

The Ceremony Celebrating the 77th Anniversary of the Republic of India

Your Excellency Ambassador Mallick, distinguished guests,

- Namaskar, I am HORII Iwao, State Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- Thank you for inviting me to the National Day Reception to commemorate the 77th Republic Day of India. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of India.
- India now has become the most populous country in the world, and it is driving the global economy, backed by its high economic growth rate. Japan's business community is paying close attention to India, which is experiencing rapid growth.
- In this context, His Excellency Prime Minister Modi paid a visit to Japan in August last year. The two countries announced the "Japan-India Joint Vision for the Next Decade", confirming our commitment to building a mutually complementary relationship that leverages our respective strengths in three areas: security, including economic security; economy, investment, and innovation; and people to people exchanges.
- Under the TAKAICHI administration as well, the leaders and foreign ministers of our two countries reaffirmed their cooperation toward the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," and concurred to focus particularly on economic security cooperation and the promotion of economic growth through innovation.
- Furthermore, next year, 2027, will mark a milestone—the 75th

anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. During Minister Motegi's visit to India earlier this month, our foreign ministers agreed to designate 2027 as the "75th anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations" and to further deepen exchanges between our two countries.

- To move these initiatives forward, it is essential for the public, private, and academic sectors of both Japan and India to work together as one. I sincerely ask for your continued cooperation for the further development of the Japan-India partnership.
- In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt wishes for the further prosperity of the people of India and the continued deepening of the Japan-India friendship.
- Dhanyawad. Thank you for your kind attention.

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