

Celebrating six decades of growth

Bonds between India and Japan help bring security, prosperity to region, world



Hemant Krishan Singh
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO JAPAN

On the happy occasion of the Republic Day of India, I extend the cordial greetings of the people of India to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and the Empress Michiko as well as to the Government and friendly people of Japan. I also felicitate my fellow citizens and persons of Indian origin living in Japan.

India and Japan share civilizational bonds and an Asian identity. Our open societies cherish individual freedoms and respect for pluralism under the rule of law. We also share a commitment to democracy, which fosters development, promotes human rights and ensures harmony within and between societies. These common values provide the basis for mutual goodwill amongst our peoples and underpin the bipartisan political support in both our countries for the advancement of bilateral relations. As a new Asia

emerges in the 21st century, India and Japan stand together in their determination to bring security and prosperity to our peoples, the region and the world.

The transformation of India-Japan relations to realize their true potential has long been the vision of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The landmark visit by Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama to India in December 2009 for the Annual Bilateral Summit has imparted continuity and further momentum to the India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership, which has been elevated to a new stage. It has confirmed our pursuit of the future as close partners. The agreed Action Plan for Security Cooperation will strengthen coordination on strategic and security issues. Decisions reached at the Summit on enhanced economic partnership, including India-Japan flagship projects for the 21st century — the Dedicated Freight Corridor West and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor — will bring enormous benefits to the peoples of India and Japan. Our leaders have mandated the early conclusion of a CEPA/EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement).

People-to-people exchanges have been further enhanced through joint collaboration in the development of the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, India's revival of the Nalanda University as a regional center of learning and the establishment of a Chair on Indian studies at the University of Tokyo.

India and Japan have also affirmed their commitment to



Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh



President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil

work together for the development of an open and inclusive architecture for regional integration in Asia. Cooperation on vital global issues of counterterrorism, disarmament, climate change and U.N. reform has been reinforced.

Over the past 60 years, India's political, social and economic institutions, which are the embodiment of our Republic, have grown in strength and maturity. We have successfully overcome daunting challenges to emerge as a nation confident of maintaining a sustained growth path that improves the livelihood of our citizens while expanding India's integration with the global community.

Despite the global economic downturn, India's economy

has continued to grow briskly based on the strength of domestic demand, savings, investment and enterprise. We are confident that this trend will continue and India's economy will return to its even higher growth trajectory of recent years in 2010. Given this positive outlook, mutually beneficial India-Japan economic relations will continue to intensify. Together, our countries can synergize our respective strengths and provide a much needed impetus to the global economy.

The new building of the Embassy of India and its Cultural Center, inaugurated in 2009, is a fitting symbol of India's rapidly expanding bilateral relations with Japan. With its ample facilities, the Embassy is

ready to partner the Japanese public and members of the Indian community in promoting economic, social and cultural ties between our two countries. The launch of the Indian Chamber of Commerce Japan, Tokyo, is another significant step in the growing contributions of the Indian community to India-Japan relations.

I am confident that the coming year will see further enhancement of the close bonds of friendship between India and Japan. We look forward to working closely with the Japanese Government, businesses and industries and the public at large to realize the common desire of our two great peoples for universal peace, progress and prosperity.

Fraternity in the world's largest democracy

Remarks by Yukio Hatoyama, Prime Minister of Japan, at the luncheon hosted by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. Delhi, Dec. 29, 2009

Your Excellency Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Mrs. Gursharan Kaur, ladies and gentlemen, I have thoroughly enjoyed your kind hospitality throughout my visit, Mr. Prime Minister. And I am most grateful for being invited to this wonderful luncheon to conclude my stay.

Perhaps one need not even mention the examples of great epics such as the "Ramayana" and the "Mahabharata" to appreciate how rich the linguistic traditions are in India and how great the value that Indian people place on dialogue is. I am very happy that I got to spend time with Prime Minister Singh once again in our summit meeting, engaging each other in a meaningful dialogue on a wide range of issues.

Dialogue forms the backbone of democracy. In this regard, please allow me to quote you, Mr. Prime Minister, from your speech at the Japanese Diet three years ago: "never before have over a billion people tried to banish poverty and modernize their society and economy within the framework of a plural democracy." India is the world's largest democracy. And your country boasts a long-standing history of power

changing hands through elections without undermining either political or social stability.

Japan, too, has been a democratic nation for a long time. And this year, we in Japan finally brought about a change of government, which is something we have not managed to do before, although it really ought to be a common occurrence in a democratic nation.

Mr. Prime Minister, you have great respect for pluralism, coming from a "spirit of tolerance" that has been passed down in your society over many generations. You make a point of reaching out to the vulnerable sections of society in your pursuit of an "inclusive growth," just as you are leading India in achieving robust economic growth.

