

**Embassy of India
Tokyo

**Remarks by Mr Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan at the Japan-
India Institute for Manufacturing Certification Ceremony
April 27, 2023**

**H.E. Mr Shinichi NAKATANI, Hon'ble State Minister of Economy, Trade
and Industry, Japan
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

- I am delighted to be here at the Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing Certification Ceremony today, where we celebrate the latest achievement of our cooperation in human resources and skill development.
- As we all know, this area forms a major pillar of India-Japan Special and Strategic Global Partnership, and it is one of the most promising areas where complementarities between our two economies can be taken advantage of.
- One crucial aspect of our skill development cooperation is the exchange of skilled workers between our two countries. Japan's aging population has created a need for foreign skilled workers, while India's young and growing population provides a large pool of skilled human resources. Through initiatives like India's "Skill India" program, we are enlarging this pool and making it available to meet the requirements of Japanese industry.
- Indian skilled workers have already been participating in the Technical Intern Training Programme, and we have also established a MoU on "Specified Skilled Worker (SSW)" to facilitate the movement of workers from India to Japan in 14 categories of specified skills.

- In November 2016, India and Japan agreed on the Manufacturing Skill Transfer Promotion Programme to work together towards human resource development in India's manufacturing industry. Under this framework, the Japan-India Institutes of Manufacturing (JIM) and Japanese Endowed Courses (JEC) in India are playing a vital role in skilling Indian workers in the area of manufacturing.
- Today's ceremony, which grants certification to the next set of 13 JIMs, is a positive step towards strengthening our skill development partnership, and I am confident that the new set of JIMs will further contribute to enhancing the pool of skilled manpower for manufacturing in India.
- While we have made remarkable progress, we need to enhance our efforts towards synergizing India's demographic dividend and Japan's capital and technology.
- One area which requires our greatest attentions is creating more awareness amongst Japanese employers and Indian skilled workers about the available opportunities. From the Embassy, we are making efforts to link all stakeholders in both the countries through organization of regular outreach events on skill related cooperation. We are also trying to reach out to different prefectures in Japan to explore opportunities for movement of Indian skilled workers to meet the demands of the local industry.
- A stronger skill development partnership will pave the way for greater mobility and movement of skilled personnel between our two countries. Therefore, I urge us all to work towards enhancing our cooperation in this area and ensure that we continue to grow and prosper together.
- Thank you.
