

The soul and strength of a rising giant

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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 celebrat-

ing 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.