

## *Project Updates*

- Flag off ceremony for Western Dedicated Freight Corridor Project Supported by Japan
- India- Japan Joint Research Program for a modal shift of urban transportation towards a low carbon society through scientific traffic analysis
- JICA reiterated commitments for supporting the newly announced PM-ASBY scheme for strengthening India's public healthcare system
- Chennai Metro Phase 1 is now fully operational; Section of Washermanpet – Wimco Nagar (9.051km), supported by Japan, was flagged off
- Foundation stone laid for Dhubri-Phulbhari Bridge, India's longest river bridge, connecting Assam and Meghalaya demonstrating the cooperation between Japan and India, in development of the North East of India
- Foundation Stone laid for NH208 from Kailasahar to Khowai in Tripura demonstrating the Cooperation to Strengthen Connectivity in the Northeast Region and between India and Bangladesh
- Training & Certification service by Japan Railway Technical Service (JARTS) for Track construction work for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project

## *Project Updates basis signing of project agreements*

- JICA Extends ODA Loan of INR 2,000 Crore for 'The COVID-19 Crisis Response Support Loan for Social Protection'
- Signing of Loan Agreement for "Climate Change Management Project" in India
- JICA extends ODA Loan of INR 8,390 Cr for Phase IV of Delhi Metro Project
- JICA extends ODA loan of INR 3,272 Cr for sustainable and clean water supply in two districts of Rajasthan
- JICA extends ODA Loan of INR 3,717 Cr for developing 80 km metro under Namma Metro Phase 2 in Bengaluru
- JICA extends ODA loan of INR 807 Cr for promotion of agricultural productivity and increasing farmer's income in Himachal Pradesh
- JICA extends ODA Loan of INR 645 crore for developing the connectivity in Kolkata with India's first underwater tunnel
- JICA extends ODA Loan of INR 1,061 Cr for the Strengthening of North East Road Network Connectivity
- JICA Extends ODA Loan of INR 1,627 Cr to establish All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Madurai, Tamil Nadu

## *Events/Workshops*

- JICA's note on COVID Emergency Assistance to India
- JICA undertakes PAN India study to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)
- Special episodes of "Cells at Work", a popular Japanese Manga series has been launched to promote understanding of COVID-19 and its prevention, for Indian audiences/ Youth

## *Special days*

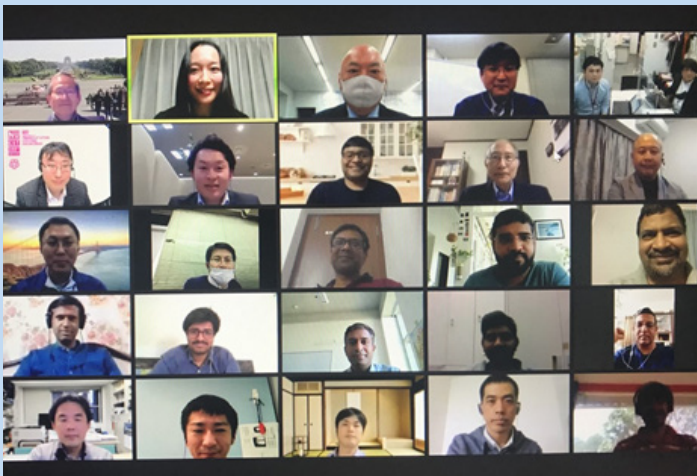
- JICA celebrates the third International Day of Education 2021
- On National Cleanliness Day, JICA starts "Achhi Aadat (Good Habit) Campaign" to promote hand washing, nail cleaning and other hygiene practices
- International Women's Day 2021: JICA supports all-inclusive women growth through its agriculture, health, and forestry projects
- World Water Day 2021: JICA raises respect for the most valuable resource of earth
- On World Day for Safety and Health at Work, JICA commits to establish a stronger healthcare system at workplaces
- On International Day for Biological Diversity, JICA reveal its plan to develop a way of support for biodiversity conservation
- JICA shares commitment towards restoring the planet through energy efficient and sustainable solutions on World Environment Day

## 1. FLAG OFF CEREMONY FOR WESTERN DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR PROJECT SUPPORTED BY JAPAN

**New Delhi, January 7, 2021:** The Government of Japan joins in felicitation in welcoming the inauguration of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor's Rewari (Haryana) - Madar (Rajasthan) Section (around 306km). The event was graced with the presence of Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, in presence of Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana and Shri Ashok Gehlot, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan. His Excellency Mr. SUZUKI Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India, attended the ceremony and flagged off this project together with other dignitaries.

**Speaking on this occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, 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 and optimizing distributing networks, the Project will make a far-reaching contribution towards India's economic development. JICA understands that the spread of novel coronavirus pandemic brought various challenges globally including the severe setback of construction work. Despite these testing times, Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL) under the Ministry of Railways, the executing agency, has relentlessly worked with Japanese consultants and contractors to achieve this significant milestone. JICA would like DFCCIL, Japanese consultants and contractors to keep continuing to put tireless efforts for further works progress until the completion of the entire 1500km corridor between Dadri-Delhi and Mumbai."

## 2. INDIA-JAPAN JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR A MODAL SHIFT OF URBAN TRANSPORTATION TOWARDS A LOW CARBON SOCIETY THROUGH SCIENTIFIC TRAFFIC ANALYSIS



**New Delhi, January 21, 2021:** The 5th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) was held virtually by connecting Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) and Japanese related organization on January 21, 2021. This India- Japan joint research project has been designed collaboratively by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as a scheme of "Science Technology Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)". It has been jointly undertaken by IIT-H, Nagoya Electric works Co. Ltd., Nihon University and Tokyo Institute of Technology.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "Enhancing the academia - industry network between India and Japan is one of the most important elements in terms of long-term benefit for both countries. In this connection, JICA has been engaging in various initiatives with IIT-H, and IIT-H has become a crucial platform for both countries. This joint research program is also one of the important opportunities for enhancing the partnership between IIT-H and Japanese academia and industries. It is hoped that research teams of India and Japan will continue to work collaboratively to create reliable

approach for grasping the traffic situation in the cities in India, which would contribute to the formation of suitable and sustainable urban transportation system, and facilitation of a modal shift.”

