

The road to an East Asian community

The Japan-India relationship if strengthened could provide a model for integration of an East Asian community.

Toshio Yamamoto

TODAY, THE economy of East Asia is vibrant and growing. The nations of the region are deeply linked through intra-regional trade and cooperation — what is often referred to as the region's "de facto economic integration." On the other hand, in the political and security aspects, the nations of the region remain extremely diverse. Different types of political systems and principles continue to coexist. It is simply unthinkable at the moment to create an overarching political and security framework, like NATO. Regional stability has primarily been and will continue to be maintained through the building up of bilateral security agreements, centred around the United States.

The Asian financial crisis of 1997 and 1998 developed a wide consensus that there is a need to promote greater cooperation within the region to prevent future crises. For the prosperity and growth of the region, it is necessary to secure a successful model of economic development, which is the benign circle of introduction of foreign investment from outside the region, and intensification of intra-regional trade. For this formula to continue working, the region, comprising countries with diverse political systems and beliefs, must avert collision of naked nation-

al interests and initiate an institutionalised stabilising mechanism to resolve problems peacefully. Its attractiveness as a foreign direct investment (FDI) destination depends more and more on the conflict-solving capabilities of the region as a whole. We don't have the luxury of letting rising nationalism and political differences lead to serious conflicts.

Under these circumstances, the first East Asia Summit (EAS) will convene in Malaysia on December 14. Japan has set forth several principles regarding regional cooperation in East Asia. These principles are "open regionalism," "functional approach," and "respect for and realisation of universal values and rules such as democracy."

Firstly, an East Asian community (EAC) must be open to those nations with willingness and capability to contribute to its formation. Furthermore, regional cooperation to realise an EAC should be based on the principles of openness, transparency, and inclusiveness.

Secondly, it is realistic to focus regional cooperation in "functional" fields at the present, rather than trying to build comprehensive institutional frameworks from the outset. A region-wide community can be created in the future by combining the frameworks established in each individual functional sector, such as energy, the envi-

ronment, and non-traditional security issues.

Thirdly, member countries need to overcome their differences over political systems and principles to commit themselves to establish an EAC as a grouping bound by a common fate. Thus, the nations of the region should start the integration process in a correct manner from the outset, so that an EAC would be based on universal values and global rules such as democracy and open-market economy. This will help secure understanding and support both within and outside the region.

What can Japan and India do to facilitate this integration process? ASEAN should not feel insulated from the process and continue to occupy the driver's seat at the EAS. The commitment of the U.S. in the region, especially on security aspects, must be maintained. Rapidly developing China must play an important role in the development of an EAC in an open, transparent, and inclusive manner. I believe that Japan and India can play a vital role in providing fundamental conditions to achieve these intricate goals by establishing norms for the construction of an EAC.

Japan and India are two responsible and major players in Asia, sharing common values and principles. Furthermore, Japan and India have strong spiritual affinities, and a

long history of friendship without disputes. I believe this unique relationship, if further strengthened, would be an ideal prototype of an EAC, which member countries could replicate in their relationships with one another. In other words, the commonalities between the two countries could be the engine for promoting the integration process. It is important to enhance political and security cooperation, and comprehensive economic engagement. But it is also vital to strengthen cultural and academic initiatives and people-to-people contacts, to raise the visibility and profile of one country in the other. By doing so, Japan and India can not only draw closer, but also consolidate universal values and socio-cultural bonds in this region as a basis of an EAC.

The inauguration of the EAS would be the first important step toward an EAC. Japan wholeheartedly welcomes India as an original member of the EAS. Japan and India can work closely together, based on the Japan-India Global Partnership with strategic orientation, and play a leading role in bearing the fruits of constructing an EAC.

(The author is Counsellor and Head of the Information and Cultural Section in the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi. The article reflects the author's personal views and does not represent the views of other people or organisations.)

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From J. Asia

Japanese may invest \$1.4 b in India



Mr Yasukuni Enoki

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Nov. 22. — Japanese companies may invest about \$1.4 billion in the next three years, as Japan looks to India as an extension of its Asean strategy. Speaking at a Press confer-

ence, the Japanese Ambassador, Mr Yasukuni Enoki said that a group of 20 Japanese businessmen would arrive in India on 27 November for a week-long visit. It will only be one of seven business delegations from Japan which will land in India in the next three months. The Japanese envoy said India is now the second most favoured destination after China.

The investment of \$1.4 billion is for 19 approved projects, with a bulk \$1.1 billion in the automotive sector. The highest investment is of \$693 million by Maruti Udyog, followed by Honda Motorcycle and Scooter and Hero Honda Motors.

"Another eight projects are under consideration and if they are approved, then Japanese foreign direct investment

(FDI) from now to 2007 will exceed \$1.5 billion," said Mr Enoki.

He said Japanese FDI will also diversify into virgin areas such as pharmaceuticals, food processing and textiles.

The bilateral trade volume of about \$5 billion is expected to rise, but "not dramatically" with a new taxation treaty set to half the services tax of 20 per cent.

"In fact, it was India that proposed the reduction because it was realised that Japanese outsourcing to India was greater than the consultancy services we provided here," he added.

Mr Enoki said that the "second boom" in Japanese investment is currently being witnessed. The first "boom" began from 1991 till the May 1998

Pokhran blasts, which brought in about \$540 million.

"That has changed since 2002 and the better political climate is an inducement for investments. Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi's visit to India (earlier this year) also had a strong impact on Japanese investors," said the envoy.

Stating that Japan considers India an "extension of Asean", he said that while India has a "look east" policy, Japan is looking at the west. "India is an indispensable part in East Asia and a key country to bridge East Asia and Asia. We need India's economic dynamism and its huge market," said the Ambassador. He added that Japan was interested in having good relations with Saarc.

Japan minister's visit to improve bilateral ties

Shantanu Nandan Sharma
NEW DELHI 20 AUGUST

TARO Aso, Japan's minister for internal affairs and communication and one of the contenders to be the next Prime Minister of the country, will lead a delegation of CEOs and government representatives to India starting August 23. Though his main purpose is to attend the India-Japan ITC Forum meet to be held in New Delhi on August 24, the visit just — three weeks before the Parliamentary polls in Japan — is considered to be diplomatically significant.

A senior Japanese diplomat told ET that Mr Aso's visit just before the polls is a pointer to the fact that Japan attaches a great deal of importance to India. "Mr Aso happens to be one of the top three leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party, the others being Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and finance minister S Tanigaki.

In January this year, Mr Tanigaki visited India and met several top Indian leaders, including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. In April, Mr Koizumi came to India and signed the joint declaration of Indo-Japan cooperation. Now, it's Mr Aso's turn.

In fact, his visit is significant because it will be just before the crucial parliamentary elections in Japan," the diplomat said.

Japan is going for a snap polls on September 11 where privatisation of post offices is likely to be the core issue. In fact, Mr Koizumi called for a general election after the parliament had rejected his signature reform of post office privatisation.

During his India visit, Mr Aso is likely to meet several important Indian leaders, including the

Prime Minister. Elected to the House of Representatives in Japan in 1979, Mr Aso has been re-elected eight times. He was the vice minister for education, sports and science and culture in the late 80s. He has been the minister for

internal affairs and communications since September 2003.

The minister will be accompanied by Yoichi Morishita, chairman of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co, Yoichiro Yatsurugi, CEO of Willcom, Norio Wada, president and CEO of NTT Corporation, Furukawa, executive VP of Hitachi, Naoyuki Akikusa, chairman, Fujitsu and Ichiro Taniguchi, chairman, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, among others.



