

Abe wants quick trade deal with India

by UPI

TOKYO -- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reportedly will seek a free-trade deal in India as part of his vision of an "arc of freedom and prosperity" in Asia. Abe's India visit, starting Wednesday, will include an address to India's Parliament, Kyodo news service reported. Quoting Japanese officials, the report said Abe's visit comes at a time when his country has "rediscovered" India as a partner, sharing the same values and interests. The report said Abe will call for a quick signing of the trade pact to help achieve his vision of a prosperous region in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, dubbed a "broader Asia" or "the arc of freedom and prosperity," that will also include the United States and Australia. Abe also is to hold summit talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, whose coalition government currently is wrapped up in saving the Indo-U.S. civilian nuclear deal that is under attack from its Communist coalition partners. Japanese officials told Kyodo Abe will emphasize that India-Japan relations are "blessed with the largest potential" of any bilateral relationship in the world and that each country's strength is in the other's interest.

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