

# Republic Day of India Special

## Long-standing relationship based on shared values

**SANJAY KUMAR VERMA**  
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA



On the occasion of the 73rd Republic Day of India, I extend my respectful greetings to your majesties the emperor and empress of Japan and to the government and the people of Japan. I also take this opportunity to convey special greetings to my fellow Indian nationals in Japan and all friends of India.

We celebrate this occasion at a momentous time, as India and Japan are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Since the signing of the peace treaty on April 28, 1952, the India-Japan relationship has evolved into a special strategic and global partnership, expanding across all conceivable domains and disciplines.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges, as well as provided new opportunities. The government of India has taken proactive steps to tackle challenges posed by the disruptive pandemic and achieved several milestones. On Jan. 8, India crossed the significant milestone of 1.5 billion vaccinations. It has entered the next phases of vaccinating its youth and delivering booster shots, and India restarted exports of indigenously produced vaccines in November. We are committed to delivering low-cost, effective, and safe vaccines to the developing world in keeping with its spirit of *vasudhaiva kutumbam* (the world is one family).

The India-Japan special strategic and global partnership is based on the strong foundation of such shared values as democracy, freedom and respect for the rule of law. Our strategic partnership is reflected in a vast array of institutional mechanisms, including annual summits and "two-plus-two" ministerial dialogues. Japan is a natural partner in India's infra-

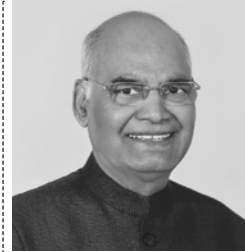
structure development and Japan-supported projects, including the Delhi Metro and Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail using shinkansen technology, are among the most iconic infrastructure projects in India. To explore the potential complementarities of our demographics, India and Japan recently agreed on a basic partnership framework for a Specified Skilled Worker program.

With its demographic asset of 650 million skilled young workers, India continues to take proactive steps to maintain its high-growth trajectory toward the goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy. Policy reforms and initiatives undertaken by the government include the privatization of public-sector units, a \$1.4 trillion National Infrastructure Pipeline project, a National Monetization Pipeline for brown field assets worth \$80 billion, and production-linked incentive schemes covering 15 sectors of the economy. These are being undertaken to increase economic efficiency, improve return on assets and

bolster the manufacturing sector. India and Japan are combining their strength and competitiveness to coinnovate, cocreate and coproduce for both domestic and global markets to make this vision a reality.

Important initiatives such as the India-Japan Industrial Partnership, the Investment Promotion Partnership, Digital Partnership and Supply Chain Resilience Initiative are focused on results-oriented outcomes for ensuring mutually beneficial economic security. These capacity-building and economic development frameworks enable synergies between Japan's Society 5.0 and Green Growth Strategy plans, and India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat—"Self-reliant India," "Make in India," "Digital India," "Startup India" and "Skill India" initiatives. With rapidly increasing active internet and smartphone users in India, opportunities in frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence, 5G and beyond, the Internet of Things, big data analytics, quantum computing, digitization and more seem promising. It is pertinent to note that India is home to the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world (with more than 60,000 start-ups) and is emerging as a global hub for innovation.

India envisions a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, based on the principle of security and growth for all in the region. Japan already leads the trade, connectiv-



**President Ram Nath Kovind**  
EMBASSY OF INDIA



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi**  
EMBASSY OF INDIA

ity and maritime transport pillar of India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, which is an open, inclusive, nontreaty-based global plan for mitigating challenges, especially in the maritime domain. Partner countries are committed to taking forward the vision of "the Quad" in key and strategic areas, including vaccines, climate change, critical and emerging technologies, quality infrastructure development, space, cyber, education and people-to-people cooperation for a secure, peaceful, prosperous and stable Indo-Pacific.

India's commitment to climate change efforts has been unwavering. At COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland, India announced that it will achieve the target of net-zero emissions by 2070 and reiterated its commitment to take its nonfossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatts and meet 50% of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2050. India remains a strong votary of climate mitigation and climate justice. In 2021 alone, India launched various clean energy initiatives, including the National Green Hydrogen Mission and an initiative with the United Kingdom—the Green Grids—One Sun One World One

Grid. India is also committed to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

India-Japan relations are historical and civilizational. Buddhism has been one of the key factors in maintaining the cultural connection between the countries for centuries. The Support, Advocacy and Mental Health Interventions for Children in Vulnerable Circumstances and Distress series of conferences is an important platform for showcasing the cultural linkages between India and Japan. In modern times, the practice of yoga and the Ayurvedic traditional system of Indian medicine in Japan have sustained this civilizational bond, which is being strengthened with people-to-people exchanges.

As India marks the momentous milestone of its 75th year of independence through the celebration of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (Elixir of Energy Independence) initiative, it is poised to become a reinvigorated nation with a buoyant economy, youthful demographic and a vibrant democracy. Japan has been a valued partner of India and I am confident that the India-Japan partnership will continue to strengthen and prosper in a safe, secure and sustainable world.

## Cooperation continues in many areas

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



On the occasion of the 73rd Republic Day of India, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the people of India.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. Our two countries have long enjoyed friendly relations. In recent

years, under our special strategic and global partnership, bilateral cooperation has been promoted in a wide range of areas including politics, security, the economy and exchanges between citizens. Aiming to bring about a free and open Indo-Pacific, our two countries have been working even more closely together with each other within the framework of multilateral cooperation. I believe that with our shared fundamental values including freedom, democracy and the rule of law, our bilateral relations are of particular importance at this time, when the world is faced with the challenges posed by the pandemic while also becoming increasingly complex and changing

drastically at an unprecedented speed. As president of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I have long worked toward the development of bilateral relations. Now, as speaker of the House of Representatives, I would like to continue furthering the development of bilateral cooperation and parliamentary exchange.

