

Indian prime minister's visit

A landmark year for relations with Japan

Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA

I was happy to learn that The Japan Times is bringing out this special supplement on the occasion of the visit of the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh to Japan for a bilateral summit meeting with the Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe. The strategic and global partnership that was launched by the same two leaders in 2006 marked the beginning of a qualitative transformation of our relationship. With the return of Prime Minister Abe, the two leaders will have an opportunity to take their vision of India-Japan relations to a new high.



Fifteen centuries of civilizational contacts between India and Japan have fostered close affinities based on our shared Asian heritage. Both countries are natural partners in Asia and, indeed, in the world, with shared values as democracies, wedded to the rule of law and a global vision of peace and prosperity of mankind. It has

been 60 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries; an anniversary which was celebrated on a countrywide scale last year. These 60 years have been marked by an issue-free cordiality and warmth of sentiment that permeates from the leadership of the two countries to the common people. There is strong bipartisan support for the strengthening of bilateral relations across political parties in both countries, which finds an echo in the positive perceptions among the citizens.

The historical progress of our relations is marked by several milestones such as India being the first ever recipient country of Japanese official development assistance (ODA) in the late 1950s, to its graduation in the 21st century as not only the largest recipient of Japanese yen loans, but also a growing destination for Japanese investment. Japan has partnered India in its priority areas of economic development, such as building infrastructure. The completed Delhi Metro is a flagship example of successful cooperation, which is now being followed with similar projects in other leading metropolitan cities of Chennai, Benga-



Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh

luru and Mumbai. The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor are all exciting projects that have the potential to transform the landscape of India and cement economic ties

between our countries.

The annual Prime Ministerial-level Summits that have taken place since 2006 have resulted in the establishment of a sophisticated architecture of engagement across diverse spheres with new areas and subjects for dia-

logue being added to the agenda each year. These dialogue mechanisms, led by ministers and senior officials, have ensured that we are able to sensitize each other to issues of pertinence to us at the national, regional and global level. Importantly, it has also helped us to cooperate in the multilateral forums such as the U.N., G-20 and EAS process. It is not only the two governments that have sought each other out; there is now close coordination between industry in the two countries as well as leading think tanks that have established a vibrant exchange of views between themselves.

The complementarities between the two countries are self-evident. India's emerging and buoyant economy, young population, low cost of production and burgeoning market combine well with Japan's technical prowess and manufacturing skills. India provides excellent opportunities for Japanese companies that are looking for new areas for investments and markets. In terms of trade, Japan offers a sophisticated market for textiles, marine and agricultural products, IT services, pharmaceuticals, etc., while India is an important export destination

for Japanese auto components, high-end technology and capital goods. With the signing of the comprehensive economic agreement in February 2011, which is to remove duties on 94 percent of products over the next 10 years, economic relations between the two countries are bound on a trajectory of growth.

This summit meeting between Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Abe will provide another opportunity to reiterate their commitment to the further strengthening of relations. We are also looking forward to the announced visit to India by Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, who have honored us by accepting our invitation to visit India.

2013 is going to be a landmark year for India-Japan relations.

Brief profile of Prime Minister Singh

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was born on Sept. 26, 1932, in a village in the Punjab Province of undivided India. Dr. Singh completed his matriculation examinations at Punjab University in 1948. His academic career took him from Punjab to the University of Cambridge, where he earned a first-class honors degree in economics in 1957.

Dr. Singh followed this with a D.Phil. in economics from Nuffield College, University of Oxford, in 1962. His 1964 book, "India's Export Trends and Prospects for Self-Sustained Growth", was an early critique of India's inward-oriented trade policy.

In 1971, Dr. Singh joined the government of India as an economic adviser in the Commerce Ministry. This was soon followed by his appointment as chief economic adviser in the Ministry of Finance in 1972. Among the many government positions that Dr. Singh has occupied are secretary in the Ministry of Finance, deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, governor of the Reserve Bank of India, adviser to the prime minister and chairman of the University Grants Commission.

In what was to become the turning point in the economic history of independent India, Dr. Singh spent five years between 1991 and 1996 as the country's finance minister. His role in ushering in a comprehensive policy of economic reforms is recognized worldwide.

Dr. Singh and his wife, Gursharan Kaur, have three daughters.

Singh and 'the new India'

Yoshiro Mori
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA
ASSOCIATION, FORMER PRIME
MINISTER OF JAPAN

On behalf of the Japan-India Association, which has worked for 110 years for the benefit of Japan-India relations, I extend our most heartfelt welcome to H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, prime minister of India, who is paying an official visit to Japan through May 30.



