

**Embassy of India,
Tokyo

**Remarks by Ambassador of India to Japan H.E. Shri Sibi George at
'India-Japan Skill Connect: The Role of Mechatronics & Automation'
on October 16, 2023, 1630 – 1800 Hrs (JST), VCC Auditorium**

Prof. Prasad Krishna, Director, NIT Calicut

Dr. T. P. Sethu Madhavan, Professor, Trans-disciplinary University of Health Science and Technology, Bangalore

Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Executive Vice President, JETRO

Mr. Anil Raj, NehaN Technologies

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be amongst you as we deliberate upon India-Japan partnership through the prism of Skilling, Mechatronics and Automation.

2. Friends, India and Japan are natural partners and share commonality of views on many strands of our bilateral relations, including on “Indo-Pacific” and our “Special Strategic and Global Partnership” is now being buttressed through emerging areas of cooperation like skill development, critical and emerging technologies, space cooperation, etc.

3. India with a large reservoir of skilled workforce is catering to the demands of talent across globe. Government of India has laid emphasis on migration and mobility of both workers and professionals through bilateral agreements. We have negotiated Labour Mobility Agreements and concluded Migration Mobility Partnership Agreements with countries in East Asia and Europe. The recent conclusion of 4th round of India-Japan Joint Working Group on Skill Development in Tokyo on October 3 has provided the necessary impetus to further deepen this engagement.

4. The Government of India through Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has embarked on the ‘Skill India Mission’ which is aimed at bridging the gap between the demands and supply of skilled workforce, enhancing vocational and technology training as per international standards and create an enabling framework to promote seamless mobility corridors to countries including to Japan. We already have agreements with Japan under TITP and SSW. Efforts are underway to dovetail these with certification under the India International Skill Center(IISC), wherein 14 IISCs are currently operating in different cities in India, providing domain training on international standards across 9 job roles in 8 sectors.

5. Friends, the role of Mechatronics and Automation and opportunities in trans-disciplinary areas can lead to important skilling interventions. As part of the G20 Presidency, India made a conscious choice to deploy Science and Technology and Innovation in its policy interventions. An 'India Stack' resting on digital identity, data and digital payment has made our digital public infrastructure more inclusive. India Stack is a public private partnership, a digital public good and now today can fit into a "Global Stack" of both developing and developed countries.

6. Our recent successes with Lunar, Mars and Solar Missions have derived from our scientific rigor nurtured in Indian Universities and Institutions, carrying out cutting edge research, through women-led participation, and found reflection in our indigenous 5G and soon to roll out 6G technologies. Today, as we witness an unprecedented scale and speed in new age technologies, India has decided to harness opportunities of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advocate a framework for responsible human-centric AI governance. This is also in consonance with Japan's own aim to facilitate an agreement among G7 countries on generative AI.

7. The robust sectors for India-Japan cooperation, from my perspective, could be digital technology, automation, skill development, health tech, life sciences, fin tech apart from our traditional sectors of cooperation like physical and chemical sciences, computational sciences and mathematics, astronomy and earth sciences, meteorology engineering etc. Start-ups and companies, therefore, need new skills which shall enhance knowledge and attitudinal changes, thereby enhancing mobility. Skilling strategies should include strengthening educational institutions, sending and receiving organizations, and fostering industry participation thereby aligning our framework based on collaboration and interdisciplinary approach.

8. I would like to commend the efforts of Mr. Anil Raj of Nehan Tech and the management of National Institute of Technology, Calicut for this initiative and hope that their visit to Japan would yield exciting new opportunities for furthering our cooperation in the areas of skill development, Japanese language promotion in Indian institutes and co-create a sustainable ecosystem backed by automation and new age technologies.

Thank you and a Good Evening!
