

# India independence day

## Ever-closer nations mark 60 years of diplomatic ties

Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa  
AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE OF INDIA

On the occasion of the 66th Independence Day of India, I extend my greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akhito and Empress Michiko, as well as to the government and the friendly people of Japan. I also extend my cordial greetings to my fellow Indian citizens and persons of Indian origin living in Japan.



In the more than six decades as an independent country, India has secured a place of its own in the comity of nations as a country committed to universal harmony, justice, equality and the rule of law. Our nation of more than a billion people can take justifiable pride in being the world's largest democracy that is recognized today as an emerging economic power, but one which has consistently maintained its focus on also the human dimensions of socioeconomic progress.

These bonds between India and Japan have been forged over several centuries. Based on the strong foundation of age-old spiritual, cultural and civilizational ties, we are now striving to build a contemporary relationship: one that is based on our shared commitment to democracy, peace and the economic prosperity of our people.

Japan has been a reliable partner as we witnessed transformational changes in the Indian economy. Our relations have been marked by mutual good will, amity and respect. India-Japan relations have expanded steadily in recent years and entered their most intense phase in modern times. Our excellent bilateral ties now encompass converging political, strategic and economic interests. Economic complementarities and common aspirations make the India-Japan partnership a durable force for long-term global and regional prosperity and stability in the 21st century.

Japan has provided consistent support for the development of the Indian economy. India is the



President of India Pranab Mukherjee

single largest recipient of Japanese official development assistance (ODA) for the seventh con-



Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh

tinuous year and we express our gratitude for this. We also have a number of flagship projects

in the key area of infrastructure development being executed in partnership with the Japan.

The Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and the Delhi Metro are shining examples of such cooperation, which will mutually benefit the citizens of India as well as Japan. In August last year, the comprehensive economic partnership agreement came into force, which has opened up new opportunities in our bilateral economic engagement.

The leadership of India and Japan have sought to widen and deepen the discourse between the two countries by putting in place an architecture of comprehensive dialogue led by prime ministerial annual summits. The Hon. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's visit to India in December last year, for the annual India-Japan Summit Meeting imparted further momentum to bilateral relations by enhancing political cooperation and concretizing initiatives for economic engagement. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh is to visit Japan later in the year to carry this process forward. It is indeed heartening to note

that Japan-India relations enjoy broad support from all political parties as well as the people of both countries.

I am happy to arrive in Japan at a time that our countries are organizing yearlong celebrations to mark 60 years of the establishment of India-Japan diplomatic relations in 1952. To commemorate six decades of close and friendly relations, more than 140 individual events are being organized covering performing arts, photo and art exhibitions, food festivals, tourism fairs, literary and academic seminars and business promotions. Our intention is to bring glimpses of modern India to every major city and every prefecture in Japan by

the end of this year. Thus far, in the first seven months of the Festival, we have already organized around 60 events covering 12 prefectures of Japan. Enhanced people-to-people contacts, particularly among the youth of our two countries, will provide a strong foundation for long-term, mutually beneficial relations.

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

### Strong commitment to continued development of cordial relationship

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 66th Independence Day of India.

Japan and India have long developed our friendly relationship sharing common values such as democracy, rule of law and human rights, as well as wide-ranging strategic and economic interests.

Our Strategic and Global Partnership has been strengthened through frequent and vibrant exchange. Since 2005, prime ministers of both countries have been visiting each other's country annually, and we look forward to welcoming Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh later this year.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. As numerous cultural and economic events have been organized in both countries, I strongly hope these events will help further promote our mutual understanding and heart-to-heart exchange at all levels.

As the president of the parliamentarians' friendship league, I visited India early this year, and reaffirmed the strong bipartisan commitment of both countries to further deepen the Japan-India partnership. I will continue to do my best to contribute to this end.

On this auspicious day, I send best wishes to the Indian people and for their continued prosperity as well as for the continued development of our cordial relationship.

## Partnership shows our two countries work for world community

Yoshiro Mori  
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of the 66th Independence Day of India, I am greatly honored to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of India as chairman of The Japan-India Association, which has always worked as a front-runner for friendship and mutual understanding since its foundation in 1903.



