

Indian prime minister's visit

Long history of mutually beneficial relations

Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh is on a three-day (Oct. 24 to 26) visit to Japan as a guest of the government of Japan under the official working visit program to strengthen the friendly relations between Japan and India.

The prime minister flew into Tokyo on Oct. 24, accompanied by his wife, Gursharan Kaur, and a high-level delegation.

On Oct. 25, Prime Minister Singh is scheduled to have an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, followed by a meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Naoto Kan.

This trip marks Dr. Singh's fourth visit to Japan as prime minister, following an official visit in December 2006; a trip to attend the outreach session of the G-8 summit at Toyako, Hokkaido, in July 2008; and his last official visit in October 2008. On each visit, Dr. Singh has met a different prime minister: Shinzo Abe in 2006; Yasuo Fukuda in July 2008; Taro Aso in Oct. 2008; and now Prime Minister Kan.

History

Exchanges between Japan and India are said to have begun in the sixth century when Buddhism was introduced to Japan. Indian culture, filtered through Buddhism, has had a great impact on Japanese culture and this is the source of the Japanese people's sense of closeness to India.

In 1949, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru donated two Indian elephants to the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo. This brought a ray of light into the lives of the Japanese people who still had not recovered from defeat in World War II. Japan and India signed a peace treaty and established diplomatic relations on April 28, 1952. This treaty was one of the first peace treaties Japan signed after the World War II.

Ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries have enjoyed cordial relations. In the post-World War II period, India's iron ore

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh AP

Brief overview of Prime Minister Singh's career

Dr. Manmohan Singh, India's 14th prime minister, is widely respected as a thinker and scholar, and for his diligence and academic approach, as well as his accessibility and unassuming demeanor.

Prime Minister Singh was born Sept. 26, 1932, in a village in the Punjab Province of undivided India. Dr. Singh completed his matriculation examinations from Punjab University in 1948. His academic career took him from Punjab to the University of Cambridge, where he earned a first-class honors degree in economics in 1957.

Dr. Singh followed this with a D.Phil. in economics from Nuffield College, Oxford, in 1962. His book, "India's Export Trends and Prospects for Self-Sustained Growth" (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1964), was an early critique of India's inward-oriented trade policy.

Dr. Singh's academic credentials were furthered by the years he spent on the faculty of Punjab University and the prestigious Delhi School of Economics. He had a brief stint at the UNCTAD Secretariat as well during these years. This presaged a subsequent appointment as secretary general of the South Commission in Geneva between 1987 and 1990.

In 1971, Dr. Singh joined the government of

India as an economic adviser in the Commerce Ministry. This was soon followed by his appointment as chief economic adviser in the Ministry of Finance in 1972. Among the many government positions that Dr. Singh has occupied are secretary in the Ministry of Finance, deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, governor of the Reserve Bank of India, adviser to the prime minister and chairman of the University Grants Commission.

In what was to become the turning point in the economic history of independent India, Dr. Singh spent five years between 1991 and 1996 as the country's finance minister. His role in ushering in a comprehensive policy of economic reforms is recognized worldwide. In the popular view of those years in India, the period is inextricably associated with the person of Dr. Singh.

In addition to the many awards and honors conferred upon Dr. Singh, including India's second-highest civilian honor, the Padma Vibhushan in 1987, he is the recipient of honorary degrees from many universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Dr. Singh and his wife, Gursharan Kaur, have three daughters.

A strategic and global partnership

Yasuo Fukuda
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-INDIA
PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE,
FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

On behalf of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to extend our hospitality and warm welcome to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the occasion of his visit to Japan.



Japan and India have continued to enjoy friendly relations founded on a long history of exchanges. In particular, in recent years the Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership marks a strengthening of bilateral ties, and leaders of each country have made annual visits since 2005. It is with

great pleasure that I make note of the recent welcoming of Dr. Singh by the Japanese government as proof of the close relations between the two countries.

We believe that we are growing deeper, strengthening cooperation in the fields of politics as well as peace and security through the implementation of the action plan formulated in December 2009, based on the joint declaration that had been agreed upon with Dr. Singh in his previous visit to Japan back in October 2008.