The two countries began their close relationship through Buddhism and expanded it via diplomatic, economic and cultural exchanges. As then prime minister of Japan, I inaugurated the Japan-India Global Partnership with then Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee in August 2000, and since then the bilateral relationship has not only developed for mutual benefit but also evolved

into cooperation in global issues such as reform of the U.N. Security Council. Now, the prime ministers of the two countries meet every year, alternating between New Delhi and Tokyo, with both countries labeling the bilateral relationship as a strategic global partnership.

Dr. Singh saved India from a foreign currency crisis in the early 1990s when he was the finance minister, beginning economic reforms and laying the foundation for "the new India," which is now a large, emerging economy. Dr. Singh expressed great gratitude to Japan for swiftly providing financial aid to India at the time of the foreign currency crisis, as well as contributing to India's nation-building and its human resources development through official development assistance (ODA) since 1958. We now enjoy an extremely friendly bilateral relationship, and I believe we owe it to Dr. Singh's consistently amicable feelings toward Japan.

Last year, there were many

successful events, both in Japan and in India, marking the 60th anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations. This year should be the starting point of the next 10 years, and marks the 110th anniversary of the Japan-India Association. Dr. Singh's visit to Japan this time will take the strategic global partnership to a higher level and strongly show our friendly bilateral relationship to nationals of the two countries and the world.

The Japan-India Association will collaborate with the International Friendship Exchange Council and the Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League to organize a conference in which Dr. Singh will give a lecture. The conference also serves as one of the events commemorating the 110th anniversary of the Japan-India Association.

I hope for much to be achieved during Dr. Singh's visit to Japan this time and for the continued development of the bilateral relationship in the future.

The time is ripe for Dr. Singh's official visit, his fifth as prime minister of India

The Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, prime minister of India.

Japan and India have enjoyed an amicable relationship based on a long history of exchanges. In recent years, the strategic and global partnership formed between the two countries, which share universal values of democracy, human rights and rule of law, has further been reinforced by a series of frequent and active high-level exchanges. Since 2005, prime ministers of Japan and India have been vis-

iting each other almost every year. We believe being able to welcome Prime Minister Singh again to Japan is the proof of close relations between us.

On the political level, we already saw active exchanges taking place. This year, we already had the honor of welcoming H.E. Kapil Sibal, minister of communications and information technology, H.E. Salman Khurshid, minister of external affairs, H.E. Milind Deora, minister of state in the Ministry of Communications and IT and Ministry of Shipping, and H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry

and Minister of Textiles. Many Japanese Cabinet ministers visited India, including H.E. Taro Aso, deputy prime minister and minister of finance. Also, various inter-governmental dialogues took place this year. In January, we had the first Indo-Japan Dialogue on Maritime Security Cooperation. In March, the seventh Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue took place and Japan-U.S.-India Talks occurred in May.

The fields of politics, security and economy are not the only places where we observed active exchanges. Last year, Japan and

India celebrated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Various commemorative events were held in both countries and further promoted heart-to-heart exchange between people of Japan and India. Moreover, as we understand, both governments are now making a joint effort to realize the visit of the Emperor and Empress to India by the end of this year.

With Japan-India relations deepening at all levels, we must say it is such an appropriate time to welcome Dr. Singh to Japan.

This is the fifth time for Dr. Singh to pay an official visit to

Japan as prime minister of India. The role Dr. Singh has played in deepening the bilateral relations is extremely significant. We sincerely hope his visit to Japan may further promote the amicable relationship between Japan and India.

We, again, welcome the visit by Dr. Singh deeply from our heart and wish that the friendly relationship between Japan and India may continue to grow.

