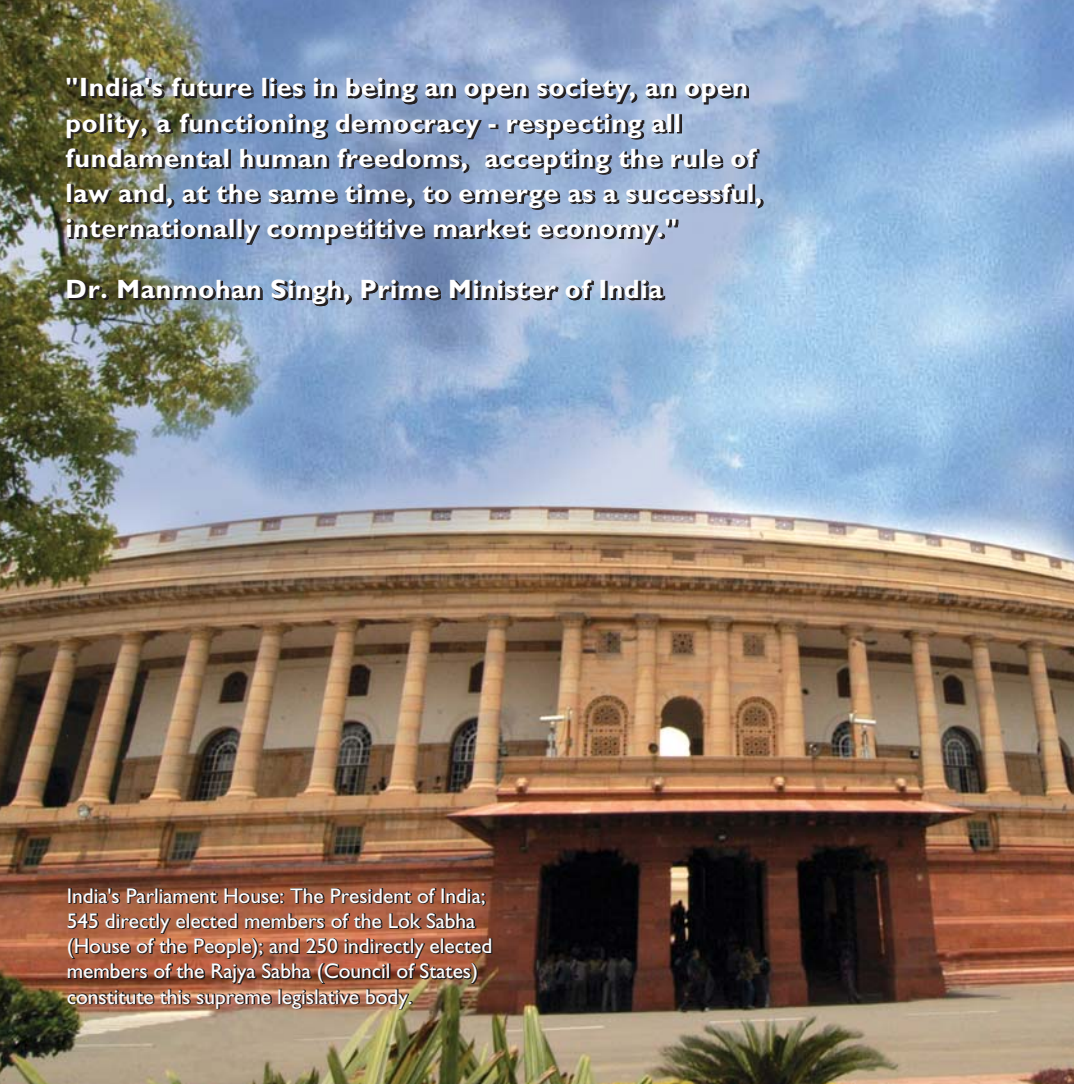


"India's future lies in being an open society, an open polity, a functioning democracy - respecting all fundamental human freedoms, accepting the rule of law and, at the same time, to emerge as a successful, internationally competitive market economy."

Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India

India's Parliament House: The President of India; 545 directly elected members of the Lok Sabha (House of the People); and 250 indirectly elected members of the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) constitute this supreme legislative body.



VIBRANT DEMOCRACY



India today has the proud distinction of being the world's largest and fastest growing free market democracy. A remarkable Constitution, well-developed democratic institutions and true participation by the people in social governance are the hallmarks of this democracy.

Faith in the democratic process is nurtured as well as protected by an independent judiciary, an alert and free media and active non-governmental organisations.

Over 5000 dailies, 16000 weeklies and 6000 fortnightlies comprise India's fiercely independent press.

The symbols of a vibrant democracy are everywhere.

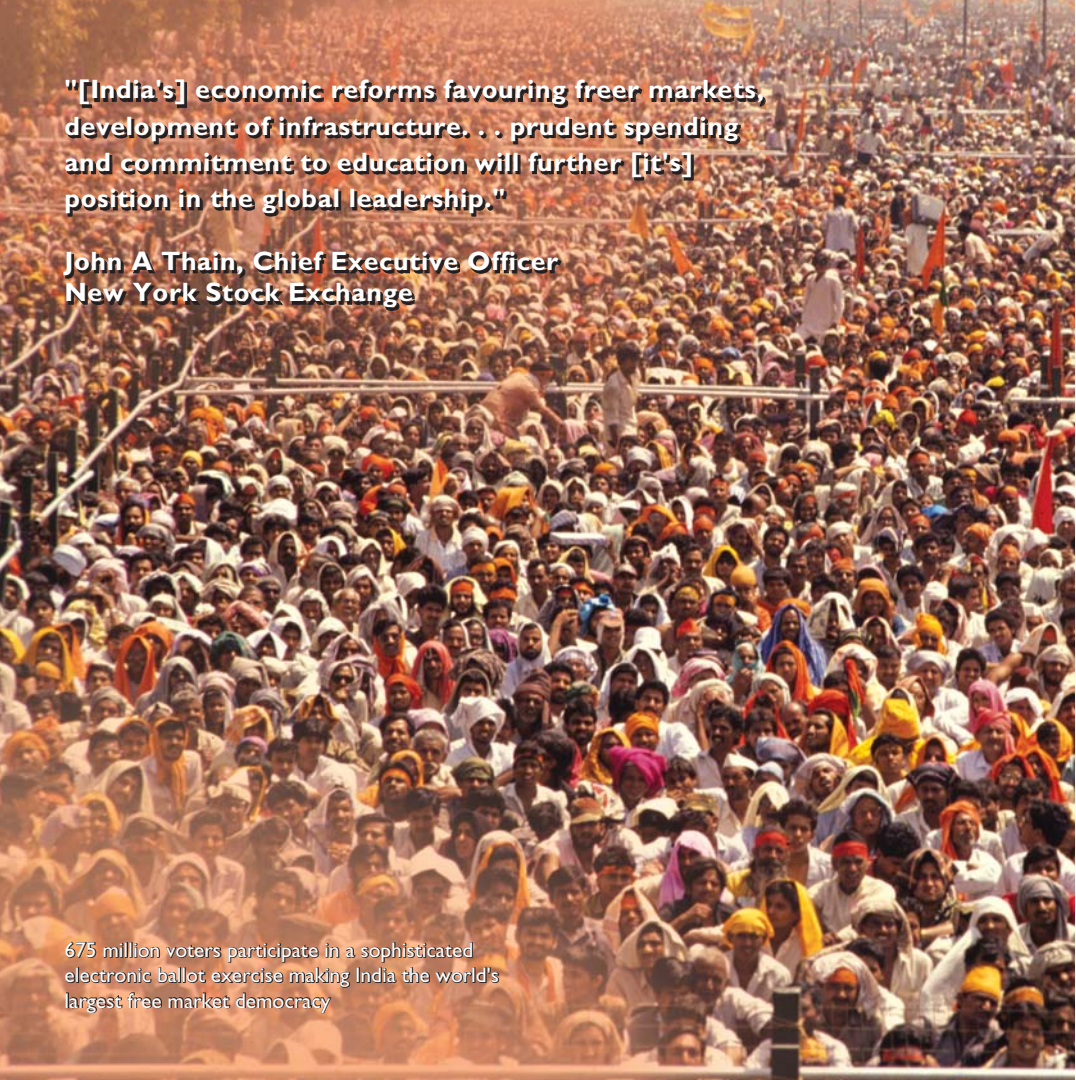
What also makes India a vibrant democracy is the assimilative nature of its society. Age-old traditions have dovetailed with the modern concept of democracy. Outsiders are welcomed, cultural influences seen as enriching; and proactive inclusiveness further strengthens democratic moorings in modern India.