For my part, I always aim to practice the politics of "yu-ai," or fraternity, to ensure that people's lives matter more than anything and that people can coexist and live in dignity. I made a promise to the Japanese people that I would create a society where we treasure each and every human life and where people view others' happiness as their own. The philosophy of yu-ai holds that we should respect the freedom and dignity of others as much as we do our own. In other words, it is a philosophy of "independence as well as coexistence."

I cannot help but feel that this spirit of yu-ai resonates

profoundly with the kind of society that Prime Minister Singh aspires to. Both of us are striving to achieve a society where there is a sense of "acceptance," or might I use the beautiful Sanskrit word "swikriti," of diverse values. Both of us want politics to care deeply about people's lives.

The Prime Minister and I agreed to enhance our "strategic and global partnership" and step up our bilateral relationship further. It is to my great pleasure that we reaffirmed, both in the summit meeting itself and in the form of a joint statement, to work together in a broad range of policy areas, covering everything from political and security issues, economic matters such as an EPA, development cooperation through the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project and other projects, to global challenges including climate change, nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, and U.N. Security Council reform.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude once again for the gracious hospitality that the government and people of India accorded to me and my delegation. I wish Prime Minister Singh and everyone around this table good health and success and offer my most sincere wishes for the prosperity of India. I wholeheartedly look forward to the further development of the ties between Japan and India.



The race: Runners jockey for position at the start of the Mumbai Marathon on Jan. 17. AP



Close ties: Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama holds talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Dec. 29 in Delhi during the Annual Bilateral Summit. KYODO



Welcome site: Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad is less than two years old and aims to be a hub for flights to India. EMBASSY OF INDIA

bilateral relations

New stage of Japan-India relations

Joint Statement by Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh: New Stage of Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership

1. Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Dr. Yukio Hatoyama and Prime Minister of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh held the Annual Bilateral Summit in New Delhi on Dec. 29, 2009. They discussed bilateral as well as regional and global issues.

2. The two prime ministers reaffirmed that Japan and India, as partners which share common values and strategic interests, will develop the Strategic and Global Partnership further for the deepening of their bilateral relations as well as peace and prosperity of the region and the world.

3. The two prime ministers reiterated the importance of annual summits between them. They also expressed satisfaction at the deepening of the Annual Strategic Dialogue between the foreign ministers, as well as other policy dialogues at ministerial level. They welcomed the desire expressed by the two defense ministers in Tokyo in

November 2009 to hold Annual Defense Ministerial Meetings to enhance dialogue and exchanges in the defense field.

4. The two prime ministers expressed their satisfaction at the finalization of the Action Plan with specific measures to advance security cooperation based on the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India issued in October 2008. The two prime ministers committed to enhancing the security cooperation between Japan and India according to the Action Plan and to deepen their discussion through the newly established framework at the sub-Cabinet /senior official level 2 plus 2 dialogue, which was endorsed in the Action Plan.

5. The two prime ministers took note of the current status of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)/Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations and instructed their relevant officials to accelerate the negotiations by energetically working toward resolving the remaining issues with a view to concluding a mutually beneficial agreement at the earliest. The two prime ministers shared the

view that economic relations between Japan and India would develop even further as a result of the conclusion of the EPA/CEPA.

6. The two prime ministers shared the view that Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) should continue to play a significant role in India's poverty reduction, economic and social infrastructure development, tackling environmental issues and human resource development. The prime minister of India expressed his appreciation to the Japanese people for their generous role in India's development.

7. The two prime ministers welcomed the commencement of Japan-India cooperation on the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project with the signing of the Exchange of Notes for the Engineering Services Loan for the first phase (Rewari - Vadodara sector) in October 2009 in New Delhi and reaffirmed their commitment to the early realization of the entire Western corridor utilizing Japan's Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) scheme, which is expected to contribute to the further enhancement of Japan-India economic relations. Both sides also welcomed the commencement of the preliminary survey for the second phase and will make utmost efforts for early completion of both phases of the corridor in a parallel manner. The two leaders will also work together for conclusion of the agreement for the Main Loan for the first phase by March 2010 and for commencement of the assistance for the second phase at the earliest in 2010. Both sides will strive for early finalization of a funding and implementation schedule for the whole Western Corridor.

8. The two prime ministers expressed their satisfaction with the steady development of the collaboration in the establishment of Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IITH) and reiterated their commitment to collaborate through various contributions from Japan including through Official Development Assistance. They noted with satisfaction that the Japanese side has established the IITH Consortium consisting of government, academia and industry.

9. The two prime ministers shared the view that the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project is moving forward from the planning stage to the implementation stage and reaffirmed their resolve to realize the DMIC Project, which plays an important role in promoting investment by Japanese companies, and has a potential to facilitate the development of the entire Asian region. In this regard, they expressed their satisfaction with the joint establishment of the Project Development Fund (PDF) with support of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), which is jointly initiated by Japan and India. They welcomed substantive progress on DMIC Project including the completion of the Perspective plan and advancement of Early Bird Projects. The two prime ministers took note of the Memorandum of Understanding between DMICDC (Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corp.) and JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) on "Smart Communities and Eco-friendly Townships."

