

India Independence Day

Resilient bonds built on mutual trust

H.E. SUJAN R. CHINYO
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO JAPAN



On the occasion of India's 71st Independence Day, I extend my warm greetings to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, the government and the people of Japan. I also take this opportunity to convey special greetings to the growing number of fellow Indians in Japan who are stakeholders in the rapidly evolving Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan.

Today, India stands as a bulwark of democracy and stability. Seventy years ago, we took our first steps in charting a sovereign future based on values and ideals inherited from our ancient civilization and guided by the key principles of truth and non-violence that defined our independence movement.

Ties between India and Japan are cemented by close bonds forged on the anvil of Buddhism, which spread from India to other countries in Asia, including Japan. Our bilateral relationship is founded on shared values of democracy, respect for the rule of law and an abiding commitment to peace. We have a growing convergence on strategic and economic issues.

Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's economy has been growing at more than 7 percent. Today, India is the world's fastest-growing large economy, as it emerges as a global hub for manufacturing and innovation. With the introduction of the goods and services tax, we are optimistic that gross domestic product growth will reach 8 percent or more in the near future. The Indian economy offers unparalleled opportunities for Japanese companies to participate in flagship programs such as "Make in India," "Skill India," "Smart Cities" and "Industrial Townships and



President of India H.E. Ram Nath Kovind

Corridors." India is Japan's largest official development assistance partner and Japan is the third-largest investor in India. Japan Bank for International Cooperation surveys over the last three years have consistently ranked India as the most-preferred medium-term destination for Japanese manufacturing companies. Japanese investment in India rose sharply over the previous year's figure to reach \$4.7 billion for the 2016-17 fiscal year. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway project is a symbol of our thriving and mutually beneficial partnership.

The recent exchange of notes for entry into force of the India-Japan Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy is testimony to the deep mutual trust and confidence between India and Japan. It will pave the way for enhanced cooperation in energy security and clean energy.

Today, Japanese companies are participating in skill transfer initiatives such as the establishment of Japan-India Institutes of Manufacturing in India, which aim to enhance the manufacturing base in India by training 30,000 people over the next 10 years in Japanese-style manufacturing skills and practices. On a parallel track, India is preparing to dispatch interns to take part in Japan's Technical Intern Training Program. India is also working to promote Japanese language education in India. The availability of well-trained human resources adept in the Japanese language, as well as Japanese manufacturing skills, would further facilitate the entry of Japanese companies to India.

India's longstanding and close partnership with Japan in science and technology, begun in 1985, has been further strengthened by the signing of memorandums of understand-

standing on space cooperation and collaboration in marine science and technology in November.

In a world of growing challenges and opportunities, the relationship between our two countries is a key factor in promoting stability in Asia and fostering a peaceful and multipolar world buttressed by increased connectivity and an inclusive, open and balanced regional architecture in the Indo-Pacific region. The recently concluded trilateral Malabar exercise between India, Japan and the U.S. off the coast of India is a significant event in our maritime cooperation and renews our commitment to freedom of navigation in the seas. The "Act East Policy" of India complements the "Economic Partnership for Quality Infrastructure" of Japan.

The visit of Prime Minister Modi to Japan in November was a major milestone in our

Infrastructure, personnel projects increasing

YOSHIRO MORI
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION



On the occasion of India's 71st Independence Day, I have the great honor to send the most heartfelt congratulations of the Japan-India Association to the people and the government of India. The Japan-India relationship is rapidly developing thanks to the efforts of the governments and peoples of both countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consolidated his political base and achieved many reforms, including the long-awaited introduction of a goods and services tax. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has successfully launched the Indo-Pacific Strategy, which is well-combined with India's Act East Initiative. Enhanced coordination on foreign and security policy is welcome in view of aggressive activities of our big neighbor in the region.

On the bilateral front, major projects

funded by Japanese official development assistance such as industrial corridor projects between Delhi and Mumbai on one hand and Chennai and Bengaluru on the other, the shinkansen system between Mumbai and Ahmedabad and many metro projects in major cities of India are making progress. Additionally, the long-pending Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy has finally been enacted.

In the area of people-to-people exchange, a new horizon is being enlarged. In addition to conventional scholarship and training programs organized by the governments and private sector, student exchange initiatives are being organized by universities and even by students themselves. Internship programs are being expanded at many Japanese companies. More and more young Japanese are learning Indian dances, musical instruments, yoga and cuisine. Cool Japan is welcomed in India and tourism is becoming very popular in both directions, thanks to the easing of obtaining visas.

