

Republic Day of India

PUBLICITY

India-Japan strategic partnership deepens

By Sibi George
Ambassador of India

On the occasion of India's 76th Republic Day, I extend my warm greetings to Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan, as well as the government and people of Japan. I also take this opportunity to convey special greetings to my fellow Indian nationals and friends of India in Japan, who are important stakeholders in the progressive India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.



Sibi George

India and Japan have a special relationship rooted in our shared values of democracy, freedom and rule of law, as well as mutual respect and a common vision for the future. Last year, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the India-Japan 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 high-level engagements between India and Japan signifying the strong fundamentals of our bilateral partnership. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Shigeru Ishiba on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Laos during Prime Minister



H.E. Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Honorable President of India

Ishiba's first month in office. Prior to that, Prime Minister Modi had met with then Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Fumio Kishida on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Italy, and the Quad summit meeting in the United States. These three summit-level meetings in the 10th year of our Special Strategic and Global Partnership reaffirmed the commitment of both countries to strengthening bilateral cooperation across multiple domains while recognizing the indispensability of the India-Japan partnership for a peaceful, safe and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

On the strategic front, various bilateral dialogues were held in 2024 including the 16th and 17th Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue in Tokyo and New Delhi, respectively. Our foreign ministers also met on the sidelines of the G7 Ministerial Meeting in Italy.

The Hon'ble Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan Mr. 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 part-



H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Honorable Prime Minister of India

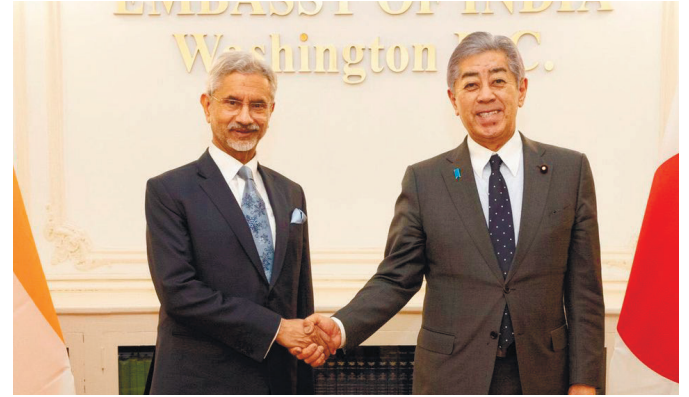
nership, with increased joint exercises, exchanges and codevelopment initiatives marking a new chapter in our collaboration. Our defense ministers met on the sidelines of ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting in Laos. The third edition of the 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministerial Dialogue, in New Delhi, was a major milestone, leading to several important outcomes and decisions. These discussions led to the recent signing of the Memorandum of Implementation for the procurement of UNICORN for the Indian Navy, a particularly noteworthy achievement. This is the first instance of codevelopment and co-production 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. Major defense bilateral exercises like Dharma Guardian and JIMEX 24, as well as multilateral exercises like Malabar and Tarang Shakti, were held in 2024, further augmenting the interoperability between our armed forces. The coast guards of our two countries have regular exchanges as well.



"Courtesy of the Embassy of India
H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, meets with H.E. Mr. Shigeru Ishiba, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan, on the sidelines of the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings in Laos on Oct. 10, 2024.

One of the highlights of our progressive partnership this past year was the inaugural India-Japan Dialogue on Economic Security, including strategic trade and technology, held in Tokyo. This dialogue was held out of a recognition for closer collaboration to protect economic interests and build resilient supply chains in an increasingly unpredictable geopolitical environment. It also provided an excellent opportunity to promote collaboration in research and application of critical technologies, including AI and quantum computing.

A prominent example of this cooperation is the semiconductor sector, where leading Japanese companies are contributing to the development of a strong semiconductor ecosystem in India. Similarly, our partnership in clean hydrogen is gaining significant momentum, with the private sectors of both countries working together on initiatives such as hydrogen supply from India to Japan and ammonia cofiring technology. The economic partnership contin-



"Courtesy of the Embassy of India
H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, meets with H.E. Mr. Takeshi Iwaya, Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Japan, in Washington on Jan. 19. Both foreign ministers attended U.S. President Donald Trump's inauguration ceremony.

ues 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 on this target. India's economic resilience and dynamism, reform-driven robust growth, ease of doing business, skilled workforce and 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 the India-Japan Year of Tourism 2.0, with the theme of "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 the prefectures of Japan and the states of India in engaging with each other, and this was re-

flected in several high-level visits last year. We expect that India's participation in the 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo will further strengthen the business-to-business cooperation and people-to-people contact between our two countries.

2024 was also a domestically significant year for India marked by the successful conducting of the 2024 general elections, the largest exercise in democracy 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 India's valued partner in this journey, and I am confident that the India-Japan partnership will continue to strengthen and prosper in a safe, secure and sustainable world.

Promoting India-Japan Relations SINCE 1937 Registered with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI, Japan)

THE INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - JAPAN

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With Warm Wishes

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Indian Chamber of Commerce committed to enhancing enduring India-Japan partnership

By Paramjit Chadha
Honorary President
The Indian Chamber of Commerce-Japan

Namaste!

On this joyous occasion of India's 76th Republic Day, I, on behalf of the Indian Chamber of Commerce-Japan, extend my heartfelt congratulations to all Indians and cherished friends of India in Japan. This day commemorates not only the adoption of our Constitution but also the shared values of democracy, unity and progress that connect us all.



Paramjit Chadha

As we step into 2025, India is poised for remarkable development, continuing its trajectory as one of the world's fastest-growing economies. The Indian Chamber of Commerce-Japan, since its inception in 1937, has proudly served as a bridge between India and Japan, fostering economic, cultural and technological collaboration. This year, we remain steadfast in our mission to strengthen this enduring partnership.

The 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo is a shining opportunity to showcase India's innovations and potential to a global audience. With India's dynamic participation, we eagerly anticipate it becoming a platform to reinforce the bonds between our nations and explore avenues for mutual growth.

I would also like to take this moment to express our sincere gratitude to the Consulate General of India, Osaka-Kobe, and the Embassy of India Tokyo, Japan, for their unwavering support and cooperation. Your contributions have been instrumental in enabling ICCJ to fulfill its objectives.

As we celebrate this historic day, ICCJ reaffirms its commitment to facilitating our member companies and promoting their endeavors. Together, we strive to contribute meaningfully to India's growth and the enduring friendship between India and Japan.

Let us continue this journey with pride, purpose, and optimism for a brighter future.

Wishing you all a Happy Republic Day! Warm regards,