

India independence day

Shared beliefs in democracy, freedom, rule of law

Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA

On the occasion of the 68th Independence Day of India, I extend my respectful greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and also reach out to the government and the friendly people of Japan and reaffirm India's commitment to further deepening the excellent relations



between our two countries.

Today is a day of joy and celebration for India and the Indian people as we commemorate our emergence as an independent nation and masters of our own destiny. The uniqueness of India's independence movement was that it was based on certain principles and values, led by the Apostle of Peace, Mahatma Gandhi. This became an example for the world as an immutable, timeless philosophy of non-violence, pertinent to all nations and all people. On the occasion of India's Independence Day, I

call on my fellow Indian compatriots and persons of Indian origin living in Japan to reflect on the significance of this day by reminding themselves of the sacrifices made by our leaders and common citizens to achieve freedom, while committing to work to make India a leading nation of the world.

When India became an independent nation sixty-seven years ago, there were many skeptics who doubted the path we chose for our future, especially in the context of the diverse nature of Indian society, which embraced almost every

religion and ethnicity of the world, boasted many languages and included some of the most impoverished people in the world. However, the admirable progress of India has set all doubts to rest. Today, India is the largest democracy in the world, its economy is the third largest in the world, on the basis of purchasing power parity, and India is one of the most attractive investment destinations in the world thanks to its youthful demographics and expanding market.

All this was possible because of our commitment to democracy of which we are justifiably proud. The recent general elections held in April and May for the 16th Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) was the largest democratic exercise in the world, with an eligible electorate of over 814.5 million people. The people of India voted for a stable and strong government in which the National Democratic Alliance led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the majority of seats. The BJP also gained a majority on its own in winning 282 of the 543 seats. This election outcome was a message by the people of India for development, good governance and a prosperous India.

The leader of the BJP, Narendra Modi, took the oath as prime minister along with a council of ministers on May 26, 2014. Our prime minister and the new government have adopted a new guiding principle of "Minimum Government and Maximum Governance," with the objective of increased efficiency in governance with better coordination and faster decision making. The priorities of the new government for India include education, health, water, energy, infrastructure and investment. These are the areas in which we are looking at Japan as a partner for a mutually beneficial relationship as these priorities



Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi



President of India Pranab Mukherjee

coincide happily with the complementarities that exist between India and Japan.

The history of the friendship between India and Japan is rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilizational ties. In modern times, the association has been strengthened by commonly held values of belief in democracy, individual freedom and the rule of law. Over the years, we have built a partnership based on these values that reflect both principle and pragmatism. Today, India-Japan

relations are at their historic best, with an apogee achieved last year when Their Majesties visited India in November and December, followed immediately with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's presence as the chief guest at our Republic Day celebrations on Jan. 26. These two visits raised the profile of our relations and, of course, also raised the expectations of people in both countries. Following a summit meeting with our prime minister on Jan. 25, Prime Minister Abe, commenting on the possibilities of the

relationship, said, "The relations between Japan and India have the greatest potential of any bilateral relationship anywhere in the world."

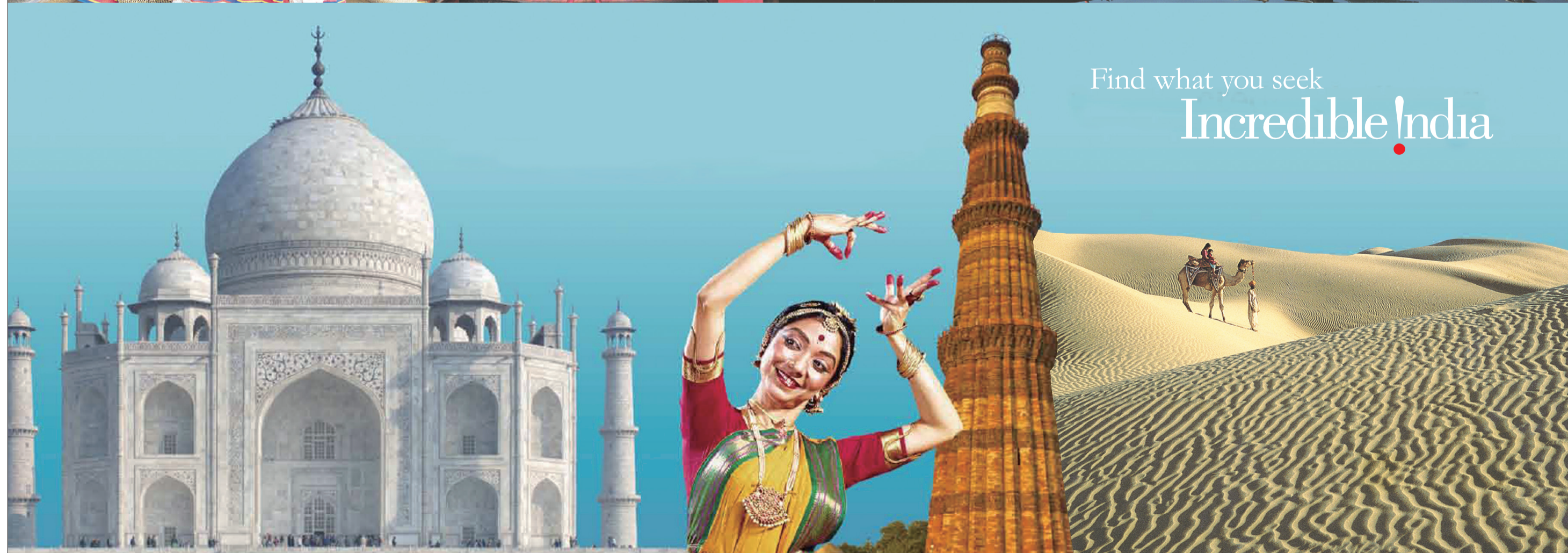
These expectations have sharpened with the election of the new government in India under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, who is very familiar with Japan as he visited Japan in 2007 and 2012 as the chief minister of Gujarat State. We look forward to his early visit to Japan as prime minister. With the governments in both countries enjoying a strong

