



**JAPAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION  
AGENCY  
NEWSLETTER**

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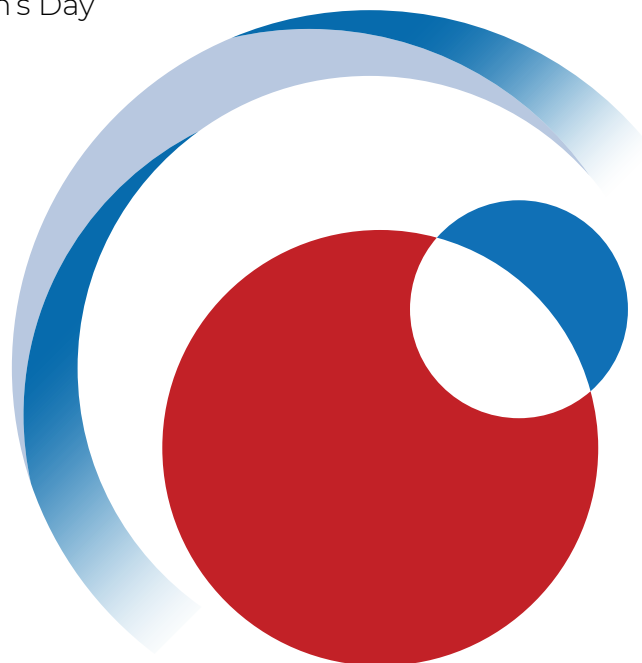
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# PROJECT UPDATES BASIS SIGNING OF PROJECT AGREEMENTS

## 1. Supporting Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal Expansion in Maharashtra through JICA-funded "LEAP" (Private Sector Investment Finance)

New Delhi, January 20, 2023: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced that a [\$131] million deal involving the JICA-funded "Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund" (LEAP)(\*) had been signed with Nhava Sheva Freeport Terminal Private Limited (NSFTPL), which comprises an investment of [\$61.4] million in the form of a direct loan from ADB and [\$69.6] million from LEAP.

In today's India, it is essential to have a robust supply chain for recovering from the impact of COVID-19 and the further economic development, and further investment is required for boosting economic competitiveness and the efficiency of terminal operations of container ports and transshipment hubs, such as ports in Mumbai.

The project is to refurbish, operate, and maintain Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal (JNPCT), located in Navi Mumbai, part of the Mumbai metropolitan area in India, on a PPP basis under a 30-year concession awarded to NSFTPL. It will contribute to reducing logistics costs by easing congestion at the port and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the electrification of facilities. The project will contribute to the achievement of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) Goals 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India Office said, **"JICA has been supporting the development of approximately 1,500km long dedicated freight railway system under the Western Dedicated**

**Freight Corridor project (WDFC) along Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor.**

**In addition to WDFC, by this expansion of JNPCT which is one of the largest and important container ports in India and will be connected with WDFC, the increase of freight transport demand in India will be addressed through efficient and state of art logistic infrastructure, thereby promoting comprehensive regional economic development in the area of Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor."**

JICA will continue collaborating with countries and international organizations to promote quality infrastructure investment and contribute to social and economic development in developing countries and regions in line with the SDGs.

(\*) Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund (LEAP) is a part of the follow-up measure for the "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure," which was announced by the Japanese government on November 21, 2015.

Targeting high-quality private infrastructure projects in the Asia-Oceania region, the fund provides assistance for such projects organized under various arrangements, including public-private partnerships. In March 2016, JICA approved a \$1.5 billion investment in private sector investment financing for LEAP.

Providing support for a wide range of sustainable infrastructure projects undertaken by the private sector in ADB member countries of the Asia-Pacific region, LEAP is directed at projects in fields such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency, and the provision of medical services at reasonable prices.

## 2. JICA extends ODA loan of INR 560 crores for Super-Specialty Cancer and Research Centre Project in Mizoram

New Delhi, March 03, 2023: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Loan Agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese ODA loan amounting to JPY 9,918 million (approximately INR 560 crore) for the development of a 164-bed Super-Specialty Cancer and Research Centre in Mizoram.

The Super Specialty Cancer and Research Centre will also have state-of-the-art medical equipment for cancer diagnosis that will improve cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

The objective of the project is to improve access to cancer prevention, detection, and treatment as well

as human resource development and research that support cancer control system, in line with the National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) program in 2010, which aims to reduce the premature mortality from cancer to 25% by 2025.

The establishment of the Super Specialty Centre will ensure Universal Health Coverage by strengthening the cancer healthcare system in the state.

Mizoram records the second highest cancer incidence rate and the state government has identified the improvement of cancer control as one of the highest priorities in the state's health sector. Mizoram aims to be a model state for cancer control in India with the establishment of this regional cancer control system.



