

Indian expertise at work in Japan

While we Indians may feel happy about it, at the same time we can also feel irritated about it. Happy because outside India, the general image of Indians is that of disciplined, hard-working and law-abiding people. And being irritated is also natural because the perception is exactly the opposite within our own country. The first reaction of all Indians I came across in the course of my recent trip to Japan was "why are we like this?"

There is an impressive building of Shinsei Bank in the Chiyoda-ku area of Tokyo. Before being declared bankrupt five years ago, this bank was counted among the biggest banks of Japan. When the bank became bankrupt, a big blow was felt among the entire banking sector all over the world. But five years later, this bank is again being ranked among the topmost banks of Japan, and the Japanese people are giving the credit for this transformation to India. Because it is an Indian team that is responsible for this amazing recovery. Mr. Dhananjay Dwivedi, a former resident of Gwalior in India, is the Senior Marketing Executive Officer of this bank. Assisting him is a team of young Planning Managers consisting of Indians like Abhay, Sachin, Rahul, Shikha and Swati. Someone among them is from Haridwar, someone from Mumbai, someone from Delhi, or someone from a very ordinary family of Haryana. But within three years of its being declared bank rupt, this young team has turned it around into a profit-making bank. Today, books and novels are being written about this extraordinary turnaround story. Shinsei Bank is not the only example. The brains behind the automatic ticket dispensing system of the Japanese Bullet train, which is renowned the world over for its unmatched engineering and technology, are also those of Indians.

Until about three years ago, the Indian population in Japan numbered around 5000. But in the last three years, there has been a 300 percent growth every year in this figure. The basic reason behind this is the perceived image of Indians in Japan. The Japanese people do not believe in anyone easily. Owing to this, their visa rules and citizenship conditions are also very stringent. However, the Japanese are ready to trust Indians with their eyes closed.

Though there is no match for Japanese engineering skills, the Indians are creating new milestones in the field of Information Technology. Not just in Tokyo, but also in the industrial towns of Nagoya, Yokohama and Kobe, there are several examples of Indian achievements. The President of Japan Business Services, Mr. Jagmohan Chandrani, told me that when he hears Indians being praised outside India, then he certainly feels very proud about it. But whenever he happens to visit India once or twice a year, he feels greatly disheartened. His question was also the same: "why are we like this?" Mr. Chandrani feels that India has all that is required in order to become a developed nation, except for discipline and work culture. These are things that we need to learn from the Japanese people. Even though the Japanese may not chew gutka (flavored tobacco) or paan (betel leaves), they are heavy smokers of cigarettes. Despite this, you will never find even one stub of cigarette or cigarette-ash anywhere except in the dustbin. Every smoker in Japan has a personal ashtray in his pocket, into which he deposits the cigarette-ash and half-burnt cigarette butts. This is not something that they do out of fear for any law, but because they themselves feel inspired to maintain cleanliness around them.

(Excerpts from the Japan travelogue of Mr. Nirmal Pathak, Dainik Jagran)

Sources: Japan Calling

Vide Newsletter No.14. <http://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/>