

India Independence Day Special

Bonds built on trade and investment

SANJAY KUMAR VERMA
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's independence, I extend my warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, and to the government and people of Japan. I also take this opportunity to convey special greetings to my fellow Indian citizens and friends of India in Japan — important stakeholders in the immersive India-Japan special strategic and global partnership. The partnership is rooted in history and tradition, and is based

on a strong foundation of shared objectives and common values, such as democracy, freedom and respect for the rule of law. I express my sincere condolences at the irreparable and tragic loss of H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister of Japan, who had worked tirelessly towards cementing India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. This year, we are also celebrating 70 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries. On the strength of a skilled workforce of more than 650 million people, a young population with an average age of 28, a vision to achieve a \$5 trillion gross domestic product, robust startup ecosystems, modern manufacturing and services sectors, a rich digital domain, an expansive set of usable data, multilingual abilities, varied climatic zones, conventional yet

rich agriculture and more, India and Japan continue adding value to their existing intense exchanges. Visits by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to India in March for the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit, followed by Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to Japan in May for "the Quad" summit, are testament to our strategic partnership. During the two visits, tangible successes were achieved, including in areas such as clean energy, cybersecurity, defense cooperation, sustainable development and intensification of Japanese investment in India that added another \$5 billion for the next five years. Our common vision is for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, coexisting in peace and displaying stability and sustainable development. Partnership in trade and investment is

the cornerstone of our bilateral relations and has yet to reach its potential. Japan is the fifth-largest investor in India. In the previous financial year, bilateral trade exceeded \$20.5 billion, the highest so far, despite disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic. The appetite of Japanese companies has increased due to the Indian government's various investment support measures, including the Production Linked Incentive scheme, the National Single Window System, PM Gati Shakti, the National Infrastructure Pipeline and taxation and labor law reforms. "Co-innovate," "co-create" and "co-produce" are new potential mantras for future collaboration. Unmet potential exists in areas such as food security, education, the environment, renewable and clean energy (hydrogen and ammonia as fuel),



President Droupadi Murmu
EMBASSY OF INDIA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi
EMBASSY OF INDIA

health care, manufacturing, micro, small and midsize enterprises, and startups. Collaboration in critical minerals and frontier technologies for 5G and beyond, big data, quantum computing, blockchain, Internet of Things, data security, networks, data transport systems and more are essential to creating resilient supply chains. India is also emerging as a top source of skilled human

resources for maintaining Japanese economic security. I look forward to continuing our close cooperation with the Japanese government, industry leaders, small and midsize enterprises, scholars, scientists and the people of Japan, to further elevate the India-Japan special strategic and global partnership to new heights.

Cooperation a hallmark of 70-year-old relationship

AKITAKA SAIKI
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of India's 76th Independence Day, I have a great honor to send most heartfelt congratulations of the Japan-India Association to the people and the government of India. This year is particularly significant and auspicious as it marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Japan and India. Since its foundation in 1903 by former Prime Minister Shigenobu Okuma and Eichi Shibusawa, who is often dubbed the "father of Japanese capitalism," the JIA has

always been at the forefront of the Japan-India relationship. After India became independent in August 1947, it extended friendship and helped Japan's return to the international community. With the end of the Cold War in 1989 and India's subsequent redirection of foreign policy and the commencement of drastic economic reform, the Japan-India relationship gained substantial momentum. In 2000, after the vicissitudes, then-Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, who later served as chairperson of the JIA until May this year, made an official visit to India. It was the first visit by a sitting Japanese prime minister since 1990 and he, with Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, launched the Japan-India global partnership. The relationship was further upgraded to a special strategic and global partnership "by then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

and Prime Minister Narendra Modi when the latter visited Tokyo in 2014. Today our cooperation is witnessing unprecedented development, thanks to the accelerated and mutual efforts of the governments, peoples and business communities of our countries. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Modi are working to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific with their shared vision and commitment to promoting peace and prosperity in the region and beyond. When both leaders met in March and May, they affirmed to keep working together in various areas ranging from global security, the COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change to energy and connectivity. Our bilateral relationship is also expanding in economic cooperation, trade and investment. A series of flagship projects in India, including the shinkansen project for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail-

