

Indian Prime Minister's Visit Special

Robust partnership stands 'on the cusp of a new chapter'

H.E. SUJAN R. CHINYO
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO JAPAN



It is my honor to contribute to the special supplement published by The Japan Times on the occasion of the visit of the Prime Minister of India, H.E. Narendra Modi, to Japan for the 13th annual bilateral summit meeting with Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe. This will be the fifth annual summit between the two, and their 12th meeting overall since 2014. It is an opportunity to strengthen our historical bonds and growing economic and strategic engagement, while consolidating the special strategic and global partnership between our countries. It is a valuable opportunity for our leaders to meet, as leaders of two of Asia's largest economies and fellow democracies.

India and Japan are guided by shared values, including the heritage of Buddhism, openness, rule of law and freedom of navigation and commerce in the Indo-Pacific region. Our relationship is special in many ways, and global in its implications. As Modi stated at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on June 1, our ties with Japan, from economic to strategic, have been completely transformed in recent years. It is a partnership of great substance and purpose that is a cornerstone of India's "Act East" policy.

Under the dynamic leadership of Modi, India has emerged as the world's fastest-growing large economy. It is today a global hub for manufacturing and innovation with one of the most liberal foreign direct investment (FDI) regimes in the world and has registered FDI inflow of nearly \$62 billion in 2017-18. The International Monetary Fund has projected a growth rate of 7.3 percent for India this year and 7.5 percent in 2019. India is fast moving toward becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025.

Japan is a valued economic partner for India and a key participant in our economic transformation. India is Japan's largest overseas development assistance (ODA) partner. Japan is now the third-largest investor in India. Japan's large ODA and growing investments in India are promoting our partnership in diverse areas. The number of Japanese companies registered in India, as of October 2017, was 1,369. The number of Japanese business establishments in India,



Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi

as of October 2016, was 4,838.

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway project is a symbol of our thriving and mutually beneficial partnership. Other mega infrastructure projects, including the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor; the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor; Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor; Metro Rail projects in Delhi, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru, as well as 12 Japan Industrial Townships, offer unprecedented opportunities for Japanese entry to India.

Today, Japan has a significant presence in virtually every flagship initiative of the Indian government, including "Make in India," "Skill India," "Startup India," "Digital India," "Smart Cities" and the "Swachh Bharat (or 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. Japanese companies are considering projects in renewable energy, electric vehicles, electronic hardware and life sciences in India.

Japan's participation in World Food India 2017 in New Delhi and the establishment of the Japan India Food Business Council facilitated investments and joint ventures in the promising food-processing sector in India. We are working to tap the synergies between Japan's Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative and India's recently launched "Ayushman Bharat" health care plan. In accordance with the directive of our prime ministers to deepen links between our dynamic startups, the first Japan-India Startup Hub was established in Bengaluru in May. This hub will further channel Japanese investments into India and promote information exchange and business collabo-

ration between the two countries.

There are complementarities between our two economies. While Japan has an abundance of capital and cutting-edge technologies, it faces a dwindling market and an aging population. The Indian economy is characterized by a booming market, fueled by domestic growth driven by a large and aspirational middle class, but faces an infrastructure deficit and needs access to technology especially in manufacturing.

A large number of Japanese companies are participating in skill transfer initiatives such as the establishment of Japan-India Institutes of Manufacturing (JIMs) and Japanese Endowed Courses (JECs) in India. In 2017, the first five JIMs were established by Suzuki, Toyota, Daikin, Yamaha and Hitachi followed by Toyota Tsusho and Ahresty and Terumo this year. On a parallel track, in a truly historic development, the first batch of technical interns from India arrived in Japan under the framework of Technical Intern Training Programme in July. Interns who have worked in Japan and acquired rich experience could be great assets for upgrading skills and could act as the nuclei for change in India. India and Japan are also working toward acceptance of Indian nurses and care workers in Japan.

Both India and Japan agree that infrastructure and connectivity projects in the region should be based on principles of openness, transparency, economic viability and fiscal responsibility. There are excellent prospects for India and Japan to cooperate not only in South East Asia and Indian Ocean Region, but also in Africa. Alongside our growing economic partnership we have also witnessed progress in strategic and defense cooperation.