*areas of Japan India cooperation, discussed through diplomatic dialogue of Act East Forum. We are proud of our partnership with the Government of Mizoram that seeks to address the growing lifestyle issues related to cancer.*

*We hope that the new loan will also support the overnment of Mizoram in further strengthening its healthcare infrastructure to help people of the state to lead a healthy life, which contributes the development of North East Region in India."*

The project is in line with the development policy and goals of the State of Mizoram, the development goals of the Government of India, and that of JICA's policy for developing nations. Through this project, not only the construction of the infrastructure but also soft components to support the establishment of a cancer control system in Mizoram will be provided. The soft components will consists of

- 1) Hospital management and medical safety,
- 2) Capacity strengthening of diagnosis and treatment,
- 3) Capacity strengthening of facility and equipment management and maintenance and
- 4) Capacity strengthening of cancer prevention and screening.

The loan agreement for the project was signed between Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India, and Mr. Saito Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India on February 27.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, ***"JICA is committed to improving the health and welfare of human resources in India, especially in Mizoram. Health care in North East Region has been one of the key***

### 3. JICA extends ODA loan of INR 1,927 crore for Mumbai Trans Harbour Link Project (III)

New Delhi, March 03, 2023: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has extended an official development assistance (ODA) loan of 30,755 million Japanese Yen (approximately INR 1,927 crore)\* for the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) project (III) in the state of Maharashtra.

The project entails the construction of an 18-km-long marine road and a 4-km-long land approach road that will connect central Mumbai with Navi Mumbai across the Mumbai Bay. It will improve connectivity to the Navi Mumbai area, where further urban development is being planned, and will also contribute to the economic development of the Mumbai metropolitan area. This loan agreement is the third tranche of JICA financing for MTHL, and the Loan Agreement for the 1st tranche and 2nd tranche were signed on March 31, 2017 and on March 27, 2020.

The ODA loan agreement was signed between Dr. Nidhi Pandey, Resident Commissioner, Maharashtra Sadan and Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India on February 27. The Government of India is the guarantor for the loan agreement of the project.

Mr SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, ***"Mumbai, which has long been the epicentre of India's commerce, has seen a steady increase in population in the past three decades despite obvious spatial constraints. The development of Navi Mumbai has been identified as an urgent requirement for the development of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Towards this end, the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link project, funded by JICA, is***

***proposed to be developed as an expressway link comprising of a dual three-lane main-carriageway bridge connecting Sewri in Mumbai to Chirle in Navi Mumbai. When completed, this link will reduce the road distance between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai and travel time to one-fourth. The project is envisaged to improve connectivity between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai; accelerate the growth of Navi Mumbai; smoothen the traffic flow from Navi Mumbai airport to Mumbai; and enable greater economic integration of Mumbai with Navi Mumbai and with the extended regions of Pune, Goa, Panvel, and Alibaug. As the works are going ahead smoothly, I am looking forward to successful and safe completion of this dream project."***

The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link will be constructed with approach sections, interchanges, Intelligence Transport System (ITS), and all other facilities required for full access-controlled motorway marine bridges. The commencement date of 3 civil works package was March 23, 2018 and the current financial progress, as of February 20, 2023, is 91% for Package 1, 89% for Package 2 and 93% for Package 3 under the project. The current progress is 28% for Package 4, which entails works related to Intelligent Transport System (ITS), Toll Management System, Electrical works, Highway Illumination System, Construction of Toll Plazas and Administrative Building including Command Control Center. MTHL is expected to be operational by end of 2023.

## 4. JICA extends ODA loan of INR 1056 crores for Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project (II)

New Delhi, March 29th, 2023: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed a loan

Agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese ODA loan amounting to JPY 18,894 million (approx. INR 1056 crore) for the Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project (II). The project aims to improve the livelihoods of farmers and promote gender mainstreaming in agriculture and irrigation sectors in the state of Rajasthan by enhancing water use efficiency and agriculture productivity.

The loan agreement was signed by Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India and MR. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India office.

The project will contribute to the socio-economic development of the state by especially supporting female farmers' participation in agriculture activities, leading to increased productivity and improved access to markets.

***"The Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project (II) will address the challenges faced by farmers in Rajasthan due to the limited availability of water and promote gender equality in the agriculture and irrigation sector,"***

said Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative of JICA India Office. ***"JICA is committed to support India's efforts to achieve sustainable development and contribute to the well-being of the people in Rajasthan."***

The Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project (II) is 2nd tranche of The Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project (I) which was signed on March 31, 2017. The project is a continuation of the successful implementation of the "Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Improvement Project (RAJAMIIP)" from 2005 to 2015 under Japanese ODA loan. Based on the lessons learned from RAJAMIIP and the tight water demand-supply balance, the project is designed to improve efficient/ sustainable water use through rehabilitation of medium and minor irrigation schemes, increase agricultural productivity and marketing capacity, and promote gender mainstreaming in agriculture and irrigation sectors. The signing of the ODA Loan agreement for the Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project (II) reinforces the strong partnership between Japan and India in promoting sustainable development in the country. The project will be implemented by the Government of Rajasthan and is expected to benefit approximately 900,000 farmers in the State.

