

Embassy of India

Tokyo

**Remarks by Ambassador Sibi George at the meeting with
Maharashtra Assembly Members - April 12, 2023**

Shri Rahul Suresh Narwekar, Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly

Dr. Neelam Gorhe, Hon Deputy Chairperson, Maharashtra Legislative Council

Shri Narhari Zirawal, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly

Respected members of legislative assembly and council,
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and privilege to welcome the esteemed members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Council at our Embassy today.

2. India and Japan share a long-standing friendship that is deeply rooted in history, culture, and mutual respect. Over the years, our two nations have fostered strong ties of friendship, cooperation, and partnership in various fields, including trade, investment, technology, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. Maharashtra, being one of the most progressive and economically vibrant states in India, has played a pivotal role in enhancing this bilateral relationship.

3. The state of Maharashtra has been at the forefront of India's economic growth and development, with Mumbai, its capital, serving as the financial hub of India. Maharashtra has also been a significant contributor to India's industrial and manufacturing sectors, with key industries such as automotive, aerospace, information technology, and textiles, among others, flourishing in

the state. The sister state relationship between Maharashtra and Wakayama has fostered meaningful exchanges in various fields, including trade, investment, tourism, culture, and people-to-people interactions. The state of Wakayama, known for its rich cultural heritage, scenic beauty, and economic prowess, has been a key partner for Maharashtra in Japan.

4. I am pleased to highlight that Maharashtra and Japan have enjoyed fruitful economic and trade relations. Japanese companies have been significant investors in Maharashtra, contributing to the state's economic growth and generating employment opportunities for its people. Similarly, Maharashtra has been an attractive investment destination for Japanese companies looking to expand their business in India. Our economic and trade ties have been further strengthened with initiatives such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project, which have opened new avenues for cooperation and investment between Maharashtra and Japan.

5. Friends, our cultural exchanges have flourished, with both Maharashtra and Japan sharing a deep appreciation for each other's culture, art, and traditions. Festivals such as Diwali, Navratri, and Ganesh Chaturthi celebrated in Maharashtra have gained popularity in Japan, showcasing the rich diversity of Indian culture. Similarly, Japanese cultural forms such as manga, anime, and martial arts have captivated the hearts of people in Maharashtra. These cultural exchanges have not only fostered mutual understanding and respect but have also brought our people closer to each other.

6. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of Indian community from Maharashtra for their continued support in strengthening the bilateral relationship between the state and Japan. Their cooperation and assistance have been invaluable in fostering cooperation and collaboration between our two nations. I am happy to note that the engagement of Community and its members in organizing various events, festivals

that showcases India's culture and enriches the cultural bond between our countries from time to time. Such celebrations & festivals give an opportunity to the younger generation of Indian Community to carry forward our Indian traditions as well as it provides a wonderful occasion to our Japanese friends to enjoy culture of India, and thus promotes mutual understanding and friendship leading to strengthening of P2P pillar of India-Japan Special Strategic & Global Partnership.

7. In conclusion, I am confident that your visit will further deepen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Maharashtra and Japan, and contribute to the continued growth and development of our bilateral relations.

Thank you, and Jai Hind!