### 3. JICA REITERATED COMMITMENTS FOR SUPPORTING THE NEWLY ANNOUNCED PM-ASBY SCHEME FOR STRENGTHENING INDIA'S PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

**New Delhi, February 2, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has reiterated its commitment for supporting the implementation of the Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PM-ASBY) which was announced in the union budget speech by Hon'ble finance minister on February 1. The PM-ASBY is governed by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and will implement measures to 1) Strengthen Public Healthcare System, 2) Expand and strengthen Surveillance Capacities, 3) Research and 4) National Digital Health Mission.

JICA and the Government of India signed an ODA loan pact, the “COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan” worth 50 billion Japanese Yen (approximately INR 3,500 crore) on August 31. The Agency is also planning provision of technical assistance for the implementation of the program, thereby sharing Japanese knowledge and experience for supporting activities under PM-ASBY.

**Speaking on this occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** “As the prime minister of Japan Mr. Suga mentioned in the United Nations General Assembly, the spread of the coronavirus is a human security crisis and it is essential to set the goal of “leaving no one's health behind” for achieving universal health coverage. With this in mind, Japan is committed to expanding its efforts in developing countries to build hospitals as well as to assist strengthening health and medical systems through providing equipment and supporting human resource development. Here in India, JICA wholeheartedly extends support to the Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PM-ASBY) and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PM-GKY), which aim to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Simultaneously, we have carried out various safeguard countermeasures at on-going JICA-funded projects sites. Further, JICA has started “Achi Aadat” campaign to reinforce daily hygiene practices in partner with the Japanese companies based in India and is reaching out to the vulnerable in close collaboration with NGOs, particularly, in disaster management, prevention of child labor and tele-consultation.”

### 4. CHENNAI METRO PHASE 1 IS NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL; SECTION OF WASHERMANPET – WIMCO NAGAR (9.051KM), SUPPORTED BY JAPAN, WAS FLAGGED OFF

**New Delhi, February 14, 2021:** The Government of Japan joins in felicitation in welcoming the inauguration of the section of Washermanpet – Wimco Nagar (9.051km) of Chennai Metro Rail Project – Phase 1 Extension. The event was graced with the presence of Shri Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India, in presence of Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Banwarilal Purohit, Honourable Governor of Tamil Nadu, and other dignitaries. Honourable Mr. TAGA Masayuki, Consul General of Japan in Chennai, attended the ceremony together with other dignitaries.

Since 2008, JICA has extended 259,114 million Japanese Yen (approximately INR 17,000 crore) as concessional ODA loans over five tranches for Phase I and one tranche for Phase 2 of Chennai Metro Project to help develop around 160.8 km metro rail system. The overall loan amount provided by JICA for metro projects in India (including Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Ahmedabad Metro's) exceeds 1.3 trillion Japanese Yen (approximately INR 87,000 crore).

**Speaking on this occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** “In

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large cities such as Chennai, traffic congestion has become a serious problem as the result of increasing road transportation needs. The newly inaugurated stretch will improve mobility to prominent areas of Chennai, in particular the northern part. This extension line will enable the people in the northern part of the city to travel from Wimco Nagar to Chennai International Airport in south Chennai in just 1 hour. The estimated figure of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction by the Project is 60,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>/year approximately. Furthermore, with the fully operational Chennai Metro Phase 1, 10.4 million commuters are estimated to gain connectivity. The project also ensures safe travel for passengers including female, aged, and specially abled. The inauguration of this stretch will mark the successful completion of Phase-1 of the Chennai Metro and will pave way for the ongoing Phase-2 of the Project financed by JICA."



## 5. FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR DHUBRI-PHULBHARI BRIDGE, INDIA'S LONGEST RIVER BRIDGE, CONNECTING ASSAM AND MEGHALAYA DEMONSTRATING THE COOPERATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND INDIA, IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH EAST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, February 18, 2021:** The Government of Japan joins in felicitation of the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the Dhubri-Phulbhari Bridge, a 19 km long bridge that will connect Assam and Meghalaya over the Brahmaputra River, making it the longest of all river bridges in India. The event was graced by the presence of Shri Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Honourable Chief Minister of Assam, and other Indian dignitaries.



The Dhubri-Phulbhari Bridge is provided with financial support by Japan, amounting to JPY 25,483 million (approximately INR 1,573 crore), as "North East Road Connectivity Improvement Project - Phase 3(I)". Once the bridge is completed, traveling time between Dhubri and Phulbhari will become dramatically shorter.

**Speaking on this occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,**

"The construction of the Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge is expected to dramatically improve access from Bhutan to Bangladesh via India, facilitate the movement of people and the flow of goods, the flow of ideas .

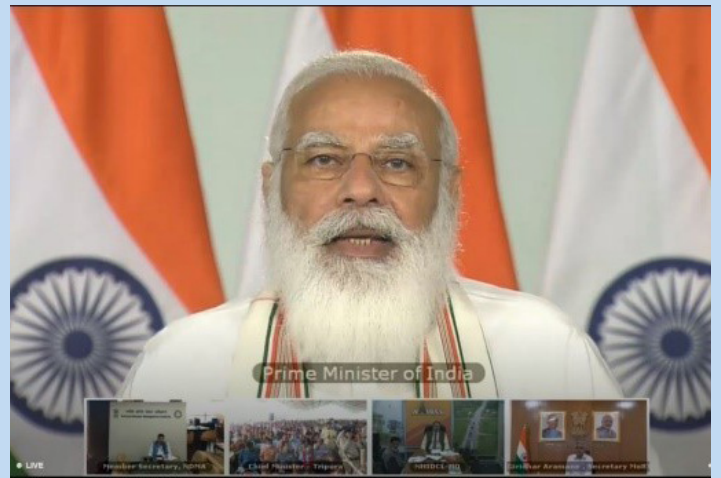
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For example, traffic volume (number) is expected to be increase by 5,400 in 2030. Passenger volume as well as cargo volume are also expected to be increased by 2,954,000 (People/year) and 11,841,000 (ton/year) in 2030 respectively. Additionally, this project is expected to bring about many development impacts including dramatic reduction of travel times, improving market access and services, promoting development of rural agricultural sector and provision of large scale of employment opportunities through the project implementation.”

## 6. FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR NH208 FROM KILASAHAR TO KHOWAI IN TRIPURA DEMONSTRATING THE COOPERATION TO STRENGTHEN CONNECTIVITY IN THE NORTHEAST REGION AND BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH

**New Delhi, March 9, 2021:** The foundation stone laying ceremony for NH208 from Kailasahar to Khowai, a 80km long national highway section in Tripura state, under Japan International Cooperation Agency’s (JICA) funded North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project Phase 4, was virtually held. The event was graced by the presence of Shri Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Ramesh Bais Sarbananda, Honourable Governor of Tripura, and other Indian dignitaries.