## 5. JICA extends ODA loan of INR 520 crores for the Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation for Climate Change Response in West Bengal (WB-FBCCCR)

New Delhi, March 29th, 2023: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed a Loan Agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese ODA loan amounting to JPY 9,308 million (approximately INR 520 crore) for the Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation for Climate Change Response in West Bengal (WB-FBCCCR). The objective of the project is to mitigate and adapt to climate change and conserve and restore ecosystems by adopting ecosystem-based climate change measures, biodiversity conservation, livelihood improvement activities and institutional strengthening, thereby contributing to the sustainable socioeconomic development in West Bengal.

The loan agreement was signed by Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India and Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India office. Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India Office said, ***"In continuation to our previous successful***

***support for West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project from 2012 to 2022, we are delighted***

***to collaborate with Government of West Bengal again. Under the new project, we have shall be focusing on tackling climate change through enhanced interventions in a more scientific manner for efficient***

***planning and monitoring. Government of West Bengal and JICA have agreed that, at the beginning of this project, several pilot projects using digital technology shall be implemented leveraging India's huge IT capacity to provide solutions to various challenges that the forestry sector faces. . We are indeed excited to see digital transformation being brought about in the forestry sector under the project."***

West Bengal is endowed with long topography and varied flora and fauna, but the forest cover of the state has not achieved either its national goal of 33% or the national average of 25% due to urbanization, excessive pressure on forest resources. The project will help tackle climate change and conserve forests and biodiversity in the state.



## 6. JICA extends ODA loan of INR 18,750 crores for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (IV)

New Delhi, March 29th, 2023: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 300 billion Japanese Yen (approx. INR 18,750 Crore) as tranche 4 for the 'Project for the Construction of Mumbai- Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR).' It is the largest amount committed through a single project loan agreement in the history of JICA, across the globe.

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

JICA has been supporting the MAHSR project by providing ODA loans with the cumulative commitment amount of JPY 650 billion (INR 40,625 crore) since 2017 and by providing technical assistance including feasibility study, basic and detailed design, trainings in Japan, station area development technical cooperation project, and dispatch of Japanese Shinkansen experts to the executing agency of MAHSR project, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL).

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.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, *"The MAHSR project, by introducing Japan's High Speed Rail technology to India's first High Speed Rail project is a symbol of the Japan-India collaboration. I am pleased that Japan and India are implementing the project as "one team", as mentioned by the Honourable Prime Minister of India. Thanks to great efforts made by NHSRCL and our Indian colleagues, we have witnessed great progress in the civil work so far. On the sidelines of signing the loan agreement, we have also just released a new video introducing the MAHSR project and our support. I hope that through this video, our Indian friends will get to know more about this glorious national flagship project and JICA's role in facilitating it."*

English version: <https://youtu.be/6QYiyY1NI-0>

Hindi version:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ygf9X3wlyFo>



## 7. JICA extends ODA loan of INR 5521 crores for the Patna Metro Rail Construction Project (I)

New Delhi, March 29, 2023: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed a Loan Agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese ODA loan amounting to JPY 98,612 million (approximately INR 5521 crore) for the Patna Metro Rail Construction Project (I). The project aims to cope with the increase of traffic demand in Patna by constructing a new metro corridor, thereby contributing towards the improvement of the urban environment and development of the economy as well as mitigation of climate change in the city.

The loan agreement was signed by Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India and Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India office.

The objective of the project is to reduce emissions and adverse environmental impact by creating a public transport-oriented city. It will also contribute towards the goal of reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions in GDP intensity by 2030 to 33-35% compared to 2005, that the Government of India is working on under the "**National Determined Contribution (NDC)**" goals, based on the Paris Agreement.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative of JICA India office said, "**JICA's cooperation in the Metro Development in India had expanded in 6 cities, namely Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai and Ahmedabad and this project in Patna will be the first metro project in what is called tier-2 cities. I am glad to be involved in the important project in the historical city of Patna. Considering the growing population and industries in the city, I am sure this project will improve the life and business in Patna and I hope this will be considered as the best example of metro project in Tier-2 cities.**"

Set to be operated and maintained by the Patna Metro Rail Corporation Limited (PMRCL), the ODA Loan Agreement for the Patna Metro Rail Construction Project (I) reinforces the strong partnership between Japan and India in promoting infrastructure development in the country. Cumulatively, JICA has extended ODA loans of over 1.7 trillion Japanese yen (approximately INR 107,505 Crore) to develop metro rail systems in Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.



# EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

## 1. Let's Wash Hands with HELLO KITTY!!

New Delhi, 30th January 2023: JICA India recently held a two-day event to promote handwashing with soap with the famous Japanese character Hello Kitty in Delhi, as a part of the 'Achhi Aadat (Good Habit) Campaign', with implementation partner IJ Kakehashi Services Pvt. Ltd. Hello Kitty is a world-renowned character of Sanrio Company Ltd., known for her adorable looks and kindness towards others. In recent years, Hello Kitty has expanded her focus to the promotion of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through her YouTube Channel (HELLO KITTY CHANNEL). The United Nations (UN) has acknowledged her dedication and since September 2019, Hello Kitty in collaboration with the UN, has introduced SDG engagement around the world through her informative and interesting videos.