Japanese angry, MEA says relax

HTC & Agencies
New Delhi, July 26

India - B&B Asia Mh.
HR-3

BRISTLING AT suggestions that the unrest and violence in Gurgaon on Monday would make its impact on FDI flows into India felt, India called it an "isolated incident" that "should not become a benchmark for judging the investment climate in India".

Reacting to a statement made on Tuesday by Japan's Ambassador Y. Enoki, an MEA spokesman said the incident in Gurgaon was "an isolated instance involving a labour dispute".

"The country's democratic institutions and its legal system", the spokesman said, "provide an effective mechanism to deal with such incidents in a transparent manner".

But he added that this was a matter for the HMSI management to resolve and the embassy would not like to comment for the moment.

He agreed with India that it was an "independent" incident and said it should not be generalised too much.

Responding to a question on the Japanese ambassador's remarks, the

spokesman said, "The legal interest of foreign investors will be fully safeguarded", adding, "The legal interest of foreign investors will be fully safeguarded" in the country.

Enoki, speaking on the sidelines of a conference in New Delhi on Tuesday, had said the incidents involving the Honda company could negatively impact FDI inflows into India. "This is a disadvantage for India's image as an FDI destination and also a negative image on the Japanese management", Enoki said, prompting an angry reaction from the government.

But that the Honda crisis has cast a shadow over India's business future was clear with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), which said: "The industry is deeply disturbed at these developments in Haryana. CII hopes that industrial harmony will return to the state quickly".

The country's democratic institutions and its legal system provide an effective mechanism to deal with such incidents in a transparent manner

External affairs
ministry spokesman

27 JUL 2015

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Posco inks MoU with Orissa govt on steel plant

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Bhubaneswar: South Korea's Pohang Steel Company Ltd (Posco) on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Orissa government for setting up a 12-million tonne steel plant at Paradip with an investment of Rs 52,000 crore.

The proposed project, when implemented, will be the largest single foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country till now. The MoU was signed in the presence of Orissa CM Naveen Patnaik, South Korean ambassador to India Jung IL Choi, commercial attache in the South Korean embassy Byeong Cheol Lee and Posco's Chairman Ku-taek Lee.

Posco's executive vice-president Soung Sik Cho and Orissa's principal secretary in the steel and mines department Bhaskar Chatterjee signed the agreement.

According to the MoU, Posco will build a three-million tonne capacity steel plant through the blast furnace or finex route during the first phase at Paradip between 2007-2010 and expand the

final production volume to 12 million tonne. Posco will establish a local corporation in August next and after conducting a detailed investigation and economic feasibility analysis, is expected to do land purchase, rehabilitation and resettlement programme and sign a final Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) later this year.

Posco's Chairman Ku-taek Lee said: "Through this project we hope to contribute significantly to India's rapid economic development and further accelerate the progress being made by India towards achieving the status of an economic superpower.

"I am also confident that Posco's Indian investment will shed positive light on the country for other global investors, attracting more mega projects to the nation. The success of our project in Orissa will demonstrate to the world that there is a multi-billion dollar opportunity to build Indian infrastructure."

The MoU was signed in the backdrop of protests by several political parties and groups,

who alleged that the Orissa government was acting against the state's interest by allowing the South Korean company to export iron ore from the state. The CPI, CPM, Janata Dal(S) and OGP staged a demonstration outside the secretariat to register their protest against the move.

Meanwhile, Congress joined the chorus against any provision for export of iron ore from the state. "We are not opposed to industry. But we are opposed to any clause in the agreement providing for export of iron ore from Orissa by POSCO," the PCC chief Jayadev Jena told a news conference in Bhubaneswar. Any step detrimental to the interest of the state would be opposed, he said.

Jena also hit out against the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD-BJP government for keeping the state in the dark about the provisions in the MoU. "They are not transparent about the deal and I doubt whether ministers in the cabinet are aware about it," he said. PTI

23 JUN 2005

Delhi to boost bilateral ties with S Korea

Seoul, June 1

IN A bid to boost their bilateral ties, India and South Korea on Wednesday decided to step up efforts to take their economic partnership to a higher level by utilising synergies in trade, investment and hi-tech areas.

During a meeting here between visiting external affairs minister K. Natwar Singh and his South Korean counterpart, Ban Ki-Moon, the situation in the Korean peninsula, including the North Korean nuclear issue were also discussed.

Restructuring of the UN Security Council also figured in the discussions, Indian officials said.

Seoul favours a broad consensus on the issue of expanding the Security Council. It acknowledges India's growing stature and increasing role in international affairs.

Both sides hoped that negotiations for the 12 billion dollar integrated steel plant to be set up by South Korean company Posco at Paradip in Orissa would be concluded at an early date.

Negotiations for the mega project are at an advanced stage, the officials said, adding this would be the largest single foreign investment by any country in India.

Singh is on a day's stopover here enroute to the Russian city of Vladivostok to attend the first-ever standalone meeting of foreign ministers of India, Russia and China.

The South Korean foreign minister will be visiting India in early August for the annual meeting of the India-Korea Joint Commission when the two sides will review all aspects of bilateral relations covering economic, political and security cooperation.

Singh and the South Korean minister exchanged their assessments on a host of regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Ban Ki-Moon said South Korea was keen on hosting President APJ Abdul Kalam here. Singh said Korean President Roh Moo-hyun's India visit last October was a "landmark" one.

PTI

2 JUN 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

India, Japan shaping a new future?

The new closeness in ties between India and Japan is a significant move away from the unstable equation in the aftermath of Pokhran-II.

P. S. Suryanarayana

JAPAN'S EFFORTS to fashion a dynamic partnership with India and New Delhi's positive response can be traced to some significant perceptions of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. The two countries, in Mr. Koizumi's view, are now bound by not only their shared old values of democracy and related principles but also a new convergence of strategic interests.

A promise of more substantive economic engagement has been held out by both sides in the context of Mr. Koizumi's talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other Indian leaders in New Delhi on April 29. Capturing attention, though, is the agreed move to view the bilateral relationship under a new prism of their "strategic interests" in the Asian and global theatres.

This signifies a major shift from the unstable equation that followed India's testing of nuclear weapons in 1998. Japan was furious with India then. Indeed, in geopolitical terms, the shift has occurred quite gradually. In a sense, the visit to India in August 2000 by the then Japanese Prime Minister, Yoshiro Mori, set off a thaw on the frosty bilateral front.

More recently, a catalytic factor was the recognition by both sides that they might benefit by supporting each other for perma-

nent membership of the United Nations Security Council. It has been their objective, for about a year now, to try and secure the same prerogatives as those enjoyed at present by the five in this category.

For historical reasons, China is the only Asian country in this super-league of "board of governors" on the global stage (an American phrase). That being the case, the latest reaffirmation of Japan-India cooperation in this sphere has come to define, for the time being, their new "convergence of strategic interests".

Tokyo and New Delhi certainly share other strategic interests as well, pledging to work as "partners against proliferation" of weapons of mass destruction across the international spectrum. Another categorical affirmation is about cooperation to fight international terrorism and to promote energy security as also environmental protection across the world.

If managed imaginatively by both India and Japan, their new pledge of enhanced cooperation on strategic issues can be sustained even after the outcome is known about their joint efforts to take their rightful places in the Security Council.

Ties with China

Equally relevant is how Tokyo and New Delhi interact, individually and also jointly, with Beijing in the run-up to the end-game

and during it, whenever it might take place, for a possible expansion of the Security Council.

Surely, the incremental rapprochement between India and China, now being witnessed, is not a factor behind the recent deterioration of the ties between Tokyo and Beijing. However, their trilateral equation is now very much in focus in Asia.

China has now told the review conference in New York on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that those still outside its framework should accede to it as states without atomic weapons. This implies that China would like India (and, of course, Pakistan and North Korea) to join the NPT as states without any atomic weapons in their arsenals or perhaps without the status of nuclear powers under international law. Japan's position on such universality of the NPT coincides with that of China.

