

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Sibi George
at “Planned Urbanization : India-Japan Collaboration”
at Embassy of India, Tokyo, 19 March 2024**

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Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,

A very Good evening to you all !!

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this Seminar **Planned Urbanization : India-Japan Collaboration** focused on strengthening further collaboration between India and Japan in the field of urban development.

Friends,

India is the second-largest urban system in the world and 11% of the total global urban population lives in Indian cities. By 2050, India is projected to add 416 million urban dwellers to the world's urban population and will be home to about 58% of the total global population.

India has undertaken the world's largest planned urbanization programme and various transformative policies and interventions have resulted in Indian cities poised to achieve India's economic and sustainable growth targets.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs of India has launched several initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart Cities Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission and Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), which collectively seek to foster a better quality of life for India's urban citizens through improving urban governance, city planning and availability and quality of urban infrastructure.

Friends,

India and Japan share a long-standing history rooted in spiritual affinity and robust cultural and civilizational connections. Over the past two decades, India-Japan relations have transformed from being a government-to-government relationship into a robust economic and strategic partnership. Today, India and Japan share a Special Strategic and Global Partnership built upon shared values, mutual respect, and a collective vision for a future characterized by peace and prosperity.

Over the years, our collaborations have thrived across various sectors, including infrastructure, manufacturing, technology, and innovation. Presently, our relationship spans a diverse array of areas

encompassing trade and investment, industrial development, infrastructure, rail, metros, digital initiatives, energy, human resources, critical and emerging technology, climate change, health, space, semiconductors, defense and security as well as urban development.

Friends,

India and Japan have already been collaborating under Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development signed between Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan in March 2022. The 14th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Sustainable Urban Development, co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and Vice Minister for Engineering Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Government of Japan took place in New Delhi in December 2023 where both sides agreed to collaborate in sharing experience in flood management, expertise in building design to face high magnitude earthquakes; and exchange knowledge and best practices in urban planning, smart cities, etc.

Through strategic partnerships, knowledge exchange, and joint ventures, India and Japan can leverage each other's strengths to address common challenges such as urban congestion, environmental degradation, and infrastructure development. By joining hands, we can amplify our efforts and create cities that are not only sustainable and resilient but also vibrant and inclusive, laying the foundation for a brighter future for generations to come

Friends,

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the participants for their presence in today's seminar, and am hopeful that this Seminar will yield significant opportunities for strengthening further collaborations between India and Japan in the field of urban development.

Thank you.

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