

Nikkei Asian Review
SpecialFeature
Future Waste Management in Yangon 4th Workshop
 Forum Report Presented by the MHI Group

 SAVE **44%** ON YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
 NIKKEI ASIAN REVIEW **SUBSCRIBE**
NIKKEI ASIAN REVIEW
[Log in](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [About Nikkei Asian Review](#)

Sort by Region

Search articles

Search companies

[Home](#) | [Politics & Economy](#) | [Business](#) | [Markets](#) | [Tech & Science](#) | [Viewpoints](#) | [Life & Arts](#) | [Features](#) | [Japan Update](#) | [Print Edition](#)

You might also like


 Mahathir Mohamad
 hospitalized with chest
 infection

 Toho hopes for monster
 hit once 'Pokemon Go'
 craze cools

 End of the line for
 Boeing's iconic 747?

 Japan, China face round 2
 in high-speed rail battle

 Asia bears brunt of
 'President Trump' risk:
 Nomura analysts

Recommended by

[Politics & Economy](#) > [Policy & Politics](#)

August 12, 2016 12:30 am JST

Interview

Rajan hits back at critics as he leaves India's central bank

CHAITANYA KALBAG, Contributing writer



Reserve Bank of India Gov. Raghuram Rajan takes questions at a news conference in Mumbai on Aug. 9.

NEW DELHI -- Although his three-year term as governor of the Reserve Bank of India was one of the shortest in the last 25 years, Raghuram Rajan will leave a pair of very large shoes to fill after his departure on Sept. 4.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is taking its time in announcing Rajan's successor. Despite intense speculation about Rajan's successor, Modi and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley are playing their cards very close to their

Latest headlines

China offensive part 2: Japan Inc. targets savvy consumers

China tech companies telling some tall tales

JAL defends Hawaii with gourmet meal, new seating

New policies accelerate India's road development

China's reckoning with zombie steelmakers long overdue

more

 SAVE **44%** ON YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

 NIKKEI ASIAN REVIEW **LEARN MORE**

Follow Nikkei Asian Review

Like 172K

The best content posted

Follow @NAR

The latest headlines tweeted

Editor's picks

 Despite 'Pokemon Go' craze,
 watchers wonder: Whither
 Nintendo?

 Manipur embodies concerns of
 minorities in India's northeast


chests.

On the question of on who could succeed him, Rajan told the Nikkei Asian Review in an exclusive interview on Aug. 11 that there was no single formula in finding his replacement.

"Sometimes what is needed is somebody who's going to maintain the system and stabilize the system and build on it, and sometimes who you need is somebody who will shake up the system. So I think that those things can vary depending on the time," he said.

At 53, Rajan was one of the youngest ever Indian central bank governors and was seen as one of the most outspoken and controversial.

Among candidates mentioned as potential successors are Urjit Patel, 52, one of the central bank's deputy governors and a respected economist; Arvind Panagariya, 63, the vice-chairman of the government's policy think tank, the National Institute for Transforming India, and a former Columbia University professor; Arundhati Bhattacharya, 60, who heads the State Bank of India, the country's largest bank; Rakesh Mohan, 68, another prominent economist and former RBI deputy governor; and Subir Gokarn, 56, India's executive director on the International Monetary Fund board, a respected economist and former RBI deputy governor.

In the past, RBI governors have come from within the central bank's own ranks or from the country's financial bureaucracy. Rajan was a former IMF chief economist who acquired "star" status when he accurately predicted the global financial crisis of 2008, although his warnings were seen as controversial ahead of the crisis.

There is little doubt that Rajan, a prolific speaker, was one of the most outspoken and controversial central bankers India has seen - and drew considerable flak as a result of his forthright views. His outsider status drove some of his more pointed comments on touchy subjects such as crony capitalism, once rampant but now much subdued, or even about tolerance under a government perceived as right-wing and hewing to a Hindu majoritarianism.

In his interview with NAR, Rajan was at pains to dispel the impression that he was a relentless critic of the Modi government. "I would say first that I haven't been a firm critic of the government as has been sometimes portrayed. I have been somebody who has warned or cajoled about the direction of economic policy, absolutely. I think that has been done with the broader intent of macro[economic] stability that the RBI has firmly a mandate [for]," he said.

Rajan appeared to blame a headline-hungry press for studying and analyzing every word he uttered at the RBI and sometimes taking his comments out of context to make him sound like he was criticizing the government.

New Zealand home prices prompt calls for immigration cut



China's polluted soil boosts food imports



Thailand to make tourists use traceable SIM cards



Most read

Exclusive: Toray carbon fiber to carry SpaceX's Mars ambitions

Activist short sellers shaking up Japan's stock market

China up close: Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang take political battle into economic arena

Corporate Asia cashing in on Olympic fever

Thailand gains clout as Southeast Asia's leading investor nation

SAVE **44%** ON YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

NIKKEI ASIAN REVIEW [LEARN MORE](#)

Videos



Tibet refugees, a concerned future



Tibet Prime Minister-in-exile on future Dalai Lamas



Baselworld 2016 Luxe Watch Interview [Sponsored]

[more](#)

SAVE **44%** ON YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

NIKKEI ASIAN REVIEW [LEARN MORE](#)