This, however, is only one aspect of the equation among China, India and Japan. China and Japan, despite differences on a range of other issues, have remained very much on talking terms, as evident at the recent Asia-Africa summit in Jakarta and the Asia-Europe Meeting in Kyoto. This augurs well for the Tokyo-New Delhi dialogue too.

Authoritative Japanese sources indicate that there is no need for apprehension that India may get sucked into any of the contro-

versies between Beijing and Tokyo — history of World War II in the Asia-Pacific theatre or even the shared perception of the United States and Japan about the centrality of Taiwan to the future security of this theatre.

Emerging power

While Mr. Koizumi has recognised that India is now "stridently emerging as a global power", aided by "a robust economic growth", the sources emphasise that New Delhi is a "very strongly independent-minded" player too. Moreover, Mr. Koizumi tends to see India and China as key global powers from Asia. It is in this context that Japan is now looking at India closely beyond the bilateral engagement. However, this is not similar to the Japan-U.S. "Bilateralism Plus", which a Japanese expert, Akiko Fukushima, and some others perceived as a possibility even before these two countries very recently placed Taiwan at the core of Asia-Pacific security issues.

In the economic domain, India and Japan have now agreed to foster a comprehensive engagement through an expansion of trade in goods and services as also of investment flows. Above all, the possibility of a Japan-India economic partnership agreement will be explored. On a note of statesmanship, Mr. Koizumi has evinced "interest" in Dr. Manmohan Singh's proposal for an "Asian Economic Community".

Japan 'ban' on Indian scientists

TOKYO, May 9. — An India-Japan strategic alliance may be the slogan of the time, but Japan has been refusing visas to 11 Indian scientists since 1998 when the Pokhran tests were conducted.

The visa rejections began in 1998 after Pokhran. In that year, the Japanese foreign ministry refused to issue visa to an Indian scientist, sources were quoted as saying by the Kyodo news agency. There were three rejections in 2003, six in 2004 and one so far this year, it said.

Though the ministry has declined to state reasons for the refusal, sources maintained that it was due to India's failure to sign the NPT. A scientist at a Japanese research institution, who invited an Indian scientist, quoted a ministry official as saying that a visa "will never be granted as the Indian scientist belongs to an institution that has some connections to nuclear weapons". — PTI

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THE STATESMAN

সম্পর্কের সূর্যোদয়

সূর্যোদয়ের দেশের সহিত সখ্য বাড়াইবার লক্ষ উপস্থিত। জাপানের প্রধানমন্ত্রী জুনিচিরো কোইজুমির ভারত সফরের পরে 'দাই নিগুন'-এর সহিত নয়াদিল্লির সম্পর্কের এক নূতন অধ্যায়ের সূচনা হইবে, এমন আশা অসঙ্গত নহে। চিনা প্রধানমন্ত্রী ওয়েন জিয়াবাওয়ের ভারত সফরের রেশ ফুরাইতে না ফুরাইতেই কোইজুমির নয়াদিল্লি আগমন নিঃসন্দেহে তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ। তাহার পরে দ্বিপাক্ষিক সম্পর্কের উন্নতির লক্ষ্যে নয়াদিল্লি এবং টোকিয়ো যে অষ্টপদী ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের কথা ঘোষণা করিয়াছে, তাহাও নিজগুণেই গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। সত্য, চিনের সহিত সম্পর্কের দীর্ঘকালীন বরফ গলিবার সূচনা হইয়াছে, কিন্তু সাম্প্রতিক চিন-ভারত আলোচনায় বার বারই দেখা গিয়াছে যে বেজিংয়ের সহিত কথাবার্তার ক্ষেত্রে নয়াদিল্লি অতিমাত্রায় সতর্ক। কি কূটনীতি কি অর্থনীতি, প্রতিটি বিভাগেই নয়াদিল্লির এই সতর্কতার নমুনা দেখা গিয়াছে। এশিয়ার সর্ববৃহৎ দ্বিপাক্ষিক মুক্ত বাণিজ্য এলাকা গড়িবার জন্য চিনা প্রস্তাবে ভারত সতর্ক ভাবে স্বীয় প্রতিক্রিয়া জানাইয়াছে। অন্য দিকে, জাপানের সহিত দ্বিপাক্ষিক অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক গড়িবার প্রস্তাবে ভারত যে অনেক বেশি উন্মুক্ত, যৌথ ঘোষণাপত্র হইতেই তাহা স্পষ্ট। কূটনীতিতেও জাপানের সহিত আলোচনা 'জাতীয় নিরাপত্তা উপদেষ্টা' স্তরে হইবে বলিয়া স্থির হইয়াছে, যেখানে চিনের সহিত কৌশলগত কথাবার্তা তুলনায় নিম্নতর 'বিদেশ সচিব' স্তরে হইবার কথা। অস্ত্র প্রসার রোধ, পরিবেশ, শক্তি সংরক্ষণ, রেলপথ প্রভৃতি বিভিন্ন বিষয়ে জাপানের সহিত সহযোগিতা নিশ্চিত ভাবেই, ভারতের নিকট অন্য অর্থ বহন করিতেছে। খেয়াল রাখিতে হইবে, এশিয়ার একমাত্র উন্নত দেশের নাম জাপান। এক দিকে আমেরিকা, অন্য দিকে ইউরোপের বিবিধ উন্নত দেশের সহিত সমকক্ষপথে এশিয়ার পতাকাবহনে তাহার কোনও বিকল্প আজ অবধি তৈয়ারি হয় নাই। প্রতিবেশী চিনের তুলনায় আকারে এবং জনসংখ্যায় অনেক ক্ষুদ্র, স্বীয় মহাযুদ্ধ-উত্তর নীতি অনুসারেই সামরিক শক্তিহীন হওয়া সত্ত্বেও যে দেশের অর্থনৈতিক তথা প্রযুক্তিগত ক্ষমতাকে সারা বিশ্ব সমস্রমে মানিয়া লইয়াছে, তাহার নাম জাপান। চিন ভবিষ্যতে তাহাকে অতিক্রম করিতে পারে ঠিক, কিন্তু তাহা এখনও ভবিষ্যতের কথা। সুতরাং, জাপানের সহিত ক্রমবর্ধমান সহযোগিতায় নয়াদিল্লির লাভ বই ক্ষতি নাই।

