



Gateway

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President's Message



Dear Friends,

The Indo Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IJCCI) is delighted that the Prime Minister of Japan, Ms. Sanae Takaichi is visiting India between July 1 and 3 and meeting Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi.

The summit would undoubtedly add depth and width to the existing bilateral ties on economic and strategic cooperation, going the distance in reinforcing the Joint Vision for a free and open Indo Pacific.

The continued strong showing of India's economy with growth rates in the neighborhood of 7 percent or higher is an added incentive for advanced countries like Japan to seriously look at long term cooperation especially in the realms of technology and all-round modernization.

The Modi-Takaichi summit is also taking place at a time when the conflict in the Middle East is winding down with hopefully the United States and Iran firming up the terms of the accord over the next two months. Both India and Japan that are heavily reliant on petroleum and energy from the Middle East have been seriously impacted and will take some time to see a stabilized situation. The conflict has once again raised the important issue of free navigation that the Indo Pacific nations, individually and through the QUAD, have been reiterating for quite some time.

India and Japan are vital members of the QUAD along with Australia and the United States and are collectively looking at ways to strengthen cooperation. There has been some interest in expanding the four nation grouping perhaps within the East Asia-South East Asia region but would have tread carefully without being seen as hostile to others. And of course there is the continued interest on the Leaders Meeting in India which is looking for a date from the United States.

At the IJCCI we continue to be focused on the varied activities that foster India-Japan relations going much beyond economic opportunity facilitations to include education, culture and language teaching.

Regards,

S. Padmanabhan

Quad Deepens Indo-Pacific Partnership



The Foreign Ministers of the QUAD countries - India, the United States, Australia and Japan, met in New Delhi on 26 May 2026 to deepen strategic cooperation and regional partnership. The meeting was hosted by Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's Minister for External Affairs, and attended by Mr. Marco Rubio, United States Secretary of State, Ms. Penny Wong, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi, Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Ministers discussed Indo-Pacific maritime security, critical mineral supply chains, energy security, port infrastructure and regional stability. The Quad also announced stronger cooperation on maritime surveillance and resilient supply chains while reaffirming support for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's major five-nation tour in May 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook a major five-nation tour in May 2026, meeting with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Netherlands Prime Minister Rob Jetten; Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson; Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store and Finland Prime Minister Petteri Orpo.

India - UAE Summit - May 15 : Key Agreements and Outcomes :

- **Energy Security:** Signed MOUs on strategic petroleum reserves and long-term LPG supplies. The UAE agreed to store up to 30 million barrels of crude in India's reserves at no cost, and will continue supplying roughly 40% of India's domestic LPG needs.
- **Defense Cooperation:** Established a Strategic Defence Partnership Framework focusing on joint military technology, co-production, maritime security, and intelligence sharing.
- **Investment:** Announced a \$5 billion UAE investment dedicated to Indian infrastructure, RBL Bank and Summon Capital.
- **Maritime Infrastructure:** Agreed to establish a ship repair cluster in Vadinar, Gujarat, positioning India as a regional maritime hub.
- **Technology:** UAE tech firm G42 finalized a project to install eight AI supercomputers in India to promote research and large model training.

India - Netherlands - May 16 : Key Highlights of the Bilateral Meet :

- **Strategic & Tech Collaboration:** The two nations unveiled a 2026-2030 Roadmap covering semiconductors, quantum computing, AI, and space technology.
- **Trade & Investment:** The Netherlands remains one of India's largest trading partners in Europe (bilateral trade at \$27.8 billion) and its fourth-largest overall foreign investor.
- **Geopolitics:** Both nations aligned on ensuring a free, open, and peaceful Indo-Pacific, and the Netherlands agreed to join the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

India-Sweden - May 17 : Key Highlights

- **Tech & AI Collaboration:** The leaders launched the India-Sweden Technology and Artificial Intelligence Corridor to link India's digital scale with Sweden's deep-tech sector, alongside a Joint Innovation Partnership
- **Trade Goals:** Both nations set an ambitious target to double bilateral trade and investment within the next five years.
- **Strategic Agreements:** Discussions spanned critical technologies (6G, quantum computing, AI), clean energy transition, critical minerals, and space cooperation.
- **Global Issues:** The leaders emphasized the urgent need for UN reforms, resilient supply chains, and continued cooperation in counter-terrorism.

