



The India-Japan partnership, led by the Vision 2025 initiative, is flourishing. This strategic alliance is driving significant economic cooperation, particularly in information technology, electronics and manufacturing.

Takashi Suzuki, chief director general of the Japan External Trade Organization New Delhi, highlighted the increasing interest of Japanese companies in India and the importance of people-to-people exchanges.

For detailed interviews and a closer look at how these entities bolster bilateral relations, read the full feature here:



# A new dawn for India-Japan economic relations: Insights from industry leaders



Sakata Inx India's Bangladesh Plant, commissioned in 2021, is a state-of-the-art facility that produces liquid inks for the flexible-packaging industry.

## Inking success: Sakata Inx India's colorful path to growth

Japan's Sakata Inx Corp., the third-largest ink manufacturer in the world, is a pivotal player in the industry. Committed to quality and innovation, the company has built a robust reputation over its history.

Looking forward, Sakata Inx India is determined to maintain its momentum. "Sustainability, compliance and employee well-being will continue to be our top priorities," Seth affirmed.

"Our workforce of 1,000-plus employees has grown alongside the company, and we've been recognized as a 'Great Place to Work,'" Seth said, underscoring the commitment to employee welfare and a safe work environment.



V.K. Seth, Managing Director of Sakata Inx India

The company is actively reducing its environmental footprint while capitalizing on the immense growth potential in India, setting benchmarks for resilience, quality and sustainability.

www.sakataindia.com

## SAKATA INX(INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED

## Cracking the crab code: Gadre Marine's 30 years of seafood mastery

Gadre Marine Export Pvt., founded in 1994, has grown into a global leader in seafood innovation, specializing in high-quality crab products. The company celebrates two milestones this year: its 30th anniversary and 20 years of exporting its signature crab meat.



Gadre Marine Export remains committed to producing premium products that satisfy the discerning tastes of Japanese and global consumers alike.

raw materials inspired me to start manufacturing imitation crab meat," Gadre shared. This journey eventually led to Gadre Marine's first export of *kanikama* (imitation crab) in 2004, marking a new chapter in its expansion.

India, often overlooked in the global seafood industry, plays a vital role as a leader in *kanikama* production. Gadre Marine's business is founded on stringent quality-control standards to meet Japan's exacting demands.



Arjun Gadre, Managing Director of Gadre Marine Export

helping us maintain high quality and innovate successfully," Gadre added. The company remains committed to producing premium products that satisfy the discerning tastes of Japanese and global consumers alike.

www.gadre.co.in



## India prints on Konica Minolta: A testament to market leadership and Japanese excellence

Konica Minolta Business Solutions India Pvt., the flagship entity of Konica Minolta in India, is a resounding success story about Japanese innovation contributing to India's growth.



Katsuhisa Asari, Managing Director of Konica Minolta Business Solutions India

Konica Minolta's journey in India has been defined by pioneering initiatives and an unwavering commitment to excellence. As the first in the industry to take solutions to customers in cities large and small with Print-Xpress, covering over 100,000 km, more than 300 cities, and meeting more than 8,000 customers, the company continues to empower Indian businesses to adapt to ever-changing demands.

innovation, enabling it to meet the unique requirements of a rapidly growing market and become the partner of choice. "Our long-term vision is to position the company as a strategic partner of choice by deeply understanding and addressing the unmet needs of our customers," Asari said.

India is a robust service infrastructure. With the largest service support team in the industry, the company ensures seamless operations for its customers. This proactive approach reflects the Japanese ethos of reliability and precision.

India delivers cutting-edge imaging solutions that advance the field of medical diagnostics. Together, these business wings embody the vision of "One Konica Minolta," where diverse expertise converges to create value across industries.

Konica Minolta's success mirrors the broader narrative of Japanese companies investing in India's growth. As India transforms into a global economic powerhouse, Konica Minolta remains steadfast in its mission to empower businesses with innovative solutions, trusted technologies and unmatched service support.

https://bt.konicaminolta.in/



## Japan-India synergy: Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance's success story

Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance, founded in 2009, celebrates 15 years of success in 2024. This joint venture combines two of India's largest public-sector banks — Bank of India and Union Bank of India — with Dai-ichi Life Holdings, one of Japan's leading life insurance companies.



