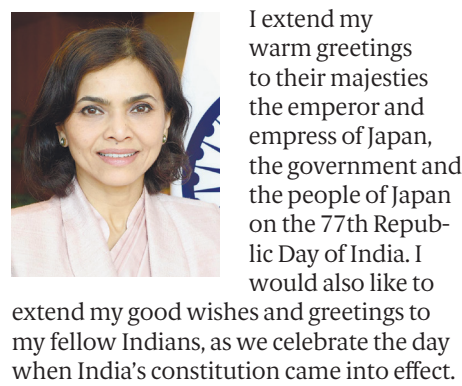


**NAGMA M. MALLICK**  
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA



India and Japan share a special strategic and global partnership that has grown in strength from year to year. The past year was no different. It was marked by multiple meetings at the highest level. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a successful visit to Japan in August.

He had also met with then-Prime Minister H.E. Shigeru Ishiba in June. Subsequently, Modi met with Prime Minister H.E. Sanae Takaichi in November on the sidelines of the Group of 20 leading and industrialized nations summit in South Africa.

The leaders had earlier held a telephone conversation just after Takaichi assumed office in October. These meetings and interactions underline the commitment of both countries toward advancing the bilateral relationship in accordance with the India-Japan Joint Vision for the Next Decade.

This joint vision, an outcome of the India-Japan summit in 2025, is a landmark document that envisages a wide focus on eight pillars for cooperation. It will aid India and Japan in jointly navigating the changes and opportunities in our countries and the world over the next decade. The pillars include economic partnership; economic security; mobility; ecological sustainability; technology and innovation; health; people-to-people and cultural exchanges; and



state-prefecture cooperation.

Our countries also have a common vision of a free, open, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region based on the rule of law. Our foreign ministers have already met twice in the last three months and these meetings have helped take our strategic partnership forward. They met in India on Jan. 16 for the 18th India-Japan strategic dialogue and earlier in Malaysia on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in October. Prior to that, Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar met Foreign Minister H.E. Takeshi Iwaya in January on the sidelines of "the Quad" foreign ministers' meeting in Washington, D.C.

In August, we also updated our Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, placing emphasis on defense equipment and technology cooperation and on capacity-building initiatives. Prior to this, our defense ministers met in May 2025. Major bilateral defense exercises such as Dharma Guardian-25, the Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2025, as well as multilateral exer-



cises like Malabar, helped augment the interoperability of our armed forces. Our coast guard ships visited each other's ports in January and July 2025.

Additionally, Speaker of the House of Representatives H.E. Fukushima Nukaga visited India in May 2025.

In a marker of the remarkable progress we are making on the economic front, last year we set a new private investment target of ¥10 trillion in India over the next decade.

The Indian economy, despite global headwinds, is growing from strength to strength. India's central bank revised its gross domestic product growth projection for fiscal year 2025-26 upward from 6.8% to 7.3%. This resilience of the Indian economy, coupled with our reform orientation and skilled workforce, is sure to attract more Japanese companies and investment into India. Indian businesses also participated with much enthusiasm in the Osaka Expo, indicating sustained momentum in our economic ties.

Our energy cooperation also got a boost



in 2025 through the fourth India-Japan Energy Dialogue held in August, as well as the visit of Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Puri to Japan in November.

Clean energy remains a focus of our efforts — we signed the Joint Declaration of Intent on Clean Hydrogen and Ammonia in 2025 to promote research, investment and implementation of projects on hydrogen and ammonia and deepen collaboration on cutting-edge research and innovation for developing technologies. Additionally, Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh made a productive visit to Japan in July.

Our partnership in futuristic technologies, such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, semiconductors and others, is also advancing under our Digital Partnership 2.0 and the India-Japan AI initiative. India, with its strong tech-based industries and the support of partners like Japan, will host the AI Impact Summit in February in New Delhi

to bring focus on the ability of AI to power inclusive growth and a sustainable future.

We strengthened our cooperation in economic security in 2025 through the launch of the economic security initiative to promote supply chain resilience in strategic sectors such as semiconductors, clean energy, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and critical minerals, as well as new and emerging technologies.

Our people-to-people and state-prefecture relationships continue to set the tone for our cooperation. The Action Plan for India-Japan Human Resource Exchange launched last year promotes a two-way exchange of 500,000 people between India and Japan, including 50,000 skilled and semi-skilled personnel from India to Japan, in the next five years. There is significant momentum in the interactions between Indian states and Japanese prefectures. These high-level interactions

continue to contribute significantly to our economic, cultural and people-to-people relationships.

India in 2025 reaffirmed its goal of attaining high middle-income status by 2047 — the centenary of our independence. Our rising GDP, growing merchandise and service exports and our skilled workforce will be our strengths as we move forward.

Last year was also one in which India responded resolutely to terrorism. Japan's leadership, at the highest level, expressed solidarity with the Indian people and firmly recommitted itself to combatting terrorism in cooperation with India.

I am confident that India and Japan, with our long friendship, shared values and joint vision, will continue to deepen our ties to mutual benefit. Long may our relations be a beacon that guides the region and the world toward peace, prosperity and mutual understanding.



