

India Independence Day Special

Celebrating long-term and trusted ties of nearly 75 years

NAGMA M. MALLICK
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA



On behalf of the government and people of India, I pay my respects to those who lost their lives in the earthquake in Kumamoto on July 28. India stands in solidarity with Japan and the Japanese people.

Aug. 15 will mark our 80th Independence Day. On this important occasion, I extend warm greetings to their majesties the emperor and the empress of Japan, and to the government and the people of Japan. I also convey my special greetings to the Indian community in Japan.

India and Japan are natural and indispensable partners. Our special strategic and global partnership is rooted in shared values and a high-level of mutual trust. The bonhomie between our countries was in abundant display recently, when India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi warmly welcomed Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in Delhi from July 1 to 3. The visit helped underscore the strategic convergence and mutual complementarity in our partnership, a key to a resilient and prosperous Indo-Pacific and beyond.

The India-Japan relationship is bolstered by regular high-level meetings and engagements. Takaichi's video message to the AI Impact Summit in India in February highlighted our technology cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence. Our foreign ministers met for a substantive exchange of views during a bilateral strategic dialogue on Jan. 16, and "the Quad"



President Droupadi Murmu

foreign ministers' meeting from May 25 to 27. They also interacted on the sidelines of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations meeting in March. Japan's Minister-in-charge of Economic Security Kimi Onoda visited India in May 2026.

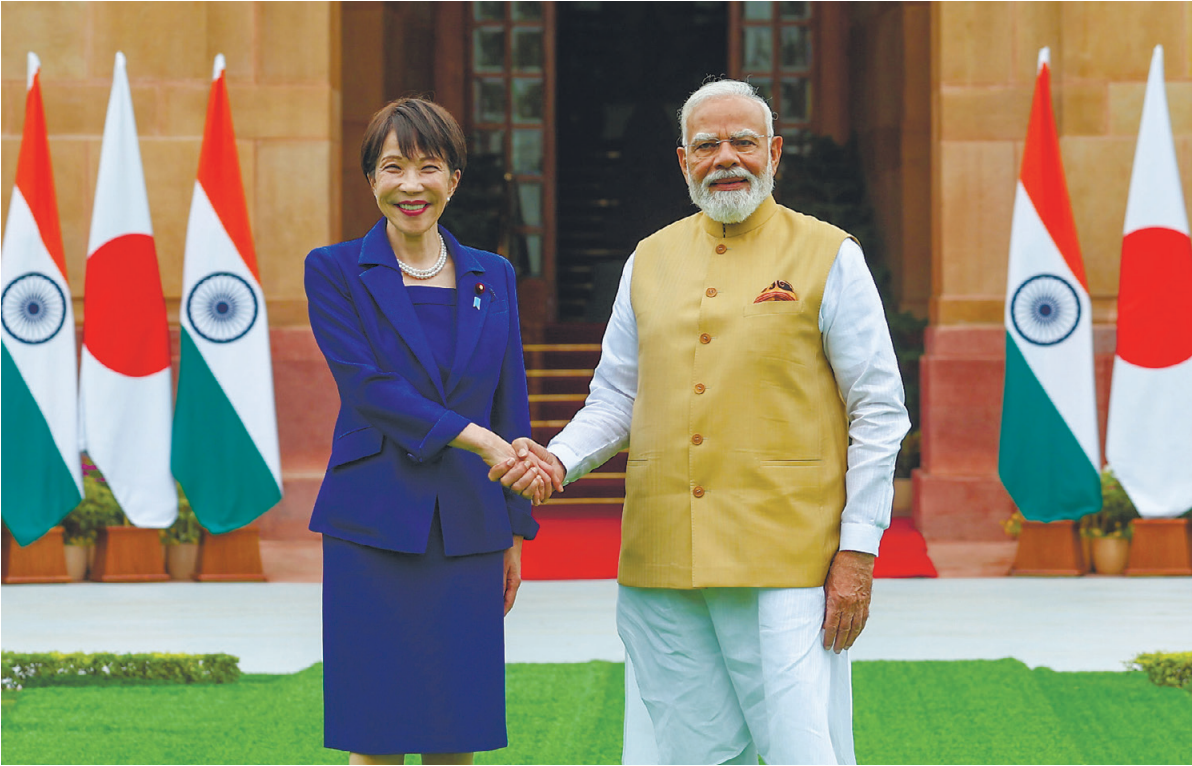
There is considerable momentum in our economic ties. In 2025, we had set a private investment target of ¥10 trillion (\$63 billion) in India over the next decade. Since then, 120 business-to-business memorandums of understanding have been signed — an aggregate investment of around \$10 billion. These span the sectors of manufacturing, financial services, advanced technologies and other areas, and are reflective of our vibrant economic relationship. It displays the confidence Japanese industry has in the Indian economy and ecosystem. For four consecutive years, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation surveys have shown that Japan ranks India as its most



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

promising country for overseas business expansion. India's commitment to doing business with Japan is evident from our prime minister's announcement to hold a Japan Week at the Prime Minister's Office.

