

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 (IJBC). 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 IJBC. 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.

Jai Hind!


Banzai ♦ India



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May Peace & Harmony Prevail

Wish you a Happy Independence Day 2019



15th August
Happy Independence Day!

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