

## **India-Japan Relations**

### **Strategic and Global Partnership**

Japan and India are partners in peace, with a common interest in and complementary responsibility for promoting the security, stability and prosperity of Asia as well as in advancing international peace and equitable development. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Japan and India resolved to take their bilateral relationship to a qualitatively new level. The foundation for this was laid when Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Prime Minister of Japan and Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, Prime Minister of India agreed during the landmark visit of Mr. Mori to India in August 2000 to establish the "Global Partnership in the 21st Century". Today, India and Japan share a global vision of peace, stability and shared prosperity, based on sustainable development. Shared democratic values and commitment to human rights, pluralism, open society, and the rule of law underpin the global partnership between the two countries. The global partnership between India and Japan reflects a broad convergence of their long-term political, economic and strategic interests, aspirations, objectives and concerns. Japan and India view each other as partners that have responsibility for, and are capable of, responding to global and regional challenges in keeping with their global partnership. A strong, prosperous and dynamic India is, therefore, in the interest of Japan and vice versa. In the above context and in view of the current international situation, it was decided to reinforce the strategic focus of the global partnership between Japan and India.

It was agreed during the visit of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in 2005 that the two countries would further strengthen their cooperation and pursue an all round and comprehensive development of bilateral relations, with a particular and urgent focus on strengthening economic ties, through full utilization of the existing and potential complementarities in their economies. It was decided that both countries would strive to develop closer dialogue and collaboration to secure peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, promote democracy and development, and explore a new architecture for closer regional cooperation in Asia. It was also agreed that the two countries would strengthen cooperation in diverse areas such as environment, energy, disarmament, non-proliferation and security, taking advantage of, and further building on, their strategic convergences.

The dynamic growth of this relationship is reflected in the number of high level ministerial and parliamentary exchanges that have been taking place at regular intervals. There is a parallel process of business and industry in both countries taking note of the opportunities which has led to a sharp increase in exchange of business delegations.

### **Annual Summits**

Annual Summits between the Prime Ministers of the two countries have been taking place since 2006. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid an official visit to Japan from 13-16 December 2006 during which a Joint Statement - "Towards India Japan Strategic and Global Partnership" - was signed by the two Prime Ministers. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan visited India from 21-23 August 2007 during which

two Joint Statements on "The Roadmap for New Dimensions to the Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan" and on the "Enhancement of Cooperation on Environmental Protection and Energy Security" were signed. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid an Official Working Visit to Tokyo from 21-23 October 2008 when a Joint Declaration on "Security Cooperation" and a Joint Statement on the "Advancement of Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan" were signed. Prime Minister Mr. Yukio Hatoyama visited India for the Annual Summit from 27-29 December 2009 during which a Joint Statement on "New Stage of Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership" was signed. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid an Official Working Visit to Tokyo from 24-26 October 2010 for the Annual Summit and a Joint Statement "Vision for India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership in the Next Decade" and a Joint Declaration on the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) were signed by the two Prime Ministers in Tokyo in October 2010. Prime Minister Mr. Yoshihiko Noda paid a State visit to India from 27-29 December 2011 and the two Prime Ministers signed a Joint Statement entitled "Vision for the Enhancement of India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership" upon entering the year of the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

### **Parliamentary Exchanges**

Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar, accompanied by a Parliamentary delegation visited Japan from 2-6 October 2011 at the invitation of the Japanese Diet. During the visit, she visited Kobe, Hiroshima and Tokyo. In Kobe, she met with the small Indian community and interacted with them. In Hiroshima, she visited the Peace Memorial and the Peace Museum. In Tokyo, she had interactive meetings with Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. Takahiro Yokomichi, an audience with Their Majesties The Emperor and The Empress and a call on Prime Minister Mr. Yoshihiko Noda.

### **Bilateral Trade**

In the financial year (FY) 2011-12, India-Japan bilateral trade reached \$18.43 billion, showing an increase of 34.33% over FY 2010-11, when the total bilateral trade was \$13.72 billion. India's exports to Japan grew by 24.36% as against the growth of 40.20% in its imports from Japan in FY 2011-12. India's primary exports to Japan have been petroleum products, iron ore, gems and jewelry, marine products, oil meals, ferroalloys, inorganic/organic chemicals, etc. India's primary imports from Japan are machinery, transport equipment, iron and steel, electronic goods, organic chemicals, machine tools, etc. India has been the largest recipient of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) since 2003-04. Cumulative commitment of ODA till September 2012 reached Yen 3587.302 billion on commitment basis. 59 projects were under implementation with Japanese loan assistance. The loan amount committed for these projects is Yen 1214.811 billion. These projects are in the sectors of power, environment and forests, urban transportation, urban water supply and sanitation, rural drinking water supply, tourism, irrigation, agriculture, shipping, railways, renewable energy and financial services.

### **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement**

On 16 February 2011, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed by Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma and Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Seiji Maehara.

### **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

The year 2012 marked the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. During the year-long celebrations, more than 150 commemorative events were organized including performing arts, photo and art exhibitions, traditional crafts and textiles, fashion shows, food festivals, tourism fairs, literary and academic seminars and business promotion in more than 60 cities and 25 prefectures of Japan in co-ordination with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and other Indian and Japanese cultural organizations. ICCR sent three exhibitions and sponsored the visit of seven cultural troupes, comprising 100 outstanding Indian artistes to Japan during the course of the year.

### **Indian community**

The arrival of Indians in Japan for business and commercial interests began in the 1870s at the two major open ports of Yokohama and Kobe. More Indians entered Japan during World War I when Japanese products were sought to fill gaps in demand that war-torn Europe could not meet. Following the great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, most of the Indians in Yokohama relocated to the Kansai region (Osaka-Kobe), and the city hosted the largest migrant Indian population in Japan. Yokohama authorities offered special incentives to the Indian community after World War II to revive their old base in Kanto. The old Indian community in Japan focused on trading in textiles, commodities and electronics. With close linkages to India as well as connections in Hong Kong and Shanghai, they became major players in trading activities across Asia. A newer segment of the community is engaged in gems and jewelry. The Indian community established the Indian Merchants Association in Yokohama (IMAY) in 1929. In recent years, there has been a change in the composition of the Indian community with the arrival of a large number of professionals. These include IT professionals and engineers working for Indian and Japanese firms as well as professionals in management, finance, education, and S&T research who are engaged with multinational as well as Indian and Japanese organisations. The Nishikasai area in Tokyo is emerging as a “mini-India”. The community is engaged in a range of cultural and social activities. This maintains their links with the motherland and also promotes contacts with their Japanese neighbours. Their growing numbers has prompted the opening of two Indian schools in Tokyo and one in Yokohama. The community is actively engaged in events organized by the Embassy. The Indian community lives harmoniously with its neighbours and has developed relations with local governments to become valuable members of the Japanese community.

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