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The 4th Japan-India Universities Forum

The 4th Japan-India Universities Forum, organized by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), held on 15 November 2025 at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH), convened to further strengthen the momentum of Japan-India collaboration fostered through previous forums and to promote concrete initiatives between Japanese and Indian institutions.

In 2025, marking the 40th anniversary of the Japan-India Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement and designated as the “Japan-India Year of Science, Technology and Innovation Exchange,” the forum aimed to enhance complementary cooperation by leveraging the respective strengths of both countries in advanced technology and innovation, while fostering the co-creation of new value through closer bilateral collaboration.

A total of **214** participants attended the Forum, including representatives from **35** Indian universities and research institutes, **37** Japanese universities and research institutes, and **12** Japanese industry partners. The discussions reaffirmed the strong and growing partnership between Japan and India in science and technology.



Summary of Opening Remarks

The opening ceremony commenced with remarks delivered by the organizers, Dr. HASHIMOTO Kazuhito, President of JST, and Prof. B. S. Murty, Director of the IITH. They were followed by distinguished guest speakers, including H. E. Mr. ONO Keiichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, and H. E. Mr. MATSUMOTO Yohei, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, together with university presidents from both countries.

Speakers highlighted the importance of further deepening Japan-India scientific and technological cooperation, accelerating two-way talent circulation, and strengthening academia-industry-government collaboration. They expressed strong expectations that joint research and human resource development in cutting-edge fields would contribute to sustainable growth and the co-creation of a shared future.

Round-table Meetings

Under the overarching theme of *“Accelerating Japan-India Talent Circulation in Science and Technology Collaboration”*, the round-table discussions focused on sharing the current status of various initiatives related to Japan-India talent circulation, as well as advanced and best-practice examples. Through these exchanges, participants shared challenges that need to be addressed to expand future collaboration and examined concrete measures to address them.

The round-table themes were structured around three perspectives as shown in the chart below: 1) For universities and institutions to promote India-Japan collaboration of research in advanced fields, 2) For universities leveraging regional strengths of research and innovation capabilities to promote India-Japan collaboration, and 3) For universities to promote India-Japan collaboration for developing human resources and enhancing the career-paths in collaboration with municipalities. Furthermore, under the first perspective, discussions were divided into five topics—Biotechnology, Materials science, AI/ICT, Energy, and Quantum & information science, allowing for in-depth discussions on concrete topics that made use of the respective strengths of each university and research institution.

The structure consisted of organizational introductions in the first half and a plenary discussion in the second half.

Instruction of discussion	For universities and institutions to promote India-Japan collaboration of research in advanced fields. Biotechnology / Material Science / AI/ICT / Energy / Quantum/Information Science	For universities leveraging regional strengths of research and innovation capabilities to promote India-Japan collaboration.	For universities to promote India-Japan collaboration for developing human resources and enhancing the career-paths in collaboration with municipalities.
Advanced field	·A strategy for Japan and India to win globally through cooperation in advanced research, including joint research initiatives		
Field-based	·Identifying the characteristics of the field relevant to advancing collaborative research. ·Initiatives to expand collaborative research based on the characteristics of each field.		
Researcher-based	·Matching researchers with universities and companies, ·Sharing methods for utilising existing systems, challenges, and solutions.		
Social implementation	·Exploring frameworks to connect with startups and foster their growth. ·Sharing challenges in corporate matching and solutions.		
Talent development	·Matching the systems for accepting highly skilled Indian professionals at Japanese universities and companies across a wide range of fields with the needs on the Indian side. ·Promoting and implementing measures for universities to acquire Indian high-level talent, sharing challenges, and exploring collaboration partners.		·Expanding existing partnerships with local governments and businesses and promoting new collaborations

Bilateral Meetings

A total of 126 bilateral meetings were held between Japanese and Indian institutions with the aim of further realizing concrete collaboration and exchanges, during which seven pairs formalized their partnership through signing ceremonies. Although each meeting was limited to a 25-minute time slot, productive discussions took place. In addition, the use of waiting areas and other networking opportunities contributed to creating meaningful occasions for expanding concrete collaborative partnerships.



Summary

The 4th Japan-India Universities Forum successfully reinforced the momentum of academic and scientific collaboration and promoted in-depth dialogue on joint research, talent circulation, and institutional partnerships.

The forum contributed meaningfully to strengthening Japan-India cooperation in science and technology and to advancing the shared goal of creating new value through sustained mutual exchange.

Contact

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