Abhay Tewari, CEO of Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance

The synergy lies in combining Dai-ichi Life's global expertise in areas like product design, risk management and claims assessment with the extensive customer reach of our Indian bank partners," Abhay Tewari, CEO of SUD Life, said.

"Rural penetration is a cornerstone of our strategy, enabled by our promoter banks' extensive branch networks and partnerships with regional rural banks. We also offer insurance purchase and premium payment options via WhatsApp and UPI (Unified Payments Interface), making the process simple and accessible," Tewari said.

"Strong financial backing from our promoters, enabled by our promoter banks' extensive branch networks and partnerships with regional rural banks. We also offer insurance purchase and premium payment options via WhatsApp and UPI (Unified Payments Interface), making the process simple and accessible," Tewari said.

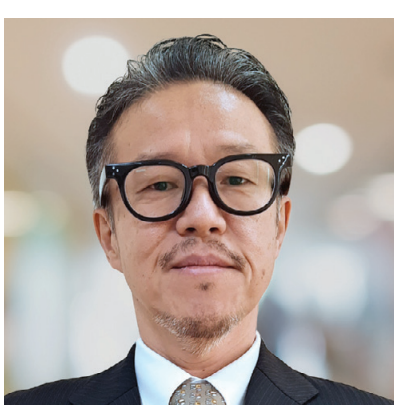
Looking ahead, SUD Life plans to expand its product offerings for women, senior citizens and rural populations while ever evolving with technology and integration of artificial intelligence. "We aim to leverage generative AI to enhance communication in regional languages and further personalize experiences," Tewari said.

www.sudlife.in



## Japan-India Vision 2025: Driving investment and innovation

Japan's Vision 2025 initiative is propelling stronger bilateral ties, with a bold target of ¥5 trillion in investments by 2027. Takashi Suzuki, chief director general of the Japan External Trade Organization's office in New Delhi, discussed how this strategic framework has reshaped Japan's investment landscape in India.



Takashi Suzuki, Chief Director General of the Japan External Trade Organization office in New Delhi

The Vision 2025 initiative, primarily a diplomatic effort, has certainly influenced the broader bilateral relationship," he said. "Historically, the automotive sector, particularly Suzuki Motor Corp., has been a major driver of Japanese investment. However, in recent years, we've witnessed diversification into sectors like information technology and electronics.

specialized knowledge," he said, underscoring the importance of local insight in navigating the Indian market. Another area where Suzuki sees immense potential for growth is in exchanges of people. "By fostering stronger people-to-people ties, we can unlock the full potential of the Japan-India partnership," he said, emphasizing the importance of cultural and educational exchanges to further deepen bilateral relations.

www.jetro.go.jp/en



## Vardhman Special Steels: Forging a strong future with Aichi Steel

Vardhman Special Steels Ltd., a key player in India's steel industry, is celebrating the fifth anniversary of its partnership with Aichi Steel, a significant milestone toward global growth. Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Vardhman Special Steels Sachit Jain has led the company through an era of transformation, driven by a commitment to quality, innovation and long-term relationships.



Sachit Jain, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Vardhman Special Steels

Although still in the initial stages, the plant is expected to be operational by 2030, cementing the company's growth trajectory and marking a significant milestone in its Indo-Japanese partnership. Jain's long-term vision remains clear: "By our 10th anniversary, I hope to see the greenfield plant operational — a testament to the success of this Indo-Japanese partnership."

enhancing Vardhman's operations. "Aichi Steel brought significant expertise in safety, quality and process improvement," Jain said. "They've helped us elevate our safety standards, implement systematic problem-solving techniques and optimize our machinery and processes." This partnership has not only improved operational efficiencies, but also opened doors to major Japanese companies like Toyota, Suzuki, Hino and Yamaha, boosting Vardhman's presence in the global automotive supply chain.

Moving forward, Jain is focused on an ambitious project that will further strengthen Vardhman Special Steels' position. "We're planning to establish a greenfield special steel plant in India, leveraging Japanese technology and expertise," he revealed.

With a foundation built on trust, shared values and commitment to excellence, the future of Vardhman Special Steels looks stronger than ever. ■

www.vardhmansteel.com

