

# Japan International Cooperation Agency Newsletter

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# Project Updates basis signing of project agreements

## KMRCL unveils JICA funded Sealdah Metro Station & Extension of East-West Metro service from Phoolbagan Station to Sealdah Station

**Kolkata, July 13, 2022:** On 11th July, 2022, the Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRCL) flagged off the train from Sealdah Metro station to Phoolbagan Station through video conferencing from Howrah Maidan station.

Mrs. Smriti Irani, Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, Govt. Of India; Mr. Arun Arora, Chairman of Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. & General Manager, Metro Railway; Mr.C.N. Jha, Managing Director, KMRCL and Mr. NAKAGAWA Koichi, Consul-General of Japan in Kolkata were part of the ceremony. It was commenced by observing one minute silence in the memory of late former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Abe Shinzo.

Inaugurating the ceremony, Mrs. Smriti Irani said, "The extension to Sealdah, a terminal railway station in the city, will help around 35,000 passengers in their daily commute from adjoining districts. Government of India has done everything to provide impetus to infrastructure building of the Railways and the Metro services in view of increasing population."

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. NAKAGAWA Koichi, Consul-General of Japan in Kolkata**, expressed his hope that the inauguration of Sealdah Metro Station will further enhance India-Japan relationship and Kolkata East-West Metro. And he also said "Government of Japan has been supporting this project so that it is expected to mitigate the traffic congestions, reduce air pollution, minimize the road accident and make travel smoother general people in Kolkata".

Commenting on the same, **Mr SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India Office** said, "We recognize the need for a well-developed transport infrastructure and are pleased to finance metro system in Kolkata. The metro is well planned as a part of the integrated urban transportation of the

city and the alignment covering the core districts of economic and cultural activities as well as interconnected with other transportation mode. JICA's cooperation will lead to the modal shift from road traffic to public transport system and will eventually lead to balanced regional development and improvement of environmental conditions."

JICA has been supporting in development of major metro projects in the country by providing funds and expertise, and facilitated construction for approx. 670km of metro rail network across 6 cities (Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Ahmedabad). JICA has extended ODA loans amounting to 360,821 million Japanese Yen (approximately INR\* 24,000 Crore) for projects in West Bengal across various sectors.



# Project Updates basis signing of project agreements

## 2

### JICA extends ODA Loan of JPY 100 billion for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (III)

#### Transforming Inter-City Mobility along Maharashtra and Gujarat with Japan's Shinkansen Technology

**New Delhi, July 25th, 2022:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 100,000 million Japanese Yen (approx. INR 6,000 Crore) as Tranche 3 on the 'Project for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR).'

The objective of the project is to develop a high-frequency mass transportation system by constructing the High-Speed Rail between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, using Japan's Shinkansen technology (also known as the "Bullet Train"), thereby enhancing mobility in India and contributing to regional economic development.

The loan agreement was signed between Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Mr. Watanabe Jun, Senior Representative, JICA India.

Speaking on this occasion, **Mr. Watanabe Jun,**

**Senior Representative, JICA India said,** "The MAHSR project has contributed to the development of India's first High Speed Rail initiative. By introducing Japan's High Speed Rail technology, this project has emerged as a symbol of Japan-India collaboration. We have witnessed great progress in civil work so far. We believe that the day is approaching when the Shinkansen System adopted in the project will contribute to region-wide economic and social development, which will bring about income generation to local residents. With this project, we aim to simplify mobility and ease connectivity with a safe and reliable inter-city transport system. This Japan-India collaboration will ensure Transfer of Technology from Japan's High-Speed Rail system to India, and also give a boost to "Make in India" initiative."

JICA has been supporting the project for the Mumbai- Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail by providing ODA loans. The loan agreement was signed on July 25th, 2022, which is subsequent to JPY 250,000 million (approximately INR 18,000 crore) package of JICA's commitment in 2017. National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) is the Executing Agency of the Project.

## 3

### India- Japan Joint Research Program for a modal shift of urban transportation towards a low carbon society through scientific traffic analysis

#### 7th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting & Workshop held in Hyderabad

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JICA has also been extending integrated support to IIT-H through ODA (Official Development Assistance) loan of 23,035 million Japanese yen (around INR 1,400 Crore) for IIT-H campus development. JICA’s support is facilitating the development of International Guesthouse, Sports & Cultural Complex, Technology and Incubation Part, Convention Centre, Research Centre Complex, and Knowledge Centre, procurement of high-end laboratory equipment in IIT-H campus.



