

# Republic Day of India

Publicity

## India, Japan keep expanding strategic ties

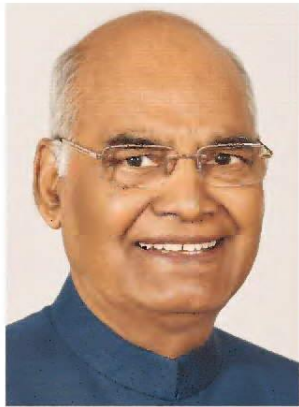
By H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy  
Ambassador of India

On the occasion of the 69th Republic Day of India, I extend warm greetings to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan 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 2018 — the Year of the Dog in the Japanese calendar. The dog represents loyalty and fidelity, which is exemplified by the faithful Akita dog Hachiko. This Year of the Dog augurs well for the warmth and friendship shared between India and Japan.

The Constitution of India came into effect on Jan. 26, 1950, proclaiming India to be a sovereign democratic republic, and this day is celebrated every year as Republic Day. On Republic Day, a ceremonial parade takes place in New Delhi as a tribute to India's achievements in diverse fields and its rich cultural heritage.

Friendly relations between India and Japan are rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilizational ties. The relationship between India and Japan has expanded and deepened significantly in recent years. The Annual Summit meetings are a testimony to our vibrant and multifaceted relations. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to India in September 2017 and the warm reception accorded to him by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the people of India is emblematic of the special ties between our two countries, our leaders and our two peoples. A panoply of agreements were signed during the summit



President of India  
H.E. Ram Nath Kovind



Prime Minister of India  
H.E. Narendra Modi



Ambassador of India  
H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy

covering a broad range of sectors, such as cooperation in disaster risk management, Japanese language education, connectivity, civil aviation, investment, science and technology, and sports.

The two prime ministers witnessed the ground-breaking ceremony for the Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project and the Railway Training Institute. As Prime Minister Modi stated, the Shinkansen project will act as a catalyst for rapid economic progress and technological growth and innovation in India.

Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India continues to be one of the fastest growing large economies in the world. With the positive impact of reforms, including the Goods and Services Tax, we are optimistic about attaining an even higher growth rate in the near future. As Prime Minister Modi stat-

ed in his keynote address at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Jan. 23, 2018, India is moving toward becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. Over the past three years, the Government of India has taken several initiatives to promote economic growth, and improve investor confidence and business sentiment in India. "Red carpet" has replaced "red tape." For the Indian economy, the jump from 130th rank to 100th rank in the Ease of Doing Business ranking, a World Bank index, was a reaffirmation of the direction and pace of reforms undertaken by the government of India.

India has one of the most liberal FDI regimes in the world. More than 90 percent of FDI approvals have been put on automatic route. In 2016-17, India was the most attractive destination for foreign investment registering FDI inflows of a record \$60 billion. The U.N.

Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has ranked India third among the top 10 FDI destinations. India's capital markets have also been doing very well.

India is Japan's largest official development assistance partner and Japan is now the third-largest investor in India. There was a sharp increase in Japanese FDI in India in fiscal 2016, with the figure reaching \$4.7 billion, up 80 percent from the previous financial year. Japanese investments in the capital markets in India are also on the rise, both in debt and in equity. India continues to be rated one of the top destinations for FDI by Japanese manufacturing companies, according to the Japan Bank for International Cooperation's survey for fiscal 2017.

Japanese companies have invested billions of dollars in Indian startups, considered among the

most dynamic opportunities for

growth and returns and ranked third in the Global Start-Up Ecosystem. The startup and innovation sector has received further impetus with the two prime ministers directing the two sides to work to establish an India-Japan Startup Hub as a platform for information exchange, business collaboration and investment promotion between the two Startup ecosystems.

Mega infrastructure projects such as the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor (CBIC) and the Shinkansen High Speed Railway between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, as well as the Metro Rail projects in Delhi, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru, offer unprecedented opportunities for Japanese industry, technologies and products to enter India.

