

India independence day celebration

India-Japan relationship on an upward trajectory

Alok Prasad
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA

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



I also wish to express my sincere condolences at the recent loss of lives from the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. The devastation caused by this unprecedented natural disaster evoked spontaneous sympathy and heartfelt emotion across India. We were happy to be able to respond quickly and effectively through the provision of some emergency supplies as well as by sending a 46-member relief team for a period of two weeks to Japan. This symbolizes the

sense of solidarity and civilizational links that the people of India feel toward Japan. The bravery and fortitude with which the people of Japan have faced this disaster has been an example to the world. We are confident that, with its customary resilience, Japan will soon overcome the impact of this calamity.

India is the proud inheritor of the ideals and values of one of the world's oldest civilizations. Over the last more than six decades since independence, India has made significant strides in all spheres. Among the remarkable accomplishments has been an unwavering adherence to the values and ideals of secular democracy, which have helped forge a sense of unity in the multicultural, multiethnic, multilingual society. The motto of unity in diversity has been realized in practice and India's pluralistic traditions have developed a solid foundation. Our political, social and economic institutions have grown in strength and maturity, and serve as effective instruments of



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh



President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil

both economic development and social justice.

As Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has often stated, India seeks not just growth but inclusive growth in which no section of society is left out of

the development process. Today, India ranks among the fastest-growing economies of the world.

India and Japan have historical and civilizational ties. Our relations have been marked by

mutual good will, amity and respect, and enriched by the mutual flow of knowledge and ideas. This legacy has remained unbroken into the modern era, which has seen our bonds strengthen based on our shared

values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law. Today, in the modern context, the political leadership of both countries and across all parties is fully committed to developing our global and strategic partnership.

The signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in February has added yet another dimension to our shared vision. The entry into force of the CEPA on Aug. 1 has opened up new opportunities in our bilateral economic engagement. India's economic dynamism and youthful vibrancy provide ample opportunities for mutually beneficial economic relations, which can underpin progress and prosperity in both societies through the 21st century.

Besides intensifying trade and investment relations between India and Japan, our two countries are also pursuing flagship infrastructure projects like the Dedicated Freight Cor-

ridor (DFC) and Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). As indicated by Prime Minister Singh, investments in infrastructure in India have to expand to as much as \$1 trillion over the next five years. This will provide further opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships between Japanese and Indian corporations.

Japan has been a generous development partner for India. India sincerely appreciates the significant amount of official development assistance (ODA) that has been provided by Japan, which has been very beneficial in promoting India's economic development, particularly in the infrastructure and social sectors.

We are also witnessing greater people-to-people contacts through enhanced cultural and educational exchanges. The year 2012 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between India

and Japan. We look forward to celebrating it in a befitting manner that will bring our two nations closer.

Today, our economic complementarity, strategic interests and common aspirations for Asian economic integration make us natural partners. In deed, we have a mutual stake in each other's progress and prosperity. As the century unfolds, we must stand together in our determination to bring peace, stability and economic advancement to our respective peoples, to the region and to the world at large.

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 Japanese government, business and industry, and the public at large to realize the common desire of our two great peoples for universal peace, progress and prosperity.

True spirit of global partnership reinforces bilateral ties

Yoshiro Mori
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION

It is my great pleasure to convey the warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the Independence Day of India to the people and the government of India on behalf of the Japan-India Association.



With the sense of gratitude to all persons who have been devoting themselves for many years to the development of the

Japan-India relationship, I am very pleased to stress that our cordial bilateral relationship has been reinforced in the true spirit of the "Global Partnership between Japan and India" that I initiated with Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee in August 2000.

I am gratified to mention that, under the prominent leadership of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the presence and importance of India in the international sphere have increased tremendously, pushed by the stable and efficient government and an ever-vibrant economy.

It is my firm belief that the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA),

which has just come into force on Aug. 1, will doubtlessly further expand trade and investment, and promote other aspects of economic interchanges between the two countries.

It is noted also that two big projects between our two countries, namely the construction of the Delhi-Mumbai Dedicated Freight Corridor and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, have entered the stage of implementation and that other Japanese official development assistance (ODA) projects, including the urban metro-system construction projects in Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, in addition to Delhi, are successfully pursued all over India.