## 4

### New metro system has been commenced in Ahmedabad

#### Inauguration of Ahmedabad Metro

**Ahmedabad, September 30, 2022:** On 30th September 2022, the line of Ahmedabad Metro Project partially funded by the Japan-International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for commercial operation, which consists 18.9 km of the North-South corridor and 19.8 km of the East-West corridor, was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.

The flagging-off was done by Shri Narendra Modi,

Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, at Doordarshan Kendra Station. Ms. HOKUGO Kyoko, Minister (Economic & Development), Embassy of Japan, attended the ceremony together with other dignitaries. From JICA India, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative and Mr. Sarin Vineet, Chief Development Specialist, attended the ceremony. Mr. Modi also rode the metro between Doordarshan Kendra Station and Kalupur Metro Station.

Speaking on this occasion, **Mr. KAWAZU Kunihiko, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan**



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said, “We would like to congratulate on the successful completion of the project and the ceremony held on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. Due to rapid expansion of population and economic activities, traffic congestion and traffic pollution have become a major concern for the city. Ahmedabad metro will provide the alternative choice of city transportation and shall also ease traffic congestion and pollution. The metro is well planned as a part of the integrated urban transportation of the city. Further, it is expected to contribute to further economic development and the further transaction in Ahmedabad.”

Speaking about the initiative, **Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India Office** said, “It is an honor for JICA to support the 1st metro project in Gujarat state, the nation’s growth driver. JICA has been helping India to achieve its socio-economic development goals and this Metro Rail System Network is one such example. JICA aligns itself with the Government of India’s plans to improve

the transportation system in India. Especially, Ahmedabad is well known as a smart city, and I’m pleased that this project has contributed to its further development as a smart city by promoting a variety of transport options. As the biggest bilateral donor of India, JICA is determined to help India advance all its sectors through technical cooperation, concessional loan provision, and grant finance provision and strengthen ties between India and Japan.”

JICA has extended totally 112,793 million Japanese yen in ODA loans (approximately INR 20,000 crore) for Ahmedabad Metro Project. The entire line of Ahmedabad Metro consists of 18.9km North-South corridor and 21.2km East-West corridor passing through the central business district, densely populated residential area and academic area of Ahmedabad metropolitan area. JICA has extended its support for mitigating traffic conditions, decreasing consequent automobile pollution, and improving urban environment in the state of Gujarat by developing a metro rail system in Ahmedabad city.



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## 5 Western Dedicated Freight Corridor Project Supported by Japan (Palanpur – Mehsana (Gujarat) section) inaugurated in Ahmedabad

**The project is part of enhancing the freight logistical infrastructure for improved regional development**

**Ahmedabad, Gujarat, September 30, 2022:** The Government of Japan joined in the inauguration of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor's 70km-long Palanpur- Mehsana (Gujarat) Section. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi graced the event with his presence. Japan has been providing funds and expertise for the approximately 1,500km- long dedicated freight railway system, being constructed, under the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project, along the Industrial Corridor between Dadri-Delhi and Mumbai.

Speaking on this occasion, **Mr. KAWAZU Kunihiko, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan said,** "Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project is an important venture of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) initiative. This project is an epitome of Japan-India collaboration on comprehensive infrastructure development. It creates India's largest industrial belt zone by linking industrial parks and harbors of six states between Delhi and Mumbai in order to promote trade, foreign export and direct investment. Japanese companies such as Nippon Koei, Oriental Consultants Global, Hitachi, MITSUI & CO, Sojitz, JFE Engineering and IHI Infrastructure Systems are playing an important role in the development of this priority project. We look forward to continue working with our Indian friends on this important project. We hope we can expect a contribution to the economic development in India by significant enhancement of logistics."

Speaking on this occasion, **Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "JICA is committed towards the development of infrastructure in India. Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project is one of the most important JICA supported projects, covering the areas between

Dadri in Uttar Pradesh and Mumbai where significant commercial and industrial development is seen. By meeting the higher growth rate expected by seamless freight transportation in these areas, the Project will make a far-reaching contribution towards India's economic development. Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL) under the Ministry of Railways, the executing agency, has been relentlessly working with contractors of Indian & Japanese consortium to achieve this significant milestone. JICA would like DFCCIL, contractors and Project Management Consultants to continue making tireless efforts for further works progress until the completion of the entire 1500km corridor."

