

Republic Day of India

Partners in ever-changing world

H.E. Sujan R. Chincy
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA

On the occasion of the 68th Republic Day of India, I extend warm greetings to their Majesties the Emperor and Empress and to the government and the friendly people of Japan. I also extend sincere greetings to my fellow Indians in Japan.

This is also an occasion to convey my good wishes to you all for the new year of 2017—the Year of the Rooster in the Japanese zodiac. The rooster represents intelligence, efficiency and confidence. The rooster is energetic, perseverant and reliable with a strong



President of India H.E. Pranab Mukherjee



Prime Minister of India H.E. Narendra Modi

sense of responsibility—characteristics that I hope we can all imbibe. This zodiac sign represents the attributes of kindness and hospitality, which are inherent in Japan's

ancient culture. On Jan. 26, 1950, a newly-independent India adopted its constitution and became a sovereign and democratic republic. The Republic Day is a

symbol of our democratic and pluralist traditions. Our multicultural ethos and our creed of "unity in diversity" have flourished over the past nearly seven decades, in an inclusive environment that assures equality and justice for all. The Indian Constitution nurtures the aspirations of our 1.25 billion people and continues to inspire us in the great task of transforming India and bringing the fruits of development to each and every Indian. It was a singular honor for all Indians to have the Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Shinzo Abe, as chief guest at the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi in 2014.

Friendly ties between India and Japan have been buttressed by the strong bonds of Buddhism, which spread from India to East Asia. Buddhism has created a celestial bridge between us and has fostered congruence in our outlooks, based on our common values of openness, respect for the rule of law and abiding commitment to peace. Today, as befitting two large democracies, we are engaged in consolidating our traditional friendship and forging a Special Strategic and Global Partnership. We are engaged in

Both governments have made clearer their intention to develop cooperation beyond Indian shores. They affirmed their determination to work for the development of industrial corridors and networks between Asia and Africa, as well as for peace and stability in and around Iran and Afghanistan.

I am convinced that this year Abenomics and "Modinomics" will bring sizable cooperation for the benefit of the two nations and that Abe's cherished strategy for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Region" will work in tandem with Modi's "Act East Strategy".

The Japan-India Association marks its 114th anniversary in 2017 since it was established in 1903. We are determined to continue our contribution to further expand and deepen bilateral relations for our two nations.

Working to further expand ties

Yoshiro Mori
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of the 68th Republic Day of India, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of India on behalf of the Japan-India Association.

Japan-India relations, which have been constantly developing these years, saw the establishment of another milestone during the visit to Japan by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November.

In addition to intensifying already deepening security and diplomatic dialogue and cooperation, as well as enlarging economic and business con-

tacts, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Modi finally inked the long-awaited Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. This agreement, once ratified by the two parliaments, will make possible not only Japan-India cooperation in energy security and climate change but also facilitate cooperation by major foreign providers of nuclear technology and equipment to India.

The construction of a shinkansen line between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, already agreed upon by the two governments, has been further pushed by the visit of the two leaders to a shinkansen factory in Kobe.

Another encouraging result was the decision of the two governments to take various measures to increase scholarships and internships for the youth and facilitate tourism in both directions.

cooperation in diverse sectors in a changing global and regional environment that presents both opportunities and challenges. We have a growing convergence on strategic and economic issues. Above all, Japan is a valued economic partner for India.

The successful visit of Indian Prime Minister H.E. Narendra Modi to Japan in November 2016 has imparted fresh momentum to our relationship. Several far-reaching agreements were concluded, notably on manufacturing skill transfers and on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. There exists a high degree of mutual trust and confidence between India and Japan. Our collaboration in the field of clean energy has enormous implications for India's quest for sustainable growth and in meeting its developmental aspirations in the 21st century.

Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India is making rapid economic progress. India is the sixth-largest manufacturing nation in the world, according to the U.N. Industrial Development Organization. It has emerged as the preferred choice for global high-tech multinational corporations to set up offshore research and development bases. India has moved up 15 ranks on the Global Innovation Index 2016, 19 places on the Logistics Performance Index 2016 of the World Bank and 32 places on the Global Competitiveness Index of the World Economic Forum. India's large domestic market, macro-economic stability and competitive low-cost manufacturing have enabled it to emerge as the world's most-attractive investment destination. In recent years, India has consistently been ranked by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation as the most-preferred medium-term destination for outbound investment for Japanese manufacturing companies. Japanese

companies have invested over \$20 billion in India between 2000 and 2016, making Japan its fourth-largest investor. India is also Japan's largest Official Development Assistance partner.

With a strong commitment to improving the ease of doing business and further opening up the economy, India has taken a number of steps to boost economic growth and foreign direct investment. It has passed

Evolution and future of bilateral relations

Ryuko Hira
HONORARY PRESIDENT, THE INDIAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN

The world changes; often it changes faster than we anticipate and the changes forever call for newer ways of doing things. In the past the Japanese people understood India in the light of the heritage of Buddhism; they conceived a regard for India because of that religion. The present generation of Japanese is trying to understand India through its achievements in economy, in social reform and in other related fields. It sees for India a brilliant future and hopes to ensure stronger and stronger ties between Japan and India. The people of India respond to the warmth and friendliness of the Japanese, and there is an effort on their part to understand Japan, especially in the context of its present aspirations and achievements.

