

Check Against Delivery

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Sibi George, Ambassador at India
Business seminar in Kagawa Prefecture
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is an honor and privilege to address this esteemed gathering today in the picturesque Kagawa Prefecture. I am deeply grateful to Hon'ble Governor for gracing the event today, which underscores the growing partnership between India and Japan, particularly in fostering business collaboration. Kagawa, with its rich cultural heritage and innovative business environment, reflects the very spirit of excellence and resilience that defines modern Japan. These qualities find a natural synergy with India, a nation poised as a dynamic force in the global economy.

I am especially delighted to be here today as we celebrate 10 years of the Make In India initiative. "Make in India" initiative was launched on 25th September 2014 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to transform India into a global hub for design and manufacturing. Under his visionary leadership, the program has played a pivotal role in boosting domestic manufacturing, fostering innovation, enhancing skill development, and facilitating foreign investment.

This year also marks the Tenth anniversary of the signing of the India Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, which was signed by PM Modi and late PM Abe. This partnership, founded on shared values of democracy, rule of law, and mutual respect has deep-rooted historical ties, cultural exchanges and robust economic engagement which have created a solid foundation for further collaboration. Today, as the global economic order evolves, our partnership is more relevant than ever in driving growth, innovation, and sustainable development in both nations.

Today, we find ourselves at a defining moment in India's journey—a period that our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has aptly termed "Amrit Kaal," which spans from 2022 to 2047, with 2047 marking the 100th year of India's independence. Amrit Kaal is not just a timeframe; it is a vision for transforming India into a fully developed, inclusive, and self-reliant nation. This is a period where we aspire to see

India emerge as a global powerhouse, driven by innovation, cutting edge technology and skilled workforce.

Over the past decade, India has undertaken transformative reforms in infrastructure, manufacturing, digital connectivity, and green energy. Programs like “Make in India,” the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, and “Digital India” have created a conducive environment for investment, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. The Indian government’s Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and the Digital India campaign have paved the way for a conducive environment for technological advancements. Moreover, India’s young and skilled workforce, complemented by its robust democratic framework, offers unmatched opportunities for Japanese enterprises seeking to expand their global presence.

Kagawa, known for its strong expertise in Construction machinery, automotive parts, chemicals and petrochemicals, and agriculture industries is well-positioned to partner with

India's rapidly growing environment in these sectors. You will hear in greater details about Government of India policies in these sectors in the upcoming presentation. By integrating with India's manufacturing ecosystem, Kagawa businesses can reduce costs, diversify supply chains, and gain access to new markets across South Asia and beyond.

While business linkages are crucial, we must also focus on promoting people-to-people exchanges to strengthen our ties. In July this year, H.E Mr Fukushima Nukaga, the Speaker of House of Representatives of Japan led a delegation comprised of Japanese Members of Parliament and business leaders representing major Japanese companies on a 5-day visit to India. During the visit, Speaker Nukaga especially emphasized in the important of India and Japan nurturing together a Next Gen workforce in different sectors including through the popularization of Japanese language in India.

The opportunities for collaboration in Tourism sector are immense. India has been working actively to promote India as

a global destination for wellness, heritage, and adventure tourism. By building cultural ties, we can create a deeper understanding between our peoples, which will further solidify the foundation of our economic partnership. I urge the tourism stakeholders here in Kagawa to work closely with Indian travel companies and airlines to promote travel that highlight the unique experiences.

In the last two years, I have traveled extensively in Japan, visited the 47 prefectures, met with Governors, Mayors of important cities, Speakers of Legislative assemblies, Chambers of commerce, Media houses and Universities. I can say with conviction that the sentiment towards India is very positive, but there is need for constructive effort to convert this opportunity into outcomes. Today, there are 1500 Japanese companies in India, we need to increase this to 15,000. We need a Quantum Leap.

I would like to close my remarks by reiterating that India and Japan are not just strategic partners but also natural allies in shaping a future that is sustainable, inclusive, and

prosperous. The trust and goodwill that define our relationship serve as a strong base for fostering business collaboration. I invite Kagawa's business leaders to explore India's vibrant opportunities and assure you of the Embassy's full support in facilitating partnerships that benefit both nations.

Thank you once again for your warm hospitality. I look forward to engaging with you and witnessing the many success stories that emerge from this vibrant partnership. Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year 2025.

Thank you.
