

**Address by Ambassador SUZUKI Satoshi
at the 11th India-Japan Science & Technology Seminar
(December 6, 2021)**

His Excellency Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma,
Ambassador of India to Japan
Prof. K. VijayRaghavan,
Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India
Dr. Susumu Satomi, President, Japan Society for the Promotion
of Science (JSPS)
Prof. Tasuku Honjo, Nobel Laureate 2018, Director of Center for
Cancer Immunotherapy and Immuno-biology, Graduate School of
Medicine, Kyoto University

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, let me express my heartfelt congratulations on the inauguration of the “11th India-Japan Science & Technology Seminar.” I am grateful to those concerned for the efforts to hold this seminar this year after one year break due to COVID-19.

As you may agree, the relationship between India and Japan has experienced rapid and significant expansion in recent years. Science and technology is one of the important fields to which both our governments attach highest value for further bilateral collaboration. One good example is outer space. Japan and India are planning a joint mission to the Moon. Just imagine the excitement that people would feel when we join our hands and succeed in sending an unmanned rover to the South Pole of the Moon! Furthermore, we are also looking forward to excitement in such important fields as bio-technology, artificial intelligence (AI), nano-technology, and quantum technology,

where researchers of both Japan and India are collaborating to make contribution to better lives and society through science.

No collaboration is possible without our scientists having the opportunity to know and interact with each other. This is exactly what JSPS, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science does. JSPS has been playing a pivotal role in fostering Japan-India cooperation through its wide spectrum of scientific and academic programs. JSPS is supporting young Indian researchers by inviting them to Japan and offering grant assistance for their scientific researches. Actually, the "JSPS Post-doctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers Program" has been successfully run in cooperation with the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST). Exchanges of young scientific talents have additional benefits to the further development of our cooperation. When scientists of Japan and India come to know each other and engage with each other, they can together create new knowledge and technology. In this regard, I would like to commend the work of the Indian JSPS Alumni Association to maintain and further cultivate this excellent researchers' network. The Association is also providing indispensable support for the selection of candidates for Japanese Government's scholarship, ensuring the best and the brightest of India can study in Japan.

Distinguished participants,

The coming year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. In 2022, we can make further progress in all areas of cooperation. And science and technology is where we can really make significant difference by combining the strengths of Japan and India.

Before concluding my remarks, allow me to make one request to all of you present here today. The bond of friendship and the exchange network that have been created through programs such as the ones I touched upon must be maintained, nurtured and expanded. This can only be done with the help of each and every one of you. So, while once again thanking the Indian JSPS Alumni Association for its invaluable contributions, I call upon everyone to act as individuals to build upon the relationships that you already have and to create new ones too. Next year will be an opportune year for all of us to take concrete action towards this end.

Thank you very much.