The growing exchanges between Japan and India, including among our parliamentarians and captains of industry show a promising future for our relations. People-to-people contacts, including through tourism, are steadily rising. India and Japan have agreed to double the number of tourists traveling between two countries to 700,000 by 2020. The popularity of Indian cuisine and culture is widespread throughout Japan. The International Day of Yoga was celebrated in the Japanese Diet for the first time this year. There is palpable interest in Ayurveda.

India and Japan stand today on the cusp of a new chapter in their partnership. I am confident that it will be the defining partnership of the 21st century for achieving peace and prosperity for our peoples, the region and beyond.

Hope for a bright future

YOSHIRO MORI
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA
ASSOCIATION



On the occasion of the coming visit of His Excellency Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, I extend a heartfelt welcome on behalf of the 115-year-old Japan-India Association.

The relationship between Japan and India, which had plummeted with India's nuclear tests in 1998, restarted thanks to the declaration of "Japan-India Global Partnership for the 21st Century" that then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India and myself as prime minister signed in August 2000. This partnership was since upgraded to a special, strategic and global partnership by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Modi. Both governments have established a solid practice to exchange visits of prime ministers every year, alternately to India and Japan, a practice unknown in any other bilateral relationship.

Thanks to the leadership by the two prime ministers, both countries have launched and are executing a great number of major projects. These include the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, Delhi-Mumbai Dedicated Freight Corridor, Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor, the shinkansen project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, development of north-east region of India and a large number of metro rail projects in major cities.

In recent years, our countries have enlarged their horizons of cooperation by combining the strategic concepts of the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" launched by Japan and the "Look East" policy of India and are creating a more peaceful and prosperous region.

As I put the coming visit of Modi in this historical perspective, I feel all the more great pleasure to witness and welcome his visit. I am convinced that it will add another important milestone in our already friendly and constructive relations.

The world in general and Asia in particular have been faced with uncertainty and uneasiness for some time. It is my sincere hope that our prime ministers, as well as other leaders of Japan and India, will assure both nations with renewed commitment for a brighter future for not only the Japan-India bilateral relationship, but the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region.

Cooperation drives prosperity

HIROYUKI HOSODA
RESIDENT, THE JAPAN-INDIA
PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On behalf of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to warmly welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his visit to Japan. India, the world's largest democracy, is one of the most important partners for Japan. India and Japan share universal values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and we have maintained a friendly relationship founded on a long history of exchange.

The relationship between India and Japan has steadily developed through mutual trust and leadership of the two prime ministers. In September last year, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Gujarat, Modi's home state, and they shared the view to drive prosperity and stability of the Indo-Pacific region through coordinating Japan's policy toward a free and open Indo-Pacific and the "Act East" policy. Further cooperation between Japan and India is essential, considering the impact of the regional security environment and economic growth on the world. The international community strongly expects further leadership from Japan and India.

India is blessed with an abundant workforce and high economic growth while Japan possesses its own assets such as experience, technology, finance and discipline that contribute to sustaining India's development. We have mutual complementarity regarding economics and we are natural partners that can develop a win-win relationship.

India has potential for great development and enormous infrastructure demand. For many years, Japan has served as a development partner of India, and has been cooperating with India through the provision of yen loans for projects, including the high-speed railway and Delhi Metro. Also, in order to push India's sustainable growth forward, Japan supports a variety of Modi's initiatives, such as "Make in India," "Skill India" and "Clean India."

The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League has had various exchanges of opinions on a variety of occasions; for example, during Indian members of Parliament and business representatives' visits to Japan. In Japan, there is a nonpartisan consensus to strengthen relations with India, and legislative exchanges between India and Japan have been accelerated through our mutual visits. The league remains strongly committed to strengthening our two countries' relations through further exchanges.

Through Modi's visit to Japan, I truly wish the relationship and exchange between Japan and India will be further enhanced.

Fostering goodwill in business

MASAMI IJIMA
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS
COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of The Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee, I would like to welcome Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi to Japan. Over many years, Japan and India have established strong relations through exchanges. Economic relations were particularly strengthened following the 2011 conclusion of our comprehensive economic partnership agreement and given further impetus via implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduced under the prime minister's strong leadership.

Thanks largely to the GST, the scope and scale of business opportunities continues

to increase, further boosting prospects for India's economic growth. As of October 2017, the number of Japanese companies in India had increased from 1,305 companies in 2016 to 1,369. This is expected to accelerate further.