এই সহযোগিতার অন্য তাৎপর্যও আছে। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে স্থায়ী সদস্যদের জন্য যে চারিটি দেশের নাম প্রস্তাবিত হইয়াছে, ভারত ও জাপান তাহাদের মধ্যে রহিয়াছে। নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের সম্প্রসারণ ঘটিলেও আগত নূতন সদস্যদের কোনও ভাবেই 'ভেটো' ক্ষমতা দেওয়া হইবে না, রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের মহাসচিব কোফি আন্নানের এই ঘোষণার পরে ভারত ও জাপানের পারস্পরিক সহযোগিতার অন্যতর কূটনৈতিক অর্থ বিদ্যমান। ভারত পূর্বেই বলিয়াছিল, ভেটো-হীন স্থায়ী সদস্যপদে তাহার অভিরুচি নাই, যদিও জাপান যে এই ব্যাপারে অনড় নহে, বরং 'নমনীয়', তাহা টোকিয়োর তরফে ইতিপূর্বেই জানাইয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছিল। এক্ষণে নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের স্থায়ী সদস্য হইবার ব্যাপারে দুই দেশের কূটনৈতিক অবস্থান কী হইবে, তাহার উপর বিতর্কটির ভবিষ্যৎ রূপরেখা অনেকখানি নির্ভর করিতেছে। এমনকী, বৃহত্তর প্রেক্ষিতেও বিষয়টি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। বিশেষজ্ঞরা বলিতেছেন, নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের নূতন সদস্যরাষ্ট্রগুলি যদি 'ভেটো' ক্ষমতা চাহিবার পরিবর্তে 'ভেটো'র বিরুদ্ধে মুখর হয়, তাহা হইলে এই বৈষম্যমূলক ক্ষমতাটির একেবারে বিলোপসাধন না হউক, অন্তত এই ক্ষমতাটির যথেষ্ট অপব্যবহারের ক্ষেত্রে কিছু সঙ্গত বিধিনিষেধ প্রবর্তিত হইবার সম্ভাবনা উড়াইয়া দেওয়া যায় না। সেই লক্ষ্যেও নয়াদিল্লি ও টোকিয়োর বর্ধিত সহযোগিতা জরুরি। নিজ স্বার্থে তো বটেই, রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের অভ্যন্তরে ক্ষমতা সমীকরণের জটিল অঙ্কে স্বীয় অবস্থান দৃঢ় করিবার লক্ষ্যেও ভারত ও জাপানের সহযোগিতা বৃদ্ধি আবশ্যিক। প্রধানমন্ত্রী কোইজুমির ভারত সফরে দৃশ্যতই সেই সুসম্পর্কের পথ কিছুটা প্রশস্ত হইল। নয়াদিল্লির নীতিকাররা ইহার গুরুত্ব সম্যক বুঝিয়াছেন তো?

India, Japan discuss Security Council membership issue

Two African countries may be included in the list of contenders

Amit Baruah

NEW DELHI: India and Japan discussed expanding their "G-4" grouping of contenders for a permanent seat on the United Nations' Security Council to include at least two African countries to turn it into a "G-6" during talks between Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Junichiro Koizumi on Friday evening. Germany and Brazil are the other members of the current G-4.

According to official sources, the two Prime Ministers discussed the effectiveness of the G-4 in the overall context of entering the Council. They pointed out that this cooperation was of an "ongoing nature."

While the G-4 has representation from Asia, Europe and Latin America, there is no African representative in this grouping. Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa are all contenders from the continent and, it would appear, that only two nations from Africa are to be tagged on to the G-4.

Referring to the success of Mr. Koizumi's visit, the sources said India did not want to get sucked into the current state of Sino-Japanese relations. They pointed out that India did not have any territorial dispute with Japan.

Asked if there had been any discussion on China during the talks on Friday with the Prime Minister, the sources replied in the negative. Neither Mr. Koizumi nor Dr. Singh raised the issue.

Rail freight corridors

About the proposed Rs. 22,000-crore Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah dedicated rail freight corridors, the sources said the issue was currently under discussion. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was keen that Japan should be part of a high-profile infrastructure project in India.

Stating that feasibility studies would be conducted for the two projects, they remarked that Japan was considering a "soft loan" that would come at an interest rate of 0.4 per cent and could be

repaid over a period of 10 years. A Japanese contractor would execute both these projects. They also pointed out India was the largest recipient of Overseas Development Assistance from Japan — a sum of \$1.3 billion had been provided to India in the last financial year. According to the sources, considerable preparation had gone into the Koizumi trip, with three senior Japanese Ministers responsible for economic affairs visiting India in January this year. Diplomatic Adviser to the Japanese Prime Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi had also made two trips to the country.

They sought to defend the "general nature" of lending a "strategic content" to the existing "global partnership" by saying that both the (signed) joint statement and the "eight-fold" initiative were specific in nature and did not contain "accidental" formulations.

On the business side, the sources said the private sector would be represented on the joint study group that would be set up next month.

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THE HINDU

India, Japan setting up study group to boost economic ties

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, April 29

THE VISITING Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, on Friday called upon Indian and Japanese business community to tap the tremendous opportunities between the nations and outlined a three point agenda. India and Japan should strive to work towards strengthening bilateral relations, regional cooperation and cooperation at the global level, he said.

The premiers of the two countries had agreed to set up a joint Indo-Japan Study Group to strengthen economic relations, indicating that both countries were serious in furthering economic and bilateral ties, in the changed global scenario.

"We have learnt from a survey, that as a destination for Japanese businesses, India now ranks third after Korea

and China", said the Japanese premier, adding that "I hope other Japanese companies will share the success of Suzuki and other companies that set up shop in India."

Koizumi, allayed fears that Indo-Japan trade was stagnating and asserted it is growing and is heading in the right direction, while addressing a joint meeting organised by CII, Ficci and Assocham. He said that bilateral trade had witnessed a 16% growth last year over the previous year, and about 300 Japanese companies have invested in India.

He said that the formation of an East Asian Community and the movement towards Asian partnership would provide the right direction towards making it an Asian century. "In Asia, Japan had a friend in India, and added that India and Japan have shared a long history of



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi addressing an Indo-Japanese business meeting in New Delhi on Friday

friendship," he remarked.

During the interaction Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath said that India and Japan could easily reach a trade level of \$10 billion within three years though it has been

stagnating at \$4 billion annually for the past eight years. India and Japan should structure the commercial engagement in such a way, that for Japan, India becomes a country of possibilities.

India, Japan push for UNSC reforms

Focus on 'Arc of Prosperity'

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, April 29. — Talking about a strategic "global partnership", India and Japan have agreed to act together for reform of the United Nations Security Council, joint development of the East Asian community, cooperation in the areas of oil and natural gas and stronger economic, educational and cultural ties.

The India-Japan joint statement released during the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi said both countries will work together for an "Arc of Advantage and Prosperity".

Both India and Japan aspire to be permanent members of the UNSC and are, along with Brazil and Germany, part of the G-4, pushing for UN reforms. The joint statement also spoke of working together to revitalise the General Assembly.

External affairs minister Mr Natwar Singh said tonight that the debate on the veto issue was still open. Mr Koizumi will also discuss UN reforms with Pakistan, he said. Mr Singh added that envoys will be sent to all 192 UN member countries to gather support for India's demand for veto power if it gets a permanent seat in the UNSC.

India and Japan have also called for annual prime ministerial meetings and the setting up of a dialogue on oil and natural gas cooperation.

There is also a plan to have 30,000 Japanese language learners within the next five years and of the introduction of Japanese as an alternate foreign

language in school curricula.

The joint statement spoke extensively about an "emerging Asia" which is becoming a leading growth centre and increasingly influential in global affairs.

In their discussions, Mr Koizumi and Dr Manmohan Singh said, they were aware of their responsibilities in the "emerging Asian era" and felt the need to give a strategic focus to their "global partnership". The renewed relations will include cooperation at bilateral, regional and global levels. At the bilateral level, economic relations will be given an "urgent focus".

Regionally, the two Asian giants will strive for closer collaboration for peace and stability, while on the global stage, they will cooperate in environment, energy, non-proliferation and security.

On the economic side, the two sides pledged to increase and diversify trade. A joint study group to be set up soon will submit a report by end-2005 to improve linkages and study the feasibility of an economic partnership agreement.

Special effort will be made to encourage top Japanese companies to invest in India. Also, negotiations for a tax treaty will be concluded at the earliest. The joint statement also called for enhanced defence dialogue and service to service cooperation between the Coast Guard and the Indian Navy and Maritime Self-Defence forces, including joint exercises against piracy. The joint committee on science and technology will be revived for cooperation in nano-science, robotics and alternative energy.

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THE STATESMAN

India and Japan pledge to work as 'partners against proliferation'

To step up energy cooperation and hold annual summit at the level of Prime Minister

Amit Baruah

NEW DELHI: Setting aside differences on the nuclear issue, India and Japan pledged on Friday to work as "partners against proliferation," and their Prime Ministers agreed to hold annual summits while committing the two countries to step up cooperation in the strategic energy sector.