10. The two leaders welcomed the decision to establish a JETRO Chennai office that would accelerate further investment by small- and medium-size Japanese enterpris-

es to India.

11. The two prime ministers welcomed the enhanced bilateral cooperation on energy under the Japan-India Ministerial-Level Energy Dialogue, particularly in energy efficiency and conservation sectors as well as the coal and power sectors. The two prime ministers stressed the need for accelerating bilateral cooperation in these vital areas and expressed strong expectations for the progress to be achieved in the next Ministerial-Level Energy Dialogue in New Delhi. The two prime ministers shared the view that nuclear energy can play an important role as a safe, sustainable and nonpolluting source of energy in meeting the rising global energy demands. They also noted that under the Energy Dialogue the energy ministers will exchange views and information on their respective nuclear energy policies. The two prime ministers also recognized the importance of promoting cooperation between the two countries' industries in order to expand bilateral energy cooperation on a commercial basis. In this regard, they welcomed progress achieved under the Japan-India Energy Forum held by the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) of Japan and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) of India.

12. Recognizing the role of technology cooperation in the bilateral partnership, the two Prime Ministers took note of the progress made by the bilateral consultative mechanism on high technology trade and decided to set up efforts to facilitate such trade by addressing respective concerns, including export controls.

13. The two prime ministers expressed satisfaction on the



Partnership: In a joint press conference after summit talks Dec. 29, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama say the Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India had reached a new stage. KYODO

achievements made at the third meeting of the Japan-India Joint Working Group on Urban Development in June 2009 and reaffirmed their intention to continue concrete cooperative efforts in the field of urban development based on this outcome.

14. The two prime ministers welcomed the launch of Japan-India ICT Seminar and shared the view that they will enhance cooperation in the field of information and communication technology through bilateral consultations including at the ministerial level.

15. The two prime ministers noted with satisfaction that the waiver of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic passports began on Jan. 1, 2008. They expressed hope that the number of Japanese tourists visiting India will increase as a result of the recent decision by the government of India to introduce a visa on arrival scheme for tourists from five countries including Japan on an experimental basis. In order to facilitate two-way travel, they directed the con-

cerned authorities to accelerate the consultation on simplification of visa procedures and to complete it in a year.

16. The two prime ministers welcomed the renewed inter-

national attention to and confirmed their commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Prime Minister Hatoyama stressed the impor-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

Bilateral projects help relations to flourish

Yoshiro Mori
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of the 61st Republic Day of India, I wish to convey to the government and

the people of India the warmest congratulations from all the members of the Japan-India Association, which I represent.



I am gratified to note that the last year has again witnessed the increasing political and economic weight of India in the international society as well as the accelerated development of Japan-India bilateral relations in all its aspects.

I would like to stress that in spite of the change of government in Japan, our relations continue to flourish. Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama managed to make a visit to India toward the very end of the year, honoring the two governments' commitment to exchange prime ministers' visits in the framework of the Japan-India Strategic Global Partnership.

On the bilateral front, I am happy to note that two big projects between our countries, namely the construction of the Dedicated Freight Corridor and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor have reached the stage of implementation from that of planning and that other Japanese ODA (Official Development Assistance) projects in India, including urban metro-system construction projects in Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata, in addition to Delhi, are all on the right track. Also notable is the increase of Japanese direct investment to India that resulted in the presence of around 630 Japanese companies all over India in 2009.

As Prime Ministers Hatoyama and Manmohan Singh agreed in December in New Delhi to accelerate the negotiations for the expedited conclusion of the Japan-India Economic Partnership Agreement, I hope that the EPA will be concluded as soon as possible so that our mutual trade, which is lagging behind, will be able to leap forward.

Increased numbers of Indian IT engineers and other businesspeople visit and stay in Japan. There exists already a few important clusters of Indian people in Japan in such places as Nishi-Kasai in eastern Tokyo in addition to Yokohama and Kobe. Indian restaurants are mushrooming in major cities in Japan.

Cooperation in science and technology is gaining further momentum. Cultural exchanges between our countries are expanding and deepening. The promised project to launch a new Indian Institute of Technology in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, is ongoing.

On the multilateral front, our countries are destined to jointly contribute to the global community by cooperating on the solution to such global problems as nuclear disarmament, nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, prevention of climate change and reform of the United Nations Security Council.

The Japan-India Association, with the weight of its 107 years of history and its spirit of dedication, is determined not to spare any effort for further betterment of our very important relationship. On this auspicious occasion, let me pray that the excellent Japan-India relationship brings more happiness to our peoples and that the two nations contribute to the peace and prosperity of the international community at large.



Joint effort: Indian and Japanese officials discuss ways to strengthen ties in the security field and to promote comprehensive cooperation on economic issues, the environment and the abolition of nuclear weapons in December in Delhi. KYODO



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Investment contributes to deep partnership

Yasuo Fukuda
VICE PRESIDENT, JAPAN-INDIA PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the people of India on the 60th anniversary of India's Republic Day.



