

Independence Day of India

Publicity

India stands as bulwark of democracy, stability

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

On the occasion of India's 72nd Independence Day, I extend my warm greetings to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress and to 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.



H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy

India stands today as a bulwark of democracy and stability. Just over seven decades 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 nonviolence that defined our Independence movement.

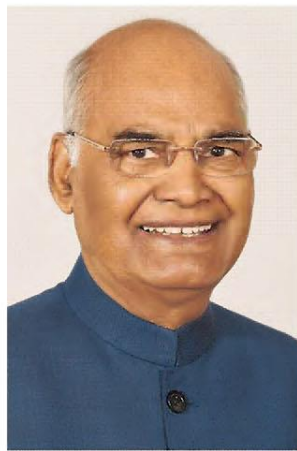
Ties between India and Japan are cemented by close bonds forged on the anvil of Buddhism. Our bilateral relationship is founded on shared values of democracy, respect for rule of law and an abiding commitment to peace. We have a growing convergence on strategic and economic issues. We support an Indo-Pacific architecture that is free, open and inclusive.

Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's economy has been growing at over 7 percent. Today, India

is the world's fastest-growing large economy. It is emerging as a global hub for manufacturing and innovation. With the introduction of Goods and Services Tax, we are optimistic that growth figures will reach 8 percent or more in the near future. The Indian economy offers unparalleled opportunities to Japanese companies to participate in flagship programmes such as Make in India, Skill India, Smart Cities and Industrial Townships and Corridors.

India is Japan's largest official development assistance (ODA) partner and Japan is the third-largest investor in India. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation's JBIC Surveys in recent years have consistently ranked India as the most preferred medium-term destination for Japanese manufacturing companies. India has one of the most liberal foreign direct investment (FDI) regimes in the world and has registered FDI inflows of nearly \$62 billion in fiscal 2017-18. Japanese investments to India totaled \$4.7 billion in fiscal 2016-17. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway project is a symbol of our thriving and mutually beneficial partnership.

Japan's economic footprint in India has expanded beyond the manufacturing sector to include the services sector, logistics and financial markets. New initiatives cover healthcare, agriculture, food processing and a digital partnership. In 2017, the Startup and Innovation sector received further impetus with our two prime ministers directing that we work closely to establish an "India-Japan Start-



Hon'ble President of India Ram Nath Kovind

up Hub." Recently, during the visit of Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko to India on May 1, 2018, a joint statement on launching a Japan-India Startup Initiative was signed, covering the establishment of the first "Japan-India Startup Hub" in Bengaluru. In the same month, we also established the Japan India Food Business Council, with about 95 Japanese companies as members, to facilitate investments and joint ventures in the promising food-processing sector in India.

A growing number of Japanese companies are participating in skill transfer initiatives such as the establishment of Japan-India Institutes of Manufacturing (JIM) in India, which aims to enhance the manufacturing base in India by training 30,000 people over the



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi

next 10 years in Japanese style manufacturing skills and practices. In 2017, the first five JIMs were established by Suzuki, Toyota, Daikin, Yamaha and Hitachi. Toyota Tsusho is likely to establish its JIM in 2018 and more Japanese companies are expected to join the program soon. On a parallel track, India has initiated the dispatch of interns to Japan under the Technical Interns Training Programme (TITP). In a truly historic development, the first batch of technical interns from India arrived in Japan under the framework of TITP in July 2018. India also attaches great importance to promoting Japanese-language education in India. The availability of well-trained human resources equipped with Japanese

language and manufacturing skills would further facilitate the entry of Japanese companies in India.

Cooperation in clean energy remains a priority. India and Japan have successfully concluded an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. Our cooperation in science and technology, space and marine sciences is growing, especially through institutional linkages between universities and the Indian Institutes of Technology and laboratories of the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research in India with counterparts in Japan.


In a world of growing challenges and opportunities, the relationship between our two countries is a key factor in promoting stability in the Indo-Pacific and fostering a peaceful and multipolar world buttressed by increased connectivity and an inclusive, open and balanced regional architecture. India and Japan have also agreed to work together on connectivity and capacity-building projects in other countries. The "Act East Policy" of India complements the "Enhanced Partnership for Quality Infrastructure of Japan," as reflected in the working of our bilateral Act East Forum.

Dialogue and exchanges between the Ministries of Defense and all three defense services have enhanced friendship and mutual understanding. The recently concluded trilateral Malabar exercise between India, Japan and the United States held off Guam is a significant event in our maritime cooperation.