Today, Japanese companies are increasingly participating in skill transfer initiatives such as the establishment of Japan-India Institutes of Manufacturing (JIMs) in India and the Japanese Endowed Courses (JEC) in engineering colleges designated by Japanese companies in India under the Manufacturing Skill Transfer Promotion Programme, which aims to train 30,000 people over the next 10 years in Japanese-style manufacturing skills and practices. The memorandum of cooperation (MoC) on the Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP) signed between India and Japan in 2017 is expected to pave the way for the participation of India's youthful and well-qualified professionals in the intern program in Japan to meet the growing needs of an aging

population.

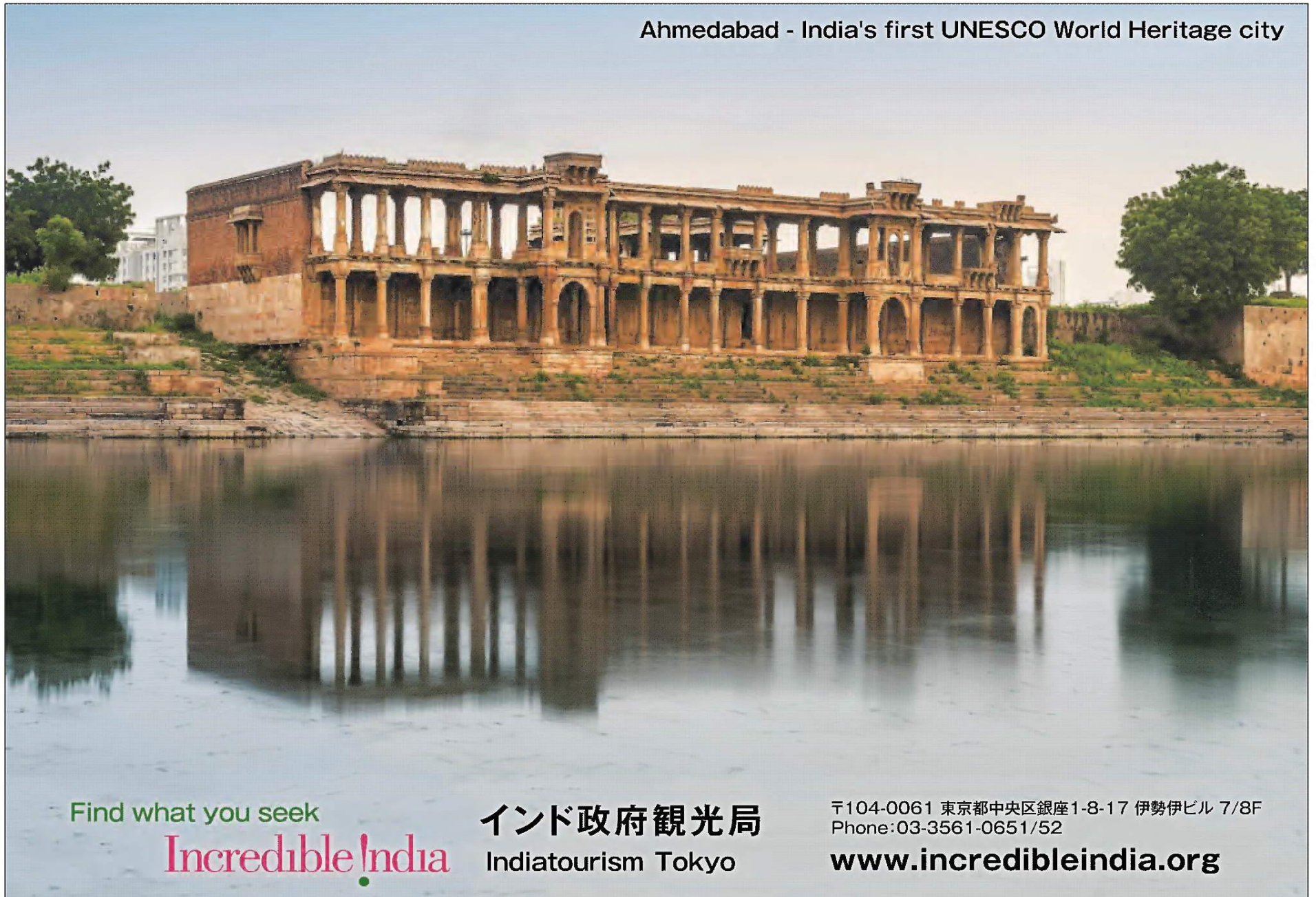
Another area of great significance for our ties is the planned expansion of Japanese language education in India in accordance with the MoC signed during the recent visit of Prime Minister Abe. The two sides will work to establish Japanese language certificate courses at 100 higher educational institutions in India and train 1,000 Japanese language teachers over the next five years. The availability of well-trained human resources adept in the Japanese language as well as in Japanese manufacturing skills would prove to be a boon in attracting greater investments and tourists from Japan.

