

**Embassy of India  
Tokyo**

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**Address by Ambassador H.E. Mr Sibi George at the Seminar  
on "Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure & India-  
Japan Cooperation in Disaster Management ",  
Embassy of India Auditorium, Tokyo, 26 July 2024**

**Mr. Amit Prothi**, Director-General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

**Mr. Kamal Kishore**, Head of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

**Mr. Safi Ahsan Rizvi**, Advisor, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

**Ms. Makiko Ohashi**, Director in charge of International Cooperation, Disaster Management Bureau, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

Distinguished guests,

Good evening. I am delighted to welcome you all to today's seminar on the theme of "Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure & India-Japan Cooperation in Disaster Management."

Friends,

2. Over the past few years, India has taken significant strides both domestically and internationally in disaster management and risk reduction. India has introduced a multi-dimensional Disaster Management Plan, which includes raising of prompt response forces and early warning systems that have saved millions of lives. We have adopted a zero-casualty approach in our disaster response, with professional teams dedicated to securing every life. India has also leveraged the power of its youth by training millions in disaster management, empowering our communities to effectively combat disasters.

3. Globally, India is not just adopting best practices but also sharing its expertise and experience, particularly with partner countries in the Global South. Our proactive approach to disaster management is evident in providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to disaster hit countries. India today has emerged as the first respondent to disasters anywhere in the world.

4. The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is an international initiative spearheaded by India and aimed at promoting the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks. India has been a driving force behind CDRI, leading efforts to bring together governments, organizations, and experts from around the world. By sharing its extensive experience and innovative practices in disaster management, India is helping to build stronger, safer infrastructure globally. Through CDRI, India continues to play an important role in promoting international cooperation in this field. We will hear in greater detail about CDRI from its Director General who is joining us virtually today.

5. The Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan encompasses cooperation in a wide range of areas, including disaster risk reduction and infrastructure resilience. Japan, with its advanced technology and extensive experience in disaster management, is a valuable partner for India.

6. India and Japan have been actively cooperating within the framework of the Sendai Framework through the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Additionally, Japan's membership in the CDRI has further strengthened our collaborative efforts. In 2017, we signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction, and since then, we have held several workshops to share knowledge and best practices.

7. Through today's event, we hope to further drive collaborative efforts between our two countries in the field of disaster management and risk reduction. I look forward to the insightful discussions and collaborations that this event will undoubtedly inspire. Thank you for your attention.

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