

# Republic Day of India

## Cooperation across range of sectors

**H.E. SUJAN R. CHINYOY**  
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO JAPAN



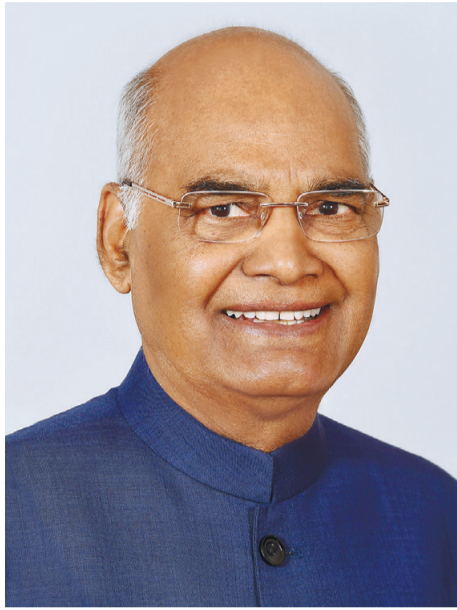
On the occasion of the 69th Republic Day of India, I extend warm greetings to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan, the government and the friendly people of

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 2018, the Year of the Dog in the Japanese calendar. The dog represents loyalty and fidelity, as exemplified by the faithful Akita dog, Hachiko. The 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 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 peoples. A panoply of agreements were signed during the summit covering a broad range of sectors, such as cooperation in disaster risk management, Japanese language edu-



President of India H.E. Ram Nath Kovind

cation, connectivity, civil aviation, investment, science and technology and sports.

The two prime ministers witnessed the groundbreaking 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 stated in his keynote address at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Jan. 23, 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 senti-



Prime Minister of India H.E. Narendra Modi

ment in India, as red carpet has replaced red tape. For the Indian economy, the jump from 150th to 100th in the World Bank's ease of doing business survey was a reaffirmation of the direction and pace of reforms undertaken by the government in India.

India has one of the most liberal foreign direct investment 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. Additionally, India's capital markets have also been doing very well.

India is Japan's largest overseas development assistant 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

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 a Japan Bank for International Cooperation 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 terms of global startup ecosystems. The startup and innovation sector has received further impetus with our 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.

Major infrastructure projects such as the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor, Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor and the shinkansen between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, as well as 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 in India and the Japanese Endowed Courses 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 with Japanese-style manufacturing skills and practices. The memorandum of cooperation on the Technical Intern Training Programme, 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

## Group works for bilateral good

**YOSHIRO MORI**  
CHAIRMAN, 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 marked 65 successful years of a diplomatic relationship dating back to 1952.

During the visit to India by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe last September, the two countries launched a new epoch-making strategy combining the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy of Abe and the Act-East Policy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Not only did Japan and India reiterate their commitment to make the Indo-Pacific region, including Southeast and South Asia more peaceful and prosperous, but also made public their determina-

tion to extend two countries' cooperation to Africa and other regions to the west. 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 prime ministers officially inaugurated the shinkansen project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The two governments and private sectors agreed on the construction of Japanese-style manufacturing schools, an expansion of scholarships in both directions, accelerated education of Japanese language in India, a drastic increase in youth exchanges, sports, air traffic, tourism and exchanges among regional entities.

I am convinced that our relationship will continue to flourish this year and that the above-mentioned initiatives will be solidified for the benefit of our two peoples and our friends within and outside of our regions.

The Japan-India Association marks its 115th year in 2018 since it was established in 1903. We are determined to fulfill our mission to serve our two nations.

ties is the planned expansion of Japanese language education in India in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed during the recent visit of the Japanese prime minister. 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 Indian states and Japanese prefectures, as well as 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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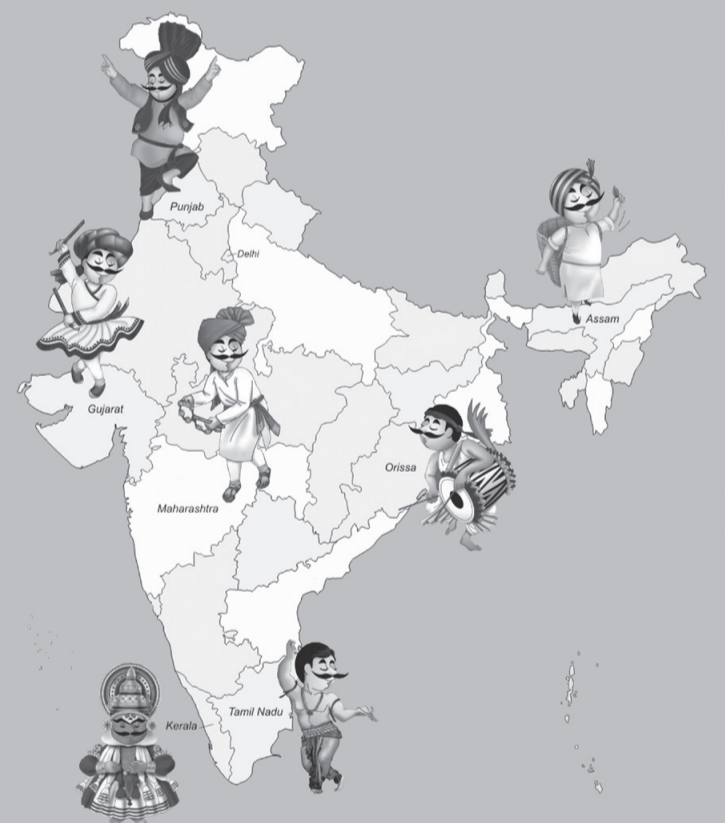
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# Republic Day of India