I hope India's 71st Independence day will be another milestone in our important relationship.



ing phase in our relations, and to engage the government of Japan, the Japanese people, the business community and academia on a broad range of issues. The India and Japan partnership promises to be a defining one in the 21st century.

Abiding support from close ally

RYUKO HIRA
HONORARY CHAIRMAN, THE INDIAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



In July 1951 India received the Anglo-American treaty for comments, and on Aug. 23 it sent its views in a communication to the U.S. It noted that the draft ignored two objectives that, in its opinion, the peace treaty should serve.

It stated that the draft failed to "concede to Japan a position of honor, equality and contentment among the community of nations," and that the peace treaty should be so framed as to enable all countries especially interested in the maintenance of a stable peace in the Far East to subscribe to the treaty sooner or later." And then it went on to specify aspects of the draft that it found unacceptable. It questioned the wisdom of keeping the Ryukyu and Bonin islands under U.S. trusteeship and considered it "an arrangement which cannot but be a source of dissatisfaction to large sections of the Japanese people and must carry seeds of future dispute and possible conflict in the Far East."

It also disputed the legality of Article 6, which gave Japan the right to permit the stationing of foreign armed forces on its territory under any bilateral or multilateral agreement with one or more Allied Powers. In its view, Japan could exercise such a right only after it had become fully sovereign. It argued that the article was bound to give rise to the impression that the agreement did not represent a decision taken by Japan in "full enjoyment" of its freedom as a sovereign nation. It also disagreed with the draft for not

being specific regarding the return of Formosa to China.

That the U.S. should react sharply to the Indian stand was not unexpected. What India did not expect was that a number of Japanese, too, would hold different views. Some Japanese thought India was not right in regarding the treaty as not giving Japan "a position of honor, equality and contentment." Others wanted India to be as specific about the justness of Japan's demand for the restoration of the Kurils as it was about the undesirability of keeping the Ryukyu and Bonin islands under U.S. trusteeship. Yet some others hoped that India would have taken an even more strikingly "neutral" posture.

Notwithstanding these differences, India decided to resume bilateral relations with Japan without any further delay. In its note dated Aug. 23, it clearly stated that while it would not be a party to the San Francisco Peace Treaty, it would terminate the state of war between itself and Japan as early as possible. Later, on Sept. 8, it informed Tokyo that although it might terminate the state of war with the coming into force of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, it would want to conclude a separate peace treaty with Japan. Accordingly, on April 28, 1952, India ended the state of war with Japan, and the two countries agreed to exchange ambassadors. On June 9 they signed a bilateral peace treaty. This treaty, which came into effect on Aug. 28 and which was officially designated as a "treaty of perpetual peace and amity," envisaged the conclusion of agreements to place their trading, maritime, aviation and other commercial relations on a stable and friendly basis. It was the first bilateral peace treaty that Japan signed with an Asian country in the post-war era and it served as a model for similar such treaties with Burma and Indonesia.

Another important feature of the Indo-Japanese Peace Treaty was Article 6, by which India decided to waive all its claims to territories from Japan. Japan hailed this as an extraordinary demonstration of India's friendliness to the Japanese people. The real worth of India's gesture can be better understood against the background of Japan's numerous difficulties in forging relations with the countries of South-East Asia. These countries were opposed to normalizing relations with Japan without receiving adequate reparations. They stood strictly by the terms of the treaty's Article 14, which recognized their claim to reparations. Thus, at a time when Japan was totally excluded from the rest of Asia, India's gesture came as great relief. Furthermore, it persuaded Burma under Prime Minister U Nu to settle the reparations question in 1954 with little acrimony. From 1957 to 1960 the government of Japan under then-Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi made focused efforts to promote close political and economic relations with other Asian countries. In May 1957, in the course of his tour of several Asian countries, Kishi visited India and discussed many questions of mutual interest with then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

In October and November 1957, Nehru returned the visit. His trip to Japan was of historic importance, in that he was one of the first Asian leaders to visit Japan after 1945. In the international arena, the memories of World War II were still fresh, and Japan had not yet regained its full credibility, meaning that Nehru's visit considerably boosted the morale of the Japanese people, and he received affectionate welcomes from them wherever he went in Japan.

