republic day of India

India-Japan strategic relationship blossoming

Alok Prasad AMBASSADOR OF INDIA

On the occasion of the Republic Day of India, I extend my greetings to Their Imperial Majes-

peror Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as the government and the friendly people of Japan. I also felicitate my fel-

low citizens and persons of Indian origin living in this beautiful

The bonds between India and Japan have been forged over several centuries and enriched through mutual flows of ideas and knowledge. It is on the strong foundation of these ageold spiritual, cultural and civilizational ties that we are building a contemporary relationship that is based on our shared commitment to the ideals of democracy, peace and freedom.

Over the years, India-Japan relations have evolved into a Strategic and Global Partnership, which is based on these shared values, strategic convergences and the vast untapped potential of multifaceted cooperation between India and

We are currently engaged in efforts to promote a major expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, which will contribute significantly to the progress and prosperity of our two countries. The signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which came into effect from August 2011, was a landmark achievement in this regard. I am confident that this agreement will open many more avenues for fruitful exchanges between companies in Japan and India. The flagship bilateral infrastructure projects such as the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor are making good progress. They offer unprecedented opportunities for mutually beneficial business and economic relations between our two countries. India is the largest single recipient of Japan's official development assistance (ODA) for the seventh consecutive year. We are grateful to Japan for the help and assistance being provided in the developmental process of the Indian economy.



President Mrs. Pratibha Devinsingh Patil

broad support from all political Our relations also encompass political, security and defense parties in both countries. It is our cooperation. We value our enfirm belief that this robust relagagement with Japan in these tionship will contribute toward areas. It is heartening to note peace and stability in Asia and that Japan-India relations enjoy

The Hon. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda paid a visit to India last month, to hold the annual India-Japan Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The visit has imparted

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

further momentum to bilateral relations by enhancing political and security cooperation and concretizing initiatives for economic engagement.

The year 2012 marks 60 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. As directed by our leaders, both countries are engaged in celebrating this landmark event in a befitting manner. A number of events are planned in different parts of Japan to showcase our multifaceted relations and to promote better understanding of each other's society and culture. I would like to invite our friends in Japan to join us to make these celebrations a success.

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



Close ties: Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda meets with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Dec. 28 in Delhi during

Greater cooperation to come after 60 years of diplomatic ties

Yoshiro Mori CHAIRMAN. THE JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the Republic Day of India, I am greatly honored to convey my heartfelt congratulations to

the government and the people

Japan and India, with the peace treaty between Japan and India signed in 1952.

I am pleased to note that cordial relations between Japan and India have been strengthened and developed year by year thanks to strenuous efforts of the successive Japanese administrations vis-à-vis the governments of India. Our relations were further enhanced in 2011 by the coming into force of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in August and by the visit of Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda to India toward the end of December 2011, faithfully to the spirit of the Japan-India Strategic

The land and people of Japan were hit on March 11, 2011, by

the unprecedented large-scale earthquakes and tsunamis in the northeastern part of Japan. The gigantic tsunamis were such that Japan has not experienced for 1,000 years. The Indian government sent a rescue team of 48 Indians to search for survivors in the town of Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture. The friendly gesture of good will of the government and people of India will never fade from the memory of the Japanese people.

To celebrate the year of the 60th anniversary of relations, The Japan-India Association will organize a series of events and activities throughout the year. To kick off, a photo exhibition on the century-old history of our bilateral relations was held in January at the Embassy of India in Tokyo just before the Republic Day. The

same photo exhibition and a panel discussion to look back on our history and to think about our future will be organized in New Delhi in March. The photo exhibition will be held in other big cities in India and also in major cities in Japan.

Among many projects of bilateral cooperation, I am happy to refer to two big projects between our two countries, namely the construction of the Delhi-Mumbai Dedicated Freight Corridor and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, which came into implementation in 2011. India continues to be the largest Japanese ODA (official development assistance) recipient and engages herself, in cooperation with Japan, in infrastructure building such as electricity and transportation systems, poverty alleviation,

development of human resources, environment projects ranging from reforestation to water supply and sewerage. With the very successful Delhi Metro project as a model, similar construction projects of urban metro systems are being implemented in Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata with the

Japanese direct investment has been on rise in an accelerated way. The number of Japanese companies in India was over 800 as of October 2011, an increase of nearly 90 companies compared to the same period in 2010, all over India.

inancing of Japanese ODA.

Some Indian businesses have ventured into the Marunouchi area, the very business center of Tokyo, in addition to other areas of Tokyo, Osaka-Kobe and Yoko-

The Japan-India Association welcomes and extends support to the activities of Indian people in Japan.

