

# India Independence Day Special

## Numerous firsts highlight progress

**SANJAY KUMAR VERMA**  
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO JAPAN



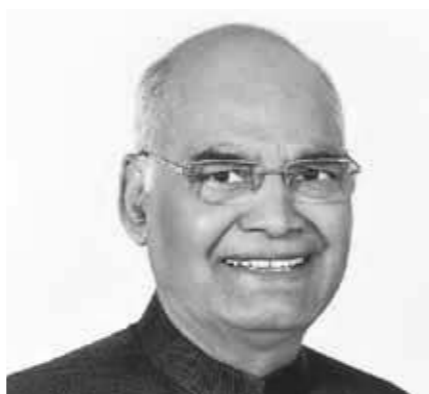
On the occasion of India's 73rd Independence Day, I extend my warm greetings to Their Majesties, Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, to the government and the people of Japan.

I also take this opportunity to convey my special greetings to the growing number of fellow Indians in Japan who are important stakeholders in our rapidly evolving special strategic and global partnership.

India, the world's largest democracy with strong cultural and constitutional values, is steadfastly on its path to emerge as a "New India." Continued economic reforms and simplified foreign direct investment (FDI) policies helped India in becoming a most favorable FDI destination. In fiscal 2018-19,

an all-time high totaling nearly \$64.37 billion in inbound FDI was registered. On the innovation front, India, ranked 52nd, moved up five places from last year in the World Intellectual Property Organization's Global Innovation Index 2019. Regarding manufacturing, India has made impressive progress in steel manufacturing as the second-largest steel producing country. The total installed renewable power capacity (excluding large hydro) in the country stood at 74.08 gigawatts (fifth in installed renewable energy capacity).

Today, there are many firsts happening in India. Recent achievements include India's first engineless train, the Vande Bharat Express; the country's first supercomputer, Param Shivay, with a 835 teraflop capacity; the Braille laptop DotBook; the "One Nation One Card" for transportation mobility; Mission Shakti, a successful anti-satellite missile test; an indigenous vaccine against Shigella; Navigation with Indian Constellation, a domestic GPS; an artificial intelligence-enabled 4G motorcycle, the ReVolt



**President of India Ram Nath Kovind**

RV 400; the processor Shakti; a domestically designed and fabricated microprocessor Ajit; and Chandrayaan-2, an Indian lunar mission launched in July expected to go where no country has ever gone before — the Moon's south polar region — and will also attempt to soft land the Vikram lunar lander and Pragyan rover.

India has chalked out a 10-point vision



**Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi**

for the decade. This includes a pollution-free India; digitization; space exploration; physical and social infrastructure; water management; the "blue economy" (ocean management); self-sufficiency and export of agricultural commodities; enhancing people-to-people partnership; minimum government, maximum governance; a healthy society and well-nourished women and children; safety of citizens; emphasis on micro, small and medium enterprises as well as startups, defense manufacturing, automobiles, electronics, fabrication facilities and batteries; and medical devices under the "Make in India" program. Startup ecosystems and "Skill India" initiatives are playing a significant role in developing India's human resources.

India-Japan bilateral relations, firmly rooted in history and based on shared values not only constitute the basis of the India-Japan bilateral relationship, but also underscore the principles for both countries to work together for the benefit of the Indo-Pacific region and the world at large. The relationship between India and Japan has expanded to be defined as a special strategic and global partnership. Annual summit meetings are a testimony to our vibrant, multifaceted relations.

Japan, India's third-largest investor, is our

### Cooperation backed by shared values, history

**YOSHIRO MORI**  
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of India's 73rd Independence Day, I have the great honor of sending my most heartfelt congratulations from the Japan-India Association (JIA) to the



people and the government of India.

Japan and India are witnessing an ever-growing development of our bilateral relations. The special strategic and global partnership that has been broadened and enlarged by the two countries' successive governments has brought our already excellent relationship to an increasingly higher orbit. These relations cover all facets — political, diplomatic, security, business and official development assistance projects that now extend even to the northeast region of India, scientific and academic cooperation, cultural and people-to-people exchange, sister cities as well as prefectural and direct state cooperation.

