



PRESS RELEASE

“A strong India is in Japan’s interest and a strong Japan is in India’s interest”

Japan’s Prime Minister’s Shinzo Abe’s forthcoming visit to India assumes significance as it comes at the time of a changing geopolitical and security scenario in Asia. This visit could help India and Japan develop a mutual understanding and plan a strategy in order to address common interests as well as common threats. Japan and India share a “Special Strategic and Global Partnership” and the relations between the two countries are of immense importance to each other and the world.

5th September, 2017, New Delhi

Speaking at a session on **“Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Diplomacy and Crisis in Korean Peninsula- Toward the Success of the PM’s upcoming visit to India”** organised by Ananta Aspen Centre **Mr. Katsuyuki Kawai**, *Special Advisor for Foreign Affairs to President Shinzo Abe of the Liberal Democratic Party*, spoke comprehensively on the North Korean crisis, Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe’s diplomacy and Japan’s relations with the US and how they can be furthered. The session focussed on the significance of India-Japan ties in contemporary International relations, and how the changing nature of strategy and security in Asia warrants for an enhanced cooperation between India and Japan.

Mr Katsuyuki Kawai quoted that Prime Minister Abe is looking forward to his visit with Prime Minister Modi to build a stronger economic and security partnership. He highlighted two aspects of India-Japan relations, first, high - speed railways under which the construction of bullet trains is one of the flagship projects. Second, joint naval exercise like the Malabar exercise as a symbol of defence cooperation which other countries also want to join. Speaking at length on the recent missile attacks by North Korea, Mr Kawai stated that “North Korea has committed a reckless act of launching a ballistic missile on Japan. They also committed a nuclear test. This is unacceptable and unpardonable.” Weapons of Mass destruction by Korea is a destabilising factor in the region which will be dealt very seriously, he added. He also conveyed Prime Minister Abe’s message that “A series of missile launches has made it clear that now is not the time to hold dialogue with North Korea, but a time to put pressure on North Korea.”

Mr N K Singh, *Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Senior Member, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)* stated that Mumbai - Ahmedabad corridor will be the beginning of future relationships between Japan and India. He also spoke about the much needed cooperation in the area of defence sector which should be made open for foreign investment, further encouraging Japanese companies to invest in the Indian defence sector. **Mr. B J Panda**, *Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha* highlighted that both India and Japan have closely aligned national interests which is also reflected in the personal initiatives of the two Prime Ministers. Speaking on North Korea, he said that it is a rogue state and India knows how to deal with a rogue state that encourages terrorism. Giving the example of China, he remarked that BRICS is one such platform where India has effectively engaged with China which is a step forward given that China has now for the first time agreed to include Pakistan based terror groups in BRICS declaration.

About Ananta Aspen Centre: Engaging India, Nurturing Change Ananta Aspen Centre is an educational and policy studies organisation based in New Delhi. It focusses on values based leadership and open dialogue on challenges facing Indian society to help foster its transformation. The Centre engages civil society, business, governments and

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