On the international front, our two countries are jointly contributing to the global community by cooperating in many areas of such global issues as the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, prevention of climate change, fight against pandemics and reform of the United Nation Security Council.

I would like, on this auspicious occasion, to pray from the bottom of my heart that the excellent Japan-India relationship that has been enjoyed by our two peoples will be reinforced in the coming years and that our two great nations will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the international community at large.



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India-Japan friendship based on shared values

PRESIDENT, JAPAN-INDIA

On behalf of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would my heartfelt congratulations to the people of

India on tĥe 63rd Republic Day

Japan and India have long enoyed a cordial relationship based on shared universal values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as well as wideranging mutually complementary economic interests. Since the two tegic and Global Partnership" in 2006, we have elevated this relationship to a new level.

When I visited Delhi and Gujarat, I was deeply impressed by the very strong bipartisan support for efforts to deepen the Japan-India partnership in all areas, including the political, economic and cultural fields. I also saw Japanese and Indian business people working together with great enthusiasm to contribute to India's dynamic economic development. We strongly hope that through such efforts, the bilateral relationship will be strengthened even further. We also expect that exchanges between the two countries will be expanded further at a wide range of levels, including such symbolic infrastructure development projects as the Del-



Architecture: Built in 1784, Lucknow's Bara Imambara complex reflects the maturation of ornamented Mughal design and is one of the last major structures in India that does not incorporate any European elements. EMBASSY OF INDIA

tion of friendship.

hi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), which was affirmed at the India-Japan summit meeting in December.

Last year, the genuine friendship between our two countries was reaffirmed when India graciously demonstrated its strong bond with Japan in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Government of India not only provided us with relief goods but also dispatched a

46-member relief team from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to Japan in its first-ever overseas operation. Both the upper and lower houses of the Indian Parliament adopted a resolution expressing their solidarity with Japan. Japan will never forget this demonstra-This year marks the 60th an-

Japan and India. Taking advantage of this opportunity, we expect that the exchange and the friendship between the people of our two countries will be strengthened further. On this auspicious day, we, the members of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, send our best wishes to the people of India for their continued prosperity and for further development of our cordial relationship.

Working closer with India

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON SOUTH

Keidanren, considering the importance of India and its surrounding countries, established the Commit-

tee on South Asia in May last year, and I was appointed its first committee chairman. Taking this opportunity, would like to offer my sincere congratulations on India's 63rd

Republic Day. India has achieved outstanding economic growth in recent years and has now become one of the most dynamic emerging economies in Asia. Although the

economic relationship between Japan and India has recently been growing, the level of trade and investment between the two need further expansion when compared with the economic

magnitude of the two countries. However, with the Japan-India CEPA (Comprehensive

Economic Partnership Agreement) going into effect on Aug. 1, 2011, the two countries' economic ties are expected to be enhanced and expanded further in the coming years. Besides, early realization of muchneeded Japanese companies' infrastructure investment in the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project, as well as in electric power, rail, port, road, renewable energy, nuclear energy and green technology projects should improve and enrich Indian people's lives.

During his recent visit to India, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and Dr. Manmohan Singh, India's prime minister, reiterated the necessity of continuing the strategic global partnership between the two countries. With this background, the business leaders of the two countries met on Dec. 28 in Delhi and exchanged views upon the ways to further expand our economic relationship through cooperation on huge infrastructure projects and improvement of the business environment in India.

In following up on the results

of extensive discussions in both business and government sectors, Indian governments could help Japanese companies to speed up investment with a variety of policy measures, including simplification of tax systems in India, allowing non-Indian multi-brand retailers to operate in India, and to come to early conclusion on bilateral social security and nuclear agreements.

There are many opportunities and challenges in the future of the Japan-India relationship. It must be remembered that the two countries share the values of democracy and the free-market economy. Japan is thankful of India for providing much-needed maritime security to Japan's energy sea lane between Persian Gulf oil exporting countries and Japan. Moreover, the year 2012 commemorates the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationship between our two countries.

