

## Japanese NGO has toilet designs for 'Clean India' drive

[Yudhvir Rana](#), TNN | Sep 18, 2014, 05.31 AM IST

AMRITSAR: This could well be the beginning of a "Sino-Japanese war" on the Indian soil. On a day when Chinese President Xi Jinping was shaking hands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ahmedabad, a Japanese NGO was all set to deliver one of Modi's dreams -- toilets!

The NGO has begun a sanitation awareness campaign in India and is also motivating Japan's corporate sector and government to raise funds for building toilets. "To begin with, we have chosen Amritsar. Soon, we will spread our work to rest of Punjab besides Chandigarh and Haryana," Sonia Dhillon, president, Dhillon Marty Foundation told TOI over phone from Tokyo on Wednesday.

Sonia said one of the reasons why international companies were reluctant to work in India was insanitation. The Union government has also laid stress on construction of toilets under its "Clean India" initiative and most recently, the human resources development minister Smriti Irani has urged NGOs to adopt schools to construct toilets.

Quoting her recent journey from Chandigarh to Delhi in a luxury bus, Sonia said she was surprised when men disembarked to relieve themselves near a pit on the roadside but women couldn't go anywhere. "Why Indian women could control themselves, but Indian men could not," she questioned while stressing on the need to construct toilets on the highways too.

She said that her foundation had produced five designs of toilets, which they plan to build, starting Amritsar. "These are very simple and cost effective designs, but would prove to be a major relief for both men and women. We are planning to get Japanese government and businesses to fund the deployment costs," said Sonia.

Sonia said thousands of international tourists visit the Golden Temple everyday and they return carrying imprints of dirty image of India when they see the shrine's surroundings full of garbage and reek emanating from the dumps.

Sonia said that in recent past, Jun Sato, associate professor of structural engineering in the University of Tokyo, had constructed a pavilion to demonstrate a design solution concept based on ideas given by five teams.

"Our foundation has submitted the toilet designs to the Punjab government and would soon begin construction work," she said about their plan.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan earlier this month, he had told Japanese business community that a "red carpet, not red tape" awaits them in India. Chinese premier Xi Jinping began his India tour on Wednesday in Gujarat.



## ON THE SIDELINES, AAP TO EXPOSE SUSPENDED CANDIDATES IN HARYANA | P 4



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Japanese NGO staff with models of toilets that are under construction

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## Punjabi youth dies in Qatar jail, family receives other person's body



Dhillon Marty Foundation