

Embassy of India
Tokyo

Remarks by Ambassador Sibi George on 'India-Japan: The Next Growth Story' at the Opening Session of 'India-Japan@75: Realizing the 5 Trillion Yen Partnership in Next Five Years'
December 6, 2022

Mr. Matsuo Tekehiko, Director General, Trade Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry;
Mr Kazuya Nakajo, Executive Vice President, JETRO;
Mr. Kenichi Ayukawa, Vice President, Suzuki Motor Corporation;
Mr. Sachit Jain, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Vardhman Special Steels Ltd.;

Mr. Bharat Joshi, Co-Chair, Japan Committee, Confederation of Indian Industry;
Ladies and Gentlemen. Good afternoon!

I begin by expressing my heartfelt condolences on the untimely passing away of Mr. Vikram Kirloskar, Past President and Chairman, Japan Committee of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

2. I acknowledge the presence of senior officials from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), senior officials from JETRO and other important stakeholders in India – Japan relationship.

3. Today's Conference on 'India-Japan@75: Realizing the 5 Trillion Yen Partnership in Next Five Years' is an important event. I thank CII and Embassy's Commerce Wing for putting this event together. I take this opportunity to once again welcome the CEOs delegation from India with whom I had detailed discussions yesterday. I also acknowledge the presence of a high-level delegation from the State of Gujarat today with us.

4. I congratulate and thank CII for preparing the Compendium on success stories on India-Japan business collaboration. We look forward to working with CII and other stakeholders in Japan to make these success stories reach every corner of Japan. I am confident that these success stories will inspire more Japanese companies including the MSMEs to look at India more closely and avail the billion opportunities that India offers today. I thank JETRO for extending support to today's event.

Dear Friends,

5. Most of you present here are familiar with the transformation in India – Japan relations in recent years, ‘Special Strategic and Global Partnership’. This year we are celebrating 70 years of diplomatic relations between India and Japan which will conclude on April 28 next year. As an old Japan hand who worked closely on India – Japan relations in the past, I can tell you this. In my over twenty-five years in diplomatic service, I have seen India Japan relationship evolve from what significantly was a G to G relationship with ODA at the heart of it, into a very much B to B relationship. The ODA part is still very important, G to G is indispensable, but the landscape of our engagement has become so very much broader signifying the maturing of the relationship, with economic and strategic partnership very much at the heart of this relationship. This is evident from the dialogue architecture we have put in place over the years, bilateral, trilateral, quadrilateral, plurilateral and multilateral, the many MoUs and Agreements that we have signed and the Joint Statements and Vision documents that we have issued over the years.

6. Today, our relationship covers a wide range of areas, trade & investment, industrial development, infrastructure, rail, metros, digital, energy, human resources, critical and emerging technology, climate change, health security, space, and defense and security. This has been made possible by the sustained focus and guidance provided by the leadership at the highest level in both the countries. Japan is a reliable partner in India’s economic transformation. Today, India Japan relationship is a unique partnership involving many stakeholders; business establishments, industry and commercial chambers, investment boards, factories, universities, science and technology establishments, academicians, scholars, students, innovation and research organizations, think tanks and the growing vibrant people to people contacts. We in the Embassy look forward to working with each of these stakeholders to realize the full potential of ‘Special Strategic and Global Partnership’.

Dear Friends,

7. Today, when we meet here in Tokyo, a very important meeting is taking place in Udaipur in Rajasthan State of India, the first meeting of the G-20 Sherpas with India as its Chair. I am sure that most of you have read the op-ed by Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji which was published in Japanese Newspapers on 1st December, the day when India assumed the Chair of G-20. The theme of India’s G-20 presidency is ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’. In his op-ed Prime Minister Modi ji said and I quote: “One Earth, One Family, One Future” is not just a slogan. It takes into account recent changes in human circumstances, which we have collectively failed to appreciate. Today,

we have the means to produce enough to meet the basic needs of all people in the world. Today, we do not need to fight for our survival – our era need not be one of war. Indeed, it must not be one!

