



High Commission of India

Dhaka

**Remarks by High Commissioner of India, Shri Vikram Doraiswami
at the Inauguration of India Bangladesh Auto Component Show
[Venue: Hotel Intercontinental, Dhaka] on
24th February 2022**

H.E. Mr. Kamal Ahmed Majumder, Hon'ble Minister of State for Industries, Government of Bangladesh,

Mr Avijit Chowdhury (Additional Secretary), Executive Member, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA),

Mr Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, Standard Bank Ltd.,

Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, Bangladesh Automobile Assemblers and Manufacturers Association (BAAMA) and India Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IBCCI),

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

Mr. Saurabh Poddar, Executive Member, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India,

Captains of Automotive Industry from Bangladesh: Hafiz Bhai, Chairman, Runner Group; Ahsan bhai, Pran RFL Group; Mr Muddasir Moin, Group Director, Mr Rahimafrooz Bangladesh Ltd.; Mr Humayun Rashid, Energypac Power Generation Ltd.; Mr Mohammad Ali Deen, General Secretary, BAAMA; and India

Friends from Media,

I am very delighted to be here at the inauguration of the India Bangladesh Auto Component Show— jointly organized by the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) and Bangladesh Automobile Assemblers and Manufacturers Association (BAAMA). Thank you again for your efforts, despite the continuing turmoil created by the COVID pandemic.

2. The exhibition will showcase Indian and Bangladeshi strengths in the Auto-engineering sector and give further impetus to the priorities attached by their Excellencies the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh, to generating industrial growth, including through light engineering, and to the strategic importance of India-Bangladesh Industrial partnerships across the value chain of production.

3. Friends, we just heard from Mr. Vini Mehta, about the role played by ACMA. It is therefore a pleasure to have the presence here of the Apex body of Auto Component Industry in India with over 850 members representing 85% of this sector. Your efforts to steer high-quality auto component production for both domestic as well as international markets is commendable. Thank you especially for securing the presence of 20 renowned Indian component-manufacturing companies here. These firms are at the forefront of Automotive OEM manufacturing, with a diverse portfolio including engine parts, transmission parts, brake system & components, body parts, exhaust systems and turbochargers.

4. To my Indian friends, let me remind you that economic growth in Bangladesh has been remarkably strong for a decade. The country is registering an average GDP growth of over 7% per annum for several years. As in any other modern economy, engineering and engineering products—more specifically Auto Sector – has a transformational role to play in facilitating the sustained growth of the Bangladesh economy. Your attention to this market is as timely as it is essential.

5. Friends, the Automobile Industry in Bangladesh has made rapid strides in the past decade. I am confident that under the new Automobile Industry Development Policy of Bangladesh, the Automobile and Auto component sector will guide Bangladesh on its journey towards joining India as a regional manufacturing hub. Indian firms must factor in these Bangladeshi goals and essential elements in their growth strategies.

6. For my Bangladeshi friends, let me say that today as we speak of transformational advancement in the Automobile sector, I can think of no better partner for you on this ‘journey’ than India. We are not only next

door, our journey has also been in similar circumstances and from similar beginnings. Major Indian Auto industry giants such as TATA, MAHINDRA, BAJAJ, HERO MOTORCORP, ASHOK LEYLAND etc. have already established a strong presence in Bangladesh and are contributing to Bangladesh's economy by generating employment and revenue for the Government and by keeping the economy literally on the move. Friends let me take this opportunity to reiterate that Bangladesh can continue to count on India as a reliable and capable partner in the development of this sector. Our businesses are here to stay, for the long haul, in Bangladesh.

7. As they say in Automobile business, India is “**Running in Top gear**”. Today, our auto industry is valued at USD 118 bn. And it is well supplemented by the Auto Component OEMs in India. Indeed, over 60% of India's auto component exports are to premier markets in Asia and another 33% to Europe and North America; this speaks of the quality of Indian auto components. Given its competence, geographical proximity and improving multimodal connectivity to Bangladesh, Indian industry is in an ideal position to meet the demand for Automobile Component products in Bangladesh, including through new partnerships and JVs.

8. Friends, you will be happy to know that our countries are planning to initiate the process of dialogue for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. This will be more than an FTA covering goods trade; it will include liberalization of trade in services, investment promotion and technological cooperation as well. With the graduation of Bangladesh from LDC status, this Agreement will provide a basis for preferential trade to continue between the two countries.

9. On the investment side, total Indian investment proposals registered with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority exceeds USD 3.5 billion; with the finalization of the IEZs at Mirasal and Mongla, Bangladesh will certainly see more inflow of Indian investment especially in the Auto Component sector.

10. Let me take this opportunity to invite Bangladesh companies present here to attend three annual exhibitions in related sectors -- Auto Technology Partnership Summit, Auto Connect and EV Expo, all organized by ACMA in March 2022 in India. Bangladesh companies can identify technologies and partners that they wish to bring to Bangladesh in partnership with their Indian counterparts. ACMA, in association with the BAAMA, can also organize a session on investment opportunities in Bangladesh during these exhibitions.

11. I must thank the Hon'ble Minister of State for Industries, Bangladesh, H.E. Kamal Ahmed Majumder for attending the inauguration of India Bangladesh Auto Component Show as the Chief Guest. Let me also thank the President of the extending their support to ACMA for organizing this event. I also congratulate ACMA India for having taken the initiative to organize this event in Bangladesh. I extend my best wishes to the exhibitors, buyers and visitors participating in India Bangladesh Auto Component Show. I wish you good business and great success from your meetings and discussions today.

Thank you.
