

Opening Remarks at the Dialogue with Dr. Rajiv Kumar,  
on Tuesday, 9th June 2020

- Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog
- Mr. R. R. Joshi, Chairman of ACTL\*  
    \*Associated Container Terminals Limited
- Mr. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, Chairman of JCCII
- Moderator; Mr. Bharat Joshi, Director, ACTL
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere respect to all the medical professionals, essential service providers, and government officials - working day in and day out - to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak.

Dr. Rajiv Kumar, it is an honor for me to be able to meet you again, even if it is only in a virtual setting like this. Many companies have gathered today to listen to your vision, and to discuss what India and Japan can do collaboratively under this crisis.

The relationship between the two countries has been solid and strong based on the vigorous economic activities led by the private sectors of our two countries. We remain convinced of India's economic potential even after the Covid-19 pandemic. And Japan would like to continue making a major contribution to your economy in the post-COVID world.

The issue is how can we work together to ensure this. This will not be easy. We are fighting an uphill battle against an increasingly grave COVID situation in India. The pandemic has revealed a kind of vulnerability of India as a destination of investment. Most Japanese people have left India already, and the ratio of people that left is much higher here than in other countries like China, Thailand, and Malaysia. What will the impact of a "self-reliant" India be on its industrial and trade policy? We really need to think hard - India really needs to think hard - how we can reverse the table on this game.

I, therefore, would like to humbly request you to listen carefully to the voices of Japanese companies present here today, who chose to remain in this country and are struggling to resume operations to further augment India's economic presence in the world. The first thing we need to make sure to do is to get these companies back on their feet as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Japanese companies, I wish to thank you again for this opportunity. Also, I would like to say to the fellow Indian companies here today. Let us rise up and overcome this crisis together! Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. R.R. Joshi and Mr. Bharat Joshi for coordinating today's event.

Thank you very much.