

# Sustainability central to joint partnership

**RYUKO HIRA**

CHAIRMAN, THE INDIAN COMMERCE  
AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



As India celebrates its 78th Independence Day anniversary, it stands as the world's largest democracy and one of the fastest-growing major economies. Fiscal 2024–25 gross

domestic product growth is projected at around 6.5%, maintaining its strong position in the Group of 20 leading rich and developing nations after last year's remarkable 8.2%. This growth is driven by digital transformation, a \$200 billion information technology business process outsourcing industry and reforms enhancing competitiveness.

Japan remains a trusted partner, with ties rooted in mutual respect and shared values. Japan has pledged \$42 billion (¥5 trillion) over five years, supporting public and private projects. Key initiatives include the \$5.5 billion Patna Metro railway project and contributions to India's digital revolution through information and communications technology and talent

development, addressing urban challenges and advancing India's digital leadership.

People-to-people connections thrive through programs like Sakura Science and the Indian Department of Science and Technology and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science fostering research collaboration and nurturing young innovators. Japanese language classes and scholarships enable Indians to contribute to Japan's economy, while Indian information and technology and artificial intelligence professionals bolster Japan's digital industries.

Sustainability is central to the partnership. The Green Ammonia Project, led by Acme and IHI, aims to cut 54 million tons of carbon dioxide, while the International Solar Alliance promotes clean energy and climate action, reflecting shared environmental responsibility.

The startup ecosystem also shows promise, with India's innovation — driven by over 100 unicorns — aligning with Japan's expertise in manufacturing, robotics and quality. Joint venture funds and incubators support entrepreneurs tackling global challenges.

The spiritual dimension of ties is increasingly valued. India brings yoga, meditation, ahimsa and *vasudhaiva kutumbakam* (the world as one family) while Japan offers

zen, *wa* (harmony) and coexistence with nature. Together, these values add ethical depth, inspiring innovation, sustainability and harmony for a better future.

The Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan, with a history spanning over 100 years, serves as an apex body to provide support, guidance and advisory services to all interested parties, enabling them to fully develop the economic potential and investment between Japan and India.

On behalf of all ICIJ members, I convey our deepest appreciation to readers of The Japan Times.