Thanks to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" that has been endorsed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and even

by President Donald Trump of the U.S., our relationship extends beyond our shores to the entire Indo-Pacific region including Oceania, the Middle East and Africa. Our enhanced friendship and cooperation, solidly backed by shared values of democracy and history, have become an uncontested catalyst among the nations of the Indo-Pacific region for their peace and prosperity.

The overwhelming victory of the prime minister in the last general elections of Lok Sabha and the successful results of the Upper House elections of the Japanese Parliament will undoubtedly push both governments' efforts to further our relations. The Japanese government and business community expect that the consolidated Modi government will earnestly address important Indian agenda items concerning infrastructure building, deregulation, business culture and other bottlenecks which are impeding a more rapid development of Indian economy and society.

I hope that the 73rd independence day of India will mark another important milestone both for India and the Japan-India relationship. JIA is determined to continue its contribution to our ever-expanding ties.

## High expectations for regional, international goals

**HIROYUKI HOSODA**  
PRESIDENT, THE JAPAN-INDIA PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On behalf of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of the Republic of India on

the occasion of the 73rd Independence Day of India.

India, the world's largest democracy, is

one of Japan's most important partners. Let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to and convey my congratulations on the largest general election in the world, which was successfully held without incident from April to May this year.

Japan-India relations have been steadily advanced through the leadership of our prime ministers as well as the mutual friendship between the people of both countries. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan last October, our two countries shared the view to cooperate on regional affairs and connectivity toward the realization of a free and open Indo-Pacific. On that occasion, the Japan-India Vision Statement was issued and a wide range of Exchange of

Notes were signed. According to the practice of annual mutual visits, it is now Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's turn to visit India. Based on such close relations at the leadership level, we have great expectations for the further expansion of bilateral cooperation and partnership on regional and global agendas.

The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League intends to actively contribute to reinforcing the Japan-India relationship, a connection blessed with the greatest potential for development of any bilateral relationship in the world.

I would like to send my best wishes to the people of India for their further prosperity and for the continued development of our cordial relationship.

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### Congratulations to the People of India on the 73rd Independence Day

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## FELICITATIONS ON INDIA'S 73RD INDEPENDENCE DAY

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# India Independence Day Special

## Business forums promote mutual exchange

**TETSURO TOMITA AND NOBUYUKI HIRANO**  
VICE CHAIRS OF KEIDANREN / CHAIRS OF COMMITTEE ON SOUTH ASIA

On behalf of Keidanren, we would like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to the people of India on the occasion of the country's 73rd Independence Day.

Since His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office in 2014, he has accomplished various effective reforms, such as introducing the Goods and Service Tax system and revising the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. They have had a great economic and social impact in India, and the Japanese business community thinks highly of these initiatives. The Bharatiya Janata Party led by Modi won a general election in April and May this year, prompt-



ing a second term for him and his government. We have high expectations Modi will promote further reforms to improve the business environment in India.

Since 2007, Keidanren has held India-Japan Business Leaders Forums with the Indian business community in conjunction with state leaders' visits, bringing together our two countries' business leaders to discuss various topics. The 11th forum took place in Japan in October last year.

Participants exchanged views on fostering economic partnerships, improving the business environment, and achieving inclusive growth before submitting a Joint Report of the Forum to Modi and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In addition, Keidanren took part in a public-private joint delegation from Japan to the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019 held in the Indian state of Gujarat in January, where participants met Modi and other ministers. The 12th Business Leaders Forum will take place in India this fiscal year. Through active exchange between our two countries, we will contribute to further developing the "India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership." We kindly ask for your continued support and cooperation in this endeavor.

## Harmonious bilateral relations continue to develop

**MASAMI IJIMA**  
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC), I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 73rd Independence Day of India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took a working majority in the Indian general election held from April to May. We are looking forward to the second Modi administration's efforts such as the "Make in India" initiative that promotes foreign investment and boosts local manufac-

turing and service industries. The number of Japanese companies in India reached 1,441 in October 2018, up 5 percent from 1,369 in the same month of the previous year. The government of India forecasts that economic growth will reach 6.8 percent in fiscal 2019, which shows stable economic expansion. Also, taking into consideration that significant large-scale projects such as the high-speed train line that adopts the Japanese shinkansen system are currently in progress, the number of Japanese companies entering the Indian market will continue to trend upward.