JICA has extended a cumulative total of 580,787 million Japanese yen in ODA loans (approximately INR 33,000 crore) for Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project up to now. JICA is further exploring the possibility of continuing its assistance for this project so as to support this project and help India's efforts on modernization of freight transportation.



# Events/Workshops



## JICA launches Phase 2 of the Achhi Aadat (Good Habit) Campaign in India

**After a successful first phase, aims to reach 3.5 crore people in the second leg, covering a total of 10 crore people across the country**

**New Delhi, September 5, 2022:** Japan International Agency (JICA) will conduct an inaugural event on September 7 for the Phase 2 of the Achhi Aadat (Good Habit) Campaign (AAC) to be implemented in the fiscal year 2022-2023. To be held at the DMRC Children Home for Boys, in Tis Hazari, New Delhi, the event is organised in cooperation with the IJ Kakehashi Services Pvt. Ltd., JICA's implementing partner of the campaign and Salaam Baalak Trust, an NGO which manages the shelter home. Around 25 residents of the Home aged between 16 and 18 years will attend the event.

Considering that it takes time for such an intervention to bring about behavioral changes among the population, JICA has decided to continue the campaign into the next fiscal. In the second phase, the aim is to reach out to 3.5 crore people and achieve the overall target of bringing about behavioural changes among 10-crore people in the country. JICA India Office rolled out AAC in partnership with partner companies, government agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and local entities such as hospitals, in 23 states and union territories during the fiscal year 2021. The campaign reached out to 6.5 crore people, either through physical and online educational sessions or by word of mouth, along with media and social media outreach.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "We are happy to launch the second phase of the "Achhi Aadat Campaign" at DMRC Children Home for Boys. According to UNICEF, three billion people in the world do not have a handwashing facility with water and soap at home, while almost half of schools lack a handwashing facility with water and soap, which affect around 818 million school-

age children. It is crucial to be accustomed to the habit of handwashing and nail cleaning at an early stage of our lives, so that such habit can protect our health for our lifetime. This campaign invites people to be a part of the Achhi Aadat movement to adopt simple hygiene practices which prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. JICA continues its commitment to working with government agencies, schools, NGOs, health centres, corporations, and other partner organisations to promote health and sanitation in India."

AAC received donations in-kind and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund from 11 Japanese partner companies. Donated collaterals, including 400,000 masks, 50,000 nail clippers, and 10,000 portable washing stations ("SATO taps") were utilized to promote simple and practical hygiene practices among the population. In collaboration with the partner companies, the campaign has created Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials, such as posters, leaflets, manga comics and videos translated to local languages for promoting awareness on good practices.

The venue of the inaugural event, DMRC Children Home for Boys, was established by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) in 2010, to support children who are homeless and in distressed situation. The Home ensures every child in its care receives every opportunity to grow and develop into capable and contributing citizens.

### Overview of the event is as follows:

<b>Date and time:</b>	Wednesday 7 September, 4:00 PM – 5:00PM IST
<b>Venue:</b>	DMRC Children Home for Boys: Tis Hazari, New Delhi



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## Tentative Schedule:

4:00 PM	Welcoming remarks by Salaam Baalak Trust
4:05 PM	Remarks by JICA
4:15 PM	Remarks by IJ Kakehashi
4:25 PM	Exhibition video of nail cutting and handwashing stations
4:35 PM	Demonstration of handwashing
4:50 PM	Distribution of hygiene products/ kits to attendees
5:00 PM	Vote of thanks
5:05 PM	Photo session



## JICA launches Phase 2 of the Achi Aadat (Good Habit) Campaign in India

**New Delhi, September 19, 2022:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) organised the 13th edition of the Project Directors Meeting of JICA-Supported Forestry & Natural Resource Management Projects, in New Delhi, today. Dignitaries who attended the meeting included Mr. R. Raghu Prasad, Inspector General of Forests (EAP); Dr. Suneesh Buxy, Inspector General of Forests (Research & Training), Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change, Government of India; All Chief Project Directors, Project Directors and officials from different states. They applauded the achievements of JICA projects in the forestry and natural resource management sector in India. Since 1991-92, JICA has committed 304.5 billion Japanese Yen (approximately INR 17,000 crore) for 30 forestry and natural resource management projects across 15 states of India.