India has made great strides to emerge as an important player regionally and globally, backed by its robust economic development. Last year, India, the world's largest democracy, demonstrated once again the strength of its solid democratic institutions in the general election.

It is a great pleasure to see the relationship between Japan and India further

strengthened in a wide range of fields. Foreign direct investment from Japan to India has increased tenfold over the past several years and an increasing number of Japanese companies have established their businesses in India. Last December, Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama visited India, where he and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh signed the joint statement on the "New Stage of Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership," promising to promote cooperation between the countries even further.

The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League remains strongly committed to contributing actively to the further deepening of partnership between our countries. I send my best wishes to the people of India for their further prosperity and for the continued development of our cordial relationship.

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bilateral relations/economy

Tata chairman thinks small to realize a big dream

India's manufacturing expertise will now be more recognized than ever with the production of the cheapest car in the world, the Nano.

Roughly a century ago, Henry Ford had put America on wheels with the Model T. Now it has been done by Ratan Tata for the less privileged of the world. His Nano car is revealing itself to be the mouse that roars, one of the most transformational consumer products of the century. At about 100,000 rupees (\$2,000) retail, the Nano is the most inexpensive car in the world. Its closest competitor, the Maruti 800, another made-in-India product by Maruti Udyog, sells for roughly twice as much. In fact, the price of the Nano is roughly equivalent to the price of a DVD player option in a luxury Western car.

The Nano, which literally means small, is a dream come true for septuagenarian Tata, the chairman of the global conglomerate Tata group. He has shown the world that a dream can be fulfilled only if you are committed to seeing it take the form of reality amid adversities.

But then, how did the dream come about? As Tata himself has said, "There has always been some sort of unconscious urge to do something for the people of India and transport has been an area of interest. As urbanization gathers pace, personal transport has become a big issue. Travel by two-wheeler transport is very much the norm in this country. The two-wheeler image is what got me thinking."

But what about the cost? Can those who drive two-

wheelers afford the price of a car? That means the dream car that Tata was thinking about had to be a low-cost car, though, initially, he never had imagined that it could be as low as Rs100,000.

"It was never meant to be a Rs100,000 car; that happened by circumstance. I was interviewed by the (British newspaper) Financial Times at the Geneva Motor Show and I talked about this future product as a low-cost car. I was asked how much it would cost and I said about Rs100,000. The next day the Financial Times had a headline to the effect that the Tatas are to produce a Rs100,000 car. My immediate reaction was to issue a rebuttal, to clarify that that was not exactly what I had said. Then I thought, I did say it would be around that figure, so why don't we just take that as a target. When I came back, our people were aghast, but we had

our goal," Tata pointed out.

Goal thus fixed, Tata and his team thought initially that they would be able to make a car by enlarging scooter-parts with a roof. But then they found that scooter parts were a real limitation. So they changed tack and said let's take a "clean sheet of paper" and start thinking and conceiving a car.

"Why a clean sheet of paper? Because we thought that if we had to do something that was different, then we probably didn't want to have a legacy in any way or form and so we thought we should look at everything from scratch. And initially I thought we could even have a car made from engineering plastics," Tata argued.

Tata initially conceived Nano as a low-end "rural car," perhaps without doors or windows and with plastic curtains that rolled down, a four-wheel version of the auto-rickshaw,

in a manner of speaking.

However, as the development cycle progressed he realized that he could — and needed to — do a whole lot better. He slowly gravitated toward a car as everyone expects a car to be. The challenge increased exponentially; there was the low-price barrier, inflation, adding more features and parts to the vehicle, substantial changes in basic raw materials. But all these constraints never deterred him. What he and his team have been able to achieve, in the face of all these constraints, is truly outstanding.

Nano has heralded what experts say is "a modular design revolution." The Nano is constructed of components that can be built and shipped separately to be assembled in a variety of locations. In effect, the Nano is being sold in kits that are distributed, assembled,

and serviced by local entrepreneurs. To quote Tata again: "A bunch of entrepreneurs could establish an assembly operation and Tata Motors would train their people, would oversee their quality assurance and they would become satellite assembly operations for us. So we would create entrepreneurs across the country that would produce the car. We would produce the mass items and ship it to them as kits. That is my idea of dispersing wealth. The service person would be like an insurance agent who would be trained, have a cell phone and scooter and would be assigned to a set of customers."

In fact, Tata envisions going even further, providing the tools for local mechanics to assemble the car in existing auto shops or even in new garages created to cater to remote rural customers. This strategy was inherent in making the Nano the cheapest car in the world. If it had to be done the conventional way, it would have meant investing many billions of dollars. So Tata looked at a new kind of distributed manufacturing, creating a low-cost, low break-even point manufacturing unit that the group designs and gives to entrepreneurs who might like to establish a manufacturing facility.

