

Project Updates

- Opening Ceremony of the Varanasi International Cooperation and Convention Centre
- DMRC unveils JICA funded Trilokpuri section ensuring seamless travel in Delhi after conquering the obstacles during Covid-19
- Safety Management Seminar for JICA Supported Western Dedicated Freight Corridor Project
- DMRC unveils JICA funded Najafgarh-Dhansa Bus Stand extension after conquering the overwhelming obstacles faced during Covid-19
- JICA supported campus facility inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH)
- JICA announces to expand the focus of Achhi Aadat Campaign in Mumbai in partnership with MMRC, MMRDA and Yokohama city in Japan
- Driverless Metro Trains begin their journey in Delhi Metro's longest corridor with Japan's Support
- First Full Span Pre-Stressed Concrete Box Girder erected in a casting yard in Navsari, for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project
- Inauguration of the Delhi Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) Intelligent Transport System (ITS) Installation Project with Japan's Support
- JICA Experts' Demonstration and Training for portable track geometry measuring trolley under Technical Cooperation Project for Capacity Development on Railway Safety

Project Updates basis signing of project agreements

- JICA signs a Record of Discussions for a Technical Cooperation Project at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH)
- JICA signs loan agreement for women's financial inclusion in India
- Supporting Indian DX startups through investment in a Japanese VC fund (Private Sector Investment Finance)
- Signing of Record of Discussion for "Project for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in Tamil Nadu"
- Supporting Indian SMEs engaged in solving social and environmental issues through investment in an impact investment fund (Private Sector Investment Finance)

Events/Workshops

- Mr. SAITO Mitsunori appointed as the new Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency India Office
- Hello Kitty sings for children in India to wash hands together
- JICA supports India for Capacity Development on Railway Safety
- JICA announces to disclose a video where Hello Kitty sings in Hindi as an edutainment gift to children on Diwali
- Japanese character Kumamon met His Excellency Ambassador of India to Japan, introducing his first Indo-Japan collaboration video

Special days

- Olympic Games Tokyo 2020: JICA communicates its contributions towards strengthening social development through promoting sports
- JICA congratulates India on 75 glorious years of Independence
- Zero Emissions Day: JICA Supports India to Meet its Environmental, Social and Economic Goals
- JICA Commemorates World Tourist Day by Investing in Infrastructure to Strengthen Tourism Experience in India
- JICA organizes contest on Global Handwashing Day to promote correct handwashing habits, under its 'Achhi Aadat' Campaign
- On Global Handwashing Day, JICA India undertakes activities to increase awareness about hygiene and cleanliness
- JICA celebrates World Toilet Day
- JICA celebrates International Volunteer Day to strengthen people-to-people exchange between India and Japan
- National Energy Conservation Day: JICA supports India's efforts to achieve the targets set under the National Electricity Plan

1. OPENING CEREMONY OF THE VARANASI INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE

New Delhi, July 15th, 2021: The Varanasi International Cooperation and Convention Centre, as a "Symbol of the Friendship between Japan and India", supported by Japan's Grant Aid, was officially opened by Prime Minister Modi, together with Ambassador Suzuki. The opening ceremony of the Varanasi International Cooperation and Convention Centre (VCC), which has been constructed by Japan's Grant Aid through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), was held in the city of Varanasi in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh (UP).

The ceremony was attended by Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, Mr. Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of UP, and other dignitaries from India, and H.E. Mr. SUZUKI Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative of JICA India and other officials from Japan. H.E. Mr. SUGA Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Japan, delivered his congratulatory message through video.

Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative of JICA India, said, "It is quite significant that an international convention centre, a symbol of India-Japan friendship, is built in a culturally richest and the most traditional holy city of Varanasi in India. This demonstrates a long-standing mutual trust between the two countries. The latest Japanese technology including energy conservation and appealing aesthetics were applied in the building construction. I hope that citizens of Varanasi would love this marvel. It is expected that the centre will be effectively used for cultural events, academic meetings, and various activities by the citizens."



