

Republic Day of India Special

Working together toward peace, stability and prosperity

SIBI GEORGE
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA



On the occasion of India's 74th Republic Day, I extend my warm greetings to their majesties the emperor and empress of Japan, as well as to the government and people of Japan. I also take this opportunity to convey special greetings to my fellow Indian nationals and friends of India in Japan who are important stakeholders in the progressive India-Japan special strategic and global partnership.

We celebrate this occasion at a momentous time, as Japan and India continue to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. India is also in the middle of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an initiative commemorating 75 years of independence and hon-

oring the nation's history, culture and achievements.

2022 marked the renewed momentum of high-level political engagement between our nations. H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's visit to India in March 2022 for the annual summit was crucial in reaffirming the special strategic and global partnership between Japan and India and setting a road map for us to realize our bilateral potential. The declaration of a ¥5 trillion investment target to be realized in the next five years, formulation of a road map for the India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership, as well as the unveiling of the Clean Energy Partnership and renewal of the bilateral currency swap agreement of \$75 billion are important steps to deepen the cooperation between our two nations.

The India-Japan special strategic and global partnership is based on the strategic foundation of shared values, including democracy, freedom and respect for the rule of law. The strategic aspects of the

relationship have gained new meaning, reflected in our frequent bilateral and plurilateral engagements. At the "two-plus-two" ministerial talks held in September, the foreign and defense ministers of both India and Japan committed to work more closely on strategic aspects of the partnership. In the ongoing endeavor to deepen our defense exchanges, Japan participated for the first time in the naval exercise Milan, followed by the bilateral Dharma Guardian exercise, the multilateral Exercise Malabar and India's participation in Japan's International Fleet Review. Currently, India and Japan are holding Veer Guardian, their first-ever joint fighter jet exercise.

India envisions a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, based on the principle of SAGAR, India's strategic vision for Security and Growth for All in the Region. As members of "the Quad," Japan and India are committed to working toward the peace, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Tokyo for

the Quad leaders summit in May 2022, participated in the launch of several pioneering initiatives to foster continuous collaboration in the maritime domain and in the fields of trade, space, climate change, health and cybersecurity.

Japan is a natural partner in India's economic transformation. The infrastructure development and Japanese-supported projects, including the Delhi Metro, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail, dubbed MASHR, and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and Freight Corridors, are the most iconic infrastructure projects in India. There is immense potential for both India and Japan to collaborate on economic security, including in crucial areas such as cybersecurity, connectivity and critical and strategic minerals and technology. India recently unveiled its Green Hydrogen Mission, with a vision to make India a global manufacturing hub for hydrogen and ammonia, opening up a major avenue of cooperation with Japan.

There are also huge complementarities for India's skilled human resources to contribute to the demands of the Japanese economy.

India has assumed the leadership of the G20 at a time of crisis and change in the world. Through its presidency, India seeks to embody the spirit of universal brotherhood through the theme of "Vasudhaiva



President Droupadi Murmu



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Kutumbhaka", or "One Earth, One Family, One Future." India seeks to strive for just and equitable growth for the entire world by sharing its strengths and experiences to address global challenges. A few examples include India's Vaccine Maitri initiative through which more than 250 million COVID-19 doses have been supplied to over 160 countries; India's use of digital technologies for development, inclusion and improved ease of living; yoga and ayurveda for emphasizing preventive health care; and the Lifestyle for Environment Mission that emphasizes individual responsible actions leading to globally transformative actions toward a greener future. India's G20 presidency also coincides with Japan's leadership of the G7, presenting a tremendous opportunity for utilizing convergences in our agendas and working on common priorities to achieve tangible and sustainable outcomes.

India's commitment to climate change has been unwavering. At the 26th U.N. Climate Change Conference in 2021, India set for itself the ambitious target of taking its nonfossil fuel energy capacity to 500 gigawatts by 2030 and achieving the target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. India is an important partner in global food security initiatives, ensuring security for its 1.4 billion citizens as well as supplying grain to many countries in need. India has taken the lead in celebrating 2023 as the International Year of Millets, an effort to repopularize nutritious and traditional grains.

India today is the fastest growing major economy and is a land of endless opportunities. Japan is among our most trusted partners in our journey toward Amrit Kaal, the 25-year lead-up to India's 100th anniversary in 2047. It is a responsibility of each stakeholder in this relationship to realize the full potential of our partnership and take our special strategic and global partnership to the next level.

