

Republic Day of India Special

Shared values define stable alliance

SANJAY KUMAR VERMA
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA



On the occasion of India's 72nd Republic Day, I extend my warm greetings to their majesties, the emperor and empress of Japan, the government and people of Japan. I also take this opportunity to convey my greetings to fellow Indians in Japan who have contributed immensely in strengthening India-Japan

bilateral relations guided by our centuries-old historical linkages and heritage.

Over the last decade, India-Japan relations have evolved to a "special strategic and global partnership" based on shared values of democracy, nonviolence, human rights, a rules-based global order for global peace, stability, freedom and prosperity. Our cooperation has steadily progressed with recently held prime ministerial-level talks, Australia-India-Japan-U.S. consultations, India-Japan strategic dialogue and the institutionalizing of two-plus-two ministerial dialogue. The signing of an agreement on Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services and the successful conduct of

naval exercises adds further momentum. Our ties have been further cemented in important fields including cybersecurity, information and communication technology, space, civil nuclear cooperation, energy and science. The convergence in India's Indo-Pacific vision and Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific has contributed to mutual strategic and economic security. Japan is a key partner in India's global initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative. The India-Japan investment promotion partnership, Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway project; establishment of 12 Japan Industrial Townships; Technical Intern Training Programme; Manufacturing Skill Transfer Promotion Programme, including Japan-India Institutes for Manufacturing and the Japanese Endowed Courses; and the signing of a specified skilled worker agreement are examples of our deepening relations.

To mitigate the impact of the coronavirus, the Indian government announced economic reforms under "Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan/Self-Reliant India," also aimed at achieving the target of a \$5 trillion economy by 2024. India's emergence as a key player in complex multinational supply chains is another focus of this vision. Coping with the challenges of the pandemic, India as the "pharmacy of the world," is playing a pivotal role in international and multilateral collaborations to fight against COVID-19, be it medicines, equipment or vaccines, in the true spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. India has begun developing vaccines, including the indigenously developed Covaxin, with a unique "Co-WIN Vaccine Delivery Management System."

In these times, it is important that we stay positive. I wish all readers good health, success and happiness. I am confident the India-Japan alliance will grow from strength to strength in 2021.

Ancient philosophy can help future of post-pandemic life

RYUKO HIRA
CHAIRMAN, THE INDIAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



2020 started and ended with the coronavirus pandemic, forcing humanity to confront questions on how our lives have been impacted environmentally and socioeconomically. It has affected every aspect of global life, from individual relationships to institutional operations and international collaborations. There is now a need for collective action, to rebuild society more holistically. A portal of opportunity is now opening that will allow us to grasp a bright new future.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Self-reliant India" policy hints at a potential solution. In essence, the key to ultimate wealth and prosperity lies within us, not outside in the temporal world, as the ancient Indian Vedic philosophy of Sanatana Dharma (Eternal Righteousness) shows. If we don't even know ourselves, how then, can we find solace in life?

Prime Minister Modi said, "As we went through the centuries, there was innova-

tion, but ... at the heart of this was ethics and human values. ... Technology can contribute in a big way if it is also combined with values."

The isolatory effect of the pandemic has been to accelerate the pace of transformation in digital technologies, so it is indeed pertinent that Modi launched his "Technology-driven Systems" initiative as part of the "Self-reliant India" policy in May.

"The Japan-India Digital Partnership" of 2018 is based on shared values. It promotes development in information technology, human resources, artificial intelligence and the next generation of digital evolution. The inherent religious beliefs of both our countries are based on values of wholeness and oneness with nature. We can build sustainable, resilient and harmonious societies and thus overcome this pandemic-stricken world—without exploiting others.

This February the Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan is celebrating its 100th anniversary. It serves as an apex body providing support, guidance and advisory services to those interested in developing economic and investment potential between India and Japan.

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

Robust policies, strategy key to resilient partnership

YOSHIRO MORI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION



On the 71st anniversary of the Republic Day of India, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of India on behalf of the Japan-India

In spite of adversity affected by the pandemic, Japan and India have been successfully developing a "special strategic and global partnership." The Japanese vision "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" and Indian "Act East" policy are shared by the U.S., Australia and a number of Association of East Asian Nation countries. These attract positive engagement from the U.K. and European countries including France and Germany. The vision aims to spread peace and prosperity from the Pacific Ocean to Africa through the Indian Ocean.

I see a light at the end of the tunnel. Vaccines, which are now available or about to be, assure both countries that our fight against the pandemic will be finally won.

I believe our relationship will return to normalcy and we will be able to work jointly for the benefit of our people.

On this auspicious occasion, I pray for the prosperity of India and the Indian people.

Association. 2021 has started with Japan and India an exceptional difficulty caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

In September, then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a great contributor to robust Japan-India relations, was succeeded by Yoshihide Suga. Suga pledged to follow the path of Abe, including continuing our bilateral relationship.

Strong ties built on mutual respect

HIROYUKI HOSODA
PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN-INDIA PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On behalf of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the people of India on the 71st anniversary of India's Republic Day.

Japan and India maintain friendly relations founded on our long history of exchange; these ties have widened and deepened in recent years. Soon after his appointment in September, Prime Min-

ister Yoshihide Suga held a telephone conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They shared their views to continue advancing the "Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership."

The coronavirus pandemic remains a major challenge for the international community. We expect our two countries will continue to work to quickly overcome the crisis.

Through active contributions, The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League will help reinforce bilateral ties, capitalizing on the outstanding development potential that relations offer.

On this occasion, I send my best wishes to the people of India for their further prosperity and reiterate my hope for the continued development of our bilateral ties.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

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26th January
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