

India independence day

Strong links with Japan essential for peace, stability

Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA

On the occasion of the 67th Independence Day of India, I extend my greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as to the government and the friendly people of Japan. I call on my fellow Indian citizens and persons of Indian origin living in Japan to celebrate this important anniversary by rededicating themselves to the lofty principles on which our country was founded.

India chose to be a secular democracy at its re-birth as an independent nation because these tenets were a natural extension of our millenniums-old ethos of accommodation, inclusiveness and harmony. The manner in which we have kept the flame of democracy burning has few parallels in the developing world. Our democracy has also provided in recent years a resilient base for rapid economic growth with stability in a globalized world.



Adherence to the rule of law has made India a reliable partner for long-term economic cooperation.

The friendship between India and Japan has a long history rooted in spiritual affinity and the modern nation-states have carried on the positive legacy of the old association, which has been strengthened by shared values of belief in democracy, individual freedom and the rule of law. India is the largest democracy in Asia and Japan the most prosperous. In the emerging world in which the responsibility of ensuring order and stability will, to a large extent, fall on the world's leading democracies, our common commitment to democratic values offer a strong basis for close partnership.

India's relations with Japan are singularly free of any kind of dispute — ideological, cultural or territorial. It is unique and one of mutual respect manifest in generous gestures and sentiments of standing by each other at times of need. Japan's importance as a major industrial power remains undiminished. India's importance in the emerging architecture of the world economy is

being acknowledged worldwide. Strong India-Japan ties are essential for economic development, as well as world peace and stability, especially in the Indo-Pacific region.

Thus, an examination of today's changed circumstances, the transformation that has taken place in India, the challenges and opportunities that have been thrown up by a multi-polar world order and the advent of globalization, and the wide areas of convergence, complementarities and synergies between our two countries makes it amply clear that the time for imparting new content and fresh dynamism to our old relationship is at hand. India's dynamic economy, youthful demographics, ample labor force and large market combine well with Japan's technological, manufacturing and financial prowess.

It is the recognition of the mutual advantage in enhancing and widening the ambit of the bilateral relationship that has driven Indo-Japan ties in the past decade and a half. The



President of India Pranab Mukherjee

turning point was the historic visit of Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori to India in August 2000 to launch the Japan-India Global Partnership in the 21st Century. His farsighted initiative and vision not only provided a forward momentum in the bilateral ties, but also showed us the way for deepening our engagement in diverse spheres. There has been a steady advance since to a Global and Strategic Partner-



Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh

ship entered into by Prime Ministers Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shinzo Abe in 2006. This was a defining moment in our bilateral ties, catapulting the relationship to a new level.

Since the launch of the global and strategic partnership, bilateral relations have been guided by annual summits between the two prime ministers held in New Delhi and Tokyo. This has helped not only in sustaining the

momentum but also providing the necessary direction for the future.

In May, we had a landmark visit by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Japan for the annual summit. His interaction with Prime Minister Abe and the top political leadership of Japan reflected our mutual desire to further strengthen our bond of friendship in the days ahead. The two leaders shared their vision in a joint statement aptly titled "Strengthening the Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan beyond the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations."

The joint statement covered the entire gamut of our ever-diversifying bilateral relations, with a particular focus on economic ties. It highlighted Japan's deepening involvement in India's infrastructural development, including metro rail projects in New Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai and Mumbai. In addition, Japan is involved in the implementation of two other flagship projects — the Delhi-Mumbai

Freight Corridor and Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the planning for the newly announced Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor project.

India is honored and privileged to receive Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress on a state visit later this year. This will be a momentous occasion, and we propose to leave no stones unturned in ensuring a memorable and productive visit for Their Imperial Majesties.

We greatly value our friendship with Japan. We wish to work with our Japanese friends on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit to realize the untapped potential for cooperation. We seek to forge bonds between our two countries that will encompass political and strategic ties, ensure a sustaining and symbiotic economic engagement and, most importantly, build bridges of understanding and mutual appreciation between our people, and especially, our tomorrow — our youth.

Today, the stakes for India and

Japan go much beyond the bilateral. Close cooperation between Japan and India will indubitably ensure that this century is the century of Asia, and contribute to the emergence of a multi-polar world that is peaceful and stable, equitable and prosperous. In this context, I quote the words of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during his visit to Tokyo in May: "... the success of our partnership is vital for the prosperity of our people and indispensable for a future of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region."