Under all circumstances, we in the Japanese business community are committed to do our utmost to further strengthen the ties between the two countries

India making steady progress toward becoming an economic giant

CHAIRMAN. THE JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of The Japan-India **Business Cooperation Commit**tee, I would like to offer our con-

gratulations on the occasion of India's 63rd Republic Day. I would also like to express

our sincere gratitude for the extensive support provided by the government and people of India since the period immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake. In addition to material assistance, we are also

grateful for the dedicated efforts

made by rescue and recovery personnel from India's National Disaster Response Force under extremely difficult conditions. The Japanese people were also filled with gratitude and profoundly moved by media reports that countless people in India were praying for Japan. I believe that we can best repay this support from the government and people of India by achieving a rapid recovery from this disaster. Once again, I would like to ex-

press our deepest appreciation. India is making steady progress toward its future as an economic giant under the leadership of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. On Aug. 1, 2011, economic relations between Japan and India took an important step forward when the Comprehensive $Economic\ Partnership\ \bar{A}greement$ (CEPA) between Japan and the Republic of India came into effect. We welcome this agreement wholeheartedly and we have high hopes that it will become a driving force for economic development in both our countries.

From the viewpoint of the

trade in goods, the CEPA is a farreaching agreement providing a higher level of freedom than any free trade agreement previously signed by India and Japan. It will contribute to the expansion of business opportunities in India and Japan by creating a comprehensive economic partnership encompassing such areas as investment, intellectual property, government procurement, com-

petition and the improvement of the business environments. We place a very high value on these aspects and we strongly urge all concerned to devise ways to make effective use of the CEPA based on the nature of the agreement.

niversary of the establishment

of diplomatic relations between

Export trade between Japan and India has been expanding in recent years. However, the extent of trade cannot be seen as adequate when compared with the economic scale of our two countries and their importance as drivers of the Asian economy. An Indian government minister said that trade between Japan and India would more than double to \$25 billion by 2014. We are very eager to see that forecast fulfilled.

In September 2011, I traveled

delivery

to India as a member of an economic mission organized by The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It was my first visit to India in 20 months and I was very impressed by the pace of development. I saw much evidence of steady progress toward the improvement of infrastructure, including the newly built Terminal 3 at Indira Gandhi International Airport and the new highway linking the airport to the city.

The number of Japanese companies active in India has more than tripled in the space of five years and nine months, reaching 812 as of Oct. 31, 2011. According to a survey of overseas direct investment in fiscal 2011 by a major American research firm, India's ranking has risen from third in the previous fiscal year to second. This is a reflection of India's dependable growth potential. It is also clear evidence of rising expectations toward India's role as a growth engine for a world economy that is currently confronted by negative factors, such as the euro currency crisis.

We are also very pleased that the relationship between India and Japan is expanding beyond the economic perspective. In recent years, there has been sustained growth in the number of Japanese visitors to India, in the level of interest in Indian dance. yoga and cricket, and in the number of Indian restaurants.

In 2012, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations



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between Japan and India. In January of this milestone year, a 50-member mission from The Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee will visit India. After a joint meeting in Delhi, we will tour Chennai and Kolkata. We look forward to meeting representatives of the Indian government and business com-

munity, and to activities that will further strengthen the economic relationship between our two countries.

I will conclude by offering our warmest congratulations on the occasion of India's 63rd Republic Day, and our best wishes for India's continuing growth and

Congratulations On the Republic Day of India

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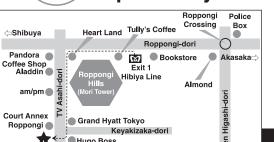
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THE JAPAN TIMES THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012 7

republic day of India

India's culinary tradition an important part of country's rich cultural heritage

Indian cuisine is different from the rest of the world not only in taste but also in cooking methods. It reflects a perfect blend of various cultures and eras. Just like Indian culture, food in India has been influenced by various civilizations, which have contributed their share to its overall development and its present form. Indian cuisine consists of hundreds of regional cuisines which date back thousands of years. The dishes of India are characterized by the extensive use of various Indian spices, herbs, vegetables and fruit. Indian cuisine is best known for its spiciness. Throughout India, spices are used generously in food. While each spice adds its unique taste to the food, they also have other nutritional as well as medicinal

The most important and frequently used spices in Indian cuisine are chilli pepper, black mustard (sarso), cumin (jeera), turmeric (haldi), fenugreek (methi), asafoetida (hing), ginger (adrak), coriander (dhania), and garlic (lehsun). Popular spice mixes include garam masala, a powder



Spicy: Indian cuisine reflects a blend of various cultures and eras, and varies from region to region. EMBASSY OF INDIA

that typically includes five or more dried spices, especially cardamom, cinnamon, and clove. Each region, and sometimes each individual chef, has a distinctive garam masala blend.

