

**Embassy of India  
Tokyo**

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**Inaugural Address by Ambassador Sibi George at the  
Seminar on Business Opportunities in India, Chiba  
August 25, 2023**

Mr. Akira Mikami, Executive Director for Regional Revitalization, Policy and Planning Deptt.,

Mr. Naoaki Hashimoto, Director-General of the Economy and Agriculture Bureau

Mr. Masashi Kono, Director of Southweast Asia, Research & Analysis Deptt., JETRO

Mr. Shigeo Matsutomi, Senior Vice-President, JITCO

Mr. Kazunori Okuizumi, Chief Director, JETRO

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Good Afternoon

In the last two decades our relationship has evolved from what significantly was a G2G 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.

2. 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 development, 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 Mori, late 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,

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. I am happy to state that today in Japan one could see

an overwhelming appreciation for India's growth story. 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.

6. Another area that I wanted to highlight is the Skill development and movement of skilled workers from India to Japan. It is one of most promising areas where complementarities between Indian and Japanese economies can be taken advantage of. Japanese economy requires foreign skilled workers due to its aging population. On the other hand, India has a huge demographic dividend. The Government of India has been implementing "Skill India" programme to enlarge the pool of skilled human resources, which can be utilized to meet the needs of Japanese industry. Industry in Chiba can look at hiring Indian workers for meeting their human resources related requirements.

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.

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