

Republic Day of India Special

Robust partnership built on shared values, cooperation

SIBI GEORGE
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA



On India's 76th Republic Day, I extend my warm greetings to their majesties, the emperor and empress of Japan, and the government and the people of Japan. I also take this opportunity to convey special greetings to fellow Indian nationals and friends of India in Japan, who are important stakeholders in the progressive India-Japan special strategic and global partnership.

India and Japan have a special relationship rooted in the shared values of democracy, freedom, rule of law, mutual respect and a common vision for the future. Last year, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our special strategic and global partnership. Over the last decade, we have seen our partnership evolve into a robust and multifaceted relationship, firmly rooted in a vision for a free, open, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific. This strategic convergence is reflected in our active collaboration in multilateral and plurilateral groupings, including "the Quad."

Over the past year, there has been excellent momentum in the high-level engagements between India and Japan. The Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with the Hon. Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on the sidelines of the East Asia summit in Laos. Prior to that, there were summit-level meetings on the sidelines of the summit of the group of seven leading industrial nations in Italy and the Quad meeting in the United States.



President Droupadi Murmu

Various high-level bilateral dialogues were also held in 2024, including the 16th and 17th foreign ministers' strategic dialogue meetings in Tokyo and New Delhi, respectively. Our foreign ministers also met on the sidelines of G7 ministerial meeting in Italy.

The Hon. Speaker of House of Representatives Fukushima Nukaga visited India in July and August 2024.

Our defense and security cooperation is a shining example of the significant progress in our bilateral partnership, with increased joint exercises and exchanges. Our defense chiefs met on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations defense ministers' meeting in Laos. The discussions at the "two-plus-two" foreign and defense ministerial dialogue in New Delhi,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

led to the recent signing of a memorandum of implementation for the procurement of the Unified Complex Radio Antenna by the Indian Navy. This is the first instance of codevelopment and coproduction of defense equipment between India and Japan, and we are confident that this achievement will open the door for further cooperation in this critical area.

One of the highlights of our progressive partnership this past year was the inaugural India-Japan economic security dialogue, including strategic trade and technology, held in Tokyo. There is recognition of a need to closely collaborate to protect economic interests and build resilient supply chains in an unpredictable geopolitical environment. This dialogue also provided an excellent opportunity to promote col-



Honoring Indian politician and independence activist Sardar Patel, the Statue of Unity in Gujarat is the world's tallest, standing 182 meters. INCREDIBLE INDIA

laboration in research and application of critical technologies, including artificial intelligence and quantum computing. A prominent example of this cooperation is also seen in the semiconductor sector, where leading Japanese companies are contributing to the development of a strong semiconductor ecosystem in India. Similarly, our partnership in clean hydro-energy is gaining significant momentum.

The economic partnership continues to be an important pillar of India-Japan cooperation. India and Japan have set an investment target of ¥5 trillion by 2027. It is satisfying to note that significant progress has been made toward achieving this target. India's economic resilience and dynamism, robust reform-driven growth, ease of doing business, skilled workforce and a burgeoning startup ecosystem, have all

been critical to the rise in Japan Inc.'s presence in India.

People-to-people exchanges form the bedrock of our relationship. India and Japan are currently discussing proposals and ideas to strengthen our cooperation in the field of human resource and personnel exchanges. The year 2024 was designated as the India-Japan Year of Tourism 2.0, with the theme "Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji." In September 2024, an India Month was organized in Japan and a Japan Month was organized in India. There is great interest among Japan's prefectures and India's states in engaging with each other, and this was reflected in several high-level visits last year. We expect that India's participation in the 2025 World Expo in Osaka will further strengthen the business-to-business cooperation and

people-to-people contacts between our countries.

2024 was also a significant year for India marked by the successful conduct of the 2024 general elections, the largest exercise in democracy ever seen in the history of humankind, with over 900 million eligible voters. This democratic exercise stood as a testament to our commitment to representative governance and the strength of our democratic institutions.

As a fast-growing large economy, India has a vision and an ambition to become a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of Indian independence, with prosperity for all. Japan has been a valued partner of India on this journey, and I am confident that the India-Japan partnership will continue to strengthen and prosper in a safe, secure and sustainable world.

MAY THE LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND JAPAN CONTINUE TO FLOURISH.
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RAJESH KHULLAR
CEO, YOUNG GUNS GROUP

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Republic Day of India Special

Reliable friendship continues on path to promising future

YOSHIIDE SUGA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN INDIA ASSOCIATION