Hello Kitty and Sanrio are partners of JICA India's Achhi Aadat Campaign, which was launched in January 2021 to raise awareness among the population regarding hygiene practices, including handwashing and nail cleaning. Since 2021, Hello Kitty has participated in online 'Achhi Aadat sessions' and interacted with children to share the importance of proper handwashing with soap. Hello Kitty is currently visiting India for the first time along with Ms. TSUJI Yuko, Managing Executive Officer, Global Sustainability Department Director of Sanrio, and has been participating in person in Achhi Aadat sessions and various campaign activities.

In the morning of Wednesday November 9, Hello Kitty appeared in front of around 900 primary school students at The Mother's International School, Delhi. The students were surprised to see the special guest and welcomed her with great enthusiasm.

The students were surprised to see the special guest and welcomed her with great enthusiasm. Hello Kitty demonstrated the eight steps of handwashing while dancing to the music of her video **"Let's Wash Our Hands with HELLO KITTY!!"** She held another handwashing session in Central Park in Connaught Place in the afternoon, to bring smiles to the faces of 30 students from St. James Convent School run by the NGO Asha Deep Foundation. Hello Kitty then boarded the Delhi Metro from Rajiv Chowk Station to Patel Chowk Station and experienced riding on a female-only coach. At the Patel Chowk Station she was greeted by Mr. Vikas Kumar, Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative of JICA India, and 15 students of Sarthak Prayas, an NGO-run school, who learned the eight steps of handwashing with Hello Kitty. On Thursday November 10, she visited the iconic India Gate where she observed two out of the 1000 auto rickshaws specially wrapped with the Achhi Aadat Campaign message on their hood. On 30th January 2023, Sanrio has launched a video introducing India and the Achhi Aadat Campaign. Click on the link below to view the video!!

Video Link: "Kitty made a surprise appearance at a handwashing event in India!"  
<https://youtu.be/371ISMThC9w>

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, **"Dear Hello Kitty, thank you so much for coming all the way to India!! How was dancing in the Connaught Place, visiting India Gate by rickshaw? Good boys and girls you played together will never forget how to wash their hands and live healthy lives. Please come visit India again to enjoy delicious Indian sweets and desserts! Safe journey!"**



**Hello Kitty handwashing demonstration at Central Park**



**Group photo with students of St. James Convent School**





**Hello Kitty on a female-only coach of Delhi Metro**



**Group photo at Metro Museum, Patel Chowk Station**

## 2. Achhi Aadat (Good Habit) Campaign Session in Bihar with Yakult and FC Nono

New Delhi, January 23, 2023: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will collaborate with Yakult Danone India Private Limited, which manufactures the world's leading probiotic beverage 'Yakult,' a probiotic fermented milk drink; and FC Nono, which is supporting and empowering children through football activities in Bihar, and conduct a kick off session of Achhi Aadat (Good Habit) Campaign (AAC) for children in Bihar in the month of April 2023 as the first event of AAC in Fiscal Year 2023. The session is going to be held for children and their family who are the members of FC Nono in Bihar. Through the event, the three parties hope that more children will learn proper hygiene practices such as hand washing and nutritional management methods that lead to good health, and that they will continue to enjoy playing football and living better. In addition to that, as a preliminary activity, Yakult Danone India Private Limited and JICA India are also collaborating in distribution of flyers through Yakult Ladies to its customers to spread the importance of continuing hygiene practices and nutritional management in daily life.

JICA launched the campaign in January 2021, to raise awareness on the importance of hygiene practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. The campaign focuses on introducing an easy and practical approach to the hygiene and sanitation issues by promoting handwashing, nail cleaning and other hygiene practice. The campaign reached out to 6.5 crore people by the end of March 2022, either directly through physical and

online educational sessions, indirectly by word of mouth and through media outreach including conventional mass media and social media.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. HAMADA Hiroshi, Managing Director, Yakult Danone India Private Limited said, ***"We are delighted to participate 'Achhi Aadat Campaign' with JICA India and FC Nono. And we are happy to distribute the flyer through our Yakult lady homedelivery system to our important customers. The information in the flyer about hygiene practices and nutritional management in daily life would be helpful for our customers."***

***Through such CSR activities, we are really interested in improving the health of citizen in India, which is in line with our corporate philosophy of contributing to the health and happiness of people around the world."***

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. HAGIHARA Nozomu, Founder, FC Nono said, "It is an honor to join the Achhi Aadat Campaign with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Yakult Danone India Private Limited for children in Bihar to promote hygienic practices and nutritional management. As a charitable and social project, our mission is to improve inclusive living conditions of young girls/boys of Bihar State in India who are forced to live in poverty through a wide range of social activities focused on health, education, nutrition and human resources development towards sustainable livelihoods.



