

PM Narendra Modi's Japan trip: Desalination project, opening of Mizuho Bank branch in Gujarat part of his agenda

NEW DELHI: There will be an important Gujarat connection when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Tokyo next week on his maiden trip as PM to the 'Land of the Rising Sun'. Several key financial and infrastructure projects are expected to be concluded in the four-day trip and the list includes two projects on bank and desalination in the PM's home state as well.

When Modi visited Japan last as Gujarat CM in 2012, he had shown interest in Mizuho Bank opening a branch in Ahmedabad. The Reserve Bank of India did not approve the submission of the bank under the UPA government and the Japanese side had requested the central bank's official sources told Prime Minister crucial to the expected in near indicated. Currently, branches in Delhi



The bank is part of Group, one of the financial institutions running to \$1.8 proposed

early approval, ET. A push from the himself will be approval and this is future, sources Mizuho Bank has and Mumbai.

at Dahej in Gujarat, as part of the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), is also awaiting a final push, sources indicated. Japan is India's key partner for setting up DMIC.

the Mizuho Financial world's largest with total assets trillion. The desalination project

Interestingly, ahead of Modi's trip, senior Japanese officials are travelling to Modi's home state. Japan's sanitary ware firm TOTO is opening its branch in Gujarat this week, sources informed. Founded in 1917, TOTO is world's largest toilet manufacturer, and its expanding presence in India is in synergy with Modi's emphasis on cleanliness and access to toilets.

Japan's business links with Gujarat are deep rooted. Even before Modi put Smart City on the national consciousness, two 'Smart City' projects by Japan were proposed in Dahej and Sanand industrial zones. Japan was also partner country for Vibrant Gujarat Summit in 2013.