

The Japan Times

REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

India hopes relations with Japan realize true potential

Sanjay Panda
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.,
EMBASSY OF INDIA

On the happy occasion of the 62nd Republic Day of India, I extend the cordial greetings of the people of India to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko as well as to the government and friendly people of Japan. I also felicitate my fellow citizens and people of Indian origin living in Japan.



Over the past six decades, India has covered a long distance on the path of development. 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.

Despite the global economic slowdown, India's economy has continued to grow briskly based on the strength of domestic demand, savings, investment and enterprise. We are confident India's economic transition is gathering pace. It will be faster in the years

ahead as we harness the expanding economic productivity of our young population.

India and Japan share historical and civilizational ties and an Asian identity. Our relations have been marked by mutual good will, amity and respect. This legacy has remained unbroken into the modern era, which has seen our bonds strengthened based on our shared values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law. Our economic complementarities, strategic interests and common aspirations for Asian economic integration make us natural partners in the 21st century that belongs to Asia.

Bilateral ties between India and Japan are at a historical peak. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has aptly observed that "as the largest and most developed democracies of Asia, we have a mutual stake in each other's progress and prosperity." These words capture the essence of our deepening partnership, which enjoys broad political support and benefits from public good will in both countries.

It has been the vision of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to ensure a qualitative transformation of India-Japan relations to realize their true potential. The India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership has been imparted a further momentum and continuity by the prime minister's landmark visit to Japan



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh



President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil

in October 2010 for the Annual Bilateral Summit. A major outcome of the visit was the joint declaration on the conclusion of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between our two countries, which confirms our mutual pursuit of the future as close partners. In fact, the CEPA not only adds a new dimension to our Strategic and

Global Partnership, but also opens up new opportunities in our bilateral economic engagement.

Apart from flagship infrastructure projects like the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) that we are pursuing together, trade and investment relations between India and Japan

are intensifying. As we start from a modest threshold, the potential growth is immense. India's economic dynamism and youthful vibrancy provide ample opportunities for mutually beneficial economic relations that can underpin progress and prosperity in both societies through the 21st century.

India and Japan have also affirmed their commitment to work together for the develop-

ment 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 have been reinforced.

We are also witnessing greater people-to-people contacts through enhanced cultural and educational exchanges. There is a joint collaboration in the development of the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. The establishment of chairs on Indian studies at the University of Tokyo and at the Ryukoku University, Kyoto, has strengthened flows of ideas and knowledge. There is also considerable scope for the growth of two-way tourism, which we need to promote.

Our relations with Japan enjoy a national consensus in India. We wish to see Japan as a prosperous engine of growth for the world economy and the center of technological excellence. India and Japan stand together in their determination to bring security and prosperity to our peoples, the region and the world.

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

Meaningful progress continues

Yasuo Fukuda
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 62nd Republic Day of India.



Japan and India maintain friendly relations founded on a long history of exchange. Japan and India have also established a strategic and global partnership and have deepened relations in recent years.

Last October, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, prime minister of India, visited Japan, and he and Prime Minister Naoto Kan signed the joint statement titled "Vision for Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership in the

NextDecade," highlighting such meaningful progress as the conclusion of negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the establishment of a ministerial-level economic dialogue and the simplifying of visa procedures.

Japan and India enjoy very strong bipartisan support for strengthening their relationship in both countries. The relationship between our two countries is mutually complementary and there is huge potential for expanding our relationship.

The Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League remains strongly committed to contributing actively to the further deepening of the partnership between our two countries and of mutual understanding.

