'further cooperate in the security field based on the "Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India" revised last year' through greater emphasis on Indian Ocean training, maintenance and refit of naval vessels as well as defence technology and equipment cooperation based on Make in India.

In light of Takaichi's emphasis on economic security, the two countries agreed on a Joint Declaration on Economic Security Cooperation in order to bring together public and private sector efforts to surmount challenges to economic security. India agreed to join a bilateral dialogue under Japan's flagship POWERR Asia initiative, while Japan declared its support for India's candidacy at the International Energy Agency (IEA). POWERR Asia stands for Partnership on Wide Energy and Resources Resilience Asia. In order to diversify energy sources, both sides agreed to cooperate on establishing 1,000 biogas plants under the

CBG (Cooperative Biogas for Growth) Initiative. They also agreed to collaborate on AI research and development, next generation mobility, high-level research collaboration through the 'LOTUS Program' and deepening people-to-people exchanges. 150 Japanese corporations signed over 120 cooperation agreements with Indian partners during Takaichi's visit.

After the Summit, both leaders [attended](#) the India-Japan Joint Economic Forum hosted by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), where they addressed participants from over 150 Japanese and 80 Indian companies. Participants at the forum [expressed](#) optimism towards the increasing pace of bilateral cooperation and pledged to continue to improve the resilience of supply chains and pool their respective strengths to achieve mutually beneficial economic security.

Japan's Foreign Minister attends ASEAN, Quad meetings

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi [attended](#) a series of ASEAN-related meetings during his visit to the Philippines between 21 and 24 July. [Starting](#) off his visit on 22 July with a courtesy call on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, Motegi then participated in several key meetings, [starting](#) with the second Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting of 2026. The Quad ministers agreed to support ASEAN centrality and unity, reaffirmed their commitment to a Free and Open Indo-Pacific and concurred on focusing their efforts in four areas: maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity and security, critical and emerging technologies, and humanitarian assistance and emergency response. Next, Motegi [joined](#) the ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting, where he shared views on Japan-ASEAN cooperation across a wide

spectrum of domains while assuring ASEAN countries of Japan's continued close collaboration as a 'Trusted Partner'. Following this engagement, Motegi [interacted](#) with the foreign ministers of the United States of America and South Korea for the second time since their last meeting in Ankara on the sidelines of the NATO summit. Here they committed to working together against the threat of North Korea's missile and nuclear programme, while exchanging views on engagement with Southeast Asian countries. Motegi [finished](#) the day with the 17th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which he co-chaired.

On 23 July, Motegi participated in three critical meetings, namely, the 27th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum and 16th East Asia Summit Meeting. At the first meeting, he [outlined](#) the importance of engagement between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries and expressed Japan's commitment 'to leveraging the potential of the...framework to address challenges such as energy and food security, aging population, and disaster risk prevention'. At the second meeting, he [conveyed](#) Japan's position on various regional issues such as the South China Sea, North Korea and the Ukraine conflict, while underlining Japan's signature stance that 'the security of Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific region is closely interconnected'. At the EAS, he [reiterated](#) Japan's full support for ASEAN Centrality and unity, the "ASEAN Community Vision 2045," and the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)," while praising the EAS' important role as a 'premier forum' in the region.

Japan inaugurates new intelligence architecture

Japan officially inaugurated its long-awaited reform of its intelligence capabilities on 31

July, when Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi [presided](#) over the first meeting of the National Intelligence Council (NIC), a new coordinating body comprised of nine key Cabinet ministers as well as relevant officials, which was brought into existence by legislation in May. The Council officially [marked](#) the debut of the newly-established National Intelligence Bureau (NIB), which superseded the Cabinet Intelligence and Research Office (CIRO). The new body, whose inaugural director, Kazuya Hara, was serving as head of CIRO since 2023, is expected to act as a secretariat for the NIC and a centralised clearinghouse for intelligence gathered by existing agencies within the National Police Agency, Defence Ministry and Foreign Ministry.

The NIB, which currently has a staff of around 700, is expected to actively recruit additional staff as per the directions of the NIC, which is expected to set up an expert panel to advise it on drafting legislation regarding the implementation of a registry of all foreign entities active in Japan, establishing a counterintelligence agency (equivalent to the Intelligence Bureau in India) as well as an external intelligence agency (equivalent to the Research and Analysis Wing in India). The expert panel is also expected to assist the NIC in formulating a National Intelligence Strategy document by the end of 2026.

After the meeting, Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara told reporters that the new structure 'marks the first step in Japan's intelligence reforms' and that the bodies would enable 'sound decisions based on higher-quality, more timely intelligence'. However, concerns remain among opposition parties and sections of civil society regarding the potential for violations of fundamental rights such as privacy as well as the feasibility of safeguards guaranteeing the agencies' political neutrality.