Economic security has become one of the foundational pillars of our relationship. We are undertaking project-based collaboration in sectors such as semiconductors, critical minerals, information and communications technology, clean energy and pharmaceuticals. On the energy front, we are also advancing cooperation on strategic stockpiling and reserve mechanisms for crude oil and petroleum products, while exploring joint investments in maritime energy transport value chains. We are also advancing collaboration across the entire AI sphere, from the necessary physical infrastructure to developing AI applications for public good. These are backed by robust institutional linkages.



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi meets Modi in Delhi during the India-Japan Summit on July 2. AP

Right: Lingaraja Temple dates from the 11th century. Far Right: India's Asmita Dey celebrates winning gold in judo at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.



INCREDIBLE INDIA: INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION



Our defense and security cooperation is on an upward trajectory. Not only are we working on concrete projects in the defense equipment and technology segment, but our respective forces are conducting regular exercises, such as Dharma Guardian 2026, JAIMEX-25 and Japan's participation in India's International Fleet Review in February.

India and Japan are also working to bolster our people-to-people cooperation for mutual benefit. India's youth and tal-

ent can become a key resource for Japan as it looks to address its demographic challenge. The Action Plan for India-Japan Human Resource Exchange and Cooperation, which promotes a two-way exchange of 500,000 people, including 50,000 skilled and semi-skilled personnel from India to Japan by 2030, continues to guide our efforts. There is also significant momentum in the interactions between Indian states and Japanese prefectures.

Next year marks the 75th anniversary of

our bilateral diplomatic relationship. Our leaders have announced it will be commemorated as the "Year of Shared Horizons," a phrase that brings out our shared destiny and shared ambitions.

We look forward to engaging deeply with Japan to elevate our ties further. What we do together is of considerable significance for peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. Our cooperation based on our mutual complementarities is key to achieving our national priorities.

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79TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY GREETINGS

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CONGRATULATIONS
79TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY GREETINGS

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HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE DAY
15TH AUGUST 2026
SILVER JUBILEE

INDIA'S
79TH
INDEPENDENCE
DAY

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25TH
ANNIVERSARY
2001 - 2026

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RAJESH KHULLAR
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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India Independence Day Special

Shaping shared prosperity

FUMIO KISHIDA
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA
ASSOCIATION



On the 80th Independence Day of the Republic of India, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of India on behalf of the Japan-India Association. As we celebrate this momentous milestone, we also look forward with great anticipation to the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations

between Japan and India next year. During my tenure as prime minister of Japan, I was privileged to work closely with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to significantly deepen our strategic partnership. Building upon this foundation, I was deeply honored to assume the post as the 10th chairman of the JIA in May. Expressing my profound gratitude for the immense contributions made by my predecessors, I am firmly committed to bolstering our bilateral ties. The association will forcefully support the further promotion of cooperation across a wide spectrum of fields, engaging governments, business communities and academic institutions of both nations. Together, Japan and India continue

to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific based on shared values and a common vision for regional peace, stability and prosperity. Today, our dynamic collaboration extends into economic security, clean energy, space technology, advanced innovation and vibrant people-to-people exchanges. In this historic context, I hope to visit India in my capacity as chairman early next year — the milestone anniversary year — to contribute to driving our friendly and cooperative relations to even greater heights. Looking ahead, I am confident that the Japan-India partnership will play a decisive role in shaping a peaceful and prosperous global future. Congratulations to the people of India on this joyful occasion.



