

India Independence Day Special

Thriving as a responsible and valuable actor on global stage

SIBI GEORGE
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA



On the occasion of India's 78th Independence Day, I extend warm greetings to their majesties the emperor and the empress of Japan, and to the government and the people of Japan. I also convey my special greetings to the Indian community and friends of India in Japan.

India's journey since independence has been one of remarkable transformation and progress. Our vibrant democracy, deeply rooted in pluralism, continues to flourish, as evidenced by the successful conduct of the 2024 general elections, which were the largest exercise in democracy in the history of mankind. This democratic exercise stands as a testament to our commitment to representative governance and the strength of our democratic institutions.

India's economy has shown resilience and dynamism, emerging as the fastest-growing large economy in the world. Our growth has remained robust, driven by reforms, increased foreign investment and a burgeoning startup ecosystem. The "Make in India" initiative has bolstered our manufacturing sector, while our services industry, particularly in information and digital technologies, continues to be a global leader.

The success of our Chandrayaan-3 mission to the moon and the indigenous development of vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic showcased our scientific prowess and commitment to global health. Furthermore, India's push toward renewable energy and electric vehicles demonstrates our dedica-



President Droupadi Murmu
EMBASSY OF INDIA

tion to sustainable development and combating climate change.

The government of India has embarked on a series of initiatives in digital inclusion, such as the Aadhaar biometric identification system and the Unified Payments Interface. These have revolutionized service delivery and financial inclusion, reaching even the most remote areas of our vast country, resulting in massive improvements in social indicators.

On the global stage, India has emerged as a responsible and constructive power. India held the presidency of the Group of 20 industrialized and emerging-market nations in 2023, and the G20 summit was a landmark event. The summit's outcomes reflected commitment to inclusive growth, sustainable development and multilateral cooperation. During its G20 presidency, India also prioritized the voice of the Global South. India's leadership in addressing global challenges such as climate change, terrorism and economic inequali-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi
EMBASSY OF INDIA

ties has also been widely recognized.

2024 is a landmark year in the relations between India and Japan. It marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the special strategic and global partnership between our countries. This relationship, built on shared values and mutual respect, has blossomed into a multifaceted collaboration spanning various sectors. Recent high-level exchanges have further strengthened our ties.

In 2023, the Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan for the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations and "Quad" leaders' summit, as well as Prime Minister H.E. Fumio Kishida's visit to India for a bilateral summit in March 2023 and the G20 summit in September 2023 added new dimensions to our partnership. Recent exchanges at the ministerial level such as the annual India-Japan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue held in March and Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in July have added to con-



External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar unveils a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Tokyo in July. EMBASSY OF INDIA

stant progress in the depth of cooperation.

In the economic sphere, our bilateral trade has surpassed \$22 billion, and has still more potential to grow, considering the growing synergies between our economies. Japanese investments in India continue to rise, and our countries have set a target of \$5 trillion (\$34 billion) by 2027. This influx of capital is not only boosting the presence of Japanese companies in India, but also contributing significantly to our economic growth and job creation. India is also looking at actively participating in the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, which would further strengthen the beneficial investment trends between India and Japan.

The collaboration in science and technology between our countries has reached new heights. Joint research initiatives in areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors and biotechnology are paving the way for groundbreaking innovations. The India-Japan Digital Partnership, launched in 2018, has fostered cooperation in emerging technologies, cybersecurity and digital infrastructure. Cooperation in the space sector, such as in the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission, has proved that even the sky is not the limit for India-Japan cooperation.

Defense cooperation between our nations has strengthened considerably. Joint military exercises and strategic dialogues have

enhanced our mutual security interests. The signing of the Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services Agreement has further facilitated our defense cooperation.

People-to-people contacts form the bedrock of our relationship. Building on the success of the 2023 India-Japan Year of Tourism Exchange, 2024 was designated as India-Japan Year of Tourism 2.0, with the theme "Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji." Educational exchanges and skill development programs continue to nurture the bonds between our youth. In September, we will mark India Month in Japan to further give a boost to our people-to-people connections.

