Check Against Delivery

Speech by H.E. Ambassador Sibi George for
India-Japan Science Technology and Innovation Forum, Keio University
December 6, 2024

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My dear Scientists, Technologist, Innovators,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

2. I am delighted to address this distinguished forum, focusing on the important theme of ***Geopolitical Relevance***, ***Societal Challenges***, ***and Innovation to Action***. I thank and compliment the organizers in putting together this useful event.

Friends,

3. Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) are central to transforming countries and reshaping the global order. India's partnership with Japan holds a special place in this context. Our countries share a rich history of collaboration, covered under our **Special Strategic and Global Partnership,** which is rooted in shared values, mutual respect, and a commitment to peace and security in the Indo-Pacifc region and beyond.

4. Science and technology have been a key pillar of this relationship, with formal cooperation initiated in 1985. As we approach the 40th anniversary of this collaboration

in 2025, it provides us with an opportunity to celebrate past achievements and chart a course for addressing the challenges of the future.

Friends,

5. India's development story over the past decade has been remarkable, and science and technology have played a critical role in this journey. Today, India stands as a global economic powerhouse with one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. The Government of India has undertaken several transformative initiatives that harness the power of STI to drive growth and societal progress. Programs like *Digital India*, *Startup India*, and *Make in India* have facilitated innovation, boosted entrepreneurship, and attracted global investments.

6. India has also undergone a transformation in the Science & Technology and Education, as reflected in its rise in scientific publications, patent filings, and a significant improvement in the Global Innovation Index. Achievements such as Chandrayaan's historic moon landing, the indigenous development of COVID-19 vaccines, and the rapid expansion of renewable energy capacity are powerful examples of our ability to innovate and lead on the global stage.

Friends,

7. India today stands at a defining juncture in its journey—what Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has termed "Amrit Kaal"—the period from 2022 to 2047, culminating in the centenary of our independence. This is the timeframe for realizing the vision to transform India into a developed, inclusive, and self-reliant country. Achieving this vision of '*Viksit Bharat'* or 'Developed India' by 2047 requires accelerated innovation and deployment of advanced technologies.

8. In this context, the potential for India-Japan collaboration in science and technology is immense. Japan's technological expertise complements India's vibrant innovation ecosystem and vast market potential. The growing convergence in our strategic outlook, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, provides a solid foundation for deepening our STI partnership. As we commemorate 40 years of science and technology partnership in 2025, we must focus on utilizing our collective strengths to address critical global issues. Whether it is co-developing green technologies to combat climate change, advancing affordable healthcare solutions, or driving digital transformation through AI and quantum computing, our partnership can lead the way in creating sustainable and scalable solutions.

9. I am happy to share with you that recognizing the importance of economic security and strategic technology, India and Japan recently launched the Dialogue on Economic Security, including Strategic Trade and Technology, in Tokyo. This is indicative of our commitment to building resilient supply chains and strengthening collaboration in critical and emerging technologies.

Friends,

10. To realize the full potential of this partnership, we must address some key challenges. One of the most pressing issues is scale—both in terms of human resources and institutional engagement. The number of Indian students in Japan is still relatively low and needs to grow significantly. Similarly, while over 1,500 Japanese companies are operating in India today, this number has great potential to expand further. Strengthening ties between our academic institutions and industries is essential to building a skilled workforce and supporting innovation. At the same time, we must work together to remove barriers to technology cooperation and create joint platforms for research and development.

11. By addressing these challenges together, we can build a partnership that not only benefits India and Japan but also contributes to solving larger global problems.

12. I would like to once again commend IISc and Keio University for organizing this forum and fostering such meaningful discussions. Let us use this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the India-Japan partnership and to harnessing the power of STI for the benefit of both our nations and the world.

Thank you.

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