Text by the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League

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H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India



Heartiest Welcome
H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India



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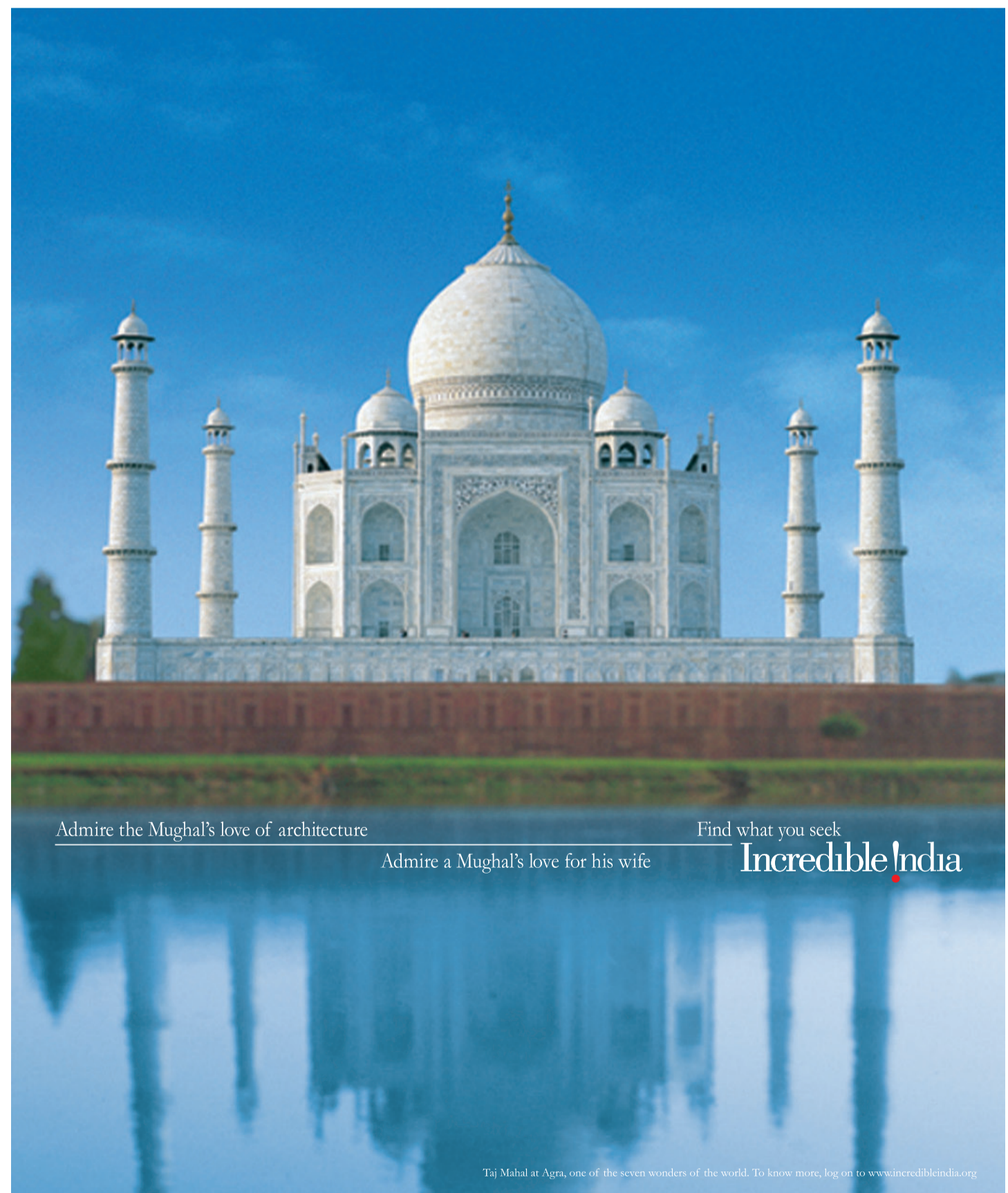
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Indian prime minister's visit

Providing links for sustainable mutual growth

Hiramasa Yonekura
CHAIRMAN, KEIDANREN

On behalf of Keidanren, I would like to extend our warm welcome to Prime Minister of India H. E. Dr. Manmohan Singh.



With the Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (JICEPA) becoming effective in August 2011, economic relations between the countries have been growing even stronger. In 2012, their bilateral trade totalled approximately ¥1.44 trillion, a 4.8 percent increase from 2011, while Japan's direct investment in India increased 22.5 percent from a year earlier, to ¥222 billion. As of October 2012, 926 Japanese companies have operations in India, and the number is increasing at a steady pace.

Building on this momentum, the Indian and Japanese business communities are stepping up efforts to further enhance their business cooperation. We at Keidanren have served as the secretariat for the Japan-India Business Leaders Forum (JIBLF) since its inception in 2007. The forum has made significant contributions to the conclusion of JICEPA and the bilateral Social Security Agreement, the permission for Japanese banks to open branches in city centers in India, and the opening of the Indian market to foreign multi-brand retailers. Last year, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the India-Japan diplomatic relationship, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Keidanren organized the Japan-India Business Summit to ex-

plore new possibilities for business cooperation. And taking the opportunity of this visit of H. E. Dr. Manmohan Singh to Japan, Keidanren will host the JIBLF on May 29.

