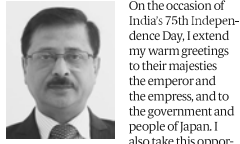


# India Independence Day Special

## Joint development across many areas

**SANJAY KUMAR VERMA**  
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA



On the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day, I extend my warm greetings to their majesties the emperor and the empress, and to the government and people of Japan. I also take this opportunity to convey special greetings to fellow Indian nationals in Japan who are important stakeholders in the progressive India-Japan special strategic and global partnership, as well as congratulations to Japan for successfully hosting the 2020 Tokyo Olympics despite the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges as well as provided new opportunities globally. India has taken proactive steps to counter the pandemic and as a result, the cumulative number of COVID-19 infections as well as deaths per million people is below that of more than 100 countries. India has also contributed 66 million doses of vaccine directly or through the COVAX facility to



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi**  
EMBASSY OF INDIA

more than 95 countries.

The India-Japan special strategic and global partnership is based on a strong foundation of shared values, such as democracy, freedom and respect for the rule of law. Our partnership is reflected in a vast array of institutional mechanisms, including the recently launched multistakeholder India-Japan Forum. Japan is a natural partner in India's infrastructure development projects, such as the Delhi Metro and Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail. This partnership's influence on capacity-building is visible in the 17 Japan-



**President Ram Nath Kovind**  
EMBASSY OF INDIA

India Institutes for Manufacturing, seven Japan Endowed Courses and the recently agreed Specified Skilled Worker program. India and Japan are also engaged in realizing the potential of ayurveda and yoga for the well-being of all.

India has improved its place in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings to 63rd through a series of reforms in the labor, tax and investment codes. As a pathway to the future, both countries need to come together to "coinnovate," "cocreate" and "coproduce," by combining their strengths

and competitiveness.

Another pillar in this relationship is the India Japan Digital Partnership, which explores synergies between Japan's "Society 5.0" policy and India's "Digital India," "Startup India" and "Skill India" initiatives. As one of the largest startup ecosystems in the world, India opens up opportunities in frontier technologies such as 5G, big data analytics and quantum computing.

India, as a net security provider, envisions a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific based on the principle of security and growth for all in the region. India continues to look for solutions to global problems through key initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and the more recent Supply Chain Resilience Initiative.

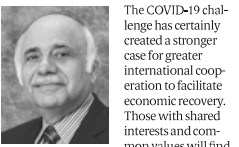
As India approaches the momentous milestone of its 75th year of independence, it envisions itself as a reinvigorated *atmanirbhar* (self-reliant) nation. 2022 will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of India-Japan diplomatic relations, and I am confident that the India-Japan partnership will continue to grow from strength to strength based on increased people-to-people exchanges.



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** plants a sapling at the inauguration of the Varanasi International Cooperation and Convention Centre in the state of Uttar Pradesh on July 15. EMBASSY OF INDIA

## Strong support to further enhance cultural, economic relationships

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



The COVID-19 challenge has certainly created a stronger case for greater international cooperation to facilitate economic recovery. Those with shared interests and common values will find it easier to forge stronger partnerships.

In ensuring economic recovery, Indo-Japanese relations have a notable role, even beyond Asia. The partnership is seen today as among the most significant in the region. Both countries are partners in each others' national, regional and global engagements.

Our cooperation reflects the needs of the time, whether it is through a fund to support start-ups or an agreement to receive skilled workers and professionals from each other. Our strong strategic convergence is evident in our annual summit, "2+2" meetings and strategic, as well as regional and multilateral, forums.

With recent successful common projects such as the bullet train initiative, the Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor and the dedicated western freight corridor, Japan's long-standing foreign direct investment

footprint in India is steadily expanding.

2022 marks the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. Many of Japan's prefectures that have varied interests with India are planning to further enhance our relations by hosting economic and cultural events throughout the year.

