

**Address by Ambassador SUZUKI Satoshi
at Signing & Exchange of MoUs
Between Government of Rajasthan and Japanese companies
(July 7, 2022)**

Shri Ashok Gehlot, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan,
Smt Shakuntala Rawat, Hon'ble Minister of Industries and
Commerce,
Distinguished Members of the Government of Rajasthan,
Distinguished representatives of Japanese Companies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Introduction

Namaskar and Good afternoon.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to join this ceremony. Actually, this is my third visit to Neemrana Industrial Park and every time I come here, I am impressed with dynamism and enthusiasm of this place.

First of all, I would like to thank the Government of Rajasthan for hosting this event, dedicated to the relations with Japan in this commemorative year of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-India diplomatic ties.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Government of Rajasthan for various efforts it has made to attract and host Japanese companies to the state, particularly to the Neemrana Industrial Park and Ghiloth Industrial Park.

2. The relationship between India and Japan, and the reciprocal visits of Prime Ministers

India and Japan share fundamental values such as democracy and the rule of law. Our relationship is not just any

other bilateral relationships, but an exceptional one, which is framed as the “**Special Strategic and Global Partnership**”.

I think it is still fresh in our minds that Prime Minister Kishida of Japan visited India in March. This was the first Prime Minister’s visit to India in the last four and a half years.

Honorable Prime Minister Modi also visited Japan this May. These reciprocal visits in a short period of time have taken our bilateral relations to the next level and brought our two countries even closer.

3. The economic relations between India and Japan

There has been significant progress made in the economic relationship between our countries in recent years.

At the Japan-India summit meeting in March, two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction that the investment target of 3.5 trillion Japanese Yen, which amount to approximately 2 lakh crore Rupees, announced in 2014, has been achieved in five years.

Furthermore, the leaders expressed their shared intention to realize a public and private investment and financing of 5 trillion Japanese Yen, which is equivalent to 3 lakh crore Rupees, from Japan to India in the next five years.

Given this background, it is quite timely that the Government of Rajasthan and 11 Japanese companies sign MOUs for investments, totaling 1,300 crore rupees and creating over 2,200 jobs here.

I am particularly pleased that one Japanese company has made committed to invest to the Ghiloth Industrial Park for the first time. I hope many other Japanese companies will follow and come to Ghiloth.

In this regard, I recognize that the Rajasthan Government has been offering very effective incentives and faithfully working closely with JETRO and Japanese companies to promote the investment of Japanese companies to the state.

Thanks to these efforts, the number of Japanese business establishments in Rajasthan has increased from 10 in 2008 to 170 in 2021, which is amazing 17 fold.

I hope that the Rajasthan Government will continue to carefully listen to the voices of Japanese companies and promote the further development of the business environment.

Japan on its side intends to contribute to the development of Rajasthan and India as a whole, through close cooperation with Japanese agencies such as JETRO, JICA, JBIC, and AOTS.

The Embassy of Japan will participate in "Invest Rajasthan 2022" scheduled for October this year, and I look forward to working together to boost bilateral relations further.

4. Conclusion

In closing, I would like to express my hope that Japanese companies will continue to invest in Rajasthan, and the relationship between India and Japan will become even stronger in the future.

Thank you so much.