The NH208 from Kailasahar to Khowai section is implemented by National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL), Government of India with financial support by Government of Japan, amounting to JPY 14,926 million (approximately INR 982 crore) as part of the regional connectivity improvement in the North Eastern States.

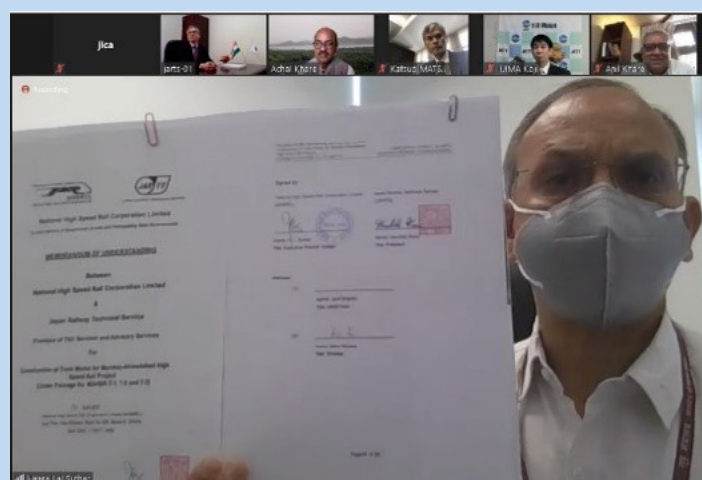


**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** “This road construction is expected to strengthen not only regional connectivity within North East states but also cross border connectivity between India and Bangladesh. This project is expected to bring about huge socio and economic impacts in facilitating the movement of people and the flow of goods. For example, Passenger volume (person/year) as well as cargo volume (ton/year) are also expected to be increased from 1.8 million in 2019 to 4.7 million in 2026 (person/year) and 9.5 thousand in 2019 to 3.3 million (ton/year) in 2026 respectively. JICA has been currently supported to build the bridges and road development in Bangladesh to provide seamless traffic flow across countries. Thus, this project is positioned as one of the symbols of Japan-India cooperation to enhance regional connectivity.”

## 7. TRAINING & CERTIFICATION SERVICE BY JAPAN RAILWAY TECHNICAL SERVICE (JARTS) FOR TRACK CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR MUMBAI-AHMEDABAD HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT

**New Delhi, April 19, 2021:** The Government of Japan participated in the MOU signing ceremony between National High Speed Railway Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) and Japan Railway Technical Service (JARTS) for Training & Certification service for Track Construction work of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project. The ceremony, which was organized by NHSRCL on April 19, 2021, was attended by Mr. Miyamoto Shingo, Minister, Embassy of Japan and Mr. Matsumoto Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India.

As per the MOU, JARTS will coordinate and mobilize Japanese experts, with vast experience and expertise in Japan's Shinkansen's (also known as the "Bullet Train") track construction works, to provide Indian side with Training & Certification and Advisory services. JARTS will impart 15 different kinds of training programs for relevant contractors' staff such as training for track slab manufacturing engineers and training for rail welding technicians.



**Speaking on this occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "The signing of this MOU marks a significant milestone for the MAHSR project. Since track is crucial for railway safety and comfortable ride, the role of Japan Railway Technical Service (JARTS) as Training & Certification Agency for track construction works is extremely important for this project. JARTS and Japanese experts will work together closely and shall contribute to effective adoption of Japan's Shinkansen technology to MAHSR project. I am confident that this partnership between JARTS and NHSRCL would lead to upgradation of India's railway technology and contribute to the growth and bright future of India's railway sector."

# PROJECT UPDATES BASIS SIGNING OF PROJECT AGREEMENT

## 1. JICA EXTENDS ODA LOAN OF INR 2,000 CRORE FOR 'THE COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE SUPPORT LOAN FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION'

**New Delhi, January 8, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed an agreement with the Government of India to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 30,000 million Japanese Yen (approximately INR 2,069 Crore) for 'The COVID-19 Crisis Response Support Loan for Social Protection'.

The objective of the project is to contain COVID-19 and mitigate adverse socioeconomic impacts in India, by extending budget support to Government of India implementing emergency response programs and policy reforms for social protection as countermeasures against the COVID-19, thereby contributing to promoting the social and economic stabilization and development efforts of India.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "The outbreak of COVID-19 has adversely affected the underprivileged and vulnerable societies in India. JICA aims to support India in its response to COVID-19 pandemic, by accelerating economic support to the government. The project aims at supporting the government in its endeavor of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) to empower these disadvantaged groups, whose lives have been hampered with the occurrence of the pandemic. Besides this project, JICA has extended an ODA loan of "COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support" for strengthen the public healthcare system under the Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PM-ASBY)."

## 2. SIGNING OF LOAN AGREEMENT FOR "CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT PROJECT" IN INDIA

**New Delhi, March 25, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Loan Agreement for a maximum amount of JPY 10 billion with Indian Non-Banking Financial Company, Tata Cleantech Capital Limited (TCCL) to support the company to offer loans to businesses across India that focus on renewable energy generation, electric vehicles (EV) as well as energy efficiency following the Green Loan Principles (Note 1). This loan will be provided through Private Sector Investment Finance scheme of JICA and is co-financing with the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC).

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "India has a target to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 33%–35% by 2030 below 2005 levels, as National Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement. While Government of India has been making various measures towards the target and JICA had provided our support to it such as Japanese ODA loan to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) through which 36 projects of solar PV, wind and small hydro has been supported, for further improvement, the contribution from private sector will be also inevitable. In recent years, the presence of private companies in the field of renewable energy



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sector has increased and their role will be a key to achieve the national target. In consideration of those circumstances, we have decided our collaboration with TCCL.”