A joint statement and "eight-fold initiative" issued after talks between Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Junichiro Koizumi had Japan explicitly supporting India's participation in the East Asian Summit, scheduled to be held in Malaysia in December.

"While expressing their respective positions on the approaches towards the shared goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, the two Governments affirm that they will seek to promote commonalities and identify areas of convergence for mutual cooperation between them in a constructive manner, contributing to the advancement of overall bilateral relations," it said.

The leaders held that their "global partnership" reflected a broad convergence of their long-term, political, economic and strategic interests, aspirations, objectives and concerns. "India and Japan view each other as partners that have responsibility for, and are capable of, responding to global and regional challenges..."

Mr. Koizumi's talks, preceded by a highly successful India visit

by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao earlier this month, had India and Japan stating that they had a "common interest in and complementary responsibility" for promoting security, stability and prosperity in Asia.

Dr. Singh and Mr. Koizumi directed that the Joint Study Group on furthering economic relations, to be set up in June, would submit its report "within a year," and consider the feasibility of an "economic partnership agreement" between the two countries.

Apart from setting up a high-level strategic dialogue at the official level, the two leaders also wanted greater cooperation in the security arena. "The Indian Coast Guard and the Japan Coast Guard will commence efforts to establish a framework for effective cooperation. The two leaders, in view of the importance of maritime security, also instructed the Indian Navy and the Self Defence Force of Japan to enhance their cooperation, including through exchange of views, friendship visits and other similar activities".

As part of the "eight-fold" initiative to strengthen their global partnership, India and Japan also agreed to launch an oil and natural gas cooperation dialogue between the Petroleum Ministry and its Japanese counterpart.

Stepping up their focus on energy security, the two countries said they would cooperate in exploration and production of hydrocarbons, downstream projects including in third countries, as well as improving Asian



TWO TO TANGO: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh gestures as he speaks with Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi prior to an official level meeting in New Delhi on Friday. - PHOTO: AFP

oil markets and increasing investments in Asian energy infrastructure.

Interestingly, no specific agreements were signed by the

two sides, with the entire visit focused on the joint statement and its offshoot, the eight-fold initiative. During the day, Mr. Koizumi also met the President,

A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, and a laid a wreath at Rajghat.

Reiterating their desire to push ahead with U.N. Security Council reforms, both sides

stressed the importance of taking a decision on the issue before the September 2005 summit, as recommended by Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

'Huge potential for Japan-India trade ties'

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has emphasised the importance of India and Japan working as "partners" against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The following are excerpts from Mr. Koizumi's written answers to questions from P.S. Suryanarayana prior to his departure for India from Tokyo on Thursday.

What are the overarching political and strategic objectives of your present visit to India? What, in your strategic thinking, is the new Factor-X that can bring Japan closer to India?

Junichiro Koizumi: I recognise that India is stridently emerging as a global power, aided by a robust economic growth, and that it has become a major country essential for peace, stability and prosperity of Asia and beyond. It is good to note that Japan and India are bound by shared values and principles, such as democracy, as well as the convergence of strategic interests. Therefore, Japan and India need each other as a strong, prosperous and dynamic partner.

Since establishing the Japan-India Global Partnership in 2000, our two countries have steadily fostered a wide-ranging and multifaceted cooperative relationship. With my visit to India, it is my intention to reinforce our relationship on the basis of what we have achieved in the past five years, and with a new strategic orientation in a new Asian era, to take our partnership to a new height of regional and global significance.

As part of your international economic agenda, do you have any specific plan to set right the recent sluggishness in Japan-India economic interactions?

I would first like to underline the fact that Japan-India economic interactions are not sluggish. Trade figures were approximately 16 per cent higher in 2004 over the previous year, and the number of Japanese companies operating in India has increased from 222 in 2001 to 301 in 2005.

At the same time, Japan-India economic

relations, which are currently on the right track, need further strengthening during my visit to India in order to contribute more to the development and prosperity of the region. Our economic ties have huge potential, considering the size of our two economies. It is against this background that the Japan-India Joint Study Group is to hold its first meeting shortly to discuss specific means to strengthen our economic relationship in a way commensurate with its potentiality.

Are you signalling that Japan's differences with India on the nuclear issue will not be an impediment to a new take-off on the bilateral front? Are you confident that the nuanced differences over the hyper-power activism of the United States will not affect Tokyo's ties with New Delhi?

Japan would like to see all countries, including India, accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Having said that, as Japan and India share the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons, we would like to think together with the Indians about how our two countries can cooperate towards achieving the goal. It is also important that Japan and India work together as partners against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, an urgent task facing the international community.

I am aware that India has different views from Japan on some issues such as the despatch of troops to Iraq. I do not believe, however, that such differences constitute an impediment to our efforts to strengthen our relationship, as Japan and India share the universal values of freedom and democracy

and have enjoyed centuries of history of exchanges and friendship. I would rather look forward to enhancing close consultations in the spirit of the global partnership and working together for promoting world's stability and prosperity.

Do you want to enlarge the scope of the existing 'Global Partnership' between India and Japan? If so, please let us know about your thinking.

The Japan-India Global Partnership has steadily advanced, and the dimension of our cooperation is not only bilateral but encompasses global issues, notably the United Nations reforms.

It is my belief that Japan and India, as two major powers in Asia and in the world as a whole, need to boost our cooperative engagements to address regional and global challenges.

I, therefore, very much look forward to my meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to discuss issues of mutual concern.

With India and Japan having made common cause to become permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, what is your realistic expectation? Is there a specific game-plan for gaining such seats with the same status as the present permanent members?

There is certainly a rise in momentum among member-states towards the realisation of U.N. reforms, particularly Security Council reform. Japan intends to enhance cooperation with India and a wide range of other concerned countries towards the realisation of Security Council reform, to reach a decision on this matter before the Summit

meeting in September this year as stated in the U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's report.

As a leading player within the Group of Eight [seven 'rich' countries and Russia], is Japan inclined to support India's admission to this club, as a summit-level participant, at the time of its possible expansion to include China?

Since the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit [in July 2000], we have had fruitful dialogues with developing countries at each G8 summit.

I will be consulting closely with other G8 countries on relations between the G8 and major developing countries such as India and China.

What is Japan's updated stand on India's [possible] admission to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum?

At the 1997 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Vancouver, the forum decided to freeze new applications for 10 years. It is, therefore, appropriate to say at this juncture that we will discuss the matter among the members in the light of the relevant guidelines in the future, when the expansion of membership reopens, and if India expresses a desire to join.

On a related plane, does Japan welcome India's proposal for an Asian Economic Community?

I am aware that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has proposed an idea of an 'Asian Economic Community'. Japan is, of course, interested to work together with India for the development of Asia.

Japan, India need each other: Koizumi

“Economic interactions on the right track”

P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE: Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has spelt out a broad policy of cooperative relationship with India on the basis of shared values such as democracy and “the convergence of strategic interests.”

In an exclusive interview, in the form of written answers to questions from *The Hindu*, Mr. Koizumi indicated that his objective was to reinforce the Japan-India ties “with a new, strategic orientation in a new Asian era.”

Noting that India was now “stridently emerging as a global power” and recognising its essentiality for peace and stability in Asia and beyond, he did not, however, characterise the emerging equation between Tokyo and New Delhi in such definitive terms as a strategic partnership or bonding. Nor did he specifically identify any new Factor-X as the force behind his optimism.

In the answers, received by e-mail through diplomatic channels prior to his departure from Tokyo on Thursday on a visit to India, Mr. Koizumi maintained that the two countries are “currently on the right track” in economic interactions.



