

# Independence Day of India

Publicity

## India-Japan partnership grows ever stronger

By Sanjay Kumar Verma  
Ambassador of India

On the occasion marking India's 75th Independence 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 fellow Indian nationals in Japan who are important stakeholders in the progressive India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. I commend the people and Government of Japan for a successful hosting of Tokyo 2020 despite the pandemic.



Sanjay Kumar Verma

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges as well as provided new opportunities, further deepening the India-Japan partnership. Due to proactive steps taken by the Government of India, the cumulative number of COVID-19 infections per million of the population is below

more than 100 countries. Similar is the case with the number of deaths per million. India has administered nearly 540 million doses of indigenous manufactured vaccines to its citizens and has contributed a further 66 million doses directly or through the COVAX Facility to more than 95 countries. The entire COVID-19 vaccine rollout in India is being monitored through the effective digital COVID-19 Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-VIN).

Japan has been a reliable partner during the second wave of the pandemic in India, through its emergency assistance of 2,800 oxygen concentrators and 1,800 ventilators. Both countries continue to cooperate in collectively fighting the pandemic, including under the QUAD framework, which aims to deliver up to 1 billion vaccine doses to developing countries by the end of 2022.

The India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership is based on the strong foundation of shared values such as democracy, freedom and respect for rule of law. Our strategic partnership is reflected in a vast array of institutional mechanisms, including annual summits and



Hon'ble President Ram Nath Kovind

2+2 ministerial dialogues. The year, 2022 will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations. As we look ahead at this important milestone, the recently launched India-Japan Forum brought together think tanks, academicians, businessmen, media representatives and government stakeholders from both countries to discuss ways to strengthen the partnership.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Japan is a natural partner in India's infrastructure development and Japanese-supported projects, which include the Delhi Metro and the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project using shinkansen technology, are among the most iconic infrastructure ventures in India. To explore the potential of complementarities of our demographics, India and Japan recently agreed on a basic partnership framework for operation of the "Specified Skilled Worker" system. Japan's contribution to capacity building in India is already visible in the 17 Japan-India Institutes for Manufacturing and seven Japan Endowed Courses that have been established in India by Japan.

India continues to take proactive steps to maintain its high-growth trajectory toward its goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25. We have undertaken a series of reforms in the labor, tax and investment

codes to enhance the ease of doing business. These efforts have led India to improve its ranking, from 142 (in 2014) to 63 (2019) in the World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business Rankings 2020". As a pathway for future, the dynamics of supply and demand and the complementarity between the countries can facilitate new, innovative and alternate models of partnership. To make this possible, both countries need to come together to "co-innovate," "co-create" and "coproduce," in both domestic and global markets by combining their strength and competitiveness.

India Japan Digital Partnership explores synergies between Japan's "Society 5.0," policy and India's "Digital India," "Startup India" and "Skill India" initiatives. With rapidly increasing active internet users in India, opportunities in frontier technologies such as 5G, big data analytics, quantum computing, to name some, are promising. It is pertinent to note that India is home to the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world – with more than 50,000 startups, 10,000-plus tech startups – and is emerging as a global hub for innovation. The leadership teams of 45% of startups include women entrepreneurs.

India envisions a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, based on the principle of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). The Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) by India is a useful framework that draws on the existing regional cooperation architecture and mechanisms to focus on seven central pillars of maritime security; maritime ecology; maritime resources; capacity building and resource sharing; disaster risk reduction and manage-

ment; science, technology and academic cooperation and trade connectivity and maritime transport. Japan is the lead country for the connectivity pillar in this endeavor.

Embodying the spirit of Vasudeva Kutumbakam or the world is one family, India has continued to look for solutions to global problems through key initiatives such as International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and the more recent Supply Chain Resilience Initiative. Today, renewable energy sources constitute 38% of India's total installed capacity, a testament to the country's commitment to clean energy and the fight against climate change.

The Indian traditional system of medicine Ayurveda is gaining in popularity both in Japan and throughout the world. Yoga needs no introduction and has become a part of life for many Japanese. This year, despite the pandemic more than 900 events (following social distancing protocols) have been held in runup to the International Day of Yoga, including at the iconic Tokyo Sky Tree. Every year more than 50 practitioners of yoga in Japan become certified trainers, indicating a sustained interest in the discipline.

As India approaches the momentous milestone of its 75th year of independence, it promises to be a reinvigorated nation with a buoyant economy, youthful demography and a vibrant democracy. For the greatest part of these 75 years, Japan has been a valued partner alongside India, and I am confident that the India-Japan partnership will continue to grow from strength to strength based on increased person-to-person exchanges.

**Wishing you a Happy Independence Day 2021**

15th August  
*Happy Independence Day!*

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## Indian chamber has continued actively connecting India and Japan for 83 years

By Ram Kalani  
Honorary President, ICCJ

Namaste  
On the occasion of the Indian Independence Day, on behalf of the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ICCJ), I convey warm greetings. Today marks the completion of 74 years of India's independence from centuries of foreign occupation.



Ram Kalani

Seventy-five years before the commemoration of the completion of 75 years of independence, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" (Elixir of Energy of Independence) India @75 was flagged off by Indian Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi, which would culminate next year on Aug. 15, 2022. The idea is to create a vision for the centenary of independence, India@2047.

ICCJ established in 1937 is the sole authorized Indian chamber in Japan, participating and promoting Indo-Japan trade, industry and culture for over 83 years, by various activities in collaboration with the Indian Embassy, the Indian Consulate in Osaka, local city governments and other organizations.

The celebration would bring in a ray of hope and triumph over the unprecedented pandemic, which has affected all of mankind during past one and a half years. We salute and pay our respects to all the warriors who are fighting all out to save people worldwide

India's independence is being cel-

ebrated amid the biggest events at the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo, defying the odds in the coronavirus pandemic in the same indomitable spirit shown by the people of Japan.

ICCJ has remained active even during the pandemic, holding virtual meetings, seminars as well as its annual general meeting in 2021, imbuing courage and compassion from the samurai spirit, despite the widespread adversity caused by the pandemic. The ICCJ is determined to hold the postponed cultural events – the Kyoto Matsuri and the India Mela, Kobe – at the earliest possible opportunity.

I want to conclude by conveying our deepest regards to the people of Japan and the community featuring those of Indian origin for their love and support as always.

Jai Hind