

## republic day of India

## Furthering relationships, increasing investments

Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa  
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA

On the occasion of the 66th Republic Day of India, I convey my greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan, as well as to the government and friendly people of Japan. I also extend my felicitations to my fellow Indian compatriots and persons of Indian origin living in Japan on this important day when we celebrate our identity as a secular, democratic republic.



Sixty-five years ago on Jan. 26, 1950, India completed its historic exercise to adopt a constitution, which has been the bedrock of the modern Indian state. This is a document that every Indian is rightly proud of because of the high ideals, inclusiveness and carefully crafted rights enshrined in it. On this day we recall the founding fathers and as Indians rededicate ourselves to the great ideals of

our constitution.

The past year has been momentous in the history of modern India. The world watched India in 2014 as we elected a new government in the largest-ever democratic exercise on earth involving an astounding 800 million voters and a turnout of 66.38 percent, resulting in a completely peaceful changeover of governments. The new government, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has been swift to initiate action to fulfill the promises of development made during the election campaign. The government has already undertaken a number of measures to fast track execution of developmental and infrastructure projects, improve governance and the business climate and revive economic growth.

The recent downturn in our economy due to the global slowdown in the last couple of years has been arrested. In the last decade, India has been one of the fastest growing economies in the world. We are now back on a growth trajectory. Several estimates, including those by the World Bank and



Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi



President of India Pranab Mukherjee

IMF, have projected our economy will grow at a rate of 6 to 7 percent in 2015. With the proactive policies of the new government, this target looks achievable with even higher growth in coming years. Our prime minister's determination to reinvigorate India's manufacturing sector is reflected in the launch of the "Make in India"

campaign. I urge Japanese companies, both large and small, to take advantage of this unique opportunity to produce their goods in India and develop the logistics sector to access the burgeoning Indian market and gain competitive advantage in the world market.

Last year was also a remarkable year for India-Japan rela-

tions. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi on Jan. 26, 2014 — the first time a Japanese prime minister was so honoured. Thereafter, Modi visited Japan within 100 days of assuming office, in keeping with his declaration on becoming prime minister that, in view of the importance

of the Japan-India relationship, Japan would be his first official bilateral visit beyond the South Asia neighbourhood. The Joint Statement issued after the summit meeting of the two prime ministers on Sept. 1, indicated the decision to elevate the bilateral relationship to a "Special Strategic and Global Partnership." The prime ministers also announced the groundbreaking "India-Japan Investment Promotion Partnership," under which it was decided to realize ₹3.5 trillion of public and private investment and financing from Japan to India over five years, which would serve to double the number of Japanese companies in India during the period.

Prime Minister Modi responded with alacrity to realize the achievement of this ambitious target by establishing a "Japan Plus" office under his personal supervision to attract, facilitate and fast track Japanese investments into India. This team has already started functioning and become the primary and first interface for Japanese companies seeking business opportunities in India.

On another satisfactory note, the number of Japanese companies in India in 2014 grew by 13 percent, climbing to 1209 from 1072, while the number of Japanese business establishments has grown by 56 percent from 2542 to 3961 during the same period. The manifestation of the positive perception of India has been reflected in the Japan Bank for International Cooperation's (JBIC) survey released in November 2014 that placed India at the top position as the favoured destination for Japanese investments in the medium term for the first time since the compilation of JBIC reports began in 1989.

To realize the call of our leaders to foster greater people-to-people exchanges and mutual understanding, the Indian Embassy in Tokyo decided to launch a year-long Festival of India to bring to Japan the best of our cultural, literary and spiritual traditions. The Indian Minister for Culture and Tourism Shri Shripad Yesso Naik and Japan's Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Akihiro Ohta formally inaugurated "The Festival of India in Japan 2014-15" on Oct. 27, 2014. We chose as the logo for the festival juxtaposed images of the goddesses Benzaiten and Saraswati, symbols of our common civilizational connection and the importance of the feminine gender as the repository and transmitter of culture. The Festival of India has already brought a dance festival to Japan with more than 20 performances of our best dances in 20 cities across Japan in October 2014. Other programmes planned for the Festival of India include an Exhibition of Ancient Indian Buddhist Sculptures at the Tokyo National Museum from March 17 to May 17, a literary festival, film festival and food festival. I invite all friends of India in Japan to participate in these forthcoming events, updates of which can be

accessed from the embassy's website and Facebook pages.