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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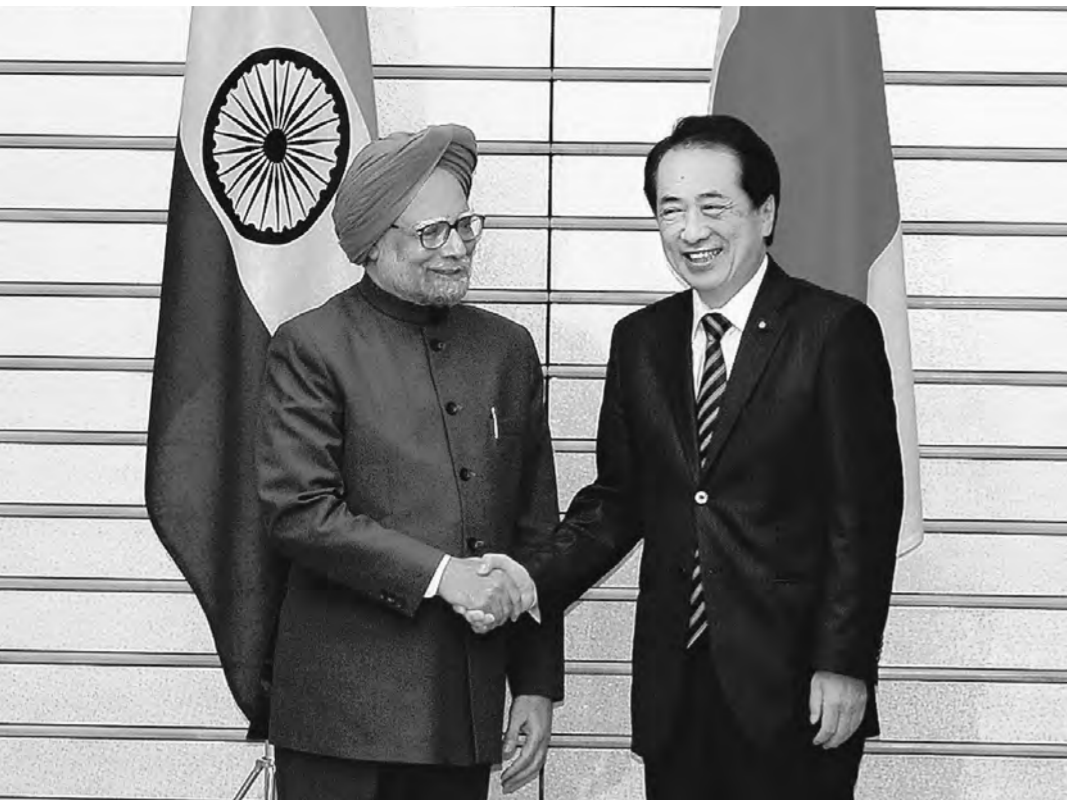
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Key links: Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh meets Prime Minister Naoto Kan at the Annual Bilateral Summit in Tokyo on Oct. 25. INDIAN EMBASSY

India's growing global presence, cooperation welcome in Japan

Yoshiro Mori
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA
ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of the 62nd Republic Day of India, I am privileged to convey to the government and people of India heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the Japan-India Association that I represent. I am pleased to note that 2010 witnessed the increasing weight of India, both political and economic, in the international sphere as well as the accelerated development of Japan-India bilateral relations in all its aspects. I would like to stress that the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Japan in October last year marked



another memorable milestone with the finalizing of the agreement on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership between the two countries and the issuing of the joint statement for Japan-India strategic and global partnership in the next decade. On the bilateral front, I am happy to note that two symbolically important projects, namely the construction of the Delhi-Mumbai Dedicated Freight Corridor and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, have come into the implementation stage and four Japanese industry groups have started four projects to construct "smart communities" along the DMIC belt. India continues to be the largest Japanese Official Development Assistance partner and engages, in cooperation with Japan, in infrastructure-building such as electricity and

transportation systems, poverty alleviation, and environmental projects ranging from reforestation to water supply and sewerage. Remarkable successes have been registered in the construction projects of urban metro systems in Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata in addition to Delhi. To be noted also is the increase of Japanese direct investment to India, which resulted, as of October 2010, in the presence of around 725 Japanese companies all over India. An increasingly greater number of Indian businesspeople and their families visit and stay in Japan. Some Indian businesses have ventured into the Marunouchi area, the very center of business in Japan. There exist already several 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. Our association feels rewarded by helping the Indian community in eastern Tokyo gain a new compound for the Indian school in Koto Ward. Cooperation in science and technology is gaining further momentum. Cultural exchanges between the two countries are expanding and deepening. The promised project to launch a new Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, is ongoing. A big project for the revival of Nalanda University, the famous religious and cultural center of the Buddhist world during the medieval period, is now under preparation. On the international front, our two countries are jointly contributing to the global

community by cooperating in many areas on global issues covering nuclear disarmament, the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the prevention of climate change, the reform of the United Nations Security Council. The Japan-India Association, with its 108 glorious years of history, gained the new status of a public interest incorporated foundation in October 2010, in accordance with the new laws and regulations, and is determined to deploy its utmost efforts for the further betterment of this very important bilateral relationship. On this auspicious occasion, let me pray that the already excellent Japan-India relationship further benefits our two peoples and that the two great nations contribute to the peace and prosperity of the international community at large.