8. Prime Minister continued, “Today, the greatest challenges we face – climate change, terrorism, and pandemics – can be solved not by fighting each other, but only by acting together. Fortunately, today’s technology also gives us the means to address problems on a humanity-wide scale. The massive virtual worlds that we inhabit today demonstrate the scalability of digital technologies. Housing one-sixth of humanity, and with its immense diversity of languages, religions, customs and beliefs, India is a microcosm of the world. With the oldest-known traditions of collective decision-making, India contributes to the foundational DNA of democracy. As the mother of democracy, India’s national consensus is forged not by diktat, but by blending millions of free voices into one harmonious melody.

9. “Today, India is the fastest growing large economy. Our citizen-centric governance model takes care of even our most marginalized citizens, while nurturing the creative genius of our talented youth. We have tried to make national development not an exercise in top-down governance, but rather a citizen-led ‘people’s movement’. We have leveraged technology to create digital public goods that are open, inclusive and inter-operable. These have delivered revolutionary progress in fields as varied as social protection, financial inclusion, and electronic payments. For all these reasons, India’s experiences can provide insights for possible global solutions. During our G20 Presidency, we shall present India’s experiences, learnings and models as possible templates for others, particularly the developing world.” Unquote.

10. Hon’ble Prime Minister of Japan His Excellency Kishida congratulated Prime Minister Modi ji on assuming the G20 Presidency and said, I quote: “As the G7 Presidency next year, I also look forward to working closely with you in addressing various challenges that the international community faces.” Unquote.

Dear Friends,

11. The India - Japan Joint Statement issued after the meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Kishida early this year in New Delhi is captioned ‘Partnership for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Post-COVID World’. Let me quote from the Joint Statement which sets a roadmap for us to realize the full potential in our relationship. I quote: “Reaffirming the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India, the Prime Ministers

concluded that the shared values and principles enunciated in the Japan-India Vision Statement issued in 2018 are particularly relevant in the present context, where global cooperation is required more than ever to address challenges that have become more acute. They highlighted their commitment to working in tandem towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous world, based on a rules-based order that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations, and emphasized the need for all countries to seek peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law without resorting to threat or use of force or any attempt to unilaterally change status quo. In this regard, they reaffirmed their common vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, free from coercion.

12. "They shared the view that the economies of both countries in such a world would be powered by robust bilateral investment and trade flows through diversified, resilient, transparent, open, secure and predictable global supply chains that provide for economic security and prosperity of their peoples. Reaffirming that the two countries would continue to work together to realize these shared objectives, they resolved to further advance the Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership." Unquote.

Dear Friends,

13. Our leadership has given us a road map, a forward looking roadmap. It is for us as stakeholders in this mutually beneficial partnership to work towards fully realizing the potential in this relationship. Japan is among our most trusted partners in our journey towards Amrit Kaal, 25-year period journey to India@100 in 2047. Japan is a major partner our 3 Ts campaign – Trade, Technology and Tourism.

14. Most of you present here are familiar with the economic transformation that is taking place in India. Despite the many challenges of Covid 19 pandemic posed in recent years, India today continues to be the fastest growing large economy in the world. India today is the fifth largest economy in the world. India today is a land of a billion opportunities. We have now 12 Japanese Industrial Townships in India ready to receive the Japanese companies.

15. We have so many success stories in India – Japan partnership, seventy of those success stories are in front of us today. Let me assure you, we will make these success stories heard at all corners of Japan, to all prefectures and to all business chambers, to all sectors including MSMEs. I am confident that when we meet next year we will have seven hundred such success stories to share. We are not satisfied with an incremental progress in our partnership, our target

is a quantum leap, a quantum leap to realize the full potential of our Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

Once again thank you CII, thank you all.
