

# REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

## 91 yrs of commitment by Indian Chamber of Commerce

By Ryuko Hira

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

Heartfelt felicitations to all readers on India's Republic Day. On behalf of all members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Japan, I convey our gratitude to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, the national and local governments, as well as numerous corporations and the people of Japan for their most gracious goodwill, cooperation and understand-



Ryuko Hira

ing extended to the Indian community in Japan.

The Indian community, though comparatively small in Japan, has had a significant presence in Japan for the past 100 years, such as the noteworthy establishment of the first Japan-India sea route by J.R.D. Tata and Ei-ichi Shibusawa in 1893. These were sensitive times as Japan had only welcomed foreigners 30 years earlier. The Sino-Japanese War had just begun. European countries were not recognizing Japan as a modern nation. The world was watching Japan's race to modernity.

The opening of this first Japan-India sea route by Shibusawa, J.R.D. Tata and Nippon Yusen was epoch making, as it broke the monopoly of England's national carrier P&O, conferring great courage and hope to the people of Japan.

This hope and courage inspired and raised the spirits of Asian people to challenge strong European countries, which re-

sulted in Japan's alliance for India's freedom with Subhash Chandra Bose, a Indian pioneer who lived in Japan.

During World War II, the Japanese people and soldiers were told the war was "for the sake of righteousness." So the nation believed in the ideal principle of war for righteousness; making unbearable sacrifices of hunger, starvation and tragic loss of life. Japan was defeated, scourged and disappointed by the painful criticism and rules made by winning countries for its war crimes.

Amongst the examples of Indians in Japan, Justice Radha Binod Pal, an Indian jurist, was appointed to the international military tribunal for the Far East's trials of Japanese war crimes. Of all the judges, he was the only one who submitted a dissenting judgment that all defendants were not guilty. His judgment was "War is evil, not people."

Radha Binod Pal liberated the soul of

Japan from the conscience of sin, saying "Man is not evil; war is evil," which deeply reverberated in the hearts of Japanese people and paved the way for Japan's postwar development by ushering in an era of peace and prosperity, which has now endured for six decades.

In 1952, the Cold War continued with more nuclear weapon tests by the United States. In February 1952, the United Kingdom announced it possessed the atom bomb. Amidst such times of uncertainty and unknown future, India took the important step of signing the Treaty of Peace with Japan, which was symbolic for stability and peace for Asia, the Pacific and the world. Today, in 2012, we mark the 60th anniversary of India's peace treaty and diplomatic relations with Japan, a model which was later emulated by many countries.

Six decades of India-Japan diplomatic relations have just begun to bear signs of a

most promising future partnership in economic, strategic and cultural spheres. The India-Japan alliance is a source of stability for the Asia-Pacific region and the world. The growing signs of Asia's economic independence are evident as over 60 percent of trade takes place within its own ASEAN plus 6 region, comprising the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

India's youthful population is destined to make it the world's largest growing market. But for Japanese companies to participate meaningfully in India's economic growth, they will have to make studious efforts to learn and understand an Indian system which differs from state to state.

The Indian Chamber of Commerce in Tokyo, an apex body, engages in organizing, various forums, especially in the fields of building Indian infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, tourism and the traditional ex-

ports of Indian foodstuffs, jewelry and handicrafts.

I take this opportunity to thank The Daily Yomiuri for its continued support. On the occasion of the 91st anniversary of the Indian Chamber's founding, we renew our pledge to rededicate our resources to the enormous opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Ten months have passed since the unforgettable great tragedy of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Japanese people have delivered a precious lesson that "patience is a virtue" to the world. All members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Tokyo join millions of fellow Indian citizens in a prayer for all victims of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami by the revered Saint Sri Sathya Sai Baba:

*Patience with family is love.  
Patience with others is respect.  
Patience with self is confidence.  
Patience with God is Faith.*

# REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

## Relationship elevated to new level

By **Yasuo Fukuda**

President of 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 people of India on the 63rd Republic Day of India.

Japan and India have long enjoyed a cordial relationship based on shared universal values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as well as wide-ranging mutually complementary economic interests. Since a bilateral "Strategic and Global Partnership" was established in 2006, we have elevated this relationship to a new level.



**Yasuo Fukuda**

I was deeply impressed by the very strong, bipartisan support for further deepening the Japan-India partnership in all areas, including the political, economic and cultural fields. I also saw Japanese and Indian businesspeople working together with great enthusiasm to contribute to dynamic economic development in India. We strongly hope that through such efforts, the bilateral relationship will be strengthened even further.

We also expect that the exchange between the two countries will be expanded further at wide-ranging levels through such a symbolic infrastructure development project as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), which was affirmed at the summit meeting between the prime ministers of our two countries in December.

Last year, the genuine friendship between our two countries was reaffirmed when India graciously demonstrated its strong bond with Japan in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The government of India not only provided us with relief goods but also dispatched a 46-member relief team to Japan.



Courtesy of Indian Embassy

**Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, far left, and Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, fourth from right, hold a bilateral meeting in New Delhi on Dec. 28.**

tional Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to Japan in its first ever overseas operation. Both the upper and lower houses of the Indian Parliament adopted a resolution expressing their solidarity with Japan. Japan will never forget this friendship.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the

Japan and India. Taking this opportunity, we expect that the exchange and friendship between the people of our two countries will be strengthened further. On this auspicious day, we, the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League members, send our best wishes to the people of India for their continued prosperity and for fur-

## Business ties need to catch up to growth

By **Takashi Shoda**

Chairman, Committee on South Asia, Keidanren, and Chairman of the Board, Representative Director, Daiichi Sankyo Co.

Keidanren, considering the importance of India and its surrounding countries, established the Committee on South Asia in May last year, and I was appointed its first chairman. Taking this opportunity, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on India's 63rd Republic Day.

India has achieved out-

and other green technology projects, should improve and enrich Indian people's lives.

During his recent visit to India, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and India's Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh reiterated the necessity of continuing the strategic global partnership between the two countries. Against this background, business leaders of both countries met on Dec. 28 in Delhi and exchanged views on ways to further expand our economic relationship through cooperation on large infrastructure projects and improvement of the business environment in India.

Following up on the extensive discussions in both business and government sectors, the Indian government could help Japanese companies speed up investment with a variety of policy measures, including simplification of tax sys-



**Takashi Shoda**