

Embassy of India
Tokyo

Inaugural Address by Ambassador of India to Japan Mr. Sibi George at the Seminar on “Doing Business Successfully in India” at Embassy of India, Tokyo (08 June 2023)

Hon'ble Chairman of Japan India Association and Former Prime Minister His Excellency Yoshihide Suga,

Ambassador His Excellency Akitaka Saiki, President, Japan India Association

Hon'ble Vice Minister Mr Hirohide Hirai, Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry

Mr Makoto Hayashi, Deputy Assistant Minister, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Distinguished panelists, Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning.

I would like to begin by extending a very warm welcome to Hon'ble Chairman of Japan-India Association and Former Prime Minister His Excellency Yoshihide Suga. Excellency, your presence today is reflective of the importance that you attach personally to India – Japan relations. We thank you for all your support and personal guidance over the years to build our relationship into Special Strategic and Global Partnership. I also thank Japan India Association and Keidanren for the initiative in organizing this business event today. I also thank METI and MoFA for joining us today. I welcome all our distinguished guests, our distinguished panelists and each one you present here today.

2. In the last two decades our relationship has evolved from what significantly was a G to G relationship into economic and strategic partnership. Today, India and Japan are indispensable partners in peace, stability, security and prosperity in Indo-Pacific and beyond. Our bilateral partnership and plurilateral engagement like the QUAD is contributing to the stability and prosperity in the region.

3. Over the years our business partnership has flourished in sectors such as infrastructure, manufacturing, technology, and innovation. Today, our relationship covers a wide range of areas, trade and investment, industrial devel-

opment, infrastructure, rail, metros, digital, energy, human resources, critical and emerging technology, climate change, health security, space, semiconductors, and defense and security. This has been made possible by the sustained focus and guidance provided by the leadership at the highest level in both the countries. I recall the contributions of former Prime Minister Abe in building our partnership. I recall the visit of Prime Minister Kishida to India in March and Prime Minister Modi's visit to Hiroshima in May when both leaders agreed to further reinforce of Special Strategic and Global partnership.

Dear Friends,

4. The fact remains that we are far from realizing the huge potential that exists in our business engagement. India as the largest populated country in the world, 1.4 billion people, 1/6th of the population of the world, fastest growing large economy in the world, India was growing over 7% before the Covid 19 pandemic, India continues to grow over 7% after the Covid 19 pandemic. India is witnessing a remarkable transformation, driven by the government's ambitious reforms, technological advancements, and the entrepreneurial spirit of our people. Our government remains steadfast in its efforts to further streamline policies, reduce regulatory hurdles, and create a business-friendly ecosystem that encourages innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment. Japan needs to look at India as a manufacturing hub to be a partner in Make in India, Make for the world.

5. Today we have 1500 Japanese companies in India, 1500 success stories. We need to tell these success stories to other Japanese companies here, our target is to have 15,000 Japanese companies to be partners in India's growth story. We need to utilize the complementarities, synergize our resources, and establish a resilient and reliable supply chain to overcome single dependencies and achieve economic security.

6. I am happy to state that today in Japan one could see an overwhelming appreciation for India's economic growth story. Each one of Japanese friends who attended the G 20 meetings in India, whether it is G to G or B to B, they all returned with a great appreciation of India's growth story and its cultural diversity. In this year when we celebrate India - Japan Year of Tourism with the theme 'Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji', I invite you all to visit India see for yourself India's growth story and its rich cultural diversity. I am confident

that the visit of the business delegation led by His Excellency Yoshihide Suga will further contribute in building our business partnership.

7. I extend my gratitude to each and every one of you for your presence here today. I wish you fruitful discussions, valuable insights, and successful business endeavors in India.

Thank you.