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. — PHOTO: AP

He said efforts would begin shortly to study ways to enhance the economic relationship “commensurate with its potentiality”.

On the sensitive nuclear issue, which led to a frosty phase in ties in the immediate context of the Pokhran tests of 1998, Mr. Koizumi said Japan would now “like to think together with the Indians” on how the two sides could

cooperate towards achieving “the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons.” Noteworthy, too, was his inclination to see India as a potential “partner” in the campaign against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Detailed interview on Page 11

29 APR 2005

THE HINDU

Statesman News Service

News from USA
NEW DELHI, April 28. — Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi, who arrived here tonight, will drum up support from a fellow candidate for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council amidst a bitter rift between Tokyo and Beijing.

He will hold talks with Dr Manmohan Singh before proceeding to Pakistan, followed by stops in Luxembourg and the Netherlands. "India has a huge potential for development. From this standpoint, I would like to expand bilateral exchanges," Mr Koizumi told reporters before leaving Tokyo. *29/4*

India and Japan want to be permanent members of the UNSC — Japan for its economic role and also because it's the second largest contributor to the UN fund and India for being the largest pre-eminent developing country. The joint statement will include an eight-point action plan. Mr Koizumi's visit has an added dimension as it comes after Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao's visit, during which he asked Japan to "squarely face up to history" in the wake of riots in China. Japan watched with interest the two Asian giants shake hands. Now, it wants a "strategic orientation" to India-Japan partnership.

Photograph on page 4

29 APR 2005

THE STATESMAN

Security Council seat to top talks agenda

India and Japan to chalk out joint strategy

Nilova Roy Chaudhury
New Delhi, April 26

INDIA AND Japan are set to launch a strategic dialogue, covering maritime and energy security and related issues, when National Security Adviser, M.K. Narayanan, and foreign policy adviser to the Japanese PM, Yoriko Kawaguchi begin talks.

The bilateral strategic dialogue is part of an eight-point action plan the two countries will adopt to provide "strategic orientation" to their global partnership when Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visits India on Friday.

High on the agenda of talks will be UN reforms. India and Japan are lobbying jointly for permanent seats at the UN Security Council. "We are in the process of submitting a resolution to the UN General Assembly. It is almost in the final stage," Japan's ambassador to India, Yasukuni Enoki said on Tuesday. "The next few months are crucial," he said.

According to MEA sources, India would also use the ongoing visit of UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, to India, to press for a vote in the UN Gen-



Junichiro Koizumi: India calling

eral Assembly (UNGA) before the 60th UNGA session in September.

"The problem is that the US

and China are pushing for a 'consensus', a source said, which could indefinitely delay India's (and the G-4) chances.

"Every candidate (in the G-4)," Enoki said, "has a difficult neighbour," referring to Japan's problems with China. However, despite political problems with China, Japan's trade with that country amounts to over 30 times the trade with India. The challenge, Enoki said, is how to develop the multi-tiered political relationship between Japan and India to a higher plane that would provide what Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has called the "arc of prosperity" through Asia.

Japan, which has steadfastly supported India for a place at the East Asia Summit, due later this year, seeks to promote its ties with India as a balancing factor for the continent (read China).

The eight-point action plan incorporates mostly bilateral issues (enhanced political, military, cultural, academic and economic exchanges, including a Joint

Study Group) and will be included in a Joint Statement Koizumi will sign with Singh, after his two-day visit.

India part of East Asian vision

Pramit Pal Chaudhuri
New Delhi, April 26

FIVE YEARS ago, the last time a Japanese Prime Minister came to India, the visit was about burying the hatchet over Pokhran II. But Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi will be coming this week to encourage India to be a greater player in the larger Asian arena.

Indo-Japanese bilateral relations work at three levels, say diplomatic sources.

The goal at the bilateral level will be to institutionalise a relationship that, until recently, lacked a strategic component. There will be a normal slew of agreements on everything — from trade to culture, energy to security. But there will be two key goals in Tokyo's eyes. One, ensure regular ministerial-level contact between the two governments.

Two, explore ways to move the

BEHIND THE NEWS

stagnant economic relationship to a higher plane.

At the regional level, Japan's interests are driven by its strategic vision of "a new Asian dynamic", said diplomatic sources. One factor is the growing integration of Asia's economics. Another is: "Japan's need to cope with the rise of China".

Tokyo insists it's not interested in having India serve as a counter to China. It prefers to talk about Japan's desire for "more players" to be active in East Asia.

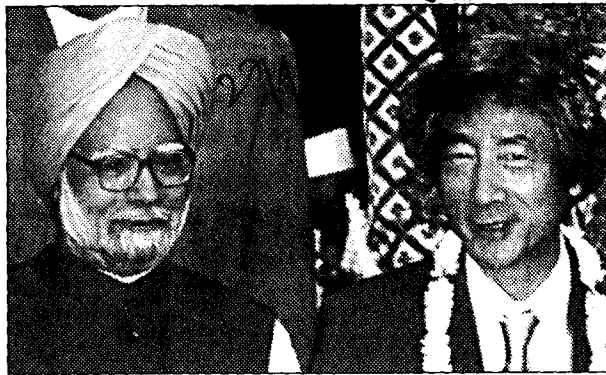
This is summarised, say diplomatic sources, in Japan's support for an "East Asian community that is inclusive, functional rather than geographic". In other words, it should include countries like India, the US and Australia. Japanese officials are par-

ticularly enthused by the four-nation core group that was formed during the tsunami crisis. China's view of such an East Asian community is much more limited. More players would restrict Beijing's clout in its neighbourhood.

Finally, at the global level, India and Japan have merged their separate ambitions for permanent berths at the Security Council. The present target: Get the two countries, along with Germany and Brazil, to agree on a framework resolution to be put before the UN General Assembly this summer. This is an ongoing process. Koizumi's visit will not generate anything more than a reaffirmation of existing policies, said diplomatic sources.

The one area where Japan and India can expect to continue to "agree to disagree" will be on the present nuclear non-proliferation regime. India wants flexibility, Japan wants more rigidity.

Japan keen on strategic trade ties with India



Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 26 APRIL

RECOGNISING India's growing status as an international player, Japan on Tuesday said it wants to provide "strategic orientation" to the global partnership of both countries during Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's two-day visit beginning April 28. Japanese ambassador Yasukuni Enoki told reporters here on Tuesday that a joint statement signed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Japanese counterpart on April 29 would encompass an eight-point action plan which will seek to give Indo-Japanese ties a new dimension. "It will address issues from bilateral, regional and global contexts," he pointed out.

The two sides are also likely to establish a high-level strategic dialogue between national security adviser M.K. Naranayan and diplomatic adviser to Japanese government and former Japanese foreign minister Yoriko Kawaguchi. Mr Koizumi, who arrives around midnight on Thursday, will call on President APJ Abdul Kalam on Friday and hold wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the entire gamut of bilateral ties, besides covering im-

portant regional and international issues of mutual concern.

High on their agenda will be the issue of the UN reforms. India and Japan along with Germany and Brazil form the G-4, all four aspiring to become permanent members of the Security Council and having agreed in principle to extend mutual support. "We are in the process of submitting a resolution to the UN General Assembly. It is almost in the final stage," the Japanese envoy said.

Ambassador Enoki, who described India as an "emerging new super power" of Asia, also asserted that Japan supported its membership to the East Asia Summit slated to be held in Malaysia in December this year. Only India satisfied all mandatory requirements, though even Australia and New Zealand wanted to join the summit, he said. The Japanese envoy said the two sides would decide on renewing energy dialogue as also hold discussions on maritime security. Stepped-up co-operation among coast guards of the two countries to combat piracy is another area the two sides would consider, he said. Fresh initiatives for co-operation in science and technology, increasing people to people contacts and cultural exchanges are likely to be discussed during the parleys, he said.

