

Address by Ambassador Satoshi Suzuki  
“Japan and Uttar Pradesh: Japan’s Connect with Uttar  
Pradesh”

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Shri KP Maurya, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh,

Hon’ble Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly,  
Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Past President, FICCI; Co-Chair,  
FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians, and Managing  
Director, Bharat Hotels,

Mr. Amit Jaipuria, Chair, State Council of Uttar Pradesh,  
Distinguished Guests from all quarters of the State of  
Uttar Pradesh,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. **Introduction**

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to address you all at this forum, “Japan’s Connect with Uttar Pradesh”, co-organized by FICCI’s Forum of Parliamentarians and the Embassy of Japan. This special event is the Fourth of a series entitled “Dialogue with States”, which highlights various aspects of cooperation between Indian States and Japan by hosting an event like this in cities outside of Delhi.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Honorable Members of Parliament, who are members of FICCI’s India-Japan Forum of Parliamentarians, for their contribution toward strengthening Japan-India relationship, and attending this dialogue session today as well. The collaboration between the Japanese Embassy and FICCI has been greatly enhanced in the past few years. In addition to re-

vitalizing FICCI India-Japan Forum of Parliamentarians three years ago and holding the annual meeting of Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee, we have been having a number of interactions in Tourism, IT, and several other sectors. I am also deeply grateful to FICCI's secretariat and leadership for conducting this dialogue series. I look forward to continuing and expanding our joint endeavors.

This is my first visit to Uttar Pradesh. I am very impressed by Lucknow's rich culture, history and the people's energy. I also understand that this state, which has the biggest population in India, is of great significance, both politically as well as economically. I am very happy to speak about Japan's connection with Uttar Pradesh in this city, which is home to extraordinary monuments depicting a fascinating blend of ancient, colonial, and oriental architecture.

## **2. Japan-India Relations**

Japan and India share the universal values of freedom, humanism, democracy, tolerance and non-violence, which have been nurtured in the two countries through a long history of academic, spiritual and scholarly exchanges. Now, Japan-India relationship has been enhancing under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Modi. We have the Prime Ministers' annual visit mechanism between Japan and India, and each summit has given guidance of way forward and created great momentum in expanding our strategic bilateral relations. We are preparing for the next visit to give another momentum to this special relationship.

## [FDI]

The foundation for this solid relationship, indeed, lies in the vigorous economic activities led by the public and private sectors of our two countries. In the public sector, Japanese government has extended ODA loan to India since 1958, with a view to improving India's infrastructure and investment environment as well as people's livelihood. Last year, the amount of total Japanese ODA loan to India reached 26,672 crore rupees, which is the highest amount ever. Japanese private investment to India also maintains a firm tone. The last year's FDI from Japan amounted to USD 3 billion, or 20,556 Crore rupees. Japan's total FDI to India since FY2000 have exceeded 1.8 lakh crore rupees, which is largest among major countries. The number of Japanese companies operating in India has also registered a steady growth during the past few years and has reached 1,441 in 2018. Through such steady and diverse investments in India, Japan is contributing significantly to the "Make in India" and "Skill India" initiative of the Government of India.

This increase of investment from Japan is largely due to investment promotion measures such as the liberalization on FDI policy, including allowing 100 percent FDI in single-brand retail sector, and the introduction of GST, both implemented by the Modi government.

## [Textile Retail]

I believe it is import today to diversify Japan's investments in India, which have traditionally been led

by finance and manufacturing, into service sectors. Lately, Japanese retailer MUJI established its business in India, and UNIQLO opened its first store in Delhi last year.

### **[Food Processing]**

The Government of Japan is also working on promoting investments from Japan in the food-processing field. India, with a population of 1.3 billion, is a huge market, but the level of food processing still needs to be deepened. Enhancing food processing is one of the major challenges here. In view of this, Japanese food processing companies are starting their business in India by introducing their techniques and know-how.

Japanese industry leaders, including ISE Foods in poultry, KAGOME Foods in tomato processing, KAMEDA in rice cracker processing, etc., have already invested in India after the World Food India was held in 2017. Also, pre-packaged curry giant OTSUKA Foods and major Japanese curry restaurant ICHIBANYA have entered the Indian market to promote Japanese curry here. We will continue working on promoting investments in the agri-food processing field.

### **3. Japan-Uttar Pradesh Relations**

Now I would like to highlight some important areas which Japan and Uttar Pradesh are working on together.