India-Norway - May 19 : Key Highlights

- **Green Strategic Partnership:** India and Norway officially elevated their bilateral relationship to a Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership. The nations agreed to collaborate deeply on climate action, renewable energy, and maritime decarbonization.
- **Space and Science Cooperation:** The summit saw the announcement of a new Framework Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Norwegian Space Agency.
- **Business and Investments:** India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), goals to drive \$100 billion in investments into India and create one million direct jobs over the next 15 years.
- **Global Security & Multilateralism:** strengthening the rules-based global order amid rising geopolitical tensions and conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia.

India-Finland - May 19 : Key Highlights:

- **Strategic Partnerships:** Bilateral cooperation in digitalization and sustainability, particularly in AI, 5G/6G, quantum computing, space technologies, and circular economy.
- **Economic Goals:** Both nations agreed on the target to double bilateral trade by 2030.
- **Raisina Dialogue:** Finland's President Alexander Stubb attended the 11th Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi as the Chief Guest, emphasizing India's growing role in global governance.
- **Key Agreements:** Significant Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed focusing on environmental cooperation, official statistics, and a Migration and Mobility Partnership to facilitate talent and workforce exchange.
- **Startup Collaboration:** Growth in the Indo-Finland Startup Corridor, driving mutual innovation across key technology ecosystem.

Japanese Prime Minister Takaichi is visiting India in July 2026

Japanese Prime Minister Ms. Takaichi Sanae is visiting India in July 2026 to meet with her counterpart, Mr. Narendra Modi.

Prime Minister Takaichi aims to deepen bilateral collaboration in a wide range of fields covering defence, economic issues and cutting-edge technologies such as semiconductors and artificial intelligence, according to the sources. India's high-speed railway project to link the western cities of Mumbai and Ahmedabad using Japanese bullet train technology is also expected to be brought up at the envisaged summit, the sources said.

Amid ongoing tensions in the Middle East, the leaders are also expected to exchange views on issues such as ensuring the stability of energy supplies and making critical mineral supply chains resilient. Prime Minister Takaichi is seeking to further strengthen bilateral ties by establishing regular mutual visits by the leaders of both countries.

Toyota reveals 1st electric 3-row Lexus SUV for release in winter

Toyota Motor Corp. showcased its new electric sports utility vehicle (SUV) under the luxury Lexus brand on May 7 with plans to make it commercially available in Japan this winter. The TZ model will be the first electric Lexus SUV with three rows of seats, with a seating capacity of six people, the eco-friendly model measures 5.1 meters in length and 1.99 meters in width. The TZ version to be released in Japan boasts an estimated maximum driving range of 620 kilometers on a single charge. Pricing will be officially announced at a later date.

(The Asahi Shimbun)



India-Japan AI Initiative

The inaugural India-Japan Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategic Dialogue was held on April 21 and 22, 2026, across Mumbai and Bengaluru, India.

Key Focus Areas and Objectives:

- **Industrial & Technical Synergy:** The dialogue aimed to combine India's software/digital infrastructure expertise with Japan's hardware/robotics precision, focusing on developing sovereign AI models and localized datasets.
- **Talent and R&D:** Efforts to enhance joint research, with Japan targeting the recruitment of 500 Indian AI professionals by 2030.
- **Geopolitical Alignment:** Both nations are working toward a trusted AI framework to influence global regulations and deploy technology in the Global South.

Japan Airlines to Launch 1st Lunar Transport Service

Japan Airlines Co. will launch a service to transport containers to the moon. This will be the world's first lunar transport service operated by an airline, according to JAL. For the inaugural shipment, the company plans to load a special container onto a lunar lander to be launched in 2028 by the Tokyo-based startup ispace, inc. The containers are 20 cms wide and 20 cms long and have a depth of 10 cms. JAL will be responsible for developing a container resistant to the lunar environment and soliciting items to be included.