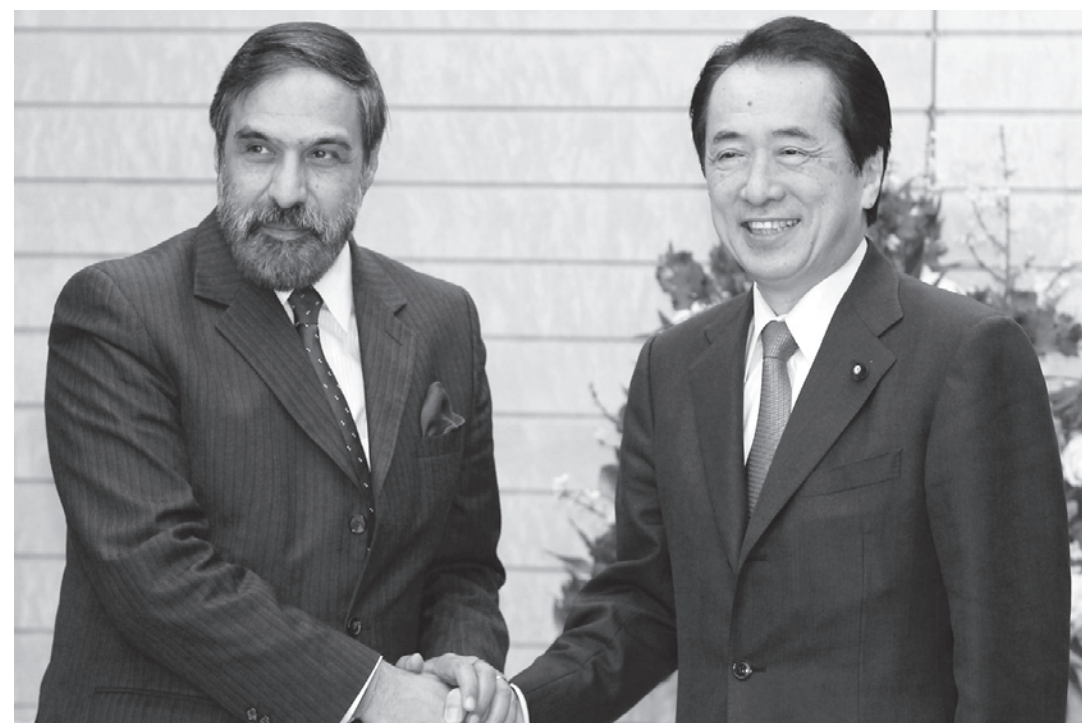
The increase of Japanese direct investment to India resulted, in 2011, in the presence of around 730 Japanese companies all over India, compared from 630 in the previous year. This shows that Japanese entrepreneurs are increasingly serious in promoting their operations in the Indian market and that they want to contribute to the development of the Indian economy and industry as well as to better the life of the Indian people.

Our two countries, on the multilateral front, are destined to cooperate jointly to contribute to the global community for the solution of such global issues as 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 a history of 108 years since its establishment, renews its determination to make the utmost efforts for further betterment of our very important relationship.

On this auspicious occasion, let me pray that the already excellent Japan-India relationship brings more happiness to our two peoples and that two our great nations jointly contribute to the peace and prosperity of the international community at large.



Deal: Anand Sharma, India's commerce minister, shakes hands with Prime Minister Naoto Kan on Feb. 15 in Tokyo during his visit to sign the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. AP



Celebration: Ambassador of India Alok Prasad delivers a speech at a reception held at his official residence in Tokyo on the occasion of India's Independence Day on Aug. 15. EMBASSY OF INDIA

Sincerest gratitude for India's assistance

Yasuo Fukuda
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-INDIA PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of India on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of India's Independence Day.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. On March 11, Japan was hit by one of the most powerful earthquakes in recorded history and the disaster left more than 20,000 people dead or missing. We have received numerous messages of condolence and sympathy as well as assistance from the government and people of India. The government of India has generously provided us with such

relief supplies as 25,000 blankets, 13,000 bottles of mineral water, and 10 tons of biscuits. India also dispatched a 46-member relief team of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in its first ever overseas operation, and the team was very well-received in Japan.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for all these supports and the spirit of solidarity from India.

Regarding the latest bilateral development, I would like to highlight the entry into force of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Japan and India on Aug. 1. The CEPA covers comprehensive areas including trade in goods and services, the movement of persons and business investment environment. I strongly believe that the CEPA will boost our bilateral trade and investment, strengthen the Japan-India bilateral economic partnership and further vitalize the economies of the two

countries. As the president of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to renew my enduring commitment in actively contributing to the further strengthening of

our strategic and global partnership.

I send my best wishes to the people of India for their further prosperity and for the continued development of our cordial relationship.



