

# REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

## Cause for celebration, today and tomorrow

By Sanjay Panda

Charge d' Affaires ad interim of India

On the happy occasion of the 62nd Republic Day of India, I extend cordial greetings from the people of India to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress as well as to the government and friendly people of Japan. I also offer congratulations to my fellow citizens and people of Indian origin living in Japan.



Sanjay Panda

Over the past six decades, India has covered a long distance on the path of development. India's political, social and economic institutions, which are the embodiment of our Republic, have grown in

strength and maturity. We have successfully overcome daunting challenges to emerge as a nation confident of maintaining sustained growth.

Despite the global economic slowdown, India's economy has continued to grow briskly based on the strength of domestic demand, savings, investment and enterprise. We are confident India's economic transition is gathering pace. It will become faster in the years ahead as we harness the expanding economic productivity of our young population.

India and Japan share historical and cultural ties and an Asian identity. Our relationship has been marked by mutual goodwill, amity and respect. This legacy has remained unbroken into the modern era, which has seen our bonds strengthen based on our shared values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law. Our shared economic and strategic interests, and common aspirations for Asian economic integration, make us natural partners in the 21st century, which belongs to Asia.



President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil

Bilateral ties between India and Japan are at a historical peak. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has aptly observed, "as the largest and most developed democracies of Asia, we have a mutual stake in each other's progress and prosperity." These words capture the essence of our deepening partnership, which enjoys broad political support and benefits from public goodwill in both countries.

It has been the vision of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to ensure a qualitative transformation of India-Japan relations to realize their true potential. The India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership has been given further momentum and continuity by the prime minister's landmark visit to Japan in October 2010 for the annual bilateral summit. A major outcome of the visit was the Joint Declaration on the Conclusion of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between our two countries, which confirms our mutual pursuit of the future as close partners. In fact, CEPA not only adds a new dimension to our strategic and global partnership, but also opens up new opportunities for bilateral economic engagement.

Apart from flagship infrastructure projects we are pursuing together like the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), trade and investment relations between India and Japan are intensifying. As we are starting from a modest threshold, the potential for growth is immense. India's economic dynamism and youthful vibrancy provide ample opportunities for mutually beneficial



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

economic relations that can underpin progress and prosperity in both societies throughout the 21st century.

India and Japan have also affirmed their commitment to working together for the development of an open and inclusive architecture for regional integration in Asia. Cooperation on the vital global issues of counterterrorism, disarmament, climate change and United Nations reform has been reinforced.

We are also witnessing greater people-to-people contact through enhanced cultural and educational exchanges. There is joint collaboration on the development of the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. The establishment of Chairs on Indian Studies at the University of Tokyo and at Ryukoku University in Kyoto has strengthened the flow of ideas and knowledge. There is also considerable scope for the growth of two-way tourism, which we need to promote.

Our relations with Japan enjoy a positive national consensus in India. We see Japan as a prosperous engine of growth for the world economy and the center of technological excellence. India and Japan stand together in their determination to bring security and prosperity to our peoples, the region and the world.

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

## A glorious partnership continues to strengthen

By Yoshiro Mori

Chairman of the Japan-India Association

On the occasion of the 62nd Republic Day of India, I am privileged to convey to the government and people of India heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the Japan-India Association, which I represent.

I am pleased to note that the year 2010 witnessed India's increasing weight, both political and economic, in international society as well as the accelerated development of Japan-India bilateral relations in all aspects.

I would like to stress that the visit of Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Japan in October last year marked another memorable milestone by finalizing the agreement on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership between the two countries and issuing the Joint Statement for Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership in the Next Decade.

On the bilateral front, I am happy to note that two symbolically important projects between our two countries, namely the construction of the Delhi-Mumbai Dedicated Freight Corridor and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, have reached the implementation stage. Four Japanese industry groups have started four projects to construct "smart communities" along the DMIC belt. India continues to be the largest partner in terms of Japanese official development assistance and engages itself, in cooperation with Japan, in building infrastructure such as electricity and transportation systems, alleviating poverty, and environment projects ranging from reforestation to water supply and sewerage. Remarkable successes have been registered in the construction projects of urban Metro systems in Bangalore, Chennai and

Kolkata in addition to Delhi. To be noted also is the increase of Japanese direct investment to India which resulted, as of October 2010, in the presence of around 725 Japanese companies across India.

