

REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

Indo-Japanese relationship ripe for continued success

By Ryuko Hira

Honorary President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry Japan Tokyo (ICCJ) and the Indian Merchants Association of Yokohama (IMAY)

On behalf of all the members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Japan Tokyo (ICCJ) and the Indian Merchants Association of Yokohama (IMAY), I convey to readers our heartiest felicitations on the 62nd Republic Day of India.

The Indian government's comprehensive economic reform policy has led to the



Ryuko Hira

rise of a contemporary India, lauded worldwide for its extraordinary economic growth during the global recession. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's economic growth forecast for 2010 by 60 basis points to 9.4 percent.

Indo-Japanese trade, economic relations and investment have expanded significantly and with the successful completion of the recently held Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) talks, it is expected that trade figures will increase in the coming years. As of September 2010, exports from India to Japan were 2.41 percent (the ninth-highest level) of India's total exports, and imports from Japan were 2.39 percent of total imports, ranking 14th.

We serve as a comprehensive and professional apex chamber of commerce, supplementing the efforts of the Indian Embassy to promote India-Japan economic engagement.

We provide support, guidance and offer consultancy/advisory services to interested parties to enable them exploit fully the potential for business between Japan and India.

ICCJ Tokyo has successfully launched a Road and Highways Infrastructure Investment seminar and is organizing seminars on the travel industry, pharmaceutical industry and "Doing Business in India: Opportunities for Small & Medium Sized Companies."

To bring India's economic agenda to fruition, we will continue to offer our comprehensive services to Japanese manufacturers, general contractors and other investors in cooperation with prefectural chambers of commerce and other institutions.

We will be commemorating the 90th year of our founding in April 2011 and take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Indian government for providing assistance and care to overseas Indians in Japan.

Gandhi a hero not just to India, but to the world

By Yog Kapoor

Owner of the Samrat Indian restaurant chain

"I am filled with hope and inspiration as I have the privilege to visit this testament to Gandhi. He is a hero not just to India, but the world."

Making his first visit to India as the U.S. Head of State and accompanied by First Lady Michelle Obama, this is what U.S. President Barack Obama wrote in the guest book of the Mani Bhavan Gandhi Museum in Mumbai. The U.S. leader has been highly influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's theories of nonviolence.

President Obama offered a unique opportunity to cement a global partnership with India, a rapidly emerging power set to become the world's third or fourth largest econ-

omy by 2030. India could become the United States' most important strategic partner.

The United States and India should create an innovative partnership. It might not yield immediate returns, but such a partnership could demonstrate the effectiveness of a strong bilateral relationship in the face of ongoing global crises.

India is one of the world's fastest growing nations and hopes to attain a growth rate of 10 percent by the end of 2011. India's agricultural revolution, impressive industrialization and incredible progress have all contributed to middle-class prosperity in the country.

India also is succeeding in fostering greater domestic growth through economic policies and incentives targeted to low earners.

Energy-hungry India is one of the world's biggest markets for nuclear power technology, with ambitious plans to reach an atomic power capacity of 63,000 megawatts by 2032 from the current level of 4,560 megawatts.

Leaders from Britain, the United States, France, China and Russia, all permanent

members of the U.N. Security Council, have visited India over the last four months, securing trade contracts worth a total of about \$50 billion. The Kremlin, for example, has said its trade with India will total \$10 billion.

Changes in demographic trends and population growth also will help determine India's economic prospects. As is the case in Japan, it is understandable to feel uneasy about future economic prospects because of a slowing and aging society. Japan, the long considered the second greatest economic power in the world, will likely lose this status to China because of its graying population.

Although there is much bilateral collaboration between India and Japan, the time is ripe for Japan to take bold action and facilitate the immigration of professionals who can help support the nation's elderly.

India also would benefit greatly from Japan's advanced technology. If Japan and India are to further collaborate, it will be good for Asia as well as international peace and prosperity.



Yog Kapoor



Yoga helps build bilateral friendship

Ghosh Yoga Institute Japan

Yoga disciples at the Ghosh Yoga Institute Japan, the yoga club of the Japanese Foreign Ministry and the Indo-Japanese Association Calcutta all mark the Republic Day of India. Yoga disciples at the Ghosh Yoga Institute in Australia, India, Italy, New Zealand and the United States also celebrate the Republic Day of India.

A variety of cross-cultural yoga programs can help control depression and stress and prevent suicide through yogic scientific breathing that works on the nervous system. Contributing to world peace and harmony, yoga can help bridge friendships be-



Ghosh Yoga Institute Japan founder and guru Jibananda Ghosh, left, explains Oriental yoga posture scientific effects to his disciples, including former Prosecutor General Toshiaki Hiwatari.

tween India and Japan and between India and the rest of the world.

On this occasion, we would like to pay a heartfelt tribute to our yoga guru Karuna Ghosh, the late daughter and niece of the late yoga guru B.C. Ghosh, and the late Paramahansa Yogananda.

The Ghosh Yoga Institute Japan offers a variety of yoga class programs to various organizations in Japan, including a yoga club at the

Japanese Justice Ministry and the Public Prosecutors Office.

Republic Day giveaway

In celebration of Republic Day, the Ghosh Yoga Institute Japan is offering to members of the public a free copy of a magazine titled "BODIGOLEPS & Japanese Yoga." The giveaway is available from 11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. on Wednesday at Ghosh Yoga Institute Japan headquarters. The address is Chuko Building 505, 1-9-4, Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022. For more details, call (03) 3352-1307 and ask for Mr. R. Das or Mr. Y. Khamino.