For Japan and India, 2012 marks an important milestone of the 60th anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1952.

Since India's independence in 1947, Japan and India have nurtured and developed their friendly and cooperative relations all through the vicissitudes of 66 years thanks to strenuous efforts of both the governments and peoples of the two countries.

During my official visit as incumbent prime minister of Japan in August 2000, I signed with Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee the Global Partnership Between

Japan and India in the 21st Century. This privileged relationship was developed in 2006 to the Strategic and Global Partnership by our successors. This partnership has sent to the two nations and the world community at large a very important message that the two great countries are destined to work not only for our peoples but for the world community by joining our immense resources and capacities.

As the 60th year of our relationship advances, we witness an impressive number of commemorative events, cultural, intellectual and socioeconomic, which have been and will be organized by well-intentioned peoples in

both Japan and India.

Among many projects of bilateral cooperation, I am happy to refer to three mega-projects between our two countries, namely the construction of the Delhi-Mumbai Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor as well as a newly launched project in southern India to develop advanced connectivity including the construction of a high-speed railway system between Bengaluru (Bangalore) and Chennai. India continues to be the largest Japanese ODA (official development assistance) recipient, and engages itself, in cooperation with Ja-

pan, in infrastructure building such as electricity and transportation systems, poverty alleviation, development of human resources, environment protection 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 Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata with the financing of Japanese ODA.

Japanese direct investment has been on the rise in an accelerated way. The number of Japanese companies settled in India is over 830 as of the end of 2011, an increase of nearly 90 companies compared to the same pe-

riod in 2010, all over India.

Some Indian businesses have ventured into the Marunouchi district, the very business center of Tokyo, in addition to other traditional areas of Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe and Yokohama.

The Japan-India Association welcomes and extends the same support to Indian people in Japan that we extend to Japanese people in India.

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



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## India independence day

## Advancing from discussions to specific projects

Nobuo Ohashi  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS  
COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee, I would like to offer our most sincere congratulations on the 66th Independence Day of India.



Historically, Japan and India have built an extremely cordial relationship based on many shared values, including cultures derived from Buddhism and political systems based on democracy. In this very special year, in which we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India, both countries appear to be moving toward the development of an even closer and more cooperative relationship.

India is making sustained progress toward its destiny as an economic superpower under the leadership of H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. In recent years, the economic relationship between Japan and India has advanced from the discussion of general principles to the planning and implementation of specific projects.

The comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) between Japan and the Republic of India came into effect in August 2011. This agreement is widely expected to become a driving force for economic development in both countries.

The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which incorporates the Japan-India

Business Cooperation Committee secretariat, issues certificates of origin, which are required for exporting. The number of certificates issued under the CEPA between Japan and India has currently quadrupled from the approximately 400 that had been issued as of August 2011. This is considerably more than the increases that have occurred in the past when Japan signed FTAs (free trade agreements) and EPAs (economic partnership agreements) with other countries and is evidence of the high level of interest in trade with India.

When Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda visited India at the end of December 2011, he and Prime Minister Singh issued a joint statement recording wide-ranging commitments based on the reinforcement of the strategic partnership between Japan and India.

Of particular interest was the decision to establish a fund for the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project. Steady progress is already being made on related plans that will result in the introduction of the world's most advanced technology, including smart communities and seawater desalination schemes. This new technology is also widely expected to result in the creation of new markets and new jobs.

As many people have observed, India has a large youth population, vast markets and great future potential, while Japan has technology, including environmental technology, and experience. I believe that the development of new business through cooperation between our two countries will not only bring new vitality to Japanese



Classical modernity: Inaugurated in 2009, the second unit of the Global Education Center on the Infosys campus in Mysore, India, is where all Infosys employees undergo training before their placements. The GEC is the largest corporate education center in the world. EMBASSY OF INDIA

and Indian economies, but will also make a major contribution to Asian economies and to the world economy.

In January, the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee sent a mission to India. With over 80 members, it was our biggest mission ever. After a joint meeting in Delhi, the mission visited Chennai and Kolkata. We strengthened our relationships with Indian political and business leaders, exchanged views at seminars and lectures, and visited the factories of Japanese manufacturers that have established business operations in India. These experiences convinced us that the economic relationship between our two countries is steadily growing stronger.

