

Announcement of Ambassador Shivshankar Menon's
Achievements
on the occasion of the Conferral of Decoration upon
(May 23, 2023)

It is my great honour to stand here today on the occasion of the conferral of Decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star upon Hon'ble Ambassador Shivshankar Menon. The decoration conferred upon you is in recognition of your enduring contributions towards strengthening the bilateral relations and security cooperation between India and Japan. Now I would like to mention some of the milestones in the relationship of our two countries that you have helped in achieving.

Your contributions to India-Japan relations started more than thirty years ago. You served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India in Japan from 1989 to 1992, and as Joint Secretary of the East Asia Division of the Ministry of External Affairs from 1992 to 1995. You established the foundation which has led to the current flourishing India-Japan relationship today. In 1990, it was for the first time in six years that a Japanese Prime Minister was visiting India, and you ensured that the visit by Prime Minister Kaifu was successful.

In your term as a Foreign Secretary, our bilateral relationship accelerated, and especially we could see this through the increased number of High-Level visits between

both our countries. You actively participated in India-Japan Vice-Ministerial Meetings with Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yachi in 2007, with Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sasae in 2008 and with Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yabunaka in 2009 respectively. Your relentless efforts were seen during Prime Minister Singh's visit to Japan in 2006. At that time, we saw our relationship being elevated from "Global Partnership" to "Strategic and Global Partnership." Furthermore, you extended support in realizing Prime Minister Abe's visit to India in 2007. During this visit, Prime Minister Abe made his historic speech "Confluence of the Two Seas" at the Parliament of India which is known to have been the starting point for the vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" that is now at the core of Japan's foreign policy. You played an indispensable role in realizing this momentous episode at the Indian Parliament. You also extended support in realizing Prime Minister Singh's visit to Japan in 2008 when "the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India" was announced. You ensured that these visits were a great success.

As National Security Advisor, you have also played an important role in strengthening security cooperation between India and Japan and contributed to further development of India-Japan strategic relations. You accompanied Prime Minister Singh on the occasion of the India-Japan Summit Meeting in 2013. When National Security Secretariat was established in Japan in 2014, you

discussed India-Japan security cooperation with Mr. Yachi, the first secretary-general, in Delhi in January the same year. Moreover, you realized the establishment of India-Japan Vice-Ministerial 2+2 in July 2010. This set the precedent of the Ministerial 2+2 we see today.

In addition to that, you serve as the Chairman of Institute of Chinese Studies, a Distinguished Fellow of the Centre for Social and Economic Progress, and a Visiting Professor at Ashoka University. You have also conducted several successful research in various reputed institutions. A book titled “India and Asia Geopolitics: The Past, Present” which you authored in 2021 shed light upon Japan's role in the development of East Asia's strategic environment. As I mentioned, you have made immense contributions through your extensive research and communications.

The list of your achievements cannot be summarized in a few words. I believe that your life-long endeavors will continue to flourish and it will help augment the relationship between our two countries.

To conclude, I would like to extend heartiest congratulations to Hon'ble Ambassador Shivshankar Menon. Thank you very much. [End]