

Section 3 India

In April 2017, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman visited Japan and held a meeting with Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko. At this meeting, the ministers discussed such matters as the development of Japan Industrial Townships (JITs), promotion of Japanese small and medium-sized enterprises’ advance into India, and cooperation toward the conclusion of a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement that is comprehensive, of high quality, and mutually beneficial.

In July 2017, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yosuke Takagi visited the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh (hereinafter referred to as “AP”) and held discussions with AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu about the development of a new state capital city. They agreed on a Joint Statement on the Development of New Capital City and Industrial Cooperation in the state of AP (Figure III-2-3-1). At the Japan-AP Public-Private Joint Conference, which was co-chaired by State Minister Takagi and AP Chief Minister Naidu and which was attended by around 140 public- and private-sector officials from Japan and the state of AP, the current status of progress in the development of the new capital city was confirmed and a future direction of cooperation was discussed.

Figure III-2-3-1 Conclusion of the Joint Statement between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Government of Andhra Pradesh of India on the Development of New Capital City and Industrial Cooperation



Source: METI.

In September 2017, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the Indian state of Gujarat (hereinafter referred to as “GJ”) and held his 10th meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Prime Minister Abe expressed the view that a strong India benefits Japan, and a strong Japan benefits India, and that the Japan-India relationship is blessed with the largest potential for development of any bilateral relationship in the world. Prime Minister Abe explained that together with Prime Minister Modi, he hopes to ensure that this bilateral relationship produces results on all fronts and to lead the way to peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and the world. Prime Minister Modi expressed his support for the approach of seeking greater synergy between the “Act East” policy and the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy.” As shown above, this summit meeting deepened the two countries’ common recognition of the need to

strengthen connectivity in the Indo-Pacific region.

At this summit meeting, the two countries welcomed the agreement on a Japan-India Roadmap for Investment Promotion,²³ which contributes to the Make in India initiative, by further promoting investments in India by Japanese companies and the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Japan and India Special Program for Make in India,²⁴ which aims to promote Japanese companies' advance into and investment in the state of GJ through the development of an industrial zone. At a meeting of the India Japan Business Plenary held the same day, the signatories on both sides exchanged documents with the Japanese and Indian prime ministers as witnesses. In addition, at the summit meeting, the two leaders welcomed the progress in the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) initiative, including the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor of the Dedicated Freight Corridor project and the Logistics Data Bank project, as well as the opening of four schools of the Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM) regarding human resource development in the manufacturing industry, the scheduled opening of two more schools, and the start of a Japanese Endowed Course (JEC). The two leaders also welcomed the agreement on the joint statement on the development of a new capital city and industrial cooperation in the state of AP, the Japan-India Energy Partnership Initiative, which is intended to strengthen energy cooperation, and a Japan-India Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Cooperation Plan, which was proposed by the Japanese side.

At a ceremony celebrating the commencement of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project that was held on the same day, Prime Minister Abe expressed full support for India's high-speed railway project and offered cooperation in ensuring the safety of railways across the whole of India.

After the meeting, the two leaders signed a Japan-India Joint Statement stating that they will cooperate to elevate the Japan-India partnership to the next level (Figure III-2-3-2).

Figure III-2-3-2 Ceremony for signing of a Japan-India Joint Statement after the Japan-India Summit Meeting



Source: Cabinet Public Relations Office

23 Signed by Vice-Minister for International Affairs Tadao Yanase and Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India

24 Signed by Vice-Minister for International Affairs Tadao Yanase and J. N. Singh, Chief Secretary of the Government of Gujarat, India.

In February 2018, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Daisaku Hiraki attended the “Partnership Summit 2018,” which was held in the Indian state of AP and confirmed Japan’s past cooperative efforts mainly in the development of the new capital city at a meeting with AP Chief Minister Naidu. They also confirmed that the two sides would hold discussions about strengthening the Japan-AP cooperative relationship. Parliamentary Vice-Minister Hiraki also held a meeting with Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu and held discussions on the current situation of Japan-India trade and investment and challenges in further promotion of trade and investment, including implementation of the Japan-India Roadmap for Investment Promotion. He also held discussions with Singaporean Second Minister for Trade and Industry S. Iswaran on Japan-Singapore collaboration in the development of the new AP capital city.