To facilitate business and people-to-people exchanges, India has extended "visa-on-arrival," e-Tourist visas and 10-year business visas to eligible Japanese travelers. I am also particularly encouraged by the growing contacts between states in India and prefectures in Japan and between parliamentarians. The Lower House of the Indian Parliament recently constituted a Parliamentary Friendship Group for Japan.

There is deep admiration in India for Japan's culture and character. We regard Japan as a natural partner. There are complementarities between our two economies. Combining Japan's capital and technology with India's rich human resources and skills makes for a winning combination for both countries. Prime Minister Modi has termed Japan a natural strategic partner of India.

On this auspicious occasion, I wish all readers good health, happiness and success in the Year of the Dog.

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## Indo-Pacific strategy hailed

**By Yoshiro Mori**  
Chairman and Representative Director of the Japan-India Association

On the occasion of the 69th 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.

Last year, as India celebrated 70 years of its independence, Japan and India accomplished a successful 65 years since the establish-

ment of diplomatic relations in 1952.

During the visit to India of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in September last year, the two countries launched a new epoch-making strategy combining the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" of Prime Minister Abe and the "Act-East Policy" of Prime Minister



Yoshiro Mori

made public their determination to extend the two countries' cooperation to Africa and other regions to the west of our region. This strategy has demonstrated to both nations and the world at large the true value of the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" between the two countries.

On the bilateral front, the two prime ministers officially inaugurated a Shinkansen project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The governments and private sectors of the two countries agreed on the establishment of "Japanese-style manufacturing schools," an enlargement of scholarships in both directions, accelerated Japanese-language education in India, and a drastic increase of exchanges of youth, sports, air traffic, tourists and regional entities.

I am convinced our relationship will continue to flourish this year and that these initiatives will be concretized for the benefit of our two peoples and our friends in and out of our regions.

In 2018, the Japan-India As-



Courtesy of the Indian Embassy  
Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi hold Japan-India Annual Summit talks in India in September.

sociation marks the 115th year since it was established in 1903. We are determined to fulfill our mission to serve our two nations.

## Parliamentarians continue to enhance ties with India

**By Hiroyuki Hosoda**  
President of the 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 69th Republic Day of India.

Japan and India share strategic interests and universal values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and maintain friendly relations founded on our long history of exchange. India is a global power with a very important role and responsibility for the prosperity and stability of the region and the world, and is a key country in realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

In September, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Gujarat, the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and held a Japan-

India summit meeting, the 10th in total. The two prime ministers shared their intention to coordinate the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" and the "Act East" policy in order to lead the Indo-Pacific region to prosperity and stability. Based on such close relations at the summit level, we have great expectations for the further expansion of bilateral cooperation and coordination on regional and global agendas.

Last year, the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League had various occasions for exchanges of opinions during visits to Japan by Indian members of parliament and business representatives. There is a consensus across the political spectrum in Japan that we should strengthen our relations with India. The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League remains strongly committed to strengthening our two countries' relations through further exchange.

We send our heartfelt wishes for the further prosperity of the people of India and for the continued development of the cordial relationship between Japan and India.



Hiroyuki Hosoda

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## Modi's transformation of India going well

**By Ryuko Hira**  
ICIJ-Chairman

The year 2018 marks the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration in Japan, which resembles and resonates in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on "neoliberal" ideology; emblematic of the political realignment, away from a secular, socialist state toward capitalism and cultural nationalism.

The economic policies of Modi's government focused on privatization and liberalization of the economy are based on a neoliberal framework.