Seven decades of deep friendship, trust and ever-evolving relations have significantly benefited both Japan and India, jointly contributing to peace and prosperity of Asia.

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Investment opportunities continue to grow

MASAMI HIJIMA
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC), I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 71st Independence Day of India. Japan and India have built amicable relations as two of Asia's largest democracies for many years. Japan and India have agreed to transform their special strategic and global partnership into a deep, broad-based and action-oriented partnership. The leaders of our two countries have already had top-level meetings on nine previous

occasions, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is planning an official visit to India later this year. It is greatly expected that the two countries will cooperate with each other in every field, working together for the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and the world.

Meanwhile, in addition to these developments, the number of Japanese companies in India reached 1,505 in October, up 6 percent from the figure of 1,229 in 2015, and a number of large-scale projects are currently in progress. The operation of a bullet train line based on Japan's shinkansen is scheduled to start in 2023. The Indian economy is showing an upward trend despite uncertainties in the world economy, achieving an economic growth rate of more than 7 percent in fiscal 2016. In addition, reforms in the business environment are underway, including the introduction of a goods and services tax in July. With the increase

of business momentum in India, the pace of penetration by Japanese companies is expected to accelerate.

The JIBCC was established in 1966 to enhance mutual understanding and friendship and facilitate economic relations between Japan and India. The committee will hold its 42nd regular joint meeting with the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee in Delhi in January next year, where they will actively discuss the further expansion of trade and investment between the two countries. The JIBCC hopes to contribute to the further development of business between the two countries through animated discussions.

I will conclude by once again offering my congratulations on the 71st independence day of India, as well as my sincere wishes for India's increasing development and prosperity in the future.

Trade growth continues on long-lasting ties

HIROAKI NAKANISHI AND KAZUO HIRAI
CHAIRS OF KEIDANREN COMMITTEE ON SOUTH ASIA

On behalf of Keidanren, we would like to offer our sincere congratulations to the people of India on the occasion of their 71st Independence Day.

Japan and India enjoy a long-standing diplomatic relationship and in recent times our two nations have built close, mutually beneficial relations through shuttle diplomacy between our state leaders. On the economic front, trade between our two countries has been steadily increasing and Japanese investment in India has increased by more than sevenfold over the past 10 years, while over 1,500 Japanese companies



now do business in India. The business environment is improving, as exemplified by the historic introduction of a goods and services tax under the strong leadership of His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July. We highly expect bilateral economic exchanges to continue growing. Since 2007, Keidanren has held India-Japan Business Leaders Forums with the

Indian business community. The ninth forum took place in Tokyo in November, coinciding with the Indian prime minister's visit. Participants in the forum exchanged views on encouraging business ties, improving the business environment and developing infrastructure, with the joint report of the forum submitted to both prime ministers. The 10th forum will be held to coincide with the Japanese prime minister's visit to India later this year. This forum will forge even stronger cooperative economic and industrial relationships between Japan and India and contribute to further develop the special strategic global partnership between our two countries. We kindly ask for your continued support and cooperation in this endeavor.

Exchanges set to expand across many areas

HIROYUKI HOSODA
PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN-INDIA PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On behalf of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of the Republic of India on the occasion of their 71st Independence Day.

India, the world's largest democracy, is one of the most important partners for Japan. India and Japan share universal

values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law and maintain a friendly relationship founded on a long history of exchange.

The relationship between India and Japan has steadily developed through the mutual trust and leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Through the visit of the prime minister to Japan last November, the two leaders agreed to coordinate the "Free and Open India and Pacific Strategy" and the "Act East" policy for the prosperity and stability of the Indo-Pacific region. I truly expect that the exchanges between the two countries will be expanded further in wide-ranging fields and levels. The Japan-India Parliamentarians'

Friendship League visited New Delhi last year, and called on the prime minister and related ministers. As many Japanese parliamentarians have visited India, there is a consensus across the political spectrum in Japan to strengthen relations with India. Our friendship leagues also exchanged opinions with young Indian parliamentarians who visited Japan this May.

Our parliamentary friendship league remains strongly committed to contributing actively to the further deepening of the key relationship with the largest potential for growth. I would like to send my best wishes to the people of India for their further prosperity and for the continued development of our cordial relationship.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe during the G-20 summit in July in Hamburg, Germany. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INDIA

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi participates in the India-Japan Business Leaders Forum in Tokyo on Nov. 11. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INDIA

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