I am confident that the coming year will see the further deepening of the ties 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, progress and prosperity. We believe the future is full of promises and accordingly dedicate this year's Independence Day celebrations here to the steady blossoming of our relations.

More great events ahead in memorable year for India-Japan ties



Strategic, global partners: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hold summit talks in Tokyo on May 29. EMBASSY OF INDIA

Yoshiro Mori
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-INDIA
ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of the 67th Independence Day of India, I am greatly honored to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of India as chairman of The Japan-India Association. This year is an auspicious one for the association, too, because it marks the 110th anniversary of the establishment of the association since its inception in 1903. We are very much appreciative of the con-



tent support to us from the government and people of India, which has enabled us to commemorate this anniversary.

The last 67 years through today are the history of India building a nation and developing its economy, and the same is true for Japan, which means both nations have taken similar tracks in the east and west of Asia. During these years, both nations have cultivated friendly and cooperative relations through mutual respect, helping each other when one of the nations was having a hard time. And now both nations are taking leading roles in the world politically and economically.

During my official visit as in-

cumbent prime minister in August 2000, I signed with Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee the declaration of the "Global Partnership between Japan and India in the 21st Century."

This privileged relationship was developed in 2006 to the level of "Strategic and Global Partnership" by our successors. Our partnership has steadily grown, no matter who has taken the reins of our respective governments, and both nations have deepened and widened the cooperation to deal with such global issues as reform of the U.N. Security Council, prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, piracy in the international society.

My foregoing visit was the first time in 10 years for an incumbent Japanese prime minister. Our relations have now become so close that the prime minis-

ters of Japan and India visit each other every year, and each time they meet, they advance new cooperative relations.

A lot of cooperative projects between Japan and India have been progressing. I am particularly pleased that what are called the flagship projects, namely the construction of the Delhi-Mumbai Dedicated Freight Corridor and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, have steadily moved forward.

India continues to be the largest Japanese ODA (official development assistance) recipient and engages itself, in cooperation with Japan, in infrastructure

building such as electricity and transportation systems, poverty alleviation, development of human resources, environment protection projects.

With the very successful Delhi Metro project through the cooperation between Japan and India, whose working length has now reached 190 km, the plan for construction of Metro Line systems based on the same concept are under way now in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad.

Japanese direct investment has been on the rise in an accelerated way. The number of Japanese companies settled in India has hit 926 as of October 2012, which is up 96 from the same period of the previous year. The number of Japanese nationals in India are also growing, and it surpasses 7,000.

On the other hand, more than 20,000 Indian people have settled down in Japan and some Indian businesses have ventured into

the Marunouchi area, the very business center of Tokyo, in addition to other traditional areas of Osaka, Kobe and Yokohama.

Furthermore Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress for the first time in our history are going to pay a State Visit to India later this year. I am convinced that this year, through the Imperial visit, will turn out to be a memorable year for both our countries.

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 our two great nations will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the international community at large.

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India independence day

Frequent, vibrant exchanges help strengthen long, friendly relations

Nobutaka Machimura
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 Anniversary of India's independence.

Japan and India have long developed a friendly relationship sharing common values such as democracy, the 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 exchanges. Since 2005, prime ministers of both countries have been visiting each other's country, and we had the great honor of receiving Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in Japan in May this year.

I am also pleased to note that Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress will pay a state visit to India this year. Japan and India commemorated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations last year and have further advanced their ties in wide-ranging areas in recent years. I am convinced that, through the visit, existing intimate relations of friendship and good will between Japan and India will be further deepened.

As the new president of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I will make utmost efforts to strengthen our bilateral ties. 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.



Grandiose project: Built in 1784, the architecture of the Bara Imambara complex in Lucknow reflects the maturation of Mughal design and one of the last major buildings not incorporating any European elements or the use of iron. EMBASSY OF INDIA

Japan-India economic ties show significant growth

Hirosama Yonekura
CHAIRMAN, KEIDANREN

On the occasion of India's 67th Independence Day, I, on behalf of Keidanren, would like to offer our sincere congratulations to the people of India.



Economic relations between India and Japan have shown significant growth since the conclusion of the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which took effect on Aug. 1, 2011. In 2012, exports from India to Japan rose to ¥558.5 billion and Japan's exports to India to ¥845.4 billion. Meanwhile, Japan's direct investment to India was ¥222.8 billion for the same year. In addition, we have seen great progress in the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor

(CBIC) projects, symbols of economic cooperation between the two countries.

