



Mr. Pramit Pal Chaudhuri

Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Aspen Centre

Foreign Editor, The Hindustan Times

SEPTEMBER 2017 | VOL 01 ISSUE 04| MONTHLY

HIGHLIGHTS

- **India and Japan Move towards Growth Corridor**
- **South Africa' s Gupta Brothers Scandal**
- **Togo's Inadvertent Internet Experiment**

India and Japan Move towards Growth Corridor

India and Japan moved towards officially breaking ground for the proposed Asia Africa Growth Corridor during Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's state visit to India. In their joint statement issued on 14th September, the two governments spoke of working together to build connectivity in the Indo-Pacific and Africa. The statement said the two sides "welcomed the efforts to explore the development of industrial corridors and industrial network for the growth of Asia and Africa, which will benefit various stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific region including Africa." This explicitly makes African connectivity as a strategic priority for both countries.

The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor, according to Indian and Japanese officials, will initially see the setting up of modern port facilities and special economic zones at two points: Nakala in Mozambique and Mombasa in Kenya. Broadly, the idea is to create an ecosystem at these two nodes that is attractive to Japanese and Indian manufacturers and traders. This investment will then generate commercial links to markets around the

Indian Ocean, but with a preference for the Indian littoral and the Bay of Bengal area.

The idea seems to be to build infrastructure to help firm up these business linkages as they organically branch out from Nakala and Mombasa into the hinterland and to other parts along the East African coast. While present plans envisage a long-term budget of \$40 billion with about three-quarters being provided by Japan, the plan is to make the corridor's development as market-driven as possible.

The growth corridor would require not merely physical infrastructure but also customs harmonisation, regulatory reforms and skills development for local labour. India's Foreign Secretary Dr S. Jaishankar, in a speech on 25th August, emphasized that the corridor would require "a strong sense of local ownership that can only happen with consultative project designing, transfer of technology and encouragement of skills." Japanese officials stress that the corridor must be built and financed in a manner that is substantially different from the way China, for example, is using debt to construct its Maritime Silk Road and other components of the Belt Road Initiative.

(The views expressed are personal)

[COMMENTS](#)

[Become a member](#)

www.anantacentre.in



dgoffice@ris.org.in is subscribed to receive emails from admin@nantacentre.in
[UPDATE YOUR CONTACT](#) [ADD TO OTHERS IN OUR MAILING LIST](#) [Unsubscribe](#) from this list

Now you can invite friends and colleagues to subscribe to ANANTA Programmes & Notifications at [INVITE A FRIEND](#)

ANANTA CENTRE

1st Floor, Thapar House, 124, Janpath, New Delhi 110001, India
Tel : +91-11-40733333 Fax : +91-11-40733350 Email : admin@nantacentre.in