Strengthening our bilateral ties

Hiromasa Yonekura
CHAIRMAN, NIPPON KEIDANREN

On behalf of Nippon Keidanren, I would like to offer our sincere congratulations on the occasion of India's 62nd Republic Day. India has achieved outstanding economic growth in recent years and has become one of the most dynamic emerging economies in Asia. The economic relationship between Japan and India has been growing significantly along the way, particularly in the areas of trade and investment, and is expected to expand further in coming years. During his recent visit to Japan, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh proposed that



Japan and India step up joint efforts in infrastructure development initiatives, such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project, as well as in renewable energy, nuclear energy and other green technology projects. We in the Japanese business community welcome the proposal and we are convinced that these initiatives will significantly contribute to the sustainable economic growth of our two countries, as well as the entire Asian region. In order to expand multifaceted cooperative relations between Japan and India through private and public-sector initiatives, it is essential to bring into effect as soon as possible the Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), a longtime wish of the business communities in both

countries seeking to build strong strategic partnerships. The CEPA will help to establish a mutually beneficial business environment, and further promote bilateral trade and investment in a broad range of areas, including the service sector. There are many opportunities and challenges in the future of the Japan-India relationship. I have a strong conviction that by working more closely together as partners sharing the values of democracy and the free-market economy, our two countries will be able to overcome the challenges, take advantage of the opportunities, and achieve strong and sustainable economic growth. We in the Japanese business community will continue to do our utmost to further strengthen the ties between Japan and India.

Nobuo Ohashi
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS
COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the occasion of India's 62nd Republic Day. India achieved independence in 1947 and promulgated its modern constitution on this very day in 1950. As the world's biggest democracy and a major economic power, India is today achieving sustained growth under the leadership of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. India also plays an important role in the international community, and its interna-



tional presence and influence continue to increase. There have been recent important developments in the relationship between India and Japan. On Sept. 9, 2010, the two nations reached basic accord on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, or CEPA, between Japan and the Republic of India at their 14th round of negotiations in Tokyo. On Oct. 25, Prime Minister Singh, who visited Japan for the annual summit, and Prime Minister Naoto Kan signed a joint declaration that negotiations on the CEPA had concluded. Over the past few years there has been conspicuous growth in the economic relationship between India and Japan in terms of investment and trade. However, that relationship has yet to reach a level that is commensurate with the scale of the Indian and Japanese economies. From an industry perspective, we earnestly hope that the CEPA will be put into effect as soon as possible so that the economic relationship between our two countries can be further strengthened. The CEPA provides for cooperation in 12 areas relating to culture, the arts and advanced technology, including tourism, health, recreation and information, the environment, information and communications technology, scientific technology and energy. By working together in these fields, all of which play significant and familiar roles in our day-to-day lives, I believe that the people of our two countries will be able to learn more about each other's achievements. The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project was the

main theme for the Joint Meeting of the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committees, which was held in New Delhi in December 2009. There is intense interest in large-scale projects, such as the establishment of a dedicated freight corridor. I wish to express my admiration for the commitment and determination with which the Indian government, state governments and business corporations are working to realize this plan. The time has come for Japanese industry to put specific initiatives in place with the support of the Japanese and Indian governments, and relevant organizations. These projects are vast in scale, and there will inevitably be twists and turns on the path to their realization. However, the projects are of great importance for the future

and I hope that this year will bring further sustained progress toward their completion. India and Japan are linked by a partnership based on trust and friendship. That partnership, together with collaborative initiatives by our two countries, will without doubt bring benefits for India and Japan while providing an economic driving force for Asia, and the world. The Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee is determined to make an active contribution to the further reinforcement of the economic relations between our two countries. I will conclude by once again offering my sincere congratulations on the occasion of India's 62nd Republic Day, and my best wishes for your continuing and increased prosperity.

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republic day of India



Nature: Tso Moriri Lake in Ladakh is part of a wildlife reserve. INDIA PERSPECTIVES

Reforms help lead to contemporary India's rise

Ryuko Hira
HONORARY PRESIDENT, INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY JAPAN TOKYO (ICCJ), INDIAN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION OF YOKOHAMA (IMAY)

On behalf of all the members of ICCJ and IMAY, I convey to readers our heartfelt felicitations on the 62nd Republic Day of India.