The purpose of the meeting was to catalyse active cross-learning among project heads to facilitate discussions on issues, such as challenges and opportunities in the forestry sector. The knowledge exchange focused on Project progress, Sustainability of project impacts and Replicability of project interventions through other state/ national level programs/ schemes. JICA also had instituted a

study last year to develop a prototype model for an 'Integrated GIS & MIS' which would be extensively used by ongoing and upcoming projects to upgrade their GIS & MIS facilities so as to optimize the use of technology for scientific and sustainable forest management.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. Saito Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said**, "JICA is committed towards enhancing environmental conditions in India for the benefit of its people. We are trying to achieve this goal through our projects leading to increased forest cover, effective soil and moisture conservation, biodiversity conservation, livelihood promotion, and capacity development of communities on the forest fringes and the introduction of technology-based management processes. We recognise the need for implementing sustainable forestry management in India. It gives us immense pleasure to support such an important cross-learning experience, where project directors of various JICA-supported projects can cohesively learn from each other".

**Mr. Vineet Sarin, Chief Development Specialist, JICA India added**, "The Annual Project Director's meeting is an occasion for all Project Directors

# Events/Workshops

of JICA-assisted forestry projects to share their experiences and learn from each other. Through this meeting, we aim to hold a productive discussion about the day-to-day issues, processes and best practices under JICA forestry project in India.”

JICA-supported forestry and natural resource management projects are the result of active collaboration between India and Japan, the projects have been executed by the MOEF&CC and the governments of different Indian states. Learnings from these projects would facilitate the development of forestry management practices in India. JICA through an ODA Loan, has also

supported, a Human Resource Development project, ‘Capacity Development for Forest Management and Personnel Training’, for frontline staff in 13 states. JICA is also providing Technical Cooperation in Uttarakhand through the ‘Project for Natural Disaster Management in Forest Areas in Uttarakhand’. The Project aims to enhance the capacity of the State in general and Uttarakhand Forest Department (UKFD) in particular, to appropriately plan and implement erosion control works for slope disaster management in forest areas of the State in conjunction with a ODA loan project for Forestry and Natural Resource Management in Uttarakhand.

# Special days



## JICA Celebrates International Youth Day to Promote Intergenerational Solidarity

**JICA reiterates its commitment to ‘creating a world for all ages’ through the JOCV volunteering program**

**New Delhi, August 10, 2022:** The International Youth Day is commemorated every year on 12 August with a vision to encourage the youth around the world to organize activities to draw global attention to the several problems and challenges they face. The theme of the International Youth Day 2022 is ‘Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages’.

Aligning with the United Nation’s vision of fostering successful and equitable intergenerational relations and partnerships to ensure “no one is left behind”, the International Youth Day is imperative in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

by leveraging the full potential of all generations. It attempts to defy the stereotypes attributed to age and empower all individuals to fulfill their potential and contribute effectively to their communities.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) recognizes the need for intergenerational interventions to enhance social connectedness and strengthen intergenerational solidarity, especially in the backdrop of countries navigating through the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) program is one of JICA’s initiatives that contribute to nurturing the youth and leveraging the strengths and knowledge of people across generations. The JOCV program also aims at enabling mutual understanding between peoples of partner countries and Japan.



To promote economic and social development cooperation, the JOCV program engages Japanese volunteers in an exchange with emerging countries to help contribute to the development of the countries and gain exposure in terms of international goodwill, mutual understanding, and an expansion in their international perspectives driven by the motto of “together with the local community”.

India is one of the first countries where the JOCV program started in 1966. The total number of JICA Volunteers dispatched to India, since the commencement of the program until August, 2022 is 244. They have been deployed in the field of education, health, agriculture, community development and sports. Presently the number of JICA volunteers in India as of August 2022 is 8, and, JICA India Office has a plan to dispatch few more volunteers within the year 2022.

Furthering its efforts, JICA has introduced 5 more JOCVs who have recently arrived in the country. These include:

- Mr. SEKI Hisashi, Shiatsu Massage Instructor, The Blind Relief Association, Delhi who would be teaching Shiatsu bodywork therapy to visual impaired people
- Mr. OKAMOTO Rei, Japanese Language Teacher, Arwachin International School, Delhi
- Mr. TOGAMI Jun, Japanese Language Teacher,

Bluebells School International, Delhi

- Ms. YOSHIDA Chie, Japanese Language Teacher, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
- Ms. SEKI Akina, Japanese Language Teacher, Mody University of Science and Technology, Sikar, Rajasthan

The JOCVs mentioned above will be contributing to different sectors, and will ensure intergenerational solidarity and leaving no one behind.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India Office** said, “I would like to commend the United Nation’s dedicated efforts towards reducing the bias associated with ageism which negatively impacts the society. This year’s theme of the International Youth Day is extremely significant as the world moves towards post-pandemic recovery warranting the need for increased intergenerational solidarity. JICA’s JOCV program aligns with this theme and all our efforts are directed towards building a world which is inclusive for all.”