In the field of economics, a Japan-India comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) will contribute to the further development of both countries' economies and the strengthening of economic ties between them. In addition, both countries have made firm commitments to U.N. Security

Council reform, and on global issues such as climate change and biodiversity.

Along with the strengthening of such political and economic relations, we look forward to a greater number of interpersonal exchanges at all levels, deepening our friendly relations and mutual trust through the genuine interest held by citizens of both countries.

In this way, Japan and India still have the potential to strengthen and expand cooperation in partnerships in many more areas. It is my firm belief that Dr. Singh's arrival in Japan will promote the further strengthening of bilateral relations between Japan and India.

May I take this opportunity to reiterate my sincerest welcome to Dr. Singh and to send my best wishes for the continued development of our friendly relations.

India's rapid economic growth benefits the world economy

Yoshiro Mori
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION,
FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

On behalf of the Japan-India Association, which has worked for 107 years for Japan-India relations, I extend our most heartfelt welcome to H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, prime minister of India.



Dr. Singh is not only the architect of today's emerging India but also a great statesman, most respected both in India and the world. Japan is privileged to have a best friend and pro-Japanese statesman in the person of Dr. Singh.

Since Dr. Singh came to Japan in 1991 as finance minister to save India from the brink of a foreign currency crisis, he has successively worked hard to change India into a rapidly growing, market-driven, less-regulated and more-globalized economy.

Prime Minister Singh upgraded the Japan-India Global Partnership that I had inaugurated in August 2000 with Prime Minister A.B. Vajpey, his predecessor, up to the level of Strategic and Global Partnership jointly with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, my successor.

India's rapid economic growth attracts attention and admiration from both within and without India and

benefits enormously our global economy. In my view, though, India's rise in the world in political and strategic areas is no less remarkable, and all democratic and peace-loving nations, including Japan, feel assured that the biggest democracy in the world occupies a geopolitically important place in Eurasia facing critical sea lanes in the Indian Ocean.

Japan and India now enjoy the most cordial and friendly relationship and work for the best interests of our two countries. The flows of people and business are multiplied, and yet not to our potentials. Under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Singh, we will be able to conclude an

Economic Partnership Agreement, speed up the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and Dedicated Freight Corridor projects, conclude a civil nuclear cooperation agreement, accelerate investment both ways and promote scientific, technological and cultural exchanges.

We are also endeavoring to join our resources — political, economic and human — to contribute to the solution of important international and regional agendas such as international terrorism and piracy, the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the reform of the United Nations Security Council and climate change.

It is my earnest hope that Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Naoto Kan will deepen mutual confidence and friendship, thereby leading our two peoples to much closer and mutually beneficial relations in all spheres that concern us.

I am firmly convinced that, in addition to the summit meeting with Prime Minister Kan, Prime Minister Singh's audience with His Majesty the Emperor Akihito and his meeting with political and business leaders of Japan will enhance the already cordial relations into the year 2012, the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India.

We extend a hearty welcome to
Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Honourable Prime Minister of India
on his official visit to Japan

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Our heartiest welcome to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, on the occasion of his official visit to Japan

Indian prime minister's visit

Japan regards India highly

Hiromasa Yonekura
CHAIRMAN, NIPPON KEIDANREN

On behalf of Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), I would like to extend our warm welcome to H.E. Manmohan Singh, prime minister of India.



The India-Japan bilateral relations have become stronger and closer in recent years. Especially, our bilateral trade and investment have seen remarkable growth. From 2008 to 2009, the India-Japan trade totaled \$13 billion, an increase of 28 percent from the previous year. Japan's foreign direct investment (FDI) to India has significantly increased to ¥809 billion from 2008 to 2009. The scale of the investment, exceeding the amount of Japan's FDI to China, indicates the importance of the relations between India and Japan.

companies operating in India has reached 1,049, including representative offices, as of October 2009. While most of these Japanese companies are from manufacturing industries, financial service and medical service firms have recently begun to set up operations in India.