To encourage more visitors from Japan to India, we have liberalized our visa issuance system. Now, Japanese tourists can avail themselves of both online e-visas and visa-on-arrival schemes. I welcome more Japanese friends to visit India. In addition to the well known Buddhist Circuit and Golden Triangle, India offers several destinations for summer tourism as many beautiful places in our hills such as Darjeeling, Manali, Mussoorie and Ooty, which remain cool throughout the year.

We greatly value our friendship with Japan, which recently went through its own election last December with the government led by Prime Minister Abe returning with a renewed mandate to strengthen Japan's economy. Strong governments with strong leadership in both countries augur well for further strengthening India-Japan relations. We seek to forge firmer bonds between our two countries to ensure a sustaining and symbiotic political, strategic, economic and cultural engagement. Above all, we seek to build stronger bridges of mutual respect, understanding and appreciation between our people.

I am confident 2015 will see a further deepening of friendship between India and Japan. The year has started well with the visit of Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida to India for the eighth India-Japan Strategic Dialogue with his counterpart, Smt. Sushma Swaraj. Looking ahead, the calendar promises to be busy with high-level political and economic exchanges. We look forward to working closely with the Japanese government, businesses and industry, as well as the public at large to realize the common desire of our two peoples for peace, progress and greater prosperity.

## Leaders share financial, security, growth views

Yoshiro Mori  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of the 66th 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, in May, India witnessed the inauguration of the new government led by Shri Narendra Modi who, in successfully winning the general elections of the Lok Sabha lower house of parliament, brought the Bharatiya Janata Party to lead the government of India. On the other hand, in December, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe renewed people's trust by winning the general election in the House of Representatives to begin the third Abe administration. Both established a solid power base, which should enable the two leaders to reign for many years to come. They share the same perspective on security issues in Asia and pursue identical economic policies, namely "Abenomics" and "Modinomics."

During Prime Minister Modi's visit to Japan at the end of August through early September, both leaders upgraded the Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership to an unprecedented "Special Strategic and Global Partnership," highlighting the centu-

ry-old spiritual bonds. The Japan-India Association extended a hearty welcome to Modi by organizing a welcome reception jointly with the Diet's Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League.

With an excellent atmosphere prevailing in our bilateral relations, we expect that the three symbolic mega-projects — the Delhi-Mumbai Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor — will be accelerated. India continues to be the largest recipient of Japanese official development assistance (ODA) and engages, in cooperation with Japan, in infrastructure building such as electricity and transportation systems; poverty alleviation; development of human resources; and environmental projects ranging from reforestation to water supply and sewerage. With the very successful Delhi Metro project as a model, similar construction projects of urban metro systems are being carried out in Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad with financing and technical cooperation provided by Japanese ODA.

Japanese direct investment has been increasing at an accelerated pace. The number of Japanese companies in India reached about 1,200 as of last October and some Indian businesses have ventured into the Marunouchi area, the very business center of Tokyo, in addition to other areas of Tokyo,

Osaka, Kobe and Yokohama. Indian restaurants are mushrooming all over Japan and sister city and sister state/prefecture arrangements are being encouraged on both sides. The Japan-India Association welcomes and extends support to people-to-people contact.

On this auspicious occasion, let me pray for happiness of the two great nations and the peace and prosperity of the international community at large.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets with Emperor Akihito on Sept. 2 at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo during his visit to Japan. KYODO

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## republic day of India

## Japanese companies increasing investment in rejuvenated India

Nobutaka Machimura  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-INDIA PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



The Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League extends its warm congratulations to the people of India on the occasion of the 66th Republic Day of India.

Since H.E. Shri Narendra Modi was inaugurated as prime minister of India in May last year and launched the "Make in India" initiative, the Indian economy has shown signs of revitalization, as some of Japan's top corporations have committed to fresh investment in India. Not only Japan, but also the entire world is once again looking at India with high expectations and excitement as a great emerging economy. I would like to congratulate Modi on his strong leadership.

Last year was epoch-making for the Japan-India relationship. When Modi came to Japan and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in September, our partnership was elevated to a "Special Strategic and Global Partnership."

In November, His Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan decorated H.E. Manmohan Singh, former prime minister of India, with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers for his contribution to the Japan-India friendship over many years, including the 10 years of his premiership.

We are proud of our engagement in supporting these two remarkable events and contributing to strengthening the Japan-India partnership.

The Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League extends its best wishes to the people of India for their further prosperity and for the continued development of our everlasting friendship.

