EMBASSY OF JAPAN

FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians

Dialogue with States- V:
Japan's Connect with Karnataka

February 17, 2021, 0900- 1030 hrs
Virtual Platform

Introduction

Japan and India share a "Special Strategic and Global Partnership". The relations between the two countries are of immense importance to each other and the world. A resurgent Japan and a transforming India could potentially reshape the Asian Strategic landscape. Both countries have witnessed significant deepening of bilateral relations in the past few years under the leadership of PM Abe and Prime Minister Modi.

FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians proposed **Dialogue Series with States** ***in partnership with the Embassy of Japan*** to deepen engagement with States and focusing on the significant deepening of bilateral relations and a growing convergence in the political, economic and strategic interests.

Ambassador Hiramatsu during his speech FICCI's India Japan Forum of Parliamentarians interaction at The Lalit, Delhi on April 4, 2018 announced: "*Our Embassy and FICCI's Forum of Parliamentarians agreed to jointly organize a Dialogue with Indian States, in which we will hold seminars to highlight geo-political and geo-economic aspects of cooperation between Indian States and Japan that are of interest to Indian MPs, industry and academics in States. Our bilateral relations have gone deeper and wider to a level to have strategic engagements at the State level."*

On these lines we organized FICCI and the Embassy of Japan organised four successful Dialogue with States - in Bihar, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The first Dialogue – Japan meets Bihar was organised in June 2018. It was followed by the second Dialogue – Celebrating the Shillong Sakura Connect in November 2018. The 3rd Dialogue with States – Japan's Rendezvous with Rajasthan was convened in Jaipur on August 28, 2019 and the 4th Dialogue with States was organised in the City of Nawab- Lucknow on February 20, 2020 at Hotel Taj Mahal.

Dialogue with States – V:

FICCI in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan is going to organise Dialogue with States V: Japan's Connect with Bangalore, Karnataka in a new format (virtual), on February 17, 2021. The proposed discussion would bring together a comprehensive group of stakeholders comprising elected representatives, senior industry members of the region, representatives from Japanese

industry, policy makers and Indian government officials to deliberate upon the harmony of both our democracies through the geo-economic prism.

Background

The Dialogue with States- V will be organised virtually. Karnataka poses immense capacity and is a major contributor to the Indian economy. It is the most sought-after destinations and with immense amount of resources which can create investment and business opportunities for both national and international investors. It even has set up a single-window for investors and provides a strong market in sectors such as IT, Education, Skill Development, Infrastructure.

Skill development- Skill development is crucial in the present time where upskilling and reskilling is the need of the hour. With the presence of a large number of Japanese companies in the State, JIMs have been established to train future shop floor leaders in Japanese style manufacturing processes and key working methods and 5 Japanese Companies established JIMs in 2017 out of which Toyota and Hitachi have established in Karnataka.

Information Technology- IT being a strong sector in Karnataka, with Bangalore carving a niche in IoT, AI, BT technologies in India, it is another potential sector for collaboration between the countries. The first Start-up Hub was established in Bangalore by JETRO to identify selected Indian start-ups for Japanese market and for potential Japanese investors with an objective to ensure the induction of skilled workforce in several industries.

Education- Promoting academic exchanges and promoting Japanese literature, language and culture, centres of excellence could be set up in Bangalore to skill the Indian workforce to ensure employment opportunities.

Infrastructure- In 2019, a Friendship Exchange Council's (FEC), a Japanese NPO, had led a delegation to India. Former Ambassador of Japan to India, Hirabayashi and Consul-General of Japan in Bengaluru, Takayuki Kitagawa along with this delegation met with Karnataka CM discussed on collaboration on IT and promoting the Japan Industrial Township in Tumakuru and attracting Japanese investors in the State.

Envisioned as a track II collaborative exercise between stakeholders from government, industry, academia and policy experts to enable focused discussion on galvanizing the connect – economic, socio – cultural and people to people between Karnataka and Japan. The Dialogue proposes to have deliberations on the economic, political and cultural connect of Japanese companies in the State. It would encompass discussions on capacity building as a catalyst to sustainable, inclusive economic development and the people to people connect.

The key aspects of the discussion:

a) Economic connect
b) Skills and capacity building
c) Tourism
d) People to people connect