

**Embassy of India
Tokyo

**Ambassador's Remarks at the Japan India Parliamentary
Friendship League Event on April 12, 2023**

Hon'ble Chairman of JIPFL Your Excellency Mr. Hosoda, Hon'ble New
Chairman Mr. Nishimura,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today to attend this important event of
handing over the Chair of JIPFL from Hon'ble Speaker His Excellency
Mr. Hosoda to Hon'ble Minister His Excellency Mr. Nishimura.

As this is the first meeting of JIPFL that I attend, I would like to
begin by recalling the contributions of former Prime Minister Shinzo
Abe and also by paying homage to him.

I extend my thanks to His Excellency Mr. Hosoda for leading JIPFL
at a very crucial time and for his contributions in building our bilateral
relationship. Despite his most busy schedule as the Speaker of the
House of Representatives, he always found time to lead JIPFL from the
front. I recall the several meetings that I had the honor to attend
including a high level dinner meeting of Indian and Japanese
Universities that Your Excellency hosted earlier this year. Your
Excellency, I thank you for your dynamic leadership and request your
continued guidance and support in strengthening our Special Strategic
and Global Partnership. I also thank other members of the Executive
Committee of the JIPFL for their support.

I congratulate His Excellency Mr. Nishimura for being selected as the new Chairman of JIPFL. I am confident that in coming weeks and months, JIPFL will under the dynamic leadership of His Excellency Nishimura will continue to contribute in further strengthening our partnership. We in the Embassy look forward to working closely with JIPFL. It is my honour to invite the Hon'ble Members of JIPFL for an India evening at India House at a mutually convenient date and time.

Excellencies, Dear Friends,

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. I have been in Japan for a little over five months now. I am delighted to see the enthusiasm with which all stakeholders in our relationship are contributing to build our partnership. As we overcome the Covid 19 restrictions, what we are witnessing is a real momentum in our relationship. There has been a series of high-level visits and engagement at the political, official and strategic levels and we also see a great momentum in business and people to people connect. More Japanese companies, particularly small and medium companies are moving towards India in large numbers.

The visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister Kishida to India in March this year has further reinforced our Special Strategic and Global Partnership, established between Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Abe in 2014. This visit was of special significance in our relationship, as India is chairing the G20, and Japan is chairing the G7. This is the perfect opportunity for both countries to work together on our respective priorities and interests. Giving voice to the priorities of Global South is an important pillar of our G20 Presidency. We look forward to the visit of Prime Minister to Hiroshima in May this year.

We look forward to more engagement between our parliamentarians in further deepening our partnership. We look forward to welcoming a Parliamentary Delegation from Japan to visit India at the earliest. During the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister Kishida to India, 2023 was declared as the India - Japan Year of Tourism with the theme 'Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji'. I invite you all to visit India this year and see for yourself the economic transformation that has taken place in India, in which Japan is a major partner. It is important that every member of JIPFL visits India at least once this year. Once again I wish the new leadership of JIPFL a very successful and fruitful year ahead.

Thank you.
