

**Address from H.E. Mr. Kenji HIRMATSU,
Ambassador of Japan to India,
on the occasion of Inauguration of
“Happening Haryana Global Investors Summit 2016”
– 7th March, 2016 –**

H.E. Mr. Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of the State of Haryana,

H.E. Captain Abhimanyu, Minister of Industries and Commerce, the State of Haryana,

H.E. Mr. Arun Jaitley, Union Minister of Finance,

H.E. Mr. Venkiah Naidu, Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

Honourable Ministers from the Union Government of India,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be able to attend this event representing Japan as a Partner Country and address you all on behalf of the Government of Japan.

The State of Haryana hosts the greatest number of Japanese companies among the States in India. According to the latest survey announced by the Embassy of Japan last month, there are 305 Japanese companies operating in Haryana, surpassing by far the second-ranked Maharashtra, which hosts 203 Japanese companies.

I understand that the presence of Japanese companies in Haryana is the largest as compared to that of companies from other foreign countries.

In addition to manufacturing plants, many Japanese companies have their offices to deploy their business activities all over India from Gurgaon.

The Japanese Government as well as the Japanese business community attach a great importance to the good relationship with Haryana as a manufacturing base, supply base, and headquarters for Japanese companies in North India. The successful visit to Japan of H.E. Mr. Manohar Lal Khatar in January this year has further enhanced this already strong relationship.

Investment from Japanese companies does not simply create jobs, but also brings in world-class excellent technology and promotes skill development of employees. In other words, it facilitates comprehensive enhancement of competitiveness of the area as a whole.

For example, in Haryana, Japanese car companies have been investing for more than thirty years. Through their operations in Haryana, a close network of supporting industries has also been formed to supply various parts to the Japanese car companies.

This is the result of long-term efforts made by the State Government of Haryana to support smooth operations of Japanese companies, and would like to commend the Haryana Government for its constant support.

Last December when Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe visited India, both Prime Ministers welcomed the steady progress of

“the Japan-India Investment Promotion Partnership” initiative, which was announced in September 2014. The initiative set concrete targets of doubling Japan’s FDI and the number of Japanese companies in India, and achieve 3.5 trillion yen (around 30 billion USD) of public, private investment and financing from Japan to India, both within five years.

Based on this initiative, we are encouraging more investment into the State of Haryana.

Both the Governments of Japan and India have jointly identified Jhajjar of Haryana as one of the candidate sites for “Japan Industrial Townships (JITs)”. I welcome the progress of preparatory work toward development of the Jhajjar-JIT and expect that special incentive packages be provided to attract Japanese investment in this JIT. I believe this will work as an effective driver to increase more Japanese investment in Haryana.

At the same time, I would like to mention that Haryana is not alone in making strenuous efforts to attract investments. Other States are also racing to invite Japanese investments.

A visible example of this is the visits of Chief Ministers of different States to Japan in the past one year to stage roadshows for Japanese investors, to conduct one-on-one meetings with interested business entities and, in some cases to announce a very bold set of substantive incentives during these visits.

As part of its efforts to collaborate with the State Government of Haryana, the Japanese Embassy has sought the views of Japanese companies operating in Haryana for possible improvement of business environment, and submitted a list of requests to the State Government of Haryana. I sincerely hope that the State Government of Haryana will provide prompt and effective solutions

to those requests in order to continue to be an attractive investment destination for Japanese industries.

As part of these requests, I would also like to emphasize the importance of ensuring a safe and secure environment in the State. I appreciate the timely assistance of the State Government at the time of the widespread agitation which took place last month. I would like to reiterate my request to the State Government to continue to maintain safety around the industrial parks and secure availability of smooth logistical network in the State.

Haryana is the most familiar place for the Japanese people residing in Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region), and we are looking forward to further cooperating with the State Government of Haryana towards making the State a safer and more attractive work-place as well as a comfortable living-place for them.

I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing Haryana a great success of this event and further investments to the State of Haryana. Thank you very much for your kind attention.