

Embassy of India

Tokyo

Ambassador's Address at the 74th Republic Day of India

Tokyo, January 26, 2023

H.E. Mr. HOSODA Hiroyuki, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chairman of Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League,

H.E. Mr. SUGA Yoshihide, Former Prime Minister and Chairman, Japan-India Association,

H.E. Mr. NISHIMURA Yasutoshi, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry,

H.E. Mr. TAKEI Shunsuke, State Minister for Foreign Affairs,

H.E. Mr. TAKAMI Yasuhiro, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Justice,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very warm welcome to all.

As Ambassador of India to Japan, I bring to you greeting from 1.4 billion people of India.

I thank and welcome H.E. Mr. HOSODA Hiroyuki, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chairman of Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League, and H.E. Mr. SUGA Yoshihide, Former Prime Minister and Chairman, Japan-India Association for their presence. I recall the contributions of these leaders in promoting India-Japan relations and thank them. I thank H.E. Mr. NISHIMURA Yasutoshi, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry for his presence. I thank H.E. Mr. TAKEI Shunsuke, State Minister for Foreign Affairs who has joined us today as our Guest of Honour.

Excellencies, I Thank you for joining me today to celebrate the 74th Republic Day of India, despite the busy schedule in the middle of the Diet Session. Your gracious presence is reflective of your personal commitment to India – Japan relations.

Republic Day of India commemorates the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on January 26, 1950.

This constitution is the framework within which India thrived as a democracy over the last seventy-five years and has today emerged as the largest democracy of the world, fifth largest economy of the world and fastest growing large economy of the world.

We celebrate this Republic Day at a special year when India and Japan are celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations and India is marking the 75th Anniversary of its Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Excellencies, Dear Friends,

India and Japan friendship has a long history, rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilizational ties. Today, our relationship is based on the strong foundation of shared values such as democracy, freedom, and respect for rule of law.

In recent years, India - Japan relationship has transformed into Special Strategic and Global Partnership that was launched in 2014, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and the former Prime Minister Late Mr. Shinzo Abe.

This special partnership continued to flourish under the leadership of former Prime Minister His Excellency Suga and is reaching new height under current Prime Minister His Excellency KISHIDA Fumio and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During PM Kishida's visit to India in March 2022, both India and Japan reaffirmed our Special Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India and set a forward

looking roadmap for us to realize the full potential in our bilateral relationship.

Despite the many challenges of the devastating Covid 19 pandemic, we have been able to make considerable progress in our bilateral relationship.

At the 2+2 Ministerial meeting held in September 2022, Foreign Ministers and Defense Ministers of India and Japan committed to work more closely on foreign policy and strategic aspects of the partnership. We had several rounds of bilateral and plurilateral military exercises.

Currently India and Japan are holding their first-ever joint fighter jet exercise, “Veer Guardian”, at Hyakuri Airbase a significant step in expanding the co-operation between the Indian Air Force and the Air Self Defense Force of Japan.

Excellencies, Dear Friends,

India envisions a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, based on the principle of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). As members of QUAD, India and Japan are committed to working towards the peace, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his visit to Tokyo to attend the QUAD Leader’s summit in Tokyo in May 2022, participated in the launch of several pioneering initiatives to foster continuous collaboration in the maritime

domain, trade, space, climate change, health, and cyber security.

Dear Friends,

This year India is holding the Presidency of G-20. India through its presidency seeks to embody the spirit of universal brotherhood through the mantra of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', reflected in the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future". India seeks to strive for just and equitable growth for all in the world by sharing its strengths and experiences to address global challenges. We have planned over two hundred meetings spread over fifty cities of India. India's G20 presidency also coincides with Japan's leadership of G7, presenting a tremendous opportunity for utilizing convergences in our agendas and working on common priorities to achieve tangible and sustainable outcomes.

Dear Friends,

Japan is among our most trusted partners, in India's journey towards Amrit Kaal, a 25-year period journey to India at 100 in 2047. Our relationship with Japan is a partnership not only between governments and officials, it is a partnership involving several stakeholders; business establishments, industry and commercial chambers, industry groups, science and technology establishments, universities, think tanks, academicians, scholars, media houses, artists,

students, innovation and research organizations, museums, libraries, practitioners of Yoga and Ayurveda and above all, our vibrant people to people contacts.

I would like to recall the contributions of the vibrant Indian diaspora in Japan in building our excellent bilateral relations. In coming weeks and months, I look forward to work with each of these stakeholders to take our relationship, our Special Strategic and Global Partnership forward.

Once again, I thank the dignitaries, distinguished guests and all for joining me in this celebrations.

Thank you.