He looked at different ways of servicing the product, at the customer's location, and through a concept adopted from the insurance industry, self-employed people are trained and certified by the group. Then Tata went back to



Better innovation: The Tata Nano vehicle is displayed for the first time in the U.S. at the Science Center in Detroit on Jan. 15. REUTERS

innovation in design and scrupulously brought down the cost of the product.

Tata did things like make similar handles and mechanisms for the left- and right-side doors; his colleagues developed their own small engine which could sit under the rear seat, enabling them to craft a smaller overall package; they looked at new types of seats; and they worked at cutting costs everywhere.

They put the instrument cluster in the middle, not in front of the driver. This means the same dashboard will work for a left-hand-drive vehicle. There are many such innovations that are low-cost and future-oriented.

Equally important to the cost structure was the incentive they could get from having manufacturing facilities at a particular place. The benefits on this count would be passed on to the customer.

Of course, Tata has his critics, ranging from the environ-

mentalists to urban planners who predict that the huge number of cars in India will be unmanageable on Indian roads and the increasing consumption of oil would aggravate the pollution problem in the country. But then, the fact remains that each Nano emits 25 percent less carbon dioxide per mile (1.6 km) than a standard car. In fact, its less polluting feature is one of the principal reasons why the car has a huge potential market all over the world, including in developed countries. Tata has announced plans to take the Nano to foreign shores, starting with Europe in 2011 and the United States after that, then onto other markets in the world.

Above all, the Nano is a great achievement for India and it has done well to showcase the technological might of Indians. To make a car that is cheap and does not compromise on safety and emission standards is a big achievement on any scale.

New partnership

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

tance of bringing into force the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) at an early date. Prime Minister Singh reiterated India's commitment to a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. The two prime ministers supported the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament and an early conclusion of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). They also supported the strengthening of international cooperation with a view to addressing the challenges of nuclear terrorism and clandestine proliferation.

17. The two prime ministers welcomed the Copenhagen Accord. They reaffirmed their determination to work closely together in the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) toward an agreed outcome, to be adopted at the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties. Prime Minister Singh welcomed the announcement of the "Hatoyama Initiative."

18. The two prime ministers reaffirmed their resolve to realize a comprehensive reform of the United Nations (U.N.) Security Council, especially its expansion in both permanent and nonpermanent categories. They welcomed the progress so far achieved in the intergovernmental negotiations in the U.N. General Assembly, in which an expansion in both categories has commanded the most support from member states. The prime ministers decided to accelerate their efforts, in close cooperation with the G-4 and other like-minded countries, with a view to achieving a meaningful result during the 64th Session of the General Assembly, so as to make the Security Council more representative, credible and effective for meeting the challenges of the new century.

19. The two prime ministers reaffirmed that an ambitious and balanced conclusion of the WTO Doha Round in 2010 will play an important role in responding to the global economic crisis and committed to working together toward this end.

20. The two prime ministers valued the G-20 as the premier forum for our international economic cooperation and commended its timely and strong policy response in the crisis. They welcomed the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth launched at Pittsburgh and looked forward to its implementation. They reiterated the importance of the comprehensive package of regulatory measures to prevent recurrence of the crisis. Both sides welcomed the Pittsburgh Summit's focus to address reforms of the international financial institutions (IFIs) in order to improve their credibility, governance and effectiveness and looked forward to its implementation within the agreed timelines. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to eschewing protectionism in all its forms covering trade in goods and services as well as investment and financial flows. In a spirit of friendship and cooperation, they looked

forward to further working closely together, as well as with others.

21. The two prime ministers reiterated the condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose. They reaffirmed the importance both countries attach to counterterrorism cooperation in the United Nations and affirmed to continue working toward the finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. Prime Minister Hatoyama expressed strong condemnation of the terrorism attacks in Mumbai last year (2008). The two prime ministers emphasized the utmost importance of bringing the perpetrators of the terrorist attack to justice. Japan expressed its support for India's efforts to become a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). At the bilateral level, they underlined their determination to strengthen cooperation through the Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism.

22. The two prime ministers reaffirmed their support for the East Asia Summit as an open, inclusive, transparent and forward-looking forum. The two prime ministers welcomed the decision of the EAS Economic Ministers to task the senior economic officials to discuss and consider the recommendations in the Phase I and II reports on Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPA). The two prime ministers welcomed the efforts by Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) for promoting economic growth in East Asia, focusing on such areas as facilitating subregional development, expanding the middle class and stimulating consumer market, and for working with the ADB and the ASEAN Secretariat to accelerate the completion of a "Comprehensive Asian Development Plan" in order to enhance the connectivity of the region.

23. The two prime ministers reaffirmed their commitment to work together in the framework of regional cooperation. Prime Minister Singh noted with appreciation Prime Minister Hatoyama's initiative for an East Asian community.