It is time for the business sectors of the two countries to build on the momentum and step up efforts to further expand and strengthen India-Japan business cooperation. Nippon Keidanren launched the Japan-India Business Leaders Forum (JIBLF), in which Japanese and Indian business leaders have called for accelerating the Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (JICEPA) negotiations to promote bilateral trade, investment and businesses and build a mutually beneficial strategic economic relationship between India and Japan.

To celebrate Prime Minister Singh's visit to Japan, Nippon

Keidanren holds the Third JIBLF on Oct. 25, hoping to witness the long-awaited conclusion of the JICEPA.

In order to maintain its strong economic growth, which is estimated to reach an annual rate of 8 percent, it is essential for India to upgrade its infrastructure. Japan and India are working together on joint initiatives for infrastructure development, such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project, and we the Japanese business community are pleased to continue to support these collaborations through public-private partnerships.

Last but not least, on behalf of Nippon Keidanren, I wish to express our deep gratitude to Dr. Singh for coming to Japan, and again, we are delighted and honored to welcome the Prime Minister. I sincerely hope that this visit will be fruitful and rewarding and help to further deepen the friendship and partnership between India and Japan.

Dr. Singh helps effect global rise of modern India

Ryuko Hira
HONORARY PRESIDENT, THE INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY JAPAN TOKYO, THE INDIAN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION OF YOKOHAMA

Dr. Manmohan Singh, India's 14th prime minister, a great thinker and a scholar, is visiting Japan. On behalf of all members of The Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Japan Tokyo (ICCJ) and The Indian Merchants Association of Yokohama (IMAY), I am deeply honored and privileged to welcome our Prime Minister to Japan.



Mahatma Gandhi liberated

India but Dr. Singh has been recognized worldwide in making economic history for independent India by ushering a comprehensive policy of economic reforms that has led to the rise of contemporary India.

India's unprecedented model of true democracy contains a myriad of challenges. Prime Minister Singh's enduring principles and daring indomitable persistence to resolve each challenge has immensely contributed to India's peace and promise of prosperity to its masses.

The position in the world that India holds today is due to the wide vision of Prime Minister Singh, wisely foreseeing the future of India. He has guided India toward extraordinary economic growth during the

global recession, shaped institutions, inspired thoughts and purposes toward achieving the edification of the whole populace.

Transcending politics and economics the world leaders have honored the persona of Dr. Singh as an exemplary statesman and a noble friend of the global community.

In this 90th year of the founding of our Indian association we take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our prime minister for providing every assistance and care to we overseas Indians in Japan. We at the ICCJ and IMAY extend our prime minister a heartfelt and warm welcome for a happy, memorable and successful visit to Japan.

Bilateral investment, trade relations surge

Nobuo Ohashi
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee (JIBCC), it is my honor to extend my sincerest welcome to H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the occasion of his visit to Japan.



Then Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's visit to India last December showcased strengthening Japan-India relationships, particularly since the two leaders agreed upon stronger bilateral relations through the Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership.

As a part of our strengthening relations, we believe that accelerating the occasion of agreeing upon an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is a major goal, and we are proud to recognize that basic agreements have been reached this September. It is with great happiness that we recognize Dr. Singh's visit to Japan, which will surely deepen our countries' amicable and economic relationships.

Economic relations between the countries have seen a surge these past few years in spheres of both investment and trade. We believe that the establishment of an EPA is vital toward an expansion of trade between the two nations and it is with such sentiments that the Japanese business community looks forward to an EPA being reached quickly.

In addition, the JIBCC raised attention on large-scale projects such as the

Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project and the Delhi-Mumbai Dedicated Freight Corridor at a joint committee conference last December in Delhi. We extend our respect for the Indian government, prefectural governments and companies involved for their strong motivation and hard work in proceeding with the realization of these projects. The Japanese business community, with the strong support of both the Japanese and Indian governments as well as affiliated institutions, is working out technical details of the projects and all Japanese companies involved with this endeavor are working in earnest toward its completion.

The world economy is experiencing hard times, but there is no doubt that the joint efforts and partnership between Japan and India will prove to be a powerful driving force not only for both nations but for Asia and the rest of the world as well.

Also, along with the aforementioned infrastructure solution projects, we look forward to further joint development in areas of energy, environment and agriculture. Furthermore, we believe that citizens from both countries will have a better appreciation for the allure of the culture, arts and tourist attractions of both countries.