## New opportunities for business

Masami Iijima  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 66th Republic Day of India.



As two of Asia's largest de-

mocracies, Japan and India have built extremely amicable relations based on common strategic interests and shared values. In recent years, this bilateral relationship has been described as one of the most promising in the region.

Last May, Narendra Modi was appointed prime minister of India with the overwhelming support of the Indian people. Relations between our two countries became even deeper with Prime Minister Modi's visit

to Japan at the end of August through early September.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe presented his plan for doubling the amount of direct investment into India and the number of Japanese companies in India within the next five years, as well as expanding the scale of public and private investment and loans, including official development assistance, to ¥3.5 trillion over the same period. Prime Minister Modi proposed the establishment of

a "Japan Plus" team to provide one-stop solutions for the problems facing Japanese companies. The following month, the Japan Plus team was set up within India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry. At a joint meeting last November, priority requests for the new cabinet led by Modi were submitted. These consist of various aspects, including tax systems, land acquisitions and financial regulations. We would like to continue to cooperate with this "Japan Plus" team.

The Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee was established in 1966 to enhance mutual understanding and friendship and to facilitate economic relations between Japan and India. We will endeavor to strengthen the relationship of our two countries through economic activities such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor (CBIC).

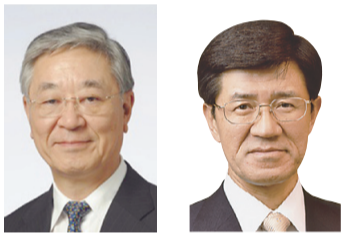
I conclude by once again offering my congratulations on the occasion of the 66th Republic Day of India and my best wishes for India's increasing development and prosperity in the future.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (right) attend the signing of Varanasi-Kyoto agreement on cultural exchanges, signed by Indian Ambassador Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa and Kyoto Mayor Daisaku Kadokawa on Aug. 30 in Kyoto KYODO

## Working to strengthen bilateral economic ties

Hiroaki Nakanishi  
CHAIRMAN OF KEIDANREN COMMITTEE ON SOUTH ASIA  
Takashi Shoda  
CO-CHAIRMAN OF KEIDANREN COMMITTEE ON SOUTH ASIA



Nakanishi Shoda

On behalf of Keidanren and its Committee on South Asia, we wish to extend to the government and people of India heartfelt congratulations on the 66th Republic Day of India.

India and Japan have cultivated an excellent bilateral relationship through the shut-

tle diplomacy of their leaders and Business Leaders Forums held by representatives of their respective business communities. In particular, economic ties between the

two nations have entered an entirely new level since the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement came into force in 2011. Trade between Japan and India was valued at \$16.3 billion in 2013, up significantly from \$10.9 billion in 2008. Over the same period, Japanese direct investment in India has grown from \$400 million to \$1.7 billion.

It is also worth noting that Japan's business sector has given special attention to the growth of India's markets and

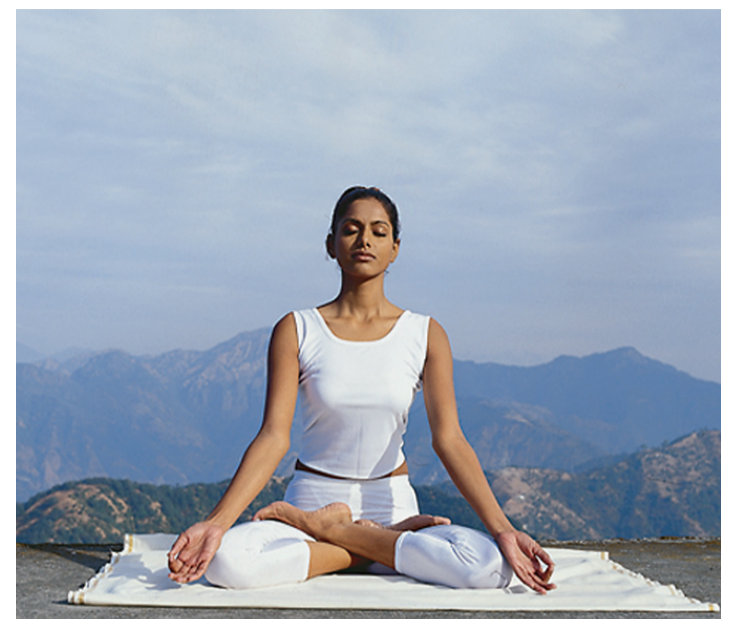
can be expected to step up its investments in the years ahead. To facilitate heightened levels of business activity in India, Keidanren member companies are interested in pursuing projects in water, rail, energy and other areas of infrastructure in addition to aiding in the implementation of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor projects that symbolize economic cooperation between the two nations. Japanese and

Indian companies could also strengthen their ties of cooperation in the development of third-country markets such as the Middle East and Africa.