## [Agriculture]

The state of Uttar Pradesh is one of the major agricultural states in India and a big potential for Japan-India cooperation lies in this area. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh signed an MoU in 2018 and we are promoting Japanese companies to start their business in Uttar Pradesh for building a food value chain in the state. Various Japanese companies are undertaking field-level tests for introducing their agricultural techniques here. Next week, a Japanese delegation will come to Uttar Pradesh and discuss further possibilities of collaboration with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and C. S. Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur. Through enhancing our cooperation with Indian companies and farmers, the Japanese government will contribute to Doubling Farmer's Income.

## [Clean Ganga]

The river Ganga is the symbol of India's long history, diverse religions, and unique culture. The Government of India also puts its emphasis on water issues, as well as Clean Ganga. The Japanese Government is making its contribution to this initiative. For instance, in the Ganga Action Plan Project, we straightened the sewage treatment plants, pipes, and pump station, and established the new toilets and Dhobi Ghat. Japan has contributed towards enhancing the capacity of sewage treatment. In November 2018, Dinapur Sewage Plant in Varanasi started its operation. We also conducted the enlightenment activities to the

local citizens about the environmental issues of river Ganga, extermination of open defecation, and sanitation.

In addition to them, we signed the R/D (Record of Discussions) of a JICA Project for the Comprehensive Improvement of Environmental Sanitation in Varanasi, which seeks to improve the capacity of local government in the area of waste and sewage management.

### **[Varanasi Convention Centre]**

The Government of Japan also provides support in various levels to improve the life of Indian people. An important project in this context is the construction of the “Varanasi Convention Centre” which was agreed by our two Prime Ministers. The Japanese Government’s grant aid for this project amounts to around INR 200 crore. Through the construction of this Centre, people-to-people exchange as well as cultural exchange between domestic and international visitors will be surely enhanced. As a result, it will contribute toward tourism promotion and revitalization of the region.

### **[Grassroots aid]**

We also emphasize the cooperation which benefit the people of Uttar Pradesh. The Government of Japan has been providing Grant Assistance for Grassroots to Uttar Pradesh. For the past 10 years, we have conducted 11 projects in various cities, such as Agra, Allahabad, Amety and so on. Last week, we provided the medical devices and generators to NAINI Hospital in Allahabad using this scheme.

In addition, I understand many people in Uttar Pradesh have been suffering from cataracts. To assist their recovery, we will provide eye medical equipment to a hospital in Mathura and Noida through the scheme of Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects.

#### **[Skill training (TITP)]**

Also, Japan-India cooperation in Technical Intern training Program (TITP), such as skill training of care workers, is steadily progressing. I understand there are 2 sending organizations for dispatching TITP trainees in Noida. We will keep cooperating with National Skill Development Corporation, which is a designated institution for dispatching, for supporting the sending organizations and promoting TITP-training.

#### **4. People to People Exchange**

##### **[Tourism]**

Tourism is another promising area. The third India-Japan Tourism Council presented an excellent opportunity for profound exchange of ideas on how to boost tourism between our two countries. I am delighted that, now Japan and India are working together towards the common goal.

ANA has started to operate new direct flights from Tokyo to Chennai last October, and JAL will launch direct flights from Tokyo to Bangalore next month.

There are many tourist sites in Uttar Pradesh, such as Agra and Varanasi, where many Japanese tourists have visited. Agra is one of the most popular

sightseeing spots in the world.

Even though I am pleased with the way things are shaping up, considering the promising relationship between the two countries and the valuable tourism resources of each country, I feel we have not tapped the full potential yet. We should therefore continue to make all our efforts to attract more tourists to this beautiful and historic state.

### [Academic exchange, Japanese language]

The promotion of Japanese language education is one of the indispensable areas to energize people-to-people exchange. In order to “establish Japanese language certificate courses at 100 higher educational institutions in India as well as train 1,000 Japanese language teachers” , which is a target set by two Prime Ministers in September, 2017, Japanese Language Teachers’ Training Centre was established by the governments of India and Japan. Since its inception in July 2018, the Centre has already trained about 370 teachers.

I understand that, in Uttar Pradesh, Banaras Hindu University has a B.A. course, and IIT Kanpur offers a certificate course in Japanese language. We are ready to support educational institutions, that are interested in establishing Japanese language courses. Our support includes introducing Japanese language teachers who were trained at Japanese Language Teachers’ Training Centre and advising on making syllabi. If there are more such educational institutions in Uttar Pradesh, I would like to ask all of you to let us know.



## 5. Closing

Today I have focused only on a selected number of fields, but let me emphasize that Japan and India are also cooperating in other areas too, such as start-ups, smart cities, science and technology, and sports. I am hoping that we can identify more promising areas of cooperation between Japan and Uttar Pradesh through our discussions today. I hope that, in addition to all of you in this room, many more will join us in our common endeavor to further strengthen the Japan-India and Japan-Uttar Pradesh partnership.

Thank you very much.