

Indian Prime Minister's Visit

Working together for common goals

H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy
Ambassador of India



I deem it an honor to contribute to the special supplement published by The Japan Times on the occasion of the ongoing two-day visit of the Prime Minister of India, H.E. Narendra Modi, to Japan for the 11th annual bilateral summit meeting with Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe. This visit provides fresh impetus to bilateral ties between India and Japan, building further on the momentum created by his visit to Japan in 2014 and the subsequent visit of Japan's prime minister to India in December. This is the eighth meeting between the two since the Prime Minister Modi assumed office in 2014. It is a valuable opportunity for

the two leaders to meet, as friends and as leaders of two of Asia's largest economies, to advance bilateral engagement under the special strategic and global partnership.

Relations between India and Japan are millennial in nature. They are cemented by close bonds forged on the anvil of Buddhism, which spread from India to other countries in Asia, including Japan. As two large democracies, we value openness, transparency and respect for the rule of law.

Our relationship is marked by a convergence on economic and strategic issues. As two prominent maritime states straddling the vast and dynamic Indo-Pacific region, both India and Japan are committed to the cause of peace, stability and prosperity. Both support freedom of navigation and overflight, as well as unimpeded maritime commerce through the interlinked sea lanes of the Pacific and Indian

Oceans.

We welcomed Japan's participation this year as a regular member, for the first time, joining India and the U.S. in the successful Malabar naval exercises held off the coast of Japan. Dialogue between the three defense services provides a platform for closer cooperation, particularly in the field of maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Promoting regional connectivity is a common objective, as is the creation of an inclusive, balanced and open regional architecture. India and Japan have condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with zero tolerance and have reaffirmed their deep concern at the continued threat posed by terrorists and terror groups. Together, we have called upon all countries to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 1267 and other relevant resolutions designating terrorist entities, and to work to eliminate terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, their networks and financing channels, including the cross-border movement of terrorists.

With a projected gross domestic product growth rate of 7.6 percent in 2016, India has emerged as the world's fastest-growing large economy and as a global manufacturing hub. India's large domestic market, macroeconomic stability and competitive low-cost manufacturing have made it an attractive investment destination. India is strongly committed to further opening up the economy and to improving the ease of doing business. A number of steps taken by the government of India to spur economic growth and flow of foreign direct investment such



Prime Minister of India H.E. Narendra Modi

as the passage of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, the setting up of commercial courts and new legislation regarding the Goods and Services Tax are expected to ignite medium-term growth. Today, Japan is the fourth-largest investor in India. The Indian economy offers unparalleled opportunities to Japanese companies to participate in flagship programs, including Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, Smart Cities and Industrial Townships and Corridors. India is now Japan's largest overseas development assistance partner. Japan's unmatched technological and innovative capacities have made it a natural partner for India in the execution of mega infrastructural projects of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor, the Metro Rail projects in Delhi, Ahmedabad and Chennai and notably the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High

Speed Railway Project.

The role of private capital from Japan is integral to our burgeoning economic engagement. Japanese companies stand to benefit from low-cost manufacturing and the ample pool of competent human resources in India. Japan Bank for International Cooperation surveys in the last two years have consistently ranked India as the most-preferred medium-term destination for Japanese manufacturers.

The people of India greatly admire Japan's culture of hard work, discipline and dedication just as the Japanese people admire India's diversity and spirituality. People-to-people exchanges are on the rise. India has recently extended a "Visa-on-Arrival" facility, 10-year business visas and e-Tourist visas to Japanese travelers. Japan's role in skills development, education and training programs in India will benefit a large and youthful workforce, and provide a steady stream of human resources to meet the needs of the growing Japanese presence in India.

Steadfast leader remains dedicated to improving lives

On May 26, 2014, Narendra Modi was sworn in as prime minister of India, becoming the first prime minister born after Indian independence. Dynamic, dedicated and determined, Modi reflects the hopes of over 1 billion Indians.

Since assuming office, he has embarked on a journey of inclusive development where every Indian can realize their hopes and aspirations. He remains deeply inspired by the principle of "Antyodaya," or serving the last person in the queue.

Through innovative initiatives, the government has ensured the wheels of progress move quickly and the fruits of development reach every citizen.