নেপালকে অস্ত্র নয়: সতর্ক করে দিল সি পি এম

আজকালের প্রতিবেদন: দিল্লি, ২৪
এপ্রিল— নেপালের রাজা জ্ঞানেন্দ্রর
দাবির পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে সি পি এম
পলিটব্যুরো প্রধানমন্ত্রী মনমোহনকে
বলেছে, যেন কিছুতেই নেপালে ফের অস্ত্র
পাঠানো না হয়। পলিটব্যুরোর কথায়,
নেপালে গণতন্ত্রের গলা টিপে জরুরি
অবস্থা জারির পর ভারত সরকার সমস্ত
সামরিক সরবরাহ বন্ধ করার সিদ্ধান্ত
নেয়। এ সিদ্ধান্ত অবশ্যই সঠিক ও
যুক্তিযুক্ত। দেশের সমস্ত গণতন্ত্রকামী শক্তি
এই সিদ্ধান্তকে স্বাগত জানায়। নেপালের
রাজা জাকার্তায় অনুষ্ঠিত এশিয়া-
আফ্রিকা শীর্ষ সম্মেলনে তাঁর নিজের
স্বৈরতান্ত্রিক কাজের সাফাই গেয়েছেন।
অন্যদিকে ভারতের প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সঙ্গে
বৈঠকে তিনি দ্রুত গণতন্ত্র ফিরিয়ে আনার
আশ্বাস দিয়েছেন। পুর নির্বাচনের নামে
একটি প্রহসন অনুষ্ঠিত হতে চলেছে

নেপালে। এবং এহেন উত্থাপিত ভেটি
কখনই পূর্ণ সংসদীয় গণতন্ত্রের
পুনর্বহালের বিকল্প হতে পারে না।
পলিটব্যুরো বলেছে, কেন্দ্রের ইউ পি এ
সরকার স্পষ্ট করুক পরিস্থিতি।
জনগণের অধিকার হরণকারী একজন
স্বৈরতান্ত্রিক রাজাকে অস্ত্র দেওয়ার
কোনও প্রশ্নই ওঠে না কেন্দ্রের গণতান্ত্রিক
ও জনমুখী সিদ্ধান্তে সারা বিশ্বে ভারতের
সুনাম ছড়িয়েছে। কিন্তু অস্ত্র সরবরাহের
সিদ্ধান্ত ফের নেওয়া হলে সব সুনাম উবে
যাবে। এবং রাজতন্ত্রের এই স্বৈররূপ কায়েমে
প্রশয় দেওয়ার জন্য দায়ী হবে ভারত।
জয়পুর থেকে সংবাদ সংস্থা জানাচ্ছে, সি পি
আই নেতা এ বি বর্ধনও কেন্দ্রকে সতর্ক করে
দিয়েছে, নেপালের রাজা যা করেছেন, তাকে
যেন কোনওভাবেই স্বীকৃতি না দেওয়া হয়।
সমন্বয় কমিটির বৈঠকে আমরা বিষয়টি
তুলব।

26 APR 2005 AAJKAL

India Inc welcome for Koizumi is enhanced trade

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, April 24. — Ahead of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Junichiro Koizumi's visit to India on 28 April, the Indian industry has favoured strengthening of bilateral economic ties while seeking to diversify trade between the two countries.

While the Assocham favoured a shift away from official development assistance to FDI route, the Confederation of Indian Industry has called for greater bilateral cooperation in the private sector and in various economic fields.

Though India is one of the largest recipients of ODA from Japan, Assocham said the Indian industry favours the shifting of Indo-Japan bilateral economic relationship from ODA to FDI route and diversification of India's export basket to boost bilateral trade.

"ODA-based relationship has not strengthened the weight of our currency and has rather weakened it," Assocham said in a paper 'India-Japan Economic Relations: Steady Past and Bright Future'. Releasing the paper, Assocham president, Mr Mahendra K Sanghi, said, "The time has come for India to aggressively campaign for FDI-based relationship with Japan." He said the shift was also called for to pro-

mote Japanese investment in infrastructure sectors of telecom, power and construction, besides increased manufacturing in the automobile sector. As per Assocham's estimates, Japan has so far provided around 3,000 billion yen commitment base under ODA, while Japan's actual approved FDI until 2003-04 stood at less than \$4,000 million.

Mr Sanghi argued that ODA aid has not spurred the Japanese manufacturing in India and restricted the scope of acceleration of economic activities as a result of which both India and Japan have not succeeded in building economic partnership. The continued preference of Japan on its ODA aid to India has also resulted in decreased two-way trade between India and Japan as compared to China, he added.

Meanwhile, the Confederation of Indian Industry, in its paper 'India-Japan: The Road Ahead', pointed out that 45 per cent of Japan's international trade was with Asia.

India's share was a meagre 1 per cent of that pie with China retaining the largest share of 34 per cent of the Asian market. As a destination of exports, Japan's share had been continuously declining, the CII paper said. "It was the second largest destination of India's exports in the early nineties, next only to the USA."

25 APR 2005

THE STATESMAN

Japan, India to expand economic relationship

1974 India - Japan
Action plan for cooperation in manufacturing industry

P. S. Suryanarayana 19-19

SINGAPORE: The Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Shoichi Nakagawa, and the Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Kamal Nath, have agreed to "exercise a political initiative towards cementing the economic relationship between the two countries."

In a joint statement issued at the end of their talks in Tokyo, the Ministers agreed to further strengthen dialogue at their level in the overall context of "a possibility of a Japan-India Economic Partnership Agreement". It was noted that "trade and investment between Japan and India had stagnated" in almost all fields except information technology.

The latest ministerial-level talks acquire importance with the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi's scheduled visit to India towards the end of the month. Coinciding with Mr. Kamal Nath's visit, the fourth round of "India-Japan Investment Dialogue" and an event called "Destination India" were held in Tokyo.

The Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised the "Destina-



*Union Minister for
Commerce and Industry
Kamal Nath*

tion India" event. With a view to "reinforcing the economic relationship between the two countries", Mr. Nakagawa and Mr. Kamal Nath agreed on an "action plan" for cooperation in the manufacturing industry and interaction as "global partners" in the economic domain.

A key element of cooperation in the manufacturing sector was the efforts to promote "yen loan projects" through the utilisation of "Japan's excellent techniques and know-how". The improvement of the investment environment in India and the "stable supply" of some natural resources to Japan were also cited for attention under the "action plan". On cooperation in the IT

sector, an area identified under the existing "Global Partnership" between India and Japan, the two Ministers hoped for an "expeditious" settlement of the issues relating to "taxation on software development".

On global economic issues, the two Ministers said, "it is critically important to deepen the dialogue... and strengthen the partnership" between India and Japan on the Doha Development Agenda before the ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Hong Kong next December.

Talks progressing

The Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said on Friday that its negotiations with India for a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) had now reached the "last half-mile mark."

Singapore was now awaiting the Indian response to its proposals on some residual issues. "Ahead of a signing [of CECA] both sides have committed to resolving issues involving the renegotiation of the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement that was signed in 1994 as well as commitments on financial and telecommunications services," the MTI said.

17 APR 2005

THE HINDU

Japan, India move towards free trade

Agence France-Presse

TOKYO, April 14. — Japan and India today took a first step to a possible free trade deal with an agreement to spend a year looking at the effects of a pact on the two major Asian economies. Commerce minister Mr Kamal Nath, on a three-day visit to Tokyo, met with a host of Japanese officials including Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi, with both sides pledging to boost bilateral trade.