Solidarity: Members of India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) work in Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture, on March 31. AP

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on the Occasion of the
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India independence day celebration

Deepening ties for progress, prosperity

Nobuo Ohashi
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the Independence Day of India, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the government and people of India on behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC).



First, we would like to express our deep appreciation for India's heartfelt support extended to Japan after the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. In addition to the dis-

patch of relief materials such as blankets and bottles of water, the National Disaster Response Force, in its first relief operation abroad, took charge of searching for missing people. This full support from India in a time of grave difficulty deeply moved us and will never be forgotten.

The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between India and Japan (CEPA) became effective Aug. 1. We believe the long-awaited CEPA will open a new chapter of business cooperation between two vital economies in Asia.

The agreement is the most comprehensive and versatile compared with all the other ones that have been concluded by the two countries so far. Liberalization and facilitation of

trade in goods and services, mobilization of human resources, and significant improvement of the business environment are the key elements of the CEPA.

I especially hope that the number of Japan's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will increase in terms of trade and joint operation in the Indian market, utilizing the CEPA. From the viewpoint of a clear understanding of the CEPA among potential business entities, the JIBCC is planning to publish a CEPA brochure shortly, which will explain how the system works and how it should be used beneficially.

India has successfully overcome difficult challenges in recent years, despite the global economic downturn, and con-

tinued to grow briskly on the basis of the strength of domestic demand, exports and investment. We see India as a solid driving force of growth for the world economy. When India and Japan stand together on the international front, we are able to contribute to the global community by cooperating on a number of issues in such areas as economic growth, culture and international peace.

The annual economic mission of The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), headed by Chairman Tadashi Okamura, will visit Delhi and Chennai from Sept. 18. The JIBCC, a part of the JCCI, also will hold business cooperation conferences in Delhi and another city in January next year.

We are committed to intensifying efforts to raise awareness of the mutual benefits and advantages of doing business with India, in particular for SMEs, based on the standing partnership between the two countries. Needless to say, the importance of mega-projects, such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project, in which mainly big companies are involved, cannot be exaggerated.

I am confident that the coming year will see the further enhancement of the close bonds of friendship between Japan and India. We at the JIBCC will continue to do our utmost to further strengthen mutual ties in order to realize the common wish of our two nations for progress and prosperity.

India-Japan Global Partnership Summit (IJGPS) 2011

Marking 10 years since the India-Japan Global Partnership Agreement, a conference will be held from Sept. 5-7 in Tokyo.

The mutually beneficial partnership was announced in August 2000 by the prime ministers at the time, Yoshiro Mori of Japan and A.B. Vajpayee of India. India and Japan will work together by pooling their strengths and expertise to not only benefit the national interests of each other but also the rest of the world.

Over the last few years, Asia has emerged as a new world leader by making significant contributions to the global economy. India and Japan have played a vital role in this transformation.

Historically, India and Japan have engaged in sociocultural exchanges. Bestowed with common ideals such as democracy, human values, legal values, a structured market economy and financial institutions, India and Japan share a global vision of peace, stability and energy-efficient, environmentally responsible and sustainable development. Organized by the India Center, headed by the

founder Vibhav Kant Upadhyay, the IJGPS 2011 is envisioned to be a summit of two great civilizations, India and Japan, with an aim to bring together opinion leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators, business leaders and policymakers with the purpose of developing a micro-road map for the macro-vision that exists in the form of the India-Japan Global Partnership.

It is a platform for both nations along with their global partners, to create new visions; address challenges to peace, economic stability and growth; with a focus to create sustainable models of development that are energy-efficient and environmentally responsible.

Chaired by former Prime Ministers Yukio Hatoyama and Shinzo Abe, and Sam Pitroda, advisor to the prime minister of India, the summit will seek to answer the following:

- What can India do for Japan?
- What can Japan do for India?
- What can India and Japan together with their global partners do for rest of the world?

The IJGPS 2011 will be held at a hotel in Minato Ward. For more information, visit www.indiajapansummit.org/en/

Biotechnology spurs economic development in Indian industry

Two major Indian economic sectors — agriculture and industry — have been witnessing the introduction of a new set of technologies from biosources. The developments in the area of biotechnology are particularly of great interest. This frontier technology has assumed importance in a developing country like India where agriculture, with stagnating productivity and crops confronting many biotic and abiotic stresses, aims for higher growth.