24. Prime Minister Hatoyama welcomed India's initiative in the East Asia Summit process to establish the Nalanda University as a nonstate, nonprofit, secular and self-governing international institution with a continental focus to enable students from all countries of Asia to acquire liberal and human education. They acknowledged that this initiative will strengthen the cultural and civilizational bonds between the countries of Asia.

25. Prime Minister Hatoyama expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome by Prime Minister Singh. Prime Minister Hatoyama extended his invitation to Prime Minister Singh for their next Annual Bilateral Summit in Japan next year at a mutually convenient date to be decided through diplomatic channels. Prime Minister Singh accepted the invitation with pleasure.



Cars and crowds: Every major automobile manufacturer in the world shows up at the 10th India Auto Expo, held in New Delhi from Jan. 5-11. AP

Working together for a bright future

Fuji Mitarai
CHAIRMAN, NIPPON KEIDANREN

On behalf of Nippon Keidanren (the Japan Business Federation), I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of India's 61st Republic Day.

If the global economy is to overcome its current difficulties and embark on a path of sustainable growth, Asia, with its rich growth potential, will need to be in the driver's seat. Given its speedy recovery fueled by vigorous domestic demand and its forecast 7 percent growth rate for fiscal 2010, India, in particular, is the focus of high hopes as an engine of Asian growth.

The relation between Japan and India is developing drastically in terms of trade and investment. The potential for further economic cooperation between the two is also growing. At their recent summit meeting, for example, Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh discussed advancing several initiatives, including the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project and

the early completion of the entire western corridor of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project. The business community warmly welcomes this progress, for if these projects are realized, the benefits will contribute to the economic development not only of the two nations themselves but of the Asian region as a whole.

As Japan and India deepen cooperation in these fields through private- and public-sector initiatives, it is extremely important that the two countries promptly conclude an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) — a long-standing desire of business communities in both nations — to serve as the bedrock of future cooperation. We regard the agreement to advance EPA negotiations as a highly significant outcome of the recent summit.

Japan and India must also work together to address global issues, with the aspiration of becoming a model for other countries. Climate change, in particular, requires concerted action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, not only in developed countries but also in the developing world, as stipulated in the Copenhagen Accord acknowledged at the U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP15) in December

Nobuo Ohashi
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS
CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee (JIBCC), I wish to offer my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of India's 61st Republic Day.

After gaining independence in 1947, India promulgated its modern constitution on this day in 1950 and over the succeeding 60 years has established a solid record as a major constitutional democracy. Bolstered by the leadership of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the stability of the political climate, India has become an instrumental player in world affairs and has posted spectacular economic development, particularly in recent years. Economic ties between Japan and India have been marked by impressive and extended growth in investment and trade in the past few years and we recognize that our bilateral economic ties are entering a stage where they will more fully demonstrate their potential.

At the bilateral summit

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THE INDIAN SOCIAL SOCIETY
Hon. President: L.P. Chablani

THE INDIA CLUB
Hon. President: Paramjit Chadha

Congratulations
Heartiest Republic Day Greetings



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New deals boost economic efforts

meeting held during Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's visit to India at the end of December last year, the Japanese leader and Prime Minister Singh released a joint statement titled "New Stage of the Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership" in which the two nations' leaders confirmed that they would further strengthen and develop this bilateral partnership, which bears strategic and global importance.

In the joint statement, the leaders not only confirmed their intent to cooperate on security and climate change issues but also reaffirmed their commitment to work toward the prompt conclusion of the Economic Partnership Agreement, the Dedicated Freight Corridor, and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, which are all important to the business communities of our two countries. A bright future for the relationship between our nations is indeed dawning.

The 12th round of government negotiations regarding the Japan-India Economic Partnership Agreement was held in October last year and

we look forward to seeing the negotiations accelerated in the future with an eye toward signing an EPA.

The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor was the main topic at the Joint Meeting of the India-Japan Business Co-operation Committees held in Delhi on Dec. 1 last year and the JIBCC sensed the enthusiasm and effort of the Indian national and state governments and the participating corporations in creating the corridor. The project has reached the stage where the Japanese business community should substantially increase its efforts with the support of the two countries' governments and related institutions. Individual Japanese corporations are now boosting their efforts in this regard.

In closing, let me reiterate my congratulations on India's 61st Republic Day. May India continue to advance by pursuing further liberalization policies. The JIBCC, for its part, will also continue to make active efforts so that the ties between our countries and peoples are further strengthened through economic exchange.

On the Occasion of India's Republic Day, Greetings from



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tourism/grassroots exchanges

India's rich history draws tourists

In a country as diverse and complex as India, it is not surprising to find that Indian people reflect on the rich glories of the past. With 5,000 years of recorded history, the culture, traditions and values relative to geographic locations and the numerous distinctive manners, habits and food will always remain truly Indian.