Since the committee's establishment in 1966, we have been working to promote goodwill and nurture economic exchanges between our countries' business communities. In January, the 42nd meeting of The India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee was held. Through seminars and meetings with key Indian government and business figures, we will continue striving to provide information on the economic situation and India's business environment.

On the occasion of the prime minister's visit, it is my sincere prayer that our bilateral relations will strengthen further.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Heartiest Welcome to
H.E. Narendra Damodardas Modi
Prime Minister of India

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe before boarding the shinkansen from Tokyo on Nov. 21, 2016. EMBASSY OF INDIA

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

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Prime Minister of India,
on His Official Visit to Japan

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Indian Prime Minister's Visit Special

Aspiring for greater heights

RYUKO HIRA
CHAIRMAN, THE INDIAN COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



On behalf of the Indian Commerce and Industry Association of Japan, I offer my heartfelt welcome to H.E. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In 2014, in the world's largest election of 814 million voters; 550 million Indians mandated Modi to transform India into a developed nation. In his first term, he has accomplished unprecedented success. Compared to cumulative efforts of all previous governments, Modi has quadrupled barometers of growth and prosperity for India.

Making a pitch for stability and continued growth toward the 2019 elections, Modi presented facts of "rising" India. Below are excerpts of his speech.

"Today, India is brimming with self-confidence. The country is scaling new heights by working extremely hard, with a resolve to realize its dreams. Today's dawn has brought a new spirit, a new enthusiasm, a new zeal and a new energy with it.

"We aspire for an India that is strong and self-reliant, a nation that maintains a steady pace of progress, an India that keeps scaling new heights, an India that enjoys goodwill in the world. Not only this, we want that India should also shine in the world — we want to build such an India.

"A new spirit, new energy, new resolve, new determination and new inspiration is taking the country forward. This is why the country has doubled the pace of construction of highways. The construction of new houses has gone up four times in the villages. Food production in the country today has reached an all-time high; there has been record production of mobile phones.

"Digital India" is now making inroads

into our villages. As a government sensitive to the needs of people, efforts are being made to turn 'Digital India' into a reality.

"In this era of global economy, the entire world is looking at every development in India — big or small, with deep interest, hope and expectations.

"Economists and international institutions are saying that India will provide momentum to the world economy for the next three decades and will spur the growth of the world.

"Today, about 65 percent of the population is below 35 years of age. One hundred and thirty million Mudra Loans has been a major achievement. More so, if it includes 40 million youth who have taken the loan for the first time with the aspiration to become self-reliant. This in itself is a great example of the changing ecosystem.

"Our scientists launched more than 100 satellites in one go, leaving the world astonished. Successful launch of Mangalyaan in the very first attempt itself stands as testimony to the expertise and endeavors of our scientists. Our scientists are confident of launching NavIC, the first indigenous Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System. This navigation system will guide fishermen and other citizens through satellite signals.

"Our scientists have a dream, that by 2022, when India celebrates 75 years of independence or maybe even before that, certainly some of our young boys and girls will unfurl the tricolor (flag) in space.

"We have a vision to double farmers' income by the 75th year of independence. We want to bring value addition right from seeds to marketing. We want to modernize. Some new crops are giving record yields. For the first time we are moving toward (an) agriculture export policy so that our farmers can also face global competition with confidence.

"Economic development in our country is important, but more than anything else, human dignity is supreme. The government of India has decided to launch



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, his wife Akie and Prime Minister Narendra Modi offer flowers to a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Sabarmati Ashram in September 2017. ICIJ

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan so that the poor man... gets free treatment for serious diseases and he can be admitted to big hospitals free of cost. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan and Ayushman Bharat Yojana will cover 100 million families (in) the country. There is a provision of giving 500,000 rupees per annum (of) health assurance for each family. It means about 500 million citizens belonging to 100 million families will benefit. New hospitals will be built in the tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

"My dear countrymen, I am restless, I am agitated and I am also impatient for my country to lead the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution,' the revolution that is based on knowledge, the revolution (that) will be led by those who have information technology skills. I am impatient for my country to lead it. I am restless because I want that my country should take maximum advantage of its capabilities and resources and we can move forward in the world with a sense of pride.

