

# Republic Day of India Special

## Collaboration for a stronger partnership Areas of cooperation expand

**SANJAY KUMAR VERMA**  
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA



On the occasion of the 70th Republic Day of India, I extend my warm greetings to Their Majesties, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government and the people of Japan. I also take this opportunity to convey my special greetings to the growing number of fellow Indians in Japan who are important stakeholders in our rapidly evolving special strategic and global partnership.

India and Japan are guided by shared values, including the heritage of Buddhism, openness, rule of law and freedom of navigation and commerce in the Indo-Pacific region. It is a relationship that is special in many ways and global in its implications. It is a partnership of great substance and purpose that is the cornerstone of India's Act East policy. The 13th annual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, held in October, further strengthened our bonds.

Under the dynamic leadership of Modi, India has emerged as the world's fastest-growing economy. It is a global hub for manufacturing and innovation, and has one of the most liberal foreign direct investment (FDI) regimes in the world, registering FDI inflows of nearly \$61 billion in the fiscal year 2017 to 2018. The International Monetary Fund has projected that India will grow at a rate of 7.3 percent in 2019 and 7.4 percent in 2020. Recently, India climbed 25 spots in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index, to rank 77th.

Japan, the third-largest investor in India, is our valued economic partner. India is also Japan's largest official development assistance partner. As of October, there were 1,441 Japanese companies registered in India with 5,120 business establishments. India offers Japan a scalable destination for establishing a competitive manufacturing base for tapping into Indian and global markets.

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway project and Japan Industrial Townships are symbols of our mutually beneficial partnership. Supplementing the Make In India initiative, Japanese companies have decided to manufacture 75 percent of the rail coaches for the Chennai

Metro in India.

The India-Japan Digital Partnership and Japan-India Startup Initiative were also launched recently. The Startup Hub in Bangalore will help channel investments, both domestically and from Japan, and promote collaboration between our vibrant startup ecosystems.

Japan is participating in skill transfer initiatives through the Japan-India Institutes of Manufacturing and Japanese Endowed Courses established in India. In a historic development, the first batch of interns from India arrived in Japan under the framework of the Technical Intern Training Program in 2018. Complementing this is the expanding base for the study of Japanese language in India.

The establishment of the Japan India Food Business Council has brought focus to the promising food-processing sector in India. We are working to tap the synergies between Japan's Asia Health and Wellness Initiative and India's Ayushman Bharat health care plan. During the recent annual bilateral summit, Japan and India agreed to cooperate in the areas of traditional systems of medicine, such as Ayurveda. Our cooperation in science and technology extends to space science as

well and recently, we agreed to launch a space dialogue.

There is convergence between India's Act East policy and Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy. Our countries agree that infrastructure and connectivity projects in the region should be based on the principles of openness, transparency, economic viability, fiscal responsibility and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Act East Forum, which we have set up, aids the development of India's Northeast Region with excellent prospects for cooperation in developing countries.

The progress of our strategic and defense cooperation can be seen in our decision to hold "two-plus-two" ministerial meetings. Apart from regular naval and coast guard exercises, the Indian Army and Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force engaged in the first-ever Counter-Insurgency-Counter-Terrorism exercise, Dharma Guardian, in 2018 in Mizoram, India. The Indian Air Force and Japan's Air Self-Defense Force also jointly held the Shinyuu Maitri-18 exercise in Agra, India.

In this new year of hope, I wish all readers good health, success and happiness. I am confident that the India-Japan partnership will grow from strength to strength in 2019.

**YOSHIRO MORI**  
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION



On the occasion of the 70th Republic Day of India, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of India on behalf of the Japan-India Association.

The visit to Japan in October by Prime Minister Narendra Modi amply demonstrated an unprecedented friendship and cooperation between our two countries. Mutual trust and a cooperative spirit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Modi are pushing further our common interests and engaging such friendly countries as the U.S. and Australia

into Abe's "free and open" Indo-Pacific vision and Modi's Act East policy.

On the bilateral front, major projects such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, Delhi-Mumbai Freight Corridor, Mumbai-Ahmedabad Shinkansen Project, Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor, development of northeast India and others are progressing well.

Our cooperation extends not only in hardware areas, but also in software fields. The two governments and private sectors are working together for the construction of "Japanese-style manufacturing schools," increased scholarships in both directions, an accelerated education of Japanese language in India, an increase in the exchange of the youth, sports, air traffic, tourists and regional entities.

New areas of cooperation have been added to include health care and agriculture.

I am convinced that our relationship will continue to flourish this year.

## Diverse exchanges accelerate business momentum in India

**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 congratulations on the occasion of the 70th Republic Day of India.

