

**Embassy of India
Tokyo

**Ambassador's video message for the class of “Culture,
Environment Technology of India”, India-Japan Laboratory,
Keio University (April 11, 2023)**

Distinguished guests,
Dear students,

It gives me immense pleasure to address you all participants of the class on “Culture, Environment and Technology of India”. I extend my greetings Keio University and the India-Japan Laboratory for this wonderful initiative.

We at the Embassy, appreciate the earnest efforts by Keio University towards strengthening the connect between both the countries. The comprehensive collaborations of Keio University with institutions of eminence in India such as Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management and Indian Institute of Science that include research collaborations, faculty and student exchanges foster a great platform to bridge the distance between India and Japan and also explore the strength of cultural similarities and technological complementarities.

Japan and India have enjoyed close and friendly civilizational links. We have our shared cultural legacies and bonds. India-Japan, currently enjoy a Special Strategic and Global Partnership and the year, 2022-23, marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of our diplomatic relations. The partnership between India and Japan, is based on the strong foundation of shared objectives and common values such as democracy, freedom, and respect for rule of law. Our

relationship today cuts across a wide range of areas, with an emphasis on people to people exchanges at the core of it. More than 40,000 Indians calling Japan their home is a testimony to this fact.

Friends, Today India has emerged as a global manufacturing hub and reliable partner in global supply chains. A confident and forward-looking nation is built by confident, skilled, innovative, entrepreneurial young people. Over 60 per cent of our fellow citizens are below the age of 35. India's aspiration is to further reform, upgrade and enlarge our education system – and to make it relevant to 21st century realities of the digital economy, robotics, automation, genomics, etc.

Japan is an important partner of India for economic growth and development. India has partnered with Japan in various national campaigns and flagship initiatives such as Make in India, Smart Cities, Digital India, Startup India, and Invest India. The range of our economic partnership extends into every socio-economic sector including infrastructure, ICT and digitalization, energy, space, food processing, science and technology.

Japan has been consistently supportive of our infrastructure development, including through ODA loans. In fact, Japanese-supported projects are among the most successful infrastructure projects in India. The landmark projects such as Delhi Metro, Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) and the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) reflect our commitment for cooperation in high-end technology and infrastructure development segments. New industrial collaborations are in the making even as we speak.

Dear students,

Going forward the aim is to transform India into Atmanirbhar Bharat- A self-reliant New India based on five key pillars of our future economic roadmap, including economy, infrastructure, demography, democracy and supply chains. Our Government's vision is of a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2024. I must emphasize here that our call for self-reliance should not be confounded with inward looking posture. On the contrary, it means leveraging our strong global partnerships to work on mutually beneficial outcomes. Our domestic initiatives closely relate to several targets under the SDGs and UN Agenda 2030 vision.

It is pertinent to remember that youth are the future of our two nations, and exchanges among youth is an important aspect of our partnership. It is very important for the youth of both countries to understand the underlying spirit, affinity, cultural and historical linkages shared between our two friendly countries. As Japanese Youth would find the Indian Spirit and Unity in Diversity intriguing, similarly it is important for Indian youth to understand the Japanese Way of Living.

I laud the efforts of Keio University, Professor Rajib Shaw and his colleagues at the Japan-India Lab towards this goal. Under the guidance of the faculty from India-Japan Lab, I am confident that your coursework, has provided you insights into India and its potential and it is my hope that during today's event you will be able to further enhance your understanding of India and its relationship with Japan.

Thank you.