As a charitable and social project, our mission is to improve inclusive living conditions of young girls/boys of Bihar State in India who are forced to live in poverty through a wide range of social activities focused on health, education, nutrition and human resources development towards sustainable livelihoods.

To achieve kid`s dream, hygiene and nutrition are the most prominent element we believe, especially in a rural side, where people have glimpse of knowledge about them. Among them, we strongly believe that it is very important for children to acquire knowledge and habits regarding hygiene and nutrition.

We are very happy to have the opportunity to share apposite knowledge and message with children through this campaign with above two parties.”

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, *“JICA India welcomes Yakult and FC Nono to join ‘Achhi Aadat Campaign’. Through the campaign, we will work together to promote hygienic practices and nutritional management for the health and welfare of people of India.*

*Hygienic practices will reduce the likelihood of viral infections other than COVID-19. Globally, a large 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 practice that becomes “lifelong good habit” will protect not only oneself but also the loved ones.”*

This is the first AAC session in FY2023. In addition to the importance of good hygiene habits mentioned above, the three parties would love to see children and family in Bihar learning the importance of nutritional management for their future long-term health.

### 3. Japan and India Join Hands for Developing Future Leadership Through Academic Cooperation; Lecture by Japanese professor at IIT Hyderabad

Hyderabad, February 22, 2023: The first Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) lecture, under the JICA Chair (JICA Program for Japanese Studies), was held at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) on February 22, 2023, and was attended by researchers and students from the institute as well as a Japanese delegation. Around 60 books were also donated to IIT-H in the event as reference materials to study the experience of Japan. IIT-H has been selected as the first program partner in India in view of the long history of its collaboration with JICA.

Japan is the first country that has modernized from a non-Western background to establish a free, democratic, prosperous, and peace-loving nation based on the rule of law, without losing much of its tradition and identity. At the same time, Japan has extensive experience of development cooperation through official development assistance (ODA) toward Asian countries, most of which have achieved remarkable socio-economic progress. JICA Chair was launched to develop future leaders of developing countries through providing opportunity to study Japan’s modernization and development cooperation experiences. The JICA Chair includes short, insightful lectures

insightful lectures by Japanese professors and researchers, wherein they share their developmental experiences in the areas such as politics, economics, public administration, law, and others. The JICA Chair will also provide research and educational opportunities as well as reference materials for establishing and strengthening programs and courses for Japanese studies.

The first lecture under the JICA chair program at IIT-H was delivered by Professor ONO Taichi, Director of Healthcare Policy Concentration at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan, on the topic “Aging Society, Social Systems and Care for the Elderly: Implications from the Experience of Japan”. Professor Ono has more than three decades of experience in policy and research, having worked closely with the Government of Japan. His academic specialization is in Social Security Policy, Health, and Long-Term Care Policy. During the lecture, the professor talked about the Japanese experience of building aging society- oriented social systems. Drawing from Japan’s own experience, he also spoke about the implications – both positive and negative – of such policies for developing countries.

**Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India** said, "Japan's road to modernization began 155 years ago. Since then, Japan has become the first, and one of the best examples, of modernization through a non-Western approach. JICA has been engaging in various initiatives with IIT-H, which has become a crucial platform for engagement for both countries. There are almost 100 JICA projects in India mainly in the field of infrastructure development, but I believe the investment in the Indian human resource can play fundamental role in nurturing better relationship between two countries. Since the technology and innovation are the only solutions for solving complicated challenges like aging society, I strongly hope that today's lecture not only inaugurated the JICA Chair program in IITH but also

stimulated the adventure of promising young leaders in India to tackle various development challenges to come. Through our projects, JICA is committed to enhancing the education system in India and around the world for a bright future."

JICA has extended integrated support to IIT-H through an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 23,035 million Japanese yen (around INR 1,400 crore) for the development of the IIT-H campus. Apart from Infrastructure, JICA also extends technical cooperation projects to supports personal and organizational interaction with Japanese academia and industries, along with joint research projects and public-private partnership projects.

#### 4. JICA INDIA celebrates National Cleanliness Day with school children in Delhi

New Delhi, January 30, 2023: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) celebrated National Cleanliness Day with children at the Bal Bharati Public School, Dwarka, New Delhi, today, with the campaign implementing partner IJ Kakehashi Services Private Limited (IJK). The aim is to promote healthy hygiene and cleanliness practices under JICA's Achhi Aadat Campaign (AAC) and reiterate the importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness in homes, workplaces, and public places.

The event began with an interactive session which highlighted the importance of washing hands with soap and maintaining nail hygiene followed by a round of questions to the students. They also learned the appropriate method of washing hands using SATO Taps (portable handwashing stations).