The Modi government created many initiatives, including those to ensure every citizen is integrated into the nation's financial system, make doing business easier and reform labor. The government also launched three social security programs for the people of India and focused on giving pensions to the elderly and insurance coverage to the poor. In July 2015 the prime minister unveiled a program to ensure technology plays a key role in bringing a qualitative change to people's lives.

On Oct. 2, 2014, Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, the prime minister launched a mass movement for cleanliness across the nation.

His foreign policy initiatives have realized the true potential and global role of the world's largest democracy. Since taking office, the prime minister has attended U.N., BRICS, SAARC and G-20 summits, where India's views on global economic and political issues were appreciated. His visit to Japan marked a new era of bilateral relations.

The prime minister has attached great importance to strong ties with the Arab world. His visit to UAE in August 2015 covered tremendous ground in enhancing India's economic partnership in the region. In July 2015 the prime minister made a groundbreaking visit to the five central Asian nations and vital energy, trade, culture and economic agreements were signed. In October 2015 a historic India-Africa summit was held in New Delhi, in which 54 African nations participated. In November 2015 the prime minister joined the COP21 summit in Paris, where he, along with several world leaders deliberated on climate

change.

In April the prime minister joined the Nuclear Security Summit where he put forth a strong message on the importance of nuclear security. Many world leaders have visited India and these visits have achieved breakthroughs in improving cooperation. The 2015 Republic Day saw President Barack Obama visit India as the chief guest, a first in the history of India-U.S. relations.

The prime minister's call for marking an International Day of Yoga received an overwhelming response at the U.N., with 177 nations passing the resolution to declare June 21 as the International Day of Yoga.

Born on Sept. 17, 1950, in a small town in Gujarat, he grew up in a poor but loving family. The initial hardships of life not only taught the value of hard work, but also exposed him to the avoidable sufferings of the common people. This inspired him from a young age to immerse himself in the service of people and the nation. At first, he worked with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a nationalist organization devoted to nation building, and later devoted himself to working with the Bharatiya Janta Party at the national and state levels. He completed his M.A. in political science from Gujarat University.

In 2001, he became chief minister of Gujarat and went on to serve a record four terms. He transformed Gujarat, which was reeling from the after-effects of a devastating earthquake, into a growth engine contributing to India's development.

He is a "people's leader," dedicated to solving their problems and improving their lives. Nothing is more satisfying to him than being among the people, sharing their joys and alleviating their sorrows. His powerful personal connection with the people on ground is complemented by a strong online presence; He is known as India's most techno-savvy leader and is active on social media.

This is the man, an embodiment of courage, compassion and conviction, on whom the nation has bestowed its mandate, trusting he will rejuvenate India and make it a bright beacon to the world.

Taken from <http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/>



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) shakes hands with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in New Delhi in December 2015. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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to His Excellency
Narendra Damodardas Modi,
Prime Minister of India,
on His Official Visit to Japan

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Indian Prime Minister's Visit

Leading development revolution

Ryuko Hira
HONORARY PRESIDENT, THE INDIAN
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION JAPAN

The world has witnessed many revolutions and Narendra Modi's revolution of India's massive development is unprecedented. India is just entering the hyper-growth phase, with prospects of sustaining high gross domestic product growth. The process will transform India dramatically over the next decades. The effect of revolutionary changes will be felt at all levels through urbanization, evolving sociocultural values and growing international influence. It is a holistic, benevolent revolution that also contributes to the economic growth of partner nations. Mahatma Gandhi made India's freedom a mass revolution, whereas Modi has made development a mass revolution to fight poverty, protectionism and all that impedes India's social and economic progress. Modi's comprehensive revolution of development includes many factors that I will outline here.

Youth lead world

Demographic shifts have a huge impact on economic performance as younger workers are more open to new technologies. The U.N. projects India's working age population will rise from 691 million in 2005 to 829 million in 2015 and 942 million in 2025 before stabilizing around 1.06 billion in the late 2030's. By then, India will have the single largest pool of workers in the world.

The decrease of working populations in developed countries is expected to create a global demand by 2020 for a large workforce. Eight hundred million Indian youth below age 35 could be a workforce for the whole world, especially in health ser-

vices, high technology, space, artificial intelligence, robotics and teaching of science and math.