mandate of the people, this is a window of opportunity to take our relationship to an even higher plane.

I hope the excellent relations between India and Japan will see further diversification and, with new facets of collaboration emerging, bind our two economies and people in a closer embrace. Towards this end, I look forward to working closely with Japanese government, industry, academia and other institutions to achieve peace and prosperity for the people of India and Japan.



Narendra Modi and his party won the national elections in a landslide on May 16, driving the long-dominant Congress party out of power in the most commanding victory India has seen in more than a quarter of a century. AP



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India independence day

Rapidly developing ties

Yoshiro Mori
CHAIRMAN AND REPRESENTATIVE
DIRECTOR, THE JAPAN INDIA
ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of India's 68th Independence Day, I am pleased to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of India as chairman and representative director of the Japan-India Association.



The Japan-India relationship is rapidly developing thanks to strenuous efforts made by government officials and people on both sides. From the end of last November to early December, Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko paid a historic State Visit to India. I was given the honor of accompanying the Imperial Couple to India as the top official of the delegation on this very moving visit.

On Jan. 26, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attended India's Republic Day Celebration as the chief guest at the invitation

of the Indian government. During his stay in India, he actively undertook summit diplomacy.

In June, a new administration took over in India, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The new prime minister has placed much emphasis on Japan and is scheduled to make our country his first foreign visit outside the Indian subcontinent.

As chief minister for Gujarat state, he attached a great importance to Japanese investment and successfully invited several Japanese companies, including Suzuki, there. Modi, who converted Gujarat to a successful model of business development under the slogan of "Vibrant Gujarat," now intends to lead India to economic success under the slogan of "Vibrant India." Japan in general, and the business sector in particular, welcome the new administration with high expectations. Currently, more than 1,000 Japanese companies are settled in India. It is expected that the speed of Japanese investment into India may further accelerate under the Modi administration.

In terms of bilateral economic cooperation, large infrastructure projects such as the Dedicated Freight Corridor and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor are already in the implementation phase. Another new project, the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, was also launched by the governments of Japan and India. Moreover, a feasibility study concerning the construction of Mumbai-Ahmadabad high-speed railway was started. India continues to be the largest recipient of Japanese official development assistance (ODA). In addition to the large-scale projects mentioned above, various infrastructure projects, including electricity and urban transportation, poverty eradication, human resource development, and environmental projects such as tree planting and water supply and sewage systems, have been promoted by Japanese ODA. Among others, the Delhi Metro Project is the most successful story of Japanese ODA in India, so much so that similar metro systems are being built in mega-cities like Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata with financial and technolog-

ical support from Japan. At the same time, an increasing number of Indian companies are establishing offices in Tokyo and the Osaka-Kobe and Yokohama areas. Over 20,000 Indians live in Japan, and Indian restaurants are popping up everywhere.