The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Japan in November 2016 and the visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to India in September 2017 were major landmarks. Following the successful visit of the External Affairs Minister of India Sushma Swaraj to Japan for the ninth Strategic Dialogue in March this year, we are now looking forward to the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Japan for the next annual summit meeting.

India's ties with Japan in recent years have received a fillip due to the efforts of all stakeholders ranging from parliamentarians to captains of industry and leaders of states in India and prefectures in Japan. People-to-people contacts, including tourism, are steadily rising. 2017 was celebrated as the Year of India-Japan Friendly Exchanges in Culture and Tourism. Both India and Japan have agreed to double the two-way tourist traffic to 700,000 by 2020. The popularity of Indian cuisine and culture is widespread throughout Japan. It was remarkable that the International Day of Yoga was celebrated in diverse places in Japan in June this year, including for the first time in Japan's Diet.


It has been a privilege and honor to represent India in Japan at a time of such great progress in bilateral ties. With our shared democratic values, we seek to work together with the government and the people of Japan to take our partnership to new heights in the 21st century.



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Independence Day of India

Publicity

Incredible scenes in India



"Boatman and the Ganga" by Junya Nishiumi



"The Place Where Two Rivers Meet" by Rikako Oinuma

"Incredible India" is a global campaign launched by the Indian government in 2002 to promote India as an amazing tourist destination. As part of this highly successful endeavor, the Embassy of India in Tokyo organized the Incredible India Photo Contest 2017, accepting entries from Aug. 15 to Sept. 30 last year.

The contest was open to Japanese citizens who stayed in India for any duration between July 2016 and September 2017. The embassy accepted photographs that were taken in India by amateur photographers during that 15-month period.

The contest's awards included return trips to India with hotel accommodations for the two best photos, and return trips to India for two runners-up.

First prize was presented to Naoto Yoshida for his photo titled "Holy Silence." Second prize went to Junya Nishiumi for "Boatman and the Ganga," while Rikako Oinuma took third place with "The Place Where Two Rivers Meet."



"Holy Silence" by Naoto Yoshida

India growing thanks to Modi's free, open autonomous strategy

By Ryuko Hira
Chairman of the Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan

I have lived in Japan for 52 years and experienced the transformation from Jawaharlal Nehru's Asianism to Japan's Indo-Pacific endeavors and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's free and open autonomous strategy for India. Today, we commemorate India's freedom from British rule. Colonization deprived

India of basic human needs. The true independence of India is a celebration of the distant future. The ongoing competition, rivalry and conflicting strategies of other countries burden India with dependency and problems, obstructing its true economic freedom and growth.



Ryuko Hira

Since India obtained independence in 1947, Japan has continuously assisted the development of India. Then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee established the flagship project of India-Japan economic partnership, which was faithfully continued by his successor, Manmohan Singh.

A significant acceleration of India's relations with Japan and the United States was undertaken by

Prime Minister Modi, opening new horizons for India to become the world's last superpower.

The transformation from Nehru's Asianism to an all-inclusive, free and open autonomous strategy of India is the very basis for vibrant economic growth to liberate and deliver true economic independence to a third of the world's poorest living in India. Developing the economy, improving people's livelihoods and

consolidating national strength are all India's top priorities.

Today there are over 22,000 Japanese companies in China and only 1,300 in India. European and U.S. companies in India have a much older, deeper and wider presence. The optimists would say there is equal or greater potential for another 20,000 Japanese companies to do business in India, but Japanese corporations have been pessimistic about doing so.

Especially, small and medium-sized enterprises should be encouraged by private and public sector initiatives to set up operations in India.

The Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan (ICIJ) established 97 years ago serves as an apex body striving to increase bilateral trade and investments. On behalf of all members, I convey greetings to the readers of The Japan News and thank the newspaper for publishing this article.

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Independence Day of India

Publicity

JIA: 115-yr-long friend of India

By Yoshiro Mori
Chairman of the Japan-India Association

On the occasion of India's 72nd Independence Day, it is my great honor to send the most heartfelt congratulations of the Japan-India Association to the people and the government of India.

Since its foundation in 1903 by then former Prime Minister Shigenobu Okuma and top Meiji-era business leader Eiichi Shibusawa, the JIA has always been at the forefront of the Japan-India relationship. Before World War II, the JIA extended invaluable support to great independence fighters such as Rash Bihari Bose, who fled to Japan in 1915, married a



Yoshiro Mori

Japanese woman and was eventually naturalized as a Japanese citizen.