There has been a substantial

increase in the number of people, including representatives of medium-size and smaller companies, attending relevant seminars in Japan. Furthermore, those attending such events are seeking detailed and specific information, including information about the characteristics of and conditions in particular Indian states. This is another indication of the strength of interest in India.

The Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee will continue to work toward the further strengthening of the relationships between Japan and India.

I will conclude by offering our congratulations on the 66th Independence Day of India, and our best wishes for the continuing success and prosperity of your country.

## Improving business ties

Takashi Shoda  
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON SOUTH  
ASIA, KEIDANREN

On behalf of Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the occasion of India's 66th Independence Day. Taking this opportunity, I sincerely wish the people of India the further prosperity of the great nation.



The economic relationship between Japan and India has grown substantially in recent years. The export from India to Japan was ¥543.3 billion, and from Japan to India ¥882.1 billion in 2011. The total trade volume doubled in the last five years. In addition, Japanese direct investment balance to India was ¥1.195 trillion in 2011, more than five times the ¥211.7 billion in 2005.

It is necessary for Japan and India to deepen economic cooperation in the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project and core nodal development in the greater Chennai area to improve

intercity and international connectivity. Allowing multi-brand retail businesses to operate, reforming the tax system, relaxing restrictions on the financial system and improving customs operations would assist more Japanese companies in starting their businesses in India and contributing to Indian industrialization.

It is also extremely important that the two countries make effective use of the comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA), which took effect on Aug. 1, 2011. Concluding the CEPA had been a long-standing aspiration of the two countries' businesses as a critical factor to further expand the economic relations. On a more global perspective, the Japan-India CEPA will become a vital and integral part of ASEAN+6 regional economic integration.

To complement government initiatives such as concluding the CEPA, exchanges between the Indian and Japanese business communities have also been enhanced in a variety of ways, including a series of Japan-India Business Leaders Forum meetings since 2007 where a frank exchange of views between the two

business communities have led to the strengthening of mutual understanding. The fourth such meeting was held in New Delhi in December last year and the fifth will be held in Tokyo within this year. In addition, CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) and Keidanren held the India-Japan Business Summit in Tokyo in May this year, commemorating the 60 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Through the intense discussion at the business summit on infrastructure, services, manufacturing and life science, Keidanren member companies showed great interest in investing in all the business sectors in India.

Japan and India have many values in common, including a commitment to democracy and a free-market economy. While reinforcing the existing ties, it is vital, in years to come, that the two countries continue to take the initiative together on Asian economic development, thereby contributing to sustainable economic growth on global scale.

Keidanren is committed to strengthen the important business relationship between Japan and India.

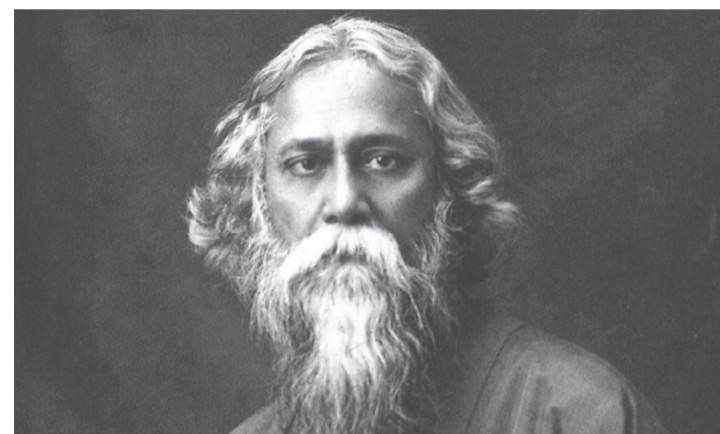
## Gandhi and Tagore

Since Rabindranath Tagore and Mohandas Gandhi were two leading Indian thinkers in the 20th century, many commentators have tried to compare their ideas. On learning of Tagore's death, Jawaharlal Nehru, then incarcerated in a British jail in India, wrote in his prison diary for Aug. 7, 1941:

"Gandhi and Tagore. Two types entirely different from each other, and yet both of them typical of India, both in the long line of India's great men... It is not so much because of any single virtue but because of the 'tout ensemble' that I felt that among the world's great men today Gandhi

and Tagore were supreme as human beings. What good fortune for me to have come into close contact with them."

