4th India–Japan 2+2 ministerial dialogue in Tokyo on 19 November

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News

India's Defence Ministry (PIB, 17 Nov 2026) said the 4th India–Japan Foreign and Defence Ministers' '2+2' Dialogue will be held in Tokyo on 19 November 2026, during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Japan on 18–19 November. It will be co-chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar for India, and by Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi for Japan. Earlier 2+2 rounds: 2019 (New Delhi), 2022 (Tokyo) and 2024 (New Delhi).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Event	4th India–Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue
Date, venue	19 Nov 2026, Tokyo
India	Rajnath Singh (Defence), S. Jaishankar (External Affairs)
Japan	Shinjiro Koizumi (Defence), Toshimitsu Motegi (Foreign)
Earlier rounds	1st Nov 2019 Delhi; 2nd Sep 2022 Tokyo; 3rd Aug 2024 Delhi
First 2+2 (India)	With the US – Sept 2018, New Delhi
Services pact	ACSA – Sept 2020
Indo-Pacific idea	Shinzo Abe – 'Confluence of the Two Seas' (Aug 2007)

Point	Details
Partnership	Special Strategic and Global Partnership (2014)

Background

- What 2+2 means: the foreign and defence ministers of two countries meet together to review political and military issues in one forum. India's first ministerial 2+2 was with the United States (Sept 2018, New Delhi), when COMCASA was signed. India also holds 2+2 dialogues with Japan, Australia and Russia, among others. The first round with Japan was held in New Delhi in November 2019.
- History and ties: Japanese PM Shinzo Abe's 'Confluence of the Two Seas' speech to India's Parliament in August 2007 laid the base for the Indo-Pacific idea linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans. In 2014 ties were raised to a 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'. In September 2020 the two signed the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), letting their forces provide each other supplies and services such as fuel, food and repairs.
- Geography: Japan has four main islands – Honshu (the largest, home to Tokyo and Yokosuka), Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku. Lying on the Pacific 'Ring of Fire', it faces frequent earthquakes and tsunamis. Japan's parliament is called the Diet.
- Economy and defence: Japan is one of India's major development financiers; the Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail is being built with Japanese Shinkansen technology and loans. In defence, the two cooperate on joint exercises, defence technology and maritime security in the Indo-Pacific.

Tamil Nadu link: There is no direct Tamil Nadu link to this news. Closest links: many Japanese firms operate in the Oragadam–Sriperumbudur belt, and Japanese linguist Susumu Ohno (1919–2008) proposed that Japanese shares common linguistic origins with Tamil; the theory remains debated among scholars.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

India's Defence Ministry (PIB, 17 Nov 2026) said the 4th India–Japan Foreign and Defence Ministers' '2+2' Dialogue will be held in Tokyo on 19 November 2026, during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Japan on 18–19 November.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Event: 4th India–Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue; Date, venue: 19 Nov 2026, Tokyo; India: Rajnath Singh (Defence), S. Jaishankar (External Affairs); Japan: Shinjiro Koizumi (Defence), Toshimitsu Motegi (Foreign).

What is the background to this news?

What 2+2 means: the foreign and defence ministers of two countries meet together to review political and military issues in one forum.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. With which country did India hold its first ministerial-level 2+2 dialogue in 2018?

A) Japan

B) United States

C) Australia

D) Russia

Answer: B – Explanation: The United States – Sept 2018, New Delhi, when COMCASA was signed. The first 2+2 with Japan was in Nov 2019.

2. Which 2020 pact lets Indian and Japanese forces provide each other supplies and services like fuel, food and repairs?

A) LEMOA

B) ACSA

C) COMCASA

D) BECA

Answer: B – Explanation: ACSA – Sept 2020. LEMOA (2016), COMCASA (2018) and BECA (2020) are India's foundational pacts with the US.

3. Which Japanese linguist proposed that Japanese and Tamil share common linguistic roots?

A) Kamil Zvelebil

B) Robert Caldwell

C) Susumu Ohno

D) Asko Parpola

Answer: C – Explanation: Susumu Ohno (1919–2008); the theory is debated. Caldwell wrote the Comparative Grammar of the Dravidian languages (1856).

4. Which Japanese PM gave the 2007 'Confluence of the Two Seas' speech in India's Parliament that seeded the Indo-Pacific idea?

A) Junichiro Koizumi

B) Yoshihide Suga

C) Fumio Kishida

D) Shinzo Abe

Answer: D – Explanation: Shinzo Abe – Aug 2007. It was an early key vision of the Indian and Pacific Oceans as one strategic space.

5. Tokyo, Japan's capital and venue of the 2+2, lies on which island?

A) Honshu

B) Hokkaido

C) Kyushu

D) Shikoku

Answer: A – Explanation: Honshu – Japan's largest island, also home to the Yokosuka naval base. Hokkaido lies to the north and Kyushu to the south.

Sources: PIB – Ministry of Defence (17 Nov 2026, PRID 2337279); MEA (3rd 2+2 joint statement, Aug 2024); MOFA Japan (ACSA 2020; Abe speech 2007). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.