

**Address by Ambassador SUZUKI Satoshi  
at the Investment Opportunities for  
Japanese Companies in Odisha  
(October 14, 2021)**

Shri Dibya Shankar Mishra, Hon'ble Minister of Industries, MSME and Energy, Government of Odisha,  
Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India,  
Shri Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha,  
Shri Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Odisha,  
Dignitaries from the Government of Odisha,  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

**(Introduction)**

Namaskar and good afternoon.

It is my great pleasure to join you at this investment seminar dedicated for Japanese companies.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Odisha for organizing this event while taking all possible measures against COVID-19.

In 2020 and 2021, countries around the world struggled against the spread of COVID-19. And India, including Odisha, was no exception. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt sympathy and

deep condolences to those who have lost their loved ones due to the pandemic.

As you may know, last week on October 4<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Fumio Kishida was elected as new Prime Minister of Japan and has formed his Cabinet. Only four days after taking the helm, on October 8<sup>th</sup>, Prime Minister Kishida spoke with Prime Minister Modi over the phone. This demonstrates that our new Prime Minister continues to attach the utmost importance to our relationship with India like his predecessors. The two leaders have concurred to further develop Japan-India bilateral relations and to work closely toward the realization of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. As two Prime Ministers have renewed their commitment to a stronger relationship, the holding of today's seminar in Odisha is all the more timely.

Next year, 2022, is the year of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. We can make further progress in all areas of cooperation under our "Special Strategic and Global Partnership." India and Japan will continue to work together based on our shared values such as democracy, freedom, the rule of law, and a rules-based international order.

### **(Japan-Odisha Relationship)**

Let me briefly touch upon the economic relationship between Japan and Odisha.

Since Odisha is abundant in mineral resources such as iron ore and chromium, export of Odisha's mineral resources to Japan has been driving the development of economic relations between the two countries.

The Government of Japan on its part has contributed to the economic development of Odisha through various ODA projects, including the development of the forestry sector and the improvement of sanitation through sewerage system development.

The Government of Odisha has been working tirelessly to attract investment from foreign companies, and has launched "GO-SWIFT", a one-stop portal site that gathers information on industrial land and incentives.

As a result of these efforts, in recent years, a considerable number of Japanese companies, including the four companies introduced earlier, have established their presence in Odisha. Specifically, the number of Japanese business establishments in Odisha has more than quintupled in ten years from 11 in 2010 to 59 in 2020.

I hope that this seminar will help Japanese companies further accelerate their investment in Odisha. I would like to request the Government of Odisha to continue working towards improving the business environment in order to attract more investments from Japanese

companies.

**(Closing)**

Finally, I would like to point out that the challenges we have experienced in the COVID pandemic only serve to increase the need for all stakeholders to collaborate in overcoming the risks identified and in grasping future growth. Diversifying production bases is one and making supply chains more resilient is another. And making full use of digital technologies is also a case in point.

I believe today's event is offering an excellent opportunity for all the participants to renew their commitment to this collaboration. So, let me conclude my remarks by offering my best wishes for the great success of this event.

Thank you.