The Japanese government and pro-India Japanese people in the private sector aided in the establishment of the Indian National Army and the Indian Independence League. Rash Bihari Bose called Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, then in Germany, to come to Asia to succeed him. Chandra Bose, with the help of the Japanese government and well-wishers including the JIA, took the reins of the INA and the league to continue the fight against the British colonizers during World War II.

After India gained independence in 1947, India extended friendship and helped Japan reenter the international community. With the end of the Cold War in 1989 and the subsequent change in India's foreign policy,

the Japan-India relationship gained great momentum. I made a visit to India in 2000, the first by an incumbent prime minister since 1990, and launched the Japan-India Global Partnership with then Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This partnership has eventually been upgraded to the Special, Strategic and Global Partnership of today.

Our cooperation today is seeing unprecedented expansion thanks to the heightened efforts of the governments and peoples of both countries. Prime ministers Shinzo Abe and Narendra Modi, with their shared vision and friendship, are combining the Indo-Pacific strategy of Japan and the Act East policy of India to promote peace and prosperity in our region and beyond.

Our bilateral relationship is also growing in trade and investment. Mega-projects in India are multi-

plying, including a Shinkansen project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Japanese investment has gained momentum owing to the reform of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and other deregulatory steps by the Indian government, and the joint promotion of industrial parks and infrastructure-building in various regions of India. People-to-people contacts are mushrooming in such areas as cultural exchanges, scholarships, youth exchange programs, internships, tourism promotion and initiatives by local governments to establish direct contact.

I hope the 72nd anniversary of India's independence will mark another important milestone both for India and for the Japan-India relationship. The JIA is determined to continue its contributions to our ever-expanding relationship.

Japanese, Indian MPs enhancing exchange

By 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 people of the Republic of India on the occasion of its 72nd Independence Day.



Hiroyuki Hosoda

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 friendly relations founded on the long history of exchange.

The relationship between India and Japan has steadily developed through the mutual trust and leadership of their prime ministers. In September last year, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Gujarat, the home state of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and they agreed to drive prosper-

ity and stability of the Indo-Pacific region through coordinating the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" and the "Act East" policy. Based on such close relations at the leader's level, we have great expectations for the further expansion of bilateral cooperation and partnership on regional and global agendas.

The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League has had various exchanges of opinions on occasions such as during visits to Japan by members of the Indian Parliament and Indian business representatives, among others. For example, members of the League had a meeting with the Chief Minister of Bihar, Mr. Nitish Kumar, when he visited Japan in February this year. Legislative exchanges between India and Japan have been accelerated through our mutual visits. The League remains strongly committed to strengthening our two countries' relations through further exchanges.

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.

Business relations keep strengthening

By Tetsuro Tomita and Kazuo Hirai

On behalf of Keidanren, we would like to offer our sincere congratulations to the people of India on the occasion of its 72nd Independence Day.



Tetsuro Tomita



Kazuo Hirai

Tomita is Vice Chair of Keidanren, Chair of the Committee on South Asia, Keidanren, and Chairman and Director of East Japan Railway Company. Hirai is Chair of the Committee on South Asia, Keidanren, and Chairman, Member of the Board of Sony Corporation.

Japan and India have built close, amicable relations through reciprocal visits of their government leaders and Business Leaders Forums involving businesspeople from

both countries. Under the leadership of His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Make in India initiative has provided powerful impetus to overseas investment. Direct Japanese investment in India has increased by 5.3-fold over the past 10 years, and more than 1,300 Japanese companies now do business in India. We fully expect that continuing improvements to the business environment in India will further invigorate bilateral economic exchange.

Since 2007, Keidanren has held India-Japan Business Leaders

Forums with the Indian business community in conjunction with government leaders' visits.

The 10th forum took place in Gujarat when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited India in September last year. Participants in the forum exchanged views on encouraging business ties, improving the business environment and developing infrastructure, and the Joint Report of the Forum was submitted to Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Abe.

The 11th forum will be held to coincide with Prime Minister Modi's

visit to Japan 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.

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Courtesy of the Indian Embassy
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in front of a Shinkansen train in Tokyo in November 2016

Wishing you a Happy Independence Day 2018

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Business collaborations gather momentum

By Masami Iijima
Chairman of the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee (JIBCC), I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 72nd Independence Day of India.