To raise its workforce to global standards, to deliver the highest-quality durable products and globally raise the India brand, the government has established a special Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The world will acknowledge India's youth talent and the number of Indian youth to visit Japan for learning and working is projected to hit 10,000 in the next five years.

Make in India

With skilled human resources, effective governance and low-cost production, India is the best choice for investment. CDs containing over 2,000 pages of ready information describing 26 priority-manufacturing sectors, as well as information on industrial parks, labor costs, statistics, tax structures and more are available free at the Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan (ICIJ). Presently, 1,400 Japanese companies successfully operate in India and this number is seen to be quadrupling within the next five years.

Bilateral tourism

The number of passport applications has increased from 5 million to 20 million and the government has installed a system of transparency to streamline and issue passports within 2 weeks. India-Japan tourism is expected to grow manifold as the numbers are very low at this preliminary stage.

Company registration

Thanks to good governance and improved efficiency, the registration period for new companies has dropped from six months to 24 hours.

Improved infrastructure

Rural roads are being given priority and construction on roads

to connect villages has increased from 70 to 100 km per day.

Work on wind energy has accelerated and last year, energy output increased by nearly 40 percent, while solar energy increased by 116 percent. With increased energy production, India needs a proper system of transmission lines. Two years before the formation of Modi's government, 30,000 to 35,000 kilometers of transmission lines were being laid every year, while today, the number has increased to 50,000 kilometers.

Modi had said that within the next 1,000 days, electricity will be provided to some 18,000 villages, where even after 70 years of independence there has been no electricity. People there were compelled to live in the 18th century. Modi resolved to convert the impossible to possible and, although not even the half of the 1,000 days have past, 10,000 villages out of the 18,000 have received electricity.

Chabahar Port is an essential link between India and Central Asia. Previous governments continuously discussed and made efforts to implement this project. Iran, Afghanistan and India are jointly working to construct the Chabahar Port to make this impossible task possible.

The government has taken on the task of providing liquefied petroleum gas connections to poor families. Under the Ujjwala Scheme, the government has vigorously launched a campaign of setting our mothers free from kitchen smoke. Fifty million poor families will get gas stoves in three years and the government has seen nearly 5 million families receive them already and that is in just 100 days. It is likely that it may be possible this work could be completed well within three years.

In the past, due to high electricity prices, people were forced to live in the dark and factories had to close. To change this, the government implemented the One Nation, One Grid, One Price

system that has quickly seen success by leveling the rates and uniting the country.

Review burden of laws

The burden of multiplicity of laws is creating difficulties for the government, judiciary and the public, with about 1,700 such laws identified. The parliament has already abolished about 1,175 laws and the Modi government intends to abolish the remaining such laws.

Petroleum products

India is dependent on other nations for its petroleum and India has signed fixed-price, long-term agreements for them. India has a gas agreement with Qatar that runs to 2024. However, the agreed gas price was proving costly for India and our good relations with Qatar made renegotiation possible, saving 20 billion rupees for India.

Inflation

While it is true that previous governments saw inflation exceed 10 percent, the Modi government has not allowed the rate to exceed 6 percent. Currently an agreement with the Reserve Bank calls for maintaining inflation at 4 percent, plus or minus 2 percent.

Agriculture

If farmers have access to water, they can create miracles. Therefore, India has stressed water management, irrigation and water conservation. To use each and every drop of water and increase the utilization of water to gain more crop per drop, micro-irrigation is being emphasized. More than 90 irrigation plans were sitting incomplete, but the Modi government resolved to complete these projects to benefit millions. To reduce costs to farmers, the government has turned to solar pumps. Farmers typically need costly electricity for water, but thanks to solar pumps, farmers' costs are reduced. So far, the Modi govern-

ment has been successful in distributing 77,000 solar pumps and farmers will now own not only their farmland, but also have free electricity through solar power.

Along with farmland, water and solar pumps, India also needs high-quality seeds and Indian scientists have developed more than 131 new varieties of seeds suitable to India. These will increase per hectare yields and the quality of crops is also improving.

