

**Remarks of H.E. Ambassador Sibi George at the Centenary
Commemoration Ceremony of the Indian Commerce and Industry
Association Japan (ICIAJ) on November 15, 2023**

Your Excellency former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga,

Your Excellency Mr Natsuo Yamaguchi, Hon. Representative of Komeito
Party, Member, House of Councilors

Your Excellency Mr Tetsuo Saito, Hon'ble Minister of MLIT

ICIAJ Chairman Mr. Hira Ryuko,

Distinguished Guests,

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to the Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan as it commemorates the milestone of 100 years of its establishment. I am happy to see the presence of so many dignitaries and friends of India. I thank His Excellency former Prime Minister Suga for joining us today despite his busy schedule.

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.

The Indian Commerce and Industry Association in Japan has made important contributions towards promoting ties between our two countries at the people to people level. I thank Mr. Hira Ryuko for leading the ICIAJ and for his contributions in building our relations. I see ICIAJ as an important partner of Embassy of India in 'Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji' and in our efforts to promote India-Japan business relationship. We have excellent business relations, but we need to do more. We have 1,500 Japanese companies in India, I would like it be 15,000.

I reiterate my appreciation for the work done by the ICIAJ, and extend my best wishes for the continued success and growth of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Once again, I thank former Prime Minister Suga and others for joining us.

I thank you and good evening.