way corridor, are underway. Japanese investment has become further visible in various commercial sectors in India. People-to-people contacts, including cultural exchanges, scholarship, youth exchange programs, tourism and initiatives of local governments for establishing direct contacts, are expected to be revitalized in the coming years. It is my sincere wish that the 75th anniversary of India's independence will mark another significant milestone for both India and the Japan-India relationship. The JIA is deeply committed to further contributing to our ever-expanding relationship. On a final note, the Japan-India Association mourns the passing of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe just one month after becoming our chairman. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the public and private sectors of India for their mourning.

Security, economy top priorities

HAKUBUN SHIMOMURA
MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

I would like to extend my deepest congratulations on the occasion of your 76th Independence Day. I pray for your public peace, and I hope that you will achieve even more development in security and peace. Cooperation between our countries

remains extremely important for the realization of a free and open Indo-Pacific. In order to achieve this, I am confident that the strong relationship between Japan and India will be steadily expanded and deepened. As chairman of the Liberal Democratic Parliamentary League of Promotion of Yoga, I will strive to promote cultural exchanges between our two countries and to build a strong relationship in the fields of economy and security. I wish you good health and happiness. *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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India Independence Day Special

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.



Ram Jhoola bridge spans the Ganges River in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand state. INCREDIBLE INDIA

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.



Lahore Gate, Red Fort, Old Delhi INCREDIBLE INDIA

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 ICJ members, I convey our deepest appreciation to all who have contributed to India's cause and to the readers of The Japan Times.

'Sky is the limit' when charting the future of Indo-Japanese ties

TOMOHIKO TANIGUCHI
PROFESSOR, KEIO UNIVERSITY; SPECIAL ADVISER TO PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE



The best way to celebrate our shared past is to envision further richness in our shared future by recalling what the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe would always say: For the Indo-Japanese bilateral relationship, the sky is the only limit.

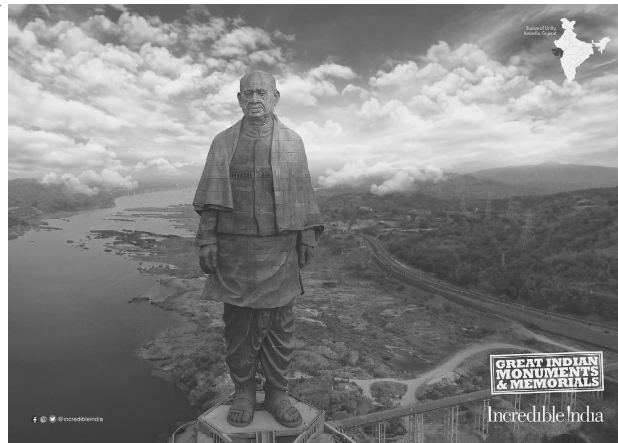
Japan and Australia introduced the term Asia-Pacific when they launched in the 1980s what would soon become APEC — the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. Abe was not happy. He wanted to fully embrace the rise of India as a democratic knowledge house now and going forward. He wished that the oldest and the largest democracies of the

region could — indeed should — take the noble responsibility of enhancing the rules-based international order.

Hence his 2007 speech of "Confluence of the Two Seas," which replaced Asia-Pacific with Indo-Pacific and paved the way for India, Japan, Australia, and the United States to gather under the roof of "the Quad."

It was yet again India and its people that sent the most touching message of condolence to the people in Japan upon the sudden and most tragic death of Abe. That the country and its people spent a whole day mourning and did so nationwide pacified and touched many a heart here in Japan, and reminded equally many that, come August, your elected parliamentarians have never failed to pray for the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Thank you! Our Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Abe were soul mates. So must be our peoples. Above us must be no cloud.



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INDIA 15th August INDEPENDENCE DAY

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