## 3. JICA extends ODA Loan of INR 8,390 Cr for Phase IV of Delhi Metro Project

**New Delhi, March 26, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed Loan Agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese ODA loan amounting to JPY 119,978 million (approximately INR 8,390 crore) for development of 4th Phase of Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System (DMRTS) Project. Delhi Metro Phase IV includes 6 corridors, the execution has been prioritized in three corridors, which has been taken up now for the execution. This Japanese ODA loan will be applied for the three priority corridors. The Project aims to not only inter-connect existing metro networks for the smooth ride to commuters but to cope up with increased traffic congestion and road accidents in Delhi by expanding the mass rapid transportation system in Delhi, thereby promoting regional economic development. The Project contributes to mitigation of climate change, with an estimated annual Green House Gas (GHG) emissions reduction of 138,172 tons CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2041 as per calculation guided by UNFCCC CDM Methodology.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** “Upon Phase IV completion, the metro system operated by Delhi Metro would be more than 400 km, which would further ensure convenience of comfortable and reliable transport for citizens in Delhi and NCR area. JICA is proud of partnership with Delhi Metro, one of the biggest urban infrastructure projects in the India. As traffic demand in Delhi NCR kept increasing, Delhi Metro will play a pivotal role to address the issues such as traffic congestion, vehicular pollution and traffic accidents, by further promoting the modal shift from road traffic to public transportation. JICA has realized that the spread of novel coronavirus pandemic has brought various challenges including restriction of operation of metro, which brought negative impact on the revenue of DMRC. We strongly wish that the new loan also support DMRC to further strengthen its operational structure that can restore the situation to normal one.

## 4. JICA EXTENDS ODA LOAN OF INR 3,272 CR FOR SUSTAINABLE AND CLEAN WATER SUPPLY IN TWO DISTRICTS OF RAJASTHAN

**New Delhi, March 26, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has extended an official development assistance (ODA) loan of 45,816 Million Japanese Yen (approximately INR 3,272 Crore) for its support to Rajasthan Rural Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project (Phase 2) in Jhunjhunu and Barmer Districts of Rajasthan to provide safe, clean and sustainable drinking water to people and to control the water borne diseases in the area. The objective is to provide sustainable and safe drinking water supply by constructing water treatment plants and related facilities and implementing capacity development of Village Water and Sanitation Committee as well as Community Development Activities.

Most of Rajasthan for drinking water supply are largely dependent on groundwater as their source. However, due to the increasing pressure of population, the groundwater resources have been depleted and many sources are contaminated with nitrate, chloride and fluoride above the permissible limits, which is harmful for human health. The facilities constructed through this project will provide safe drinking water for approximately 110,000 households in Jhunjhunu district and more than 240,000 households in the desert district of Barmer, ensuring safe drinking water quality and sufficient amount to fulfil the demands of people for next 30 years.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** “Groundwater quality in Rajasthan has been largely affected by the presence of both human-made pollutants and naturally derived Fluoride in the rock strata. The fluoride level in the groundwater is well



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over the WHO drinking water permissible limit and undrinkable for the local communities. The desert district of Barmer was declared as drought prone area because of very low rain fall. The ground water resources have been further depleted because of increasing water demand for irrigation and drinking water and notified as "Dark Zone" by Central Ground Water Department. The shortage of water availability in the region only adds to the misery of the local rural communities. To tackle this issue, JICA is committed to work with the Government of Rajasthan to provide safe and adequate drinking water from the surface water source of Indira Gandhi Canal for Jhunjhunu District and Narmada Canal for the Barmer District, following the ongoing Phase 1 project which is scheduled to contribute to provide safe and adequate drinking water to more than 2.4 million people in the east part of Nagaur District in Rajasthan. Moreover, the project will contribute to SDGs' Goal 3 and Goal 6: "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" and "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. We hope that construction of drinking water facilities using the surface water as source will be helpful in reducing hardship borne by the local communities and improve the overall health and quality of life."

## 5. JICA EXTENDS ODA LOAN OF INR 3,717 CR FOR DEVELOPING 80 KM METRO UNDER NAMMA METRO PHASE 2 IN BENGALURU

**New Delhi, March 26, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed Loan Agreement with the Government of India, to provide Japanese (ODA) loan amounting to JPY 52,036 million (approximately INR 3,717 Crores) for the development of Phase 2 of R6, 2A and 2B of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) in Bengaluru. In March 2006, the first Japanese ODA loan was signed between JICA and BMRCL Phase 1. Phase 1 has an operational rail network of 42.3 KM with 41 stations. The Project aims to ensure a reliable public transport system, thereby creating balanced regional development and improving the urban environment.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "JICA has been promoting the development of quality infrastructure in Bengaluru, which facilitates sustained growth, and has been working for India and Japan's robust bond. It is said that, Bengaluru stands second in CO2 emissions followed by Delhi in 2015 and the Project is expected to contribute to an estimated annual reduction of 89,952 tons of CO2 Greenhouse Gas emissions approximately by year 2031. We look forward to the 'Namma Metro' rail project growing into a punctual, safe, comfortable and eco-friendly travel mode with high reliability of metro services, thus inspiring social innovation for people's lifestyle in the city."

## 6. JICA EXTENDS ODA LOAN OF INR 807 CR FOR PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND INCREASING FARMER'S INCOME IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

**New Delhi, March 26, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has extended an official development assistance (ODA) Loan of JPY 11,302 million (approximately INR 807 Crore) for its support to "Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project (Phase 2)". The project aims to disseminate "successful model" of crop diversification formed in Phase 1 of the project and increase vegetable cultivation area. Further, the project will strengthen market development and linkages throughout agriculture supply chain for improving the livelihood of poor and marginal farmers. This project will extend the coverage to all 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh with different agro-ecological characteristics.

The objective of the Project is to tackle this concern by promoting agricultural productivity, sustainable crop diversification to high value crops and increasing the farmer's income by development of

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production infrastructures such as irrigation facilities and access farm roads, farmers support and institutional development as well as strengthening farmer's sales force with marketing development, thereby contributing to economic and social development in all districts of Himachal Pradesh.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "The Phase 1 of the Project contributed to increase vegetable cultivated area in the 5 districts by more than 10 times, and gross annual average farm income by 7 times. In order to further enhance farmers' income by improving the profitability of agriculture, this Project will aim to promote crop diversification as well as improvement of market linkages in all 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh ensuring the livelihood for the small and landless farmers."

## 7. JICA EXTENDS ODA LOAN OF INR 645 CRORE FOR DEVELOPING THE CONNECTIVITY IN KOLKATA WITH INDIA'S FIRST UNDERWATER TUNNEL

**New Delhi, March 26, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has signed an agreement with the Government of India, to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan (4th Tranche) of 9,091 million Japanese Yen (approximately INR 645 Crore) for the development of metro rail project in Kolkata by the Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRCL). JICA is supporting this East-West line from 2008 and the cumulative loan amount provided by JICA for the Project is 64,786 million Japanese Yen (approximately INR\* 4,319 crores).

