

Opening Remarks by Ambassador Suzuki at the opening ceremony of Otsuka JIM on 23 January, 2020

Distinguished Guests (tbc)

- Mr. Arvind Kukreti, Deputy Drug Controller, Central Drug Standard Control Organisation
- Mr. Hemant Koshia, Commissioner, Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act
- Mr. Chandravadan Arvindlal Shah, Gujarat Pollution Control Board
- Mr. Ganeshbhai Veljibhai Patel, Gujarat Pollution Control Board
- Mr. Rajendra V. Asari, Superintendent of Police Ahmedabad Rural
- Mr. Krishna Kumar Nirala, District Magistrate (Collector)
- Mr. Pratikbhai Maheshchandra Shah, Director, Industrial Safety and Health

It is my great honour and pleasure to attend the opening ceremony of Otsuka JIM today. I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all of you on this auspicious occasion.

Japan-India relations have never been stronger than they are now. The foundation for this solid relationship, indeed, lies in the vigorous economic activities led by the private sectors of our two countries. Japan is the largest investor for India among the major developed countries. In the last five years, the amount of total investment from Japan has exceeded USD 10 billion.

Especially in the state of Gujarat, investments by Japanese companies have grown rapidly. Not only Otsuka Pharmaceutical, but Suzuki, Honda, and recently, Unicharm have also built their factories in Gujarat. We have also jointly developed many infrastructures utilizing Japanese ODA. Japan has attended "Vibrant Gujarat", the most prominent investors' summit held in Gujarat, as the first partner country since 2009. Gujarat is an important state for Japan, with an increasing number of Japanese companies and Japanese residents.

Otsuka Pharmaceutical was established in 1964 and is a leading healthcare company worldwide. Their India headquarters was set up in 2013, here in Gujarat. One of the unique features of the company, I think, is that they are not only selling their products, but are also very serious about contributing to the health of people in the community. I therefore firmly believe that Otsuka India has been and will continue to contribute towards the better health of the people in India through their business activities here, and the opening of this JIM is one of their many efforts to contribute to the welfare of people in Gujarat.

JIM, Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing, is among the most important pillars of the India-Japan partnership for skill development. In the last one year, SriCity Japanese companies' JIM, Bellsonica JIM, and Maruti Suzuki Haryana JIM have been added to the growing tally, along with this Otsuka JIM. The program imparts key Japanese production concepts such as KAIZEN, 5S, work skills and ethics, to equip

the young, talented Indian workers to become middle management engineers and future shop floor leaders. More than one thousand students have so far successfully completed the JIM program since 2017. I am confident that participants of these programs, who gain first-hand experience at each of these facilities, will eventually go on to become the backbone of PM Modi's 'Skill India' and 'Make in India' initiatives in the years to come.

Japan attaches great importance to enhancing people's skills in India, in particular, among the youth. These youngsters will shape our future, and there can be nothing more rewarding than investing in them. I hope this new JIM will aid the further deepening of our India-Japan partnership for skill development, and foster an even closer relationship between us. I would like to conclude my remarks by offering my best wishes for the great success of this enterprise. Thank you.