

News from Democracies: India: March 20

March 20, 2023

March 20, 2023: **Visit of Prime Minister Kishida to Delhi:** Before leaving for India for his second summit meeting with Prime Minister Modi, (*The first visit was in March 2022.*) Prime Minister Kishida, in a statement, said that in 2023, Japan and India hold the presidencies of G7 and G20 respectively. He said that during his visit, he would discuss with Prime minister Modi how G7 and G20 can help in resolving the issues of food security, climate and energy, and, provision of fair and transparent development finance.



Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan

Reference: https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202303/index.html

Regarding bilateral Japan-India relations, Prime Minister confirmed the further deepening of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan. He said that he would like to forge further bilateral cooperation in smart city projects by India, which have an edge in the digital sphere and which share high compatibility with Japan's Vision for a **Digital Garden City Nation Realization**. He also mentioned promotion of co-operation in development of the North Eastern region of India, in people-to-people exchanges and in the field of security.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has chosen Delhi for unveiling Japan's New Plan for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) at a lecture, organized by the **Indian Council of World Affairs**. He added that it was India where the vision of FOIP was born and, therefore, he presented Japan's plans of investment of \$ 75 billion for developing infrastructure by 2030 at a Think Tank in Delhi. Prime Minister Kishida said that he

would coordinate his plans with U.S.A., Australia, U.K., Canada, Europe and others. He added that **India was indispensable for Japan's FOIP plans.**

As the host for G7 meeting of 2023, Japan has invited India, South Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam and Brazil as guests to the G7 summit of 2023.

The Prime Minister said he was convinced that **the unwavering trust and the close coordination between India and Japan as leading democracies of Asia are the cornerstones of peace and prosperity in the region.**

March 20, 2023: **Tony Abbott at Idea Exchange:** "I would very much like to see the 21st century as an Indian century. It's better than being a Chinese century."



Anthony John Abbott,

Prime Minister of Australia (18 September 2013 – 15 September 2015)

Mr. Abbott said that the India-hosted conference on geopolitics, Raisina Dialogue, is better than the World Economic Forum at Davos. He added, "It is much less pretentious and there is much less group think. The problem with Davos at the moment is virtue-signalling. Here there was a remarkably impressive and eclectic group of people. That particular discussion with General Angus Campbell (Chief of Australian Defense Forces), General James Norman Mattis (the former US Defense Secretary) and the Indian Chief of Defense Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan was very high-quality. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar obviously takes a close interest and it lifted the whole conversation.

March 19, 2023: Ahmedabad: **CII, Gujarat Office-bearers for 2023:** Mr. Darshan Shah took charge as the Chairman of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Gujarat. Kulin Lalbhai, Executive Director of Arvind Ltd (one of the largest Denim manufacturers) was appointed as the Vice-Chairman, CII Gujarat.



*Mr. Darshan Shah, Director and Chief Manufacturing Officer,
Hitachi Hi-Rel Power Electronics Private Ltd*

March 20, 2023: **Ayodhya to become a beautiful city in one year:** Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister, after a working visit to Ayodhya, said that not only will the Ram Janambhoomi Mandir be opened for pilgrims by 2024 by the Temple Trust, Ayodhya will become one of the most beautiful cities, since the State Government's projects for development of the city will start showing up the results.

Yogi Adityanath had assumed charge of Chief Minister-ship of the largest State of India on March 19, 2017. On March 19, 2023, after completing six years as the Chief Minister, he came to Ayodhya to pray at the Hanumangarhi temple, which is the temporary abode of Lord Ram Lalla, before the Temple Trust is able to complete the work on the temple so that Lord Ram Lalla can be moved to its permanent location.



Ram Janambhoomi Temple at Ayodhya: to be completed by 2024
(Ref: Website of Shri Rama JanmaBhoomi Teerth Kshetra: <https://sribtkshetra.org/>)

March, 2023: NCP announces support for NDPP-BJP government in Nagaland:

In a surprising move, the Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar declared support to the NDPP-BJP government led by Neiphiu Rio, who will be the Chief Minister of Nagaland.

While at the national level, NCP has been opposing the BJP, in Nagaland there is a different scenario.

Sharad Pawar backed the NDPP-BJP alliance, saying there had been an 'understanding' with Rio prior to the polls. NCP has seven legislators in the Nagaland House of 60, while the NDPP has 25 and BJP 12. It may be recalled that the JDU dissolved its Nagaland unit after its only MLA in the state along with state JDU chief decided to extend support to the NDPP-BJP govt.

March 2023: A Luxurious Cruise on the Ganges through two countries and several States: The cruise starts from Banaras and ends at Dibrugarh in Assam.



Narendra Modi @narendramodi · 23h

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India government official

A special journey completes! I hope more tourists from India and overseas take part in the Ganga Vilas cruise.



Sarbananda Sonowal @sarbanandsonwal · Feb 28

A historic moment for us all, as the world's longest river cruise MV #GangaVilas completes its maiden journey at Dibrugarh.

Covering 3200 km & 27 river systems, the cruise set sail from sacred Varanasi to reach Assam via Bangladesh.

#GangaVilasCreatesHistory

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March 2023: **Apple Factories in India:** Foxconn Chairman, Mr. Young Liu visited India to personally have a look at the Apple plans to diversify the Supply Chains, so that these may not be concentrated at only one place, as is the case till now, so that Covid 19-like situation can be faced by Apple and others in a better way. He discussed the possible locations for the new Foxconn factories in India with the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. He also met the Prime Minister Narendrabhai Modi.

WIDER DIFFUSION OF PRODUCTION to VIETNAM and India: In 5 years to 2019, China was the primary location for 44% to 47% of suppliers production sites. By 2021, it had fallen to 36%.

(Reference: <https://www.reuters.com/technology/apple-supply-chain-data-shows-receding-exposure-china-risks-mount-2022-11-30/>)



Narendra Modi ✓

@narendramodi

India government official



Had a good meeting with Mr. Young Liu. Our discussions covered various topics aimed at enhancing India's tech and innovation eco-system.



Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn) @HonHai_Foxconn · Feb 28

Chairman Young Liu is visiting India. Today we had a warm meeting with Honourable Prime Minister @narendramodi and updated him on our good progress in the country. Foxconn will continue to build an ecosystem in India allowing all our stakeholders to share, collaborate and thrive.



Cornell University's Friedman thinks that India is not yet able to produce at the huge scale and with high quality that China was able to do. He thinks India infrastructure might not permit the low turnaround time, that is possible in China.