Romain Rolland (1866-1944) was fascinated by the contrast between them, and when he completed his book on Gandhi, he wrote to an Indian academic, in March 1923: "I have finished my 'Gandhi', in which I pay tribute to your two great river-like souls, overwhelming with divine spirit, Tagore and Gandhi." The following month, he recorded in his diary an account of some of the differences between Gandhi and Tagore written by the Rev. C.F. Andrews (1871-1940), the



Global success: In 1913, Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in literature. INDIA PERSPECTIVES / RABINDRA-BHAVANA, VISVA-BHARATI

English clergyman and public activist who was a close friend of both men (and whose important role in Gandhi's life in South Africa as well as India is well portrayed in Richard Attenborough's

1982 film "Gandhi"). Andrews described to Rolland a discussion between Tagore and Gandhi, at which he was present, on subjects that divided them: CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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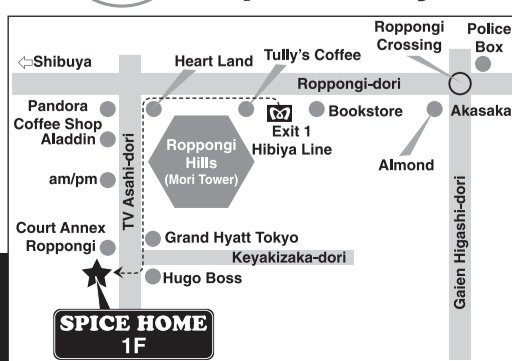
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on the 65th Anniversary of  
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# India independence day

