

Remarks by Ambassador of India to Japan H.E. Shri Sibi George at the Tripartite Agreement on the Bio-Gas Project in India, Sept 6, 2023

Shri Shankar Chowdhary, Speaker Gujarat State Assembly
Mr. Toshihiro Suzuki, President, Suzuki Motor Corporation
Dr Meenesh C Shaw, Chairman and Managing Director, NDDB
Other dignitaries from India and Japan, Ladies and gentlemen!!

I welcome each one of you to our Embassy on this important occasion when we sign the tripartite agreement on the Bio-Gas project in India involving some of the major players in India-Japan relations. I congratulate Banas Dairy, NDDB and Suzuki Motor Corporation their initiative.

I would like to begin by referring to two great events that we celebrate this week. First the Chandrayaan, India's successful launch of Moon Mission. The celebrations all across India and the world is still continuing. I recall the congratulatory message by Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan His Excellency Fumio Kishida addressed to our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulating India on this successful Moon Mission. Immediately after the successful Chandrayaan Mission, ISRO launched Aditya L1, the first space based Indian mission to study the Sun. The spacecraft shall be placed about 1.5 million km from the Earth. This will provide a greater advantage of observing the solar activities and its effect on space weather in real time. It is another proud movement for all Indians and all its friends abroad. Let's join hands to congratulate ISRO and our scientists on these remarkable achievements.

Dear Friends,

This week India is hosting the G 20 Summit in New Delhi. As we all are aware, India assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022 at a challenging time, when the world is looking at the G20 with hope. The G20 brings together the 20 major economies of the world. They represent 85% of the global GDP, 75% of international trade and two-thirds of the world's population. So, this is a gathering of extraordinary importance. And one that in many ways, unparalleled in our history. We have organized over 220 meetings at various other levels, from Ministers and officials to domain experts, civil society and of course, the youth.

We look forward to a successful G 20 Summit this week. This would indeed be an important milestone in India's journey to a developed country in this Amrit Kaal. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will host the Heads of G 20 countries and special invitee countries. We look forward to welcoming Prime Minister His Excellency Fumio Kishida in New Delhi. I am happy to mention that this is an occasion we celebrate our civilizational ethos of Vasudaiva Kutumbakam, One World, One Family, One Future.

Dear Friends,

I am so happy to welcome Shri Shankar Chowdhary, Hon'ble Speaker of Gujarat State Assembly. Gujarat is a major partner in our engagement with Japan. Many in Japan recall the visits of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who had earlier engaged with Japan in his capacity as Chief Minister of Gujarat and since 2014 as the Prime Minister of India. Today we have a Special Strategic and Global Partnership entered into between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and former Prime Minister Abe. This partnership is now reinforced by Prime Minister Modi

and Prime Minister Kishida. This year alone we had two summit meetings, the next summit will be held in New Delhi at the G 20 meeting.

Many Japanese consider the Vibrant Gujarat investors meet as a turning point in India – Japan business engagement. Vibrant Gujarat continues to be a major attraction for our Japanese friends. No day in India -Japan relations goes without thinking about Gujarat in all aspects of business partnership spanning from automobile to emerging and critical technology including in semiconductor sectors. I am confident that today's signing will help launch a successful project in the most important area of new and renewable energy sector.

I am happy to receive Mr. Toshihiro Suzuki, President, Suzuki Motor Corporation and his team again at the Embassy. I recall my visit last month to the Suzuki Headquarters in Hamamatsu. How Suzuki was a major player in India's transformational journey, by bringing in an automobile revolution.

I was so happy to learn about the plans that Suzuki has for further expansion in India. I am confident that Suzuki will continue to play a major role as a partner in India's journey in Amrit Kaal, India@2047, to become a developed country.

India consumes presently 5 million barrels of oil a day. We expect the 5 million barrels we consume a day to go up to 7 or 8 million barrels a day. India is now a three trillion-dollar economy, it will become five trillion in next couple of years and in 2030 when it becomes a ten trillion-dollar economy the daily consumption is expected to go very high. Our clean energy partnership with Japan focuses on clean energy and green technologies which is expected to include increase collaboration in electric vehicles, batteries, green hydrogen/ammonia etc. We have launched Japan-India Clean Energy Partnership; Japan-India Energy

Dialogue, Japan-India Environmental Policy Dialogue. It is in this context that today's agreement is significant and it would be a major step towards the GOBARdhan program that Government of India launched recently.

GOBARdhan program is to generate wealth and energy by converting cattle dung, agri residue and other organic waste into Biogas, CBG and bio fertilizers. This initiative comprises the entire gamut of schemes, programmes, policies promoting the conversion of organic waste like cattle dung, agri-residue etc. to biogas/CBG/Bio CNG. GOBARdhan is being implemented in partnership with State Governments and Private Sector including entrepreneurs, societies etc.

GOBARdhan initiative is envisioned to contribute significantly towards reaching India's climate action goals particularly achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. With the highest livestock population in the world, India produces vast amounts of animal waste. CBG/Biogas sector can play a crucial role in India's energy transition, ensuring energy security and affordability, enhancing entrepreneurship, providing rural employment, and boosting local economies. Transitioning to CBG/Biogas can contribute to job creation for semi-skilled and skilled labor in multiple areas viz. waste collection, operations, construction etc. It will benefit rural people in general and women in particular from the use of clean fuel, improved cleanliness in villages and consequent improvement in health outcomes (through decreased incidence of vector borne and respiratory diseases). Initiative will also augment nation's efforts toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) viz. SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable & Clean energy, SDG 13: Climate Action; amongst others. Further, the initiative contributes significantly towards circular economy, and Govt. of India's Mission LiFE.

I once again congratulate and thank Banas Dairy, NDDB and Suzuki Motor Corporation their initiative.

Thank you,
