

India Independence Day

A relationship built on shared ideals

H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA

On the occasion of the 70th Independence Day of India, I convey warm greetings to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, the government and the people of Japan. On this important day, I also wish to extend greetings to my fellow Indians living here who have contributed actively to further relations between India and Japan.

On this historic day in 1947 India attained independence, breaking the shackles of colonialism. The national movement led by the Father of the Indian Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, reaffirmed the values of peace and non-violence. Modern India "awoke to life and freedom" with the hoisting of the Tricolor at the stroke of midnight on Aug. 15, 1947. The ideals and convictions of our forefathers were subsequently engraved in the principles of our Constitution that continues to be our beacon even today.

The past year has seen the Indian economy continue on a

high growth trajectory, under a stable government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India's GDP expanded at a healthy 7.6 percent in fiscal 2015-16, which is the highest growth rate recorded in the last five years. This is the fastest growth rate among the world's large economies. India has emerged as a credible economic player at a time when global economic growth elsewhere remains weak.

An enabling environment for investment, macroeconomic stability, a large domestic market and lower labor costs, together with youthful human resources, combine to make India a very attractive economic partner. Surveys for 2014 and 2015 by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation have ranked India as the most preferred destination for Japanese manufacturing companies, an encouraging sign for the future of India-Japan economic ties. India is today Japan's largest official development assistance (ODA) partner.

Japan continues to play an important role in facilitating the growth and economic development of India. As Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to India last December: "No partner has played such a decisive role in India's eco-



President of India H.E. Pranab Mukherjee



Prime Minister of India H.E. Narendra Modi

nomical transformation as Japan. No friend will matter more in realizing India's economic dreams than Japan." Japanese ODA has supported India's economic development in priority areas such as power, transportation, environment and social sectors such as health and education. The growing convergence between Japan and India on strategic and economic issues under our "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" has also served to stimulate interest in India's growth story.

The government of India has initiated several flagship programs to stimulate growth and realize the full potential of the

Indian economy. Among them are the "Make in India," "Digital India," "Skill India" and "Smart Cities" initiatives, which aim to raise the competitiveness of India's manufacturing sector by inviting top global companies to set up their manufacturing bases in the country, connecting the nation through physical and digital infrastructure and creating global supply chains that tap into and radiate from the Indian economy.

The complementarities between our two economies provide both countries a chance to combine Japan's capital and technology with India's rich human resources and skills. Japan is already India's fourth-

largest foreign investor and is actively taking part in the "Make in India" initiative. Japanese companies have begun to value India's potential as a global manufacturing hub. Automakers are expanding their production base in India, targeting not only the domestic market, but also making India a hub for their exports to West Asia, Africa and even Japan. Japanese companies have been keen to take part in "Start-Up India," a flagship initiative launched by Prime Minister Modi earlier this year, to promote start-up ventures, boost entrepreneurship and create jobs.

Prime Minister Abe's suc-

cessful visit to India last year imparted a fresh momentum to our relationship with the signing of an array of agreements, including a memorandum of understanding introducing Japanese shinkansen technology for use in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project. The shinkansen, known for its speed, reliability and safety, is seen in India as vehicle to embark on a high-growth trajectory through better connectivity, on the lines of Japan's own transformation half a century ago. Our two governments are working on expediting the landmark project following the recently held second meeting of the MAHSR Committee in Tokyo on May 16.

I take this opportunity to encourage Japanese citizens to more fully utilize the "Visa on Arrival" scheme, for all categories of visitors, implemented in March, as well as the embassy's recent initiative of issuing long-term visas of up to 10 years for visitors traveling to India on business.

I look forward to working closely with the government of Japan, captains of business and industry, scholars and scientists and the friendly people of Japan at large, to promote friendship and cooperation between India and Japan.

regular basis, as well as intensified policy coordination over China policy.

In the area of people-to-people exchanges, a new horizon is being expanded. In addition to conventional scholarships and training programs organized by the governments and the private sector, student exchange initiatives are organized by universities and even by students themselves. One promising student from Kobe successfully entered the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharag-

pur, disregarding the University of Tokyo and Kyoto University. An increasing number of IIT students are coming to Japan to experience internships in Japanese companies. More and more Japanese young people are learning Indian dances and musical instruments, practicing yoga and eating Indian cuisine. Tourism is becoming very popular from Japan to India and vice-versa.

Let us hope that the 70th Independence Day of India will be a new start for the Japan-India relationship.

Close cooperation good for business

Masami Iijima
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC), I would like to offer sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 70th Independence Day of India.

