

India Independence Day Special

Numerous firsts highlight progress

SANJAY KUMAR VERMA
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO JAPAN



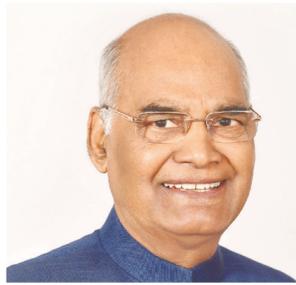
On the occasion of India's 73rd Independence Day, I extend my warm greetings to Their Majesties, Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, to the government and the people of Japan.

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, the world's largest democracy with strong cultural and constitutional values, is steadfastly on its path to emerge as a "New India." Continued economic reforms and simplified foreign direct investment (FDI) policies helped India in becoming a most favorable FDI destination. In fiscal 2018-19,

an all-time high totaling nearly \$64.57 billion in inbound FDI was registered. On the innovation front, India, ranked 52nd, moved up five places from last year in the World Intellectual Property Organization's Global Innovation Index 2019. Regarding manufacturing, India has made impressive progress in steel manufacturing as the second-largest steel producing country. The total installed renewable power capacity (excluding large hydro) in the country stood at 74.08 gigawatts (fifth in installed renewable energy capacity).

Today, there are many firsts happening in India. Recent achievements include India's first engineless train, the Vande Bharat Express; the country's first supercomputer, Param Shivay, with a 835 teraflop capacity; the Braille laptop DotBook; the "One Nation One Card" for transportation mobility; Mission Shakti, a successful anti-satellite missile test; an indigenous vaccine against Shigella; Navigation with Indian Constellation, a domestic GPS; an artificial intelligence-enabled 4G motorcycle, the ReVolt



President of India Ram Nath Kovind

RV 400; the processor Shakti; a domestically designed and fabricated microprocessor Ajit; and Chandrayaan-2, an Indian lunar mission launched in July expected to go where no country has ever gone before — the Moon's south polar region — and will also attempt to soft land the Vikram lunar lander and Pragyan rover.

India has chalked out a 10-point vision



Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi

for the decade. This includes a pollution-free India; digitization; space exploration; physical and social infrastructure; water management; the "blue economy" (ocean management); self-sufficiency and export of agricultural commodities; enhancing people-to-people partnership; minimum government, maximum governance; a healthy society and well-nourished women and children; safety of citizens; emphasis on micro, small and medium enterprises as well as startups, defense manufacturing, automobiles, electronics, fabrication facilities and batteries; and medical devices under the "Make in India" program. Startup ecosystems and "Skill India" initiatives are playing a significant role in developing India's human resources.

India-Japan bilateral relations, firmly rooted in history and based on shared values not only constitute the basis of the India-Japan bilateral relationship, but also underscore the principles for both countries to work together for the benefit of the Indo-Pacific region and the world at large. The relationship between India and Japan has expanded to be defined as a special strategic and global partnership. Annual summit meetings are a testimony to our vibrant, multifaceted relations.

Japan, India's third-largest investor, is our

Cooperation backed by shared values, history

YOSHIRO MORI
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of India's 73rd Independence Day, I have the great honor of sending my most heartfelt congratulations from the Japan-India Association (JIA) to the people and the government of India.



Japan and India are witnessing an ever-growing development of our bilateral relations. The special strategic and global partnership that has been broadened and enlarged by the two countries' successive governments has brought our already excellent relationship to an increasingly higher orbit. These relations cover all facets — political, diplomatic, security, business and official development assistance projects that now extend even to the northeast region of India, scientific and academic cooperation, cultural and people-to-people exchange, sister cities as well as preferential and direct state cooperation.

Thanks to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" that has been endorsed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and even

by President Donald Trump of the U.S., our relationship extends beyond our shores to the entire Indo-Pacific region including Oceania, the Middle East and Africa. Our enhanced friendship and cooperation, solidly backed by shared values of democracy and history, have become an uncontested catalyst among the nations of the Indo-Pacific region for their peace and prosperity.

The overwhelming victory of the prime minister in the last general elections of Lok Sabha and the successful results of the Upper House elections of the Japanese Parliament will undoubtedly push both governments' efforts to further our relations. The Japanese government and business community expect that the consolidated Modi government will earnestly address important Indian agenda items concerning infrastructure building, deregulation, business culture and other bottlenecks which are impeding a more rapid development of Indian economy and society.

I hope that the 73rd independence day of India will mark another important milestone both for India and the Japan-India relationship. JIA is determined to continue its contribution to our ever-expanding ties.

High expectations for regional, international goals

HIROYUKI HOSODA
PRESIDENT, 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 the people of the Republic of India on

the occasion of the 73rd Independence Day of India.

India, the world's largest democracy, is

one of Japan's most important partners. Let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to and convey my congratulations on the largest general election in the world, which was successfully held without incident from April to May this year.

Japan-India relations have been steadily advanced through the leadership of our prime ministers as well as the mutual friendship between the people of both countries. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan last October, our two countries shared the view to cooperate on regional affairs and connectivity toward the realization of a free and open Indo-Pacific. On that occasion, the Japan-India Vision Statement was issued and a wide range of Exchange of

Notes were signed. According to the practice of annual mutual visits, it is now Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's turn to visit India. Based on such close relations at the leadership 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 intends to actively contribute to reinforcing the Japan-India relationship, a connection blessed with the greatest potential for development of any bilateral relationship in the world.

