Republic Day of India

THE JAPAN NEWS BY THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN

PUBLICITY

India, Japan promoting ties to higher level

By Sibi George
Ambassador of India

On the occasion of India's 74th Republic Day, I extend my warm greetings to Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan, and to the government and people of Japan. I also take this opportunity to convey special greetings to my fellow Indian nationals and friends of India in Japan who are important stakeholders in the progressive India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

Amb Sibi George

We celebrate this occasion at a momentous time, as India and Japan are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and India is marking the 75th anniversary of its independence as Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. During these 70 years, the India-Japan partnership has grown from strength to strength, expanding across all domains.

The year 2022 marked the resumption of high-level political engagement between our two nations. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's visit to India, his first bilateral visit destination as prime minister, in March 2022, for the Annual Summit was crucial in reaffirming the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India and setting a roadmap for us to realize our bilateral potential. The declaration of the ¥5 trillion investment target to be realized in the next five years, formulation of a roadmap under the India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership, unveiling of the Clean Energy Partnership and renewal of the bilateral currency swap agreement of $75 billion are important steps in deepening the cooperation between our two nations.

India holds the Presidency of the G20 from Dec. 1, 2022 to Nov. 30, 2023.

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. The strategic aspects of the relationship have gained a new meaning in the growing complex geopolitical environment, reflected in our frequent bilateral and plurilateral engagements. At the two-plus-two ministerial meeting held in September 2022, the foreign ministers and defense ministers from both India and Japan committed to work more closely on foreign policy and strategic aspects of the partnership. In the ongoing endeavor to deepen our defense exchanges, Japan participated for the first time in the Milan exercise, followed by the bilateral Dharma Guardian exercise, the multilateral Malabar exercise and India's participation in the Japan-hosted International Fleet Review 2022. Currently, India and Japan are holding their first-ever joint fighter jet exercise, Veer Guardian.

India envisions a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, based on the principle of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). As members of the QUAD, Japan and India are committed to working towards the peace, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Tokyo to attend the QUAD Leaders' Summit in Tokyo in May 2022, participated in the launch of several pioneering initiatives to foster continuous collaboration in the maritime domain, trade, space, climate change, health and cyber security.

Hon'ble President Droupadi Murmu

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Japan is a natural partner in India's economic transformation. The infrastructure development and Japanese-supported projects include iconic projects such as Delhi Metro, Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR), Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor and Freight Corridors. There is immense potential for both India and Japan to collaborate on economic security including in crucial areas such as cyber security, connectivity and critical and strategic minerals and technology. India has recently unveiled its Green Hydrogen Mission, with a vision to make India a global manufacturing hub for hydrogen and ammonia, opening up a major avenue of cooperation with Japan. There are also huge complementarities for skilled human resources of India to contribute to the demands of the Japanese economy. Our economic partnership is key to overcoming single-country dependence challenges and propelling us towards economic leadership.

India has assumed the leadership of the Group of 20 at a time of crisis and chaos in the world. India through its presidency seeks to embody the spirit of universal brotherhood through the mantra of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," reflected in the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future." India seeks to strive for just and equitable growth for all in the world by sharing its strengths and experiences to address global challenges. A few examples include India's Vaccine Maitri initiative through which more than 250 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been supplied to over 100 countries; India's use of digital technologies for development, inclusion and improving ease of living; yoga and Ayurveda, which emphasize preventive healthcare; and Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) that emphasizes responsible individual choices leading to globally transformative actions towards a greener future. India's G20 presidency also coincides with Japan's leadership of the Group of Seven, presenting a tremendous opportunity for utilizing convergences in our agendas and working on common priorities to achieve tangible and sustainable outcomes.

Courtesy of the Embassy of India
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida hold a summit meeting in New Delhi 19-21 March 2022.