JICA is set to further expand its JOCV program to reach more communities and accelerate the fulfilment of the United Nations’ SDGs and contribute towards a world free from the shackles of ageism and discrimination.

# 2

## JICA Celebrates 75 Triumphant Years of India’s Independence

**JICA envisions to accelerate India’s development journey as it traverses its path to achieving socio-economic growth**

**New Delhi, August 12, 2022:** The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) congratulates India on the esteemed occasion of its 76th Independence Day. On the auspicious occasion of India completing its 75 years of independence in the ceremonial year of the 70th anniversary of Japan India diplomatic relations, JICA reiterates its commitment to continuing support to India for building prosperous future of both countries and the global society.

As the largest and first recipient of Japanese Official

Development Assistance (ODA), India has been one of the most important development partner for Japan. Japan’s ODA to India started in 1958, and over 6,978 billion Japanese Yen (approximately INR 4,10,493 Crore) in ODA loans have been committed to India for more than 310 public projects across various sectors. In addition to ODA loans JICA has been consistently cooperating with India in achieving its goals of economic growth, poverty alleviation, and environment conservation. Through various forms of assistance such as technical cooperation, concessional loan provision, and grant finance provision, among many others, JICA has made significant headway in facilitating advancement spanning sectors of transport, water,

# Special days

sanitation, energy, forestry, agriculture, health, and education.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India Office said, “I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to India on its 76th Independence Day. As one of the world’s largest democracies and developing nations, India has made a place for itself on the global map and Japan stands with the country as it journeys ahead towards a sustainable and stable future. Year 2022 is a special year for us as it marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. I would also like to reaffirm JICA’s continuous support in India achieving socio-economic development. An amalgamation of the combined strength and values of India and Japan has and will further continue to positively impact global society and we are committed to nourishing and reinforcing bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries”.

As is mentioned in “The Confluence of the Two Seas” speech delivered by the former Prime Minister of Japan Mr. ABE Shinzo in the Indian Parliament in 2007, “forest” and “water” have been one of the recurring themes appearing in Japan’s ODA to India. The people of Japan treasure the forests and cherish the abundant water, and hope strongly that the Indian people will nurture their forests and enable them to thrive and also be able to enjoy the blessings of an abundance of clean water. This concept is imbedded in JICA’s operation and JICA has continuously extended cooperation in this field along with other flagship projects to support socio economic growth of India.

JICA has evolved its support for forestry and natural resource management sector by synergistically incorporating the key takeaways garnered by

projects implemented in the past and by flexibly catering to demands with times. Since the start of its assistance to the forestry sector in India in 1991 JICA has supported 32 projects, with 29 state specific projects covering 15 states, which consists of ODA loans of 304 billion Japanese Yen (approximately INR 18,465 Crore). The total area of afforestation activities under JICA supported projects reaches close to 3 million hectares across Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Meghalaya.

Japan’s support through ODA loan to water and sanitation sector in India is approximately INR 50,000 crores, through 39 ODA Loans, 4 Grant Aids and 12 Technical Cooperation Projects, located in all around the country. With JICA’s projects, water supply has reached approximately 30 million people and 15 million people have received access to sanitation. JICA is committed to keep supporting related projects in the future as well for better living conditions.

The detail information of JICA’s cooperation in Water sector and Forestry sector in booklet format is available in the following JICA website:

[https://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/office/others/c8h0vm00004cesxi-att/brochure\\_14.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/office/others/c8h0vm00004cesxi-att/brochure_14.pdf)

[https://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/office/others/c8h0vm00004cesxi-att/brochure\\_22.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/office/others/c8h0vm00004cesxi-att/brochure_22.pdf)

As India works towards expanding its prowess in all socio-economic spheres, its partnerships with Japan are set to give a robust boost to its economy and JICA is dedicated towards further promoting friendship and cooperation between the countries.