The objective of the Project is to meet the demands of growing traffic and to provide for a reliable public transport and thereby leading to mitigate road traffic, reduce pollution, create a balanced regional development and enhance environment. JICA has been supporting in development of major metro projects in the country by providing funds and expertise.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "With rising population, Kolkata is likely to witness further increase of traffic in the city. JICA's project in the city will help develop a strong metro rail framework, which will not only facilitate the daily transportation needs of the commuters, but also lead to a sustainable and healthy environment along with last mile connectivity. This would also create job opportunities in the market and enhance livelihoods and infrastructure projects. The Project has already started partial operation. The full operation will be started soon in due course of time."

## 8. JICA EXTENDS ODA LOAN OF INR 1,061 CR FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF NORTH EAST ROAD NETWORK CONNECTIVITY

**New Delhi, March 26, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has extended an official development assistance (ODA) Loan of 15,285 million Japanese Yen (approximately INR 1,061 Crore) for the North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project Phase 5 with the Government of India. Through a series of North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Projects (Phase 1 to Phase 4), JICA have assisted to improve regional connectivity within the region and cross border connectivity with outside of the region.

National Highway 127B (NH127B) is connected to National Highway 31C, which is a part of the East-West Corridors that connects Northeast area and the other areas of India. In addition, this road will function to improve the international connectivity of the region. This NH127B is an integral part of approach road to new Dhubri - Phulbari Bridge under construction over the Brahmaputra River which is also financed by JICA.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "Japan and India regularly discussed development issues in the Northeast region through the "Act East Forum" and agree to implement prioritized projects by use of the Japanese ODA. This project will

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significantly contribute to improve road network in the Northeast region and regional connectivity with neighboring countries such as Bhutan and Bangladesh. Once the road is completed, traveling time between Srirampur - Dhubri will be drastically reduced from 86minutes to 46 minutes. Additionally, traffic volume, passenger volume and cargo volume are expected to be increased dramatically. For example, traffic volume (PCU/Day) is expected to be increased from 3,500 in 2020 to 8,500 in 2025. This network will allow the local population to travel conveniently and will bring in an economic transformation and regional connectivity is also enhanced, which will play an essential role for improving both better living standards and vigorous industrial and economic development. Until now, JICA has supported improving and constructing prioritized national highways (Total 603km) through the North East Connectivity Improvement Projects (Phase1 - Phase 4)."

## 9. JICA EXTENDS ODA LOAN OF INR 1,627 CR TO ESTABLISH ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS) IN MADURAI, TAMIL NADU

**New Delhi, March 26, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has supported the new AIIMS in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu for JPY 22,788 million (approximately INR 1,627 crores). The objective of the project is to finance the establishment of the Medical institution to enable an improvement of the quality of medical services and enhance access of high-end medical services to the marginalised and excluded.

Currently there is only one public tertiary medical institution in Madurai, which accepts middle- and lowerclass patients who cannot afford expensive private medical services. AIIMS Madurai will strengthen the tertiary medical function in Tamil Nadu state and regional medical network in Southern India by both increasing the capacity and providing health workers as part of JICA's "Initiative for Global Health and Medicine," launched last year.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "In response to various health related challenges including COVID-19 pandemic, this project will establish a new and comprehensive medical institution in Madurai city for medical services, medical personnel development and other academic activities. With this project, quality tertiary care hospital with 900 beds will be established and it will provide additional capacity of 5,000 outpatient and more than 100 inpatients in the city of Madurai. The project not only aims to improve access to high quality medical services, but also to develop academic facility for 1,500 healthcare professionals and researchers of high standards, who will contribute to universal health coverage in India. I believe this project will contribute to mitigate the huge pressure by COVID-19 on the health sector and to improve the quality of the medical services provided to Indian people in needs."

## 1. JICA'S NOTE ON COVID EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

**New Delhi, May, 2021:** The first cargo of Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) Emergency Assistance, carrying 100 oxygen concentrators arrived at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi from Tokyo on May 8, with more to arrive at later dates. In the presence of Mr. SUZUKI Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India and the representatives of Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative of JICA India, received them at the airport and handed to Indian counterpart. This Emergency Assistance is part of Japan's support to India, in her efforts to fight against the current surge of COVID-19 infections, based on the discussion in Prime Ministers' tele-meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>.



The second and third cargo of JICA's Emergency Assistance, carrying 100 oxygen concentrators each, arrived at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi from Tokyo, respectively on May 12 and May 13. Upon this, a total of 300 oxygen concentrators were provided to India as part of this initiative of JICA. This aid builds on JICA's ongoing cooperation to mitigate adverse impacts of the pandemic in India and the agency will continue to extend further support promptly to help contain the crisis.

**In the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo delivered his message;** "The plight of the hospitals is becoming more and more serious, and we want to deliver the oxygen concentrators as soon as possible. This is the support from the Japanese people, and we hope that it will help as many patients as possible. We are also dedicating ourselves to arrangements of next 200 units which will be arriving soon."

## 2. JICA UNDERTAKES PAN INDIA STUDY TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS)

**New Delhi, May 03, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and V-shesh Learning Services Private Limited have undertaken a pan-India study to comprehend the "Impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities" in India in the first quarter of the current year 2021. The focus of this study was to determine and assess the medium to long term effects of COVID-19 on the lives of Persons with Disabilities. The pandemic has put immense burden on the government delivery system, as Governments, DPOs and NGOs have encountered significant challenges to provide aid, relief materials, and assistance to Persons with Disabilities across India. These impediments were most prominent in areas pertaining to education, training, jobs, and daily living. Through the inputs from this research, JICA aims to establish appropriate development plans in response to emergency circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study focuses on three key points, (i) Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Persons with Disabilities (PWDS), (ii) Response to the pandemic for PWDS by Government (Central and State) and, (iii) Recommendations for JICA's COVID-19 response support programs specifically targeting PWDS.