Farmers also need urea and fertilizers. There was a time when there was black marketing of fertilizers and farmers had to fear police charges to get fertilizers or risk seeing their harvest ruined due to lack of fertilizers. Now, fertilizer shortages have become things of the past. The Modi government has succeeded in increasing fertilizer production, increasing the ability of farmers to get fertilizers in a timely manner. Similarly, to protect farmers' land and farm produce, the Modi government provided a maximum guarantee to farmers at the lowest premium and built additional warehouses to protect 15 million tons of produce.

Farmers would benefit under value addition and in this direction, the government is stressing food processing and 100 percent foreign direct investment is being encouraged. This will benefit agro-based industries and help fulfill Modi's goal of doubling farmers' incomes by 2022.

Postal reform

Due to information technology, such as messaging and e-mail, Indian post-offices were slowly becoming irrelevant. India has revived and rejuvenated its post offices, working to convert them into payment banks. Starting these payment banks will spread the chain of banks in villages across the country in one go.

Public-sector companies
Historically, in India, public-sector companies have fallen into a

hole, failed or been sold. The government has tried to bring in a new culture. Today, for the first time, Air India, which had a poor image, succeeded in recording an operational profit last year. At a time when telecom companies all over the world were earning, the state-owned telecommunications company, BSNL, was falling in a hole, but BSNL recently succeeded in earning an operational profit. Nobody knew whether the Shipping Corporation of India would ever be in the black, but today, the company is turning a profit. There was a time when nobody knew whether a power plant would be operational next week or not, whether coal would reach it or not and power plants shutting down due to coal shortages used to be common-

place. Today, coal is delivered to the doorstep of power plants and they have stock available for as many months as required.

It is necessary to fight against social evils and rise above them. Every citizen will have to rise and only then will people be able to make a strong India. A strong India cannot happen without making a strong society. Economic progress alone cannot guarantee a strong India; a strong society is a guarantee for a strong India and ensuring social justice makes society strong.

In the same way that new roads are being built, the country is making more vehicles, exporting more software and more than 50 new mobile manufacturers have been set up; all providing an opportunity for the youth.

The rise of a new superpower

Ryuko Hira
SAI HIRA INDIA FOUNDATION

"Define 'superpower,'" said revered Indian educator, professor S.N. Saraf to students attending an Indian culture course in May 1990.

Chancellor Sri Sathya Sai replied: "All kinds of power, whether physical, intellectual, monetary, military or political, have to bend before truth and righteousness that will always triumph. What students have to protect today is not the nation. Students have to safeguard truth and righteousness only. These two in turn will protect the nation."

Prime Minister H.E. Narendra Modi's projections, policies and plans to socioeconomically transform India into a superpower are firmly embedded in his unshakable faith in the supreme power of truth and righteousness; the bedrock of India's ethos. It's no wonder Modi chose Varanasi, India's spiritual capital as his base. Modi's general election leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was based on the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and others, giving BJP an unprecedented absolute lower house majority for the first time in 30 years.

In the 30 months since his election Modi has not spared a single moment or chance to selflessly serve the nation.

The responsibility and mandate of the Modi government has given optimism, hope and expectations for a dynamic change and assurance it will be successful within its term.

In less than 30 months, over 50 plans have been launched with overwhelming support and success to transform the economic, social and education sectors. Efficiency and transparency of the mammoth work done is reflected in the new and dynamic work culture of the government, which is integrating and unifying all plans, rather than piecemeal parallel or vertical implementation.

This new work culture has changed the mindset of all Indian people, from old to new and innovative global standards, which are proven patterns of absolute commitment for India's superpower transformation. The desire, consent and momentum of the masses are signs of sustained unity and support. Today, opinion polls give the government the highest ratings for speed and sincerity of implementing major reforms to deliver promises, honoring Modi as one of the world's most-re-

India's population will be 40 percent urbanized by 2025 and it will be an urban-majority country by 2040. Indian cities need to prepare for the influx of hundreds of millions of people.

Let's move ahead with a new resolve, energy, vigor and hope, live and work for our country, fulfill our responsibilities and inspire others to fulfill theirs. Everyone should move ahead for the realization of one society, one dream, one resolve and one direction for achieving India's goals.

