





## Message from the Consul General

I am honoured to extend on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of India, warm wishes to the people of the Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions of the People | s Republic of China and to the members of the Indian community in Hong Kong on the 60th Anniversary of India s Republic Day.

A few months ago, the people of India exercised their rights as members of a republic in what many have called the largest democratic event. The participation and results showed that the people are well aware of their duties and wishes. At the same time, debate also continues on certain aspects of the union which strengthen our unity and highlight the fact of

As the international community recovers from the financial difficulties of the recent past, it is heartening to note that the Indian economy has shown signs of returning to the rate of growth economists consider as a requirement for the country to be moving forward. It is widely accepted that a rate of growth of 8 -9 percent is imperative for India in order to be adding new jobs and for creation of new economic infrastructure. The third quarter reported a GDP growth of 7.9 percent, and it is expected that the year will see a growth of about 7.6 percent. This

shows the resilience of the Indian economy and proves the belief that India will be among the leading countries in the revival of the international economy in the coming years.

India has also been co-operating on the issue of climate change both bilaterally and multilaterally. It took an active part in the negotiation of the Copenhagen Accord in December 2009 which reaffirmed the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The Copenhagen Accord will undoubtedly serve as a significant input into the post-Copenhagen negotiating process leading up to CoP-16. India realises the need to uphold the multilateral process, the principle of consensus, even while we take forward the key elements of the Accord into the ongoing UNFCCC negotiations. At the same time, irrespective of the outcome of the negotiations, India has adopted a voluntary domestic target of reducing the energy intensity of its GDP growth by 20-25% by 2020 in comparison to the level achieved in 2005. This reflects India's readiness to address the issue of climate change with commitment and focus, even as it seeks to meet the challenges of economic and social development and poverty eradication. Traditional Indian culture places a high value on sustainability,

looking at nature not as a force to be conquered or exploited, but as a source of nurture.

This year will mark the 60th anniversary of India's diplomatic relations with China. The two countries will mark the occasion by hosting cultural events in each others' countries. We plan to bring some of them to Hong Kong also. One such event is to be held on the 31st January at the Tsim Sha Tsui Community Hall where two traditional forms of Indian dance will be performed simultaneously. Another major dance drama is planned for April. Such occasions, we hope, will help strengthen the growing interest of Hong Kong people in

Once again, I take this opportunity to convey our best wishes to the members of the Indian community in particular, and to the people of the Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative

Regions of China.

(L.D. Ralte) January 2010

►Mr.L.D. Ralte Consul General of India Hong Kong SAR, China

traditional and modern Indian cultures.







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