

**Embassy of India
Tokyo

Remarks by Ambassador at Launch of India Month

Date: 02 September 2024

Time: 1500 - 1630

Venue: Embassy of India, Tokyo

H.E Masahiro Komura, Hon'ble Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a privilege to stand before you today as we inaugurate "India Month," a celebration that reflects the deep and enduring ties between India and Japan. The theme of this month, "Connecting Himalayas with Mt Fuji," symbolizes the spiritual and cultural connection that has united our two nations over centuries.

India and Japan have a relationship that is deeply rooted in shared values, mutual respect, and a common vision for the future. This year, as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, we acknowledge the strength of our collaboration across various domains—be it technology, trade, or diplomacy.

People-People connect has always been a cornerstone of our partnership. And the India Month provides a wonderful platform to showcase the vibrant diversity of Indian culture. I am particularly delighted by the participation of two distinguished dance troupes from India, who will be performing the traditional art forms of Kathakali and Purulia Chhau, thanks to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). Their performances will offer a glimpse into the rich artistic heritage that India shares with the world.

This year is also significant as we celebrate the "India-Japan Year of Tourism." The growing exchange of travelers between our countries not only contributes to our economies but also deepens the bonds of friendship and understanding between our peoples. India's rich tapestry of history, spirituality, and natural beauty offers an unparalleled experience for Japanese visitors. I urge each one of you to visit India and experience the rich hospitality that our country offers.

I am also proud to highlight the "One District, One Product" (ODOP) exhibition, which is being held at our Embassy here in Tokyo as part of the India Month celebrations. This initiative showcases the unique craftsmanship and entrepreneurial spirit of India's artisans, offering a window into our country's diverse cultural heritage. Through ODOP, we aim to promote these traditional products in international markets, strengthening our trade ties and enhancing the appreciation of India's cultural diversity.

Our partnership extends far beyond culture and tourism. The economic and commercial partnership between India and Japan stands as a pillar of strength in our bilateral relations, underpinned by mutual trust and shared strategic interests. During the India month we will be holding events at the Embassy and in prefectures to shed light on various facets of this vibrant economic partnership.

We are today also celebrating the start of Neemrana week, a special weeklong celebration organized by the Embassy of India in Tokyo to honor the success and significance of the Japan Industrial Township (JIT) in Neemrana, Rajasthan. This township is a shining example of the strong industrial collaboration between India and Japan, hosting numerous Japanese companies that contribute to India's manufacturing and industrial landscape. The celebrations will culminate with a Roadshow which will be graced by the presence of Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of the state of Rajasthan, where Neemrana is located.

As we embark on this exciting month of cultural celebration and exchange, I am confident that India Month will not only deepen the bonds of friendship between our two nations but also inspire new avenues for cooperation and collaboration in the years to come. The month long celebrations will culminate in the much awaited and anticipated Namaste India that will be held. We look forward to your participation at that event.

Thank you.