For years, we at Keidanren have been working together with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and India's business community to enhance India-Japan economic ties. Our joint efforts include the Business Leaders Forum, launched in 2007, where business leaders of India and Japan gather to discuss ways to improve the business environment and strengthen bilateral economic relations.

In late July, the CII hosted the Asian Business Summit in Delhi. The summit started four years ago, based on Keidanren's proposal, to promote dialogue and increase cooperation among Asian business communities. At this year's summit, 12 major business organizations in the region, including Keidanren and the CII, came together to exchange views on issues of common interest, such as regional economic integration, financial

cooperation and infrastructure development. Thanks to the CII's efforts and the support from the Indian government, the meeting was a great success, issuing the joint statement calling for the acceleration of Asia's economic integration and the strengthening of the region's leadership in furthering global growth goals.

India and Japan have many values in common, including the commitment to democracy and a free-market economy. By building on the shared values and further expanding the bilateral economic cooperation, the two countries will be able not just to spur growth in their own economies but to contribute to increasing the sustainability of the economic development of the entire Asian region.

We at Keidanren will continue to be fully committed to promoting business cooperation and developing stronger economic relations between India and Japan.

Cooperation leads to deeper exchanges

Masami Iijima
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 67th Independence Day of India.



Japan and India share the values of Buddhism, which originated in India, as well as political systems based on democracy. The two countries have long maintained an extremely good relationship

and I am very pleased that the bilateral ties have been further enhanced through last year's successful implementation of projects to celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and India.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, India has achieved steady growth and increased economic power. In August 2011, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and the Republic of India (CEPA) took effect, and at present, compared with that time, the number of certificates of origin issued under the CEPA has increased about five times.

This demonstrates the high level of interest in Japan-India trade and there are great expectations for the continuous expansion of trade.

Against this backdrop, Prime Minister Singh visited Japan at the end of May this year, confirming with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that the two countries would further deepen and expand the bilateral relationship based on the Strategic and Global Partnership, which the two leaders agreed to build in 2006. Through this partnership, a number of specific achievements have been made, including yen loans for the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Japan's sup-

port for the introduction of a high-speed railway system in India, and the Mumbai Metro construction project. These initiatives are really important to further strengthen bilateral economic relations, and now the countries need to move on to the next step to make even more progress.

India has a large group of excellent young people, a vast local market and great growth potential, while Japan has leading-edge technologies, including those related to the environment, and expertise in the development of technologies. The two countries can therefore supplement and cooperate with one another for greater business

prosperity.

The Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee was launched in 1967. Since then, the committee has regularly conducted joint meetings with the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee to deepen and foster business exchanges between the two countries. The next joint meeting, which is the 38th, is slated to be held in Tokyo from Sept. 4, and more than 80 people have already expressed their willingness to visit Japan from India to participate in the meeting. Through the joint meeting, seminars, business matching activities and the reception, in which many small and medium-size enterprises from Japan are expected to participate, I hope that exchanges between the two countries will be fostered and deepened further.

Finally, please let me congratulate the people of India once more on their 67th Independence Day. It is my great hope that India will achieve even higher growth toward the future.



Scientific heritage: Jantar Mantar, Jaipur INDIA PERSPECTIVES

Timekeepers of 18th-century India

Though centuries old, the significance of India's astronomical observatories has not eroded with advancements in science.

Derived from the words meaning "instrument" and "formula" or "calculation," the Jantar Mantars were constructed between 1727 and 1734 by Maha-

rajah Jai Singh II of Jaipur in his native territory of west-central India. A spectacle of India's scientific heritage, one might ask why these were required over a century after Galileo had invented the telescope. In all probability the Indian ruler knew of the telescope, but the Jantar Mantars were different. The traditional instruments employed here were designed to calculate the precise positions of celestial objects, crucial knowledge of which was required to determine horoscopes and to pinpoint auspicious days.

Jai Singh II was passionately interested in mathematics and astronomy, and adapted and added to the designs of earlier sight-based observatories to create architecture for astronomical measurement. Primarily influenced by the Islamic school of astronomy, his designs incorporated elements from early Greek and Persian observatories. But the instruments at the Jantar Mantar site were more complex,

and in certain instances, were completely unique in design and function. There were five such observatories originally built at Delhi, Jaipur, Mathura, Ujjain and Varanasi, and all but the Mathura observatory still exist. Visiting the two main observatories, at Jaipur and Delhi, helps to know how significant this heritage remains today.