A physical session on the significance of handwashing was conducted and also attended virtually by the famous Japanese character Hello Kitty, as a surprise engagement session with the students. They also participated in a drawing competition on the theme of "**Hand Hygiene Habits for Health**". With the aim of ensuring continued access to cleanliness and hygiene

knowledge, JICA handed over IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials and hygiene products such as SATO Taps and soaps to the school authorities for distribution among the students.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India** said, "We believe that handwashing and personal hygiene are integral pillars for ensuring cleanliness across the country. For the last two years, through this Achhi Aadat Campaign, JICA India has strived to foster habits of cleanliness and sanitation among children. By celebrating National Cleanliness Day with the same theme, our focus is on reinforcing the integral message of cleanliness among these young minds, who hold the potential to shape the future of the nation." JICA celebrated National Cleanliness Day with school children as they serve as the key stakeholders in the rolling out of various activities under AAC and tend to be the driving force for bringing change for cleanliness at schools, homes as well as communities.



**Children learned proper steps to wash hands**



**The Japanese famous character Hello Kitty joined the session from Japan**



## 5. On India visit, JICA President Dr. TANAKA Akihiko highlights the important areas of cooperation through JICA funded projects in the country

New Delhi, March 13, 2023: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)'s President, Dr. TANAKA Akihiko visited India from March 8 to 14. During his visit, the President conducted meetings with high-ranking government officials and diplomats and highlighted JICA's activities in India as well as its vision for the country. He met Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar and G20 Sherpa Mr. Amitabh Kant in Delhi and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Sinde in Mumbai. Dr. TANAKA also visited JICA project sites in Delhi, Ahmedabad and Mumbai including the Projects for Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail, Mumbai Trans Harbor Link Project, Delhi Metro Projects and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer activity site in Delhi.

Speaking on this occasion, Dr. TANAKA Akihiko, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency, said, *"India is the largest partner for JICA. I am pleased to visit India and to see the firm progress of the projects which were under planning stage during my previous JICA presidency. I was honored to have opportunities to meet dignitaries of Government of India including Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. We discussed various areas of India-Japan cooperation which includes large scale infrastructures development, enhancement of people to people cooperation, and cooperation in North East region of India and agreed on further strengthening the partnership. JICA will continue extending supports to Government of India's efforts of infrastructure and socio-economic development through financial and technical cooperation projects. I am sure we can contribute to India's socio-economic development and enhanced Japan-India partnership."*

Welcoming the President, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, *"It gives me great pleasure to welcome Dr. TANAKA Akihiko, President of JICA. We confirmed that the dignitaries he met during the visit have the same understanding on the importance of India-Japan relationship and have high expectations for JICA's activities. We, under the strong leadership of Dr. TANAKA, are ready to respond to the expectations. Under his leadership, JICA has been at the forefront of providing assistance to developing countries in various areas such as infrastructure development, health, education, and disaster relief among others. His vision for JICA is centered around the principles of human security and sustainable development, which aim to empower individuals and communities, while also protecting the environment. We will gear up for further strengthening our cooperation in India."*

Before assuming the President's position at JICA in April 2022, Dr. TANAKA was the President of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan. His career includes being a Professor of International Politics at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo (1998-2012, 2015-2017), President of JICA (2012-2015), Executive Vice President of the University of Tokyo (2009-2012), Professor of Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, the University of Tokyo (2000-2012).







# Early Bullet Train Desirable, But Safety First: JICA President

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**New Delhi:** President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Akihiko Tanaka, who is on a trip to India ahead of PM Fumio Kishida's visit on March 20-21, told ET that JICA, which is involved with the maiden High Speed Rail (HSR) project here, is keen for an early completion of the venture but would not compromise on the project's safety.

"In terms of the money that we mobilise, the HSR project is the biggest one, but we at JICA do not consider the amount of money the only criteria to judge its importance. There are many important projects that don't cost much money and are very effective. I would say the biggest project (HSR) that JICA has engaged not just in India, but all over the world," according to Dr Tanaka.

"On timeframe, the faster the better. Japan has lots of high-speed rail projects and it is extremely difficult to tell exactly when the project will really complete, but, we would like to do it as quickly as possible, but we absolutely would need to make sure that the system works safely. Safety is the most important thing," Tanaka pointed out when asked about the timeframe to complete HSR. The HSR in India is JICA's

biggest project anywhere in the world in terms of valuation.

Tanaka also listed JICA funded projects in India's Northeast and connecting NE with the deep sea port in Bangladesh that JICA is supporting as a priority for the organisation. "...important areas of

## NORTHEAST POTENTIAL

**JICA keen to unlock potential of Northeast India-Nepal-Bhutan via deep seaport of Bangladesh**

cooperation are our cooperation in North-Eastern states. There are projects of infrastructure. There are projects to preserve forest and so further development in north-eastern states, we consider it very important, and the infrastructures are very important because it is beneficial for the people in North-Eastern states, but it is also beneficial to the neighbouring countries too."

Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal will benefit from JICA's project. The JICA president suggested that Bangladesh and India should put in place easier border control for trade.