The JIBCC would like to work toward establishing stronger Japan-India relations at the interpersonal level through a strong commitment to further economic exchange.

Finally, in addition to celebrating the arrival of Dr. Singh to Japan, may I express my wishes for the further continued development of India.

Harnessing the energy of the sun to power grand Indian ambitions

An ancient civilization like India has always worshipped the sun as the god who bestows life and sustains it. As Prime Minister Manmohan Singh put it: "It is to this source of energy that humankind must turn to meet the twin challenge of energy security and climate change."

Toward this end, India has drawn up ambitious plans to generate a staggering 20,000 megawatts of solar energy by 2022, a hundredfold increase over the next 12 years. This makes it the world's biggest solar energy project.

Asserting that India has started moving forward in utilizing solar energy with the launch of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission by the prime minister earlier this year under the brand name Solar India, Minister of New and Renewable Energy Farooq Abdullah says that about 1,000 MW of power would be generated through hundreds of solar power plants across the country over the next three years.

"In the second phase, we intend to generate an additional 2,000 MW by 2015 and strive to achieve the target of 20,000

MW by 2022," Abdullah said. "As more and more players enter the field, the upfront cost of setting up a power plant will reduce to make its energy affordable to all."

Solar energy can transform India in so many ways. As Prime Minister Singh said at the launch, it could be the country's next scientific and technological frontier after the revolutions in atomic energy, space and information technology.

The mission's success "has the potential of transforming India's energy prospects, and contributing also to national as well as global efforts to combat climate change," Singh said.

The target of building 20,000 MW of solar power generating capacity by 2022 was "no doubt ambitious," Prime Minister Singh admitted, "but I do sincerely believe that the target is doable and that we should work single-mindedly to achieve it as a priority national endeavor."

With its abundant sunshine for most of the year, India is in a particularly advantageous position to develop solar power. The country gets about 5,000 trillion kilowatt-hours



Power: Solar panels (above) and other equipment (below left) to collect energy from the sun
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

per year over its land area, with most parts receiving 4 to 7 kwh per square meter per day.

The major problem with the rapid rollout of solar power is its high cost compared to other sources of power such as coal.

Current industry estimates are that it will cost 17.50 rupees to produce a unit of solar power, well over double the cost of production through coal.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the nodal ministry for Solar India, says the objective of the mission "is to create conditions, through rapid scale-up of capacity and technological innovation, to drive down costs toward grid parity."

"The mission anticipates achieving grid parity by 2022 and parity with coal-based thermal power by 2030," says MNRE's mission document.

The economics of solar power look better as the price of

electricity generated from other sources goes up. The price of electricity traded internally has already touched Rs 7 per unit for base loads and around Rs 8.50 per unit during peak periods.

This will rise further as the country moves toward imported coal to meet its energy demand. The price of power will have to factor in the availability of coal in international markets and the cost of developing an import infrastructure. It is also evident that as the cost of environmental degradation is factored into the mining of coal, as it must, the price of this raw material will increase.

With energy shortages biting harder, India is increasing the use of diesel-based electricity, which is also expensive — costs as high as Rs 15 per unit. It is in this situation that the solar imperative is both urgent and feasible to enable the country to meet long-term energy needs.

The Solar India mission will adopt a three-phase approach, spanning the remaining period of the 11th Five-Year Plan and the first year of the 12th Plan (up to 2012-13) as Phase 1, the remaining four years of the 12th Plan (2013-17) as Phase 2 and the 13th Plan

(2017-22) as Phase 3.

The MNRE says the first phase will focus on capturing the easy options in solar thermal, on promoting off-grid systems to serve populations without access to commercial energy and on modest capacity addition in grid-based systems. In the second phase, after taking into account the experience of the initial years, capacity will be aggressively ramped up to create conditions for upscaled and competitive solar energy production in the country.

This, MNRE says, will be achieved by creating 15 million sq. meters of solar thermal collector area by 2017 and 20 million sq. meters by 2022.