Mr Nath agreed with Mr Shoichi Nakagawa, minister of economy, trade and industry, that the two countries would hold a year of "policy dialogue" on a free-trade agreement, a trade ministry official said. After a year, Japan, the world's second biggest economy, and India, one of the fastest growing, would decide whether to begin formal negotiations on a free trade agreement.

Nakagawa said that Japan wanted a steady supply of iron ore. Mr Nath replied that India understood the need and asked for Japan to consider assistance to help India build infrastructure including ports and mines, the official said. Mr Nath, who yesterday made a pitch to the private sector at a Tokyo business seminar, also told Mr Nakagawa that India was ready for more investment, the official said.

A free trade pact would be a new step for each country. India has free trade agreements with its neighbours Nepal and Sri Lanka but not with any developed country. Japan has recently begun looking more aggressively at free trade pacts. It has agreements only with Singapore and Mexico — seen as a gateway to the key US market. It is in talks with the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand, and with the Southeast Asian Asean bloc as a whole.



Commerce minister Mr Kamal Nath is greeted by Japanese foreign minister Mr Nobutaka Machimura at the latter's office in Tokyo on Thursday. — AFP

Japan gives soft loan worth Rs 5,600 cr

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, March 29.

— Japan today announced that it will be giving its largest ever package of soft loans worth Rs 5,600 crore to India

An agreement to this effect was signed by the Japanese ambassador to India, Mr Yasukuni Enoki, and additional secretary, ministry of finance, Mr GS Mankad, this evening. This makes India again the top recipient for assistance from Japan.

Speaking to reporters, the minister for economic affairs at the Japanese embassy, Mr Hidenao Yanagi, said that despite Japan going through difficult fiscal conditions, the assistance to India has increased by 7.57 per cent.

The loan package covers eight big projects,

including the sixth and last tranche for the Delhi Metro rail project of Rs 800 crore and for developing infrastructure on the Uttar Pradesh Buddhist circuit development plan of about Rs 400 crore.

The largest loan of Rs 1,750 crore is being given for improving the sewage and water supply in Bangalore.

A loan of Rs 466 crore for the Ganga action plan project at Varanasi will be provided, as apparently promised by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Junichiro Koizumi in 2001 when the then Prime Minister Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee visited Japan.

The loans for infrastructure projects are for a 30-year-period at an interest rate of 1.3 per cent. Environmental project loans are for a 40-year-period at a rate of 0.75 percent.

Japan cosyng up to India?

Recent visits to India by many influential Japanese politicians apparently reflect their desire to shore up Japan's relations with the rapidly emerging Asian economic power, while seeking to prevent China from dominating the region.

"India has been rapidly growing in prominence as a global power. The country will be a desirable partner with which Japan should cooperate for stability and peace in Asia and the world," former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori recently said at a symposium held at a Delhi hotel.

Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Shoichi Nakagawa, Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki and Heizo Takenaka, State Minister In Charge of Economic, Fiscal and Postal Reform Policy, visited India in January. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi also is planning a visit during the Golden Week holidays from the end of April. So, why are such important Japanese figures so ardent on strengthening ties with India?

The main reason is India's economy has grown by an average of six per cent each year since 1991, when it liberalised its economy. The country has the world's second-largest population – about 1 billion in 2004 – and is predicted to exceed that of China by 2050.

Then, there are strategic projections – the US National Intelligence Council recently reported that the 21st century would be an Asian century, led by China and India, due to the combination of their rapid economic growth and population expansion.

Tokyo's overtures to Delhi are seen as being aimed at preventing Chinese hegemony in Asia, writes
KOICHI MOCHIZUKI

Also, both Japan and India want a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

And underlying all of this is the hope of significant players in Japan that deepening relations with India, which fought China over a border dispute in 1962 though relations have improved since then, will prevent China from gaining hegemony in Asia.

As for the East Asian summit meeting agreed upon at the Association of South East Asian Nations plus Three summit meeting – consisting of Asean nations, Japan, China and South Korea, in November 2004 – Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura said relevant nations would discuss India's participation in the framework.

On the other hand, China is working to improve its relations with India as trade ties have continued to expand since former Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee visited China in June 2003.

In this respect, some Japanese government officials have pointed out that Japan should maintain a balance in its diplomatic relations with India and China.

"If Japan shows too much preference for India and neglects China, it'll give India the choice between the two countries," a government official said. "Japan should seek strategies to maintain its presence in Asia, while keeping a balance between China and India."

Which side will win the debate is not known, but the process of weighing the pros and cons will be watched with a great deal of interest by all.

– *The Yomiuri Shimbun/Asia News Network*



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi: Planning to visit India. — AFP

Japan too prefers veto right

Pravin
Sachin
Kumar

KD-19
8/11/05

By P. S. Suryanarayana

JAKARTA, JAN. 7. Although Japan has not yet firmed up its stand on the question whether it should insist on being granted the veto right as a possible new permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Tokyo is, in principle, opposed to the idea of two different categories of such membership.

This was indicated to *The Hindu* by the Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hatsuhsa Takashima, after the talks between the External Affairs Minister, K. Natwar Singh, and his Japanese counterpart, Nobutaka Machimura, on the sidelines of the tsunami conference here.

They "touched upon" the issue of ongoing efforts by the two countries to coordinate their

strategies for becoming permanent members of the world body's most powerful chamber.

Responding to a question whether the idea was to join as full-fledged and not second-class permanent members, Mr. Takashima said: "As far as Japan is concerned, of course, our position is that there should not be first-class and second-class permanent members of the Security Council. But, at the same time, we have to take note that the high level commission [the U.N.'s High Level Panel] proposed that the new permanent members of the Security Council would not be awarded with the veto power.

The existing permanent members — the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China — possess the veto right.

THE HINDU

8 JAN 2005

Delhi willing, Japan happy to help

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Jan. 6. Japan has offered to transfer technology for establishing a tsunami early warning centre and to share with Delhi its experience of dealing with such disasters.

It has also expressed willingness to step up concessional loan assistance to India if the Centre makes such a request.

Japanese ambassador Yasukuni Enoki said: "We understand and respect the basic position of the Indian government not to receive any assistance from foreign governments." But he added that if the Indian government changes its policy or asks for foreign assistance,

Japan will be "very happy" to cooperate.

On the offer of transfer of technology, Enoki said: "This is not in conflict with the Government of India's basic position. We can have good room to work together."

The ambassador said he has had preliminary discussions with the Prime Minister's Office and that India has expressed interest in the proposal. More discussions are needed with officials in the home ministry and other departments before the proposal can be put in motion, he added.

An Indian team led by A.K. Rastogi, secretary, disaster management, in the home ministry, will participate in the world conference on disaster reduction being



Koizumi: Building bridges

organised by Japan in Kobe between January 18 and 22.

Three senior ministers from Japan will visit India next week, indicating the growing ties between the two countries. They include Shichi Nakawaga, the minister

for economy, trade and industry, Sadakazu Tanigaki, the finance minister, and Heizo Takenaka, the minister for economic and fiscal policy and privatisation of postal services. The vice-minister for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, Takayoshi Tsudena, will also be here around the same time.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi will also visit India this year. The dates of his visit are yet to be finalised by the two sides.

Koizumi met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the India-Asean Summit in Laos in November last year. The two are expected to meet again at other international fora in the coming months.

Enoki said the yearly concessional loan from Japan

to India could be increased on request. Japan has decided to extend a \$500-million grant as emergency assistance to tsunami-affected countries.

Tokyo has sent relief teams to affected areas and will make further contribution by utilising its fire department helicopters and personnel. It will also consider pressing into service its self-defence force, aircraft, naval vessels and personnel.

"Japan has no intention to compete with other donor countries but is ready to provide the maximum possible assistance," the ambassador said.

The Japanese community in India will start a fund-raising campaign from tomorrow for the tsunami victims.