

## republic day of India

## India development boosts Japan economy

Ryuko Hira  
HON. PRESIDENT, ICCJ / IMAY

On behalf of the ICCJ, congratulations to all readers on India's 65th Republic Day.



Declining domestic consumption and exports have motivated Japanese corporates to participate in India's economic development.

Major Japanese corporates in pharmaceuticals, automobiles, construction machinery, railways, electricity and water supply infrastructure projects and heavy industry have made substantial long term commitments in India. Japanese companies have made India their Asian base for re-exports to Africa and other countries.

India's annual trade deficit with Japan is approximately \$6 billion, which has accumulated in the last decade to nearly \$50 billion. India is aiming for a zero trade deficit by increasing exports of marine products, processed foods, high-end garments, gems, jewelry and other

value added items, and software development.

The success of Bollywood and other Indian movies in Japan have aroused great interest for tourism to India. The rapid development of roads, ports and airports have substantially reduced inland travel time, making business or pleasure visits easier and more enjoyable. Academic, scientific and technological exchanges continue to grow significantly.

The recent visit to Japan of the Cabinet Minister for Textiles H.E. Dr. Kavuru Sambasiva Rao and the accompanying delegation has aroused great interest among young Japanese fashion designers to adopt the wide range of Indian textiles for manufacturing garments for Japanese consumers. The collaboration between Japanese and Indian designers will emerge in a whole new trend of Japanized Indian fashion. Such bilateral cooperation is seen at eight campuses of India's National Institute of Fashion Technology, which has 8,000 students studying design.

The popularity of fresh Indian food at reasonable prices has caused an Indian cuisine boom,

with an estimated 5,000 restaurants across Japan. Compared to the popularity of Indian food in England, which boasts about 25,000 Indian restaurants, Japan is still in the evolutionary stage. Popular Indian cuisine has aroused great consumer interest in premium brands of Indian beer, whiskey and wines. Bumper harvests of sweet Indian grapes, strictly monitored to French standards, have resulted in a steady increase of imports in Japan. French, Italian and Portuguese wineries are India's main buyers, while Indian tropical fruit has produced excellent fruit liquors.

The presence of the Bank of India in Japan for six decades has resulted in a number of vital projects, most noteworthy of which is the opening of Dai Ichi Life Insurance in India.

The Bank of India is one of the main clearing banks for the Bombay Stock Exchange, which is planning to list an index of Indian equities on the Tokyo Stock Exchange to enable corporate and retail investors to purchase Indian equities.

The number of financial institutions compared to Japan is minimal. To overcome the shortage of financial institutions, The Reserve Bank of India has received applications for 30 new banks to be established in the nearest future.

2014 and beyond holds great potential for sustained Japanese growth by timely and meaningful participation of Japanese corporates in making India into a developed nation. ICCJ Tokyo in its 94th year shall continue to dedicate itself to the Indian agenda in Japan.

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## Power is in the hands of the public

Yog Kapoor  
OWNER, INDIAN RESTAURANT CHAIN SAMRAT, MEMBER OF THE JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION



I convey to the readers our heartfelt felicitations on the 65th Republic Day of India.

Last year, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited India for the first time in 53 years. The people of India felt very happy with their visit and the relations between the two great nations Japan and India became closer than ever.

This is the time of elections in India and the whole world is watching us with great interest to see who will lead the country.

Who will lead the country? It's a good question, and if anybody asks me, my reply will be that it's in the hands of the Indian people, those who have the right to vote in the election.

First of all, it's their duty to get out of their houses or offices to give their most valuable vote to the most capable person, whom they think belongs to the party that can lead the country to peace and prosperity.

So I think that the public holds the power without which politicians cannot be elected. Investors from all over the world are waiting and watching with keen interest.

Japan is our biggest partner in every field of life and India is the biggest buyer for many things from Japan, so we need each other during the global recession and financial crises. Indo-Japan investment has already expanded and it is expected trade figures will increase more in the coming years.

Tourism increasing in both countries. Indian food is already very popular in Japan and Japanese cuisine is also gaining popularity in India. We should not ignore the cultural programs, which require more attention by both countries, to bring India and Japan closer to each other.

## Rocketing toward Mars

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

reached Mars. So, is this a giant leap or a foolhardy step by a nation that still can't provide electricity to 400 million of its population and where 600 million people still defecate in the open? It all depends on which side of the divide you belong. But nobody doubts that the Mangalyaan is truly the cheapest interplanetary mission to be undertaken ever by any country and now it may well pave the way for low-cost access to Mars.

India is already planning its second visit to the moon with Chandrayaan-2, which will possibly land on the lunar surface India's own rover, a satellite to study the Sun, called Aditya is being built; and the ISRO is already eyeing a visit to a passing asteroid.

While the Indian government has yet to clear a full-fledged human space flight program, it has sanctioned enough seed money so that Indian space technologists can master the technologies needed for orbiting an astronaut in space. As of now, the country has no plans of sending

humans to the moon or to Mars. In an interesting recent development, the Indian and American space agencies are exploring the real possibility of jointly making a radar satellite that would help study climate change and sea level rise.

"We will not turn our backs to help India alleviate poverty and will fully help in the country's development process," says ISRO chairman K. Radhakrishnan, yet he asserts "this Mars mission is a historical necessity, after having helped find water on the moon, looking for signatures of life on Mars is a natural progression. India is now demonstrating its capability to undertake interplanetary travel with end-to-end technological prowess in space."

The text is an edited excerpt of an article written by Pallava Bagla, a globally recognized science writer. He is also author of the book 'Destination Moon: India's Quest for Moon, Mars and beyond'. Views expressed are personal. He can be reached at Pallava.bagla@gmail.com

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Wish you a Happy Republic Day 2014  
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And memories in our Souls.  
Let's salute our India.

26th January  
Happy Republic Day!

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