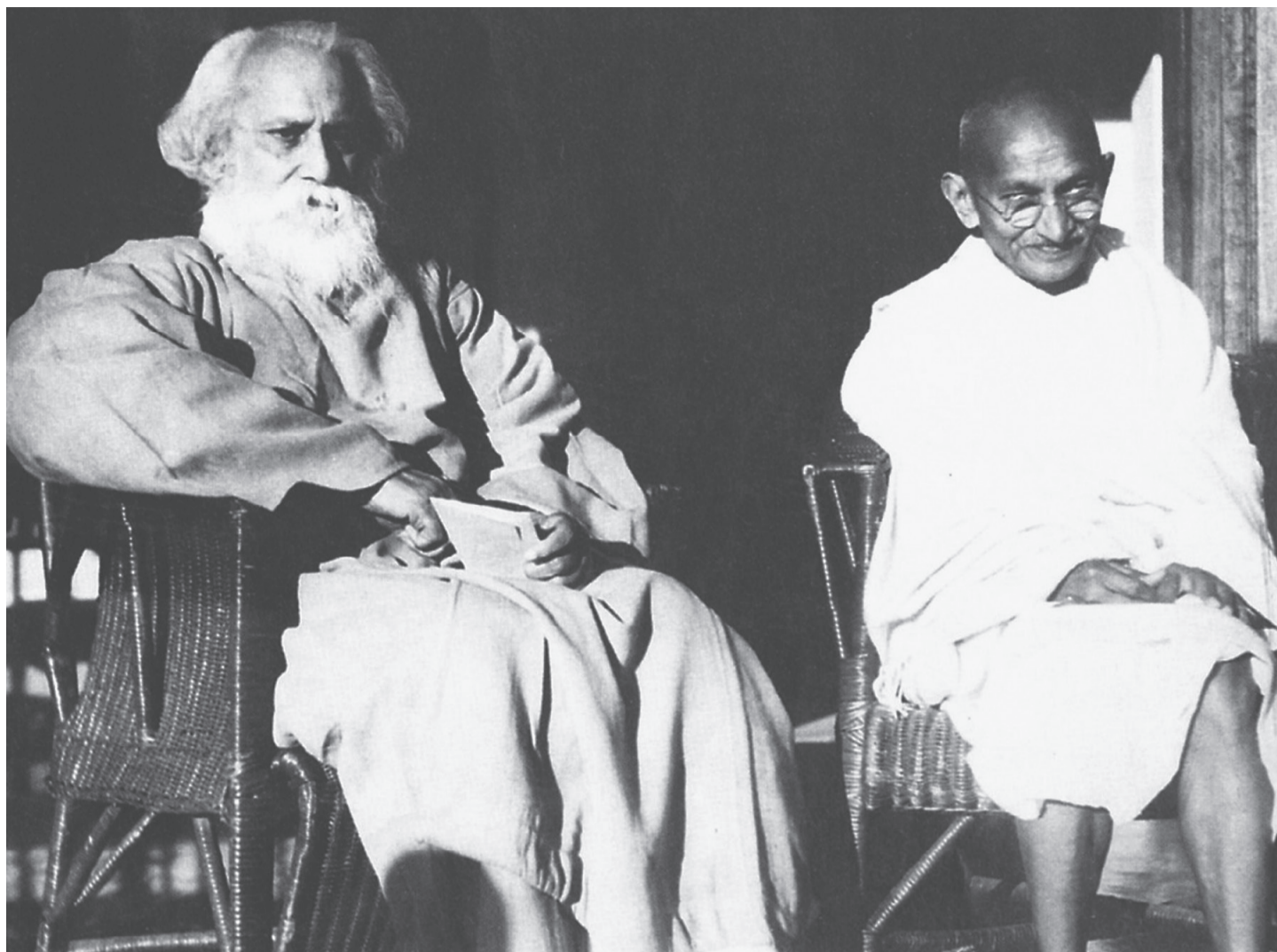
## Gandhi, Tagore: differing views

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

"The first subject of discussion was idols; Gandhi defended them, believing the masses incapable of raising themselves immediately to abstract ideas. Tagore cannot bear to see the people eternally treated as a child. Gandhi quoted the great things achieved in Europe by the flag and an idol; Tagore found it easy to object, but Gandhi held his ground, contrasting European flags bearing eagles, etc., with his own, on which he has put a spinning wheel. The second point of discussion was nationalism, which Gandhi defended. He said that one must go through nationalism to reach internationalism, in the same way that one must go through war to reach peace."

Tagore greatly admired Gandhi but he had many disagreements with him on a variety of subjects, including nationalism, patriotism, the importance of cultural exchange, the role of rationality and of science, and the nature of economic and social development. These differences have a clear and consistent pattern, with Tagore pressing for more room for reasoning, and for a less traditionalist view, a greater interest in the rest of the world, and more respect for science and for objectivity generally.

Tagore knew that he could not have given India the political leadership that Gandhi provided, and he was never stingy in his praise for what Gandhi did for the nation. (It was, in fact, Tagore who popularized the term "Mahatma" — great soul — as a description of Gandhi.) And yet each remained deeply critical of many things that the other stood for. That Mahatma Gandhi has received comparably more attention outside India and also within much of India itself makes it important to un-



Legendary figures: Rabindranath Tagore and Mohandas Gandhi in Santiniketan, India INDIA PERSPECTIVES / SAMBHU SAHA

derstand "Tagore's side" of the Gandhi-Tagore debates.

In his prison diary, Nehru wrote: "Perhaps it is as well that [Tagore] died now and did not see the many horrors that are likely to descend in increasing measure on the world and on India. He had seen enough and he was infinitely sad and unhappy."

Toward the end of his life, Tagore was indeed becoming discouraged about the state of India, especially as its normal burden of problems, such as hunger and poverty, was being supplemented by politically

organized incitement to "communal" violence between Hindus and Muslims. This conflict would lead in 1947, six years after Tagore's death, to the widespread killing that took place during partition, but there was much more already during his declining days. In December 1939, he wrote to his friend Leonard Elmhirst (1893-1974), the English philanthropist and social reformer who had worked closely with him on rural reconstruction in India (and who had gone on to found the Dartington Hall Trust in England and a

progressive school at Dartington that explicitly invoked Tagore's educational ideals):

"It does not need a defeatist to feel deeply anxious about the future of millions who, with all their innate culture and their peaceful traditions, are being simultaneously subjected to hunger, disease, exploitation foreign and indigenous, and the seething discontent of communalism."