A melting pot of cultures, India is home to people of all major faiths of the world. Secularism is not only a way of life - it is a philosophy embedded in India's history. Diversity abounds - in geography as well as in culture. In this land of mighty mountains and spectacular deserts washed by the waters of three oceans, over a billion people live together - people, who speak 18 major languages, worship different Gods and celebrate different festivals.

They also celebrate unity and their unique Indianness.

India has held freely contested elections at regular intervals since independence.



A large crowd of people, many wearing white and yellow head coverings, gathered for an event. The crowd is dense and fills the frame, with some individuals in the foreground looking towards the camera. The background shows a vast expanse of people, suggesting a large-scale gathering or election process.

"[India's] economic reforms favouring freer markets, development of infrastructure. . . prudent spending and commitment to education will further [it's] position in the global leadership."

**John A Thain, Chief Executive Officer
New York Stock Exchange**

675 million voters participate in a sophisticated electronic ballot exercise making India the world's largest free market democracy



The scale of the electoral process is immense: 675 million voters requiring 4.5 million election officials. **Electronic Voting Machines** ensure a **paperless election** saving 8,000 tonnes of paper and several thousand trees.

In January 2006, 22 Indian e-governance projects were declared winners of the Oracle Excellence in e-Governance awards.

- These included the Government of Andhra Pradesh's rural "e-Seva" (e-service) project, "e-Panchayat" (e-village council) and the Land Record Management Information System (LR-MIS).
- IT in Judiciary, the Customs Department, the Passport Division and the Computer-aided Administration of the Registration Department (CARD) were among the other award-winners.

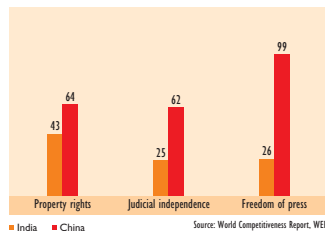
Currently, Oracle and the Government of India are engaged in 50 joint projects in the e-governance sphere.

Democracy in India is a source of competitive advantage.

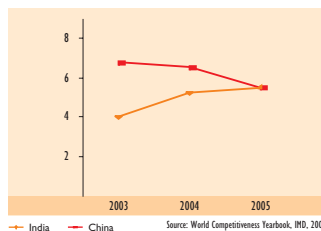
India's growth model is termed as more sustainable than the East Asian one as it helps develop more efficient corporates, healthier banks, more robust service industries and a larger consumption base.

Dan Fineman concluded in the Far Eastern Economic Review in April 2004, "While China has won the sprint, India is training for the marathon."

Democracy : India's Competitive Advantage (Rank out of 102 countries)



Ease of doing business in a democratic environment



"Asia should not be painted with one brush; India has separated itself from the pack; it is not unduly dependent on external demand, and it has an increasingly powerful IT-enabled, services-led growth dynamic."

Stephen Roach, Chief Global Economist
& Managing Director, Morgan Stanley



Gurgaon: A thriving satellite town on the outskirts of Delhi is an apt symbol of India's increasing economic affluence driven by its middle class