

**Remarks by Ambassador of India to Japan H.E. Mr. Sibi George
at the Japan India Association Annual Event, November 20, 2023**

Your Excellency former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga

Vice President Mr. Tatsuo Nishimoto

Mr. Hira Ryuko, Chairman ICIAJ

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today at the Japan India Association annual meeting. I thank His Excellency Mr. Yoshihide Suga for his leadership of JIA and for his presence. I am happy to note that under his leadership JIA has contributed immensely in building our bilateral relationship. I recall the visit of His Excellency to India leading a delegation of over 100 Japanese businessmen in July when he also met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Bilateral relationship between India and Japan has grown exponentially over the years, transforming into a wide-ranging Special Strategic and Global Partnership encompassing various domains, including trade, investment, technology, defense and security, culture and people-to-people ties. The longstanding cooperation and our shared values of democracy, freedom, and respect for rule of law have laid a strong foundation for our strategic partnership.

India-Japan partnership is a partnership of immense importance for fostering peace, prosperity, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. Strong partnership with Japan is the cornerstone of India's Act East Policy and pivotal to our vision for the Indo-Pacific. We are also working together in QUAD.

This year was indeed special as India and Japan served as the Chair of G20 and G7 respectively. For the Embassy, JIA is the most reliable partner in its outreach activities and in its people to people engagement in Japan.

I conclude by inviting you all to join me at the Republic Day celebrations of India on January 26, when India celebrates 75th Republic Day. It is an important occasion as it is the anniversary of the adoption of the constitution which makes India the largest democracy in the world. In 2019 more than 900 million was India's electorate. When India goes to elections it's a festival of democracy.

Once again thank you JIA for its great service to India – Japan relationship.

Thank you.