## 6. JICA's IMOTO Sachiko Reinstates Commitment for Healthcare, Livelihood Generation and Resource Conservation on India visit

Rajasthan, March 09, 2023: Ms. IMOTO Sachiko, Senior Vice President, JICA India visited India on (date). As part of her visit, she was a keynote speaker for the Raisina Dialogue, based on the theme 'Equitable, Accessible and Quality Healthcare: Responding through Investments, Partnerships and Technology'. Anjali Nayyar, Executive Vice-President, Global Health Strategies, India moderated the session. The discussion mapped a blueprint for an inclusive health model to catalyse knowledge-sharing and technology transfer from R&D hubs to populations in the developing world, thereby bridging the global gap between research and product delivery for existing health issues.

Other notable speakers were Union Minister for Health Mr. Mansukh Mandaviya; NITI Aayog Member Mr. VK Paul, Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister Ms. Shamika Ravi; Member of the Portuguese National Parliament Mr. Ricardo Baptista Leite and Director of the United Nations University, International Institute on Global Health.

As part of the Water Resources Sector Livelihood ODA Project in Rajasthan, Ms. Sachiko also paid a visit to project sites for water and irrigation, biodiversity, and forest conservation projects. The JICA delegation started their visit with the Vallabh Nagar Irrigation project, which is a sub-project that supports the renovation of irrigation facilities and the organization of the Water Users Association (WUA) under the ongoing **"Rajasthan Water Resources Sector Livelihood Improvement Project (Phase I)"** ODA loan. They visited a small-scale irrigation channel exchanged views with the Water Users Association and Self-Help Groups (SHG) providing technical and organizational assistance in Ran Chopura and Gadriyawas districts.

They also visited the afforestation projects in Ranthambore, the Sajjangarh Biological Park for fauna conservation and the Kodyat Plantation for water source protection and soil improvement. The JICA team also toured a kitchen garden with drying facilities for peppers and vegetables using solar power.

Ms. IMOTO Sachiko, Senior Vice President, JICA India said, ***"My visit to India is always cherished, but has been all the more insightful owing to the opportunities for engagement, knowledge sharing and meeting the rural populace to assess the impact of development projects undertaken by JICA. To help the rural population in agricultural production activities and maintenance and management of water routes in rural areas of Rajasthan and raise agricultural productivity based on sustainable operation, with a focus on sustainable development and preserving biodiversity, JICA is committed in its resolve to assist the improvement of livelihood for forest-dependent communities. Our inspection visit reinstates our commitment to the development of Rajasthan and review the state of our investment projects here."***

Ms. Sachiko met with Mr. Rajesh Bhushan Secretary - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Mr. K. Sanjay Murthy Secretary Ministry of Education.

To conserve the biodiversity and resources while helping the rural population realise the full potential in their livelihood, JICA has been continuously supporting and accelerating projects. By developing their skills in sectors such as forestry, health, agriculture, transport, finance and water and sanitation, JICA's projects in Rajasthan help rural population realise their viability to projects in infrastructure development and environment preservation.





## SPECIAL DAYS

### 1. JICA commits to be a strong standing partner for India in its plans to strengthen the education system on International Education Day

New Delhi, January 23, 2023: On International Education Day, the Japan International Cooperative Agency (JICA) has shared its various initiatives that are targeted at strengthening India's education system. The aim is to help unlock the true potential of young Indians, who can then go on and contribute to the society and economy at large. Over the years, JICA has been consistently contributing to bringing positive change, among the children and youth of India and addressing to the learning crisis in both primary and higher education institutes.

In 2020, JICA signed a memorandum of cooperation (MOC) with Pratham Education Foundation, an NGO in India, and the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, a global research agency in the United States, with the objective of sharing knowledge and collaborating to improve literacy and numeracy abilities among children in developing countries. On the basis of this MOC, Pratham, J-PAL, which has achieved many research accomplishments in the education sector and has a network of researchers, and JICA will further advance their partnerships at the ground level in developing countries, and work on developing innovative models for improving literacy and numeracy abilities among children. These efforts will also contribute toward the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4, ***“Improve Quality of Education and Promote Lifelong Learning. JICA has also partnered with these agencies to hold two seminars on the School for All project, an education development project carried out by JICA, and the three agencies have mutually shared their approaches, such as innovations for improving the quality of children's learning through collaboration among parents, teachers and communities, and effective learning techniques for literacy and numeracy.***

***JICA has also been engaged in supporting Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India. In 2021, JICA signed a Record of Discussions with the Government of India for “the Project for Future Researchers at IITH (Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad) to Enhance Network Development with Scholarship of Japan (FRIENDSHIP) Phase 2”, a technical cooperation project. The purpose of the project is to establish a sustainable platform for academic and industrial collaboration between India and Japan at IITH.***

To achieve this, JICA will implement several initiatives such as launching the Japan Desk at IITH, student exchange programmes, supporting collaborative activities with Japanese educational and research institutes, and providing JICA research funds to enhance research and technology development and industrial collaboration between India and Japan. The construction of the buildings at IITH through the Campus Development Project, an ODA loan project, is expected to be completed this year after which the institute can accommodate more students and faculty members on campus.

