



Raisina Roundtable @ Tokyo

March 6-7, 2024

Tokyo, Japan

The Observer Research Foundation, in partnership with ORF America, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and Keizai Doyukai, hosted the inaugural Raisina Roundtable @ Tokyo on March 6 and 7, 2024. The Roundtable was supported by Unison Capital, Nippon Steel, Suntory Ltd, and Google.

The then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan laid out the vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" in a speech to the Indian Parliament in 2007. PM Abe envisioned an Indo-Pacific that is based on shared values, economic collaboration, maritime security, and the establishment of a rule-based order.

Prime Minister Abe's vision has been widely discussed and supported by various nations in the region and beyond. To take this vision forward, conversations at the Raisina Roundtable @ Tokyo focused around three thematic pillars, namely, Geopolitics & Geo-economics; A New Development Architecture; and Achieving Green Transitions.

The Raisina Roundtable @ Tokyo brought together distinguished thought leaders and practitioners from Japan and India, as well as like-minded partners and the other Quad countries. Underscoring the strategic importance of the Quad in the Indo-Pacific region, the Roundtable served as a pivotal platform to build consensus on critical issues, forge new partnerships, and enhance economic ties.

Yoshihide Suga, former Prime Minister of Japan, said at the event, "The international community must unite to uphold a rules-based international order. To that end, one of our key partners is India. The Japanese government is collaborating with like-minded countries like US, Australia, and India." He noted, "We are trying to make diplomatic efforts for the realization of Free and Open Indo-Pacific. We are continuously making diplomatic efforts."

Echoing India's relevance as a key partner for Japan, Ken Saito, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan, said, "We are at a major historical turning point. Against this backdrop, we need to pave the way for a new era. More than ever, we need reliable partners like India. This relationship is only going to be more important going forward." He continued, "For example, we need resilient supply chains. We also need to reinforce economic security and realise sustainable

growth. We need to coordinate with our allies in order to identify solutions to these very difficult challenges.”

The Raisina Roundtable @ Tokyo also had the privilege of hosting Yoko Kamikawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan. She said, “The Raisina Roundtable represents the special strategic partnership between Japan and India.” Noting the ongoing crises globally, she mentioned, “The world is at a crossroad. The Russia-Ukraine conflict is radically shaking the international order. The situation in the Middle East is worsening. Furthermore, climate change, food and energy crises are hitting the globe. In addition, we have to cope with AI and live with misinformation. In this context, Japan aspires to lead the international community towards collaboration and seek new solutions, not more confrontation.”

Kamikawa also highlighted the India-Japan partnership, and said, “In today’s world, India and Japan are key partners. This relationship is important across three main points: (1) India, as a unique democracy, must serve as the key to tacking a divisive world; (2) India provides stability, prosperity, and acts as a public good. To maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific, India and Japan hold a grave responsibility in the region; and (3) India is the ideal partner for Japan to collaborate and work on identifying solutions to the problems of a rising Global South.”

Her counterpart, S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India also spoke at the Raisina Roundtable @ Tokyo. “I think it is important that Japan today appreciates the pace of change in India. This is a country which is building 28 kilometers of highway everyday; which is creating 8 new airports every year; which is establishing 1.5 to 2 metros every year. Which has for the last two years build 2 new colleges everyday, and which has doubled its technical and medical institutions and output. This transformation of India makes us a more effective and credible partner.”

“Whether it is the ease of doing business,” Jaishankar continued, “business infrastructure development, ease of living, digital delivery, a start-up and innovation culture, or shaping the international agenda, India is clearly a very different country today. This is important for the Japanese to recognize.”

Through a video message, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida noted, “Growth attained by countries referred to as the Global South has been outstanding – with India playing a core role among such countries, attracting attention across dimensions. Last year, as the respective holders of the G7 and G20 Presidencies, Japan and India responded to global challenges in close partnership. I deeply appreciate Prime Minister Modi and EAM Jaishankar for their strong leadership that brought great success to the G20.”

Co-chairs of the conference, Tadashi Maeda of Japan Bank for International Cooperation, and Takeshi Niinami of Keizai Doyukai and Suntory Ltd. spoke on several occasions at the Roundtable, underlining their commitment to the Japan-India partnership and the need to enhance geoeconomics ties between the two countries.

On the occasion of the Raisina Roundtable @ Tokyo, Google officially launched the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence in their Roppongi office. The launch was inaugurated by Kono Taro, Minister of Digital Transformation, Japan.

Watch the proceedings of the inaugural night of Raisina Roundtable @ Tokyo here: <https://youtu.be/ToBoziyaJLk?si=Is2IKTx9nkdfXxzK>

Watch the addresses by the Quad representatives here:

https://youtu.be/_3U79iYhVeY?si=5JhpyGxaBTlDV5ye

Watch the ministerial addresses by FM Kamikawa and Minister Saito here:

<https://youtu.be/51wrwMYGP5M?si=BbbPEvD0uaz0i5lG>

Watch the session on India-Japan and the Quad partnership with EAM Jaishankar, Tadashi Maeda, Takeshi Niinami and Samir Saran here: <https://youtu.be/A8Y8LSgKZEE?si=1t58BA-Rvw2BAPI>