

**Remarks by Ambassador of India to Japan H.E. Shri Sibi George**  
on the occasion of IndiaSoft Curtain Raiser Event  
**VCC Auditorium, November 28, 2023**

Ms. Manjusha Chaurasia, Joint Director, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, (MEITY), Government of India

Mr Sandeep Narula, Chairman, Electronics and Computer Software Export Council (ESC)

Mr Gurmeet Singh, Executive Director, (ESC)

Business leaders from Japan, members of Indian community, Ladies and Gentleman

It gives me an immense pleasure to state that Embassy of India in collaboration with, MEITY Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) and JETRO is organizing today's "Curtain Raiser" event for the forthcoming 24th edition of INDIASOFT at New Delhi, India on January 17-19, 2024.

**2. Friends, India and Japan share 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'.** Friendship between the two countries has a long history rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilizational ties. Since then, the relations have matured over the years to cover a wide range of areas of cooperation including political, defense and security, economic,

science and technology, education, cultural and people to people exchange. There is growing strategic convergence between the two countries. “India-Japan Digital Partnership” (I-JDP), launched in 2018, expanded cooperation under IT sector, focusing more on “Digital ICT Technologies”. First India-Japan Startup Hub in Bangalore has been set up to identify selected Indian start-ups for Japanese market and for potential Japanese investors. In recent years, various activities have been conducted under the Digital Partnership by government agencies and private sectors from India and Japan.

3. Friends, India’s rapid growth and progress has become a benchmark for rest of the world. Already world’s 5th largest economy, India is predicted to occupy 3rd place by 2030 and become USD 5 trillion economy by 2025-26 and USD 7 trillion by 2030. Today, India is producing 3rd most number of unicorns in the world. More than 100 unicorns are valued at USD 332.7 billion. Today the Indian electronics hardware industry is emerging as a new manufacturing hub because of cost competitive R&D, labour cost,

etc. The world has started to look up to India as both manufacturing hub and good end user market.

4. IT industry has been one of the major propellants of Indian economy over last 25 years or so. With its stellar performance, providing perfect solutions to complex problems, Indian IT industry has rightfully acquired a commanding position in global tech space. Availability of highly skilled and dedicated workforce has enabled Indian IT industry take this lead. Our IT exports of USD 172 billion in 2021-22 depict the extent of success.

5. We are focusing on export of services in an unprecedented manner to complement and supplement the merchandise exports. ICT segment is also the top contributor to exports in the services sector. Endowed with a large pool of technically qualified manpower, and stress on innovation, India's ICT industry has a huge potential to tap the ever expanding world market. I compliment ESC for continuing to organise INDIASOFT

(International ICT event) which has emerged as one of renowned events in the tech sector.

6. Friends, innovation, disruption, and discovery are the key parameters that decide the broad contours of technology headway. That does not come in a vacuum. There should be opportunities for our increasing number of MSMEs, startups, and even bigger companies to move in the value chain. That can happen when the entrepreneurs get to know what buyers, particularly from overseas are looking for and when they interact with them, responding to their queries and requirements. That is a great process of learning. I am happy to state that Embassy of India has created an MSME cell within its premises that shall handhold the requirements of our two countries MSME for a deeper connect.

7. I also take this opportunity to highlight Government of India's commitment to herald anew economic environment powered by technology that minimizes hassles for businesses as well as citizens at large. We are progressing on several initiatives in creating a Digital India

under which an “India Stack” consisting of JAM (Jandhan, Aadhar and Mobile), UPI and digital payments have been enabled which has fostered socio-economic upliftment of the country. We are not progressing towards new age technologies like AI, Quantum Computing, space technologies so as to capture our entrepreneurial energy. Government of India is also committed to forge strong trade links with all partners across the globe and is taking all possible steps to facilitate international trade.

9. My best wishes to the businesses and exhibitors present and the organizers at INDIASOFT 2024.

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