On July 15, the opening ceremony for the Varanasi International Cooperation and Convention Centre, which was constructed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, was held in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

At the ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "the friendship between Japan and India is one of the most trusted ones in the world, both strategically and economically, and Japan has always been the most reliable partner in India's development."

The Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, serves as an apex body to provide support, guidance and consultancy/advisory services to all interested parties, enabling them to fully develop the economic and investment potential between Japan and India.

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 and to the readers of The Japan Times.

## Working to deepen mutual understanding and friendly ties

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

On behalf of the Japan-India Association, I have the honor to send our most faithful friendship wishes to the people of India on the 75th occasion of their independence.

I am gratified to see that India's international status is constantly on the rise and that the Japan-India relationship is developing. In particular, both countries have successfully expanded their vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region by



engaging not only the United States and Australia, but also a number of major European powers. As the solidarity uniting these democratic and free nations ever deepens, we may see the development of "Quad plus."

This year, however, both our countries are still facing continued adversity

because of COVID-19. Both Japan and India are obliged to suspend mutual visits of importance to slow the spread of the pandemic. Although business, cultural and other exchanges are still hampered, our two countries enjoy positive and future-oriented relations thanks to solid and constructive diplomacy and the friendship shared by the Japanese and Indian peoples.

As former chairman of Japan's Olympic Organising Committee, I am gratified to see that despite the vicissitudes, Japan

is finally hosting the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics with a strong determination to overcome the pandemic. I see another light at the end of this dark tunnel.

I am convinced that our relationship will get back on track in several months.

On this auspicious occasion, the Japan-India Association, with its 118 years of heritage and its wide-ranging network, renews its determination to work toward the further development of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and India.

### CONGRATULATIONS HEARTIEST INDEPENDENCE DAY GREETINGS

**HMI HOTEL GROUP**  
HOTEL, RYOKAN, SPORTS & CULTURE CENTERS

[www.hmi.co.jp](http://www.hmi.co.jp)

### CONGRATULATIONS HEARTIEST INDEPENDENCE DAY GREETINGS

**GENERAL INCORPORATED FOUNDATION SAI HIRA INDIA FOUNDATION**

Dedicated to India-Japan economic, tourism, educational, cultural and parliamentary exchanges

<http://www.shif.jp/>

## FELICITATIONS ON INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

**ICIJ** 公益社団法人 在日インド商工協会  
大正十年設立 ESTB 1921 THE INDIAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN

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.

PRESIDENT: MR. JAGMOHAN S CHANDRANI CHAIRMAN, CHAIRMAN: MR. RYUKO HIRA, VICE PRESIDENT: MR. V. SRIRAM, DIRECTORS: MR. SATISH THIAGARAJAN, MRS. POPI KURODA, MR. SUBRAMANIAN NATARAJAN, MR. NITIN HINGARH, MR. MARKUS, MR. VASHDEV RUPANI, INTERNAL AUDITOR: MR. S. K. RANGWANI, AUDITOR: VEERASURESHPKUMAR VEERAPPAN.

TEN SPECIALISED COMMITTEES: INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY – MR. V. SRIRAM AND MR. HARSH OBRAI, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – MR. NITIN HINGARH, INDIAN RESTAURANTS – MRS. POPI KURODA, TOURISM AND TRAVEL INDUSTRY – MR. MARKUS, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL – MS. NIRMAL JAIN, LEGAL AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS – MR. VEERASURESHPKUMAR VEERAPPAN, KANSAI REPRESENTATIVE – MR. KIRAN SETHI, NORTH JAPAN REPRESENTATIVE – MR. DILIP MANSUKHANI, INDIAN JEWELLERS – MR. ALOK RAKYAN, MERCHANDISE TRADING – MR. V.B.RUPANI.

