India Independence Day Special

Special synergetic partnership expands



democracy into a vibrant, pluralistic soci-ety and one of the world's fastest-growing economies. In the realm of technology and innovation, India has made significant strides. Our information technology indus try is recognized globally, and our digital initiatives are revolutionizing governance and delivering services to the remotest corners of our country. Achievements in space exploration have placed India among the leading nations in space technology. We have also made significant strides in

social development, with improvements in literacy, life expectancy and gender

On the global stage, India has emerged as a responsible and constructive actor. Its commitment to a rules-based international order and leadership in addressing global challenges such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic have cemented its reputation as a reliable and constructive partner. Under its presidency of the Group of 20 leading rich and developing coun-tries, India has endeavored to promote tries, India has endeavored to promote global cooperation on issues of critical importance while keeping the needs of the Global South at the forefront of its efforts. Our relationship with Japan, deeply rooted in shared values and mutual respect, has been instrumental in India's



developmental journey. The special strategic and global partnership between our nations has grown stronger over the years, covering cooperation in a wide array of sectors. The recent high-level exchanges between our countries have added new dimensions to this partnership. The visits by Prime Minister H.E. Fumio Kishida to India in March and Prime Minister Naren dra Modi to Japan for the Hiroshima G7 summit of major industrial nations have solidified our ties.

summit in Hiroshima.

Our partnership extends beyond bilateral ties, contributing to the shaping of the global order. The synergy between India's "Act East" policy and Japan's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" vision underscores our commitment to a rules-based international order. We are working together with a posi-tive and practical agenda in "the Quad" framework. Both countries are also chairing two prominent global groupings

G20 and the G7 - this year.

Reflecting the robust economic ties between our nations, we aim for ¥5 trillion in investment from Japan to India over five vears through 2027, which will boost the presence of Japanese companies in India and contribute to our economic growth Our bilateral trade has reached a significant

Our bilateral trade has reached a significant milestone, touching \$22 billion.

Our collaboration on high-speed rail, infrastructure development, critical and emerging technologies, establishing resilient supply chains and more, can significantly accelerate India's development trajectory.

accelerate India's development trajectory. The year 2023 is significant as it marks the India-Japan Year of Tourism Exchanges, with the theme of "Connecting Himala-yas with Mount Fuji" fostering deeper people-to-people connections. We are also committed to enhancing cooperation in human resources and critical and emerging technologies, leveraging Japan's techno-

logical prowess and India's growing digital

As we look toward Amrit Kaal, the leadup to the centenary of our independence in 2047, we envision an inclusive, techno logically advanced, and globally influential India. We are harnessing technology innovation and our young demographics to realize this vision. The special strategic and global partnership between India and Japan, rooted in mutual respect and shared interests, will be instrumental in shaping

On this special day, I thank the people On this special day, I thank the people and the government of Japan for their steadfast support and friendship on India's journey so far. As we move forward, I am confident that our partnership will only grow deeper, contributing not only to the prosperity of our countries, but also to fostering peace and stability in the region and the world at large.







Prime Minister Na





Above: A statue of Buddha sits in Daijokvo Buddhist mple, Bodh Gava Bihar, Left: Prime Modi poses with dignitaries from the Japanese govern-ment during the unveiling of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Hiroshima

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India Independence Day Special

Bilateral activity growing fast

YOSHIHIDE SUGA CHAIRPERSON, THE JAPAN-INDIA



On the occasion of the 77th Indepen-dence Day of the Republic of India, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of India on behalf of

the Japan-India Association. Since its foundation in 1903 by former Prime Minister Shigenobu Okuma and Eiichi Shibusawa, who is often dubbed the "father of Japanese capitalism," the JIA has always been at the forefront of e friendly relations between Japan and India. After India became independent in August 1947, it extended friendship and helped us return to the international community. With the end of the Cold War in 1989 and India's subsequent redirection of foreign policy and the commencement of drastic economic liberalization, the Japan-India relationship gained substantial

In 2000, after the vicissitudes, Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, who later served as chairperson of the IIA until May 2022. made an official visit to India, and then launched the Japan-India global partnership. The relationship was further pgraded to a special strategic and global partnership by then-Prime Minister Shinzo

Abe and his counterpart Narendra Modi when the latter visited Tokyo in 2014.

Today our cooperation is expanding rapidly, thanks to the accelerated and mutual efforts of the governments, peoples and business communities of both countries. We faced tremendous hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic, but even during those difficult years our ties stood firm. I take pride in the fact that I papa provided assistance to India while I was prime minister to help our Indian friends deal with the spread of the pandemic here. We are working toward a free and open Indo-Pacific with their shared vision and commitment to promote peace and prosperity in the region and beyond. In summit-level meetings, our leaders have affirmed to keep working together on addressing various global challenges, such as peace and stability, climate change and clean energy. The participation of Modi in the Group of Seven summit of major industrial pattons in Misoshim in May

in the Group of Seven summit of major industrial nations in Hiroshima in May contributed to producing key outcomes there. The upcoming G20 summit of lead-ing rich and developing countries in New Delhi in September will be another significant opportunity, which I believe will see India play a major role as its chair in bringing a positive impact on global issues that demand immediate and effective

Our bilateral relationship is also expanding dramatically in economic cooperation, trade and investment Among the series of flagship projects underway in India, one such example is the shinkansen project for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-speed Railway corridor, Japanese investment has become even more visible in other commercial sectors, too. People-to-people contacts, including cultural exchange programs, tourism and local government initiatives to establish direct contact, are now becoming active. When I visited India as the IIA chairperson in early luly this year, I visited a construction site of the Mumbai Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project, which is our bilateral flagship project. In Delhi, I had a chance to exchange views with members of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Indian Indiants in the second with energy embodited by Indian people from the political and business sectors and people's aspirations. and people's aspirations.