"Brothers and sisters, we are the inheritors of the rich heritage of our ancient legacy of Vedas. And that legacy is due to our self-confidence, and we want to carry forward the legacy."

I am grateful to The Japan Times and its readers.

Statue honors unifying leader

Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel, popularly known as Sardar Patel, was an Indian statesman, senior leader of the Indian National Congress and founding father of the Republic of India who played a leading role in the country's struggle for independence. He acted as de facto commander-in-chief of the Indian army during the political integration of India.

Patel was born and raised in the countryside of Gujarat, becoming one of the state's most influential leaders.

He led the unification of India, successfully integrating British colonial provinces that had been "allocated" to India. Besides these provinces, approximately 565 self-governing princely states had been released from British rule by the 1947 Indian Independence Act. Through a deft mix of diplomacy backed by a strong military, Patel persuaded almost all to accede to India. His commitment to national integration was uncompromising, earning him the sobriquet Iron Man of India.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014. It is to be celebrated on Oct. 31 as an annual commemoration of Patel's birthday. The official statement by the Indian Home Ministry cites that National Unity Day will pro-



The Statue of Unity, a monument dedicated to Indian founding father Sardar Patel, is located in the state of Gujarat. ICIJ

vide an opportunity to re-affirm the inherent strength and resilience of our nation to withstand actual and potential threats to the unity, integrity and security of our country.

Then-Chief Minister of Gujarat, Modi laid the foundation of the Statue of Unity in Gujarat on Oct. 31, 2013, Patel's 138th birthday.

The monument, dedicated to Patel, is set amid the picturesque environs of the Narmada River, and the Satpura and Vindhya ranges on the island of Sadhu Bet.

This statue is to be spread over 20,000 square meters and surrounded by a 12-kilometer artificial lake. It will be the world's tallest statue when completed, standing at 182 meters and inaugurated by Modi on Oct. 31. (R.H.)

Foundation encourages ties

The Sai Hira India Foundation (SHIF) was established on Oct. 24, 2013, the year Emperor Akihito's visit marked the shift in India-Japan relations.

Imperial visits are extremely rare, often augmenting a shift in Japan's foreign policy. In 2006 Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that India-Japan ties could overtake even Japan-U.S. relations.

SHIF was established with the inspiration received from India's most revered educator and spiritual guru Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Anticipating the change of wider and deeper bilateral relations based on the Imperial visit, the foundation began to be engaged in the promotion of bilateral ties, as well as sharing the philosophy of Indian thought and culture with the people of Japan. SHIF engages in organizing public events, publications and people-to-people exchanges of students, statesmen and luminaries.

The first event undertaken in 2013 was an exhibition on the state visit by then-Japanese Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko to India in 1960 at Mitsukoshi Nihonbashi and the India International Centre in New Delhi.

SHIF extends its heartfelt welcome to H.E. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and members of his delegation. May the state visit meet every success and satisfaction. We wish you many happy returns to Japan. (R.H.)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Sri Sathya Sai Baba, India's late spiritual leader, in Chennai on Nov. 7, 2003. SRI SATHYA SAI UNIVERSITY

Global commemoration of Gandhi

The Indian Ministry of Culture plans to globally commemorate the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. The two-year-long celebrations from 2018 to 2020 will feature a range of events to deliver Gandhi's message of truth and nonviolence.

The government is working out details for a special Parliament session on Gandhi and planning global celebrations, engaging in dramas, film competitions and international youth exchange programs.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' first visit to India was marked by the commencement of the 150th anniversary celebration on Oct. 2.

In September, President Ram Nath Kovind launched the celebration's logo and web por-

tal. The logo was selected through crowdsourcing, to be branded widely across India in public transport and other media. The Gandhian lifestyle is a lesson for contemporary society.

If one visits Gandhi's ashram in Sevagram, one experiences the serene peace from the spirit of Mahatma.

Gandhi admired Japanese unity and patriotism. Gandhi's Japanese connection came through various Japanese visitors to his ashrams. Many important Japanese authors have extensively written on Gandhi, whose life and history is part of Japanese school curriculums. His writings influenced world leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr., U.S. President Barack Obama and others who have significantly contributed to world peace. (R.H.)

HEARTIEST WELCOME TO H.E. NARENDRA DAMODARDAS MODI, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA



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