JICA's contribution to strengthening India's education system through various partnerships and interventions is part of its commitment to help the nation achieve its development goals and build a secure future. Working with like-minded partners from academia in India and across the world will help JICA make a meaningful impact in this important sector.

Most recently in 2022, JICA signed a Record of Discussions with the Government of the Republic of India for the Project of Sustainable Global Business Breakthrough Ecosystem (SGBBE), a technical cooperation project. The project will encourage the development of an ecosystem that generates business innovation across India and will contribute to the development of an inclusive Indian manufacturing industry.

Among the planned activities is to support Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and other HEIs to provide acceleration services to startups founded by students. The project contributes to the achievement of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) Goals 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure).

Sharing his opinion on JICA's education interventions, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, ***“We believe that education must be prioritized to accelerate progress towards all the Sustainable Development Goals against the backdrop of a global recession, growing inequalities, and the climate crisis. The year 2023 marks the mid-point since the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda for people, planet and prosperity, with a set of 17 interlocked goals that will come up for review at the SDG Summit in September on the theme of investing in people. Through various projects underway, JICA is committed to enhance the education system in India and the world, thereby, making a bright future for children, youth, and all.”***

## 2. JICA emphasizes on projects that prioritize rural income growth and financial independence on the occasion of International Women's Day

Rajasthan, March 08, 2023: Based on this year's theme of #EmbraceEquity for International Women's Day, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is emphasizing on projects that prioritize rural income growth and financial independence. JICA's Senior Vice President Ms. IMOTO Sachiko visited Rajasthan from 28th February to 1st March 2023 to highlight the importance of improving women inclusion in various sectors.

The Union Budget 2023 has also taken steps to enable women self-help groups (SHGs) to reach to the next stage of economic empowerment by providing them with raw material supply, branding, marketing of products, etc. Realizing the transformative potential of SHGs in engaging women, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, JICA's projects help in widening women's labor force participation in the near future.

India's prosperity has risen in terms of economic growth and development, but women are yet to benefit equally or even proportionately from the same. Confined to family care, the pandemic further aggravated this disparity of economic participation and letting women have the autonomy of taking decisions for themselves and their family. About 46% of workers in the agriculture sector are women, which gives them a pivotal role in agricultural production processes and maintenance and management of irrigation facilities.

Ms. IMOTO Sachiko, Senior Vice President, JICA said, ***"Many women are involved in agricultural production activities and maintenance and management of water routes in rural areas of Rajasthan. However, they have only limited opportunities to participate in workshops to obtain proper water management or farming skills or skills to maintain and manage irrigation facilities as well as in decision making processes. The benefit of investing in women and empowering them with knowledge and voices to raise reaches far beyond herself, to the family members and to the communities. JICA is committed in its resolve to assist the improvement of livelihood for agriculture and forest-dependent communities, not only by improving infrastructure but also by capacity development of people, both men and women."***

To help women realise their full potential and strengthen the situation for women to be empowered equitably, JICA has been continuously supporting and accelerating gender parity. By developing their skills in sectors such as forestry, health, agriculture, transport, finance and water and sanitation, JICA's projects in various Indian states, like Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha help realise women their viability to projects in infrastructure development and environment preservation.

In India's forestry sector, JICA has supported "Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project" as one of the flagships projects in the sector which empowers local community members, especially women by skill trainings, supporting SHGs and providing financial assistance to rural women to reduce their dependence on forest resources.

One of the project beneficiaries, Mr. Jasoda Pradhan, SHG Member, Sundarpur Van Suraksha Samiti, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II said, ***"We were traditional craftsmen on bamboo utility products, but due to our lowly skills we would get less work on these bamboo products. The OFSDP-II project facilitated a month-long training on different bamboo crafts, enabling many of our members skilled on making exclusive artefacts on bamboo craft which are sold both online and offline. Now our products fetch premium values."***

The Jharkhand Horticulture Intensification by Micro Drip Irrigation Project aims to enhance productivity of horticultural products as well as livelihood of female farmers and affiliated to women's voluntary group (SHG) that will lead to contributing to their needs for supporting women.

Chintamani Devi, an Ajeevika Krishak Sakhi or Community Resource Person to enable female farmers, shares how the project increases the income of women and helps them save money on compost or fertilizers that they earlier had to buy. ***"Now we are able to educate our kids in English Medium Schools, those women who were deployed as contractual labourers are now cultivating their own farmland while managing their homes and family. Now, more and more women are coming in to get trained in these segments,"*** she said.

The Delhi Metro Rail Cooperation (DMRC) project also promotes employment of women through improvement of the working environment, i.e. by granting child care leave, establishment of a day-care centre and hostels for women employees, and the formation of the Standing Complaints Committee.