

**Address by Ambassador SUZUKI Satoshi
at the CII Steel Mart 2021
(December 2, 2021)**

Shri Som Parkash, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry,
Shri Bhavdeep Sardana, Chairman of CII Punjab State,
Shri V R Sharma, Chairman of CII Steel Mart 2021,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

(Introduction)

Namaskar and good morning.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to CII for organizing this event and selecting Japan as the partner country.

CII has made significant and long-standing contributions to strengthening the economic ties between Japan and India. And this year, CII was awarded Commendation of the Japanese Foreign Minister in recognition of this. I would like to reiterate my sincere congratulations to CII on its achievements.

In 2020 and 2021, countries around the world struggled against the spread of COVID-19. India was no exception. But it is time for us to roll up our sleeves and revitalize our activities

(Japan-India Relationship)

In October, Mr. Kishida was elected as the new Prime Minister of Japan. Only four days after taking the helm, Prime Minister Kishida spoke with Prime Minister Modi over the phone. This demonstrates that our new Prime Minister and his Cabinet continue to attach utmost importance to a strong relationship with India. Both leaders reconfirmed to make further progress in all areas of cooperation under our “Special Strategic and Global Partnership.”

Steel is one of the key industries for our bilateral cooperation. India and Japan have been building cooperative relationship in this sector through various opportunities.

India is now the second largest producer of crude steel in the world, surpassing Japan. Demand for steel in India is expanding, especially in the field of infrastructure development and the automotive industry.

In the steel policy announced in 2017, the Government of India targets to increase India’s crude steel production capacity to 300 million tons by 2030. At the same time, India is committed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2070, as recently announced by Prime Minister Modi at COP 26. Therefore, energy conservation and utilization of green energy are urgent challenges to meet in this sector. In this regard, I foresee that there is good potential for further cooperation between our two countries.

As you know, Japanese steel makers have made significant investments in India. For example, JFE Steel has invested in JSW. Nippon Steel has established a joint venture with TATA

and acquired Essar Steel with Arcelor Mittal.

At the government level, cooperation has been also very active in this sector. In December last year, METI, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, signed a MOC with the Ministry of Steel that serves as a basis for further cooperation in this field. I will not go into the details of this MOC, because this will probably be discussed in "the Japan session" that will follow. However, allow me to just say that the Government of Japan would like to see further collaboration with India through human resources development and technical cooperation in such areas as energy conservation and environment.

(Closing)

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

Thank you.