In August 2002, I visited India as prime minister of Japan and launched with my counterpart Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee the "Japan-India Global Partnership," which was later upgraded to the "Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership." Since the prime ministers of our two countries pay annual reciprocal visits and the whole range



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko are presented with a bust of Mahatma Gandhi during their visit to the Gandhi memorial in New Delhi on Dec. 2. AP

of bilateral relations are evolving in terms of foreign and security policy, the economy, cultural and academic cooperation and youth exchanges. The Japan-India Association celebrated its 110th anniversary last year. As the oldest and most trusted private friendship organization engaged in Japan-India relations, we are determined to double our efforts to promote Japan-India relations.

Again, I would like to use this auspicious occasion to sincerely hope for further prosperity of our two great countries and the happiness of the people of Japan and India.

Further strengthening bonds of friendship

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 the people of India on the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of India's Independence Day.



Japan and India, sharing common values such as democracy, the rule of law and human rights as well as wide-

ranging strategic and economic interests, have long maintained a friendly relationship. It is also our genuine pleasure to witness remarkable progress in our bilateral relations in recent years.

Last year, Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko paid a historic State Visit to India and were warmly welcomed by the people of India. Their visit surely deepened mutual understanding between the people of Japan and India and further enhanced close ties that have happily existed between the two key countries in Asia. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to India in January also

lent new impetus to the Japan-India strategic and global partnership. Furthermore, as the president of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I visited India last December and deepened parliamentary exchanges between our two countries. We now look forward to welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Tokyo soon.

On this auspicious day, I would like to renew my commitment to further strengthen our bond of trust and friendship and send my best wishes for the happiness and further prosperity of the people of India and for the continued development of our cordial relationship.

Indian pharmaceutical industry

Murali Neelakantan
GLOBAL GENERAL COUNSEL, CIPLA
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It is very rare within the global information technology (IT) sector that India is not mentioned in some manner or form, and this has resulted in India becoming renowned for its IT prowess. Thirty years ago, it was hard for most of us to imagine this.

The story of the Indian pharmaceutical sector could well have been like the IT sector if only enough attention was paid to its achievements and the huge impact it has had on health care around the world. Unlike other manufacturing or heavy industries in India, the pharmaceutical sector is innovative, widely acknowledged as making a global impact in the treatment of diseases like HIV/AIDS and also able to support the health care needs of the world.

The fact that Indian factories are licensed to produce 3,685 drugs compared with 3,815 made within the U.K. suggests that Indian factories meet global quality standards and are able to produce complex drugs. While news of regulators visiting Indian manufacturing facilities and finding fault with processes is widely reported, very little is said about how routine this is. Gerald Heddell, director of inspections, enforcement and standards at the Medicines and Health care Products Regulatory Agency, stressed that the number of problems identified by regulators in India was in proportion to the volume of medicines they produced. "When we look back over 110 inspections we conducted over the last two years in India, we had significant concerns with 9 or 10 companies," he said. "That does not represent a statistically higher proportion

than in other parts of the world. India stands out because it is just such a big supplier." The Indian pharmaceutical industry produces about 20 percent of the global generic drugs with the U.S. accounting for nearly 28 percent of Indian pharmaceutical exports, followed by the European Union at 18 percent and Africa at over 17 percent. This should be a clear acknowledgement of the global leadership that the Indian pharmaceutical industry has achieved, which would have been impossible without following global quality standards.

Another popular criticism of Indian pharmaceuticals has been that there is insufficient investment in innovation and R&D. Despite over 500 new drugs being discovered by Indian pharmaceutical companies between 1985 and 2005, CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Japan-India economic relationship showing growth

Hiroaki Nakanishi
VICE CHAIRMAN AND CHAIRMAN OF
COMMITTEE ON SOUTH ASIA,
KEIDANREN
Takashi Shoda
CO-CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON
SOUTH ASIA, KEIDANREN



Nakanishi Shoda

On the occasion of India's 68th Independence Day, on behalf of Keidanren and its Committee on South Asia, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the people of India. Also, Keidanren would like to extend a welcome to H.E. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his upcoming first official visit to Japan in late August.

Economic relations between India and Japan have grown significantly since the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement took effect in August, 2011. In fiscal 2013, Japan imported \$6.8 billion from India

and exported \$9.5 billion according to India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Japan's direct investment in India was more than \$1.7 billion for the same period. As symbolic infrastructure projects, early implementation of the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor and the Delhi Metro Project are steadily progressing, the business communities in both countries are seeing business expanding, as well as growth in other third-party countries.

Under such circumstances, it is sincerely hoped that with Modi's strong leadership, the

top ten policy priorities for the government will be implemented. Japanese investment in India should increase as progress will be made on issues of Japanese interest such as difficulty in land acquisition; early implementation of GST; simplification of cross-national and state border trade, allowing multiple brand retailing on a national level; easing limits on foreign capital participation and external commercial borrowing; and achieving international conformity in the implementation of intellectual property laws.