The CII and Keidanren have also been collaborating on the Asia Business Summit (ABS), a meeting of major business organizations of Asian economies, which Keidanren launched in 2010 with the aim of strengthening multilateral business relations in Asia. The CII has since provided strong support to the effort and, in July this year, will kindly host the fourth ABS meeting in Delhi. Through the ABS, the CII and Keidanren hope to further promote business cooperation among the participating economies.

Meanwhile, in order for India to achieve sustainable economic growth, building robust infrastructure is essential. Japan and India are working together on joint initiatives for infrastructure development, such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project and the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor (CBIC) Project. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation's recent decision to acquire an equity stake in DMIC Development Corp. (DMICDC) and send a board member to the corporation is great news for all involved in the project. This should further promote India-Japan public-private partnership initiatives.

Last but not least, I wish to express our deep gratitude to H. E. Dr. Manmohan Singh for paying a visit to Japan. I sincerely hope that his visit will be fruitful and rewarding and help to further deepen the friendship and partnership between India and Japan.



Cultural exchanges: The Cool Japan Festival 2013 is held March 15-17 at High Street Phoenix, Lower Parel, Mumbai. KYODO

A glorious journey of 10 years for the green, punctual Delhi Metro

It was Dec. 24, 2002, when the residents of Delhi and we at the Delhi Metro Rail Corp. (DMRC) embarked on a journey that was set to change Delhi and our lives for the better. The task at hand was huge — to give the Indian capital a mass rapid transit system (MRTS), which was suggested to be the only solution to the city's every-increasing traffic problems. Considering MRTS is either built on elevated viaducts or underground and does not take up any road space and is environment friendly, the idea was to have a service running parallel to the existing transport modes and fitting in with the "clean and green" image of Delhi.

But the task was not as easy as it was envisioned. There were challenges, which in the long run made the journey all the more interesting. Excitement still fills my mind whenever I recall those

hectic days that led to the commencement of the 8.5 km journey from Shahdara to Tis Hazari stations in 2002.

Looking back all those years, I would like to acknowledge the years of tireless teamwork that made the DMRC, in many departments, a step ahead of the rest. For example, Delhi Metro was the first-ever metro system globally to introduce contactless tokens and smart cards. DMRC's operations and maintenance team set new benchmarks in terms of professionalism by running trains with immaculate punctuality and maintaining the Metro stations superbly. Frequent inspections of the stations and construction sites by officials ensured quality control. Soon the efforts made the service a well-read subject by reputed international management institutes that visited us to study and analyze our performance. In

Swiftly moving forward together

Masami Iijima
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC), I would like to offer a most sincere welcome to H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, the prime minister of India, on the occasion of his visit to Japan.



Dr. Singh's determined efforts to implement economic reforms and liberalization and international policies have significantly raised India's political and economic profile in the international community. We all have the greatest admiration for his excellent leadership. As a result of his efforts, the relationship between Japan and India has moved beyond debate over

general principles about how we should engage together as nations, to a stage at which we can plan and implement specific initiatives. The Japanese and Indian governments have already agreed to pursue 19 large-scale infrastructure projects worth ¥1.2 trillion in Western India alone.

Japan and India have a complementary economic relationship. Japan can provide technology, capital and other such support, while India offers high growth and numerous investment opportunities. I very much hope that, with the cooperation of the Indian government, the experience and expertise accumulated by Japanese companies through investment in India will continue to contribute to the growth of India's markets, and that there will also be a blossoming of collaborative initiatives by Japan and India in Africa and other regions with fu-

ture growth potential. To achieve these goals, it is vital that both of our countries move forward quickly with joint projects based on close collaboration between the government and the private sector.

Under its National Manufacturing Policy, India aims to raise the manufacturing sector's share of gross domestic product (GDP) from 16 percent at present to 25 percent by 2022, and to create 100 million manufacturing jobs. National Investment and Manufacturing Zones, with land and infrastructure provided by the Indian government, will play a core role in this policy, under which India will work not only to foster manufacturing industries, but also to develop infrastructure, including railroads, roads, ports, airports and telecommunications systems.

