

Embassy of India
Tokyo

**Opening Remarks for Ambassador Sibi George on the occasion of
Swagatam India – A seminar to promote Indian tourism
Friday, December 16, 2022**

Dear distinguished guests,

Friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon and Konnichiwa!

- On behalf of the Embassy of India in Tokyo, I am delighted to welcome you to this seminar on the promotion of India as a tourism destination.
- Today's event comes at an opportune moment, as we mark the 70 years of the establishment of the India-Japan diplomatic relationship. In addition, we are also celebrating the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- In recent years, India has seen a surge in tourist numbers, with visitors from all over the world, including Japan, coming to experience our rich culture and history, stunning landscapes, and world-class hospitality.
- Given the importance placed by the current administration, under Prime Minister Modi, on Tourism, from 15th March 2022 onwards, India has started issuing tourist visas and the e-visa services for international travellers have been resumed. For our Japanese friends, we also have visa on arrival facility.
- As India has re-opened its international borders from the 27th of March 2022 onwards, we are happy to welcome you back to Incredible India! Now anyone can travel to India without further tests if they are fully vaccinated and carry the vaccination certificate.
- In addition to the many attractions and experiences that India has to offer, we are also taking steps to ensure the safety and well-being of our

visitors. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have implemented stringent health and safety measures to protect both tourists and locals alike.

- Till date, India has administered around 2.2 billion doses of vaccination across the country. Therefore, as a traveller, you can feel safe when you travel to India. At present, due to an extensive vaccine drive, India's Covid cases remain under control with less than 150 new cases. As India has returned back to normalcy, domestic and international tourism is booming again as travellers feel safe.
- Friends, India is a land of incredible beauty and diversity, with a rich cultural heritage and a vibrant modern society. From the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas to the sun-drenched beaches of Goa, from our vibrant cities and picturesque countryside, to our rich cultural heritage and world-class hospitality, apart from the Buddhist sites and golden triangle, which are already popular among the Japanese guests, India has something to offer for every traveler.
- Today, we are delighted to have the opportunity to share with you some of the many reasons why India is an ideal destination for travelers.
- We are confident that, with these efforts and the support of our partners in the tourism industry, India will continue to be a top destination for travelers from around the world. We look forward to welcoming you to our beautiful country and sharing with you the many wonders that India has to offer.
- We hope that this seminar will inspire you to visit India and experience all that our beautiful country has to offer. Thank you for joining us today, and we look forward to a lively and informative discussion.