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.

valued partner for prosperity. Japan's bilateral trade with India, totaled \$16.46 billion during fiscal 2018-19 (a 4.77 percent increase compared to fiscal 2017-18). India is a scalable destination for Japanese companies interested in establishing a competitive manufacturing base for tapping Indian and global markets. Each year, approximately 100 new Japanese companies establish their presence in India; this includes joint ventures and the acquisition of Indian companies. A professional approach toward taxation structures between the two countries will further enhance bilateral trade. Japanese companies have invested about \$2.1 billion in Indian startups as of 2018. The India-Japan official development assistance partner-

ship has been extended to various sectors in India, including smart cities, infrastructure and connectivity projects, agriculture and food processing, renewable energy, digital partnerships and life sciences.

Additionally, Japan is participating in skill transfer initiatives through the Japan-India institutes of manufacturing, Japan's industrial townships and Japanese endowed courses established in India. More interns from India are arriving in Japan under the framework of the Technical Intern Training Program and efforts are underway to expand the study of Japanese language in India.

I wish all readers of The Japan Times good health, success and happiness. I am confident that the India-Japan partnership will grow.

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Hon. President: Johnny Lalwani

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to the People of India
on the 73rd Independence Day

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India Independence Day Special

Business forums promote mutual exchange

TETSURO TOMITA AND NOBUYUKI HIRANO
VICE CHAIRS OF KEIDANREN / CHAIRS OF
COMMITTEE ON SOUTH ASIA



On behalf of Keidanren, we would like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to the people of India on the occasion of the country's 73rd Independence Day.

Since His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office in 2014, he has accomplished various effective reforms, such as introducing the Goods and Service Tax system and revising the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. They have had a great economic and social impact in India, and the Japanese business community thinks highly of these initiatives. The Bharatiya Janata Party led by Modi won a general election in April and May this year, prompt-

ing a second term for him and his government. We have high expectations Modi will promote further reforms to improve the business environment in India.

Since 2007, Keidanren has held India-Japan Business Leaders Forums with the Indian business community in conjunction with state leaders' visits, bringing together our two countries' business leaders to discuss various topics. The 11th forum took place in Japan in October last year.

Participants exchanged views on fostering economic partnerships, improving the business environment, and achieving inclusive growth before submitting a Joint Report of the Forum to Modi and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In addition, Keidanren took part in a public-private joint delegation from Japan to the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019 held in the Indian state of Gujarat in January, where participants met Modi and other ministers. The 12th Business Leaders Forum will take place in India this fiscal year. Through active exchange between our two countries, we will contribute to further developing the "India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership." We kindly ask for your continued support and cooperation in this endeavor.

Harmonious bilateral relations continue to develop

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 73rd Independence Day of India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took a working majority in the Indian general election held from April to May. We are looking forward to the second Modi administration's efforts such as the "Make in India" initiative that promotes foreign investment and boosts local manufac-

turing and service industries. The number of Japanese companies in India reached 1,441 in October 2018, up 5 percent from 1,369 in the same month of the previous year. The government of India forecasts that economic growth will reach 6.8 percent in fiscal 2019, which shows stable economic expansion. Also, taking into consideration that significant large-scale projects such as the high-speed train line that adopts the Japanese shinkansen system are currently in progress, the number of Japanese companies entering the Indian market will continue to trend upward.

JIBCC was established in 1966 to enhance mutual understanding and friendship while facilitating economic relations between Japan and India. In February, JIBCC held its 43rd joint meeting with our counterpart, the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee (IJBCC). At the meeting, following a key-

note speech entitled "Global Situation on AI and India-Japan Collaboration," numerous sessions including "Japan-India Economic Cooperation in Third Countries including African Countries" and "Digital Technologies including AI (artificial intelligence) and IoT (the internet of things)," "Opportunities in Service Sectors between Japan and India" and "Investment Attractiveness of Regional Hubs in India" took place. JIBCC also held a reception for interacting and developing a good rapport with IJBCC. We hope to make use of the information, ideas, and connections gained through these events for the committee's future activities.

In closing, I would like to offer my congratulations once again on the 73rd Independence Day of India, and my sincere hopes for India's continuing development and prosperity in the future.

Reflecting on peaceful virtues in Indian philosophy

RYUKO HIRA
CHAIRMAN, THE INDIAN COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



Nations today are enslaved by global complexities. Ongoing trade wars, currency wars, hot wars, cold wars as well as protective and political motives in the disguise of nationalism and populism, have divided nations into blocs and regions seeking conciliation from the United Nations rather than working for the unity of nations.

Today is a day to review and reflect on the power of India's holistic philosophy that has bestowed courage, confidence and unshakeable faith among the Indian masses to bravely face the psychological damage caused by colonization — the undermining of its very own social beliefs, rights, and the fact that many of today's racial, religious and ethnic tensions are the consequences of an oppressed society.

India's struggle for freedom and independence is an inspiration and exemplary role model for all. Mahatma Gandhi, who dedicated his life to India's independence, chose humanity's two most powerful virtues as his instruments — the indomitable power

of truth and the ever-expansive power of compassion deeply embedded in the domain of nonviolence.

It was truth and nonviolence in thoughts, words and deeds that shaped Gandhi's principles and philosophy to successfully liberate India without using any destructive weapons. The indomitable power of truth is enshrined in India's national emblem as "Truth alone triumphs."

World leaders and luminaries have embraced Gandhi's legacy for building world peace over seven decades. This year is the 150th anniversary of Gandhi's birth. With the cooperation of UNESCO and over 180 countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched massive global

programs to salute Gandhian doctrines and firmly secure peace and prosperity for the next 150 years by inculcating virtues of truth and nonviolence in the world's youth.

The India-Japan partnership is filled with promise and potential that will widely contribute to enduring peace and prosperity in Asia and beyond. The Indian Commerce and Industry Association (ICIJ), established in 1921 as an apex body, has served India's economic agenda for 98 years.

While felicitating India's independence and freedom, on behalf of all ICIJ members, I convey our deepest appreciation to all who have contributed to India's cause. I am grateful to The Japan Times and its readers.

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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