In closing, I would like to give my best wishes for the prosperity of India and the well-being of 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



Above: The logo for India's 75th independence anniversary reads, "Elixir of Energy of Independence." Left: The Indian Navy and Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force take part in exercises in the Bay of Bengal in January. EMBASSY OF INDIA, INDIAN NAVY

## Golden age for economic growth

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



Celebrating friendship, peace and ever-growing mutual dependence, India and Japan mark the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic relations in 2022, infusing new energy and renewed awareness among their peoples.

Japanese celebrate longevity, or *koki*, when age 70 is reached. The color of the *koki* celebration is purple, which has long been a noble and virtuous color.

Among monarchies, the platinum jubilee is a celebration of the 70th anniversary, marking the beginning of the golden years of Japanese-Indian relations.

In my 56 years, I have personally witnessed the triumphs and accomplishments in the peaking of Japan and the rise of India as a superpower.

India is one of the fastest emerging and leading economies of the decade. According to a report by Oxford Economics based on annual gross domestic product growth, all 10 of the world's fastest growing cities across the globe will be in India.

The India Space Research Organization set a world record by launching 104 satellites into orbit in a single mission. The Mangalyaan, India's Mars orbiter, was made possible at the cheapest cost worldwide and has celebrated over 1,000 days in orbit so far. Japanese-Indian cooperation in sci-

ence and technology is an active catalyst for joint research. Most recently, the Department of Physics at the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning's Prashanthi Nilayam teamed up with Noriyoshi Matsumi, a team leader at the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, to develop anode fabrication for extremely fast-charging lithium-ion batteries suitable for use in electric vehicles. Much shorter charging times will attract consumers to EVs rather than gasoline-based vehicles, ultimately leading to cleaner environments in major cities across the world.

India is also accelerating efforts toward the "blue economy." The deep ocean mission is to explore the mineral wealth in the sea and thermal energy in seawater, which may lead to huge developments in the Indian economy. The Indian Scientists Association in Japan, jointly with Tokai University's School of Marine Science and Technology, recently organized a symposium on ocean science and technology heralding a new paradigm for India's blue economy.

India has given the world the math behind zero, trigonometry, calculus and many more groundbreaking inventions and discoveries.

India is home to the world's largest under-25 population, putting young people at the helm of decision-making and vibrant participation in sports, wherein India's best-ever seven medals were achieved last year at the Tokyo Olympics.

Using cutting-edge innovation and new technology, India excels in the manufacture and export of world-class products. The electronics manufacturing sector is symbolic of exporting mobile phones worth

billions of dollars. India has launched its first domestically built aircraft carrier, the INS Vikrant, and manufactures its own fighter aircraft and submarines, showing the excellence and immense capability of its domestic manufacturing.

Former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga stated that he hoped to further develop cooperation in areas such as cyber, digital, decarbonization, health care and connectivity, and also mentioned possible collaboration in such fields as 5G, submarine cables, industrial competitiveness, supply chain diversification, development of India's North Eastern Region and the Specified Skilled Worker system.

Massive government-led reforms and structural changes have been implemented to build the platform for the making of a New India and the world's third-largest economy. A recent study predicts that digital transformation will add \$154 billion to India's GDP, increasing the growth rate by 1% annually. The COVID-19 pandemic has opened even greater potential for Japan-India cooperation.

To mark the 70th anniversary, a series of events are being organized by the Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan and the India Foundation across Japan for students and society at large.

The ICIJ, celebrating 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 the readers of The Japan Times.

## Ongoing efforts for peace and prosperity

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



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

2022 has started both in Japan and India with continued difficulty caused by the rapidly spreading omicron variant of COVID-19 and yet will mark the important milestone of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India.

Last year, while the Modi administration continued in India, in Japan Fumio Kishida succeeded Yoshihide Suga as prime minister in September. Kishida chose Modi as one of the top priority leaders to talk to as new prime minister in a video meeting and pledged to follow the path of his predecessors to develop the special strategic and global partnership between our countries. Kishida, who had contributed to our cherished relationship as foreign minister for more than four years under the Abe administration, assures the continuity of our

vision under the free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) strategy. The vision aims to spread peace and prosperity from the Pacific Ocean to Africa through the Indian Ocean by engaging many like-minded countries in the region. Japan, India, the United States and Australia constitute the core of the strategy. They have established meetings for "the Quad," including a leaders' session. A number of important countries from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and leading countries from Europe, such as the U.K., France and Germany, are now solidly associated with the FOIP strategy.

However, bilateral relations such as trade and investment, economic cooperation, cultural and academic exchanges, and people-to-people contacts have been adversely affected because of travel restrictions to

prevent the transmission of COVID-19 among nations.

At this outset of the new year, though, I see a light toward the end of the tunnel. Accelerated vaccinations and the introduction of new medicines give us optimism and hope to finally overcome the pandemic during the course of this year. I am firmly convinced that our relationship will return to normal in the not-so-distant future, and the 70th anniversary will be crowned with a successful series of celebrations.

The Japan-India Association marks its 119th year in 2022. We renew our determination to fulfill our mission to serve our nations. On this auspicious occasion, I pray for the prosperity of India and the Indian people.

Wishing you a Happy Republic Day



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