Time-tested partnership continues to evolve

YOSHIHIDE SUGA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN INDIA ASSOCIATION



On the 73rd anniversary of the Republic Day of India, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of India on behalf of the Japan-India Association.

I also take this opportunity to express my satisfaction on the successful completion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between our countries

last year, with a number of political, economic and cultural events, as well as people-to-people contacts.

Our bilateral relations have been evolving over the past decade under the special strategic global partnership and the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. These ties were further augmented by high-level meetings in 2022, including Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's visit to India in March and the "two-plus-two" ministerial talks in Tokyo in September. The prayer by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the state funeral of the late Shinzo Abe touched the hearts of Japanese people. The Quad leaders summit in Tokyo in May also confirmed the strong

cohesion of the four countries, including Japan and India. It is my firm belief that our time-tested partnership will further flourish in the coming years.

This year both Japan and India bear global responsibilities as chairs of the G7 and G20 leading industrialized nations, respectively. I hope there will be robust interactions between us to grapple with the various issues our world is facing today.

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

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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Republic Day of India Special



Prime Minister Narendra Modi walks beside Prime Minister Fumio Kishida during Kishida's March 2022 visit to India. EMBASSY OF INDIA

Great economic, scientific potential

RYUKO HIRA

CHAIRMAN, THE INDIAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



The scale and intensity of change that India has experienced in the Modi government are more evident now and shall be much more in the future.

India began its year-long presidency of the Group of 20 industrial and emerging nations in December, at a time of geopolitical tumult and uncertainty over post-pandemic economic recovery. The Centre for Economics and Business Research said that over the next five years, the annual rate of gross domestic product growth is expected to average 6.4%, after which growth is expected to average 6.5% in the subsequent nine years.

The International Monetary Fund projects that India's GDP is expected to

overtake Japan's to make it the world's third-largest economy by 2027 and become a \$10 trillion economy by 2035, with India's population surpassing that of China this year.

India expresses its deep belief in the world being a family through greater development partnerships, harmonizing its national interests with its international obligations.

The past eight years have witnessed a tripling of lines of credit commitments over the previous eight-year period.

The National Education Policy was newly formulated in 2020 for the first time in 34 years and aims to transform India's higher education system into the world's best, making India a global knowledge superpower and emphasizing the importance of holistic development and the role of teachers in nurturing students' overall development.

The role of technology has been changing the socioeconomic landscape with a fusion of many emerging technologies. In 2024, the Gaganyaan mission will launch

a three-member Indian crew into low-earth orbit, making India the fourth nation (after Russia, the United States and China) to acquire human spaceflight capability. Future plans include the Aditya mission to study the sun; the Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission; Mangalyaan-2 to return to Mars; and Venus in the mid-2020s, which will boost research and technology development in materials processing, astrobiology, resource mining, planetary chemistry, planetary orbital calculus and many other areas.

With all its immense and immediate economic and scientific potential, India is destined and ready to contribute to the world in the process of transformation.

The Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan, having celebrated its 100-year anniversary, serves as an apex body to provide support, guidance and advisory services to all interested parties, enabling them to fully develop the economic potential and investment between Japan and India. On behalf of all ICIJ members, I convey our deepest appreciation to readers of The Japan Times.

A pivotal year for cooperation and leadership

HIROYUKI HOSODA

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



As the speaker of Japan's House of Representatives, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the people of India on the occasion of the 74th Republic Day of India.

Japan and India last year marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1952. With a long history of warm exchanges, we have successfully constructed a very cordial relationship that

has deepened even further in recent years.

In an increasingly complex global situation, the cooperative relationship between Japan and India, which share fundamental values such as freedom, democracy and peace, has become even more important. This will be a pivotal year, with Japan holding the presidency of the Group of Seven, and India the presidency of the G20, allowing our two countries to further collaborate and lead the international community together.

As the chairman of the Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League, I have contributed to the development of our bilateral relationship. In September 2016, I led a JIPFL delegation to India. We paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and visited several sites,

including the Delhi Metro and the manufacturing plants of Japanese automotive companies. I look forward to further cooperation between Japan and India on infrastructure development projects, such as India's high-speed railway, and in the exchange of information technology personnel in the fields of digital technology and cybersecurity. I am convinced that the relationship between Japan and India will remain robust, and as the speaker of the Lower House, I will work harder to further develop the relationship by stimulating exchanges between the parliaments of our countries.

I would like to conclude my message by expressing my sincere wishes for the further prosperity of your country and the well-being of all Indians.