

Address by Mr Tarun Das at
IJCCI Chamber Day Function on 22 June 2018
Chennai

Mr N Kumar, President, IJCCI and Former President, CII.

Mr Consul General of Japan – Uchiyama-San.

Its a very special privilege for me to be with you today, exactly one week after the Ambassador of Japan, Hiramatsu-San presented me with the Imperial Honour on behalf of the Govt of Japan. Same time 6.30pm.

I am impressed with the range of activities carried out by the Chamber for 29 years which has been recognized by the Govt of Japan. I know from Mr Kumar that the late Mr Krishnaswami, Founder of IJCCI, was also honoured by the Emperor. And, today/tomorrow, this Chamber has more to do because the time of India and Japan together has come.

(The Award to me motivates me to do more in the various areas of work with Japan).

Thank you, Mr N Kumar, President, IJCCI.

(Tribute–N Kumar/Very fine human being. Very thoughtful very sensitive)

(My President 1998/990)

As Co-chair, India-Japan Strategic Dialogue where the Co-Chair from Japan is Kasai-San, Chairman Emeritus of JR Central, the Bullet Train Company and the Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation, which I chair, working deeply with The Nippon Foundation chaired by Mr Yohei Sasakawa.

The Chamber's focus is necessarily on economic and trade issues but I am very pleased to see that you are also involved with teaching of the Japanese language. It is very important to create this eco-system in India.

Suggest 1 more idea. Football. Congrat Japan Beat a Latin American country for the 1st time ever on 19/6 at the World Cup.

My remarks today will go beyond Business.

Let me turn to some specifics.

1. Skills – for the Future

Smart city – Planning Skills

A.I.

Robotics.

Machine Learning.

To mention 4 areas.

Don't train for the past – train for the future.

India and Japan.

2. Energy Efficiency

Japan no. 1

Japan without Energy Resources.

A Role Model for India.

Needs much more attention by India/ and Japan can help even more than currently.

3. Japan Immigration, Work Permits etc.

Caution of the past.

Caution must continue.

15 (Indians) Persons going. Small Beginning. Let it be so.

The folly of the West is best avoided. The Essential spirit, culture and systems of the country – Japan - must be safeguarded.

This is an area for future work.

4. One of the big challenges of India is quality school education.

We need to collaborate with Japan on School Education because the child's foundation is built in schools.

In India today there are Japanese Schools but these are for Japanese children.

We need such schools for Indian children who will also learn Japanese language at a young age. Learning the language of each other is very important to connect to each other's culture and the early age learning is the best/easiest.

5. At the level of **higher education** our youth always look West. In my generation, we went to UK universities. After that, its all about USA.

But, Japan has great Universities. And, not one, but many.

We must work for a Partnership with at least one Japanese University for India.

CII is setting up a University. And, I understand the Govt of AP has given them land. I have suggested to the Chairman of the CII University Committee to seriously consider a partnership with a Japanese University instead of Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Columbia, etc.

Mr Consul General. Please take this up with CII because the University is likely to be in the South and in Partnership with Japan will bring excellent benefits to Indian students in their Teens.

6. **The Cultural gap** huge.

2 Asian countries but with almost no similarity.

In looks, in colour, in religion, in customs, in culture.

We have found the same with Singapore even though Indian population = 8% of Singapore. Cultural Dialogue/India/Singapore – Leela Samson: Co-chair.

We need to do something similar between Japan and India to increase knowledge, understanding and alignment on each other's culture. This is a very important agenda going into the future if we are to achieve high degree of comfort and trust with each other. Cultural exchanges will connect us.

7. **Health/Leprosy.**

I have to talk about Health, but, especially, Leprosy which is still a problem in India.

For 12 years I have been associated with the Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation set up under the guidance of Mr Yohei Sasakawa. He, more than anyone else in the country, has been the visionary, the missionary who leads the drive to eradicate Leprosy. To remove Stigma and Discrimination. To provide Livelihoods. To skill people affected by Leprosy. Mr Sasakawa is a Living Legend. A Living Gandhi.

And, it is my privilege to work with him and The Nippon Foundation chaired by him.

