*Editorial*

# I am proud….

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Indians were regarded as poor and underdeveloped two decades ago, however when they go abroad now, people regard them as lions. 'Oh, India and China are now powers'; these are usual words they say when commoners meet Indians even in developed countries. I am proud with the changing image and respect we get now. Even during recession, India has shown that nobody can stop us now. World watches our progress.

**Personal development**

Is it enough to achieve economic development without personal development? I observed Japanese culture, values and systems during my visit to Japan, I feel we should concentrate more now on these intangibles to have sustainable development. I have always been discouraged to be subjective in approach, but personal experiences, if they are useful in objectivity, I will love to be subjective in approach. The case is about individual character development along with macro development.

**Considerate gestures**

Tourism plays a significant role in economic growth. All countries in the world vie to get a more number of tourists. To attract more tourists, all types of promotional techniques are adopted. But still tourists are afraid to go to certain countries. It was observed that in general Japanese are very helpful not only to each other but with any body who is there near to them. They are prompt in assistance whether you ask for or not. You need a map to go anywhere in city, even locals use map; if they sense you

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need help, somebody will approach you. Body language shows that they really want to assist you from the core of their heart. We can invite more tourists if we really show helpful gestures and really help them. It should come from heart, not mere from the promotions by *Amir Khan*.

**Language not an issue**

Most of the Japanese do not understand English. Japanese development has clearly shown that knowledge of foreign language, especially English language, is not necessary for the progress of any country. You can develop yourself even without English language, provided you want it. During personal interaction, it was observed that even though they could not understand the words, yet they understood what we wanted to convey, genuinely. Language is not barrier in economic, social and personal progress. It is also not barrier in intrapersonal relationship.

**Respect for place of work**

When I observed Japanese entering or leaving their place of work, they used to bow in respect, I recollected how our *Gody Kamagars* (Dock area workers in Mumabi) used to touch the thresholds of work place, considering it as religious place which gives them *Rozi Roti* (livelihood). The bus conductors train ticket examiners, officials, shopkeepers, employees all respect their clients and place of work and it is not once in a day. Every time when the ticket examiner or vendor or any official entered in our bullet train compartment or subway metro compartment, they paid respect. See we can talk about any management technique, but the philosophy of individual, social and organisation behaviour can only be observed.

**Incremental Enthusiasm**

Imai's Kaizen technique says all employees are equal; people should work on continuous improvement in personal life, home life, social life, and working life. At the workplace, Kaizen means continuing improvement involving everyone—managers and workers alike. What about incremental enthusiasm? It was observed whenever railway reservation official, retailer, mart owner, ticket seller or any body met the new client or customer; there was incremental enthusiasm, pep and energy. It is difficult to explain how these people get incremental energy to encounter a new customer with incremental warmness.

**Infrastructure**

Sometimes it appeared, Japanese infrastructure has reached a saturation point. There are 57 tunnels in-between Hiroshima and Osaka, when you travel by train, some of them are even more than 8 km. It takes appx 1 hour 20 minutes to travel a distance of about 300 kms. It was tremendous. It appears they have reached a saturation point in infrastructure development. Umeda observatory with sixty floors and reaching last 25 floors by slanting awesome escalators appears to be wonder of wonders. It appears to be magic how they reached so high and built it; but when we observed workers coming out of a building under construction, with fresh lively and energetic faces, it was easy to understand how they could do it. They finished their work going to their homes with a new energy. The other citation is Kyoto station with rising escalators up to 11 floors with a view of sky garden on top of it. Trains like malveg with advanced technology are being thought of and new towers with more heights are being constructed. Wonders are created by human beings. Infrastructure was fully developed and in advanced stage even in remote area. Panasonic, Sanyo, Kawasaki and many others have factories in remote area but areas do not appear to be underdeveloped.

**Impact of Buddhism**

Whatever be the religion of individuals, impact of Hinduism was visible. Religious respect for seniors and co-workers was seen with a little doubt. People folded hands and bent when entering temples. Prayer methods are same. Simple living and high thinking was virtually observed. Energy comes from inside. I observed people are keen to be neat and clean. I observed not once but hundred times, that commoners, if they find any dirt or trash, picked it up and dropped into dust bin. Feeling of cleanliness comes from heart, not by rules.

**Individual tensions**

Japan' economy is stagnant for last many years. This impact was seen on individuals also but not on job. People were observed smoking in tensions. Japanese girls were seen hawking at retail shops, stores and marts, however they were not upset if customers did not buy their products. It appeared these people were confident to come out of their problems.

**No traffic congestion**

Tokyo and Osaka have as much population as our cities of Mumbai, Delhi or Chennai. No traffic congestion was observed. People prefer to use public transport than their

personal cars. They use bicycles. Even the high profile officials with formal dresses wearing blazers and neck ties were proudly riding on cycle with zeal. No psychological complex was observed. It was amazing observation that during my 11 days travelling by buses, cars etc, I did not a find a single instance of honking by any motorist. It was nowhere written 'No horn please'

**No ground Floor**

In India BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange has no thirteenth floor being considered as unlucky, however in Japan there was no ground floor. Rather take off sign. Why should they call it ground floor, if it is at ground, they should call 1st. Our first floor should be 2F not 1F. Is it planned or lucky sign?

Countries progress not with money or technologies but with human beings who progress with culture, systems and values. Foreigners should not only see our materialistic growth but also incremental human development. Hong Kong is losing its charm among tourists due to residents' behaviour in general.

Our souls should depict *'Attithi Devo Bhava'* and we should stand up alone without the force of law. Only individuals can do, Governments cannot do it