As two of Asia's largest democracies, Japan and India have built amicable relations over many years. When Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made an official visit to India last December, he signed a joint statement with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This statement covers a range of issues, including the introduction of Japan's shinkansen to India. Japan and India have agreed to transform the special strategic and global partnership into a deep, broad-based and action-oriented partnership. It is widely expected that the two countries will closely cooperate in each and every field, working together for 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 1,229 in October, up 6 percent from the figure of 1,156 in 2014, and new large-scale investments have been recently announced. The Indian economy shows an upward trend despite uncertainties in the world economy, with an economic growth rate of 7.6 percent achieved in 2015. In Delhi on July 28, a joint committee, established based on the Japan-India comprehensive economic partnership agreement, held its third meeting, in which participants exchanged opinions about the operation and implementation of the agreement that came into effect five years ago. Concurrently with this meeting, the Sub-Committee on Improvement of Business Environment also held its meeting. With the increase of business momentum in India, acceleration of the pace of penetration for Japanese companies is expected.

Our committee was established in 1966 to enhance mutual understanding and friendship and facilitate economic relations between Japan and India. The committee will hold the 41st regular joint meeting with the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee in Delhi on Oct. 24. Modi is actively supporting the expansion of the manufacturing industry and inviting foreign investment under the "Make in India" initiative program, and we will deal with related challenges and prospects as topics for the upcoming joint meeting. 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 for the 70th Independence Day of India and my best wishes for India's increasing development and prosperity in the future.

A new start to a long friendship

Yoshiro Mori
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of India's 70th Independence Day, I have the great pleasure to send most heartfelt congratulations of Japan-India Association to the people and government of India.

The Japan-India relationship has developed remarkably since last year. Prime Minister



Japanese foreign relations and reactivated the Japanese economy. I expect that with consol-

idated authorities and power bases, both governments will further promote Japan-India bilateral relations as well as cooperation on the international agenda.

On the bilateral front, major projects funded by Japanese overseas development assistance such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor, the shinkansen between Mum-

bai and Ahmedabad and many metro projects in large cities are being actively pursued. It is also my hope that the pending agreement on nuclear cooperation for peaceful purposes will be signed at the earliest possible date. Cooperation on political and security issues is also developing and I welcome India's decision to allow Japanese participation in India-U.S. Malabar joint maritime exercises on a



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India Independence Day

Japan a major influence in Indian development

Ryuko Hira
PRESIDENT, THE INDIAN COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN

The mid-19th century was a period of unprecedented expansion of European power in Asia. In 1854, Japan was forced to end its long isolation and just three years later the entire Indian subcontinent became a colony of the British crown.

The older civilizations of Asia were confronted with a formidable challenge to their cultural and political integrity and they responded to this challenge in different ways. The Indian response took the character of religious revivalism and eventually turned in the direction of non-violent resistance to British rule. In contrast, the Japanese response was to build a powerful modern state capable of meeting the West on its own terms. India and Japan responded differently because of the differences in their political, cultural and social circumstances. India had lost its political autonomy so that the

regaining of independence became the first task of its leaders. Japan had no problem of recovering its political independence; it had never lost it. Nor had the Japanese social order crumbled as that of India though it had developed certain manifest weakness. Japan's problem was one of building enough national strength to withstand external pressures.

The Japanese response was the most spirited one. Instead of dismissing the West with disdain, Japan embarked upon a careful probe into the secrets behind Western power and strength. What then followed was a very judicious borrowing of Western knowledge and techniques and their application to selected areas of national life. Japan had been historically well conditioned to this experiment, for in the past it had absorbed influence from India and China and made them a part of its national ethos. The difference was that the Japanese renaissance of the 19th century, built on Western knowledge, brought Japan a reputation and prestige that it had not been able to attain either with Indian Buddhism or Chinese Confucianism.

The variety and range of

subjects discussed during the civilization and enlightenment movement covered every conceivable aspect of national life such as freedom, equality, independence, self respect, reason, science, utility, material well being, national language, the proper application of Western ideas to Japanese conditions, the institutional requirements of the new government and so on. The work of spreading new knowledge was taken up by the "Meiji Six Society" (so called because it was founded in 1873, the sixth year of the Meiji Era), an exclusive group that included the leading lights of the time.

To the question whether the techniques and methods of the West could be adopted without damaging the indigenous civilization, Japan had a pragmatic and, in many ways, unique answer. Even before the civilization and enlightenment movement had been inaugurated, the course had been charted out in Sakuma Shozan's cryptic formula of "Eastern ethics and Western techniques."

