

**Embassy of India**

**Tokyo**

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**Remarks by Ambassador at the IJICP Automotive event**

**Date: 30 Sep 2024**

**Time: 1630 - 1730 hrs**

**Mr. Hanif Qureshi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries,  
Government of India**

**Mr. Keisuke Hosonuma, Director, Automotive International Trade Policy,  
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan,**

**Mr. Masashi Oshita, Vice Chairman and Executive Managing Director,  
Japan Auto Parts Industries Association,**

**Mr. Vinnie Mehta, Director General, Automotive Component  
Manufacturers Association of India,**

**Distinguished Representatives of Japanese Industry,**

**Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I extend my warm welcome to all of you present in today's event focusing on the automotive sector of the India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership.

I am especially delighted to welcome you today as we celebrate 10 years of the Make In India initiative. "Make in India" initiative was launched on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to transform India into a global hub for design and manufacturing. Under his visionary leadership, the program has played a pivotal role in boosting domestic manufacturing, fostering innovation, enhancing skill development, and facilitating foreign investment. This year marks the Tenth anniversary of

the signing of the India Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, which was signed by PM Modi and late PM Abe.

The India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership (IJICP) plays a crucial role in strengthening the economic ties between the two nations by fostering collaboration in key sectors such as automotive, manufacturing, infrastructure, technology, and innovation. Launched as a strategic initiative, IJICP is designed to enhance industrial competitiveness through the exchange of best practices, investment in cutting-edge technologies, and capacity building. Through IJICP, India and Japan aim to create sustainable economic growth and improve both the countries' positioning in robust global value chains.

Today, as the global automotive landscape undergoes a transformative shift, I would like to focus on three key areas where India and Japan can develop synergies to build a more sustainable, innovative, and safe future. These areas offer tremendous potential for deepening our collaboration and mutual growth.

The first is Clean Energy Policies and Practices. The path towards clean, green, and sustainable mobility is not just an option—it is an imperative. Both India and Japan are committed to reducing carbon footprints. E mobility is an area where Japan's technology can fuel India's rapid adoption of electric vehicles. Indian market presents an exciting opportunity for joint ventures, R&D, and knowledge-sharing. India has recently launched its National Hydrogen Mission, aiming to make the country a global hub for hydrogen production and export. By joining hands, we can pioneer pathways for decarbonized road transport, benefiting not only our nations but also the global automotive industry.

The Second area is Advanced Technologies in Automotive Components. India's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme introduced in 2020 has resulted in USD 16 billion in investments and a significant boost in manufacturing output of USD 130 billion. Over 8.5 lakh jobs have been

created directly and indirectly due to this initiative. For the automotive sector, key technologies such as batteries, cells, motors, and rare earth magnets have been identified as priorities. Japan's excellence in the production of high-efficiency batteries and rare earth elements can play a pivotal role in complementing India's PLI scheme.

Third, we need to focus on Sustainable business models for Recycling. Japan, with its well-established expertise in recycling automotive parts and materials, can provide invaluable insights to help India develop and optimize its own vehicle scrapping and recycling centers.

In the last nearly one and half years, I have traveled extensively in Japan, visited all the 47 prefectures, and met with Governors, Mayors of important cities, Speakers of Legislative assemblies, Chambers of commerce, Media houses and Universities. I can say with conviction that the sentiment towards India is very positive, but there is need for constructive effort to convert this opportunity into outcomes. Today, there are 1500 Japanese companies in India, we need to increase this to 15,000. We need a Quantum Leap.

Ladies and Gentlemen, since 2014, India has attracted a cumulative FDI inflow of USD 667.4 billion, registering an increase of 119% over the preceding decade. Today, India is one of the most attractive destinations for automotive manufacturing, with a supportive ecosystem that includes industry-friendly policies, skilled labor, and a growing market for both domestic and export-oriented production.

Japan has played an invaluable role in this journey. Many leading Japanese automotive giants have set up manufacturing plants in India, helping India become one of the largest producers of automobiles globally. The focus on localization, technology transfer, and skills development has not only strengthened bilateral trade but also aligned perfectly with India's vision of becoming self-reliant while integrating seamlessly into the global supply chain. As we move into the next decade, Make in India will continue

to be a powerful driver of economic growth, innovation, and sustainable development, and we welcome Japan's partnership in this endeavor.

Together, we can harness our collective expertise, resources, and technologies to create a future that is not only prosperous but also environmentally conscious and safe. Let us seize this moment to deepen our ties, and work toward a shared vision of a greener, smarter, and safer mobility ecosystem.

I once again thank each one of you for becoming a part of this important event today.

Thank you.

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