

**Embassy of India
Tokyo**

**Remarks by Ambassador Sibi George on the 120th
Anniversary of Japan India Association (JIA)
Jan 25, 2023**

His Excellency Mr. Fumio Kishida,

His Excellency Mr. Hiroyuki HOSODA,

His Excellency Mr. Yoshiro MORI,

His Excellency Mr. Yoshihide SUGA, Chairman, JIA

His Excellency Ambassador SAIKI,

Respected Members of the Diet & JIPFL,

Distinguished Members of the Japan India Association,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today on the historic occasion when the Japan India Association celebrates two key milestones – 120th Anniversary of its foundation and His Excellency Mr. Yoshihide Suga formally assuming the Chair.

On behalf of the leadership and 1.4 billion people of India, I extend my heartiest congratulations to H.E. Mr. Suga and JIA.

As I come back to Japan after twenty years, I see a complete transformation in our bilateral relationship from

mostly a G to G relationship into a B to B relationship and then to our Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

I am happy to note that JIA under the able leadership of Their Excellencies - Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Mr. Yoshihide Suga, and Late Mr. Shinzo Abe, who served as JIA Chairpersons, played crucial role in the transformation of our relationship.

India - Japan partnership within the bilateral and plurilateral framework like the QUAD is key to stability and freedom in Indo-Pacific which faces several challenges today. The prophetic words 'confluence of two seas' by Late Prime Minister Abe continue to resonate when we work towards a free, open and rule based Indo-Pacific.

Today, our Special Strategic and Global partnership continues to progress steadily under the leadership of His Excellency Prime Minister Kishida and Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi.

This year, as India and Japan serve as the Chair of G20 and G7 respectively, I look forward to the continued support of JIA to realize the full potential of our Partnership. For the Embassy, JIA is the most reliable partner in its outreach activities and in its people to people engagement in Japan.

I conclude by inviting you all to join me at the Republic Day celebrations of India tomorrow, when India celebrates 75 years of its democracy and freedom.

Thank you.