India and Japan share many

important values in common, including a commitment to democracy and free market economy. Today, India is a mature global economic player, and the possibilities for the two countries to cooperate are growing extensively. The two countries should further expand the scope of cooperation in their global strategic partnership into a strategic alliance. Meanwhile, Japanese businesses are looking forward to the opportunities awaiting in the future of this important bilateral economic relationship on the global scale.

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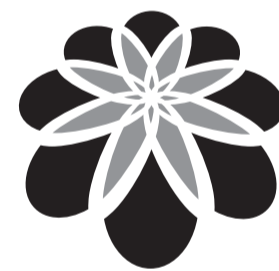
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India independence day



The iconic stone chariot at the Vittala Temple complex in Hampi is a major tourist attraction. EMBASSY OF INDIA

Deregulation, reforms key to economic relations

Ryuko Hira
PRESIDENT, INDIAN COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN

The new cabinet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was built on the election pledges of economic growth. There will be a paradigm shift as deregulation, reforms, market access, reciprocity, transparency and equal and fair trade will be sought.



Economic relations

Delays in building electric power plants have severely hampered India's economic independence. Japan's indecisive policy for export of nuclear power plants has caused low productivity, which has raised alarming social issues of poverty, unemployment and low wages. With less than fifty percent electric power sufficiency, one in two Indians is deprived of electricity. The quadrupling of the Chinese economy over the last 3 decades is caused by the benevolent export of nuclear power plants from Japan. The

political willpower to accept China and reject India as a buyer of nuclear fuel and technology for peaceful purposes is a paradox in bilateral economic relations. India has suffered painful losses to its people by depriving them of electric sewage systems, water purification systems, communications, transportation and industry. Today, half of India's households without electricity depend on candles, kerosene or other primitive sources of light, making life difficult for children to be able to study in the darkness of their homes. Promoting education without electricity is a nightmare. As Japan and China developed their economic models on over 50 percent dependence on nuclear power, it is difficult to see how India can do without it. Our leaders may express great friendship and goodwill, but unless implemented to resolve critical issues with political willpower, there will be economic deadlocks and stalemates.

India has faithfully opened its markets to Japanese consumer goods, including automobiles, electric appliances, white goods, construction machinery

and most other items barring a few strategic defense industries. The result is an annual trade deficit with Japan of \$6 billion, which if left unattended by increased Indian exports or services will quickly swell to a cumulative \$100 billion deficit. Although India is rapidly transforming from a consumer-based to an export-based manufacturing economic model, it is facing uncountable nontrade and trade barriers, which require immediate deregulation, reforms, market access and reciprocity with fair and equal terms.

Information technology

India is a world leader in the development and export of software and information technology. There are 100 companies in IT services that have been established in Japan to provide high-grade, value-added software development at a fraction of Japanese prices. Yet Japan as the world's second largest market in terms of IT outsourcing with IT spending of \$109 billion leaves India a share of less than 1 percent. Of the total, 70 percent is serviced by Japanese companies and 29

percent by other countries. On one hand, the Japanese policy is to increase foreign companies and foreign investment in Japan, and on the other hand, the lack of deregulation to open market access to Indian software companies by orders from government and public bodies is a self-defeating paradox, which can open unwanted trade battles to barter IT for automobiles.

Pharmaceutical industry

Every major Japanese pharmaceutical manufacturer desires to capture the burgeoning share of the domestic Indian market, causing a frenzy of acquisition of Indian manufacturers and distributors at exorbitant prices, resulting in huge valuation losses after acquisition. At a recent Indian pharmaceutical trade fair held in Tokyo, over 100 Indian pharmaceutical manufacturers participated, all repeating the same mantra; "The Japan pharmaceutical industry is closed, heavily regulated and is strongly influenced by the medical lobby that disallows access to Indian imports." If medical equipment imports

from Japan were to be bartered against Indian pharmaceutical exports it would help both Japan and India.

The four major Indian export sectors, which are capable of meeting global standards, are information technology services, pharmaceuticals, fashion (both apparel and jewelry) and food and agriculture. These cover a vast scope of collectively equalizing the chronic trade deficit of \$6 billion. Each of the four with a meager increase in monthly exports of \$125 million could wipe out the trade deficit and open wider supply channels from India with the highest export quality standards at prices far lower than paid to other countries. Neglecting focus on increasing imports from India will induce greater trade friction.