Jantar Mantar, Jaipur
Inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List as "an expression of the astronomical skills and cosmological concepts of the court of a scholarly prince at the end of the Mughal period," the Jantar Mantar at Jaipur first seems like a collection of weird buildings controlled beyond belief. On closer inspection, however, the genius of the construction becomes apparent. One of the highlights of the Jantar Mantar is the group of 14 major geometric devices on the ground

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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India independence day

Reflections on century of Indo-Japanese economic ties

Ryuko Hira
HON. PRESIDENT, ICCJ / IMAY

Sei Arai and Teichi Sugita, who expressed their solidarity with Asia, formed the Society for Asian Revival (Ko-a-kai) in 1880. Wary of seeing Japan drifting along Western ways, they argued that even though Japan had modernized itself on the model of the West, it should remain an Asian power as Asia was where Japan lay geographically and historically.

The society even envisaged a federation consisting of Annam (present-day Vietnam), Burma (Myanmar), India, Korea and Siam (Thailand) — the Asian countries either subjugated or threatened by Britain, France and Russia. The news about Indian people forming a national organization (the Indian National Congress) and launching the struggle against the British lent support to their pro-Asian activities. Hailing the news, a fortnightly magazine, Nihonjin, started in 1888 by Setsurei Mi-

yake and Shigetaka Shiga, carried an article visualizing the possibility of India becoming "a new big independent country of Asia."

The renewed interest in India resulted in the commencement of courses, led to the establishment of departments of Sanskrit, Buddhism, and Indian philosophy in the Japanese universities. But in the absence of any direct links with Indian scholars and academic institutions the Japanese had not only to rely on Western scholarship, but also study in European academic centers under the guidance of European scholars. Direct contact between the people of India and Japan began only with the arrival of an art historian, Tenshin Okakura, in Bengal in 1901.

The Indian political scenario was in turmoil at the time of Okakura's visit. A wave of despair and anger had engulfed the Indian people after their appeals for a representative government were turned down by the colonial masters. To express solidarity with the Indian cause, Okakura wrote a book, "The Awakening of Japan" (1904), in which he made a fervent appeal to the Indian youth to unite and work for the revival of Asia.

Prominent statesman Shig-

enobu Okuma set up a study circle (Indo Gakkai) on the campus of Waseda University to promote Indian studies and stimulate interest in Indian affairs. Despite constraints of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, Okuma openly sympathized with the Indian cause and in several of his speeches urged the British to grant self-government to India.

The renewal of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance in 1907 had added coverage for India, thus making Japan a watchman of British interests in India and East Asia. This infuriated Shumei Okawa, a graduate of Indian philosophy from the University of Tokyo's Department of Philosophy. After studying India's classical age, Okawa's inquisitive mind turned to contemporary India. The idealized image of India was shattered in 1913 when he read Henry Cotton's "New India". In 1916, Okawa wrote several articles exposing the exploitative nature of British rule and denounced the presence of Great Britain as a source of misery in Asia. He remonstrated against the continuance of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, which he saw as a deterrent for the Japanese in fostering better understanding with the Indians.

Therefore, he pleaded with his government to cultivate friendly relations with the Indians and help them in their struggle for freedom.

It has taken 100 years for India's self-reliance, which is nearing its goal of a developed nation. The India-Japan commercial partnership is rich with possibilities that will widely contribute to

enduring prosperity in Asia and beyond. The Indian chamber of Commerce and Industry (Tokyo) has served the Indian economic agenda for nine decades. On behalf of all members of ICCJ, I convey our appreciation to all who have contributed to India's cause. I am grateful to The Japan Times and its readers.

(Advertisement)

Educated population brings innovation

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



On this happy occasion, we celebrate the Independence Day of India with great pride and happiness because the whole world has recognized us Indians as great peace-loving people and India as a great trustworthy nation in the world.

I have lived in Japan with my family for decades and can vouch that Japan is the most peace-loving, highly educated nation in the world. We feel as Indians most fortunate and the happiest people that we are living in Japan.

In every field of life, the government of India has brought amazing progress within just a few years. The basic thing that I have learned in my life, that the person without education is always poor, we Indians must all learn from Japan, where the standard of education is very high even a homeless person in Japan is sleeping on the roadside with a bunch of newspapers and magazines in his hands.