The energy and time Prime Minister Modi has invested in open-

ing India to the world and making India's impact being felt globally is unprecedented. When world conditions and times change, leaders can make a difference.

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.



Ryuko Hira

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# Republic Day of India

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## Keidanren sees great prospects in India

By Hiroaki Nakanishi and Kazuo Hirai

On behalf of Keidanren, we wish to extend the government and people of India our heartfelt congratulations on its 69th Republic Day.

Japan and India enjoy a long-standing diplomatic relationship and in recent times our two nations have built close, mutually beneficial relations through reciprocal diplomatic visits by our state leaders. Particularly on the economic front, the number of Japanese companies has reached 1,300, with 4,800



Hiroaki Nakanishi Kazuo Hirai

operational bases spread throughout India. This positive development is a direct result of the strong leadership demonstrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the "Make in India," "Digital India" and "Skill India" initiatives and his firm commitment toward improving the business environment, as exemplified by the introduction of a Goods and Services Tax.

In this overall context, there is further potential for expanding and developing our bilateral trade and

investment flows. To realize this potential, the business communities of Japan and India held the 10th India-Japan Business Leaders Forum in the state of Gujarat in September last year, coinciding with the visit there by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Participants exchanged views on further improvement of the business environment and promotion of cooperation in infrastructure development, and the policy proposals of the forum were submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Abe. We have high expectations that the two leaders will exercise strong leadership to realize the proposals promptly and steadily. The business communities will make every effort to contribute to the deepening of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership from the economic side.

Nakanishi is Vice Chair, Keidanren; Chair of the Committee on South Asia, Keidanren, and Chairman and CEO, Hitachi, Ltd. Hirai is Chair of the Committee on South Asia, Keidanren, and President and CEO, Sony Corporation.

## Broad-based partnership deepens

By Masami Iijima  
Chairman, the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee, and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mitsui & Co., Ltd.

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee (JIBCC), I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 69th Republic Day of India.



Masami Iijima

Japan and India have built amicable relations as two of Asia's largest democracies over many years. Japan and India have agreed to transform their Special Strategic and Global Partnership into a deep, broad-based, action-oriented partnership. The leaders of our two countries have already held top-level meetings on 11 occasions. 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.

In addition to these developments, the number of Japanese companies in India reached 1,369 as of October

2017, up 5 percent from 1,305 in 2016, and a number of large-scale projects are currently in progress. The operation of a bullet train line adopting the Japanese Shinkansen system is scheduled to start in 2023. India's economic growth rebounded to an annualized 6.3 percent in the three months ending September, overcoming the impact of demonetization and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax. With the increasing business momentum in India, the pace of penetration by Japanese companies is expected to accelerate.

JIBCC was established in 1966 to enhance mutual understanding and friendship and facilitate economic relations between Japan and India. The Committee held its 42nd regular joint meeting with the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee in Delhi on Jan. 23, during the economic mis-

sion led by the chairman of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which holds the secretariat of JIBCC.

In the joint meeting, the two sides actively discussed the further expansion of trade and investment between the two countries. JIBCC hopes to contribute to the further development of business between the two countries through further discussion.

I will conclude by once again offering my congratulations on the 69th Republic Day of India, and my sincere wishes for India's increasing development and prosperity in the future.

## Republic Day of India a time for celebration

By Shri Ram Kalani Pessumal  
Honorary President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Japan

Republic Day, a day of celebrations and excitement, reverberates throughout India and the diaspora community in the world. It is the day on which the Constitution of India came into effect, changing forever the country's status as a dominion of the British regime. Speeches and cultural dances are held and no official work is done on this day, as it is



Courtesy of ICCJ  
The Indian Chamber of Commerce in Japan holds a reception in September 2017 to mark the 80th anniversary of its foundation.

considered a national holiday. We would like to ensure through

this message that the celebratory spirit is conveyed to the entire Indian diplomatic community and especially Ambassador H.E. Sujan Chino and his team for doing a great job throughout Japan, and to Consul General T. Armstrong for actively promoting many events and seminars throughout the Kansai region.

The ICCJ would like to wish the Indian business community and all Indian people the very best on this auspicious day.

Jai Hind.

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