We recently held a seminar on the National Manufacturing Policy, with the kind assistance

of the Indian Embassy in Japan. The enthusiasm with which the large audience asked questions at this event gave me a renewed awareness of the intensity of expectations toward India. Japan is a leader in manufacturing, and I am confident that we can make a significant contribution to the development of manufacturing industries in India.

The Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee will continue its efforts to strengthen the economic relationship between Japan and India by disseminating the latest information about India, and by promoting dialogue between the business communities of our two countries.

I will conclude by once again expressing our delight at Dr. Singh's visit to Japan, and our hope that this visit will be an opportunity to strengthen the close and friendly ties that exist between Japan and India.



Booming: Inaugurated in 2002, the Delhi Metro has grown to 190 km with ridership of over 2 million per day. INDIA PERSPECTIVES

2011, DMRC was certified by the United Nations as the first metro rail and rail-based system in the world to get carbon credits for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as it helped to reduce pollution levels in Delhi every year.

More than anything, DMRC's greatest achievement has been the faith of the people of Delhi. Our average daily ridership has increased. The punctuality rate has also been a commendable 99.87 percent. From a mere 8.5



km in 2002, we have grown to 190 km today and our ridership has increased from a few thousand to over 2 million per day.

In the last one year, we have continuously strived to improve the quality of DMRC and introduced an eight-coach train. We plan to introduce 68 such trains into service in a phased manner, which will tremendously increase our overall carrying capacity and help in controlling overcrowding at stations. Over 120 new automated fare collection gates have been installed at some of our busy stations to facilitate smoother crowd movement. To boost the security apparatus, 160 new door frame metal detectors and 104 handheld metal detectors have also been added.

In the coming years, our immediate target is to complete the under-construction metro cor-

ridors on time. We want to take the metro to all corners of the National Capital Region (NCR) so that the pressure of vehicular traffic on the roads is reduced. Besides focusing on our own expansion, we are guiding the upcoming metro projects of other Indian cities in our capacity as consultants.

To conclude, I would like to ensure that in the years to come, too, Delhi Metro will continue to work equally hard to provide the best possible services to its commuters and give them more reasons to travel with us daily.

This text is an edited excerpt of an article written by Mangu Singh, the managing director of Delhi Metro Rail Corp., in the March-April 2013 edition of "India Perspectives" magazine.

We extend a hearty welcome to

Dr. Manmohan Singh,

Honourable Prime Minister of India
on his official visit to Japan

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Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India

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Indian prime minister's visit

A noble son continues to lift up Indian people

Ryuko Hira
HON. PRESIDENT, ICCJ / IMAY

On behalf of all members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Japan (ICCJ) and The Indian Merchants Association of Yokohama (IMAY), I am honored and privileged to welcome India's 14th prime minister, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh and his wife Gursharan Kaur, accompanying entourage and members of the high-level economic delegation to Japan. In this 93rd year of the founding of ICCJ/IMAY, we take this opportunity to thank our prime minister for providing every assistance and care to we overseas Indians in Japan.

A renowned economist, Dr. Singh is the first Sikh to become prime minister. A Sikh is a follower of the Sikh religion founded by the revered Guru Nanak Dev. The essence of Sikh religion

is summed up by Guru Nanak in his words: "Realization of truth is higher than all else. Higher still is truthful living." Dr. Singh has demonstrated to India and the world the noble ideal of truthful living.

Dr. Singh's accomplishments are extraordinary. The India that existed when he took office as finance minister in 1991 was an inefficient, centrally planned economy. For 45 years, bureaucrats had occupied its commanding heights, stifling enterprise under a straitjacket of regulations and licenses, erecting protectionist barriers against foreign trade and investment in the name of self-reliance, subsidizing an unproductive public sector, and struggling to redistribute the country's poverty. Twenty years later, India boasts a thriving, entrepreneurial and globalized economy, with a dynamic business culture. Today's India competes on its own terms and pulls more than 10 million people out of poverty every year. The world has witnessed the



Education: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (left) and Sathya Sai Baba (right), who died in 2011, attend the graduation ceremony at Sri Sathya Sai University on Nov. 22, 2010, in Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh, India. SRI SATHYA SAI UNIVERSITY

presence of great leaders like, Shigeru Yoshida, Nobusuke Kishi, Sun Yat-sen, Jawaharlal Nehru, John F. Kennedy, Nelson Mandela and many other highly accomplished leaders.

