

Republic Day of India

Publicity

India, Japan feting 70-year diplomatic ties

By Sanjay Kumar Verma
Ambassador of India

On the occasion of the 73rd Republic Day of India, I extend my respectful 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 in Japan and all friends of India.



Sanjay Kumar Verma

We celebrate this occasion at a momentous time, as India and Japan are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Since the signing of the Peace Treaty on April 28, 1952, the India-Japan relationship has evolved into a Special Strategic and Global Partnership, expanding across all conceivable domains and disciplines.

India-Japan partnership will continue to strengthen and prosper in a safe, secure and a sustainable world.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has posed challenges as well as provided new opportunities. Government of India has taken pro-active steps to tackle challenges posed by the disruptive COVID-19 pandemic and achieved several milestones. On January 8, 2022, India crossed the significant mark of administering 1.5 billion

doses of vaccinations. It has entered the next phases of vaccinating its youth and delivering booster shots. India has re-started exports of indigenously produced vaccines since November 2021. We are committed to delivering low-cost, effective and safe vaccines to the developing world in keeping with the spirit of Vasudaiva Kutubamkam, the world is one family.

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 2+2 Ministerial Dialogues. Japan is a natural partner in India's infrastructure development and Japanese-supported projects including the Delhi Metro and the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) using Shinkansen technology are among the most iconic infrastructure projects in India. To explore the potential of complementarities of our demographics, India and Japan recently agreed on a basic partnership framework of "Specified Skilled Worker" program.

With its 650 million skilled young demographic dividend, India continues to take proactive steps to maintain its high-growth trajectory towards the goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy. Policy reforms and initiatives undertaken by the Government



Hon'ble President Ram Nath Kovind

of India include, privatization of Public Sector Units, a \$1.4 trillion National Infrastructure Pipeline project, a National Monetization Pipeline for brown field assets worth \$80 billion and Production Linked Incentive schemes covering 13 sectors of the economy, to increase the economic efficiency, improve returns on its assets and bolster the manufacturing sector. India and Japan are combining their strength and competitiveness to "Co-innovate," "Co-create" and "Co-produce," for both domestic and global markets to make this vision a reality.

Important initiatives such as India-Japan Industrial Partnership, Investment Promotion Partnership, Digital Partnership and Supply Chain Resilience Initiative are focused on result-oriented outcomes for ensuring mutually beneficial economic security. These capacity building and economic development frameworks enable synergies between Japan's Society 5.0 and Green Growth Strategy with India's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat - Self reliant India," "Make in India", "Digital India", "Startup India" and "Skill India" initiatives. With rapid-



Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi

ly increasing active internet and smartphone users in India, opportunities in frontier technologies such as AI, 5G and beyond, IoT, big data analytics, quantum computing and digitization etc. seem promising. It is pertinent to note that India is home to the third largest start-up ecosystem in the world with more than 60,000+ start-ups and is emerging as a global hub for innovation.

India envisions a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, based on the principle of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). Japan

already leads the Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport pillar of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) by India, which is an open, inclusive, non-treaty-based global initiative for mitigating challenges especially in the maritime domain. Partner countries are committed to take forward the vision of the QUAD in key and strategic areas including vaccines, climate change, critical and emerging technologies, quality infrastructure development, space, cyber, education and people to people cooperation for a secure, peaceful, prosperous and stable Indo-Pacific.

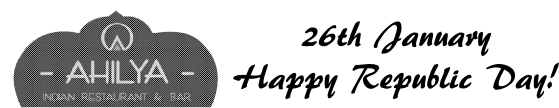
India's commitment to climate change efforts have been unwavering. At COP 26 in Glasgow, India announced that it will achieve the target of net-zero emissions by the year 2070 and reiterated its commitment to take its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW and meet 50 percent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030. India remains a strong votary of climate mitigation and climate justice. In just 2021, India has launched various clean energy initiatives including the National Green Hydrogen Mis-

sion, and an initiative with the United Kingdom: The Green Grid - One Sun, One World, One Grid. India is also committed to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

India-Japan relations are historical and civilizational. Buddhism is one of the key factors in maintaining the cultural connection between the countries for centuries. The SAMVAD series of conferences is an important platform to showcase the cultural linkages between India and Japan. In modern times, the practice of yoga and ayurvedic traditional system of medicine of India in Japan have sustained this civilizational bond, which is being strengthened with people-to-people exchanges.

As India marks the momentous milestone of its 75th year of independence through the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, it is poised to become a reinvigorated nation with a buoyant economy, youthful demography and a vibrant democracy. Japan has been a valued partner of India and I am confident that India-Japan partnership will continue to strengthen and prosper in a safe, secure and a sustainable world.

Wishing you a Happy Republic Day 2022



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Indian chamber joins celebrating Republic Day

By Ram Kalani
Honorary President, ICCJ

Namaste Republic Day has always been the cornerstone for celebrations of Indian democracy. On this 73rd Republic Day, on behalf of the Indian Chamber of Commerce—Japan (ICCJ), I convey my best wishes to all Indian and Japanese citizens in the midst of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav being the 75th year of India's independence.

ICCJ established in Japan in 1937 has the honor of celebrating this revered Republic Day all along since the first one on Jan. 26, 1951, which was the first anniversary of the Indian Constitution coming into effect.

India and Japan have long history; exchange between Japan and India is said to have begun in the 6th century when Buddhism was introduced to Japan. Indian culture, filtered through Buddhism, has had a great impact on Japanese culture, and this is also the source of the Japanese people's sense of closeness to India.

The democratic spirit of the citizen of both the countries have seen strengthening of the relations irrespective of the ruling dispensation.

In the present day scenario, when the world is going through unprecedented hardship due to the pandemic, India and Japan are in the forefront by developing and manufacturing vaccines and medicines and making the same available to whole of the world with a special focus on less fortunate ones.

We are keenly waiting for the comeback of normalcy all across and have started working on celebrating long awaited first ever Kyoto Matsuri in April 2022 as also the usual India Mela in Kobe sometime in October 2022 which has been postponed for two successive years.

I convey respectful regards to this great country of Japan and all her citizen and also the diaspora of Indian sub-continent in Japan.

Long live the democracy. Long live India-Japan friendship!
Jai Hind

Ram Kalani