

# Indian Prime Minister's Visit

## Leading development revolution

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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 socio-cultural 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, protectism and all that impedes India's social and economic progress. Modi's comprehensive revolution of development includes many factors that I will outline here.



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 19th century. Modi resolved to convert the impossible to possible and, although not even the half of the 1,000 days have past, 19,000 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 Ujjawala 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,

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.

## 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-



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 socio-economic superpower.

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

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

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



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