JIBCC was established in 1966 to enhance mutual understanding and friendship while facilitating economic relations between Japan and India. In February, JIBCC held its 43rd joint meeting with our counterpart, the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC). At the meeting, following a key-

note speech entitled "Global Situation on AI and India-Japan Collaboration," numerous sessions including "Japan-India Economic Cooperation in Third Countries including African Countries" and "Digital Technologies including AI (artificial intelligence) and IoT (the internet of things)," "Opportunities in Service Sectors between Japan and India" and "Investment Attractiveness of Regional Hubs in India" took place. JIBCC also held a reception for interacting and developing a good rapport with JIBCC. We hope to make use of the information, ideas, and connections gained through these events for the committee's future activities.

In closing, I would like to offer my congratulations once again on the 73rd Independence Day of India, and my sincere hopes for India's continuing development and prosperity in the future.

## Reflecting on peaceful virtues in Indian philosophy

**RYUKO HIRA**  
CHAIRMAN, THE INDIAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



Nations today are enslaved by global complexities. Ongoing trade wars, currency wars, hot wars, cold wars as well as protective and political motives in the disguise of nationalism and populism, have divided nations into blocs and regions seeking conciliation from the United Nations rather than working for the unity of nations.

Today is a day to review and reflect on the power of India's holistic philosophy that has bestowed courage, confidence and unshakable faith among the Indian masses to bravely face the psychological damage caused by colonization — the undermining of its very own social beliefs, rights, and the fact that many of today's racial, religious and ethnic tensions are the consequences of an oppressed society.

India's struggle for freedom and independence is an inspiration and exemplary role model for all. Mahatma Gandhi, who dedicated his life to India's independence, chose humanity's two most powerful virtues as his instruments — the indomitable power

of truth and the ever-expansive power of compassion deeply embedded in the domain of nonviolence.

It was truth and nonviolence in thoughts, words and deeds that shaped Gandhi's principles and philosophy to successfully liberate India without using any destructive weapons. The indomitable power of truth is enshrined in India's national emblem as "Truth alone triumphs."

World leaders and luminaries have embraced Gandhi's legacy for building world peace over seven decades. This year is the 150th anniversary of Gandhi's birth. With the cooperation of UNESCO and over 180 countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched massive global

programs to salute Gandhian doctrines and firmly secure peace and prosperity for the next 150 years by inculcating virtues of truth and nonviolence in the world's youth.

The India-Japan partnership is filled with promise and potential that will widely contribute to enduring peace and prosperity in Asia and beyond. The Indian Commerce and Industry Association (ICIJ), established in 1921 as an apex body, has served India's economic agenda for 98 years.

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. I am grateful to The Japan Times and its readers.

*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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# world



A medical examiner vehicle is seen at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, where Jeffrey Epstein was found dead, on Saturday. REUTERS

## Guards suspended, warden reassigned as failures over Epstein death mount up

NEW YORK AP

The warden at the federal jail where Jeffrey Epstein took his own life over the weekend was removed Tuesday and two guards who were supposed to be watching the financier were placed on leave while federal authorities investigate the death.

The move by the Justice Department came amid mounting evidence that the chronically understaffed Metropolitan Correctional Center may have bungled its responsibility to keep the 66-year-old Epstein from harming himself while he awaited trial on charges of sexually abusing teenage girls.

Epstein was taken off a suicide watch last month for reasons that have not been explained, and was supposed to have been checked on by a guard every 30 minutes. But investigators learned those checks were not done for several hours before he was found Saturday morning, according to a person familiar with the case who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Guards on the unit are now suspected of falsifying log entries to show they were making the checks, according to another person familiar with the probe.

In the past, guards at both federal and state prisons have faced criminal charges over false entries in duty logs that were discovered after something went wrong with a prisoner.

Surveillance video reviewed after the death showed guards never made some of the checks noted in the log, according to

the person, who also was not authorized to disclose information and spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity.