But never has there been a statesman like Dr. Manmohan Singh, who has been loved and

revered equally at home in India and by most countries of the world. Almost every leader of the world has visited India and experienced satisfaction of true friendship and sincerity of his good will.

History will write Dr. Manmohan Singh as "A man without

enemies." Even China or Pakistan, who have had historical issues with India, have made great progress with Prime Minister Singh's policy of "India is a friend to all nations." U.S. President Barack Obama, leader of the world's greatest nation upon his visit to India, said "Prime Minister Singh is my Guru." Guru is often translated in English as a master for a disciple or a teacher for a student, but the true meaning "Gu" is darkness and "Ru" is remover.

Remover of darkness, illusion and ignorance is the best description for Prime Minister Singh as he has removed the illusion of fate by empowering hundreds of millions of his fellow countrymen with unprecedented opportunities to work hard and build India's infrastructure of roads, railways and ports.

In 2009 India's general election was the largest democratic election in the world with an eligible electorate of 714 million people. He became the first prime minister in 50 years to win re-election in 2009 after completing a full five-year term from 2004. His second term expires in 2014 and even at the age of 80, he is popularly revered as the best choice for a third term.

with support from the Japanese government and private companies.

The Sri Sathya Sai University is the only college in India to have received an A++ rating by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

To endorse the commitment and importance for being India's pride to the world in the highest academic standards, Prime Minister Singh has twice attended the Sathya Sai University graduation ceremony in 1995 and 2010 (see photo) emphasizing health care and education as priorities for development of India.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has a pragmatic foreign policy. His government has worked toward stronger ties with the United States. He initiated negotiations for an Indo-U.S. civilian nuclear agreement.

After two years the agreement was signed giving India the much-needed access to American nuclear fuel and technology. An India-Japan-U.S. trilateral dialogue is scheduled to enhance security. Periodic joint Indo-Japan naval exercises are held reflecting the strategic partnership. India and Japan continue to move forward with talks on civil nuclear energy cooperation. The Mumbai Metro project, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor (CBIC) are the mega-projects costing several hundred billion dollars undertaken for India's much-needed infrastructure, comprising of building new smart cities, seaports, airports, trunk and ring roads, railways, logistics and energy plants. These developments will greatly add to the competitiveness and efficiency of India's manufacturing sector.

Dr. Singh has diligently and devotedly placed India on the sustained path of high growth integrating it with the global economy. Indian Saint Sri Sathya Sai Baba's poem befits Dr. Singh's unprecedented contribution to world peace and prosperity:

"Moon illumines darkness, Sun illumines the sky, a noble son (of mother India) illumines the whole nation."

May Your Excellency's visit be happy, memorable and most rewarding.

Welcome to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, the 'Architect of India'

(Advertisement)

Yog Kapoor
OWNER, INDIAN RESTAURANT CHAIN SAMRAT,
MEMBER OF THE JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION

The right leader visiting at the right time to the country of the "Rising Sun!" India is a fast growing market, where the population is a billion plus. During my recent visit to India, I was surprised

that within one year the progress India has achieved was really amazing, although it took decades to catch up with the advanced countries, everywhere I saw construction work going on to build the metros, highways, bridges and roads, etc.

The housing industry is working very well. Many big builders are booming, every day.

They are announcing big apartment

buildings and towers and developing new towers in the rural areas.

In the education sector, many new schools and colleges are opening at a very fast speed. In the hospitals sector, many big companies and corporations are creating the best hospitals in the country.

Many new airports and terminals have already been built and many more are under construction because in the near future India is expecting millions upon millions of tourists from abroad and domestically also.

In the aviation sector, many airlines have already come to India and many more airlines are waiting for the permission of the government.

In the fast food business, all the famous brands have already come and many more are in the waiting. The fast food business is flourishing in India beyond my imagination.

All the famous brands in the garment

business are increasing day by day in the big cities. Supermarkets are opening every day throughout India.

In the automobile industry, from Japan, Toyota, Honda and Suzuki are most popular in India and there is unlimited scope in the future also.

Even in show business the big corporations in India have started making movies teaming up Hollywood and Bollywood.

There is a great scope for Japanese movies subtitled in English or dubbed in Hindi in the same way for Indian movies in Japan.

So through this media and cultural exchange, relations will become stronger and stronger between the two great nations of Japan and India.

The leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh has brought innovation to India. The world is watching him with hopes for peace and prosperity with dignity in the region.

Heartiest Welcome
to H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister of India,
on His Official Visit to Japan

Let's salute India

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