Takaichi and Modi talk to participants at the India-Japan Joint Economic Forum. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Right: Vagamon Lake is surrounded by rolling hills and tea gardens. Far right: The Vikram-1 rocket makes India the third country with private launch capacity. INCREDIBLE INDIA; SKYROOT AEROSPACE



The two prime ministers pose with Indian and Japanese business leaders at the India-Japan Joint Economic Forum in Delhi in July. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

A vibrant new phase of cooperation

TATSUO YASUNAGA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS
COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people and government of India on the occasion of India's Independence Day. Established in 1966, the JIBCC aims to deepen mutual understanding, promote friendship and foster economic relations between Japan and India. In recent years, our economic relationship has gained remarkable momentum.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan last August, the Japan-India Economic Forum provided an important opportunity to strengthen business ties between our countries. This momentum accelerated further during Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's visit to India in July. Around 200 Japanese companies accompanied the prime minister, and 129 new memorandums of understanding worth approximately ¥2 trillion were announced. These developments reflect the growing depth of Japan-India economic cooperation. Under Modi's vision of "Make in India, Make for the World," Japan and India are entering a new phase of cooperation in which the two create value together. Collaboration is deepening in strategic areas, including semiconductors, economic security and energy security. The Japanese busi-

ness community remains committed to supporting India's growth. Next year will be particularly significant for Japan-India relations, marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our countries and the centenary of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. We also look forward to the milestone 50th JIBCC-India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee Joint Meeting in New Delhi. I hope these milestones will provide fresh impetus for deeper business and economic cooperation. People-to-people exchanges remain the foundation of our partnership and will continue to strengthen mutual understanding between our countries. Once again, I wish to sincerely congratulate the people of India on Independence Day and express my heartfelt wishes for India's continued growth and prosperity.

Congratulations

on the Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of India

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Hon. President: Paramjit Chadha

THE INDIAN SOCIAL SOCIETY
Hon. President: Sagar Rohera

THE INDIA CLUB
Hon. President: Bhaven Jhaveri

FELICITATIONS ON INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

ICIJ

大正十年設立
ESTB 1921

公益社団法人 在日インド商工協会

THE INDIAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN

MORE THAN 100 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

Established in 1921, ICIJ is the oldest association representing the Indian diaspora in Japan. Its membership includes several of the largest corporate groups operating in the region. As the apex body, ICIJ plays a leading role in organizing India-related trade fairs, exhibitions, seminars and symposia. The organization also hosts dynamic monthly seminars focused on a wide range of topics, including India-Japan startups, global investment opportunities, finance, mergers and acquisitions, wealth management, taxation, visa regulations and Japan's labor and legal systems. To support the next generation, ICIJ has established a dedicated Youth Group for young Indian residents in Japan. Additionally, ICIJ has signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement with the Edogawa City Office and the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, Edogawa Chapter.

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India Independence Day Special

The soul and strength of a rising giant

RYUKO HIRA
CHAIRMAN, THE INDIAN COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN



On Aug. 15, as India celebrates its 79th Independence Day anniversary, the world looks upon a nation that uniquely bridges the ancient past and the digital future. Today, India is not just celebrating its hard-won freedom, it is celebrating its defining era as a global powerhouse. In recent years, India's economic trajectory has been nothing short of miraculous. Driven by a massive digital revolution, world-class infrastructure development and an unstoppable spirit of innovation, India has transitioned from a developing market into a critical engine of global growth. From tech corridors in Bengaluru to financial hubs across the nation, India

is proving that economic dynamism can coexist with democratic values. This rise is deeply intertwined with its relationship with Japan — a partnership built on a foundation of deep trust and mutual benefit. Our bilateral ties extend far beyond trade agreements and political summits. Together, Japan and India are shaping a stable, prosperous Indo-Pacific. From high-speed rail projects to technological collaborations, our economic synergy is formidable. Yet, what truly cements this bond is our shared cultural heritage. The historical connection that began centuries ago with the spread of Buddhism continues to foster a deep, intuitive understanding between our peoples. However, India's greatest contribution to the world cannot be measured solely in gross domestic product or geopolitical strategy. As the modern world grapples with rapid technological shifts and widespread existential fatigue, India remains the ultimate spiritual sanctuary for humanity.

It is a cradle of profound philosophies, the birthplace of yoga and the origin of spiritual teachings that remind us of the divinity within. In a global landscape often dominated by material pursuits, India's timeless wisdom offers a necessary sanctuary for the human soul. It teaches us mindfulness, inner peace and the unity of all creation. 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 the readers of The Japan Times.

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



A family of tigers prowls in Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan.
INCREDIBLE INDIA



Takaichi and Modi chat during a car ride through Delhi in July.
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE



Built in the 8th century, the Kailasanathar Temple in Tamil Nadu is dedicated to Shiva.
INCREDIBLE INDIA



Rishikesh is a holy city in Uttarakhand known as a pilgrimage site for yoga.
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A one-horned rhinoceros grazes in Kaziranga National Park in Assam.
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Wishing you a Happy Independence Day



15th August

Happy Independence Day!

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to the People of India

on the Anniversary of

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