

Embassy of India
Tokyo

Remarks by H.E. Mr Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan, at the
Japan-India Strategic Dialogue, International House of Japan, Tokyo, 21
August 2025

[Topic: India-Japan Relations: Strategic Convergence in a Fragmented World]

Mr Ken Jimbo, Managing Director, International House of Japan;

Ms Indrani Bagchi, Chief Executive Officer, Ananta Centre, India;

Distinguished guests,

It gives me great pleasure to join this important India-Japan Strategic Dialogue. I thank the organizers for bringing together this gathering to reflect on the role of our partnership at a time when Asia and the world faces unprecedented challenges.

2. Friends, the global landscape is becoming increasingly complex and uncertain. There are continued conflicts in different parts of the world, disruptions of critical supply chains, contestation in emerging and high technologies and strains on global institutions of governance. This fragmentation of the international order is creating new challenges. At the same time, it is also opening new opportunities for countries such as India and Japan to work more closely together.

3. In this context, the India–Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership assumes even greater importance. This is a partnership which is rooted in our shared values of democracy, freedom and respect for the rule of law. It is also driven by a common vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific. These principles have guided us in the past and they have become even more relevant and indispensable in the present times.

4. Our convergence of interests and outlook has ensured that the India–Japan partnership today is not only bilateral in character but also regional and global. Whether it is through our close consultations in the Quad or

engagement in other plurilateral and multilateral formats, India and Japan are already showing how our cooperation can contribute positively to regional stability and global good.

5. In taking our relationship forward, I would like to underline three broad priorities which will be central in taking our partnership to the next stage. These are: first, security, which should be seen today as not just defense & security cooperation in a traditional sense but with a wider meaning to include newly recognized challenges such as economic security; second, economic cooperation in both traditional and new domains; and third, people-to-people exchanges with a special emphasis on human resource development and mobility.

6. On the matter of security, our cooperation has advanced steadily and substantively in recent years. We have regular defence exercises, enhanced exchanges, and cooperation in defence technology and equipment which is now beginning to take shape. This is an area which will naturally grow further as Japan's own defence equipment related policies undergo change and as our strategic interests continue to converge in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. We are also in the process of working together to upgrade the 2008 Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation so that our framework can more accurately reflect the contemporary realities of the Indo-Pacific.

7. At the same time, it is important to note that in today's world, economic security has become inseparable from national security. Our new Dialogue on Economic Security, which we launched last year, is therefore of particular significance. It reflects our shared concerns on supply chain resilience, trusted technology, and strategic trade. It also aims to explore new areas for collaboration, such as critical minerals, semiconductors and clean energy, which will define economic resilience and competitiveness in the years ahead.

8. When it comes to economic cooperation in a broader sense, the role of Japan in India's development journey is well recognized. From industrial corridors to metro projects, Japan has been one of India's most reliable partners. In addition to expanding Japanese investments in traditional areas, our cooperation going forward will also be entering new and emerging areas, involving mobility, semiconductors, critical minerals and clean technologies. Japanese companies are already partnering Indian firms in some of these domains. We need to now focus on scaling up such efforts. When companies such as Suzuki succeed in India to the extent that Suzuki India is now larger than Suzuki Japan, it shows the immense scale of opportunity that exists if more Japanese companies were to engage with India in a similar manner.

9. The third and very important pillar of our relationship is people-to-people engagement. Ultimately, it is the people who give depth and resilience to any

strategic partnership. I have spoken earlier of a number's problem, particularly when it comes to human resource exchanges. The initiative to welcome 50,000 Indian professionals to Japan that we have been working on will be a very significant beginning in addressing this gap. We should jointly work to create more such opportunities for students, researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs. I am happy to note that there is recognition on both sides that such efforts will serve to meet Japan's own requirements and will bring tangible benefits to both our countries.

10. Friends, as two major Asian democracies with a strong civilizational connect, we need to work together to ensure that our partnership continues to provide balance and stability in a world that is otherwise seeing growing fragmentation and uncertainty. Whether it is in the field of security, economy or people-to-people ties, India and Japan have the ability to set examples that others can follow.

11. In conclusion, let me emphasise that the India–Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership is a source of stability in an uncertain world. By advancing our cooperation, India and Japan can together play a decisive role in shaping a more stable and more prosperous future for our region and beyond.

Thank you.