The large-scale introduction of biotechnology has brought about widespread changes in India's agricultural and industrial sectors. The shift can be characterized as a move from chemistry-driven development to biology-based development with a clear focus on biotechnology and genomics. The recently published draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy (NBDS) 2007 has outlined the importance being attached to the development of the biopharmaceutical sector.

India recognized the importance of biotechnology for national development in areas such as health and agriculture

way back in the early 1980s. The Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-85) was the first policy document to accentuate biotechnology development in the country. The plan document emphasized strengthening and developing capabilities in the areas of immunology, genetics, communicable diseases, etc. In 1982, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) established the National Biotechnology Board (NBTB), for promoting biotechnology and to facilitate coordination at the apex level. The NBTB was replaced by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in 1986, under the aegis of the Ministry of Science and Technology. The DBT launched several measures to promote institutional and policy development in India.

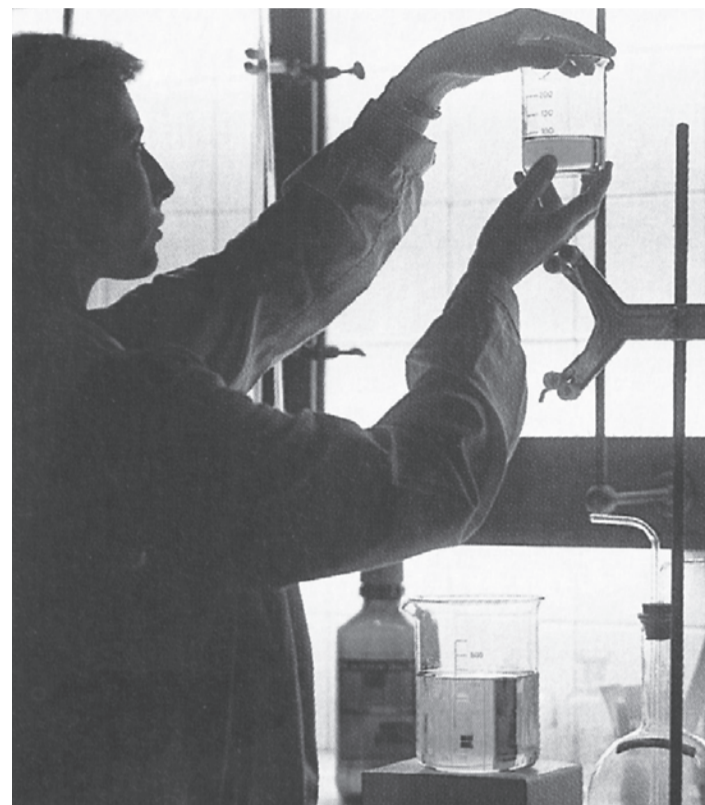
The government of India's outlays for biotechnology education over the past decade have expanded in a major way. The rapid expansion of the biotechnology industry in India, across various sectors, narrates the saga of spectacular achievements of the Indian economy. The industry accounts for 1.5 percent of the \$100 billion global biotechnol-

ogy market. It is estimated that India will have a share of 10 percent by 2020.

The biotechnology sector in India is largely dominated by firms from the biopharmaceutical sector and those from bioservices. The biopharmaceutical sector has on average generated 60 percent of its revenue from exports while bioservices received almost 20 percent through exports.

Agriculture biotechnology in India is a fast growing industry that offers a wide range of opportunities and is likely to contribute toward economic development in a meaningful way. However, there are several concerns, often expressed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations, about the potential irreversible impacts and scientific uncertainties associated with the technology. These diametrically opposite views pose several challenges in the formulation of policies toward biotechnology products and related governance.

It is becoming increasingly important to bring dynamism in the functioning of the science and technology system at the national level. The increasing role of knowledge in agricultural and industrial production, and the growing challenge of balancing that with the



Frontier: India sees the importance of biotechnology in developing sectors such as health and agriculture. INDIA PERSPECTIVES

growing concerns for environment management, require judicious application of new technologies. While the existence of a strong physical infrastructure is necessary for the development of an effective system, the critical factors remain the institutional setup that supports this system and the cohesion between the overall development objectives and the R&D endeavors in different streams. In this context, one idea that emerges forcefully is

the development and competence of public sector R&D institutions in the realm of frontier technologies. In this light, it is also important to have accurate information and reliable statistical data about developments in this sector, as that can only provide the right feedback for desired policy formulations. With the rapid expansion of the industrial base, India may require the development of an evidence-based policy formulation process for effectively responding to growing production chains across agriculture and industry with the help of new technologies.