How would Tagore have viewed the India of today? Would he see progress there, or wasted opportunity, perhaps even a betrayal of its promise

and conviction? And, on a wider subject how would he react to the spread of cultural separatism in the contemporary world?

*The text is an edited excerpt from the India Perspectives special issue to celebrate the 150th year since Tagore's birth, taken from an essay written by Amartya Sen titled 'Tagore and His India.' Sen is the Thomas W. Lamont University professor at Harvard University who won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1998.*

## Commemorating India's sacrifice on path to independence

Ryuko Hira  
HONORARY PRESIDENT, ICCJ-TOKYO

Freedom is the fruit of sacrifice. Sacrifice is the supreme attribute of Indian nature, thought and history. India's independence is a testament to the whole world for noble principles of sacrifice. There is no precedent in humanity of achieving (India's) freedom



through the highest human values of non-violence and truth as Mahatma Gandhi, father of the nation and synonym of truth and nonviolence to the world, won freedom for India by self-sacrifices of endless fasting for truth (satyagraha) and nonviolence (ahimsa).

India's inherent power is evident from its glorious history of sacrifices, which inspired Gandhi to abhor violence, war and force.

Gandhi's life and principles were highly influenced by the ideal lives of India's enlightened

beings. Instead of "force" or "resource," Gandhi resorted to the very absolute "source," the source being the infinite power of truth and nonviolence. This is evident from India's motto inscribed on the national emblem: "Satyameva Jayate" (Truth Alone Triumphs).

There was sympathy in Japan for India's political cause and some liberal leaders disapproved of British rule over India in no uncertain terms. Shigenobu Okuma constantly exhorted Indian students living in Japan to "endeavor to invigorate the national spirit" of India. India's cause received enthusiastic support from conservative political leaders like Shumei Okawa and Mitsuru Toyama as well. Both Okawa and Toyama sheltered and protected a number of Indians whom the British government wanted deported from Japan.

Britain's concern about preventing succor from Japan from reaching the Indian nationalist movement grew serious after the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5, for Japan's victory had not only made

a favorable impact on the intellectuals but also heightened nationalist exuberance. It had become a symbol of Asia's spirits of defiance hurling itself on the powerful West. It had demonstrated that Europe was not invincible and that European colonialism could be defeated with determined effort.

The British authorities in India had a complete list drawn up of Indian political activists resident in Japan. These included Gyani Bhagwan Singh, Herambalal Gupta, and Rashbehari Bose.

The most important man on the British list of wanted men was Bose. Masquerading as Raja P. N. Tagore, a young medical student proceeding to the U.S. for study, he reached Japan in 1915. Tokyo in those days was a meeting place for Indians engaged in the nationalist movement. The British, therefore, wanted the Japanese authorities to ensure that the Indians resident in or passing through Japan did not indulge in anti-British propaganda. The British wanted the Japanese

authorities to keep a close watch on Bose's meetings and others who were then in Tokyo. They even asked for his deportation along with that of Gupta.

On Dec. 1, 1915, both Gupta and Bose mysteriously disappeared. Only later did it transpire that the two had been whisked away by the followers of Toyama to some place of safety. In fact, they were both kept by Aizo Soma at his residence, which was attached to his restaurant, Nakamura. It was only in April 1916, after the extradition warrants had been canceled, that the two felt free enough to appear in public. Gupta left Japan soon after; Bose preferred to settle down in Japan.

Bose's life in Japan constitutes an important part of the history of the Indian nationalist movement abroad. Maintaining close liaison with Dr. Sun Yat-sen, who was then in Japan, and Toyama, he tried to put across forcefully the Indian point of view to his Japanese friends and supporters. Bose convened a conference of the representative Indians from all parts of Southeast and East Asia to discuss the future course of action. The conference, which met in Tokyo in March 1942, resolved that complete independence, free from all foreign interference and control, should be the objective of the Indian Independence League and the army.

On behalf of all members of ICCJ, I thank The Japan Times and its readers. I end with a poem by Sri Sathya Sai Baba:

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