

# Republic Day of India

Publicity

## Japan, India further pursue shared values

By Yoshiro Mori  
Chairman of the Japan-India Association

On the occasion of the 66th 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.



Yoshiro Mori

Last May, India witnessed the inauguration of the new government headed by Shri Narendra Modi, who led the BJP to victory in the general election in the Lok Sabha and took the reins of power in India. In December, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe renewed people's trust by leading the Liberal Democratic Party to victory in the general election of the House of Representatives and started the third Abe administration.

Both prime ministers have established a solid power base that will enable them to govern their respective countries for long years to come. They share the same perspective on security issues in Asia and pursue identical economic

policies, Abenomics and Modinomics.

During Prime Minister Modi's visit to Japan from the end of August to early September, both leaders upgraded the Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership to an unprecedented "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" by highlighting their century-old spiritual bonds. The Japan-India Association extended a hearty welcome to Prime Minister Modi by organizing a welcome reception jointly with the Diet's Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League.

With the excellent atmosphere prevailing in our bilateral relations, we expect that three symbolic mega-projects – the Delhi-Mumbai Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the Chennai and Bangalore Industrial Corridor – will be accelerated.

India continues to be the largest recipient of Japanese official development assistance. It works in cooperation with Japan to build infrastructure, such as electricity and transportation systems, alleviate poverty, develop human resources and conduct environment projects ranging from reforestation to water supply and sewer-

age.

With the very successful Delhi Metro project as a model, similar construction projects for urban metro systems are being carried out in Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad with financing and/or technical cooperation provided by Japanese ODA programs.

Japanese direct investment has been rising at an accelerated pace. The number of Japanese companies throughout India reached about 1,200 as of October 2014. Some Indian businesses have ventured into Marunouchi, the heart of the Tokyo business world, in addition to other areas of Tokyo, Osaka-Kobe and Yokohama.

Indian restaurants are mushrooming all over Japan, and sister city and sister state-prefecture arrangements are being encouraged on both sides. The Japan-India Association welcomes and supports people-to-people contact.

On this auspicious occasion, let me pray for the happiness of our two great nations and for the peace and prosperity of the international community at large.

## Keidanren exploring India's growth opportunities further

By Hiroaki Nakanishi and Takashi Shoda

On behalf of Keidanren and its Committee on South Asia, we wish to extend to the government

and people of India heartfelt congratulations on the 66th Republic Day of India.

India and Japan have cultivated an excellent bilateral relationship through the diplomacy of their leaders and the Business Leaders Forum held by representatives of their business communities. In particular, economic ties between the two nations have reached an entirely new level since the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement came into force in 2011.

Trade between Japan and India

was valued at \$16.3 billion in 2013, up significantly from its \$10.9 billion level in 2008. Over that same period, Japanese direct investment in India widened from \$400 million to \$1.7 billion.

It is also worth noting that Japan's business sector has given special attention to the growth of India's markets and can be expected to step up its investments in the years ahead. To facilitate heightened levels of business activity in India, Keidanren member companies are interested in pursuing projects in water, rail, energy, and other areas of infrastructure and aiding implementation of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor projects that symbolize economic cooperation between the two nations.

Japanese and Indian companies could also strengthen their ties of cooperation in the development of third-country markets such as the Middle East and Africa.

In the joint statement delivered during the visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Japan in September 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged ¥3.5 trillion of

investment and financing to India under the Japan-India Investment Promotion Partnership over the next five years.

Furthermore, the two leaders noted that the bilateral relationship between Japan and India had been elevated to the Special Strategic and Global Partnership. To capitalize on these favorable developments, in late February we plan to lead a Keidanren economic mission to India and explore the opportunities for expanded trade and investment between the two nations.

Keidanren will continue working through these and other undertakings to further strengthen economic ties between Japan and India.

Mr. Nakanishi is chairman and CEO of Hitachi, Ltd., vice chairman of Keidanren and chairman of the Keidanren Committee on South Asia. Mr. Shoda is senior corporate adviser at DAIICHI SANKYO Co., Ltd. and co-chairman of the Keidanren Committee on South Asia.



Hiroaki Nakanishi



Takashi Shoda

## Japan-India relationship most promising in Asia

By Masami Iijima  
Chairman of the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee and President & CEO of Mitsui & Co., Ltd.

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 66th Republic Day of India.

As two of Asia's largest democracies, Japan and India have built extremely amicable relations based on common strategic interests and shared values.

In recent years, this bilateral relationship has been described as one of the most promising in the region.

Last May, Mr. Narendra Modi was appointed prime minister of India with the overwhelming support of the Indian people.

Relations between our two countries have become even deeper than before with Prime Minister Modi's visit to Japan last September.

During a summit meeting with Prime Minister Modi, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe presented his plan for doubling the amount of Japan's direct investment into India and the number of Japanese companies in India within the next five years and expanding the scale of public and private investment and loans, including official development assistance, to ¥3.5 trillion over the same period.

During his visit to Japan, Prime Minister Modi proposed the establishment of a "Japan Plus" team to provide one-stop solutions to Japanese companies with a view to facilitating Japanese investments in India. The following month, the "Japan Plus" team was established within India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

At the joint meeting of the JIBCC last November, priority requests for the new Indian

Cabinet led by Prime Minister Modi were submitted. These consist of various aspects, including tax systems, land acquisition and financial regulations. We would like to continue to cooperate with this "Japan Plus" team.

The Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee was established in 1966 to enhance mutual understanding and friendship and to facilitate economic relations between Japan and India.

We will endeavor to strengthen the relationship of our two countries through economic activities such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor (CBIC).

I conclude by once again offering my congratulations on the occasion of the 66th Republic Day of India and my best wishes for India's increasing development and prosperity in the future.

## 'Make in India' plan to buoy bilateral collaboration

By Ryuko Hira  
President - ICIJ

Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched a massive global campaign "Make in India" (makeinindia.com) that includes major new initiatives to facilitate investment, foster innovation and build best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure with new processes, new infrastructure and new sectors.

Most importantly, the "Make in India" program represents an attitudinal shift in how India relates to investors – not as a permit issuing authority, but as a true business partner. It is by far the most comprehensive and significant policy initiative taken by the Modi government since its inauguration in May last year. It is the first of its kind as it addresses deregulation, infrastructure, skill development, technology, finance and exit mecha-

nism.

Indo-Japanese cooperation in manufacturing will increasingly contribute to Japan's economic goals. These good economic relations will deepen trust and friendship toward Japan in Asia.



Ryuko Hira

### Congratulations Heartiest Republic Day Greetings



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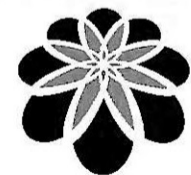
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