The world faces new challenges and these need new solutions. The demand for a more just, equitable and progressive world economic order is becoming strident.

The rapidly changing strategic scenarios in Asia have led to Japan's increasing ties with India over the last few years. Major global and regional geopolitical shifts are taking place in the contemporary world. These include the rise of China, the U.S. policy of rebalancing and pivot to Asia, as well as the response of regional countries, evolution of a new security architecture in Asia, maritime security challenges in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Additionally, there are nuclear tests by North Korea, tensions over territorial disputes in South China and the East China Sea and the evolution of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) into the ASEAN community. Japan and India are making concerted attempts to intensify their relationship at various levels, including economic, strategic and political.



In recent years both India and Japan have developed a common interest in the elimination of economic backwardness, political turmoil and social instability from their immediate neighborhoods, as well as from distant areas. Thus the cause of progress and prosperity is the basis of this partnership. When our countries signed a peace treaty on June 9, 1952, they opened a new chapter in their relations. The promise of better relations was reinforced by the bilateral economic opportunities they presented. These became the foundation of a healthy and strong partnership. While the two countries have yet to fully utilize the potential provided by the process of economic development for mutual benefit, more remains to be done both in bilateral relations and in the context of the changing global situation.

Both politically and economically, the quality of this partnership is going to be decisive in shaping the future of a large part of the world; for this partnership has a relevance and role not only in the context of our problems and requirements, but in a broader context as well. As Jawaharlal Nehru said in a radio broadcast during his visit to Japan in 1957: "I realize that a narrow nationalist outlook of a country is no longer good enough, although it is important in itself, but it is not good enough. The world moves on to broader areas of cooperation; in effect, to what is called one world." How Indian and Japanese spirit, intellectual and material progress, and the rise of the "one world" envisioned by the enlightened leaders of the world is a question that calls for wisdom and sage practical judgment on the part of Indian and Japanese statesmen alike.

Established in 1921, the Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan serves as an apex body for friendship, goodwill, economic and cultural exchanges and mutual understanding between India and Japan. With profound gratitude to readers and publishers, I offer my congratulations on the 68th Republic Day of India.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, set up commercial courts and enacted legislation for the goods and services tax. There is huge potential for Japanese companies to participate in flagship programs such as Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, Start-Up India, Smart Cities and Industrial Townships and Corridors. Japan is actively involved in the execution of mega-infrastructure projects of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor, Metro Rail projects in Delhi, Ahmedabad and Chennai and notably, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway Project that will introduce Japan's famous Shinkansen technology in India.

The approximately 27,000-strong Indian diaspora in Japan has played a key role in promoting friendship and closer cooperation between us. India recently lauded the achievements of the vast overseas Indian community at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held in Bengaluru from Jan. 7 to 9. Individuals of exceptional merit were honored with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, an award that recognizes their rich contributions in diverse fields. It is a matter of great pride for all of us that among the select group of awardees this year was Professor Emeritus Sandip K. Tagore of Otemon Gakutin University in Osaka. The award is an acknowledgement of his eminence as an academic, scholar, musician, artist and cultural colossus, as well as his pioneering contributions spanning

six decades in exchanges between India and Japan in arts and culture. Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Abe have declared 2017 as a "Year of India-Japan Friendly Exchanges." A good augury is the visit to India in January of Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry H.E. Hiroshige Seko to participate in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. His discussions with Indian leaders and the participation of 25 top-ranking Japanese companies at the annual business conclave in Gujarat, one of India's most dynamic states, will set the tone for deeper engagement in the year ahead.

In recent years, the great importance to enhanced people-to-people contacts, tourism and businesses. To achieve this objective, the government of India has extended visa-on-arrival facilities, 10-year business visas and e-tourist visas for Japanese travelers. Growing links between India's states and Japan's prefectures stand testimony to a vibrant and mutually beneficial partnership in which the peoples of India and Japan are key stakeholders.

The Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan marks a new dawn in bilateral relations. The relationship between India and Japan is one of the most defining partnerships of the 21st century. Our close friendship and deepening cooperation will contribute to furtherance of peace, prosperity and stability in Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. I wish you all great happiness, good health and success in the Year of the Rooster.

Air India wishes a Happy Republic Day!

Jai Hind!



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Wide-ranging exchange growth

Hiroyuki Hosoda
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-INDIA PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the people of India on the occasion of the 68th India Republic Day.

India-Japan economic interests see significant expansion

Masami Iijima
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC), I would like to offer my most sincere congratulations to the members of the JIBCC on the occasion of the 68th Republic Day of India.

As two of Asia's largest democracies, Japan and India have built particularly amicable relations based on common strategic interests and shared values. In particular,



the growing economic interest of each country has been of great significance. According to surveys of Japanese corporations implemented by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, it has been found that India has ranked as the leading country for three consecutive years in terms of optimism for business prospects in overseas investment. I believe that the increase of Japanese involvement in India will serve as a driving force for the growth of Asia as a whole.