Masami Iijima

Japan and India have built amicable relations through political, economic, and cultural exchanges over many years. Both countries have agreed to transform their Special Strategic and Global Partnership into a deep, broad-based, action-oriented partnership. It is strongly expected that the two countries will cooperate with each other in countless fields, 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 in October 2017, up 5 percent from 1,305 in 2016. A significant number of large-scale projects, such as the bullet train line adopting the Japanese Shinkansen system, are also currently in progress. The Indian government forecasts economic growth will reach 7.5 percent in fiscal 2018, as a result of the stability of demonetization and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). 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. In January this year, the Japan and Tokyo Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which hold the secretariat of JIBCC, dispatched an economic mission to

Delhi led by Dr. Akio Mimura, who chairs both chambers, and consisting of approximately 100 members. On that occasion, JIBCC held its 42nd joint meeting with the India-Japan Business Co-operation Committee, at which the two sides actively discussed the further expansion of trade and investment between the two nations. In addition, it held sessions briefed by officials of six major Indian states, in which the merits, investment opportunities, and investment-attracting policies of each state were introduced. JIBCC hopes to make use of the information, ideas, and connections gained through these events for the committee's future activities.

I would like to conclude by once again offering my congratulations on the 72nd Independence Day of India, and my strong hope for India's continuing development and improving prosperity in the future.

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Independence Day of India

Publicity

Modi's visit has aroused Japan's interest in India

By Tharminder Singh
Secretary of the Indian Chamber of Commerce-Japan

We in the Indian Chamber of Commerce-Japan (ICCJ) are ready for the 72nd anniversary of the independence of India. We in the ICCJ embrace this period every year as it reminds us of the hardships through which India and its people have gained freedom and rights.

As we commemorate and celebrate this memorable occasion, our congratulations go out to the people of India. This occasion is a chance to celebrate and reminds us once again of how great the nation of India truly is. Decade upon decade, India has grown to become a global symbol. The size and shape of its democracy is truly an inspiration.

We would like to extend our warm wishes to the beloved Emperor and Empress of Japan. Our warm wishes also extend to the Honorable Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe. We would like to thank the ambassador, the Embassy of India in Tokyo and the Consulate General of India in the Osaka-Kobe area for their support and for all the hard work they have put in toward another great year for the Indian community and the Indian business community.

When we look back at the recent past, we see that after the two visits to Japan by the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, in 2014 and 2016, we are excited about the ongoing

inclination of the Japanese business community to take a serious and steadfast approach to India.

Friendship between India and Japan has grown tremendously since Prime Minister Modi's visits, and many delegations have been exchanged between the two countries since then.

ICCJ members have arranged meetings between several Japanese delegations visiting India and their Indian counterparts.

We have also been contacted by an increasing number of Japanese companies interested in tapping the Indian market and collaborating with Indian enterprises.

History of Independence Day

India's first struggle against British rule started as early as 1857-58. At the time, Indian people staged a small revolt but were immediately put down. The freedom fighters nominated as their "commander-in-chief" Bahadur Shah II, the last of the Mughal emperors who had ruled India for more than three centuries. Angered by the mutiny, Britain sent the emperor into exile in Rangoon, now Yangon, where he was killed.

When Britain began preparations for the outbreak of World War I, about 1.3 million Indian people were sent to the United Kingdom and many foreign lands, fighting and dying without gaining recognition.

In 1919, the Indian Act was adopted in the British Parliament to institute a responsible govern-

ment in India with Indian citizens and Indian government officials given more rights and autonomous authority. However, this backfired and ignited resistance among Indian people as the British government tried to quash this act.

Around that time a new star was born. His name was Mohandas Karmachand Gandhi. He created a new way to challenge British rule, known as Gandhi's Way, acting for freedom and rights without using violence. His strategy was demonstrated in the historic Salt March to protest the salt tax.

Following many small rebellions, in 1947 Britain finally withdrew from India, ending colonial rule. On midnight on Aug. 15, 1947, India became an independent country.

Reflecting on our history also helps put things into perspective regarding the future for all Indians all over the world, especially those in Japan.

In closing, I wish you a great and joyous Independence Day. Jai Hind

ICCJ active since 1937

The Indian Chamber of Commerce-Japan (ICCJ), established in 1937, works on behalf of the Indian mercantile community to facilitate trade between Japan and India and other parts of the world. A majority of ICCJ members have resided in Japan for 30-40 years.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi participates in a roadshow with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on their journey from Ahmedabad Airport to Sabarmati Ashram in the suburbs of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, during the Japanese leader's visit to India in September 2017. Courtesy of the Indian Embassy



Members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce-Japan (ICCJ) that was established in 1937 to facilitate Japan-India trade



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