In the joint statement delivered during the visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Japan in September 2014, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged ¥3.5 trillion of investment and financing to India under the Japan-India Investment Promotion Partnership over the coming five years. Furthermore, the two leaders noted

that the bilateral relationship between Japan and India had been elevated to the Special Strategic and Global Partnership. To capitalize on these favorable developments, in late February we plan to lead a Keidanren Economic Mission to India and explore the opportunities for expanded trade and investment between the two nations.

Keidanren will continue working through these and other undertakings to further strengthen economic ties between Japan and India.



The U.N. General Assembly has decided to observe June 21 as International Yoga Day, following a call made by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi last September. INCREDIBLE INDIA

## Spirit of yoga enjoys global popularity

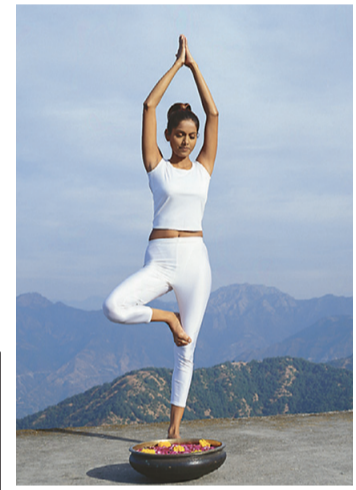
My interest in yoga started in 2005 when I embarked on a journey around the world to capture this ancient art form through my camera.

From the islands of Koh Phangan to the streets of New York, Los Angeles and Frankfurt, meeting people from every continent and hearing them speak about their passion for yoga made me search deep within myself. It provided me with the insight that yoga is a global practice and its worldwide adoption is due to its affinity to change. Yoga is flexible not only in its asanas,

but also the way and method it is practiced. Yoga has the unique quality that it can be adapted to any region, culture and period in time.

Recently, The Huffington Post announced that yoga today is a \$27 billion industry. The same article quoted Philip Goldberg, a spiritual teacher, who said: "People are taking charge of their spiritual lives in a yogic way. That's changing the face of spirituality in the West." Travel and Leisure, a Time Inc. publication, lists the top 25 global destinations. Interestingly at these locations, you can practice yoga in 11 languages: including Khmer, Japanese, Spanish, Thai, French, Italian, German and Danish to name a few. A google map of yoga shows its presence from the farthest city in the east, Kamui, Japan to Halibut Cove, Alaska in the west. From Norge, Norway in the north to Antarctica Chilena, Chile in the south: An indisputable global footprint.

Perhaps witnessing the potential this billion dollar brand of India can bring to the world, Modi called for observing an International Yoga Day at the U.N. General Assembly, CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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# republic day of India

## New initiatives to lift economy

Ryuko Hira  
PRESIDENT, INDIAN COMMERCE AND  
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a massive global campaign "Make in India" (makeinindia.com) that includes major new initiatives to facilitate investment, foster innovation and build a best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure. New processes, new infrastructure, new sectors, and most importantly the Make in India programme represents an attitudinal shift in how India relates to investors; not as a permit issuing authority, but as a true business partner. It is by far the most comprehensive and significant policy initiative taken by the Modi government. It is the first of its kind, for it addresses deregulation, infrastructure, skill development, technology, finance, and exit mechanism.

The Make in India programme is the most important

project since India's independence. India's economic dependence on imports and the protectionist trade and technology policies of developed countries will result in grave consequences for the peace and stability of Asia and the world. Economic divides, economic disorder, unemployment and trade and fiscal deficits will cause social unrest and political instability, which has been evident in the last two decades in Europe and Latin America.

India's economic independence from excessive imports, trade and fiscal deficits, as well as creating 10 million jobs for new graduates each year, is an unprecedented challenge of a magnitude no country has experienced before.

In the past 67 years, in the evolutionary process of discovering higher levels of democracy and free enterprise, India was forced to adopt socialist policies to restore the social stability of its inclusive system, which rationalized the banking, transport and other major industries. These policies have today resulted in India being the most successful democratic ex-

ercise and the largest consumer market in the world.

