

# Modi arrives in Japan, hope for new push to ties

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PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday said his meeting with Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe will add new vigour to the strong friendship between the two countries as he arrived here to attend the 13th India-Japan annual summit.

The two-day summit beginning Sunday will seek to review the progress in ties and deepen strategic dimension of the bilateral relationship.

"PM Narendra Modi arrives in Tokyo to a warm welcome for his 5th Annual Summit with Abe Shinzo. Japan is one of the few countries that India has this mechanism of annual summits, reflecting the extraordinary depth of our engagement," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

"Landed in Tokyo. I am confident this visit will add new vigour to the strong friendship between India and Japan," Modi said in a tweet.

In a statement on Friday, before leaving for Japan, Modi described India and Japan as a "winning combination" and said the island nation was New Delhi's most trusted partner in its economic and technological modernisation. Modi said it will be his 12th meeting with Abe since he first visited Japan as Prime Minister in September 2014.

During the summit, Modi will engage with Abe on a range of issues including defence and regional security. Abe will host Modi at his holiday home in the Yamanashi prefecture Sunday.