

**Opening Remarks of H.E. Ambassador Sibi George at
“India-Japan Pitching Series I Edition 4.0 - Healthcare and Lifesciences”**

Date: 30 May 2024

Venue: Conference Room, Embassy of India

Distinguished investors, colleagues from Invest India and my dear entrepreneurs,

A very good afternoon.

It is my pleasure to address this exciting pitching session where brilliant minds from India will present their innovative solutions to esteemed investors from Japan. Today, we are not just facilitating investment opportunities; we are fostering a robust partnership that bridges cultures, technology, and aspirations.

India and Japan have enjoyed a rich history of cooperation, built on mutual respect and shared values. Our collaboration spans various sectors, from technology and infrastructure to healthcare and education. It is a partnership that not only strengthens our economic ties but also deepens the Special strategic and global partnership between our two nations. We are marking the tenth year of this important milestone in 2024.

Today, India boasts the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world. Today there are around 125 thousand registered start-ups directly engaging nearly 1.2 million young people. India is home to more than 110 unicorns, and the start-ups from India have filed nearly 12,000 patents. A significant share of these start ups are less than a decade old reflecting the pace of the innovation and the transformation that is happening in India.

To promote this entrepreneurial spirit, we at the Embassy have been making efforts to bridge the gap between start up founders in India and Japanese investors. During the last three editions of these events, in co-ordination with our colleagues in Invest India, we have been able to facilitate more than 150 start ups to present their ideas to Japanese investors. We are happy to again restart this important initiative.

Today, I am hopeful that you will witness the dynamism and ingenuity of Indian entrepreneurs who are eager to make a mark on the global stage. These startups represent the best of India's talent and entrepreneurial spirit, equipped with innovative solutions that have the potential to transform industries and improve lives.

To our Japanese friends, your presence here signifies a commitment to exploring new frontiers and investing in the future. The Indian startup ecosystem is vibrant and rapidly growing, driven by a youthful population, strong technological capabilities, and a supportive policy environment. Your expertise, mentorship, and capital can propel these startups to new heights.

Thank you, and I wish you all a very productive and successful session.