The Indian Commerce and Industry Association was established 94 years ago to serve as an apex body, always striving to increase bilateral trade and investments. On behalf of all members we convey greetings to readers and thank The Japan Times for publishing this article.

Reforms will lead to affordable access to health care for all

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

there seems to be a perception that India thrives on copying foreign products. A recent study by Evaluate, a leading independent specialist pharmaceutical consultancy, reports that there is little difference in investment by "innovators" and "generics" and it is just a myth that innovators invest heavily in research while generics don't.

Despite well-publicized claims of the Western world, there seems to be a marked decrease in R&D investments and this trend is expected to continue. When one realizes that almost 50 percent of European pharmaceutical patents are either lying dormant, or filed in order to block competitors, one wonders how innovation is being defined and encouraged. Is it innovation if the effect is stifling further innovation and competition and creating barriers to improvement?

The Indian pharmaceutical industry has clearly demonstrated it has the potential to be a part of the solution for universal access to health care. India's strength is innovating to improve global access to medicines as opposed to developing more and more "me

too" drugs, which have been traditionally defined by the West as innovation. There is now a growing acknowledgment that the existing intellectual property rights (IPR) regime being touted by the West doesn't foster innovation.

As such, the current patent system is itself reeling from the ill effects of patent assertion entities (trolls) that do not produce anything of value but merely hold patents with a view to threatening businesses with infringement actions to obtain licensing revenue. Patents have other flaws that relate to monopoly power, both because it harms consumers who have to pay high prices and because it can hinder improvements and subsequent innovations. Static distortions, too little incentive for original research, and wasteful duplication of research are some of the most serious problems of the patent system. In addition to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) - compliant patent regimes, which ostensibly promote innovation and discourage copying, the next generation of barriers to competition seems to be set up as global standards. Just as IPR was addressed by the World

Trade Organization in TRIPs, the more recent barriers are likely to be in the form of harmonized regulations. Patent linkage (in Canada and the U.S. for example) denies access to markets on the mere allegation of patent infringement. Despite the U.S. Supreme Court indicating that patent linkage needs to be reconsidered and access to medicines should not be denied on allegations of patent infringement and recent attempts by Italy to introduce a system of patent linkage resulted in a notice from the European Commission asking for the removal of these provisions from Italian law, patent linkage is a real barrier to competition in health care, which is beset with unaffordable drugs.

Data exclusivity extends the term of monopolies enjoyed by patent holders and keeps out competition and innovation without any benefit to society. This concept does not exist in sectors other than pharmaceuticals and there seems to be no real rationale for pharmaceuti-

cals to get special treatment. In fact, data exclusivity raises several ethical and moral issues.

Countries have always been allowed to customize their intellectual property policies and regulations based on their unique local conditions. Some countries are more technologically proficient than others, and this distinction may warrant separate norms in areas of technology that they are strong in. Even where harmonization has been accepted as a concept, like in the European Union for example, it has been implemented in a manner that is sympathetic to the local conditions of individual countries. India's strength and expertise lies in developing drugs that are accessible to patients across the globe. India's stand on IPR regimes acknowledges that diverse countries cannot be forced to a single uniform regulatory system. This principled stand was recently demonstrated during the Bali round of talks on the Trade Facilitation Agreement.



An opening ceremony for the India Pavilion at the Interpex Japan Exhibition 2014 is jointly held by the Ambassador of India Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa (third from left) and Commerce Secretary Rajiv Kher (center) at Tokyo Big Sight on July 2. EMBASSY OF INDIA

In the background of the Trans-Pacific and Trans-Atlantic partnerships being negotiated, India has the opportunity to demonstrate leadership in the global marketplace by pioneering the opposition to using harmonization as a proxy for barriers to competition. While the U.S. and its allies may officially oppose India's view of the IPR regime they have realized that the key to their sustainable development is the ability of government to ensure that

health care is accessible to everyone, not just the rich. The costs of health care have increased significantly causing an alarming number of patients to go off treatment, risk importing counterfeiters or in many cases, declare bankruptcy.

The issue of access to health care in the developing world has, despite efforts by the U.N., The Global Fund, Patients Emergency Plan for Aids Relief and other institutions, not had the impact it should have. There

is a realization, albeit unarticulated, that Indian pharmaceutical companies have the potential to be, like Indian technology companies that averted the Y2K crisis, a key element of the solution to world's health care crisis. Now is a great opportunity for India to demon-

strate leadership in IPR regimes as more and more countries like South Africa and Brazil are following India's example.

With research assistance from Prajna Mohapatra and Anushree Kunhambu

Heartiest Independence Day Greetings

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