SILF is his creation which I Chair and my request to IJCCI to give us an opportunity to make presentation to your members to create awareness. Like Polio, Like Leprosy.

It is curable.

It is preventable.

Drugs are available free thanks to WTO.

Please join SILF in eradicating Leprosy.

8. India and Japan in the South Asia Region and Africa

Connectivity Projects.

Capacity Building Projects.

Relationship and Trust building Projects.

9. Begin with Maritime cooperation

Indo-Pacific is a phrase, how do we give it a definition

The term Indo-Pacific has now become a widely accepted part of the lexicon of geopolitics. And with its usage is an acceptance of what it represents: that the Indian Ocean region and the western Pacific are a single strategic entity. However, converting this concept into tangible military and political actions remains a challenge.

India and Japan already carry out naval cooperation. Both countries have shown a common commitment to a set of principles regarding the maritime sphere, including the freedom of navigation and the strategic importance of the western Pacific and the Indian Ocean in the coming decades.

India remains wary of extending itself to the Pacific Ocean. Even Japan faces a problem of maritime overstretch. A pooling of resources between India, Japan and the US and

like-minded countries would be an obvious response to such limitations. The permanent induction of Japan to the Malabar Exercises is a symbol of this fact.

The increasing COMP of the world's maritime domain is inevitable fallout of increased great power rivalry. Like-minded countries need to synchronize their maritime policies.

India and Japan Partnership is key to our safety.

1. World always complex. Post World War 2 some rules were framed by the West-T changing those rules. Plus China changing rules-earlier pretended to play by the rules but actually did not. So, we need to understand the new Rules. USA first + China no. 1.
2. In this global environment who can we depend on? Who are our real friends? For India earlier, it was USSR. USA was not happy with us. Today. India is trying to sustain a balanced relationship with USA and Russia. And, trying to evolve a tension-free relationship with China.
3. 13 years ago – Manmohan Singh/Tarun Das → India/Japan – In India – no controversy on Japan. No political differences about Japan. Every party happy to have close relationships with Japan. On Japan's side, earlier, discomfort because focus was on Investment and Trade. Investment conditions were difficult in India for Japanese. Trade continues to be limited.
4. 12 Years of Dialogue India-Japan. Economy/Energy/Defence/Nuclear/Trilateral. Process. Step by step progress. Building Trust through Actions not words. India-Japan close friends. Credit Manmohan Singh. Credit Modi.
5. Today, India less difficult but still difficult place to do business/economic activity. A way around. Japanese Townships. Japanese Companies together. Neemrana. Others to follow. Japanese live in Gurgaon. Drive to Neemrana. Japanese hotels/restaurants therefore Japanese food; Gurgaon conditions – security/safety/water/power; Golf

courses; Japanese school for Japanese children. Its important to provide to foreign investors/companies/citizens what makes them comfy.

6. PM Modi September 2014. 1st visit as PM to Japan.
 - a. Phone and tell your families in India how clean Japan is.
 - b. Ask 5 Japanese friends to visit India for a holiday. Put pressure on us to bring about a cleaner India in public places.

Intro to 2 CEOs at Banquet.

7. Over the last 12 years of many visits to Japan there has been much learning beyond Business and Industry and Investment.
 - a. Cleanliness – the Swachh Bharat Campaign is modelled on Japan.
 - b. Culture – heritage, Buddhist temples, tourist sites.
(We also have great culture. Great civilization. But, the way we maintain our public places leaves much to be desired).
 - c. Discipline – ingrained. Lines/Queues.
 - d. Work Ethics – focus when at work on work and work alone.
 - e. Productivity – because of (c+d).
 - f. Respect – for others. Bow. Symbolic of Respect.
 - g. Aesthetics – beauty, design.
 - h. Museums – (even Leprosy).
 - i. Quality especially manufacturing– Prof Ishikawa/1986. Prof Shoji Shiba/VLFM. And many other Japanese experts and Professors.

If we follow and learn from Japan – on these 9 issues – India will be a different place. India will be transformed.

And, yet they are also a Democracy.

And, People have Rights.

But, People also have Duties.

So, the canvas of India and Japan together is massive, for us to paint on. And, the role for all who want to paint is huge.

Thank you, Mr Kumar. Thank you all.