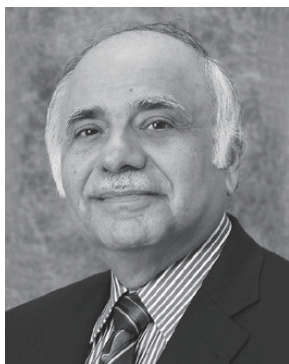


Reforms slated to unfetter energy business

RYUKO HIRA

CHAIRMAN, THE INDIAN COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



The Indian independence movement was characterized by the adoption of Mohandas K. Gandhi's policy of non-violence and civil disobedience. The movement was in

constant ideological evolution, being free from external interference in the context of nations.

In the 21st century, after successful efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic, India is embarking on a new era of reforms to be more "independent" in many sectors.

"For the all-round development of the nation, it is essential to end the unnecessary interference of government and government procedures in the lives of people, ... Today, we have abolished over 15,000 unnecessary compliances," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Independence Day speech in August 2021.

India is not self-sufficient in energy, spending over 12 lakh crore rupees (\$140 million) on importing energy supplies.

India will further accelerate its efforts toward the "blue economy," exploring the unlimited possibilities of the ocean, "making India a global hub for green hydrogen production and export, which not only helps India make new progress in the field of energy self-reliance, but will also become a new inspiration for clean energy transition all over the world," Modi said.

Modi's unwavering faith in his mission, I believe, comes from his deep understanding of the ancient Indian philosophy of Santhana Dharma, and his strong faith in Indian Saints, such as Sri Aurobindo, whose 150th birth anniversary is today.

Aurobindo was a visionary of India's bright future. He used to say: "We have to change our habits. We have to reawaken ourselves since the supreme end is the freedom of the spirit."

The Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan, which celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, serves as an apex body to provide support, guidance and consultancy advisory services to fully

develop the economic and investment potential between Japan and India.

While felicitating India's independence and freedom, on behalf of all ICIJ members, I convey our deepest appreciation to all who have contributed to India's cause and to the readers of The Japan Times.