The government's comprehensive policy of economic reforms has led to the rise of contemporary India, which has been lauded worldwide for its extraordinary economic growth during the global recession. The In-



ternational Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's economic growth forecast for 2010 by 60 basis points to 9.4 percent.

Indo-Japanese trade, economic and investment relations have expanded significantly and with the recent successful completion of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) talks, it is expected that trade figures will increase in the coming years. As of September 2010, exports from India to Japan made up 2.41 percent (9th position) of the total, and imports made up 2.39 percent of the total, ranking 14th.

We serve as a comprehensive and professional apex

chamber of commerce, supplementing efforts of the Indian Embassy to promote India-Japan economic engagement. We provide support, guidance and offer consultancy/advisory services to interested parties to enable them to fully exploit the potential for business between Japan and India.

ICCJ Tokyo has successfully launched the road and highway infrastructure investment seminar and is organizing seminars on the travel industry, pharmaceutical industry and "Doing Business in India: Opportuni-

ties for Small and Medium-Size Companies."

To bring India's economic agenda to fruition, we shall continue our comprehensive services to Japanese manufacturers, general contractors and other investors in cooperation with the prefectural chambers of commerce and other institutions.

We will be commemorating the 90th year of our founding in April and take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the government of India for providing every assistance and care to we overseas Indians in Japan.

Cultural facility offers 'open embassy' in Tokyo

The India Cultural Centre (ICC) is located on the premises of the Embassy of India in Tokyo, along the sylvan surroundings of cherry blossom trees at Chidorigafuchi, adjoining the Imperial Palace. In terms of both architecture and functionality, the ICC seeks to develop the concept of an "open embassy." It offers ultramod-

ern facilities for courses in Indian music, dance, yoga and languages, besides the organization of art exhibitions, film screenings, seminars and workshops. Also, the embassy's library has a collection of books going back to the 1950s.

The ICC has taken an equally novel approach toward the faculty by utilizing talent from

India as well as Japan in equal measure. At the ICC, you can learn yoga and music from Indian gurus while courses in classical Indian dance and languages are conducted by instructors from Japan. With the extension of this collaborative methodology to local impresarios, artistes and cultural personalities, the ICC will expand

the horizons of India-Japan cultural engagement manifold.

The doors of the ICC are open to all Japanese friends and members of the Indian community to participate in its various activities.

For more information, please visit the website of the Embassy of India, Tokyo.



Health: A yoga class at the ICC in Tokyo INDIA EMBASSY



Culture: An Odissi dance class at the ICC INDIA EMBASSY

Gandhiism's theories of nonviolence are prevailing around world

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Yog Kapoor
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During their first visit to India, U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama wrote in the guest book of the Mani Bhavan Gandhi Museum in Mumbai.



President Obama is highly influenced by the theories of nonviolence of Mahatma Gandhi.

Obama offers a unique opportunity to cement a global partnership with India, a rapidly emerging power set to become the world's third- or fourth-largest economy by 2030.

India could become America's most important strategic partner.

The U.S. and India should create an innovation partnership that would not only yield direct returns to both countries but would also demonstrate how a strong bilateral relationship can improve the global crisis. India is succeeding in fostering greater domestic growth through economic policies and incentives toward the bottom of the income pyramid.

Energy-hungry India is one of the world's biggest markets for nuclear technology, with ambitious plans to reach an atomic power capacity of 63,000 megawatts by 2032 from the current level of 4,560 megawatts.

Leaders from Britain, China, France, Russia and the U.S., the

permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, have all visited India in the last four months, securing contracts worth a total of around \$50 billion. The Kremlin said trade with India will total \$10 billion. India is the fastest-growing nation in the world and hopes to have a growth rate of 10 percent by the end of 2011.

India's agriculture revolution, impressive industrialization and incredible progress in some states are contributing to the prosperity for the middle class.

Population growth is shifting to help determine Indians' economic prospects. Concerns arise when you have slow population growth and an increasingly aging society, which Japan suffers from today.

Japan, the second great economic power in the world, may

be losing this status to China because of its aging, shrinking population.

Japan has great advanced technologies that India needs very badly, so I feel it's a great opportunity for Japan to enter into many collaborations with India, which will be good for Asia and for the peace and prosperity of the whole world.

Although there are many collaborations on the way between India and Japan, this is high time for Japan to bring forth great changes.

Japan's troubles may to some extent be mitigated by providing trained workers to support the elderly people in Japan, which hopefully will also bring more prosperity to the villages and to the middle class.

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