This text is excerpted from "India Perspectives."

Best still to come for India-Japan partnership

Ryuko Hira
HONORARY PRESIDENT, THE INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY JAPAN

On behalf of all members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan (ICCJ), I convey our greetings for the Independence Day of India.

When freedom was finally achieved 64 years ago, millions in our country looked forward to great things, to great achievements and to India taking its place among the nations of the world as a leader and exemplar. Much has been done and achieved in the past six decades, especially for the masses, which was unthinkable in the years before independence. But not all the hopes with which we embarked on our career as a free nation have been realized.

The vision of India becoming a developed country by 2020 is on schedule. Our people shall rise well above the present poverty and contribute more productively to their country because of their own improved health, education and self-esteem. With time and effort, as every Indian is in the process of being empowered to make use of life and opportunities, I am convinced the best is yet to be.

India-Japan relations have undergone a significant and qualitative shift in recent years. There is huge potential for further enhancing our economic and commercial ties. Japan can particularly take advantage of India's huge and growing domestic market and its vast resources, particularly its human resources.

The India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed on Feb. 16 in Tokyo. The CEPA came into force from Aug. 1. It is one of the most comprehensive of all such agreements concluded by India in so far as it covers more than 90 percent of trade, a vast gamut of services, rules of origin, investment, intellectual property rights, customs and other trade related issues. It is India's third CEPA, after Singapore and South Korea, and is in line with India's larger vision of an East Asia partnership.

Under the CEPA, Japan has scrapped import duties on 87 percent of tariff lines with India with immediate effect. A large number of these items are of export interest to India. With the implementation of the agreement, India is likely to gain greater market access in Japan for various sectors, including textiles and garments, pharmaceuticals, marine products, tea, jewelry, and organic and inorganic chemicals. India shall be scrapping tariffs on 17.4 percent of tariff lines with Japan with immediate effect and on another 66.32 percent of tariff lines over a period of 10 years. Tariffs on many goods of export interest to Japan, such as automotive equipment, steel products, peaches and persimmons, will be scrapped in India over the next five to 10 years.

Currently, India accounts for just over 1 percent of Japan's textile and garment imports, worth \$33 billion, while pharmaceuticals from India constitute a minuscule 0.09 percent of Japan's \$16 billion-plus import market. With the CEPA, Indian exporters of textiles and garments and pharmaceuticals are likely to do much better. Current bilateral trade between India and Japan is around \$12.6 billion and it is expected to double to \$25 billion by 2014.

Japan currently ranks sixth largest in cumulative foreign direct investment flows into India. Japanese companies have made actual investments of \$4.63 billion (4 percent of total FDI) between April 2000 and November 2010. The sectors attracting Japanese investment are the automobile industry, electrical equipment, trading, service sector (financial and non-financial)

and telecommunications. The CEPA will provide a more stable, predictable and conducive business and investment environment for Japanese companies.

In the wake of the devastation caused by the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami on March 11 in northeastern and eastern Japan, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh made a statement in Parliament on March 14 expressing India's full solidarity with the people of Japan. Relief materials consisting of 25,000 blankets, 10,000 bottles of mineral water and 10 tons of high-energy biscuits were sent to Japan. A 46-member Indian Relief and Rehabilitation Team from the National Disaster Management Authority was dispatched to Japan. The highly specialized team carried out relief operations in the coastal town of Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture, which was directly impacted by tsunami. The team's work has been much appreciated by the Japanese authorities, local people and the Japanese media.

The Indian community continues to fervently pray for the victims and earliest recovery of all evacuees. The saying of Indian sage Sri Sathya Sai Baba, "Hands that help are holier than lips that pray," was put to practice when hundreds of volunteers from the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization, in cooperation with the services of the Japan Coast Guard, organized extensive deliveries of life-line supplies to over 100,000 evacuees, which continues to date by permanent bases of Sai volunteers operating on a daily basis in the affected areas. ISKCON and other Indian institutions have been doing commendable work by weekly volunteer visits to serve evacuees with delicious Indian curries. Noteworthy is the noble service of donating good-condition cars, clothing and other necessities on an ongoing, weekly basis by renowned spiritual organization Universal Brotherhood based in Yokohama.

As an apex body of Indian interests, ICCJ commemorates its 90th founding anniversary this year. We renew our pledge of dedicated commitment to foster Indo-Japanese economic engagement.

We deeply appreciate the valued support of The Japan Times and its readers.

Heartiest Independence Day Greetings

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