



Gateway

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President's Message



Dear Friends,

The visit of the Japanese Prime Minister H.E. Ms. Sanae Takaichi this July brings renewed momentum to India-Japan bilateral relations, with an increasing focus on strategic and defense cooperation beyond routine joint exercises.

Both New Delhi and Tokyo recognize the critical importance of strengthening their partnership to address the evolving challenges in the Indo-Pacific region amid the changing geopolitical environment.

In this context, the recent visit of India's Commerce Minister, Mr. Piyush Goyal, is particularly significant, as both countries have agreed to revisit the fifteen-year-old Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to ensure it better reflects current global and regional realities. A candid and constructive exchange of views, including the possibility of developing new Terms of Reference, is both timely and welcome. India and Japan must continue to move beyond past perceptions and misperceptions and engage in constructive dialogue.

The IJCCI continues to fulfil its mandate of deepening bilateral ties beyond economics, trade and investment. Recently, we organized a seminar at the University of Madras, to discuss the Indo-Pacific challenges. Experts from media and academia offered diverse perspectives on managing the increasingly complex and vital Indo-Pacific region, which is crucial for global political and economic stability.

To further strengthen economic and business engagement, IJCCI is organising a webinar on the immense potential of four Southern States of India - Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka on 10th September 2026.

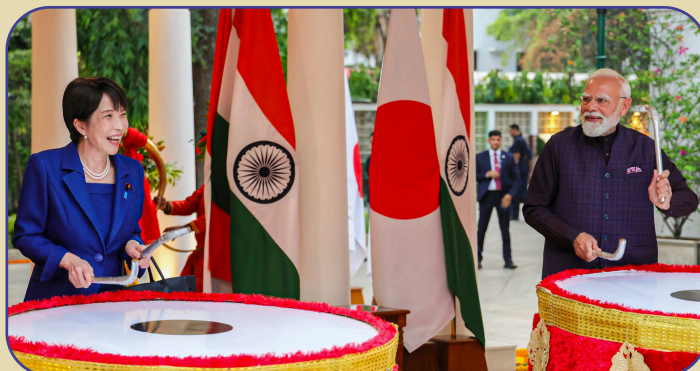
I am also pleased to inform that IJCCI will lead a multi-sector business delegation to Japan this November. Participants will have a unique opportunity to engage with Japanese counterparts, promoting their businesses and gaining valuable firsthand experience in Japanese business culture and traditions.

Together, let us continue to build a strong, deeper and more multifaceted India-Japan partnership.

Regards,

S. Padmanabhan

On July 1, 2026 Prime Minister of Japan Ms. TAKAICHI Sanae visited India and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi.



Japan and India all set for Joint Air Exercise this september

The Japan Air Self Defense Force (JASDF) will soon deploy fighter jets to India, three F-2A aircraft and around 110 personnel from the 8th Air Wing, based at Tsuiki Airbase in Fukuoka Prefecture. The Veer Guardian 26 Joint Air exercise is scheduled to take place from September 9 to 21 at Jodhpur Air Force Station in Rajasthan. These aircraft will make their 5600 km journey via Okinawa and Thailand, with the US Air Force aerial refuelling support marking the first ever deployment of Japanese fighter jets to India for military drills. JASDF Chief of Staff Mr. Takehiro Morita called it “a great opportunity to further deepen mutual understanding and relationship of trust.”



Union Minister Piyush Goyal Eyes New Era of India-Japan Economic Ties

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Mr. Piyush Goyal paved the way for deeper ties following a visit to Japan from August 24 to 27, leading the largest ever 200-member Indian business delegation spanning across three major Japanese cities, Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka. A central focus of the ministerial talks was operationalizing the 10 trillion yen Japanese private investment target in India over the next decade. In Tokyo, Minister Goyal held bilateral talks with his counterpart, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry- Akazawa Ryosei. He addressed the Japan Business Federation representing top 1500 companies, and held financing discussions with institutions like the Development Bank of Japan, MUFG, Mizuho etc.