24-2-306, Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama 231-0023 Tel: 045-662-1905 E-mail: [info@icij.jp](mailto:info@icij.jp) <http://www.icij.jp>


# India Independence Day Special



Akshardham Temple in Delhi opened in 2005. Above: Built in 1972, Indosan Nipponji temple was designed to look like a Japanese shrine. EMBASSY OF INDIA

## Political exchanges on upward path

**HAKUBUN SHIMOMURA**  
CHAIRPERSON, LDP POLICY CHIEF COUNCIL



On behalf of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of the Republic of India on their 75th Independence Day.

I am pleased to acknowledge that Japan and India have enjoyed cordial relations through a long history of interaction. As the relationship between Japan and India

is blessed with the greatest potential for development of any bilateral relationship in the world, our cooperation has become wider and deeper in recent years. While cooperation in security and defense and economic relations deepens, it is also expected that people-to-people and cultural exchanges between our two countries will be promoted further. Although people's movement is limited due to COVID-19 restraints, I believe that these areas have great potential to explore in our relationship.

I visited India in 2014 as minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology and discussed with my counterparts cultural and educational exchanges between Japan and India. I had an opportu-

nity to interact with university officials, too. In addition, as chairman of the Parliamentary League for Promotion of Yoga, it is my hope that interactions between our countries will be expanded through yoga. I was delighted to join the celebration of the seventh International Day of Yoga on June 21.

2022 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between Japan and India. We hope our bilateral exchanges will be promoted further in various areas through this anniversary.

On this special occasion, I express my best wishes to the people of India for their further prosperity, and reiterate my hope for the continued development of our countries' friendship.

## Bilateral cooperation continues to expand

**HIROYUKI HOSODA**  
PRESIDENT, 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 people of the Republic of India on the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day.

years. After his appointment in September last year, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga held three telephone talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and they concurred that they would continue their effort to materialize the Japan-India special strategic and global partnership and confirmed the importance of cooperation towards realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific region. In addition, the first Japan-Australia-India-U.S. leaders' video conference was held in March. We welcome that our strategic relations are being expanded not only bilaterally, but also multilaterally.

Responding to a surge in COVID-19 infections in India in April, Japan provided assistance to our friend and partner to support her efforts to fight the pandemic. We expect that our two countries will continue to work hand in hand and overcome the COVID-19 crisis as soon as possible.

The year 2022 marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence as well as the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. We hope our bilateral cooperation will deepen further in various areas through this occasion.

The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League would like to actively contribute to reinforcing the Japan-India relationship for the post-COVID-19 world.

On this special occasion, I would like to send my best wishes to the people of India for their further prosperity, and reiterate my hope for the continued development of the two countries' friendship.

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

India, the world's largest democratic state, is one of Japan's most important partners. The two countries maintain friendly relations founded on our long history of exchange, and such cordial ties have become wider and deeper in recent



The Kaalasa Temple in Maharashtra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. EMBASSY OF INDIA


**Heartiest Independence Day Greetings**

**THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN JAPAN**

**THE INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-JAPAN**  
Hon. President: Ram Kalani

**THE INDIAN SOCIAL SOCIETY**  
Hon. President: Johnny Lalwani

**THE INDIA CLUB**  
Hon. President: Bhaven Jhaveri



Wish you a Happy Independence Day 2021

15th August  
*Happy Independence Day!*

**AHILYA Indian Restaurant & Bar**  
(OSAKI YOYOGI AOVAMA UTSUNOMIYA Branch)  
(Osaki) Tel & Fax: 03-3492-3084 (Yoyogi) Tel & Fax: 03-5371-5231 (Aoyama) Tel & Fax: 03-3470-0351 (Utsunomiya) Tel: 028-657-0173  
www.ahilya.jp

**AHILYA Meguro**  
2F, 1-3-28, Shimomoguro, Meguro-ku Tel: 03-6417-0676

**Best Wishes From**

**ROKKO SAREES & FABRICS CO., LTD.**

**NIA**  
Batra Insurance  
Agent for New India Assurance Co., Ltd.

**ROKKO SAREES**

**TOKYO (Ebisu Shin, East Exit)**  
Pinecrest 107, 1-7-3, Hirao, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo  
Tel: 03-3400-6887 Fax: 03-3400-6889  
Mobile: 090-8848-4373