The JIBCC was established half a century ago to enhance mutual understanding and friendship while promoting economic relations between Japan and India. It has been holding joint meetings

with its Indian counterpart, the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee, on a regular basis. We held the 41st joint meeting in October in New Delhi and discussed various issues to enhance bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries amid a very cordial atmosphere. To facilitate the strengthening of Japan-India economic ties, we are committed to further dynamic action.

In closing, please allow me to reiterate my sincere congratulations on this important Republic Day of India, together with my very best wishes for India's further development and prosperity in the days and years ahead.

Business cooperation expected to deepen

Hiroaki Nakanishi and Kazuo Hirai
CHAIRS OF KEIDANREN COMMITTEE ON SOUTH ASIA

On behalf of the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren), we wish to extend to the government and people of India our heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of their 68th Republic Day.

In addition to a history of diplomatic ties that now stretches back more than 60 years, Japan and India have cultivated excellent ties and a relationship of genuine closeness through cooperation in a wide range of fields, including politics, the economy and culture. In recent years, the importance to enhanced people-to-people contacts, tourism and businesses. To achieve this objective, the government of India has extended visa-on-arrival facilities, 10-year business visas and e-tourist visas for Japanese travelers. Growing links between India's states and Japan's prefectures stand testimony to a vibrant and mutually beneficial partnership in which the peoples of India and Japan are key stakeholders.

The Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan marks a new dawn in bilateral relations. The relationship between India and Japan is one of the most defining partnerships of the 21st century. Our close friendship and deepening cooperation will contribute to furtherance of peace, prosperity and stability in Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. I wish you all great happiness, good health and success in the Year of the Rooster.

Jai Hind! Banzai India
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Modi's visit to Japan in November, the Japanese and Indian business communities held the Ninth Japan-India Business Leaders Forum in Tokyo. At the forum, participants exchanged views on promoting cooperation in the fields of economic partnership and improving the business environment, as well as innovation, environmental and energy issues and infrastructure development, with a view to further strengthening economic ties. As its policy proposals, the forum compiled a

joint report that was submitted to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Modi. Keidanren has high expectations that the two will exercise strong leadership to realize prompt and steady progress regarding the report's proposals for infrastructure to improve the business environment and other efforts. For their part, the business communities of the two countries will make efforts to work closely together. We ask all stakeholders for their continued support and cooperation.

The marine deployment in the strategic city of Darwin, across in 2011, was a crucial part of Mr. S. President Obama's "pivot to Asia" strategy. China's increased naval presence in the region, the move also cemented close ties with staunch ally Australia and gave the U.S. a foothold in the area.

Marine Corps spokesman Maj. Chris Logan said there could be an increase in aircraft this year, including sending the U.S. Marine Corps' first F-35 fighter jets to Darwin. The marine force and five AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters will be based in Darwin. Logan added that marine units would remain at 1,250. The number of soldiers sent to Australia's north has stalled well behind plans for a force of 2,500 by 2020, a goal that was dropped last year from 5,011 an originally proposed force.

They have also discussed hosting U.S. long-range B-1 bombers in Darwin, a move which drew concern from China's Foreign Ministry.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on Nov. 11. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Wish you a Happy Republic Day 2017



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THE INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-JAPAN

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THE INDIAN SOCIAL SOCIETY

Hon. President: Johnny Lalwani

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Republic Day of India/world

IN BRIEF

Syria cease-fire wins support in mediated talks
Challenges remain as rebel fighting threatens to upend fragile agreement

China once home to wolf-size otters
Siamogale mulluilla, natural history museum of Los Angeles

India-Japan economic interests see significant expansion
Masami Iijima, chairman, the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee

Business cooperation expected to deepen
Hiroaki Nakanishi and Kazuo Hirai, chairs of Keidanren Committee on South Asia

U.S. to dispatch aircraft to Australia
The United States will send extra military aircraft to Australia's Darwin in 2017, a crucial part of President Obama's "pivot to Asia" strategy.

J.S. man's S. Korea murder saga ends
South Korea's top court upheld a U.S. citizen's 20-year murder sentence Wednesday, finally drawing a line under a tortuous legal saga two decades after he stabbed a Korean to death in a Seoul bar.

U.K. phone-sex callers dial Irish town
The citizens of Westport have a message for the sexually desirous: Please, please, let us sleep.

China to promote Mandarin for minorities, protect dying tongues
The citizens of Westport have a message for the sexually desirous: Please, please, let us sleep.

Syria cease-fire wins support in mediated talks

Challenges remain as rebel fighting threatens to upend fragile agreement

Washington (AP) — A cease-fire in Syria's civil war has won support from the United States, Russia, Iran and Turkey, but the agreement faces challenges as rebel fighting threatens to upend the fragile agreement.

The deal, brokered by the United States, Russia, Iran and Turkey, calls for a 30-day truce in Syria's civil war, but it faces challenges as rebel fighting threatens to upend the fragile agreement.

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