Indian cuisine also varies from region to region, reflecting the varied demographics of the ethnically diverse subcontinent. Indian cuisine has evolved as a result of the subcontinent's large-scale cultural interactions. India experienced the period of Central Asian and Afghan conquerors, which saw the emergence of the Mughlai cuisine that many people now associate with India. This included the addition of several seasonings like saffron, the addition of nuts, and the practice of cooking in a sealed pot called a "dum".

As India and Japan celebrate 60 years of bilateral diplomatic relations, an "Indian Food Festival" is being organized in Tokyo from March 24 to April 1. During this festival period, participating Indian food restaurants will be offering substantial discounts on food and drinks. Details of the festival will be made known in due course through various media. It is hoped that the food festival will provide an opportunity to taste Indian food and will also act as a catalyst for more people-to-people exchanges between India and Japan.

Ninety-one years of commitment by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Tokyo

HONORARY PRESIDENT, IMAY & ICCJ-TOKYO

Heartiest felicitations on India's Republic Day to all readers. On behalf of all members of the In-

dian Chamber of Commerce Japan, I convey our gratitude to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito

and Empress Michiko, the national and local governments as well as to the numerous corporations and people of Japan for their most gracious good will, cooperation and understanding extended to

the Indian community in Japan. The Indian community, though comparatively small in Japan, has had a significant presence in Japan for the past 100 years. Noteworthy is the establishment of the first Japan-India sea route by J.R.D. Tata and Eiichi Shibusawa in 1893. These were sensitive times, for Japan had just opened to foreigners 30 years ago. The Sino-Japanese War had just begun. European countries were not recognizing Japan as a modern nation. The world was watching Japan's race to modernity. The opening of this first Japan-India sea route by Shibusawa,

Tata and Nippon Yusen was epoch-making, as it broke the monopoly of Britain's national carrier, P&O Lines, conferring great courage and hope on the people of Japan. This hope and courage of Japan inspired and raised the spirits of the Asian people to challenge the strong European countries, which resulted in Japan's alliance for India's freedom to Subhas Chandra Bose, a pioneer Indian who lived in Japan.

The Japanese people and soldiers were told the war was for the sake of righteousness. "War is right," and so the nation believed in the ideal principle of war for righteousness — making unbearable sacrifices of hunger, starvation and tragic loss of life. Japan was defeated, discouraged and disappointed by the painful criticism and rules made by winning countries for its war

Among the episodes of Indians in Japan, Justice Radha Binod Pal, an Indian jurist, was appointed to the international military tribunal for the Far East's trials of Japanese war crimes. Among all the judges, he was the only one who submitted a dissenting judgment that all defendants were not guilty. His judgment was "War is evil, not the people.

Radha Binod Pal liberated the soul of Japan from the conscience of sin that "man is not ket. But for Japanese companies evil; war is evil," which deeply reverberated in the hearts of Japanese people, paving the way for the postwar development of Japan by ushering in an era of peace and prosperity, which has now endured for six decades.

In 1952 the Cold War continued with more nuclear weapons tests by the U.S. In 1952 the United Kingdom announced they possessed the atom bomb. Amid such times of uncertainty and unknown future, India took the important step of signing the Treaty of Peace with Japan, which was symbolic for the attainment of stability and peace for Asia, the Pacific and the world. Today in 2012 we mark the 60th anniversary of India's peace treaty and diplomatic relations with Japan, a model which was later emulated by many

The six decades of India-Japan diplomatic relations have just begun to bear signs of a most promising future in partnership of economic, strategic and cultural spheres. The Indo-Japanese alliance is the source of stability for the Asia-Pacific and the world. The growing signs of Asia's economic independence are evident from over 60 percent of the trade being within its own region of ASEAN+3. The demographic content of young population is destined to make India the world's largest growing marto participate meaningfully in India's economic growth, they will have to make studious efforts to learn and understand the Indian system, which differs from country to country.

The Indian Chamber of Commerce in Tokyo, an apex body, engages in organizing various forums, especially in the fields of building Indian infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, tourism and traditional exports of Indian foodstuffs, jewelry and handi-

I take this opportunity to thank The Japan Times for their continued support. On the occasion of the 91st anniversary of the founding of the Indian Chamber, we renew our pledge to rededicate our resources to the enormous opportunities and challenges.

Ten months have passed since the unforgettable tragedy of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Japanese people have delivered a precious lesson of "patience is a virtue" to the world. All members of ICCJ join millions of fellow Indian citizens in a prayer for all victims of the earthquake by the revered Saint Sri Sathya Sai Baba:

Patience with family is love. Patience with others is re-

Patience with self is confidence.

Patience with God is faith.



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