Yoshio Sakurachi, third from right, a former foreign minister, attended the opening ceremony of the Indo-Japanese Association Calcutta 24 years ago.

REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

Japan-India ties have bright future

By Hiromasa Yonekura
Chairman of Nippon Keidanren

On behalf of Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), I would like to offer our sincere congratulations on the occasion of India's 62nd Republic Day.

India has achieved outstanding economic growth in recent years and has now become one of the most dynamic emerging economies in Asia. The economic relationship between Japan and India has been growing significantly along the way, particularly in the areas of trade and investment, and is expected to expand further in coming years.

During his recent visit to Japan, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh proposed that Japan and India step up joint efforts in infrastructure development initiatives, such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project, as well as in renewable energy, nuclear energy and other



Hiromasa Yonekura

green technology projects. We in the Japanese business community welcome the proposal, and we are convinced that these initiatives will significantly contribute to sustainable economic growth of our two countries as well as the entire Asian region.

In order to expand multifaceted cooperative relationships between Japan and India through both private and public sector initiatives, it is essential to bring into effect as soon as possible the Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), a long-time wish of the business communities in both countries seeking to build strong strategic partnerships. CEPA will help to establish a mutually benefi-

cial business environment and further promote bilateral trade and investment in a broad range of areas, including the service sector.

There are many opportunities and challenges in the future of the Japan-India relationships. I have a strong conviction that, by working more closely together as partners sharing the values of democracy and the free-market economy, our two countries will be able to overcome the challenges, take advantage of the opportunities, and achieve strong and sustainable economic growth. We in the Japanese business community will continue to do our utmost to further strengthen the ties of Japan and India.



Courtesy of Indian Embassy

Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh meets Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara during his visit to Japan in October 2010.

Partnership based on trust and friendship

By Nobuo Ohashi
Chairman of the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the occasion of India's 62nd Republic Day.

India achieved independence in 1947 and in 1950 promulgated its modern Constitution on this very day. As the world's biggest democracy and a major economic power, India is today achieving sustained growth under the leadership of Prime Minister



Nobuo Ohashi

Dr. Manmohan Singh. India also plays an important role in the international community, and its global presence and influence continue to increase.

There have also been important developments in the relationship between India and Japan. On Sept. 9, 2010, the nations reached basic accord on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and the Republic of India at their 14th round of negotiations in Tokyo. On Oct. 25, Prime Minister Singh, who visited Japan for the annual summit meeting, and Prime Minister Naoto Kan signed a joint declaration that negotiations on the EPA had concluded.

In terms of both investment and trade, in recent times the economic relationship between India and Japan has undergone conspicuous growth. However, this relationship has yet to reach a level commensurate with the scale of the Indian and Japanese economies. From an industry perspective, we earnestly hope the EPA will be ratified as soon as possible so that

the economic relationship between our two countries can be further strengthened.

The EPA provides for cooperation in 12 areas relating to arts and culture, advanced technology, tourism, health and recreation, the environment, information and communications technology, scientific technology and energy. By working together in these fields, all of which play significant and familiar roles in our day-to-day lives, I believe our countries' peoples will be able to learn more about each other's achievements.

The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project was the main theme for the Joint Meeting of the India-Japan Business Co-operation Committees, which was held in Delhi in December, 2009. There is intense interest in large-scale projects, such as the establishment of a Dedicated Freight Corridor. I wish to express my admiration for the commitment and determination with which the Indian government, state governments and business corporations are working to realize this plan. With bi-

lateral government and relevant organizational support, the time has come for Japanese industry to put specific initiatives in place. These projects are vast in scale, and there will inevitably be twists and turns on the path to their realization. However, the projects are of great importance for the future, and I hope that this year will bring further sustained progress toward their completion.

India and Japan are linked by a partnership based on trust and friendship. This partnership, together with collaborative initiatives, will without doubt bring benefits for both India and Japan while also providing an economic driving force for Asia and the world. The Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee is determined to make an active contribution to the further reinforcement of bilateral economic relations.

I conclude by once again offering my sincere congratulations on the occasion of India's 62nd Republic Day, and my best wishes for your continuing and increased prosperity.



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Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory), a World Heritage Site in Uttar Pradesh, Agra District, is a complex of monuments and temples built in the 16th century by Emperor Akbar.

Congratulations from parliamentarians league

By Yasuo Fukuda
President of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League

On behalf of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the people of India on the 62nd Republic Day of India.

Japan and India maintain friendly relations founded on a long history of exchange. Japan and India have established a strategic and global partnership, and have deepened relations

in recent years. Last October, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, prime minister of India, visit-

ed Japan, and Dr. Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Naoto Kan signed a joint statement entitled "Vision for Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership in the Next Decade," highlighting such meaningful progress as the conclusion of negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the establishment of a ministerial level economic dialogue and the simplification of visa procedures.

There is very strong support for strengthening the Japan-India relationship in both countries. The relationship between our two countries is mutually complementary and there is huge potential for expansion.

The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League remains strongly committed to actively contributing to the further deepening of the partnership and mutual understanding between our two countries. I send my best wishes to the people of India for their continued prosperity and for the further development of our cordial relationship.



Yasuo Fukuda