"The ambitious target for 2022 of 20,000 MW or more will be dependent on the learning of the first two phases, which if successful, could lead to conditions of grid-competitive solar power," says the mission document.

Indian industry will obviously have to play a key role in ensuring the success of the mission. To do this, it should set up "Solar Valleys" across the country along the lines of the "Silicon Valleys" that have been set up, according to Prime Minister Singh.



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Tradition of bilateral visits continues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5
helped Japan's recovery from the devastation of war. Following Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi's visit to India in 1957, Japan started providing yen loans to India in 1958, as the first yen loan aid extended by Japanese government. Since 1986, Japan has become India's largest aid donor and remains so.

and six rounds of dialogue have been conducted since then. During Prime Minister Singh's visit to Japan in 2008, the Joint Statement on security cooperation between Japan and India was issued. Furthermore, an action plan to advance security cooperation based on the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India was issued during Hatoyama's visit to India in 2009. The Japan-India 2+2 Dialogue, which is the framework established based on the agreement by the prime ministers of both countries at the Annual Summit in December 2009, was held in New Delhi in July 2010.

Recent relations

Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's visit to India in August 2000 provided the momentum to strengthen the Japan-India relationship. Since then, annual meetings between prime ministers have led to the establishment of the Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India as well as the further strengthening of the bilateral relationship. Most recently, during Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's visit to India in December 2009, Japan and India signed the Joint Statement "New Stage of Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership."

Security cooperation

Both countries have been conducting annual Foreign Office Consultations at the foreign secretary level. The Security Dialogue between the two countries was set up in 2001

Economic relations

Bilateral trade is expanding in the recent years. However, the speed and scope of expansion are still limited. In December 2006, the prime ministers of the two countries decided to launch immediate negotiations for the conclusion of a bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement / Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, aiming to complete it in substance as soon as possible in approximately two years. Thirteen rounds of negotiations have been held in New Delhi and Tokyo as of July 2010.

Heartiest Welcome to His Excellency
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India

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Heartiest Welcome to His Excellency
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Indian prime minister



Artistic craft: Kantha embroidery of West Bengal is one of India's most popular. The hand-stitched embroidery usually features a number of traditional patterns based on religious symbols, tales from epics, scenes from villages, flowers or animals in enchanting color schemes. DILIP BANERJEE

Welcome to India's globalizing prime minister

Yog Kapoor
OWNER, INDIAN RESTAURANT CHAIN
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It is mind-blowing how the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi has succeeded in globalizing and stabilizing a country like India, where the population is 1.2 billion. In spite of many religions, languages and many political parties, bringing them together, really is the toughest job in the world.



Through the Congress party of Dr. Singh and Gandhi, their devotion has brought India onto the world map today. Self-

sufficiency in the country and industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, construction and tourism are booming due to the stable government and trustworthiness of the nation in the world.

Japan and India are both peace-loving countries in the world and the visit of Dr. Singh to Japan is very timely since the economy of Japan and the world is in financial crisis. The politicians of both countries will take this opportunity as a great chance in collaborating with each other in economic, security and cultural fields. India likely will give Japanese businesses a boost in many fields like agriculture, electronic appliances, automobiles and many more.

The time is not far away

when India will become the hub for small cars in the world as already Suzuki of Japan has been one of the leading automobiles in the Indian market for decades. During this visit, Dr. Singh is expected to ink a free trade agreement and discuss with Prime Minister Naoto Kan a bilateral civil nuclear cooperation pact, which will enable Japan to export its nuclear power generation technology and equipment to India.

Prime Minister Kan's administration has expressed its intention to incorporate the vigor of Asia and other regions in its new growth strategy. In line with this policy, an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between Japan and India is expected to strengthen Japanese compa-

nies' competitiveness and expand infrastructure exports.

For Japan, one of the biggest economic powers in the world — but where the population is shrinking and the society is aging — to maintain this status in the world, Japan should enter into deeper economic partnership with India and make more concessions to make Japan more self-sufficient.

So if we work together with great sincerity and honesty for our people, the day is not far away when again we can bring happiness and prosperity to our peoples without any threat of war to each other. We can make this beautiful world more safe, peaceful and prosperous for the future generations to come.

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