The Make in India project is like a comprehensive economic policy for Asia and the world that can substantially contribute to growth of the global economy. For 10 years, as Japan changed ruling parties, there was a reduced economic focus on Indian opportunities resulting in a slow and wavering attitude of Japan. During this time, China quickly became India's largest trade partner and invested substantially in development infrastructure.

There are two kinds of manufacturing in India: production for domestic consumption, the market size of which is 10 times Japan's; and manufacturing for export to third-party countries.

The main advantages of export to third-party countries is the huge savings in freight costs due to the geographical proximity to the Middle East, Europe and Africa. Additionally, labor costs in India are about one-quarter of China's.

India-Japan collaboration in manufacturing stabilizes and equalizes the India-China-Ja-

pan economic structure.

The time has come for Japan to effectively balance the economic and strategic relations.

Japan and India, like the U.S. or European countries, can begin a new era of "Set Off" barter trades. For example India's \$100 billion automobile market can be leveraged with Japan's \$100 billion IT outsourcing.

Japan is at the crossroads of exiting chronic deflation and increasing the wages of its middle class to raise domestic consumption and reestablish itself as a major global manufacturing power.

Indo-Japanese manufacturing collaboration will increasingly contribute to Japan's economic agenda. Additionally, economic relations will deepen the trust and friendship for Japan's much-needed Asian goodwill.

Make in India means make money in India. India welcomes your participation in the new campaign for a paradigm shift in India's economic model from importing to Make in India.

I am most grateful to the readers of The Japan Times and convey my felicitations.



INCREDIBLE INDIA

## U.N. recognizes yoga's appeal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6  
describing the ancient art as India's gift to the world.

Over the last few years, my personal interactions have been diverse: from meeting seven time WWE champion Trish Stratus, a nine-year yoga veteran and operator of one of Toronto's largest yoga studios to Mari Myllykoski from Finland, a yoga practitioner for more than half of her life. Every time I enter a Lululemon store, which specializes in yoga clothing, it amazes me. Taking off in Vancouver in 1998, it has 2,800 employees and \$1.3 billion in revenue. Last week in Thailand, I came across a yogurt cup with a yoga asana on the packaging. I have yet to visit a city in the world where I don't find a yoga studio.

As the world shrinks into a seamless entity of information and interaction, with social media networks, mobile phones and the internet blurring the lines of differentiation, I cannot agree more that we need an International Day of Yoga, a day when the entire world reflects on this ancient art form and furthers its adoption.

*This text is an edited excerpt of an article written by Birad Rajaram Jainik in the January-February 2015 edition of India Perspectives magazine.*

*The Vivekananda Culture Center in the Embassy of India in Tokyo offers yoga classes by a yoga teacher from India. For details, please go to [www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/india\\_culture\\_centre.html](http://www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/india_culture_centre.html)*

## Right prime minister at right time

YOG KAPOOR  
OWNER, INDIAN RESTAURANT CHAIN SAMRAT  
MEMBER OF THE JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION



I convey to the readers of The Japan Times our heartfelt felicitations on the 66th Republic day of India.

It has only been a few months since Indians elected new Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Bharatiya Janata Party after defeating the ruling Congress Party. It is a big shift in the politics of India after many decades of people seeking change.

Now it's the great responsibility of Modi to fulfill the expectations of the people.

But Modi can't do it alone, it's the duty of every Indian to cooperate with the Modi government. Modi is working very hard for the country and the result can be seen in the great respect he received on his Japan visit. The U.S., Australia and India's neighbors were also extremely welcoming to Modi. Russian President Vladimir Putin paid a one-day visit to India to talk with Modi, reviving an old friendship that had faded over the years. Russia is a tried and trusted friend, a country that has helped us in times of trouble. U.S. President Barack Obama can expect a lavish reception as the chief guest of India's 66th Republic Day celebrations.

India already enjoyed good relations with Japan, but since Modi's visit last year, when Modi and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shared an embrace the world will never forget, the friendship has become stronger than ever. There is a wide range of business relationships, culture and many other things between our trustworthy nations. As India needs Japan's advanced technologies, Japanese companies should take advantage of Modi's "Make in India" policy and manufacture in India, a country with no shortage of labor. Additionally, the Indian market is a huge one where domestic consumption will be very strong for years to come due to India population being the second largest in the world after China.

So I hope the great countries of India and Japan can work together and realize great innovation in the region and peace and prosperity for the whole world.

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