The delegation led industrial roadshows in partnership with the Central Japan Economic Federation and the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce, directly engaging major manufacturing investors in the automotive, steel and allied sectors. The visit concluded with an Investors and Business roadshow targeting the electronics, clean energy, and consumer goods markets, including expansion talks with Nippon Paint regarding its Indian R & D facilities. The visit built on the India-Japan Joint Vision for the Next Decade, while also advancing a review of the CEPA agreement.

Nepal's Bhote Koshi Catastrophe: A Warning from the Melting Himalaya

On 26th August 2026, a massive ice rock collapse in the Langtang Himal region, sent a surge of debris down the Lende Khola and Bhote Koshi valleys. The flow severely damaged bridges, roads, border hubs and hydropower infrastructure across Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading and Chitwan. As of 30th August, Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) confirmed 734 deaths, nearly 2500 people missing (including many foreign nationals) and over 7,500 rescues. NDRRMA issued a renewed alert on 30 August

due to rising river levels, keeping residents on high alert without ordering an immediate evacuation. The event underscores the critical threat posed by transboundary Himalayan glacial hazards, with dozens more high risk glacial lakes across the region still unmonitored.



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Indian students opting for higher studies in Europe on the rise

The European Union has become a leading destination for Indian students in recent times. "Indian students bring entrepreneurial spirit, cultural richness, and research excellence, Indian students enrich European campuses while deepening EU-India ties in innovation, trade, and diplomacy ... this trend will continue to grow, benefiting Europe's talent pool and India's globally competitive workforce", according to an EU official. India's overseas student outflow fell to about 626,000 in 2025 from more than 908,000 in 2023, according to a government data, with students wary of tougher visa rules and rising costs in the U.S. and other popular study destinations such as Australia and the UK. Last week, Washington moved to tighten the duration of visas for foreign students as part of a wide-ranging immigration crackdown in January 2025.

Indians' interest in Europe has risen since the January trade deal, which aims to make it easier for students and skilled workers to move to Europe through easier visa pathways, clearer post-study work routes and improved recognition of Indian qualifications. "The EU-India mobility framework is part of a broader set of initiatives aiming to make the EU a global magnet for attracting and retaining talent, including for Indian students and talent," the EU official reports. India and the EU will work over five years on social security pacts with member states, initially setting up a tech-focused office to guide Indian students and professionals. Consultants say students are increasingly matching destinations to career goals and lifestyle, choosing Germany for engineering, the Netherlands for work-life balance, Portugal for affordable postgraduate research and France for management. The prospect of greater mobility across the EU and a growing number of English-language postgraduate programmes are also attracting Indian students and professionals to Europe. Education consultancy Europe Study Centre has seen enquiries jump 25% to 30% since the trade deal. Over 121,000 Indians study in the EU, about half the U.S. total.

Hayabusa 2's Flyby Makes Planet Defense Technology Feasible

The Hayabusa 2 space probe's successful flyby of the asteroid Torifune, (Torifune is at about 100 million kilometers away from the Earth) using precise guidance technology, showed that the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) possesses technology that can be applied to planetary defense, an effort to prevent small celestial bodies from colliding with the Earth. "We were able to demonstrate to the world that we possess the technology to change the orbit of an asteroid heading toward the Earth,"



according to Mr. Masaki Fujimoto, Director, JAXA Institute of Space and Astronautical Science. The achievement is expected to pave the way for Earth defense technology in which unmanned probes can be crashed into small celestial bodies that appear to be on a collision course with the Earth to alter their orbits.

