Embassy of India Tokyo ***

<u>Remarks by Ambassador of India to Japan Sibi George at the Event</u> <u>'India's G20 Presidency: Important Developments and Initiatives',</u> <u>27 March 2023</u>

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good afternoon!

I am delighted to speak to you at today's event aimed at showcasing the developments taking place under India's G20 Presidency. At the Embassy, each month we share important developments on India's G20 Presidency and highlight different aspects of it. I welcome each one of you for joining us.

Friends,

India's G 20 Presidency is focused on promoting global cooperation and resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges. Under the theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' for our Presidency, we have endeavored to promote global cooperation on inclusive and resilient growth, green development, technological infrastructure, digital transformation and public reformed multilateralism and other priorities that are critical for the sustainable development of our global community. India sees its G20 presidency as a catalyst for global transformation, with a focus on addressing challenges such as food and energy security, climate action, global health architecture, counter terrorism.

Friends,

Agenda for India's Presidency has been shaped in consultation not only with our G20 partners, but also with over 125 countries in the Global South. India's G20 Presidency has tried to give a voice to the Global South and ensure that we achieve concrete objectives for the benefit of all. In his address at the Global South Summit that India hosted in January, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India said that "together the Global South can produce new and creative ideas. These ideas can form the basis of our Voice in the G-20 and other forums." He spoke about a global agenda of 'Respond, Recognize, Respect and Reform': (i) Respond to the priorities of the Global South by framing an inclusive and balanced international agenda; (ii) Recognize that the principle of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities' applies to all global challenges. (iii) Respect sovereignty of all nations, rule of law and peaceful resolution of differences and disputes; and (iv) Reform international institutions, including the United Nations, to make them more relevant.

Friends,

Earlier this month, Prime Minister of Japan HE Fumio Kishida visited India, where he extended an invitation to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to attend the G7 Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima. In his statement to the press, Prime Minister Modi said, "This year India is chairing the G20, and Japan is chairing the G7. And therefore, this is the perfect opportunity to work together on our respective priorities and interests. Today, I explained in detail to Prime Minister Kishida about the priorities of India's G20 Presidency. Giving voice to the priorities of Global South is an important pillar of our G20 Presidency. We have taken this initiative because we are a culture that believes in "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", and in taking everyone along."

Friends,

The G20 Presidency has also provided us an opportunity to showcase India's vibrancy and diversity. We are hosting over 200 G20related meetings in different places in India and showcasing India's achievements in fields ranging from economic progress and science & technology to space and innovation. During the visit of Prime Minister, HE Fumio Kishida to India, this year has been declared as India – Japan Year of Tourism, with the theme Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji. I invite you all to visit India this year.

I once again thank you for joining us today. Please do not forget to enjoy the beautiful cherry blossom view from the Embassy balcony.

Thank you.
