

# INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

## Largest democracy serving for global harmony

By **Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa**  
Ambassador-Designate of India

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

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

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

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

Japan has provided consistent support for the development of the Indian economy. India is the single-largest recipient of Japanese official development assistance for the seventh continuous year and we express our gratitude for this. We also have a number of flagship projects in the key area of infrastructure devel-



**Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa**



**Indian President Pranab Mukherjee**

opment being executed in partnership with Japan. The Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and the Delhi Metro are shining examples of such cooperation that will mutually benefit the citizens of India as well as Japan. In August last year, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement came into force and opened up new opportunities in our bilateral economic engagement.

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

I am happy to arrive in Japan at a time



**Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh**

that our countries are organizing yearlong celebrations to mark 60 years of the establishment of India-Japan diplomatic relations in 1952. To commemorate six decades of close and friendly relations, more than 140 individual events are being organized, including performing arts, photo and art exhibitions, food festivals, tourism fairs, literary and academic seminars and business promotions. Our intention is to bring glimpses of modern India to every major city and every prefecture in Japan by the end of this year. Thus far, in the first seven months of the festival, we have already organized around 60 events covering 12 prefectures. Enhanced people-to-people contact, particularly among young people of our two countries, will provide a strong foundation for long-term, mutually beneficial relations.

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

## Japan, India work for global community

By **Yoshiro Mori**  
Chairman of the Japan-India Association

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

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

Since India's independence in 1947, Japan and India have nurtured and developed friendly and cooperative relations throughout the trials and successes of 66 years, thanks to strenuous efforts on behalf of the governments and peoples of both countries.

During my official visit as incumbent prime minister of Japan in August 2000, I



**Yoshiro Mori**

signed with Prime Minister A. B. Vajpayee the "Global Partnership between Japan and India in the 21st Century." This privileged relationship was upgraded in 2006 to the "Strategic and Global Partnership" by our successors. This partnership has sent to the two nations, and the world community at large, a very important message that the two great democracies are determined to work not only for our peoples but for the world community by joining our immense resources and capacities.

As the 60th year of our relationship advances, we are witnessing an impressive number of commemorative events, cultural, intellectual and socio-economic, which have been and will be organized by dedicated peoples in both Japan and India.

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

such as electricity and transportation systems, poverty alleviation, development of human resources and environmental protection projects ranging from reforestation to water supply and sewerage. With the very successful Delhi Metro project as a model, similar construction projects of urban metro-systems are being implemented in Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata with Japanese ODA.

Direct Japanese investment has been rising ever more quickly. The number of Japanese companies operating in India numbered over 830 as of the end of 2011, up nearly 90 compared to the same period in 2010.

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

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

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

## Japan-India relations being strengthened at all levels

By **Yasuo Fukuda**  
President of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League

On behalf of the Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of India on the occasion of the 66th Independence Day of India.

Japan and India have long developed our friendly relationship, sharing common values such as democracy, 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 exchange. Since 2005, prime ministers of both countries have been visiting each other's country annually, and we look forward to welcoming Prime Minister Manmohan Singh later this year.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between



**Yasuo Fukuda**

Japan and India. As numerous cultural and economic events have been organized in both countries, I strongly hope these events will help further promote our mutual understanding and heart-to-heart exchange at all levels.

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

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