

Republic Day of India

Warm kudos to people of India

By Nobutaka Machimura
President of the Japan-India
Parliamentarians' Friendship League

The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the people of India on the occasion of the 65th Republic Day of India.



Nobutaka Machimura

India, the world's largest democracy, is one of the most important partners of Japan. Japan and India share universal values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and maintain friendly relations founded on a long history of mutual exchange. Since the two countries established a "strategic and global partnership" in 2006, we have elevated this bilateral relationship to a new level. After my assumption of the office of the president of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League in May last year, other members of the league and I had the occasion to visit India in December.

The year 2013 was truly historic in that Their Majesties

the Emperor and Empress visited India for the first time in 53 years. I am extremely grateful that the Indian people warmly welcomed Their Majesties, and I am confident that the relationship between the two countries will continue to develop in the future.

During the visit of H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, to Japan in May of last year, Dr. Singh and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe signed a joint statement titled "Strengthening the Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India beyond the 60th Anniversary of [the Establishment of] Diplomatic Relations."

And today, Prime Minister Abe is visiting India to celebrate the 65th Republic Day with Prime Minister Singh and the people of India. Based on these summit-level exchanges, I believe that exchanges between the two countries will expand even further across wide-ranging fields and on many levels.

Our league remains strongly committed to actively contributing to the further deepening of the partnership between our two countries. I send my best wishes to the people of India for their further prosperity and for the continued development of our cordial relationship.

Keidanren accelerating Japan-India cooperation

By Hiromasa Yonekura
Chairman of Keidanren

On behalf of Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), I would like to offer heartfelt congratulations on the 65th Republic Day of India.

India has achieved remarkable economic development in recent years, attracting global attention as one of the most robust emerging nations. Economic relations between India and Japan are expanding steadily as the Japanese economy is back on a path to recovery, and we in the Japanese business community are stepping up efforts to enhance Japan-India cooperation in various fields.

Last December, Their Majesties the



Hiromasa Yonekura

Emperor and Empress of Japan visited India for the first time in 53 years and received a warm welcome from the people of India. The Japanese business community, and the people of Japan as a whole, are delighted that the friendship between the two countries has been further deepened by Their Majesties' visit.

On the economic front, we have been greatly encouraged by strong progress in the development of institutional partnership between Japan and India, including the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement launched in August 2011 and the Social Security Agreement ratified by the parliaments of both countries in December 2013.

Building on this momentum, the Japanese business community is going to accelerate the efforts to further strengthen the partnership and promote sustainable growth in both economies—in particular, the endeavor to realize the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the Chennai-

Bangalore Industrial Corridor, the infrastructure development projects symbolizing Japan-India economic cooperation.

We are convinced that if we can help enhance India's hard and soft infrastructure by undertaking projects in such areas as thermal, nuclear and renewable power generation, railways, seaports, roads and environmental technology, where Japan has strength, it should lead to a rapid expansion of Japanese companies' investment in India and spur India's growth.

It is our hope that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to India on the occasion of the

65th Republic Day will give a boost to the strategic and global partnership between the governments of Japan and India and that the governments will take this opportunity to press ahead with their efforts to conclude a bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement and to improve the business environment, including tax rules and distribution systems.

We sincerely hope that the visit by the prime minister and a Japanese business delegation to India this time will further promote the friendship and partnership with India and help make bilateral economic ties even stronger.

India's growth provides biz chances for Japan

By Ryuko Hira
Hon. President of K.S.H. Indian Merchants
Association-Yokohama, Indian Chamber of
Commerce & Industry-Tokyo

On behalf of the ICCJ, I wish to extend my warmest wishes to all readers on India's 65th Republic Day.

Declining domestic consumption and exports have motivated Japanese corporations to participate in India's economic development. A number of major Japanese firms have established themselves in India with both substantial presence and long-term commitments. These companies come from a wide variety of



Ryuko Hira

domains, including the pharmaceutical, automobile, construction machinery and railway sectors and heavy industry companies specializing in infrastructure projects for electric power and water supply. Japanese companies have made India their Asian base for re-exports to Africa and other countries.

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Yomiuri Shimbun file photo
Prime Minister Shinzo Abe,
right, and Indian Prime
Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh
hold a summit meeting in Tokyo
on May 29, 2013.

