

**Embassy of India
Tokyo**

**Remarks by Ambassador of India H.E. Shri Sibi George at the
National Small Industry Day on August 30, 2023**

Madam Sumita Dawra, Special Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Mr Kazuya Nakajo, Executive Vice President, JETRO
Mr. R. Shivashankar, Senior Vice President – Marketing, Sri City
Distinguished guests, esteemed representatives from Japanese Enterprises,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening and a warm welcome!

I thank you all for joining us this evening for this event today to celebrate the National Small Industry Day.

Let me begin my remarks today by once again congratulating ISRO and the scientists of India remarkable Chandrayan Moon Mission. The celebrations all across India and the world is still continuing. I recall the congratulatory message by Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan His Excellency Fumio Kishida addressed to our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulating India on this successful Moon Mission.

Dear Friends,

You would recall that last month our Embassy in Tokyo launched the SME Facilitation Platform aimed at facilitating small and medium scale enterprises to engage with India closely. One of the important elements of the facilitation platform is to hold regular sessions. Today we are holding one such session where we endeavor to focus on two elements: 1. PM Gati Shakti – National Master Plan for Multi-modal connectivity, and 2. Japan Industrial Townships in India. I am happy to

note that we have with us very senior officers and renowned industrialists to share their experience with us. I acknowledge the presence of Madam Sumita Dawra, Special Secretary who is now spearheading the PM Gati Shakti program in India, I acknowledge Executive Vice President of JETRO Nakajo San who is an important partner in our engagement with the SMEs in Japan. I am happy to note that in my engagement with the prefectures in Japan, it was JETRO who always joined hands with us in organising business events across Japan. I also acknowledge the presence of two young dynamic colleagues, Ms. Jivisha Joshi Gangopadhyay and Shri Fahad Suri, both Deputy Secretaries of DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce. I also welcome other speakers and the large number of businessmen who have joined us today.

Dear Friends,

PM Gati Shakti is a digital platform launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji bringing various Ministries & Departments of Government of India for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. It has been instrumental in enabling a paradigm shift from a conventional siloed approach to a collaborative whole-of-government approach towards infrastructure planning. Its twin framework including an inter-Ministerial institutional mechanism at Centre and State levels, and a GIS-data based decision support system for integrated planning in logistics and infra sector, are integral to this transformation. Since the launch of PM GatiShakti, in less than two years, 39 Ministries of Govt of India, and all 36 States/UTs have been on boarded on Mission-mode.

Worldwide it has been proven that an efficient logistics and supply chain network is the backbone of any growing economy. The vision of Gatishakti is to connect every economic zone, industrial cluster, EXIM gateway, social sector institution, urban development centre, with adequate multimodal infrastructure so that the users and suppliers of infra and logistics services, as well as the manufacturing

and agriculture sectors, and the common man, benefit from efficient logistics, have the option of choosing the right modal mix; enjoy good quality 'just-in-time' cost-effective final goods; integrate with global value chains and become a global brand. It has the potential and capacity to integrate infrastructure, social, and economical planning in India. It synergizes world-class infrastructure, seamless, multi-modal network of transport for people and goods that will accelerate productivity and economic growth in India.

We have a detailed presentation on PM Gati Shakti lined up today.

Dear Friends,

I would like to move on to the next topic of discussion today. Japan Industrial Townships (JITs) in India. It is one of the initiatives of "India-Japan Investment Promotion Partnership" announced by Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in September 2014. JITs are the symbols of India-Japan friendship, our shared commitment to economic growth and technological advancement. Japan is the only country that has dedicated industrial townships in India. JITs are industrial parks that are specifically designed to attract Japanese investment. They offer a number of advantages to Japanese companies, including ready-made infrastructure, simplified regulatory processes, access to a skilled workforce and a favorable investment climate. Today, there are 11 JITs in India, located in 8 states. These JITs are home to some of the major Japanese companies such as Daikin, Isuzu, Kobelco, Panasonic, Nippon Steel, Toyoto, Hitachi Automotive etc.. We will have a detailed presentation today on JITs in India.

Dear Friends,

In the last two decades our relationship has evolved from what significantly was a G to G relationship into economic and strategic partnership. Today, India and Japan are indispensable partners in peace, stability, security and prosperity in Indo-Pacific and beyond.

Our bilateral partnership and plurilateral engagement like the QUAD is contributing to the stability and prosperity in the region.

Over the years our business partnership has flourished in sectors such as infrastructure, manufacturing, technology, and innovation. Today, our relationship covers a wide range of areas, trade and investment, industrial development, infrastructure, rail, metros, digital, energy, human resources, critical and emerging technology, climate change, health security, space, semiconductors, 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.

Dear Friends,

It has been eight months since I assumed charge in Japan, during which I have been able to travel the length and breadth of Japan, covering several prefectures and major cities. What I have witnessed during these interactions is a real momentum, an overwhelming enthusiasm, a spirit of partnership towards building business relationship with India. Wherever I went, I came across a large number of stakeholders, companies, big, medium and small eager to look at India. What we should be able to do is to convert this momentum to concrete outcome. We have a long way to go. We need to have a quantum leap in our engagement. There are 1500 Japanese companies in India, my target is to make it 15,000. The setting up of the SMEs Facilitation Center at the Embassy and the seminars like this we organize today are all steps aimed at realizing that Quantum leap. I am confident that with our joint efforts we will be able to meet this target.

Once again, I thank you all for your presence today. Before I conclude, let me invite you also to join later today, India's traditional festival of Rakshabandhan celebrations here.

Thank you.