On the global stage, India and Japan have demonstrated remarkable convergence in their visions. The synergy between India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative policy and Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision, along with collaboration under the Quad framework, underscores our shared commitment to a rules-based international order. The alignment of visions during India's G20 presidency and Japan's G7 presidency in 2023 showcased our nations' leadership in addressing global challenges. Both presidencies focused on inclusive growth, climate action and technological innovation.

With India firmly in the "Amrit Kaal," the golden phase of progress leading up to the centenary of Indian independence,



Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat state
INCREDIBLE INDIA



International Day of Yoga at Tsukiji Hongwanji temple in June. EMBASSY OF INDIA

India's potential as a responsible global partner continues to grow. This is due to its fundamentally robust growth, a demographic dividend with the power to shape the future global workforce, and a commitment to sustainable development, climate action and peacekeeping efforts underscoring a strong dedication to global welfare. India's voice in international forums also advocates for equitable representation and reform of global institutions to reflect the realities of the 21st century.

As we celebrate our Independence Day, we also celebrate the enduring friendship between India and Japan. Our partnership, rooted in shared values and mutual respect, has the potential to further strengthen cooperation by exploring complementarities and shaping a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. As we step into the future, I am confident that the India-Japan partnership will continue to flourish, bringing our nations closer and contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and to the betterment of the global community.

MAY THE ENDURING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND JAPAN CONTINUE TO PROSPER.

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RAJESH KHULLAR
CEO YOUNG GUNS GROUP

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India Independence Day Special

Long history of mutual trust

YOSHIIHIDE SUGA
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA
ASSOCIATION



On the occasion of the 78th Independence Day of the Republic of India, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of India. Since India's independence, we have

built a deep friendship and cooperation. Our collaboration in various fields such as economics, culture and education has contributed to the development of both nations.

Recently, the technological cooperation and business exchanges between Japan and India have become increasingly active, accelerating the economic growth of both countries. Additionally, through cultural exchanges, we are deepening our mutual understanding and striving to build a peaceful and prosperous future.

Japan and India share a long history of cultural exchange and mutual respect. From the introduction of Buddhism to the exchange of modern technological innovations, our countries have always found ways to learn from each other and grow together. Japanese businesses have

increasingly recognized the potential of the Indian market, leading to significant investments and joint ventures that benefit both economies.

Education has also been a key area of collaboration. Japanese universities and Indian institutes of technology and management have established numerous exchange programs, allowing students from both countries to experience different cultures and academic environments. This exchange of knowledge and ideas is fostering a new generation of leaders who understand the importance of global cooperation.

In terms of strategic partnerships, our two governments have worked closely on regional security issues, ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Our shared values of democracy and rule of law, have strengthened our mutual trust and made us reliable partners on the global stage.

Looking ahead, I am confident that the Japan-India partnership will continue to thrive and adapt to the changing global landscape.

As we celebrate India's 78th Independence Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to working together for a brighter future. The Japan-India Association is also committed to supporting these exchanges to the best of our ability. Congratulations to the people of India on this momentous occasion.

Business opportunities continue to grow across various sectors

TATSUO YASUNAGA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS
COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee, it gives me great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Indian people

and government on the occasion of their historic celebration of India's Independence Day.

I recently participated in a mission to India led by Speaker of the House of Representatives Fukushima Nukaga. During the mission, we held meetings with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar and Speaker of the House of Representatives Om Birla. In one meeting, Nukaga and Modi agreed to strengthen Indo-Japanese relations and conduct human resource exchanges by inviting 50,000 Indian information technology engineers and students to work on Japan-related projects, with Japanese IT engineers and students working and learning together with them.

I was personally able to discuss a wide range of industries with Modi, including "green transformation (GX)," cold chain logistics, semiconductors and other areas related to the "Make in India" campaign. The mission also included visits to Infosys and Wipro, two of India's leading IT companies, and several Japanese manufacturers in India where I was able to learn more about their advanced business models and localization decisions for the Indian

market. We also exchanged views on the importance of human resource development initiatives.

