

ABE'S VISIT WON'T IMPACT TIES WITH JAPAN, SAYS NEW DELHI

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The ongoing visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to China, just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan on Sunday, will have no effect on India-Japan ties, said Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale.

"India and Japan have a shared vision not only of our bilateral ties but in the regional and global perspective, including on the Indo-Pacific... Not only will there be no impact of [Mr. Abe's China] visit, but India welcomes the improvement in ties between China and Japan, because an Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and brings every country on board is something Prime Minister Modi has spoken off."

Sign of thaw

In a sign of a thaw, Mr. Abe is making the first visit by a Japanese leader to China in 11 years. He will be in Beijing until Saturday and return to Japan in time to welcome Mr. Modi on Sunday.

The two leaders are expected to dine together at Mr. Abe's holiday home in Yamanashi, take a walk at a hotel with a view of Japan's Mount Fuji, visit an automated factory, and then travel to Tokyo together by train.

During formal talks on Monday in Tokyo, Mr. Modi and Mr. Abe will discuss progress on a range of projects, collaboration on projects in third countries along the "Asia-Africa" growth corridor and cooperation on the "connectivity, economic and geostrategic" aspects of the Indo-Pacific region, the Foreign Secretary said.

India and Japan are already working on an LNG terminal in Sri Lanka, and similar projects will be explored in other parts of India's neighbourhood during the talks. J

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