At a meeting with Modi, we concurred

on the importance of fostering the busi-ness environment there so that Japanese companies can further contribute to India's economic development and on the point that people-to-people exchanges are the foundation of our bilateral relations. Through my visit, I firmly believe that India will be on a trajectory for an exponential development in the coming years.It is my sincere wish that the 77th anniversary of India's independence will mark another significant milestone both for India and the Japan-India relationship. The JIA is deeply committed to fur ther contributing to our ever-expanding relationship.



Left: Krishna Temple in Hampi, Karnataka state, is part of a group of Hindu monuments comping a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the city, Right: Depicting independence leader Sardar Vallabablabe Board to Assarch Sardar



Shared values foster business opportunities and developing countries and Japan under-

TATSUO YASUNAGA CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE



Day anniversary

ROKKO ŠĀREES

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee, it is my utmost pleasure to offer heartfelt congratulations on the nistoric commemoration of India's 76th Independence

lations that India and The cordial relations that India and Japan have fostered over the years is indeed a testament to our shared fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the sanctity of law. Under our special strategic global partnership banner, our countries have relentlessly worked toward strengthening our relationship. The current year holds great significance as India presides over the Group of 20 leading rich takes the presidency of the Group of Seven major industrial nations, reflecting both nations' pivotal leadership roles during these challenging international scenarios. Established in 1966, the JIBCC aims to enhance mutual understanding, foster

friendship and enable prosperous eco-

nomic relations between India and Japan The establishment of the committee was prompted by a visit to India led by Tadashi Adachi, who was then-chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Indus try. This development led the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the ICCI to also establish The JIBCC held its inaugural joint mee

ing in 1967, and since then, we've held joint meetings fostering the ever-strengthening bond between our wonderful nations. In February, the committee convened its 46th ing with the FICCI in New Delhi. marking the first summit in five years fol-lowing COVID-19. The vibrant theme of

"India-Japan Cooperation on a Sustainable Society for Future Generations" encour-aged fruitful discussions and prompted a joint declaration. We once again recognized the vital role direct communication between Japan and India plays, particularly its significant contribution to global eco nomic development through intensified industry-centric economic exchanges.With a record population of over 1.42 billion this year, India is set to supercede China as having the world's largest population. This places India firmly as a colossal market that continues to offer abundant business opportunities courtesy of its booming pop ulation. We are fully committed and eager uation. We are tuly committed and eager to harness these prospects to the maxi-mum, especially via fresh ventures into realms such as building a decarbonized society and stimulating digital transforma-tion via industrial collaboration.

To conclude, I extend my hearty congratulations on India's Independence Day and express my hopes for India's ongoing development and prosperity in the future.

'Mind-heart balance' anchors our potential



The Indian Independence Day is the occasion when we can witness India's "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi" (Technology of mind as well as culture of heart). Today India is among the top five economies in the world, having the third-largest startup ecosystem. With a high competitive edge in areas such as digital technology and 5G, there were 89.5 million digital transactions in the country, India reportedly accounted for 46% of global real-time payments in 2022.

This year, India is hosting the presidency of The Group of 20 economies with a theme outlined by India's fundamental ideology. "One Earth, One Fard, One Family, One Future."

At the United Nations' ninth Interna-tional Day of Yoga on June 21, Prime Min-ister Narendra Modi said, "The coming together of more than 180 countries on India's call is historic."

Yoga is becoming an integral part of people's lives worldwide as they look to learn from India's sustainable lifestyle.

This year the theme of Yoga Day is yoga for the welfare of all in the form of "One World-One Family." This theme empha-sizes the spirit of yoga, which unites and

takes everyone along. In his message, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reminded everyone that in a dangerous and divided world, the benin a dangerous and divided world, the ben-efits of this ancient practice are particularly

ecious. Curiosity as well as faith in India's cul-

Curiosis, as well as faith in India's culture, heritage, past and legacy are continuously growing.

Balancing the technology of the mind, as well as the culture of the heart is very critical since it is often said that when the balance between these two is lost, civilization is to perish.

Therefore, Modi emphasized the significance of tapping the spiritual wisdom of India to prevent the egoistic movement of the mind from overwhelming the heart.

Modi said: "Our religious scriptures, including the Gita, started resonating in every household again. The mind of India

once again experienced a stirring. These scriptures gave rise to family traditions, and new generations started connecting with our sacred texts, becoming the torchbearers of future generations."

The Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan serves as an apex body to provide support, guidance and consultancy advisory services 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.

This content was compiled in collabora-

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



Left: Traditional houseboats float off Alappuzha in Kerala state. Right: Havelock Island is part of the Andaman Island chain. EMBASSY OF IND

Best Wishes From

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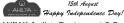
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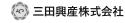
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on the Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of India



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