

# Indian Prime Minister's Visit Special

## Aspiring for greater heights

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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, 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. [CIJ]

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 Foundation encourages ties

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. [CIJ]

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.)

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.

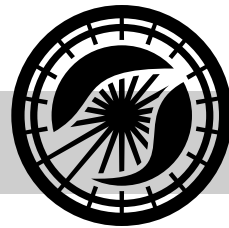
In September, President Ram Nath Kovind launched the celebration's logo and web por-

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



**ICIJ THE INDIAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN**  
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PIC. VALIDATED BY H.E. ABE SHINZO PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN, CABINET OFFICE, TOKYO  
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## SCHEMES LAUNCHED IN 2018 BY HON. PRIME MINISTER Narendra MODI [www.sarkariyojna.co.in](http://www.sarkariyojna.co.in)

### PRADHAN MANTRY JAN AROGYA ABHIYAN

boost affordable healthcare with Rs. 500,000 as Health Insurance to around 50 million people

### GANGA VRIKSHAROPAN ABHIYAN

reduce occurrence of flood, soil erosion and pollution while contribute towards protecting river GANGES

### JAL BACHAO, VIDEO BANAQ, PURASKAR PAQ

create mass awareness on water conservation with video contest

### NATIONAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SCHEME (N-YES) SCHEME

provide 1 Year Compulsory Military Training (with Stipend) to all the 10th and 12th grade Candidates

### SEVA BHOJ YOJANA

reduce the financial burden of Charitable Religious Institutions, waiving off Goods and Service Tax (GST) in holy places

### VEHICLE SCRAPPING POLICY

creating an ecosystem for voluntary scrapping of vehicles and replacement of old polluting vehicles

### PRADHAN MANTRI JAN VIKAS KARYAKRAM (PMJKV)

provide better socio-economic infrastructure facilities to minority communities

### VAN DHAN SCHEME

establish 30,000 Self Help Groups across the entire country to harness the forest wealth of upto Rs. 2 Trillion for the welfare of the tribal people

### PM NATIONAL NUTRITION MISSION (POSHAN ABHIYAN)

reduce the rate of under-nutrition and low birth weight by 2% every year

### WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PLATFORM BY NITI AAYOG

build an ecosystem for women entrepreneurs to scale up their innovative ideas and realize their entrepreneurial aspirations

### AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION PROMOTION SCHEME FOR CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

Financial Assistance to Farmers creating awareness and carry forward activities towards information, education and communication

### PAYMENT OF GRATUITY BILL 2018

all the workers working in private sector can avail retirement benefits equal to the govt. employees

### PM RASHTRYA SWASTHYA SURAKSHA MISSION (PMRSSM) - AYUSHMAN BHARAT YOJANA

avail cashless treatment benefits across villages to the poor rural people

### JAIVIK KHETI PORTAL

promote organic farming across the country and prohibit the use of chemical fertilizers for farming purpose.

### DRIVING TRAINING CENTRE (DTC) SCHEME

ensure safer roads enhancing driver skills to create employment

### NASSCOM FUTURE SKILLS PLATFORM

upskill the technology professionals aiming at digital empowerment of youth with major initiative towards "Digital India".

### SAMAGRA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

ensure inclusive and high standard of education from pre-nursery to 12TH grade

### NAMO YOJANA CENTER SCHEME - SEWA / SAHAYATA KENDRA

linked around 112 central govt. schemes poor and underprivileged people can resolve their queries and doubts

### GOBAR DHAN SCHEME (GALVANIZING ORGANIC BIO-AGRO RESOURCES DHAN)

help in managing and reuse cattle dung so that farmers can reuse this waste as compost and fertilizer in agriculture

### KISAN URJA SURAKSHA EVAM UTTHAN MAHABHIYAN - KUSUM YOJANA

provide subsidy on setting up solar power plants and solarize agricultural pump sets to double the income of farmers by 2022

### SOLAR CHARKHA SCHEME

generate 1100 jobs per village panchayat - around 5 million jobs across the country

### OPERATION GREENS MISSION - TOP SCHEME

compress the supply chains, creating infrastructure to naturally preserve Tomatoes, Onions, Potatoes

### REVITALISING OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS IN EDUCATION - RISE SCHEME

revitalise infrastructure, open new schools and promote programmes for teachers, improving quality of education for students

### ELECTORAL BONDS SCHEME

ensure transparency in the Political Funding

### Khelo India School Games

identify talents in the children and train them towards medal winners at the International Level and promote "Sports For All" covering around 20 million children across the nation

### CITY LIVEABILITY INDEX PROGRAMME

assess live-ability standards in 116 Indian cities plus 99 Smart Cities

### STREE SWABHIMAN INITIATIVE

ensure good health and hygiene for women

### MNRE Rooftop Solar Power Plant Subsidy Scheme

provide a great opportunity to consume their own generated power and reduce their electricity bills

60 Hotels ( Hotel, Ryokan, Sports & Culture Centers ) in 26 prefectures in Japan.



**HMI HOTEL GROUP** <http://www.hmi.co.jp>



Dedicated to India-Japan economic, educational, cultural and parliamentary exchanges.

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