The Indian government and the private sector are opening new schools, colleges and universities in the country. The time is not far away when in India there will be universities up to the standard of Cambridge, Oxford and the University of Tokyo, when the people will come from abroad to get an education in India.

Indian food is very popular all over the world. In Japan also Indian restaurants are increasing day by day because certain Indian spices are very good for health. Indian curry and nan are very popular in Japan.

The Indian IT sector is growing day by day as well. In Indian show business, I was surprised that some Bollywood movies that have been released in Japan have done amazing business.

It is a great pleasure and honor for every Indian that the Emperor and Empress of Japan will be visiting India as state guests for about a week from Nov. 30, which will bring Japan and India closer and closer.

When our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Japan at the end of May, many business deals were signed between the two great countries, Japan and India.

I suppose these deals will bring prosperity to both countries in the future to come.

So for Japanese companies, the Indian market is one of the best in the world, where their investments are safe in any sector of business.

I think India and Japan, if they work together, can bring innovation to the region. The world is watching them with the hope that peace and prosperity with dignity will be achieved in the region.

Fascinating instruments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

for measuring time, predicting eclipses, tracking stars and determining the celestial altitudes and related ephemerides. The most imposing is the mammoth sundial, known as Samrat Yantra, in the center of the observatory. It is the world's largest sundial. Its triangular gnomon, 27 meters high, is angled at 27 degrees, the latitude of Jaipur. A staircase rises to a small cupola where notable readings like that of the timing of an eclipse and the arrival of the monsoon season were announced. If used correctly, the giant sundial can predict accurate time with just a 0.6 second margin of error.

Jantar Mantar, Delhi

The Jantar Manta located near Connaught Place in New Delhi differs from its twin at Jaipur. Apart from the fact that it is built from the local red sandstone, the observatory is a giant version of a spherical sundial. The other two major instruments here are the Jai Prakash and Mishra Yantra. The Jai Prakash was used to find the sun's position through the shadow cast by two intersecting wires on a concave hemisphere. The hemisphere was marked with altitude and azimuth circles, tropics and declination circles. On the other hand, Mishra Yantra (mixed instrument) combined different devices in one and indicated "noon" in various global cities. Mishra Yantra was the only structure in the observatory not invented by Jai Singh II, who was well versed with the advances in European astronomy while he was building the Delhi astronomical observatory.

Students of astronomy and Vedic astrology often visit this scientific wonder to take some lessons, and it won't be wrong to say that the observatory is the single most representative work of Vedic thought that still survives, apart from the available text.

Modern-day sundial

The latest addition to India's attempts with the sundial is the giant gnomon at the Barapullah flyover in New Delhi, believed to be the biggest one made in glass and steel. "Brass has been used to give it a longer shelf life and mild steel has been used for its strength in



Art and technology: Sundial installation in New Delhi by sculptor Gagan Vij INDIA PERSPECTIVES / NITIN JAIN

the inner structural frame," explains sculptor Gagan Vij.

Conceptualized by the Delhi Development Authority and floated into a working 3-D sculpture by Vij, it is built under the structural guidance of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. After approximately three years and 21.1 million rupees, the sundial — weighing 42 tons and measuring 12.7 meters high and 24.5 meters long — shows correct solar time. "It does not show the lunar time of zodiac time like the Jantar Mantar at Delhi and Jaipur. Opposed to your clock time, it shows the local time, or the Indian Standard Time (IST), as calculated in Allahabad. For example, it is noon by the sundial when the shadow of the gnomon disappears. But your watch set to the IST will read 12:21 p.m. at that time, as Delhi is 21 minutes behind Allahabad," says Vij.



Ram Yantra at Jantar Mantar, Delhi INDIA PERSPECTIVES

This text is an edited excerpt of an article written by Deepika Khurana in the May-June 2013 edition of India Perspectives magazine.

Heartiest Independence Day Greetings

THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN JAPAN

THE INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-JAPAN

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THE INDIAN SOCIAL SOCIETY

Hon. President: Ishu M. Kalwani

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to the People of India

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Wish you a Happy Independence Day 2013
Freedom in our Mind,
Faith in the Words, Pride in our Heart,
And memories in our Souls.
Let's salute our India.

15th August
Happy Independence Day!

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