India's commitment to climate change is unwavering. At the COP 26 summit, India set the ambitious target of taking its non-fossil fuel energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030 and achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. India has increased its renewable energy capacity by about 290% in the last eight years. India is an important partner in global food security initiatives, ensuring food security for its 1.4 billion citizens while also supplying grains to many countries in need. India has taken the lead in celebrating the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets — an effort to re-popularize nutritious and traditional grains.

India today is the fastest growing major economy and is a land of endless opportunities. Japan is among our most trusted partners in our journey towards Amrit Kaal, a 25-year journey to India at 100 in 2047. It is a responsibility of each stakeholder in this relationship to realize the full potential of our partnership and take our Special Strategic and Global Partnership to the next high level.

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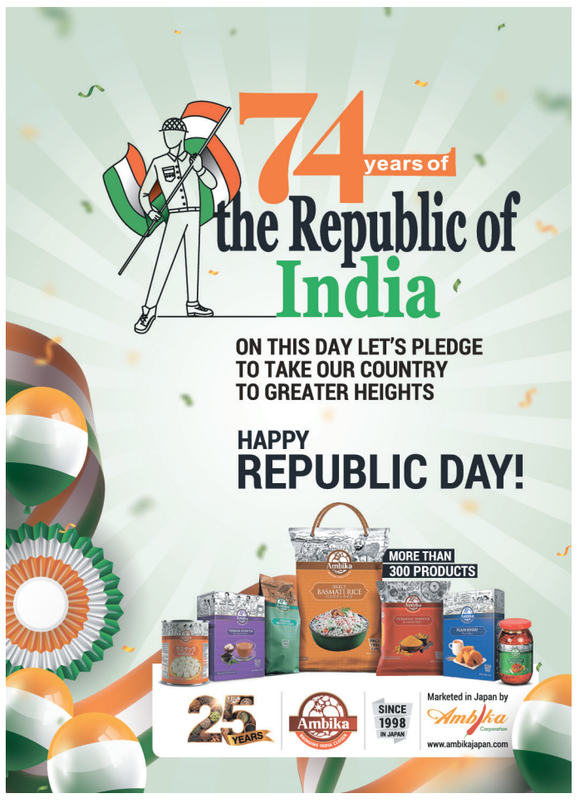

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ICCJ joins Republic Day celebrations

Namaste

With the dawn of the new year, 2023 allows us to celebrate India's Republic Day and rejoice over the implementation of the Indian Constitution 73 years ago on Jan. 26, 1950. On this 74th Republic Day of India, I convey my best wishes to the citizens of India and Japan on behalf of the Indian Chamber of Commerce-Japan (ICCJ).

Ram Kalani

The ICCJ was established in Japan in 1937 and has the honor of celebrating the Indian Republic Day anniversary every year.

The Indo-Japan relationship dates to the sixth century, when Buddhism was introduced to Japan. Both cultures have become further enriched since then, with mutual exchanges of philosophy, religion, democratic values, science and technology. These exchanges are the source of the closeness of the citizens of both nations.

The bond between the nationals of India and Japan is growing ever-stronger in more and more areas. For example, Japan's involvement in India's high-speed railway projects, and more Indian companies operating in Japan in such fields as pharmaceuticals and information technology.

Indians and Japanese have always shown their support for democratic values, and as a result, the two nations are active on similar platforms in various world bodies, multilateral organizations and groups. Japan and India have the respective honor of hosting the upcoming Group of Seven summit meeting in Japan and the Group of 20 summit meeting in India in 2023.

During the past year, we celebrated the 85th anniversary of the ICCJ, and successfully hosted the 11th India Mela at Kobe event and the first India Matsuri at Kyoto event in October 2022, both of which were unfortunately postponed for two years due to the coronavirus pandemic.

I convey respectful regards to the great country of Japan and all its citizens as well as the diaspora of the Indian sub-continent in Japan.

Long live democracy, and long live the India-Japan friendship!

Jai Hind.

Ram Kalani
Honorary President, ICCJ