

**Remarks by Ambassador Sibi George
at “India-Japan Partnership : North East - Tripura”
at Embassy of India, Tokyo, 11 June 2024**

Mr. Uttam Kumar Chakma, Secretary (Tourism), Government of Tripura

Ms. Vishwasree B, Director (Industries) Government of Tripura

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,

A very Good evening to you all !!

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this Seminar “India-Japan Partnership : North East – Tripura” with an aim to explore potential collaborations for mutually beneficial partnership between Japan and the beautiful State of Tripura, in the North East of India.

Friends,

The enduring bond between India and Japan traces back to ancient times, characterized by a profound spiritual connection and rich cultural & civilizational ties. In recent years, the dynamic relationship between India and Japan has evolved into a Special Strategic and Global partnership, initiated in 2014 under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji and the late former Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe, and this year we are celebrating the 10th year of this Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

Friends,

The North East region, comprising of eight states, is emerging as a new frontier of India's growth. With an international borders of 5,182 kilometres with 5 countries, North East is a strategic location and the Gateway to Southeast Asia for India.

Friends,

Tripura, blessed with scenic beauty, offers plenty of attractions for the tourists in the form of magnificent palaces, splendid rock-cut carvings and stone images, temples, museums, breath taking verdant hills and biodiversity treasure troves in the form of wildlife sanctuaries.

The State has unique tradition in arts & crafts, sculpture & architecture, textiles, wood carving, cane and bamboo craft.

With its pleasant climate and scenic landscape, Tripura is one of the favoured tourist destinations among tourists.

Friends,

Tripura is rich in natural resources such as natural gas, rubber, tea and medicinal plants. Tripura is the second largest producer of rubber and the fifth largest tea producing State in India. It is also endowed with rich and diverse bamboo resources.

Investor friendly policies with ease of doing business, attractive incentives, and low cost of manufacturing have made Tripura one of the favoured destinations for investment.

We are going to have some excellent presentations from the representatives of Tripura State on the tourism and investment opportunities available.

Friends,

The possibilities for collaboration between Japan and Tripura are limitless, whether it be in the fields of tourism, technology, food processing, handicrafts, infrastructure development, energy, IT, cultural exchanges or education.

In the development of agenda of North East, Japan is a valuable partner. India-Japan continue to collaborate through Act East Forum for sustainable social and economic development of the region. I am confident that India - Japan collaboration in our North East will continue to flourish. I extend a warm invitation to Japanese companies to engage more actively in North East, contributing to its progress and prosperity

Friends,

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the participants and look forward to fruitful discussions and successful outcome from the Seminar, strengthening further Japan-India partnership.

Thank you!