## Influence of Meiji Era in India

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



India's Republic Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of its new constitution on Jan. 26, 1950, which completed India's transition to becoming an independent republic. On this day, ceremonial parades are performed as a tribute to India, showcasing its defense capabilities, as well as its cultural and social heritage. The president of India receives the national salute together with a state guest of honor. India has been hosting foreign heads of state or governments of other countries since 1950. India has twice honored Japan, first in 1956 when Chief Justice Kotaro Tanaka, who was among the signatories of the new Japanese Constitution, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2014. Influence and adoption of Indian thought is significantly reflected in Japan's 17-article constitution, which was authored by Prince Shotoku in 604 A.D.,

and is one of the earliest constitutions in history. This first constitution begins with a Sanskrit verse and, in Article 2, urges citizens to adopt the three treasures of wisdom (Buddha), his teachings (Dharma) and society (Sangha). 2018 marks the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration, which still leads as a historical reference to building a sustainable political system, introducing advanced technologies and adapting tested systems of other countries that made Japan an Asian and world power. The influence of the Meiji Restoration in the creation of India as a superpower is noteworthy. The Meiji Restoration helped make Japan a developed country, as Japan adopted a top-down reform of capitalism and seized the momentum and right direction in times of change, while scrapping laws, ordinances, treaties and systems that were out of date. The Meiji Restoration reflects and resonates in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on a 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 that focus on privatization and liberalization of the economy are based on

a neoliberal framework. Modi liberalized India's foreign direct investment policies, including defense and railways. Modi's iconic and historical reform of labor laws that were impeding growth and global competence have given a new impetus and equal opportunity even to an ordinary maddoor (laborer) to become a maharaja. The priorities of the Modi government on health and sanitation, coupled with education policies that match and excel global standards, have created a new mindset in the Indian youth to become active partners in making India a fully developed nation. The energy and time Modi has invested in opening India to the world and making India's impact felt globally is unprecedented. When world conditions and times change, leaders can make a difference. Modi is transforming India as an economic superpower beneficial to all countries of the world. 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. With profound gratitude to The Japan Times and its readers, I offer my congratulations on the 69th Republic Day of India.

## Further expanding trade and investment

**MASAMI IJIMA**  
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 69th Republic Day of India.

Japan and India have built amicable relations as two of Asia's largest democracies over many years. Our two countries have agreed to transform their special strategic and global partnership into a deep, broad-based, action-oriented relationship. Our leaders have already held top-level meetings

on 11 previous occasions and it is greatly expected that we 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 1,369 in October, up 5 percent from the figure of 1,305 in 2016, and a number of large-scale projects are currently in progress. The operation of a bullet train using shinkansen technology is scheduled to start in 2023. India's economic growth rebounded to 6.3 percent per annum in the three months ending in September, overcoming the impact of demonetization and the introduction of a goods and services tax. With the increasing 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 held its 42nd regular joint meeting with the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee in Delhi on Jan. 23, during the economic mission led by the chairman of the Japan and Tokyo chambers of commerce and industry, which hold the secretariat of the JIBCC. In the joint meeting, the two sides actively discussed 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 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.

## Regional cooperation on global agendas

**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. Last September, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the state of Gujarat, the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the site of the 10th Japan-India summit meeting, held between Abe and Modi. The two shared their intention to coordinate the Free and Open India and Pacific Strategy and the Act East policy to lead the Indo-Pacific region to prosperity and stability. Based on such close relations at the summit level, we have great expectations for 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 of 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 the continued development of Japan and India's cordial relationship.



Top: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi shake hands at the 12th India-Japan summit in Gandhinagar, the capital of the western state of Gujarat on Sept. 14. Bottom: The prime ministers en route from the airport in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, to the city on Sept. 15. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INDIA

## Ongoing infrastructure improvement

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

On behalf of Keidanren, Japan's largest business lobby, we wish to extend the government and its people of India our heartfelt congratulations on the 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 shuttle diplomacy between state leaders. Particularly on the economic front, the number of Japanese companies in India has reached 1,500, with 4,800 operational bases spread throughout the country. 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, business communities of Japan and India held the 10th India-Japan Business Leaders Forums in the state of Gujarat in September, coinciding with the visit of 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 both prime ministers. 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.

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Top: Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Abe at Dandi Kutir, a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, in Gandhinagar on Sept. 15. Bottom: The prime ministers in Ahmedabad on the same day. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INDIA

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