

# Indian Prime Minister's Visit Special

## 2022 G20 host eyes further cooperation Leadership yields national growth, global contributions

**SANJAY KUMAR VERMA**  
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA



Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi is in Osaka for the Group of 20 summit being held from June 28 to 29. This is his first visit to Japan in the Reiwa Era.

The G20 is a premier platform for discussion on global issues such as sustainable economic growth, international trade, protectionism in international trade, reform of international organizations, use of information technology for people-centric services, quality employment, health care, the gender gap in the economic sphere, counterterrorism, climate change and so on. India will host the G20 summit in the year 2022 and wishes to witness progress in all these issues.

While welcoming the apt handling of the presidency of G20 by Japan, we look forward to useful and implementable decisions coming out of this summit on topics such as free trade and economic growth; Society 5.0; free, open, sustainable and inclusive growth; energy and environment; quality infrastructure; health; aging; climate change; and marine plastic waste, among other subjects.

As G20 countries, we collectively need to fight against the illegal use of international and domestic financial infrastructure for terror-financing by both state and nonstate actors. The G20 financial surveillance mechanism needs to be more vigilant in identifying and rooting out such conduits.

Rules-based behavior in international relations is of immense importance in promoting global peace and stability with sustainable economic development. Reforms pertaining to international organizations need to be expedited to reflect better representation and current global realities.

Today, India has emerged as the world's fastest-growing large economy as well as a vibrant innovation ecosystem. Thanks to the able reforms and initiatives undertaken by the government of India, its ranking in the World Bank's ease of doing business index jumped up 23 places between 2017 and 2018. Such reforms will continue and expand, thereby making India a much more desired country to invest in and trade with.

Japan is an important partner in India's economic transformation. Recognizing India's emergence in competitive manufacturing and its sizeable market, Japan, today, stands as the third-largest investor in India, with the total investment of more than \$30 billion since 2000. The start-up ecosystems of India and Japan are talking to each other more than ever and thereby creating synergy in innovation and product development. Potential in bilateral trade remains unrealized — Japan-India bilateral trade was more than \$17 billion in 2018.

Today, Japan has a significant presence in virtually every flagship initiative of the government of India such as "Make in India," "Skill India," "Startup India," "Digital India," "Smart Cities" and "Clean India Mission." We have been working together to build stronger ties in new areas such as health care, disaster risk reduction, food processing, digital technologies, waste-to-energy and waste management, renewable energy, electric vehicles and so on. Mega infrastructure



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands at their summit meeting in Tokyo on Oct. 29. MEAPHOTOGALLERY

projects — namely, the high-speed railway project, dedicated freight and industrial corridors, metro rail projects, and Japanese industrial townships, among others, are symbolic of our thriving and mutually beneficial partnership.

The growing exchanges between Japan's prefectures and India's states, our parliamentarians and captains of industry are indicative of a promising future for India-Japan relations. People-to-people contacts, including those through tourism and cultural exchanges such as yoga and Ayurveda, are steadily rising.

India and Japan are partnering in initiating approaches for benefits of countries in the developing world. Such collaborations indicate a high level of synergy and trust between Japan and India in conducting their respective foreign policies.

Recently, India witnessed a mammoth exercise of democratic rights by more than 600 million voters, who expressed their desire to have a strong government. The sectarian and regional views of voters did not find much space in the verdict delivered in favor of reforms, transparency, growth and development and better quality of services. It is a matter of pride for every Indian citizen that such a massive election process is entirely conducted through a paperless electronic voting system, equipped with proper verification mechanisms put in place. This resulted into almost zero dispute in the entire electoral process.

Narendra Modi was sworn in as India's prime minister on May 30, marking the start of his second term in office.

Inspired by the motto of "Sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas" ("collective efforts, inclusive growth, with everyone's trust"), Modi has ushered in a paradigm shift in governance that has led to inclusive, development-oriented and corruption-free governance. The prime minister has worked with speed and scale to realize the aim of ensuring the last-mile delivery of schemes and services.

Leading international agencies have noted that under the leadership of Modi, India has been eliminating poverty at record pace. This is attributed to a series of pro-poor decisions taken by the central government.

Today, India is home to the world's largest health care program, Ayushman Bharat. Covering over 50 crore (500 million) Indians, Ayushman Bharat provides top quality and affordable health care to the poor and neo-middle class.

The Lancet, considered among the most prestigious health journals in the world, has lauded Modi's efforts to prioritize universal health coverage.

Understanding that financial exclusion was a bane for the poor, the prime minister launched a scheme aimed at opening bank accounts for every Indian.

In a first, over 42 crore (420 million) people associated with the unorganized sector now have pension coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana.

The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, launched in 2016, provides free cooking gas connections to the poor.

Modi believes that no Indian should be homeless and to realize this vision, over 1.25 crore (12.5 million) houses were built between 2014 and 2019. The pace of house construction remains as quick to fulfill the

prime minister's vision of Housing for All by 2022.

Agriculture is a sector that is very close to Modi. The prime minister has also focused on groundbreaking initiatives for agriculture ranging from Soil Health Cards, E-NAM for better markets and a renewed focus on irrigation.

On Oct. 2, 2014, Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, the prime minister launched the Swachh Bharat mission, a mass movement for cleanliness across the nation. The scale and impact of the movement is historic. Today, sanitation coverage has risen from 38 percent in 2014 to about 99 percent.

The World Health Organization has appreciated the Swachh Bharat Mission and has opined that it would save three lakh (300,000) lives.

Modi is deeply passionate about environmental causes. He has often called for creating a clean and green planet. This spirit was seen in the 2015 Paris Climate Conference in Paris where Modi played a key role in the high-level deliberations.

Going a step ahead of climate change, Modi has talked about climate justice. In 2018, heads of state and government from several nations came to India for the launch of the International Solar Alliance, an innovative effort to harness solar energy for a better planet.

Modi's foreign policy initiatives have also realized the true potential of the world's largest democracy. Since taking over, Modi attended summits for the United Nations, BRICS, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and Group of 20, where India's interventions and views on a variety of global, economic and political issues were widely appreciated.

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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at industrial robot manufacturer Fanuc Corp.'s factory in Yamanashi Prefecture on Oct. 28. MEAPHOTOGALLERY



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with humanoid robot Pepper at a tourism promotion venue of the Japan National Tourism Organization in Tokyo on Oct. 29. MEAPHOTOGALLERY

Heartiest Welcome to His Excellency Narendra Damodardas Modi, Prime Minister of India, on His Visit to Japan for the G20 Summit

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