

# REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

## Keidanren set to boost ties

By Hiromasa Yonekura  
Chairman of Keidanren

On behalf of Keidanren, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on India's 64th Republic Day.

India has achieved remarkable economic growth in recent years, attracting the world's attention as one of the most vibrant emerging economies. In the meantime, economic relationships between Japan and India have been consistently expanding. Currently, every year more than 100 Japanese companies set up business in India.

Eager to make greater contributions to promoting Japan-India economic ties, we in the Japanese business community are encouraged by significant progress in the governments' initiatives to build stronger bilateral partnerships: the Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was brought into effect in August



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2011 and the Japan-India Social Security Agreement was signed in November last year.

We consider it is time to step up efforts to implement the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project, a symbol of Japan-India economic cooperation. This undertaking should lead to a substantial increase in investment by Japanese firms in the development of India's hard and soft infrastructure, particularly in areas where Japan has competitive advantage, such as thermal, nuclear and renewable power generation; railways, ports and roads; and environmental protection technology.

It is our sincere hope that the Japanese and Indian governments will further enhance their strategic global partnership on the economic front and advance their efforts to form a bilateral nuclear agreement and improve Indian business environment including taxation and distribution systems.

Japan and India share the values of democracy and the free-market economy. By working closely together, the two countries should be able to achieve stronger, sustainable economic growth and build a bright, prosperous future for their peoples. Keidanren will continue to be firmly committed to further strengthening the ties between Japan and India.



Courtesy of Indian Embassy  
Indian Ambassador Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, left, shakes hands with Nobuhiko Sasaki, vice-minister of international affairs of the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry, after signing of the Memorandum on Cooperation in the Rare Earths Industry at METI on Nov. 16, 2012.

## Number of Japanese companies in India expected to exceed 1,000 by mid-2013

By Masami Iijima

Chairman of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee and President and Chief Executive Officer of MITSUI & Co., Ltd

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 63rd anniversary of India's Republic Day.

Japan and India share the values of Buddhism, which originated in India, as well as political systems based on democracy. Exchanges spanning many years have helped to build an extremely cordial relationship between our two countries. Last year was the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India, and mutual understanding between our countries was further



Masami Iijima

deepened by the more than 130 cultural exchange events that were held in India to commemorate this special year.

On Dec. 7, about 2,200 beautiful and colorful Japanese fireworks lit up the sky over India during a fireworks and projection mapping event held as the grand finale of the 60th anniversary celebrations. The fireworks drew loud applause from the many people who gathered in the area around India Gate in New Delhi to watch the event, which was widely reported in both the Indian and Japanese media. The grand finale was sponsored by corporate members of the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee, together with Indian companies, and we were very pleased that in addition to its significance as an extremely important symbol of friendship between Japan and India, the event was enjoyed by our Indian friends.

In November 2012, Japan and India signed two strategic agreements concerning social security and the joint production of rare earths. These agreements are indicative of recent progress in the political relationship between our two countries, which has advanced from discussion of general principles to the planning and implementation of actual projects. I sense that 2013 will bring further evolution

of the cooperative relationship between Japan and India.

The Japanese and Indian governments have reached agreement on a list of 19 candidate projects, worth a total of ¥1.2 trillion, relating to the development of infrastructure in western India in such areas as electric power, water treatment, transportation, logistics and the environment. Japan's world-class technology is being used in a number of schemes that are being implemented in step with the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project. These cooperative initiatives are widely expected to create new markets and jobs, and to contribute to the increased happiness and improvement in the quality of life for the people of India.

I am confident that the development of new business activities through Japan-India cooperation will not only lead to the revitalization of the Japanese and Indian economies, but will also contribute to the Asian economies and the world economy.

By mid-2013, the number of Japanese companies with business operations in India is expected to exceed 1,000. As of October

2012, there were 1,804 business sites belonging to 926 Japanese companies, indicating that the number of business operations is increasing even more rapidly than the number of Japanese companies expanding into India. I am very encouraged by this trend, which shows that companies that have already established operations in India are successfully developing their activities there.

Since its formation in 1966, the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee has engaged in activities designed to strengthen the economic relationship between Japan and India. As a private-sector organization involved in economic activities, we will continue to work toward increased prosperity for both countries.

I will conclude by once again offering my congratulations on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Republic Day of India, and my best wishes for the continuing prosperity of your esteemed country.

## There is no limit to Japan-India relations

By the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League

The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League would like to convey its heartfelt congratulations to the people of India on the 63rd anniversary of the country's Republic Day.

India, with its high economic growth rate, has been drawing the attention of the world as a major player in the region as well as the international arena. The greatest of India's many strengths lies in its solid democratic foundation that has provided a strong basis for its development since independence. We are confident that India will enjoy continued prosperity in the future with such firm democratic roots.

Japan and India have long been developing friendly relations over the years. In particular, since the establishment of the "Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership" in 2006, bilateral ties have grown stronger.

Last year marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and a series of cultural events were held in each nation to celebrate the occasion throughout the year. It was a good opportunity for us to reaffirm our historical link and deep mutual understanding.

There is no limit to the potential of Japan-India relations, which are based on universal values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law as well as mutual strategic and economic interests. We look forward to exploring this potential further to expand our relationship in the future.

For our part, the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League will continue to make utmost efforts to enhance bilateral ties. We send our best wishes to the people of India for their prosperity and for the continued development of our cordial relationship.

## Congratulations Heartiest Republic Day Greetings



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