

# Independence Day of India

PUBLICITY

## India-Japan partnership growing stronger

By Sanjay Kumar Verma  
Ambassador of India

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's independence, I extend my warm greetings to Their Majesties, the Emperor and the Empress, and to the government and people of Japan. I express my sincere condolences at the irreparable and tragic loss of H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister of Japan, who had worked tirelessly towards cementing the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. I also take this opportunity to convey special greetings to my fellow Indian citizens and friends of India in Japan — important stakeholders in the immersive India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. The partnership is rooted in history and tradition and is based on a strong foundation of shared objectives and common values such as democracy, freedom and respect for the rule of law. This year, we are also celebrating 70 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries.



Sanjay Kumar Verma

This special anniversary is being commemorated as "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav." India, as a constitutional democracy, recognizes liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles of life, which cannot be divorced from each other: Liberty cannot be divorced from equality; equality cannot be divorced from liberty. Nor can liberty and equality be divorced from fraternity. Having abiding faith in these principles, India has blossomed as the largest and one of the most vibrant democracies in the world.

Even during the testing times of the COVID-19 pandemic, India's resilience has been evident. Data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) shows that India's nominal GDP reached \$3.178 trillion in 2021 — well on track to cross \$5 trillion by the year 2025. This success has been achieved due to a progressive policy framework and enhancing the ease of doing business. India has already administered 2.03 billion doses of indigenously produced COVID-19 vaccines to protect its people. Further, in the true spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutubamkam" — roughly translated as "The world is one family" — and the vision of "One Earth, One Health," 239 million of our COVID-19 vaccines, directly or through the Quad, have helped support pandemic response efforts in over 100 countries.

India is closely working with Japan and other like-minded partner nations to secure a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient. We see alignment between India's Act-East Policy, an Indo-Pacific vision based on the principle of SAGAR, the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), and Japan's vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. This alignment of core objectives is also the cornerstone of our cooperation in the Quad.

The visits by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in March, and by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Japan for the Quad Summit have provided further convergence and a fillip to the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. While reaffirming a common vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, both Prime Ministers welcomed key out-

comes in various sectors of the bilateral partnership, including clean energy, cybersecurity, defense cooperation, sustainable development and an intensification of Japanese investment in India by adding another \$5 trillion in next five years.

Various other high-level engagements have led to a vast array of institutional mechanisms in important and diverse fields such as cybersecurity, ICT, space, civil nuclear cooperation, energy, defense, railways, science and technology and economic security, among others.

With a vision to become a resilient \$5 trillion economy, India is building a strong foundation of manufacturing, services, agriculture and digital technology infrastructure. Japan is a natural partner in India's development



Hon'ble President Droupadi Murmu



Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi

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for innovation and efficient delivery of services. The India-Japan partnership is well poised to benefit from these reforms, and to strengthen cooperation in a wider range of sectors.

Japan's investment in India's infrastructure sector has been at the core of our bilateral partnership. We are engaged in technical cooperation in areas such as urban waste management, smart cities, high-speed railways and multimodal transit-oriented development. Some fruits of our cooperation may be seen in the flagship MAHSR (Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railways), Delhi Metro, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor. The success of our partnership is also visible through 17 Japan-India Institutes for Manufacturing, seven Japanese Endowed Courses and the memorandum of cooperation (MoC) on the Specified Skilled Workers Program.

Under the Japan-India Digital Partnership, India and Japan are increasingly cooperating through promotion of joint projects for digital transformation, skill development initiatives, and collaboration in IoT, AI and other emerging technologies. Moving forward, complementarity between the two countries would facilitate new, innovative and alternate models of partnership. To make this possible, both countries need to come together to "co-innovate", "co-create" and "co-produce" for both domestic and global markets by combining their strengths and competitiveness.

Japan is a trusted partner and a reliable friend of India. People-to-people relations between the two countries are the bedrock of the partnership. Beginning from Buddhism to the growing popularity of Yoga and Ayurveda, Indian traditions have al-

ways found a home in Japan. The Rudraksh Convention Center in Varanasi and Zen garden in Ahmedabad, a symbol of India-Japan collaboration, reflect the many other opportunities to enhance the ties between people of our both nations.

India-Japan cooperation on thematic international issues, including the reform of the United Nations to make it better reflect contemporary realities, is another key pillar of our partnership. India is looking forward to working with Japan as India assumes the G20 presidency, and Japan assumes the G7 presidency in 2023.

As India moves beyond the 75th anniversary of its independence, it envisions itself as a reinvigorated atmanirbhar (self-reliant) nation. The year 2022 also celebrates 70 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. The Embassy of India in Tokyo continues organizing a large number of activities to celebrate these two landmark occasions, including cultural events, business engagements, science and technology interactions and start-up discussions, etc. I am confident that the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership will soon be elevated to the next level and grow from strength to strength, expanding across all conceivable domains and disciplines.



The Ram Jhoola bridge across the River Ganges in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

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## Indian Chamber of Commerce to hold flagship events in Kansai

By Ram Kalani  
Honorary President, ICCJ

Namaste  
On behalf of the Indian Chamber of Commerce Japan (ICCJ) I convey warm greetings on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day of India, which is being celebrated as "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" (Elixir of Energy of Independence). India @75 flagged off last year by Honorable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, culminates on Aug. 15, 2022. The idea is to create a vision for the centenary of independence, India@2047.



Ram Kalani

The ICCJ, established in 1937, has been proudly participating in the celebration of India's Independence Day every year for the last 76 years, being the sole authorized Indian chamber in Japan for over 84 years.

The world has started to boldly emerge from the shadows of the last two years and the unprecedented devastating effects of the pandemic. The race has started facing the challenges head on and bringing back normalcy to people's lives in countries worldwide.

We remember with heartfelt sorrow the gruesome assassination of ex-Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe on July 8, 2022, in Nara. Mr. Abe was a great friend of India, a champion of democracy and true soldier to up-

lift the lives of millions across the globe; we deeply mourn his death.

The ICCJ has remained active even during the pandemic, holding meetings, seminars and annual general meetings in 2021 and 2022, with the samurai spirits of courage and compassion.

The ICCJ is also gearing up to hold its flagship events, the 11th edition of India Mela, Kobe, on Oct. 8-10, 2022, after a gap of two years. Further, as a new initiative, the inaugural India Matsuri Kyoto will be held on Oct. 29-30, 2022, in Kyoto: we kindly request your participation at both places.

With deepest regards to the people of Japan and the community of Indian origin for their love and support.

Jai Hind