

Embassy of India

Tokyo

Remarks by Mr Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan at 'Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave', 29 May 2023, Tokyo

- **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr M K Stalin**
- **Hon'ble Industries Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr T.R.B Rajaa**
- **Additional Chief Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, Mr S Krishnan**
- **Chairman of JETRO, Mr Norihiko Ishiguro**
- **Members of the delegation from Tamil Nadu**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

Good morning.

I am delighted to speak at this event. At the outset, I would like to welcome the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and his delegation. This occasion underscores our mutual commitment to promoting economic partnership and enhancing the enduring bond between India and Japan. I also thank JETRO for its support to today's event.

2. As we mark the completion of 70 years of diplomatic relations between India and Japan, our partnership has evolved from strength to strength. It has grown into a 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership', a testament to the trust and respect that exists between our nations. The arrival of the Tamil Nadu delegation here today enriches our dialogues and reinforces our shared objectives.

3. India and Japan are bound not just by shared economic and strategic interests, but also by strong cultural ties, a commitment to democratic values, and a mutual respect that

transcends the ordinary. Our relationship has flourished over the past few years, expanding across a multitude of domains, from trade and investment, infrastructure, and digital, to energy, human resources, and defense. India and Japan have frequent high level exchanges indicating the emphasis the two countries place on strengthening their relations. In just last three months, our Prime Ministers have met on two different occasions, including on the sidelines of the Hiroshima G7 Summit earlier this month. These meetings have invigorated our relationship and provided a fresh impetus to our cooperation.

4. Economic cooperation forms a significant aspect of the India-Japan relationship. Japan's contribution to India's development journey has been invaluable, and as one of the largest investors in India, its role is crucial. The ambitious investment target of five trillion yen from Japan to India set by the Prime Ministers of India and Japan underlines our mutual commitment to this partnership.

Friends,

5. The focus of today's event is on exploring investment opportunities in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu, and indeed all of India, stand ready to welcome investments like never before. Through structural reforms aimed at enhancing economic openness, promoting good governance, and increasing global competitiveness, India is emerging as a significant player on the world stage. Initiatives such as the Production Linked Incentive schemes are attracting investments in key sectors of the Indian economy, and substantial public investments are improving our physical and social infrastructure.

6. We have transformed the business landscape by introducing digital processes and single point interfaces, making business smarter and more efficient. Our vibrant start-up

ecosystem, particularly in the tech domain, is one of the largest in the world.

7. Tamil Nadu - one of the largest economies among Indian states – represents the potential that India holds. As a major industrial hub and an investor-friendly state, Tamil Nadu has a thriving economic relationship with Japan. With three Japan Industrial Townships and various infrastructure projects supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Tamil Nadu is a good model of collaboration between India and Japan.

8. In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the importance we place on our relationship with Japan. We look forward to further strengthening our ties, and to seeing Japanese businesses thrive in India, including in Tamil Nadu. As we delve into the seminar and other engagements today, I am confident that we will uncover even more opportunities for trade and investment. Let us continue to build on our shared successes, forging a path of mutual growth and prosperity.

Thank you for your attention, and I wish you a fruitful event.
