

Republic Day of India

PUBLICITY

India plays key global, regional, bilateral roles

By Sibi George
Ambassador of India

On the occasion of India's 75th Republic Day, I extend my warm greetings to Their Majesties, the Emperor and the 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 and friends of India in Japan, who are important stakeholders in the progressive India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.



Sibi George

The celebration of this joyous occasion coincides with the 10th year of the elevation of India-Japan relations to a "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi and then Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe. In recent years, this partnership has been reinforced under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Fumio Kishida.

The past one year has been significant for both India and Japan as chairs of two key international groups — the G20 and G7. It has been a year filled with multiple high-level engagements. The two Prime Ministers met three times in 2023 - in March in New Delhi, in May during the G7 Summit in Hiroshima, and in September at the G20 Summit in New Delhi. Hon'ble Former Prime Minister Mr. Yoshihide Suga also visited India in July 2023 leading a

major parliamentary and business delegation and met the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. All these engagements were crucial in reaffirming the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India and setting a roadmap for us to realize the full potential in our bilateral relations.

In 2023, India held two Voice of Global South Summits to share the perspectives and priorities of the Global South nations on a common platform. India, through its G20 presidency, also embodied the spirit of universal brotherhood through the mantra of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, reflected in the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future." India's G20 Presidency strived for just and equitable growth for all in the world by sharing our strengths and experiences to address global challenges such as food, fuel, fertilizer, energy and climate change. This vision culminated in the inclusion of the African Union into the G20, and in the historic G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.

In our deep and multifaceted partnership, strategic aspects have gained new importance in today's increasingly complex geopolitical environment, which is reflected in our frequent bilateral and plurilateral engagements. The 15th round of Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi in July and the first Joint Service Staff Talks was held in Tokyo in September. Bilateral exercises held in 2023 like "Veer Guardian" and "Dharma Guardian" also played a crucial role in strengthened defense cooperation and enhanced interoperability between our armed forces.

India envisions a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, based on the principle of "Security and Growth for



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

All in the Region (SAGAR)," and through the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. Japan's vision for the Indo-Pacific was articulated through the speech by Hon'ble Prime Minister Kishida titled "the Future of the Indo-Pacific — Japan's New Plan for a 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' — Together with India, as an Indispensable Partner" during his India visit in March 2023. As members of QUAD, Japan and India are committed to rule of law and working towards the peace, stability and prosperity of an inclusive Indo-Pacific region, and no change in status quo.

Japan is a natural partner in India's economic transformation. The shared commitment to realize ₹5 trillion investment in the next five years underpins our commitment towards mutual economic growth and development, and for the region. There is immense potential for both India and Japan to collaborate on economic security and growth through established platforms



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

like the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic and Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Supply Chain Resilience Initiative, Industrial Competitiveness Partnership, India-Japan Digital Partnership, Clean Energy Partnership, and Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership. Japan has been an indispensable partner in India's infrastructure development with many iconic infrastructure projects including the flagship Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway Project, and the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link Project. The complementarities between skilled human resources of India and demands of the Japanese economy are being leveraged for mutual growth.

India's commitment to climate change is unwavering. India has set for itself the ambitious target of taking its non-fossil fuel energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030. The push for renewables domestically has been matched by India's call for a global solar grid through International Solar Alliance



Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Fumio Kishida & Mrs. Kishida, right, with Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi at the 2023 G20 Summit in September

(ISA) of which Japan is a member. With annual per capita carbon footprint much below the global average, India is further focusing on mindful use of resources by individuals through the Lifestyle For Environment (LiFE) initiative. Such sustainable ways of living have been a common part of both Indian and Japanese traditions. India follows a policy of being the first responder for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) globally, and Japan is a key member of India-led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) which has grown in importance in the face of increasing climate challenges. India's focus on global food security is reflected in the promotion of traditional Indian millets which are dense in nutrients, climate resilient and resource efficient.

India and Japan celebrated 2023 as "India-Japan Year of Tourism" aimed to increase people to people contact and

strengthen the cultural connect between our two countries. We will be building on the success of this initiative by celebrating 2024 as "India-Japan Year of Tourism 2.0" with theme of "Connecting Himalayas with Mt. Fuji," as well as "India-Japan Year of Science & Innovation."

As the fastest growing large economy, India has entered its "Amrit Kaal" or golden age, a 25-year period till 2047, the 100th year of Indian independence, with a vision of faster growth and prosperity. Japan has been a valued partner of India in this journey, and I am confident that the India-Japan partnership will continue to strengthen and prosper in a safe, secure and sustainable world. I would like to conclude by thanking the vibrant Indian diaspora in Japan which is playing an important role in further strengthening our long standing dynamic partnership with Japan.

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With Warm Wishes

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ICCJ a cornerstone since 1937 in fostering India-Japan partnership

Namaste and warm greetings,
As we celebrate the 75th Republic Day of India on Jan. 26, 2024, I extend my heartfelt greetings to the vibrant Indian community all over the world.

Since our inception in 1937, the Indian Chamber of Commerce-Japan (ICCJ) has been a cornerstone in fostering the Indo-Japanese relationship, not only in the realms of business and trade but also in cultural exchanges. On this Republic Day, let us reflect on our shared journey and the strength of our bond that has flourished over the decades.

Today, as we commemorate this significant day in our history, let us reaffirm our commitment to the ICCJ's mission — offering networking, business support and policy advocacy and enhancing brand recognition. We take pride in our role in the Indo-Japanese partnership, and we are resolute in our dedication to propel the prosperity of both India and Japan.

We are especially thankful for the unwavering support from the Embassy of India in Japan and the Consulate General of India in Japan. Their relentless efforts have been fundamental in our mission. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, for his visionary leadership, which has immensely contributed to the robust partnership between our nations.

As we celebrate this Republic Day, let us embrace the spirit of unity and progress and pledge to continue our efforts in forging a future that is brighter and more prosperous for all.

Happy Republic Day! May we stride forward together in friendship and collaboration, nurturing the legacy we have built.

Warm regards,

Ram Kalani
President, ICCJ