A concept image of a lunar transportation container

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Japan Prime Minister says gov't will consider extra budget for FY2026 to ease oil price impact

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said her government will consider compiling a supplementary budget for fiscal 2026 amid concern over the impact of elevated crude oil prices stemming from the Middle East conflict. The government has been providing subsidies to oil wholesalers since mid-March to curb surging gasoline prices, tapping reserve funds in the fiscal 2025 budget, but it fears the financing will run out. More funds will likely be required if it decides to resume support for gas and utility bills to households this summer. The size of the extra budget has come under scrutiny amid ongoing concerns about Japan's fiscal health, which is the worst among the Group of Seven economies. Takaichi is pushing for expansionary spending to spur economic growth. The government could tap reserve funds totalling 1 trillion yen (\$6.3 billion) in the fiscal 2026 budget for economic measures, but the amount could fall short, while critics argue the funds should be reserved for emergencies such as natural disasters. Usually, the government crafts a supplementary budget in the fall of the fiscal year or later. The government set aside over 1 trillion yen for gasoline price subsidies, including reserve funds in the fiscal 2025 budget. But the amount fell to around 980 billion yen by the end of April. Each month, hundreds of billions of yen are expected to be disbursed to keep pump prices at around 170 yen per litre. However, some economists estimate that these funds will run out by the end of June. The government is considering resuming subsidies for electricity and gas bills for households between July and September, when demand for air conditioning increases. Utility bill aid has continued intermittently since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, which also resulted in increased crude oil prices. But the subsidies are costly. From January to March, the government used 529.6 billion yen from the supplemental budget for fiscal year 2025 to reduce household bills by around 7,000 yen. Takaichi told a Diet committee earlier this month that she does not see the immediate need to compile a supplementary budget, though she noted the government will closely monitor price movements to respond flexibly.

A guide for foreign job seekers in Japan - 'Hello Work'

Changing jobs in Japan or trying to find one for the first time 'Hello Work' offers in-person support to help you understand visa-related job requirements and may even contact employers directly on your behalf. More than 500 offices across the country, run by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Visit a support counter. You'll need to show identification, usually your residence card. A staff member will then speak with you about your background, experience and the kind of work you're looking for. You'll complete a Job Seeker Registration Form, either on paper or at a computer. The form is usually only in Japanese, so many people use tools like Google Lens to translate it. Even if staff don't speak your language fluently, they can usually guide you through the process. You can also bring a Japanese-speaking friend if needed.

Based on your experience, preferences and visa status, they'll suggest job listings that match. When you find a job you want to apply for, a staff member may contact the company to confirm details and introduce you as a candidate, including your Japanese level and work background. If the company agrees, Hello Work will issue a referral letter, which you'll take to the interview. After that, you usually arrange the interview directly with the company. Some of the job listing includes : Service jobs, including hospitality and nursing care ; Manufacturing and production roles ; Logistics, cleaning and warehouse work ; Construction and transport.

(Japan Today)

Reserve Bank of India announces measures to attract foreign capital

The Reserve Bank of India announced a comprehensive set of measures to attract foreign capital, focusing on expanding investment avenues and reducing regulatory barriers.

Key Capital Inflow Measures

- **Sovereign Bond Expansion:** The FAR for government securities now includes new 15, 30, and 40-year tenors, encouraging long-term investment.
- **FPI Relaxation:** Limits on short-term investments and individual securities under the General Route for FPIs have been removed, alongside tax exemptions on interest for FIIs.
- **Individual Non-Resident Access:** Investment limits for NRIs and OCIs in listed Indian companies have been expanded, including for all individuals residing outside India (PROIs).
- **External Borrowing Support:** A concessional FX swap facility is available for PSU external commercial borrowings until September 30, 2026.
- **FCNR(B) & Export Realisation:** The RBI will cover hedging costs for new 3-5 year FCNR(B) deposits through September 2026, while export realization timelines have been restored to 9 months.