Over many years, Japan and India have established excellent relations through political, economic and cultural exchanges. Both nations have agreed to transform their special strategic and global partnership into a deep, action-oriented partnership. Both countries

will cooperate in countless fields 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 1,441 in October. A significant number of large-scale projects, such as the bullet train line adopting the shinkansen system, are also in progress. India's gross domestic prod-

uct growth was 7.1 percent annually in the three months ending in September, making the country the fastest-growing economy in the world. This is backed by public and private investment and stable consumer spending. With 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 facilitate economic relations between our countries. The committee held its 42nd regular joint meeting with the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee in Delhi on Jan. 23, 2018,

and is looking forward to holding the 43rd meeting in Tokyo in February. Additionally, JIBCC recently dispatched an economic mission to Ahmedabad with Keidanren and the Japanese government for the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. The JIBCC hopes to contribute to the further development of business through these activities.

I will conclude by once again offering my congratulations on the 70th Republic Day of India, and my sincere wishes for India's increasing development and prosperity in the future.

**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 70th 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.

This month, Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Kono, Minister of Justice Takashi Yamashita, the President of House of Coun-

cillors Chuichi Date and Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy Toshimitsu Motegi visited India successively. These continuous high-level visits represent Japan's high expectations for India and the trust we place in the country. Based on such close relations at the summit and ministerial level, we have great expectations for the further expansion of bilateral cooperation and coordination on regional and global agendas.

Last year, the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League had various exchanges during the visit to Japan by members of the Indian Parliament and business representatives, among others. The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League remains strongly committed to strengthening our two countries' relations through further exchange.

We send our heartfelt wishes to the further prosperity of the people of India and for continued development of Japan and India's relationship.

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# Republic Day of India Special

## Present ties find roots in past cultural fusion

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



Within about 1,400 years of India-Japan relations, the Heisei Era (1989-2019) marked the first state visit to India by Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in December 2013.

The Heisei Era saw internal consolidation of Japan's power and politics with progressive changes, seeing an unprecedented number of 15 prime ministers. After a lapse of 10 years, Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, whom I have coined the "father of modern Japan-India relations," visited India in August 2000 for the first time to forge a new partnership toward the dawn of the 21st century.

The roots of the Heisei Era can be traced back to the seventh century, when Emperor Shomu (701-756) conducted his politics based on Buddhist ideology. Lord Gautama Buddha's parents, birth, upbringing and the process of penance for self-realization were wholly based on Hindu philosophy, which transcends religion and spirituality into pure wisdom of ideal, humane doctrines such as "Help Ever Hurt Never" and "Love All Serve All."

The power of wisdom deeply influenced Prince Shotoku (574-622), who formed Japan's 17-Article Constitution in 604 where he included in Article 2 the wisdom of Buddha as the guiding principle of the state.

After the eighth century, Japanese interest did not remain tethered to Buddhism. It went further to encompass Sanskrit language and literature; the whole gamut of Indian thought and culture.

Through the fusion of Hindu heritage, many gods and goddesses of Sanskrit tradi-

tion reached Japan and acquired Japanese forms and names. For instance Indra, the god of heaven, became Taishakuten.

The relations between India and Japan developed from a range of complex historical, intellectual and economic conditions.

Beginning with the long journey in search for wisdom from India to Japan in the sixth century, India-Japanese relations have today expanded to cover almost all aspects of human endeavor. There is, however, much scope for further strengthening of these relations and promoting deeper understanding between the peoples of India and Japan.

The Heisei Era has been a boon of developing peace and prosperity, as well as providing the golden bridge to cross over from Heisei to the next era.

On the occasion of commemorating the 70th Republic Day of India, the Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan offers its heartfelt felicitations for commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Heisei Era.

## Mutual goal of sustainable growth discussed

**TETSURO TOMITA AND KAZUO HIRAI**  
CHAIRS OF KEIDANREN COMMITTEE ON  
SOUTH ASIA

On behalf of Keidanren, we wish to extend to the government and people of India our heartfelt congratulations on their 70th Republic Day.

Japan and India enjoy a long-standing diplomatic relationship and our two nations have built close, mutually beneficial relations through visits between our state leaders. The number of Japanese companies operating in India has surpassed 1,400 and we have high hopes that under the resolute leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government of India will accelerate initiatives such as Digital India and Skill India together with efforts to improve the business environment.

Since 2007, the business communities of Japan and India have held the India-Japan



Business Forum, where their business leaders discuss various issues and compile a joint report for submission to the prime ministers of both countries. The 11th forum was held in Japan in October. Amid dramatic changes in the global environment, including the rise of anti-globalization sentiment and rapid advances in digitization, business leaders discussed three main themes with a view to achieving sustainable growth for both of our countries. These themes were "maintaining

and strengthening the free and open international economic order and fostering economic partnerships;" "expanding economic exchange through improvements to the business environment;" and "achieving inclusive growth through strengthened cooperation in strategically important fields." They submitted a joint report summarizing the outcomes of the forum to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Modi.

We have high expectations that the two leaders will exercise strong leadership to realize the proposals promptly and steadily. The business communities will also make every effort to contribute to strengthening the special strategic and global partnership.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands during the 13th annual India-Japan summit at the Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo on Oct. 29. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INDIA

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