The leaders of Meiji Era Japan attached great importance to internal unity from a concern for national independence. A centralized state structure was

created in order to gain effective control over the human, as well as national, resources of the nation. The most important measure taken by the government in the matter of removing social distance and creating a sense of equality was the introduction of universal education. The educational model was designed to supply trained people with superior industry, new processes, products, science, trade and commerce. It fostered qualities such as austerity, frugality, drive, initiative, ingenuity and a capacity to exploit opportunities, prudence and diligence. Above all, it was to provide "creative" and "innovative" entrepreneurial leadership, so essential for economic transformation.

Government investment activities were pursued with the three goals of setting the pace for industrial growth and expansion; diffusing know-how through model establishments; and demonstrating that Western industrial processes and methods could be successfully transplanted to Japan.

The total effect of all these attempts was that by the turn of the century Japan was a modern nation; a great power vying with its European peers and an industrial country

whose manufactured goods began to reach all the markets of the world. The renaissance of Japan had become an example for others to follow. The Japanese renaissance had a great impact on Asia, especially in countries where political independence had been lost and the intelligentsia was most impressed by the Japanese record. After the Russo-Japanese war the Japanese model became legendary, and many countries considered the model worthy of emulation.

The changes that were going on in Japan were only vaguely known in India until the end of 19th century. It was only when Indians came into direct contact with Japan that the full significance of those changes was realized. Indian nationalism was stimulated by Japanese example. Leaders of the incipient nationalist movement became convinced that India could move along the path that Japan had traversed if its people developed a strong sense of patriotism.

Different nationalist leaders found different points of the Japanese example to commend to the people of India. P.C. Majumdar, Swami Vivekananda, Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dadabhai Naoroji, B.G.

Tilak, G.K. Gokhale and Sister Nivedita urged people of India "to follow the Japanese sense of patriotism," their discipline and obedience.

Even today, the greatest impact of the Japanese example on Indian thinking in fields of industrial development and education continues to influence the policies of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), an institution set up by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Team Modi" has focused on economic priorities to transform India into a dependable global manufacturing powerhouse with emphasis on quality control as a national priority. The Modi administration has approved stalled projects and provided more flexibility to ensure that bottlenecks are removed to get the engines of growth roaring. The turnaround of the economy, experienced by the masses since Modi took over, has been phenomenal.

For the first time in 30 years, the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in May 2014 and since then Modi has delivered unprecedented dividends to the masses of India with a promise of making India a fully developed nation.

Shared values across a wide range of areas

Hiroiyuki Hosoda
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-INDIA PARLIAMENTARIANS'
FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of the Republic of India on the occasion of India's 70th Independence Day.

India, the world's largest democracy, is one of the most important partners for Japan. Our countries share universal values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law, while maintaining a friendly relationship founded on a long history of exchanges.



The productive visit by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to India in December has ushered in the beginning of a new era in Japan-India relations. In this regard, it gives me great pleasure to note that the relationship between

Japan and India has been consolidated and transformed into a deep, broad-based and action-oriented partnership under the Japan and India Vision 2025 special strategic and global partnership.

While marking India's 70th Independence

Day, His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Japan this year and we sincerely hope that the exchange between the two countries will be expanded further in wide-ranging fields and levels, based on the close relations at the top level.

The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League remains strongly committed to contributing actively to the further deepening of the key relationship with the largest potential for growth.

On this auspicious day, 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 forums forge economic 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 its 70th Independence Day.

India and Japan have forged the India-Japan special strategic and global partnership through diplomacy between their state leaders and business leaders forums among their business communities. On the economic front, India and Japan have steadily developed closer economic relations. Bilateral trade has doubled in the 10 years from 2005 to 2015 and the balance of Japan's investment in India has increased eight-fold over the same period. More than 1,200 Japanese companies conduct businesses in India today, and it is expected that bilateral business exchanges will continue to expand, leveraging the India-Japan comprehensive economic partnership agreement that took effect in August 2011.

Last December, the two countries' business communities held the eighth India-



Japan Business Leaders Forum in Delhi to coincide with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to India. At the forum, exchanges of views took place regarding various issues, including improving the business environment and infrastructure development for further deepening bilateral economic relations. The joint report from the forum was submitted to Indian Prime Minister H.E. Narendra Modi and Abe.

This year, the business communities will hold the ninth India-Japan Business Leaders Forum, this time to coincide with the visit to Japan by Modi.

Keidanren remains committed to holding these activities to further strengthen India-Japan economic relations and we kindly ask for your continued support and cooperation in this endeavor.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in New Delhi in December MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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*-Swami Vivekananda
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INDIA 15th August INDEPENDENCE DAY