Attorney General William Barr ordered warden Lamine N'Diaye temporarily assigned to the Bureau of Prisons' regional office while the FBI and the Justice Department's inspector general investigate. The two guards were not identified.

While the exact manner of Epstein's death has not been officially announced, another person familiar with operations at the jail said the financier was discovered in his cell with a bedsheet around his neck.

That person likewise spoke on condition of anonymity.

Under the jail's protocol, Epstein would not have been given a bedsheet had he been on suicide watch. He was placed on suicide watch last month after he was found on the floor of his cell with bruises on his neck, but he was later returned to the jail's special housing unit for inmates needing close supervision.

The Bureau of Prisons sent a team of prison psychologists, known as a suicide reconstruction team, to the jail on Tuesday, a Justice Department official said. They are expected to reconstruct the scene, analyze why Epstein took his own life and look at

how it happened, the official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen was being briefed by the FBI every three hours on the progress of their investigation.

The warden of an institution in upstate New York has been named the acting warden at the jail.

Eric Young, president of the union council that represents prison guards, said that such reassignments are routinely done to "protect the integrity of investigations until any formal action, if any, is warranted."

Jose Rojas, a union leader and teacher at a federal prison in Florida, said N'Diaye should be home without pay instead of being reassigned. He said it appears to him that the Bureau of Prisons is "protecting him and putting the blame on officers."

"I put this on the warden," he said. "If he would have had common sense and followed policy, we wouldn't be here discussing this."

More details began to emerge Tuesday about the guards who were supposed to be supervising Epstein and the conditions under which they were working.

The guards on Epstein's unit the night of his apparent suicide were working overtime shifts to make up for staffing shortages, two people familiar with the matter said. One of the guards, who had a different job in the jail and did not regularly perform correctional officer duties, was working a fifth straight day of overtime and the other guard was working mandatory overtime, the people said.

## 21 states sue U.S. government over coal rules

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA AP

A coalition of 21 Democratic-led states sued the Trump administration Tuesday over its decision to ease restrictions on coal-fired power plants, with California's governor saying the president is trying to rescue an outdated industry.

In June, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency eliminated the agency's Clean Power Plan and replaced it with a new rule that gives states more leeway in deciding upgrades for coal-fired power plants.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, says the new rule violates the federal Clean Air Act because it does not meaningfully replace power plants' greenhouse gas emissions.

"They're rolling things back to an age that no longer exists, trying to prop up the coal industry," California Gov. Gavin Newsom said at a news conference. He said the lawsuit was not just about Trump but "our kids and grandkids" who would continue to be harmed by coal pollutants.

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, whose state produced the second most coal behind Wyoming in 2017, predicted the lawsuit will ultimately fail at the U.S. Supreme Court, which stayed an earlier Obama administration attempt in 2016 at the request of a competing 27-state coalition.

He called the lawsuit a "big government power grab" and argued that the Democratic attorneys general "are dead wrong" in their interpretation of the Clean Air Act.

A coalition of 21 Democratic-led states has sued the Trump administration over its decision to ease restrictions on coal-fired power plants. AP



The U.S. EPA and White House issued similar statements saying they expect the new version to survive the court challenge, unlike the Obama-era rules.

"Unlike the previous administration, which crafted a far-reaching, burdensome, and unlawful rule that would have raised energy costs on hardworking American families, the Trump Administration's Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule responsibly protects our clean air, reduces greenhouse gases, protects jobs, and keeps costs affordable," White House spokesman Judd Deere said.

The lawsuit was filed by attorneys general in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia.

"The science is indisputable; our climate is changing. Ice caps are melting. Sea levels are rising. Weather is becoming more and more extreme," New York Attorney General Letitia James, who is leading the coalition, said in a statement. "Rather than staying the course with policies aimed at fixing the problem and protecting people's health, safety, and the environment, the Trump Administration repealed the Clean Power Plan and replaced it with this 'Dirty Power' rule."

The states were joined by six local governments: Boulder, Colorado; Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia and South Miami, Florida.

The EPA's analysis of the new rules predicts an extra 300 to 1,500 people will die each year by 2050 because of additional air pollution from the power grid. But EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler in June said Americans want "reliable energy that they can afford."