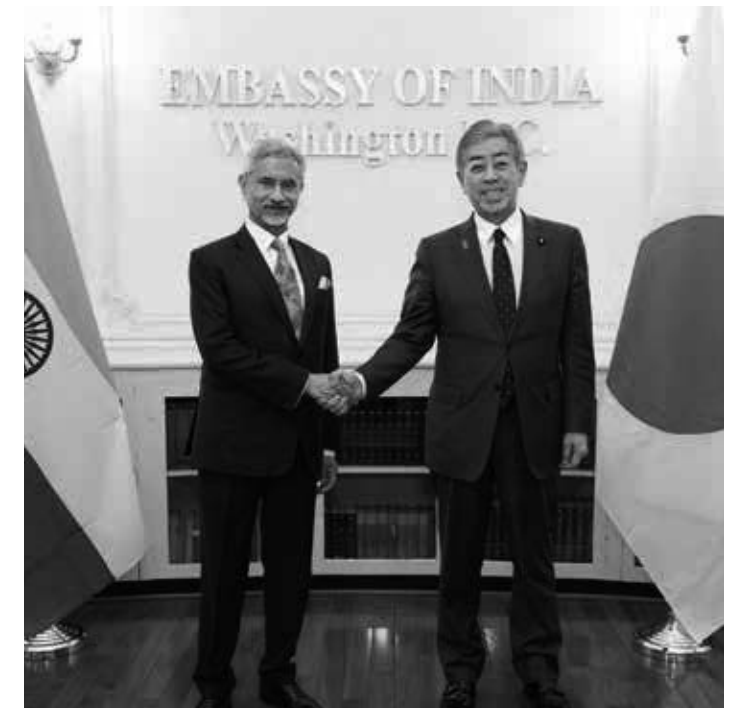


On this special occasion of the 76th Republic Day of India, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of India. Japan and India have built bonds of friendship and trust over the years. This relationship has now reached an extremely high level as a special strategic and global partnership. Cooperation in a wide range of fields, including the economy, culture, education and technology, is deepening, contributing to the prosperity of both countries as well as the stability of the region and the world. I have particularly kept in mind the

"Confluence of the Two Seas" speech given by the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the Indian Parliament in 2007. This concept has now been embodied in the form of a free and open Indo-Pacific, and cooperation between Japan and India to realize this vision is being vigorously promoted through such initiatives as "the Quad" and the "two-plus-two" foreign and defense ministers' meeting.

Currently, India has achieved remarkable economic development and continues to grow into a world leader, and further cooperation with Japan will be a strong driving force to accelerate this development. Japan will walk alongside India as a steady friend on its journey to a bright future.

Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes for further prosperity for India and happiness for all its people and conclude my remarks with the hope that Japan-India relations will continue to deepen even further.



Left: Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and Prime Minister Narendra Modi meet on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India summit in October 2024. Above: External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar meets Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya in January in Washington. EMBASSY OF INDIA

Friendly bonds built on mutual values of freedom, democracy

YASUTOSHI NISHIMURA
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-INDIA PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



As chairman of the Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League and member of the House of Representatives, I would like to express heartfelt congratulations to the people of India on the occasion of their 76th Republic Day.

Japan and India established diplomatic ties in 1952. With a long history of warm exchanges, we have successfully constructed a highly cordial relationship that has deepened even further in recent years. In an increasingly complex global situation, the cooperative relationship between Japan and India, which share fundamental values such as freedom, democracy and

peace, has become even more important. Following Japan holding the presidency of the Group of Seven industrialized nations and India holding the G20 presidency in 2023, our countries are further collaborating and leading the international community together.

I have been chairman of the JIPFL since 2023 after over 20 years contributing to the development of our bilateral relationship.

I visited New Delhi and Goa to participate in the G20 energy ministerial meeting, the deep tech innovation and clean energy seminars and other events in July 2023. I am convinced that the relationship between Japan and India will remain robust, and as JIPFL chairman I will continue to develop a stronger relationship by stimulating exchanges between our parliaments.

I would like to conclude my message by expressing my sincere wishes for the further prosperity of your country and the well-being of all of you.

Working to support bilateral investment opportunities

RYUKO HIRA
CHAIRMAN, THE INDIAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



As we celebrate India's 76th Republic Day, India reflects on its journey toward becoming "Viksit Bharat" (developed India). The past year has been transformative, marking key achievements across multiple domains.

India now ranks second globally in renewable energy capacity, with over 200 gigawatts installed, driven by its ambitious

Green Hydrogen Mission and solar energy projects. In February, the Mumbai-Delhi High-Speed Railway Project will reach a critical milestone, promising to revolutionize connectivity and economic growth.

The Indian Space Research Organisation made history with the successful launch of Chandrayaan-4, advancing India's leadership in lunar exploration. Meanwhile, the global pharmaceutical industry continues to rely on India, which now produces 65% of the world's vaccines, securing its position as the "pharmacy of the world."

In education, India surpassed 1,200 universities, while the number of startups rose to over 100,000, reflecting a robust ecosystem for innovation. Additionally, women's participation in higher education and

research and development reached unprecedented levels, signaling a shift toward greater inclusivity.

Rooted in the philosophy of *vasudhaiva kutumbakam* (the world is one family), India continues to foster sustainable growth and spiritual unity, guided by the timeless teachings of its saints. Inspired by the teachings of saints like Ramanujacharya, who championed equality through devotion, and guru Nanak Dev, who emphasized the unity of all existence, India continues to uphold the values of compassion and inclusion. Saints like Tukaram in Maharashtra and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in Bengal taught the path of selfless love and joy in devotion, leaving a legacy that inspires generations. 2025 marks the birth centenary of

contemporary India's renowned luminary Sri Sathya Sai Baba, whose simple but profound words of inclusivity, "Love all, serve all ... help ever, hurt never," have become global household sayings. This spiritual heritage, deeply rooted in the land of Bharat, forms the foundation of its vision for a harmonious and developed future.

The Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan, with a history spanning over 104 years, serves as an apex body providing support, guidance and advisory services to all interested parties, enabling them to fully develop the economic potential and investment opportunities between Japan and India. On behalf of all ICJ members, I convey our deepest appreciation to the readers of The Japan Times.



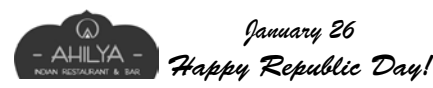
India's Parliament House in New Delhi was inaugurated in 2023. INCREDIBLE INDIA



The Charaideo Maidams burial mounds are India's 43rd UNESCO World Heritage Site. INCREDIBLE INDIA

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Wishing you a Happy Republic Day



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