**Heartiest Independence Day Greetings**

**Thakral Brothers Ltd.**  
Exporters & Importers

NPC Building Honmachi 702, 2-1-2, Kitakyuhoji-machi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, Japan  
Tel: (06) 6264-6226 Fax: (06) 6266-0290

# world



Reducing methane emissions could pose challenges for countries where agriculture and livestock are important industries. REUTERS

## Methane cuts key for planet: U.N.

**VALERIE VOLCOVICI**  
REUTERS

In four decades of climate negotiations, the world has focused intensely and exclusively on the most abundant climate-warming gas: carbon dioxide.

This year, scientists are urging a focus on another potent greenhouse gas — methane — as the planet's best hope for staving off catastrophic global warming.

Countries must make "strong, rapid and sustained reductions" in methane emissions in addition to slashing carbon dioxide emissions, scientists warn in a landmark report by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released Monday.

The plea could cause consternation in countries opting for natural gas as a cleaner alternative to coal. It also could pose challenges for countries where agriculture and livestock, especially cattle, are important industries.

But while both methane and carbon dioxide warm the atmosphere, the two greenhouse gases are not equal. A single carbon dioxide molecule causes less warming than a methane molecule, but lingers for hundreds of years in the atmosphere whereas methane disappears within two decades.

The report puts "a lot of pressure on the world to step up its game on methane," said IPCC report reviewer Durwood Zaelke, pres-

ident of the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development in Washington.

"Cutting methane is the single biggest and fastest strategy for slowing down warming," Zaelke said.

Today's average global temperature is already 1.1 degrees Celsius higher than the preindustrial average, thanks to emissions pumped into the air since the mid-1800s. But the world would have seen an additional 0.5 C of warming had skies not been filled with pollution reflecting some of the sun's radiation back out into space, the report says.

As the world shifts away from fossil fuels and tackles air pollution, those aerosols will disappear — and temperatures could spike.

Quickly reducing methane could "counteract" this effect, while also improving air quality, said IPCC report summary author Maisa Rojas Contradi, an atmospheric scientist at the University of Chile.

On a global scale, methane emissions are responsible for around 30% of warming since the pre-industrial era, according to the United Nations. But the role of methane, aerosols and other short-lived climate pollutants had not been discussed by the IPCC until now.

"The report draws attention to the immediate benefits of significant reductions in methane, both from an atmospheric concentration point of view, but also the co-benefits to human health from improved

air quality," said Jane Lubchenco, deputy director for climate and environment at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Updates in technology and recent research suggest that methane emissions from oil and gas production, landfills and livestock have likely been underestimated.

The report sends a loud signal to countries that produce and consume oil and gas that they need to incorporate "aggressive oil and gas methane reduction plans into their own climate strategies," said Mark Brownstein, senior vice president of energy at Environmental Defense Fund.

Landfill and energy company emissions might be the easiest to tackle, he said. Large-scale agricultural methane is tougher, because scaled-up replacement technology does not exist.

The EU is proposing laws this year that will force oil and gas companies to monitor and report methane emissions and to repair any leaks.

The United States is expected to unveil methane regulations by September that are more stringent than rules issued by the Obama administration, which were then rolled back under former President Donald Trump.

The United States and the EU account for more than a third of global consumption of natural gas.

## New hope for tech that buries carbon emissions?

**→ Continued from page 1**

Apart from the increased interest because of rising carbon prices, greater deployment of CCS would lower costs and help to make it profitable because of economies of scale.

"Part of the reason so many people are now talking about CCS is the movement in the carbon price and higher tax costs," said Sryre Crouch, VP of CCS at Shell, which has a target to capture and store 25 million tons of carbon dioxide a year by 2035.

