

India Independence Day Special

Joint development across many areas

SANJAY KUMAR VERMA
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA



On the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day, I extend my warm greetings to their majesties the emperor and the empress, and to the government and 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, as well as congratulations to Japan for successfully hosting the 2020 Tokyo Olympics despite the pandemic.

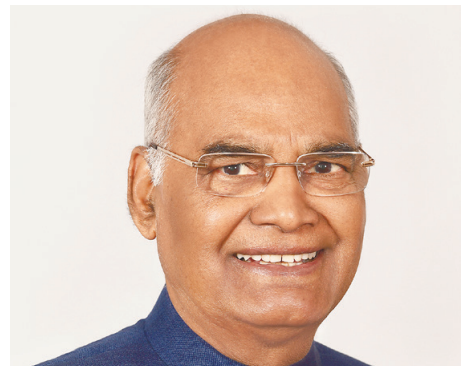
The COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges as well as provided new opportunities globally. India has taken proactive steps to counter the pandemic and as a result, the cumulative number of COVID-19 infections as well as deaths per million people is below that of more than 100 countries. India has also contributed 66 million doses of vaccine directly or through the COVAX facility to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi
EMBASSY OF INDIA

more than 95 countries.

The India-Japan special strategic and global partnership is based on a strong foundation of shared values, such as democracy, freedom and respect for the rule of law. Our partnership is reflected in a vast array of institutional mechanisms, including the recently launched multistakeholder India-Japan Forum. Japan is a natural partner in India's infrastructure development projects, such as the Delhi Metro and Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail. This partnership's influence on capacity-building is visible in the 17 Japan-



President Ram Nath Kovind
EMBASSY OF INDIA

India Institutes for Manufacturing, seven Japan Endowed Courses and the recently agreed Specified Skilled Worker program. India and Japan are also engaged in realizing the potential of ayurveda and yoga for the well-being of all.

India has improved its place in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings to 63rd through a series of reforms in the labor, tax and investment codes. As a pathway to the future, both countries need to come together to "coinnovate," "cocreate" and "coproduce," by combining their strengths

and competitiveness.

Another pillar in this relationship is the India Japan Digital Partnership, which explores synergies between Japan's "Society 5.0" policy and India's "Digital India," "Startup India" and "Skill India" initiatives. As one of the largest startup ecosystems in the world, India opens up opportunities in frontier technologies such as 5G, big data analytics and quantum computing.

India, as a net security provider, envisions a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific based on the principle of security and growth for all in the region. India continues to look for solutions to global problems through key initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and the more recent Supply Chain Resilience Initiative.

As India approaches the momentous milestone of its 75th year of independence, it envisions itself as a reinvigorated *atmanirbhar* (self-reliant) nation. 2022 will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of India-Japan diplomatic relations, and I am confident that the India-Japan partnership will continue to grow from strength to strength based on increased people-to-people exchanges.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi plants a sapling at the inauguration of the Varanasi International Cooperation and Convention Centre in the state of Uttar Pradesh on July 15.

EMBASSY OF INDIA

Strong support to further enhance cultural, economic relationships

RYUKO HIRA
CHAIRMAN, INDIAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



The COVID-19 challenge has certainly created a stronger case for greater international cooperation to facilitate economic recovery. Those with shared interests and common values will find

it easier to forge stronger partnerships.

In ensuring economic recovery, Indo-Japanese relations have a notable role, even beyond Asia. The partnership is seen today as among the most significant in the region. Both countries are partners in each others' national, regional and global engagements.

Our cooperation reflects the needs of the time, whether it is through a fund to support start-ups or an agreement to receive skilled workers and professionals from each other. Our strong strategic convergence is evident in our annual summit, "2+2" meetings and strategic, as well as regional and multilateral, forums.

With recent successful common projects such as the bullet train initiative, the Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor and the dedicated western freight corridor, Japan's long-standing foreign direct investment

footprint in India is steadily expanding.

2022 marks the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. Many of Japan's prefectures that have varied interests with India are planning to further enhance our relations by hosting economic and cultural events throughout the year.

On July 15, the opening ceremony for the Varanasi International Cooperation and Convention Centre, which was constructed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, was held in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

At the ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "the friendship between Japan and India is one of the most trusted ones in the world, both strategically and economically, and Japan has always been the most reliable partner in India's development."

The Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, serves as an apex body to provide support, guidance and consultancy/advisory services to all interested parties, enabling them to fully develop the economic and investment potential between Japan and India.

While felicitating India's independence and freedom, on behalf of all ICIJ members, I convey our deepest appreciation to all who have contributed to India's cause and to the readers of The Japan Times.

Working to deepen mutual understanding and friendly ties

YOSHIRO MORI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Japan-India Association, I have the honor to send our most faithful friendship wishes to the people of India on the 75th occasion of their independence.

I am gratified to see that India's international status is constantly on the rise and that the Japan-India relationship is developing. In particular, both countries have successfully expanded their vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region by



engaging not only the United States and Australia, but also a number of major European powers. As the solidarity uniting these democratic and free nations ever deepens, we may see the development of "Quad plus."

