

CHINA, JAPAN TO PARTNER IN BUILDING ASIA INFRASTRUCTURE

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Cordial ties: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, left, with his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang in Beijing on Thursday. AP

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has arrived in China on a reset visit that is expected to trigger significant collaboration between Tokyo and Beijing in developing infrastructure in Asia.

Soon after his arrival, Mr. Abe was accorded a reception, hosted by his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang, at the Great Hall of the People. The function was held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the China-Japan treaty of friendship.

“Japan and China are playing an indispensable role in the economic development of not just Asia but the world,” Mr. Abe said during his speech at the function.

Mr. Abe will be accorded a ceremonial welcome on Friday morning and will hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping later in the day. “This is a breakthrough visit, important not just for the China-Japan relations, but whose significance would be felt in the region and the world,” Huang Jing, Dean of the International and Regional Studies Center at the Beijing Language and Culture University, told *The Hindu*.

During Mr. Abe's talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li, the leaders are expected to seek areas of convergence between China's Belt and Road Initiative and Japan's concept of a free and open Indo-Pacific. Analysts say that they are expected to discuss joint development of infrastructure in Asia and Africa during talks.

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