

# PM seeks to strengthen business ties

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Addressing a Japan-India business symposium as part of his two-day visit to Tokyo, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday made a pitch for deepening bilateral business ties. He invited Japanese collaboration in India's efforts to establish smart cities; metro networks; port, road and rail construction; inland water transportation and green energy.

Mr. Modi highlighted the fact that India's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Business Index had jumped from 140 to 100 since he came to power. However, Hiriyuki Ishige, Chairman and CEO of the Japan External Trade Organisation, said that "further improvement is required" and at a minimum, India should be in the top 50 of the rankings.