



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA
OSAKA-KOBE**

PRESS RELEASE

The inaugural symposium of India-Kansai Business Forum (IKBF) was held in Osaka on 28 July 2026 marking a new chapter in the economic and commercial relations between India and the Kansai region of Japan. The symposium witnessed participation of over 300 businesses, representatives from business associations, and prefectural governments.

The India-Kansai Business Forum was announced during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Sh. Narendra Modi to Japan in August 2025 as a dedicated platform to deepen business partnerships, create new opportunities for investment, innovation, and technology collaboration between India and the Kansai region.

Ambassador of India in Japan, Ms. Nagma M. Mallick delivered the opening remarks. She outlined the strong bilateral relationship between India and Japan and highlighted the immense potential of the Kansai region. She also briefed the audience on the major outcomes of the annual summit held at the Prime Ministerial level in New Delhi in early July 2026.

Mr. Ieaki Takeda, Director General of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Kansai, highlighted the benefits of establishing the IKBF, emphasising its role in narrowing the information gap about India. Dr. Manish Kumar Hooda, Director (Technology), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, showcased India's growth story and opportunities across key sectors. He also highlighted opportunities in the semiconductor sector under ISM 2.0.



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Representatives from METI, Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) and Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation (SMRJ) shared the latest information on the support provided by their respective organisations to facilitate Japanese businesses in India. Kansai-based businesses Daiki Aluminum Industry Co., Ltd. and Hiraoka Hyper Tools Inc. shared their experiences in India and explained why they consider India a priority market, along with their future expansion plans.

Consul General Mr. Chandru Appar congratulated all the stakeholders of IKBF on its establishment and thanked the participants for their continued support in advancing the trade relations between India and Kansai region. He also announced the setting up of the IKBF Desk in the premises of the Consulate General of India. A similar desk has also been set up at JETRO Osaka.

IKBF will be a game-changer in elevating the partnership to the next level. It will be an institutional platform where Kansai's innovation and strength meet India's scale and aspirations. IKBF is expected to intensively engage SMEs in the region and be a one-stop solution for businesses in Kansai.

30 July 2026