From the eternal snows of the Himalayas to the peninsula in the far south, from the deserts in the west to the humid deltas in the east, from the dry heat and cold of the central plateaus to the cool forest foothills, Indian lifestyles reflect the geography. The food, clothing and habits

of Indians differ in accordance to their place of origin.

The colorful mosaic of Indian festivals and fairs — as diverse as the land — is an eternal expression of the spirit of celebration. Observed with enthusiasm and gaiety, festivals are like gems ornamenting the crown of Indian culture. Throughout the year, they are vibrant interludes in the mundane routine of daily life.

Here are some highlights of historic sites and festivals:

The Majestic Taj

For centuries, the Taj Mahal has inspired poets, painters and musicians to try to capture its elusive magic in

words, colors and sound. Since the 17th century, travelers have crossed continents to see this ultimate memorial to love and few have been unmoved by its incomparable beauty.

Taj Mahal stands in the city of Agra, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, on the banks of the Yamuna River. It was built in the memory of the beautiful Arjumand Bano Begum, called Mumtaz Mahal, who won the heart of a Mughal prince. She was married at 21 to Prince Khurram, who later became Emperor Shah Jahan, and stayed loyally by his side through good times and bad: in the luxurious royal palaces of Agra as well as the transient tents of war camps.

Pilgrimage to Varanasi

The venerable and ancient city Varanasi is the religious center of the world for Hindus. It is a magnificent city of myriad attractions, an exalted place of pilgrimage and a microcosmic center of faith. Thousands of pilgrims visit the city from all parts of India and from across the world. Varanasi is a place where the past and present, eternity and continuity, live side by side.

The city rises from the high northern bank of the Ganges River, the holiest of all Indian rivers, to form a magnificent panorama of buildings in many forms of Indian architecture. The unique relationship between the sacred river and the city is the essence of Varanasi — the land of sacred light. The Ganges is believed to have come from heaven to wash away the worldly sins of humankind. Thus, to be in Varanasi is an out-of-this-world

experience and an experience of self-discovery, a journey through the present and the past in search of immortality.

Pooram Festival

Pooram is the most colorful of all the temple festivals of Kerala state. It is celebrated in Thrissur at Vadakkunnathan Temple in the month of Medam (April) when the reigning deity is Lord Shiva. Situated on a hillcock in the center of the city, the spaciouly laid out temple attracts thousands of devotees from all over during the Pooram Festival.

It is a magnificent spectacle with fireworks, an umbrella hoisting competition and a splendid elephant procession. The best elephants of the state from the various temples in Kerala are sent to Thrissur to participate in the Pooram Festival.

Buddhist site of Kushinagar

Kushinagar is the place that the Buddha chose for his Ma-



Varanasi: The land of the holy Ganges River INCREDIBLE INDIA

hapanirvana, or final exit from Earth. Kushinagar, or Kushinara as it was then known, was the capital of the Malla republic, one of the states of northern India during the sixth through fifth centuries B.C. Kushinagar is identified with the modern village of Kasia, 50 km from Gorakhpur city, in eastern Uttar Pradesh. During his lifetime, the Buddha traversed the dusty plains of the Ganges Valley, subsisting on whatever he col-

lected as alms and pausing to rest only during the rainy season. In 543 B.C. on the full moon night of Magh (January - February), the Buddha lectured at Beluva village, near Vaishali, on the impermanence of all living things and said that his own life on Earth was soon to end.

Texts from the India Ministry of Tourism Web site Incredible India.

For more information, visit www.incredibleindia.org



Taj Mahal: A flawless architectural creation

Innovations help India become a great nation

Yog Kapoor
OWNER, INDIAN RESTAURANT CHAIN SAMFRAT

The Indian economy is rebounding and the strength of its recovery is increasing, especially after the national elections. For the first time in decades, Indians realized which political party can lead India to peace and prosperity.



India was honored around the world. For example, U.S. President Barack Obama invited Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for his first fully fledged state visit to the White House, a most coveted invitation and a great honor for all Indians.

The recent visit of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama to India resulted in a give-and-take meeting with Singh. The leaders of Asia's biggest and third-largest economies also agreed to welcome the elevation of the Indo-Japanese strategic partnership to a "new stage," to a higher dimension. The leaders also confirmed that the countries will speed up talks on an economic partnership agreement and aim for the early conclusion of a freight railway project linking New Delhi and Mumbai.

Japan and India have been working at improving ties and Hatoyama is unlike any other Japanese leader that the Indian side has dealt with in the past decade. Hatoyama's yearend visit showed that he is

keen to maintain a priority on closer engagement with India. Today, the leaders of Japan and India need to find ways to reconcile their interests in Asia so that they can coexist peacefully and prosper. Accordingly, Indian politicians should not forget that they have a great responsibility toward Indians and toward Asia and the world. So all other political parties should give up wasteful political disputes and work together with the National Congress party.

