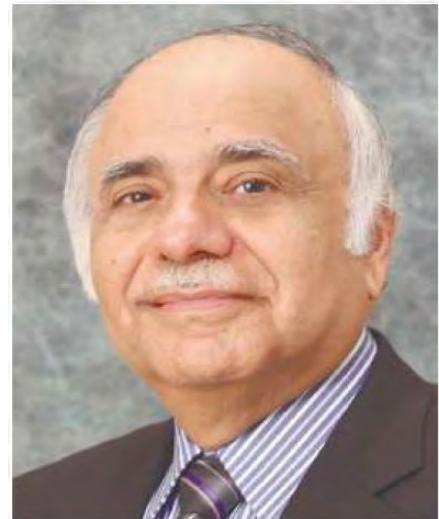


Integrating tradition with progress, green technology

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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. Balancing 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.