State of Uttar Pradesh and Yamanashi Prefecture to deepen hydrogen, HR ties

Public and private sector delegates from Uttar Pradesh and Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture met in New Delhi on 19th August 2026 to discuss ways to expand cooperation in clean energy, manufacturing and human resources development. "What Yamanashi can offer is not equipment, but experience in producing hydrogen from renewable energy, storing it and using it at industrial sites," said Yamanashi Gov. Kotaro Nagasaki who led a delegation of more than 200 businesspeople and officials from the central Japan prefecture. Yamanashi is due to sign cooperation documents covering green hydrogen, tourism and human resources development with the Uttar



Pradesh government and a university in the state. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. Yogi Adityanath promoted a proposed 500-acre "Japan City" near Noida International Airport as a base for Japanese manufacturers and suppliers. A virtual ground-breaking ceremony was also held for a plant planned by Escorts Kubota, the Indian unit of Japanese farm machinery maker Kubota Corp. "The project involves an investment of about \$212 million and is expected to create more than 3,800 jobs", according to the Uttar Pradesh government.

Japanese media hails 16th India-Japan Annual Summit, underscores expanding strategic partnership

Several Japanese newspapers and media outlets have carried positive coverage of the successful 16th India-Japan Annual Summit held in New Delhi, underscoring the steady advancement of bilateral relations across a wide range of strategic and economic sectors. The coverage came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi held the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit talks, where both leaders reviewed and strengthened the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation



Asahi Shimbun reports: As Japan promotes its diplomatic vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, it is seeking to deepen cooperation with India, one of its most important like-minded partners, while countering China's growing influence. At a joint news conference after their meeting, Takaichi said, "As partners who share the same strategic direction, Prime Minister Modi, my elder brother, and I will elevate Japan-India relations to new heights."

The Japan Times reports: Takaichi said "By drawing on each other's strengths, Japan and India can become stronger and more prosperous together ; amid a turbulent international environment, building such a mutually complementary partnership has become increasingly important." The two sides exchanged about 120 cooperation documents involving Japanese and Indian companies, with investment deals worth around ¥2 trillion.

India's Quiet Education Triumph

India's Ministry of Education has released the 2025-26 UDISE+ report, one of the largest school censuses ever compiled: roughly 1.47 million schools, 10.3 million teachers, and 247.2 million enrolled students nationwide.

The gains are real. Teacher numbers rose 8.3% in three years, pushing pupil-teacher ratios below the National Education Policy's benchmark of 30:1. Women now make up 54.9% of teachers. Dropout rates fell at the preparatory and secondary levels, and both single-teacher schools (down 3%) and zero-enrolment schools (down 29%) declined sharply. This progress comes as India restructures schooling itself, moving to a "5+3+3+4" model and phasing out rote memorization exams for competency based assessment. With over a quarter of its 1.43 billion people under 15, the scale of what's being built here is hard to overstate.

India-Japan defence cooperation intensifies

Defence Minister of India Mr. Rajnath Singh and his Japanese counterpart Mr. Shinjiro Koizumi signed a Memorandum of Arrangement to enhance military logistics, intelligence sharing, and joint technology development in the Indo-Pacific in New Delhi on 20th August 2026.

The agreement provides a framework for strengthening cooperation between the Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, including information sharing on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), Search and Rescue (SAR), and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).

The Ministers agreed to strengthen coordination for the protection of Sea Lines of Communication through mutual visits by naval ships and units, joint exercises, personnel and subject matter expert exchanges, and logistical support, including the use of ports and maintenance and repair facilities. They also agreed to explore opportunities for joint development in naval shipbuilding and design by combining Japan's technological expertise with India's production capabilities. The two sides will also examine greater use of India's shipbuilding and production capabilities under the Make in India framework. The Ministers identified the shipborne UNICORN integrated communications antenna system as an important symbol of growing cooperation in defence equipment and technology transfer. It is the first defence equipment transfer project between the two countries.

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Japan's Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA) will also deepen cooperation in advanced defence technologies. The two countries further agreed to convene a Defence Industry Forum to promote greater cooperation in the defence industrial sector.