An increasingly great number of Indian businesspeople and their families are visiting and staying in Japan. Some Indian businesses have ventured into the Marunouchi area, the very center of business in Japan. There exist already several important clusters of Indian people in Japan in such places as Nishikasai in eastern Tokyo as well as Yokohama and Kobe. Indian restaurants are mushrooming in major cities in Japan. Our association feels rewarded for having helped the Indian community in eastern Tokyo gain a new school compound for the Indian School of Koto-ku.

Cooperation in science and technology is gaining further momentum. Cultural exchanges between our two countries are expanding and deepening. The promised project to launch a new Indian Institute of Technology in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, is ongoing. Preparations are now under way for a big project to revive Nalanda University, a very famous religious and cultural center of the Buddhist world during the medieval period.

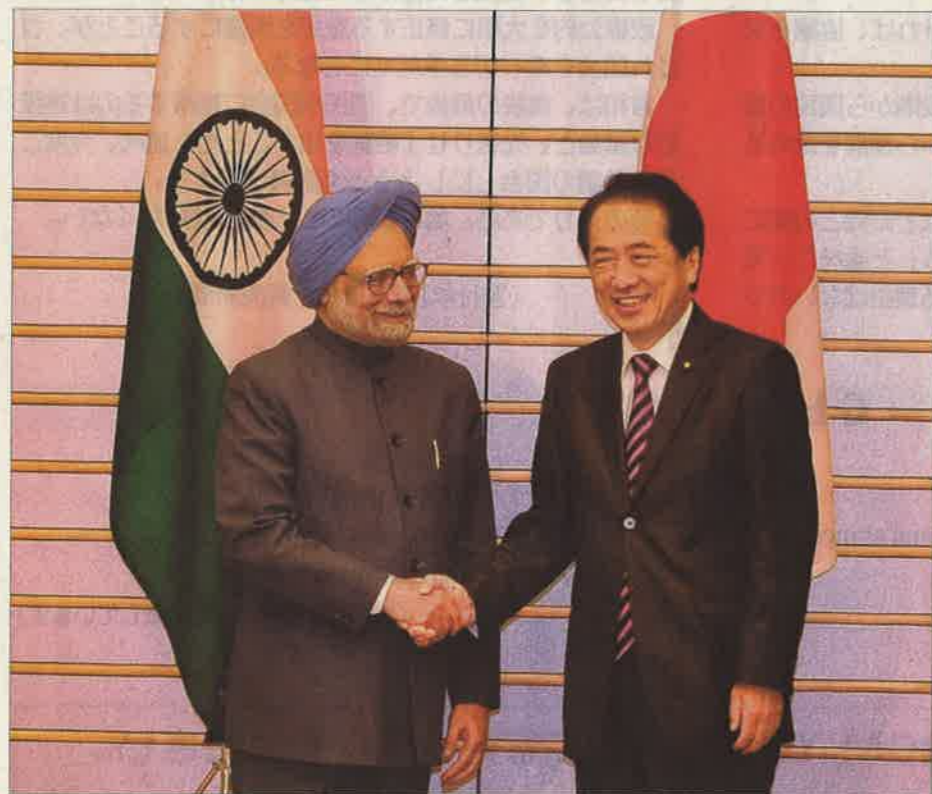
On the international front, our two countries are jointly contributing to the global community by cooperating on many issues, including nuclear disarmament, nonproliferation of mass-destruction weapons, prevention of climate change and reform of the U.N. Security Council.

The Japan-India Association, with its glorious 108-year history, gained status as a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation in October 2010, in accordance with new laws and regulations, and is determined to deploy its utmost efforts for further betterment of our nations' very important relationship.

On this auspicious occasion, let me pray that the already excellent Japan-India relationship will bring more benefits to both peoples, and that our two great nations will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the international community at large.



Yoshiro Mori



Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh meets Prime Minister Naoto Kan during his visit to Japan in October.

Courtesy of Indian Embassy