Corruption is a stronger threat than terrorism. Only a few power-hungry people are corrupt, but the reputation of all Indians is hurt when these people are elected. India has lots of other problems to solve. We lack education, have high inflation, have inadequate roads and transportation systems. Though blessed with fertile land, we must improve the situation of our agriculturists in the villages. Irrigation systems and other advances, if properly installed, should help India one day become self-sufficient in food products. So we should take advanced technology from advanced countries so we can make India into a veritable great country.

I feel that the day will come when the whole world will follow the theories of nonviolence of our great Mahatma Gandhi. Violence brings misery and poverty, which nobody wants in the world. India is following in the footsteps of Gandhi so that today we are celebrating the Republic Day of India with peace and progress.

India, Japan SMEs spur economy

Ryukou Hira
HONORARY PRESIDENT, IMAY & ICCJ

Felicitations to readers and gratitude to publishers for conveying our message of compliments on India's Republic Day.

The Indian Merchants Association of Yokohama (IMAY) commenced work in 1921 and today has transformed into the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan (ICCIJ). It serves as a comprehensive, professional apex body, supplementing the efforts of the Indian Embassy in Tokyo, to promote India-Japan economic engagement.

Small- and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) are the essential backbone of the Japanese economy. For Japan to achieve a true recovery and sustainable growth, revitalizing of these enterprises by partnering with Indian SMEs can enhance the vitality of the Japanese economy. For all this to come to fruition, we must orchestrate the strengths of ICCJ and propose necessary policy measures to national and local govern-

ments. Whenever an opportunity arises, I endeavor to visit regional areas throughout Japan to listen directly to the needs of local corporations. This year, I have placed priority on visiting the 23 chapters of the Tokyo chamber and 46 prefectural chambers to promote exchanges between Indian and Japanese chambers of commerce and industry by leading economic delegations and organizing fairs, seminars and symposiums.

To test the scope of interest and commitment by the regional chambers and corporations, the first professional presentation of Indian economic potential was held in Nagoya. Almost all the major corporations, including prefectural government officials, listened to Hemant Krishan Singh, the ambassador of India to Japan, who also is the honorary chairman of ICCJ, Tokyo.

The ambassador introduced the promising future of economic growth potential extending for at least the next three decades. Amid the global financial crisis, the resilience of Indian economic growth was sustained by com-



Pooram Festival: The best elephants from various temples in Kerala state are sent to participate every year.



Kushinagar: The statue of the reclining Buddha



Goa: The world-famous Indian beach

Friendship brings mutual benefit

Kunna Dash
PRESIDENT, INDIA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP CLUB, OSAKA

We are heading toward the new millennium holding the tricolor high to mark the 61st celebration of Republic Day in India. More than 1 billion Indians around the globe share their sagas, sensations and solidarity with humanity at large to spread the essence of peace, truth, beauty and nonviolence.

In Orissa, a coastal province of India, the Bay of Bengal stretches majestic to convey its special cheers to the historic friendship of Japan and Orissa. Orissa is abundant in natural resources like minerals, jungles, rivers, fresh water and natural gas. The province also has adequate infrastructure and low-cost labor with easy availability of skilled workers while having positive "single window" industrial facilities.

India-Japan Friendship Club stands committed to extend all its support and cooperation to Japanese investors who intend to invest in Orissa. Besides that, the club helps investors to interpret their views with close liaisoning with government machineries of Orissa and India. To make it more congenial, we have opened a Japanese Study Center at Chandra Sekhar Academy in Orissa to support Japa-

nese companies in supplying unskilled and skilled workers.

The recently opened India-Japan Friendship Club sister branch in Yamato Koriyama City, Nara Prefecture, joins us in putting forth relentless efforts as grassroots ambassadors to nurture economical developments between India and Japan.

Very recently, India-Japan Friendship Center in Yamato Koriyama along with India-Japan Friendship Center at Puri-Konark Marine Drive Road, Chandra Sekhar Square, Orissa, organized a meeting of high-level delegates from Japan with Debi Prasad Mishra, honorable minister of tourism, government of Orissa. During the course of discussions, the minister emphasized organizing "roadshows" in Japan to promote Orissa tourism. The minister referred also to the fact that very shortly the government plans to convert Biju Pattanaik Airport at Bhubaneswar into an international airport. The minister also point-

ed out that there exists many similarities between Orissa and Japan including food and religion. Various touristic attractions, such as the 500-km-long coastline of the state, Buddhist heritage sites, forests, wildlife, different ecosystems and environmental tours were discussed.

The delegates offered the minister their invitation to visit Buddhist monuments and historic sights of Japan to understand the likes and tastes of the people. The delegates also suggested that the minister participate in the commemoration ceremony of the 1300th anniversary of Heijyokyo capital in Nara, which will be celebrated throughout 2010 and may be quite a beneficial forum to promote Orissa to Japanese tourists.

Let us all put our hands together and promise before the tricolor to enhance Indo-Japanese relations to a new height that unfurls the fragrance of the cultural ties and commemorates the rich heritage of the two countries.

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