**Key highlights**

- A total of around 650 Persons with Disabilities, caregivers, thought-leaders, representatives from enabling agencies, Organisations and Governments were covered under the study



**Geographical Distribution of Samples**

- The study was conducted using primary, secondary research and cross sectional, mixed methods approach
- The respondents were across geographies, urban-rural areas, age-groups and socio-economic contexts. The study team was diverse both in terms of gender mix and disabilities types
- Complete Report Link: [Study on Impact of PWDs in India | India Countries & Regions | JICA](#)
- \*The above map of India is Not to Scale & doesn't claim the actual boundaries

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "COVID-19 has had a detrimental effect on India's underprivileged and marginalized communities. JICA aspires to be a pillar of support in the face of adversity, such as the current pandemic. The intensity and impact of COVID-19 on the PWDs has been far more severe as compared to their non-disabled peers, especially in areas like daily living, education, health, and livelihood. JICA aims to create support programmes particularly to help and assist PWDs"

The study has helped JICA in identifying the four major sectors that could benefit from JICA support programmes. (a) Education & Daily living; (b) Skill Development, Employment & Livelihood; (c) Health & Wellbeing and (d) A Private Sector programme to address gaps across sectors through an enterprise-led approach.

### 3. SPECIAL EPISODES OF "CELLS AT WORK", A POPULAR JAPANESE MANGA SERIES HAS BEEN LAUNCHED TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF COVID-19 AND ITS PREVENTION, FOR INDIAN AUDIENCES/ YOUTH

**New Delhi, June 18, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japanese publisher Kodansha (Kodansha Ltd.), have jointly implemented a project to promote the proper understanding of COVID-19 and its prevention through episodes of the global-hit manga (comic books) "Cells at Work", known as "Hataraku Saibo" in Japan, in English and Hindi. Available for free as a motion comic on YouTube and a specially created website, people in India can now access the episodes in English, while the Hindi version is going to be launched towards the end of June 2021. In their support to India's fight against COVID-19, JICA decided to translate these two episodes into English and Hindi. These will be used as an educational tool in the "Achhi Aadat" (Good Habit) Campaign which JICA India launched early this year to raise awareness about the importance of hygiene practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "JICA has been cooperating with the Government of India to fight the spread of COVID-19 including through financial support of INR 5,500 crore and considering further measures to cope with the situation. The school children and community people, who we have reached through the Achhi Aadat Campaign, have enjoyed learning the principles of hygienic practices to protect themselves and their loved ones, including family members, friends and neighbors. As the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic ebbs in India, we need to continue to convey this message. For this we are harnessing, the educational aspect of "Cells at Work", which has been widely recognized by schools in Japan. We sincerely hope that these special episodes on novel coronavirus will motivate students and youth in India and will successfully induce the behavioral change to protect themselves from COVID-19."

- Cells at Work! : <https://kodansha.us/volume/cells-at-work-1/>
- Cells at Work! "Novel Coronavirus": <https://youtu.be/zUEHfQuEorU>
- Cells at Work! "Preventing Novel Coronavirus Infection": <https://youtu.be/kNdBJwncc4U>
- Special Website: <https://shonen-sirius.com/saibou-movingcomic.html>

### 4. JICA CELEBRATES THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION 2021

**New Delhi, January 21, 2021:** Countries around the world celebrate the third International Day of Education, reminding us that without inclusive and equitable quality learning for all, countries will not succeed in breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children and their families behind. This year's International Education Day theme **'Recover and revitalize education for the COVID-19 generation'** echoes the global learning disruption of unprecedented scale and severity. The closure of schools, universities, and other learning institutions, as well as the interruption of many literacy and lifelong learning programmes, has affected the lives of 1.6 billion students in over 190 countries.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "In December 2019, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 January as International Day of Education in celebration of the role of learning for peace and development. This is a reminder of our collective duty to help every individual access the quality education that is their right, offering them a ladder out of poverty and a path to a promising future and to strengthen collective action to achieve SDG4."

### 5. ON NATIONAL CLEANLINESS DAY, JICA STARTS "ACHHI AADAT (GOOD HABIT) CAMPAIGN" TO PROMOTE HAND WASHING, NAIL CLEANING AND OTHER HYGIENE PRACTICES

**New Delhi, January 28, 2021:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has launched the "Achhi Aadat (Good Habit)" Campaign in India in partnership with Japanese companies and local nonprofit organizations for a period of one year from January 2021. to raise awareness among 10 Crore people about the importance of hygiene practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. The campaign is to introduce an easy and practical approach to the hygiene and sanitation issues by promoting handwashing, nail cleaning and other hygiene practices such as wearing mask in a correct way.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "Through "Achhi Aadat Campaign", JICA and partners will work together to establish hygienic practices for the health and welfare of people of India. National Cleanliness Day calls for environment cleanliness including maintaining high standards of cleanliness in our home, workplace, roads/streets and public places. In the time of COVID-19, providing attention to personal hygiene is critical to keep good health. It is also in line with the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, who taught people the importance of maintaining personal hygiene and encouraged people to change and get rid of dirty habits to keep good health. Hygienic practices will reduce the likelihood of other viral infections and not only COVID-19. Globally, number of children lose their lives because of diarrheal diseases, and it is evidenced that washing hands with soap can reduce this risk drastically. COVID-19 crisis has brought about a momentum to change the people's mindset about hygiene. We understand hygienic practices that becomes "lifelong good habit" will protect not only oneself but also protect the loved ones."

### 6. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021: JICA SUPPORTS ALL-INCLUSIVE WOMEN GROWTH THROUGH ITS AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, AND FORESTRY PROJECTS

**New Delhi, March 05, 2021:** On March 8, countries around the world celebrate the International Women's Day, reminding us that women play a crucial role in cultural, political, social, and economic development. This year's International Women's Day theme **'Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world'** is in line with JICA's objectives. It celebrates the tremendous efforts made by women across the globe in working towards recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and in shaping an equal and sustainable future. JICA recognises women as key agents for development and ensures that women have an equal share of voice and leadership in decision-making in all its interventions. It encourages women entrepreneurship and business development through supporting women capacity building and leadership to expand their opportunities in industries and employment.



JICA is promoting gender mainstreaming to strengthen its efforts for gender equality and women's empowerment based on global and national mandates. An integral part of the project is making women aware of their rights and involving men as volunteers so that they can educate fellow men about gender equality. By promoting projects with a consideration on gender aspects, JICA would like to continue its contribution to accelerate the achievement in gender equality in India.