**This day reflects the values of our Constitution — unity, integrity and progress.**

**With a commitment to nation-building and social welfare, Khullar Welfare Foundation and Young Guns Group salute the spirit of a strong and self-reliant India.**



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**Auditor:** Mr. Veerasureshkumar Veerappan

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# Republic Day of India Special

## Facing complex global challenges side by side

**YOSHIHIDE SUGA**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION



On the 77th Republic Day of India, I would like to extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of India on behalf of the Japan-India Association. I also take this opportunity to express my profound pleasure with the deepening friendship and the remarkable progress of our bilateral ties, which continue to thrive through active political, economic and cultural exchanges.

The association marks its 123rd anniversary this year. Throughout our long and prestigious history, successive former prime ministers have served as chairman, and we have consistently dedicated ourselves to strengthening the special relationship between Japan and India. It is a great

honor for me to carry forward this noble tradition.

Our bilateral relations have been evolving significantly over the last decade under the special strategic and global partnership and the shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. These ties have been further augmented by consistent high-level engagements and an unwavering commitment to our mutual security and prosperity.

In 2026, as both Japan and India continue to bear significant global responsibilities, I look forward to even more robust and meaningful interactions between our countries to grapple with various complex issues the world is facing today. I firmly believe that our time-tested partnership will flourish even further as we approach the historic 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties next year.

On this auspicious occasion, I pray for the continued prosperity of India and the well-being of its people.



Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi meet on the sidelines of the 20th G20 leaders' summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November. EMBASSY OF INDIA



Tokyo Electron chief Toshiki Kawai poses with Modi at the company's factory in Sendai in August. EMBASSY OF INDIA

## Long-term friendship points to a shared bright, prosperous future

**YASUTOSHI NISHIMURA**  
PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN-INDIA  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On the occasion of India's 77th Republic Day, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of India.

Japan has been influenced by Indian culture and has benefited greatly from it. These historical and cultural ties have fostered mutual trust and continued to serve as a firm foundation supporting the close relationship between Japan and India today.

In August 2025, H.E. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Japan, marking a new milestone in Japan-India relations. The countries reaffirmed their commitment to building a mutually complementary relationship that draws upon each other's strengths, and presented to the international community a direction for the next decade of Japan-India cooperation in key areas such as security, the economy, investment and innovation and people-to-people exchanges.

Considering the immense potential of

both countries, this partnership will serve as a driving force for the co-creation of social and economic value for future generations, and for providing solutions to shared challenges facing the international community.

The Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League is firmly determined to actively strengthen Japan-India relations even more.

I sincerely wish the people of India continued prosperity and hope that the friendship between our countries will flourish for many years to come.

**RYUKO HIRA**  
CHAIRMAN, THE INDIAN COMMERCE  
AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



On the occasion of India's 77th Republic Day, I extend my warm greetings with deep respect and optimism. This day is not only a celebration of India's remarkable progress, but also a reaffirmation of the values and aspirations guiding the nation toward Viksit Bharat 2047 (Developed India 2047).

India has made outstanding strides in sustainable development. By the end of 2025, the country's nonfossil fuel

power capacity surpassed 500 gigawatts, accounting for more than half of its total installed capacity. Ranked as the fourth-largest nation in the world in renewable energy capacity, India has demonstrated a strong commitment to responsible growth and global climate leadership.

Transformative changes are also underway in higher education under the National Education Policy. Leading institutions such as the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, the Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras have launched interdisciplinary initiatives in energy, artificial intelligence, medical data science and sustainability. These efforts are cultivating research-driven, socially responsible talent capable of addressing complex global challenges. Notably, women's

participation in STEM fields has reached its highest level to date, supported by national programs and expanded educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math.

India's research ecosystem continues to advance through national missions in quantum technology, AI, biotechnology and space science. Government projections estimate that India's space economy will grow to \$44 billion by 2033, marking its emergence as a significant global contributor to scientific innovation.

These achievements are deeply rooted in India's timeless civilizational ethos — shaped by the Upanishads, the teachings of Buddha and the devotional wisdom of its spiritual traditions — which emphasizes harmony between technological progress and ethical responsibility. Bal-

ancing outward development with inner maturity remains central to India's distinctive development model.

The Japan-India Joint Vision for the Next Decade has further strengthened bilateral cooperation in areas such as semiconductors, AI, quantum research, clean energy and education. For over 105 years, the Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan has served as a vital bridge between our nations. On behalf of all ICIJ members, I express our sincere appreciation to the readers of The Japan Times for their continued engagement and goodwill.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*



Left: Steep mountains and remote towns characterize the Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh; Right: The iconic Stone Chariot stands in the village of Hampi in Karnataka. INCREDIBLE INDIA

## Heartiest Republic Day Greetings THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN JAPAN

**THE INDIAN CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE-JAPAN**  
Hon. President: Paramjit Chadha

**THE INDIAN SOCIAL SOCIETY**  
Hon. President: Sagar Rohera

**THE INDIA CLUB**  
Hon. President: Bhaven Jhaveri

Wishing you a Happy Republic Day

 January 26  
*Happy Republic Day!*

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# Congratulations

## to the people of the Republic of India

### on their Republic Day

 **Mita Kosan Co., Ltd.**  
**Idemitsu Shokai Co., Ltd.**

**Mita Kosan Group**

Mita Kosan Co., Ltd. Idemitsu Shokai Co., Ltd. Powerlink Co., Ltd.

## SAI HIRA INDIA FOUNDATION WISHES A HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY!

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SAI HIRA  
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Dedicated to India-Japan economic,  
educational, cultural and parliamentary exchanges

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