India's oldest apex economic body, the PIC-ICIJ, established 97 years ago, cordially welcomes Modi and his accompanying delegation to Japan, with best wishes for successful and memorable state visit to Japan.



Narendra Modi (left) and Sathya Sai Baba SAI HIRA INDIA FOUNDATION

vered statesman.

The U.S. National Intelligence Council has forecast India to become an economic superpower by 2030. The World Bank, IMF, World Economic Forum and global credit rating agencies have praised India's progress. India — the 10th-ranked global economy — will reach third within two years. The Indian economy is now large enough to affect the world in terms of participation in international trade and finance, as well as demand for global resources. India appears capable of sustaining very high GDP growth and India's global role will grow in the next 13 years, creating a socioeconomic superpower.

The Sai Hira India Foundation, dedicated to fostering India-Japan relations, extends its heartfelt welcome to Modi and his delegation members.

May your state visit meet every success and satisfaction. We wish you many happy returns.

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Indian Prime Minister's Visit



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe are welcomed with traditional music on arrival at India's Varanasi Airport in December 2015. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Strong leaders foster cooperation

Yoshiro Mori
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA
ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Japan-India Association, which has been engaged in promoting mutual understanding and friendship for the past 113 years, I have the immense pleasure and honor to once again extend our hearty welcome to H.E. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Japan.



Since his taking the reigns of the Indian government in May 2014, the prime minister has

successfully endowed India with a high stature in the international community with economic success and positive contributions to global issues such as the conclusion of post-Kyoto action on climate change.

Modi has attacked a very difficult issue to introduce a Goods and Services Tax, noted by both the Indian and foreign business communities. With determination and dedication, Modi has been promoting other reform agenda to modify labor laws and land acquisition regulations. He is leading various campaigns such as Make in India, Skill India and others. By doing so, he has been improving the business environment for investors, which in turn, accelerates eco-

nomonic growth and eases social tension in India.

I am particularly happy to note that the chemistry between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Modi is remarkably fit to promote security relations in the awkwardly unstable East Asia and South Asia regions. Already our economic cooperation through Japan's largest official development assistance has produced many success stories such as metro systems in major Indian cities, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the 1,500-kilometer freight corridor between India's two largest cities, a high-speed train project using shinkansen technology between Mumbai and Ahmedabad and other remarkable landmarks. And yet our

business relations are far behind the potentials of our two countries. Scientific and technological cooperation has to be further promoted. It is my hope that during the prime minister's visit, the two governments will sign the pending agreement of nuclear cooperation for peaceful use.

The future of our two countries depends on enlarging and deepening exchanges of our peoples, especially the youth. I expect that both governments and the private sector will take further initiatives in this direction.

In conclusion, may I pray that Modi's visit will be crowned again with great success to bring benefit to both Japan and India.

Fostering bilateral trade and investment

Masami Iijima
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA
BUSINESS COOPERATION
COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee, I would like to warmly and sincerely welcome the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Narendra Modi, to Japan.

Japan and India, as two major democracies in Asia, have long been building a good



mutual visits by the prime ministers of the two countries. When Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited India last December, the two leaders issued a

joint statement on a range of issues, including the introduction of Japan's shinkansen system to India. Japan and India agreed to transform the Japan-India special strategic and global partnership into a deep, broad-based and action-oriented partnership, and it is greatly expected that the two countries will cooperate with each other even more closely in a range of fields to foster the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and the world.

The Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee was established in 1966 and has been holding joint meetings with its Indian counterpart, the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee on a regular basis. We held our 41st joint meeting last month

and discussed various issues to enhance bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries in a very cordial atmosphere. At the closing ceremony, we adopted the joint statement with the attached list "Progresses and Bottlenecks of Projects between Japan and India," and shared the progress on the projects that are being conducted jointly by India and Japan since the last bilateral meeting held in New Delhi in November 2014. We sincerely request both governments find early solutions on the issues related to each project.

Finally, let me welcome India's prime minister to Japan once again, and express my hope for the further growth of India.

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His Excellency
Prime Minister of India
Narendra Damodardas Modi
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on His Official Visit to Japan

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Narendra Damodardas Modi,
Prime Minister of India

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