### 7. WORLD WATER DAY 2021: JICA RAISES RESPECT FOR THE MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE OF EARTH

**New Delhi, March 19, 2021:** This year's theme for the annual World Water Day observed on March 22, is '**Valuing Water**' and in line with JICA's objectives. As we celebrate and reiterate the value of water, it is important to remember that the day is being marked in the age of climate change and a pandemic. In case of India, water problem is very acute, nearly half the country's population faces high-to-extreme water stress and about 200,000 die each year due to inadequate access to safe water\*. Given the multifarious threats of water shortage and contamination of the resources, JICA proposes a multifaceted approach which should be considered to overcome this pressing challenge.

Present establishment in India advocates to promote the Jal Jeevan Mission with a starting endowment funds of Rs. 3.5 trillion and the goal "to provide to all households in rural area safe and adequate water through individual household tap connections by 2024". The Jal Jeevan Mission subsumed the older National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), preserving the goal "to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household "by 2024.

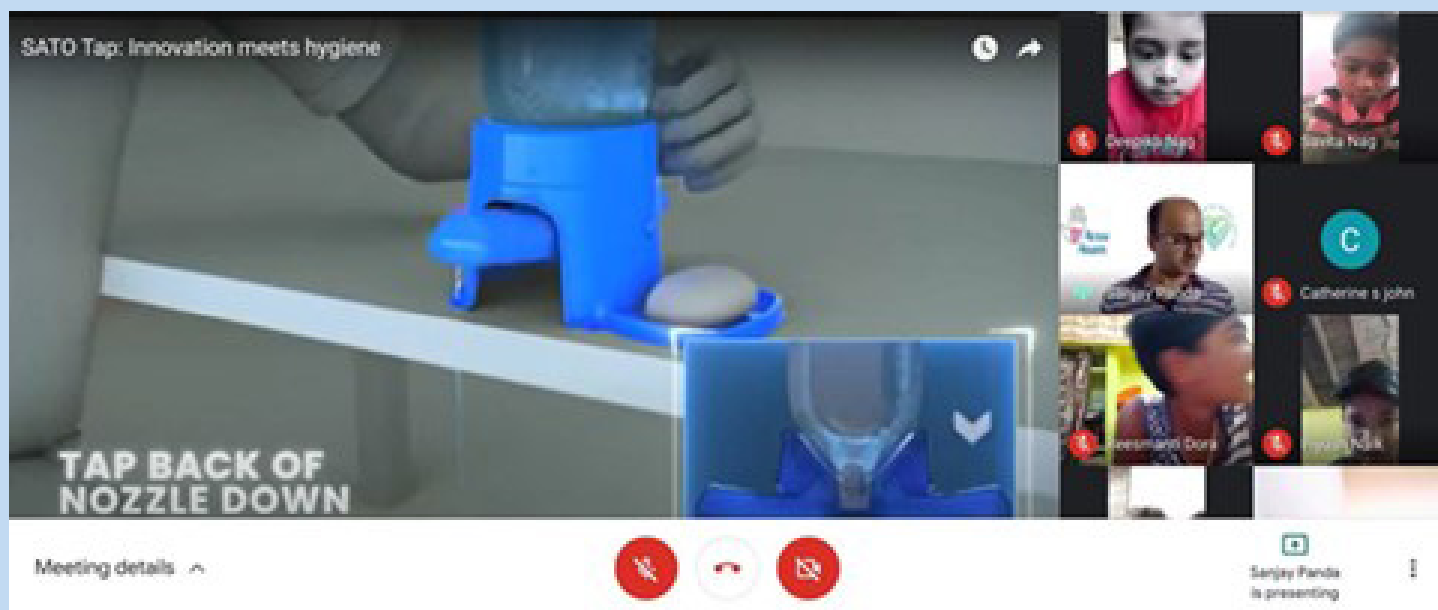
Due to the pandemic there is more focus on maintaining sanitation and washing hands than ever before. It is very important to use water wisely so that prevention of the spread of the virus doesn't lead to depletion of other precious resource – water. JICA recently conducted a workshop to create awareness for taking countermeasures against COVID-19 wherein, safeguarding measures for the prevention and control of the disease were discussed. JICA proposed this matrix to maintain the economic, social and health systems at workplaces. The dignitaries from various organisations such as **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) Ministry of Finance, Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board (OWSSB), Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**, were part of this workshop.

The workshop witnessed pressing concerns such as educational activities, water-related precautions, need for hand washing facilities, adequate provision of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), thorough implementation of social distancing, setting up of monitoring committees at construction sites, and securing of budgets.

\*Data Source: Niti Ayog Composite water resource management 2018-19.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India**, said, "As the world emerges out of an unprecedented situation, which has profoundly affected the social and economic sectors globally, we have learnt several critical lessons. The water sector plays an important role in the fight against disasters of such magnitude, which is not a mystery anymore, as safe water supply and improved sanitation is crucial for prevention of a pandemic. With the world surging toward recovery from this once in a lifetime crisis, it is important to apply the SDG theme of "leave no one behind", especially when it comes to sprucing up water and sanitation for all", he added.

### 8. ON WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK, JICA COMMITS TO ESTABLISH A STRONGER HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AT WORKPLACES



**New Delhi, 28 April 2021:** World Day for Safety and Health at Work is focused on Investment in Resilient Occupational Safety and Health Systems. The purpose of this day is to garner international attention on emerging trends in the field of occupational safety and health including work-related injuries, diseases, and fatalities worldwide. Emerging as a global crisis, the [COVID-19](#) pandemic has had profound impacts everywhere. The pandemic has touched nearly every corner of the world of work, risk of transmission of the virus in workplaces, occupational safety and health (OSH) risks that have emerged as a result of measures to mitigate spreading of the virus. Adequate safety and health measures at work place can play a crucial role in containing spread of the disease, while protecting workers and society at large. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been striving to support and improve the safety and healthcare facilities in India including the workplaces of each project site.

CMRL provided the workers with 24X7 ambulance facility, de-sanitization at frequent intervals, Personal protective equipment - nose mask, soaps and sanitizers at various key entry/exit points and infrared thermometer for thermal scanning daily. JICA also supported Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for construction Sites as countermeasures against COVID-19 such as regular check-up by doctors, counselling on Covid-19, sanitization of labour camp, social distancing, providing masks & gloves, supply of food and other essential items to workers, safe transportation of workers to site, staggered shift working among others. In view of the Covid-19 circumstances, JICA conducted webinar in July 2020 in association with Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India that proposed the safeguards matrix for the prevention and control of disastrous situation in order to maintain the effective economic, social, health systems by executing agencies concerned in all the JICA assisted projects.