In March, the 47th meeting of the Japan-India Joint Economic Commission was held in Tokyo. The meeting was attended by 110 people from the Japanese side and 40 people from the Indian side, resulting in active discussions.

Further business development is expected between Japan and India in various fields, including those related to decarbonization, GX and "Make in India," with the cooperation of Japanese companies in key sectors such as semiconductors, electronics, chemicals, automobiles (especially electric vehicles) and many others.

It is also important to build people-to-people links through tourism, promote Japanese-language education in India, and increase the intake of talented Indian human resources, including highly skilled Indian personnel and essential workers in Japan. Such initiatives would contribute to the growth of interpersonal links and business exchanges between our countries.

As a result of these initiatives, I believe there will be tremendous business opportunities going forward between India and Japan in various sectors.

In conclusion, I would once again like to extend my sincere congratulations on the occasion of India's Independence Day and express my hope for India's continued development and prosperity in the future.

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

Thriving education, research ties

RYUKO HIRA
CHAIRMAN, THE INDIAN COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



As India celebrates its Independence Day, it stands at the forefront of economic growth, with its gross domestic product growth rate for the fiscal year 2023-24 reaching 8.2%, the highest

among major economies. This remarkable growth underscores India's burgeoning economic landscape, bolstered by a robust information and technology and business process outsourcing industry, which, according to 2022 data, boasts a market size of approximately \$194 billion and an annual growth rate of 8% to 10%. The Indian BPO industry encompasses a wide range of services, including customer support, back-office operations, data processing, accounting, human resources and IT support.

In 2023, Japan announced a significant investment plan, committing \$42 billion (¥5 trillion) to India over the next five years. This investment aims to fund a variety of public and private projects, fostering enhanced collaboration in advanced fields such as robotics, renewable energy, autonomous vehicles and artificial intelligence.

Japan's contributions to India's infrastructure development are exemplified by projects like the Patna Metro, which received approximately ¥708 billion in Japanese funding. This project is expected to alleviate urban congestion and improve transit efficiency, significantly enhancing urban infrastructure. Additionally, Japanese firms are actively participating in India's Digital India initiative, helping to build information and communications technology infrastructure and enhance digital skills across the nation.

In the realm of environmental sustain-

ability, India and Japan are collaborating on innovative clean energy projects. The Green Ammonia Supply Project, involving the ACME Group and IHI Corp., aims to supply green ammonia from India to Japan, with an expected reduction of 54 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions over its lifecycle. Furthermore, through the International Solar Alliance, both nations are advancing solar energy projects, promoting sustainable energy solutions and contributing to global environmental protection.

Educational and research collaborations between India and Japan are also flourishing. Programs like the DST (Department of Science and Technology)-JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) Indo-Japan Science Program support joint research in various scientific fields, enhancing bilateral cooperation. The Sakura Science Exchange Program further strengthens ties by facilitating exchanges between young researchers and students, fostering a deeper understanding and collaboration in science and technology.

India's impressive economic growth, coupled with strategic partnerships and robust cooperation with Japan, positions it as an important player in the global economy. The collaborative efforts in technology, infrastructure, renewable energy and education not only bolster India's economic landscape, but also contribute significantly to global sustainability and innovation. As these partnerships continue to develop and expand, the potential for India and Japan to drive positive change on a global scale remains immense.

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.

Wishing you a Happy Independence Day



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Established in 1921, ICIJ is the oldest association of the Indian diaspora. The membership comprises several of the largest corporate groups. ICIJ engages as an apex body for organizing India trade fairs, exhibitions, seminars and symposiums. Indo-Japanese trade, economic and investment potential has expanded significantly, and ICIJ offers dependable comprehensive services to Japanese manufacturers, general contractors and other investors for fruition of the India-Japan economic agenda.

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