This year, however, both our countries are still facing continued adversity

because of COVID-19. Both Japan and India are obliged to suspend mutual visits of importance to slow the spread of the pandemic. Although business, cultural and other exchanges are still hampered, our two countries enjoy positive and future-oriented relations thanks to solid and constructive diplomacy and the friendship shared by the Japanese and Indian peoples.

As former chairman of Japan's Olympic Organising Committee, I am gratified to see that despite the vicissitudes, Japan

is finally hosting the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics with a strong determination to overcome the pandemic. I see already a light at the end of this dark tunnel.

I am convinced that our relationship will get back on track in several months.

On this auspicious occasion, the Japan-India Association, with its 118 years of heritage and its wide-ranging network, renews its determination to work toward the further development of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and India.

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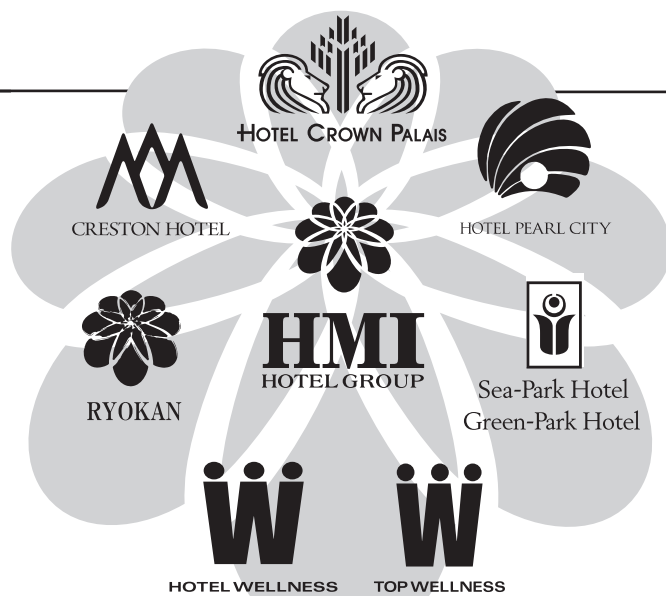


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India Independence Day Special



Akshardham Temple in Delhi opened in 2005. Above: Built in 1972, Indosan Nipponji temple was designed to look like a Japanese shrine.
EMBASSY OF INDIA

Political exchanges on upward path

HAKUBUN SHIMOMURA
CHAIRPERSON, LDP POLICY CHIEF COUNCIL



On behalf of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of the Republic of India on their 75th Independence Day.

I am pleased to acknowledge that Japan and India have enjoyed cordial relations through a long history of interaction. As the relationship between Japan and India

is blessed with the greatest potential for development of any bilateral relationship in the world, our cooperation has become wider and deeper in recent years. While cooperation in security and defense and economic relations deepens, it is also expected that people-to-people and cultural exchanges between our two countries will be promoted further. Although people's movement is limited due to COVID-19 restraints, I believe that these areas have great potential to explore in our relationship.

I visited India in 2014 as minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology and discussed with my counterparts cultural and educational exchanges between Japan and India. I had an opportunity

to interact with university officials, too. In addition, as chairman of the Parliamentary League for Promotion of Yoga, it is my hope that interactions between our countries will be expanded through yoga. I was delighted to join the celebration of the seventh International Day of Yoga on June 21.

2022 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between Japan and India. We hope our bilateral exchanges will be promoted further in various areas through this anniversary.

On this special occasion, I express my best wishes to the people of India for their further prosperity, and reiterate my hope for the continued development of our countries' friendship.

Bilateral cooperation continues to expand

HIROYUKI HOSODA
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-INDIA PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On behalf of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of the Republic of India on

the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day.

India, the world's largest democratic state, is one of Japan's most important partners. The two countries maintain friendly relations founded on our long history of exchange, and such cordial ties have become wider and deeper in recent

years. After his appointment in September last year, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga held three telephone talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and they concurred that they would continue their effort to materialize the Japan-India special strategic and global partnership and confirmed the importance of cooperation towards realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific region. In addition, the first Japan-Australia-India-U.S. leaders' video conference was held in March. We welcome that our strategic relations are being expanded not only bilaterally, but also multilaterally.

Responding to a surge in COVID-19 infections in India in April, Japan provided assistance to our friend and partner to support her efforts to fight the pandemic. We expect that our two countries will continue to work hand in hand and overcome the COVID-19 crisis as soon as possible.

The year 2022 marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence as well as the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. We hope our bilateral cooperation will deepen further in various areas through this occasion.

The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League would like to actively contribute to reinforcing the Japan-India relationship for the post-COVID-19 world.

On this special occasion, I would like to send my best wishes to the people of India for their further prosperity, and reiterate my hope for the continued development of the two countries' friendship.

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



The Kailasa Temple in Maharashtra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
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Wish you a Happy Independence Day 2021

15th August
Happy Independence Day!

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