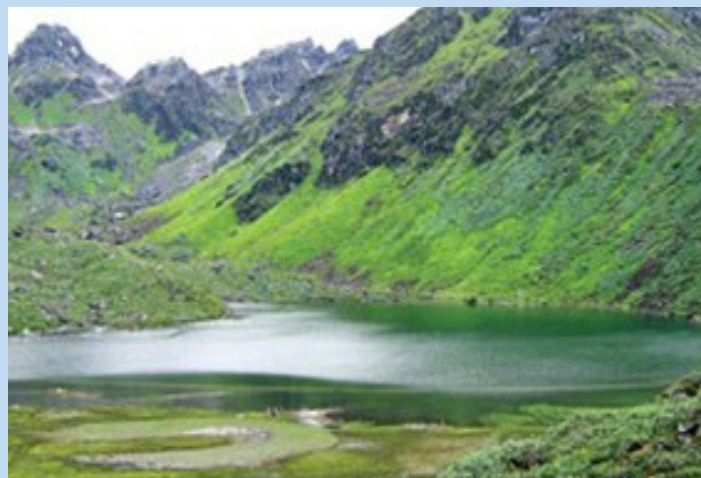
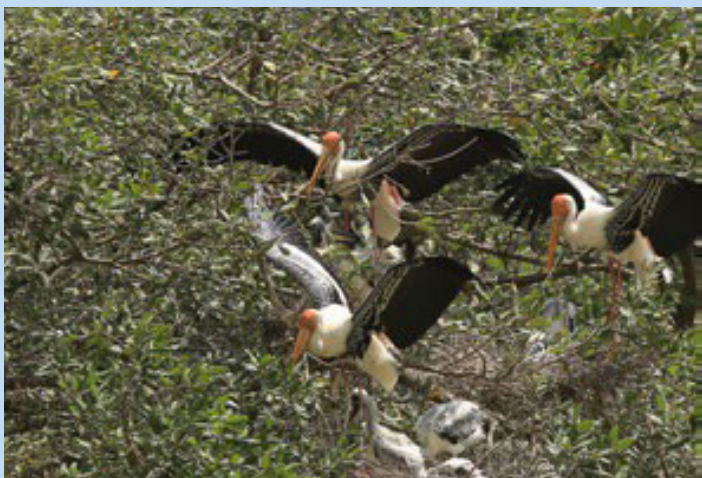
**Speaking on the occasion of World Health Day, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India, said,** Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, actions for infection prevention and control and occupational safety and health become absolutely crucial. Organisations must take urgent measures to strengthen the country's capacities to protect occupational health and safety of all workers. Remote working arrangements need to make sure that the employees are able to retain balance between work and other responsibilities. JICA recognises the gravity of the current situation and extends support to establish resilient occupational safety and health systems in India.





### 9. ON INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, JICA REVEAL ITS PLAN TO DEVELOP A WAY OF SUPPORT FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

**New Delhi, May 21, 2021:** Countries around the world celebrate the **International Day for Biological Diversity**. On the very date, with an increasing attention towards biodiversity, JICA India Office revealed its plan to further support biodiversity conservation. An impact study is going to be launched in June for reviewing a decade long support for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project



("TBGP"). The study will be implemented within 6 months, assessing the effectiveness of each project component such as wetland conservation action plans, removal of invasive alien species, species conservation plan for sea turtle, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict etc.

Japan's support to India consists of ODA loans of 270 billion Japanese Yen (approximately INR 16,300 Crore) since 1991 towards the forestry sector. 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 and Tripura.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "Forestry and natural resource management sector is one of the successful examples for more than 3 decades. The conservation of biodiversity is a key to increase the value of nature and people's lives. In addition, considering that the growing threat of COVID-19 has started to influence even villages,

sustainable development support for rural India through Income generation and health awareness activities under forestry and NRM projects for Self Help Groups is one significant way to contribute towards mitigating the hardships of the village communities.

### 10. JICA SHARES COMMITMENT TOWARDS RESTORING THE PLANET THROUGH ENERGY EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

**New Delhi, June 04, 2021:** Countries around the globe celebrate World Environment Day, raising awareness and encouraging people to take measures to protect the irreplaceable natural resources on which we rely for survival. This year's World Environment Day theme **'Ecosystem restoration'** echoes of how it is high time that human beings take effective steps towards reviving their environment. There has never been a more urgent need to restore ecosystems—which support all life on Earth. India has been placed among the top 10 most affected countries by climate change, in the Global Climate Risk Index 2021\*. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), through its supported projects, intends to continue to contribute to positive change by curbing greenhouse gas emissions, actively investing in clean energy, transportation and infrastructure and societies adapting to climate change are a few measures that can contribute towards Ecosystem Restoration.

JICA has **invested 1.3 trillion Japanese Yen** (approximately INR 87,000 crore) towards metro development projects in Indian cities such as Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, and Ahmedabad. All 6 metro projects are supposed to **contribute to curtail approximately 1.6 million tons of greenhouse gas, in total, per year**. Having completed three phases of the Metro in NCR region in record time, Delhi Metro is now moving forward with the fourth phase of its expansion where water conservation will be a major focus area. Japan's competence in building renewable energy systems has been aiding India's development in a sustainable and energy-efficient manner, reducing pollution from non-renewable energy sources. JICA funded projects in Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Tripura together come close to 3 million hectares. **A recent JICA supported "Project for Community Based Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement in the State of Meghalaya" contributes in achieving the objective of "Green India Mission" under the National Action Plan on Climate Change which aims to add 5 million hectare of forest area**, enhancing the quality of Forest, ecosystem restoration and agro-forestry. The underlying objective of all JICA initiatives and projects in India is to facilitate and empower its environment and grow the country's resilience to effectively tackle all catastrophes.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said,** "Countries and businesses around the world are focusing on sustainability, as part of their roadmap to achieving the many ambitious goals set under the Paris Agreement. For over a decade now, India has been dedicatedly developing itself into an energy efficient nation. JICA's investments and initiatives in projects in energy, transportation, and forestry, are an important step towards helping India achieve its sustainability goals. JICA's aim is to help restore the environment so that India is capable of effectively fighting the current situation."

