Independence Day of India

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THE JAPAN NEWS BY THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN

India-Japan ties key to shaping global order

By Sibi George
Ambassador of India

On the occasion of the 76th anniversary of India's independence, I extend my heartfelt 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 the Indian diaspora and friends of India in Japan who are integral pillars of the enduring India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

Sibi George

This day marks not just the end of colonial rule in India in 1947, but the beginning of a journey of India's growth story that continues to this day.

India's journey since 1947 has been nothing short of remarkable. From a country grappling with the aftermath of partition and the challenges of a nascent democracy, India has emerged as a vibrant, pluralistic society and one of the world's fastest-growing economies. Our advancements in technology, space exploration and digital innovation are a testament to our resilience and determination.

We have made significant strides in social indices, with substantial improvements in literacy rates, life expectancy and gender equality. Our commitment to democracy and pluralism remains unwavering, even as we continue to strive for greater inclusivity.

The India-Japan relationship, a cornerstone of our foreign policy, has been a significant factor in our journey. Our ties, rooted in centuries-old cultural and spiritual connections, have evolved into a Special Strategic and Global Partnership built on shared objectives and common values such as democracy, freedom and respect for the rule of law.

H.E. Smt Droupadi Murmu, Honorable President of India

H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Honorable Prime Minister of India

As we look back on the history of India-Japan ties, we recognize how far we have come in cementing our partnership -- a relationship strengthened over the years by shared interests, mutual respect and profound understanding.

The visit by Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida to India in March 2023, followed by the visit of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to Japan in May 2023 for the Hiroshima G7 Summit, have further strengthened our relations. Enabled by relaxation of COVID-related restrictions, there have been a large number of high-level government-to-government, business-to-business and people-to-people exchanges in the last one year.

The discussions held at these exchanges, covering areas like infrastructure development, defense cooperation, technology exchange and investment promotion, are a testament to our shared vision for a prosperous and secure future.

The India-Japan partnership is not only making progress in the bilateral context, but it is also key to shaping the global order. India-Japan cooperation on issues of global significance, including reform of the United Nations to make it reflect contemporary realities, is an important area of our collaboration. The synergy between India's "Act East" policy and Japan's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" vision underscores our shared commitment to a rules-based international order. India and Japan are also working with a positive and practical agenda within the Quad framework. The two countries are also chairing two prominent global groupings — the G20 and the G7 — this year, driving global consensus on issues of importance to the world.

In today's challenging global environment, the India-Japan relationship has assumed immense significance. It has become vital for ensuring a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

Our bilateral trade has reached a significant milestone, touching $22 billion. This is both an indicator of the robust economic ties between our two nations and the immense potential for future growth. We have set an ambitious target of ¥5 trillion in private and public investment from Japan to India in the period 2022-2027. This investment will be instrumental in enhancing the number of Japanese companies in India, thereby creating more employment opportunities and contributing to India's economic growth.

Our collaboration in the economic domain is being guided by "Co-innovate, Co-create and Co-produce." While we have made progress in the last few years, there is untapped potential in areas such as manufacturing, MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises), clean energy, healthcare, environment, start-ups and supply chain resilience. Cooperation on critical and emerging technologies is another area where our partnership can make significant progress. Japan's technological prowess and India's rapidly growing digital economy can create synergies that benefit not just our two nations, but the entire region.

The year 2023 is a special one as it marks the India-Japan Year of Tourism Exchanges with the theme of "Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji." This initiative will deepen people-to-people exchanges, fostering mutual understanding and friendship between our two countries. We are also committed to facilitating greater cooperation on human resources, which will further strengthen our bilateral ties.

Courtesy of the Indian Embassy

H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Honorable Prime Minister of India, with H.E. Mr. Fumio KIshida, Honorable Prime Minister of Japan, at the G7 Summit in HIroshima

India has set a vision for "Amrit Kaal" for India@2047, marking the centenary of our independence. This vision aims to build an inclusive, technologically advanced, and globally influential India by 2047. Japan, with its technological expertise, investment capabilities and shared values, has a special role to play in realizing this vision.

As we celebrate our Independence Day, we not only commemorate our past achievements but also look forward to a future filled with promise and potential. The enduring partnership between India and Japan, based on mutual respect and shared interests, will undoubtedly play a crucial role in shaping this future.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the people and the government of Japan for their support and friendship. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, I am confident that the India-Japan partnership will continue to flourish, contributing to peace, prosperity and stability in the region and beyond.

ICCJ fetes India's Independence Day

By Ram Kalani
Honorary President, ICCJ

Namaste,

As President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce Japan (ICCJ), I proudly convey warm greetings for the celebration of the 77th Independence Day of India culminating in the completion of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" which has been celebrated for the past 75 weeks since March 12, 2021, as a stepping stone for India's vision for the centenary of Independence, India@2047.

Ram Kalani

The ICCJ, established in 1937, has celebrated India's Independence Day every year for the past 76 years. The ICCJ is the sole authorized Indian chamber in Japan, having been promoting Indo-Japan trade, industry and culture for 85 years, in collaboration with the Indian Embassy, the Indian Consulate in Osaka, local city governments and other organizations in Japan.

The year is going through geopolitical unrest in some parts of the world and feeling the effects of global warming, etc., affecting all of mankind in many ways calling for unity and long-term plans for future generations. India and Japan are taking lead roles in the areas of world peace, cooperation, technological innovation and supply-chain diversification, etc. and pursuing strategies to prepare for upcoming challenges and plan for a better future.

World leaders have conferred and are scheduled to meet on various platforms, including the G7 summit in Hiroshima on May 19-21 and the upcoming G20 summit in New Delhi on Sept. 9-10, which will focus on the theme: "One Earth, One Family, One Future." This theme resonates India's traditional belief in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, a Sanskrit phrase found in Hindu texts such as the Maha Upanishad, which means "The World Is One Family."

The ICCJ, on its part, has remained active, holding its flagship event, the "11th India Mela Kobe" on Oct. 8-10, 2022, in Kobe after a gap of two years and the inaugural "Kyoto Matsuri" on Oct. 29-30, 2022, in Kyoto. Everyone is cordially invited to attend India Mela Kobe 2023 scheduled for Oct. 7-9, 2023.

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

Jai Hind.