

**Remarks by Ambassador H.E. Mr Sibi George  
at 'India - Japan Cooperation in Advanced  
Telecommunications: Focusing on 5G / Beyond 5G  
Technology and Open RAN' Seminar on 27 December 2023**

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Mr. Arun Gupta, Director-General, Telecom Equipment & Services Export Promotion Council

Distinguished participants,

A very Good evening to you all !!

I am delighted to be part of this Seminar being held today to discuss the dynamic collaboration between two technological powerhouses—India and Japan—in the realm of advanced telecommunications, with a special emphasis on the groundbreaking 5G and beyond 5G technologies, as well as the revolutionary Open RAN concept.

Friends,

India and Japan share a Special Strategic and Global Partnership, founded on common values, mutual respect, and a joint aspiration for a future marked by peace and prosperity. The growth of this partnership has been remarkable over the years. At present, our association encompasses a diverse spectrum of domains, including trade & investment, industrial development, infrastructure, rail & metro, digital initiatives, energy, human resources, critical & emerging technologies, climate change, health security, space, defense, semiconductor, digital, and telecommunications.

While economic & commercial ties between the two nations are experiencing an upward trajectory, there remains untapped potential in our business association. India, boasting a population of 1.4 billion individuals, constituting one-sixth of the global population and possessing the largest and youngest workforce among top economies, stands as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, from 10th in 2014, to 5th largest economy in 2023, and is projected to be the 3rd largest by 2027-28. India has consistently enhanced its business landscape through progressive policy reforms, streamlined regulations, and improved infrastructure

Friends,

The Telecom industry in India is the second largest in the world with a subscriber base of 1.179 Bn. India has an overall tele-density of 84.6%, of which, the tele-density of the rural market, which is largely untapped, stands at 57.97 % while the tele-density of the urban market is 133.55 %.

The number of internet subscribers in India is more than 881 Mn, out of which 40.62% of the internet subscribers belonged to the rural areas. The average monthly data consumption per wireless data subscriber has also increased to 17.36 GB GB in 2023 from 61.66 MB in 2014.

In 2014, India was importer of mobile phones, and today, it is the world's second-largest mobile manufacturer, and exporting around 2 lakh crores worth of products in electronic manufacturing. It is on its way to becoming the second-largest smartphone market globally by 2025 with around 1 Bn installed devices and is expected to have 920 Mn unique mobile subscribers by 2025 which will include 88 Mn 5G connections.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has now been allowed in the Telecom sector. It is the 4th largest sector in terms of FDI inflows, contributing 6% of total FDI inflow. FDI in Telecom Sector has increased to 24 billion Dollars. In only 5G, India Telecom industry has clocked investment of over 2.25 Lakh cores (USD 28 Billion Dollar).

The industry's exponential growth over the last few years is primarily driven by affordable tariffs, wider availability, roll-out of Mobile Number Portability (MNP), evolving consumption patterns of subscribers, Government's initiatives towards bolstering India's domestic telecom manufacturing capacity, and a conducive regulatory environment.

Taking India's digitalization and connectivity to new heights to reap the benefits of 5G technology, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji launched India's 5G services during the last Indian Mobile Congress (IMC) event held in New Delhi in October 2022. Since then, the 5G network has expanded rapidly to 700+ districts of India. Within a year of the launch of 5G in India, around 400,000 5G base stations have been set up, which covers 97 per cent of the cities and more than 80 per cent of the population in the country. India is not only rapidly expanding 5G in India but also moving towards becoming a leader in the field of 6G. To achieve this remarkable milestones, various series of reforms, which include structural, procedural reforms and relief measures, have been undertaken for Telecom Sector that has led to transformation of Telecom Sector as a sunrise sector.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji released India's 6G Vision "Bharat 6G Vision" document on March 23, 2023 which envisages India to be a front-line contributor in design, development and deployment of 6G technology by 2030. Bharat 6G Vision is based on principles of Affordability, Sustainability and Ubiquity. It ensures that India takes its rightful place in the world as a leading supplier of advanced telecom technologies and solutions that are affordable and contribute to the global good.

Friends,

The relationship between India and Japan has evolved beyond mere diplomatic ties; it has transformed into a synergistic partnership rooted in mutual respect and shared technological aspirations. The fusion of our intellectual capital is propelling us into an era where the inconceivable

becomes achievable, where the limitations of today become the stepping stones for tomorrow's breakthroughs

India-Japan have already been cooperating under an MoU in the field of Information & Communications Technologies signed in 2021 to enhance cooperation in the field of 5G technologies, telecom security, submarine optical fiber cable system to islands of India, spectrum management, smart cities, high altitude platform for broadband in unconnected areas, disaster management and public safety etc.

India-Japan cooperation in advanced telecommunications, especially in the domains of 5G and beyond 5G technologies, as well as the Open RAN framework, symbolizes the collective ambition of two nations to shape a future that is not bound by limitations but defined by possibilities.

I am confident that this Seminar today would create a platform for an increased collaboration between Indian and Japan in the field of Advanced Telecommunications.

Thank you