

Abe to visit India in Dec, 2+2 meet later this month

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JAPAN'S PRIME Minister Shinzo Abe will come to India in December this year, and before that, the Foreign and Defence ministers of the two countries will meet for the first 2+2 ministerial meeting later this month.

Sources said the two sides are looking at the possibility of scheduling the meeting in the later half of December.

This was discussed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Abe on Monday on the margins of India-ASEAN and East Asia Summits. The two leaders have met each other thrice in the last about four months.

An MEA statement said the two Prime Ministers "... agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation, including in third-world countries, for achieving the shared objective of peace, prosperity and progress of the Indo-Pacific region." It also said the two leaders deliberated on the inaugural 2+2 Indo-Japan foreign and defence ministerial dialogue later this month in India, noting that it will



PM Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe in Bangkok on Monday. PTI

help provide impetus to the security and defence cooperation between the two sides.

After the meeting, Modi said it was always wonderful to meet "my friend PM Abe". "Our meeting today was very good. We exchanged views on multiple subjects including further boosting the economic partnership between our countries," he tweeted.

"...The leaders also reviewed the progress on Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project and reaffirmed their commitment to advance mutual efforts to facilitate the smooth implementation of the project," the MEA said.