

Bihar...

Investment Promotion Seminar



Keynote Address by Mr. Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister, Bihar, India



Mr. Nitish Kumar
Chief Minister, Bihar, India

Excellencies,
Distinguished
leaders, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

It gives me
immense pleasure
to speak before this
august gathering. I

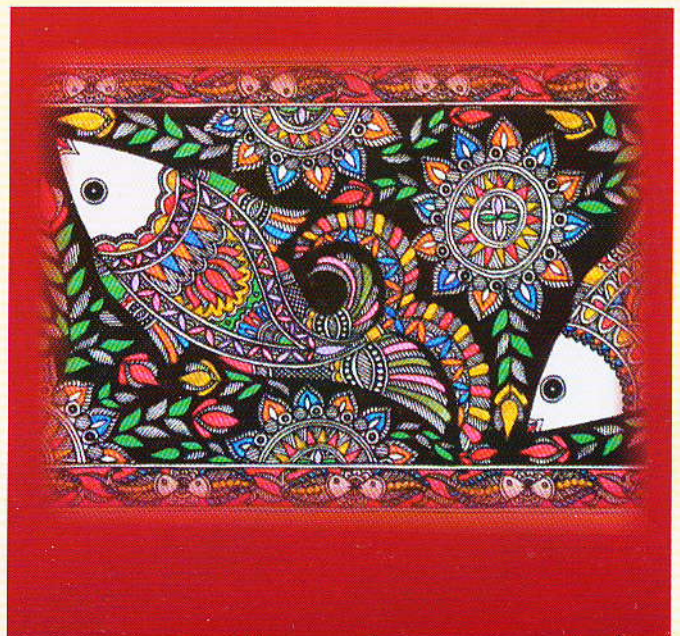
would like to start by thanking the Government of Japan, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Embassy of India in Japan for organizing this "Investment Promotion Seminar" and providing me and the members of my delegation an opportunity to showcase Bihar to the participants.

I accepted the invitation to visit Japan because I wanted to take inspiration from the amazing ethos and astounding progress of Japan and at the same time share Bihar's opportunities and strengths. We have induced a great deal of dynamism and inclusiveness in Bihar's economy and its growth rate is one of the fastest in India. I seek your support in sustaining this growth and making it more vibrant and self-generating. Therefore I encourage all of you present here today to actively partner in Bihar's development.

The Bilateral relations between Japan and India have always been cordial & friendly. They have significantly deepened in last few

years and there is a growing convergence in the political, economic and strategic interests, based on the firm foundation of common values and traditions. There has been an emerging consensus on contemporary issues of peace, security and development. Both Nations are continuously working together to elevate their partnership to the next level. Our relations are based on a strong commitment to values-based partnership in achieving a free, open and prosperous world.

The friendship between Japan and India has a long history rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilizational ties. India's earliest documented direct contact with Japan was with the Todaiji Temple in Nara, where the sanctification of the towering statue of Lord Buddha was performed by an Indian monk, Bodhisena, in 752 AD. Informal ties and cultural exchange have existed between the two Nations from time



immemorial. One such beautiful example is that of a museum of Mithila Paintings in Japan. Thousands of miles away from India the traditional Mithila Paintings of Bihar have found an oasis in Japan. The "Mithila Museum" situated in Tokamachi hills in Japan's Niigata prefecture and a brainchild of Mr. Tokio Hasegawa, is now a treasure home of 15000 exquisite Mithila Paintings.

I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Japan for partnering the re-establishment of Nalanda University. The new Nalanda University is envisaged as a centre of inter-civilizational dialogue. Nalanda University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kanazawa University of Japan for academic collaboration, which holds immense significance.

Another wonderful example of Indo Japanese's collaboration is Bihar Museum. Getting selected through an international bid, the famous Japanese architectural firm 'Maki & Associates' has envisaged the architectural design of



Ruins of Nalanda Mahavihar
An ancient seat of learning