Shell is involved in CCS projects in Europe, Canada and Australia.

IEA data finds the cost of capturing carbon dioxide, excluding transport and storage, ranges from \$15 per ton at a natural gas processing plant to over \$500 a ton at a direct air capture (DAC) plant, which sucks emissions out of the atmosphere and is the only negative-emission solution.

The cost variation depends on factors such as the concentration of carbon dioxide in the gas being captured.

Transport and storage costs also vary depending on what infrastructure exists, how far the carbon dioxide must be transported and the structure used for storage.

Total CCS costs are already starting to be manageable for some emitters, says Nick Cooper, CEO of project developer Storegga.

Storegga is leading development of the Acorn CCS project in Scotland, which aims to use existing oil and gas infrastructure to store 5 million to 10 million tons of carbon dioxide a year by 2030. Its partners are Shell and the oil and gas company Harbour Energy.

The majority of existing and developing CCS projects are at power plants or natural gas processing sites, but experts say more projects are needed to put CCS filters on smokestacks for industries such as steel and cement.

Large industrial companies such as HeidelbergCement, LafargeHolcim, ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel are among those consid-

ering CCS to meet their climate targets.

"If you are an industry with high emissions, and you aren't actively planning for how these emissions are going to be avoided or stored in the future, you are running the risk of stranding your assets, and that risk goes up the more that carbon prices go up," says Mark Freshney, an energy analyst at Credit Suisse.

Chemicals giant Ineos hopes to eventually store around 1 million tons of carbon dioxide from its Scottish Grangemouth plant at the Acorn site, and in July signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Storegga.

"Had it not been for that movement (in carbon prices) we wouldn't be having this conversation on CCS. It has definitely led to a sea change," says Colin Pritchard, Energy Business Manager at Grangemouth.

Ineos is also developing the Greensands CCS project off the coast of Denmark that it hopes could eventually store up to 8 million tons of carbon dioxide a year in depleted oil and gas fields.

The sudden eagerness, especially from oil companies that can use carbon dioxide to increase pressure in old fields to extract more fossil fuel — currently the most common use of CCS — leaves climate campaigners suspicious, even though they grasp the urgency of finding all possible solutions to controlling climate change.

"Putting carbon capture technology on greenhouse-gas-emitting facilities enables those facilities to continue operating, effectively providing those emitters with a licence to pollute indefinitely," a group of over 500 international, U.S., and Canadian organizations said in an open letter to their policymakers in July.

At the same time, some existing projects have struggled with technical problems.

Australia's A\$3.1 billion (\$2.3 billion) Gorgon CCS project, a joint venture includ-



Equipment used to capture carbon dioxide emissions at a coal-fired power plant in Thompsons, Texas. REUTERS

ing Chevron, Shell and ExxonMobil, was designed to store 4 million tons a year of carbon dioxide at a liquefied natural gas project.

Since the start of injecting carbon dioxide in August 2019, three years later than scheduled, it has injected a total of 5 million tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent.

"Like anything of this scale, there are technical challenges to overcome," Shell's Crouch said. Lessons from the project would be shared with the industry and governments and help future projects to progress, she said.

In the longer term, supporters of the technology say it will play an essential role in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, rather than just capturing at the source, through methods such as direct air capture or bioenergy, derived from renewable biomass with carbon capture and storage (BECCS).

British power generator Drax is seeking to develop BECCS at its biomass units, which it said could make it the world's first negative emissions power plant by 2027.

Drax CEO Will Gardiner said it would take the company an initial £2 billion (\$2.8 billion) investment to build the plants capable of removing 8 to 9 million tons of carbon dioxide a year, with the CCS costing around £100 per ton.

"As carbon prices rise globally, and if we are going to achieve a 1.5-degree pathway, we will have to rise. This will be a very cost-effective way of taking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere," he said.