

Remarks by H.E. Mr Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan at the Seminar 'Building Digital Bridges: India-Japan Digital Partnership', 30 September 2024, Embassy of India, Tokyo

Good afternoon dear friends,

I am delighted to welcome all of you here today on a discussion about a key part of the relationship between India and Japan—our **Digital Partnership**.

Friends,

2. India and Japan share a long history of deep connections, both spiritual and cultural. Over the past decade, our relationship has grown into a **Special Strategic and Global Partnership**, marked by expanding interests and a broadening scope of collaboration. This partnership is based on our shared values and a common vision for peace, security, and prosperity. Today, we collaborate in key areas like trade & investment, defense & security, science & technology, energy, and healthcare. We also share a commitment to ensuring peace and stability in the **Indo-Pacific region**, and our cooperation through the Quad reflects this shared goal.

Friends,

3. At the heart of our relationship is **economic cooperation**. Japan has been one of India's most important investors, and together, we have set an ambitious target of **5 trillion yen** in public and private investment from Japan by 2027. Whether it is in infrastructure, manufacturing or technology, Japanese businesses are playing a crucial role in India's growth story.

4. One of the key areas of collaboration within this framework has been our **India-Japan Digital Partnership (IJDP)**. Launched during Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Japan in 2018, this partnership was formalized through a Memorandum of Cooperation

between India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI). I am happy to note that representatives from both these Ministries have joined us for the event today.

5. The goal of our Digital Partnership has been to facilitate cooperation in areas like **start-ups, corporate collaborations, Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), digital talent exchange, and joint research and development**. Since its inception, the India-Japan Digital Partnership has gained significant momentum. A number of initiatives have been undertaken to advance digital cooperation. For instance, a **Fund of Funds** was established to support Indian start-ups and a **Start-Up Hub** was launched to promote business-to-business engagements and start-up exchanges.

6. Another major milestone was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on **Semiconductor Supply Chains** and the launch of a **Semiconductor Policy Dialogue** last year. It was very encouraging to see presence of major Japanese semiconductor firms at the **Semicon India** event held earlier this month in India. With India providing substantive incentives for developing a semiconductor eco-system, there are great opportunities for the Japanese semiconductor industry.

Friends,

7. Let me also talk briefly about India's own strides in the digital domain. Over the past few years, India has been at the forefront of a digital revolution, driven by initiatives like **Digital India**. From building digital infrastructure to providing affordable internet access, we have created an ecosystem where technology is enabling better governance and improved quality of life. We have seen tremendous growth in digital payments, with **UPI** becoming one of the most widely adopted payment platforms in the country.

Friends,

8. As we celebrate 10 years of our Special Strategic and Global Partnership in 2024, we have an opportunity to not only celebrate our progress but also explore new avenues for collaboration. In the digital domain, we can look at promoting greater and deeper cooperation under a **Digital Partnership 2.0**. This next phase can focus on emerging technologies, such as: **Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, digital payments, and digital talent exchange**.

9. I am confident that through a new partnership we can discover new opportunities and take our collaboration to even greater heights.

Thank you.