2. DMRC UNVEILS JICA FUNDED TRILOKPURI SECTION ENSURING SEAMLESS TRAVEL IN DELHI AFTER CONQUERING THE OBSTACLES DURING COVID-19

New Delhi, August 06, 2021: The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) flagged off the opening of the Trilokpuri section of the Pink Line for passenger operations under Delhi Metro Phase 3 Project funded by Japanese ODA loan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). With opening of this vital link, the Delhi Metro will connect the Mayur Vihar Pocket 1 and Trilokpuri - Sanjay Lake to facilitate a seamless travel.

The 59-kilometer Pink Line will now connect Delhi's northern and eastern periphery with important

PROJECT UPDATES

markets, hospitals, transportation hubs, and prominent residential areas in south and central parts of the city.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “We congratulate DMRC on the successful completion of and Trilokpuri section of the Pink Line. This is a remarkable achievement as the civil construction on this line continued despite obstacles caused due to the ongoing pandemic. Since the operation of Delhi Metro, a major reduction of carbon footprint of 4.4 million tons has been reported. DMRC’s continued efforts in the field of clean energy, proactive response to COVID-19 have gained the desired results. JICA also appreciates the impact DMRC has laid on women’s safety and empowerment. Keeping in mind that women tend to use public transport more than men, improvement in the public transport system has shown immediate positive results on the lives of women and therefore has increased their ratio in the labor market”.

The construction of the Trilokpuri section in the Pink Line was a challenge for DMRC because the work was frequently hindered due to the Covid-19 pandemic due to the persistent manpower shortages. Although the Pink Line started operation in 2019, this stretch near Trilokpuri got delayed due to a lack of unencumbered property. After satisfactory rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected persons followed by land acquisition, the seamless journey on the Pink Line is now made possible.



3. SAFETY MANAGEMENT SEMINAR FOR JICA SUPPORTED WESTERN DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR PROJECT

New Delhi, August 31, 2021: Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL) conducted the Safety Management Seminar under the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project, being constructed with the financial support of Japan’s ODA loan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). More than 270 representatives joined this seminar.

Japan has been providing funds and expertise to DFCCIL for the execution of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor Project between Delhi and Mumbai having route length of approximately 1,500km, thereby enhancing its connectivity in all forms of transportation. This Safety Management Seminar organized by DFCCIL aims to improve safe and healthy working environment at all the construction sites including in trial run operation.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “JICA has been extending financial and technical assistance for various development projects in India, including the nationally prioritized Western DFC Project, executed by DFCCIL. JICA had been deputing their safety advisors with DFCCIL in the past so as to share their knowledge of safe practices and



safety measures elsewhere available in other countries. Western DFC project is an epitome of India-Japan collaboration for comprehensive quality infrastructure development. The definition of Quality infrastructure includes perfect Safety Management of project site. It is very essential to establish a safe and healthy working environment not only at the construction stage but also during the testing and trial runs. We will continue to closely work together to achieve our goal of establishing safe and healthy working environment, successful completion of Western DFC Project and its sustainable operations in time to come.”

4. DMRC UNVEILS JICA FUNDED NAJAFGARH-DHANSA BUS STAND EXTENSION AFTER CONQUERING THE OVERWHELMING OBSTACLES FACED DURING COVID-19

New Delhi, September 18, 2021: The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) today unveiled the Najafgarh-Dhansa Bus Stand extension of the Grey Line, Delhi Metro Phase III, funded by Japanese ODA Loan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for passenger operations. With the opening of this link, the Delhi Metro will reach suburban areas in interior Najafgarh to facilitate a seamless travel and expand to become a 391 kms long network with 286 stations.

The inauguration ceremony was conducted in the presence of dignitaries such as H.E. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, Dr. Mangu Singh, Managing Director, DMRC.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “Effective in August I took over the responsibility of JICA India office as Chief Representative. In my previous tenure as a representative at the JICA India office from 2006-2010, I was in charge of project supervision of Delhi Metro. It is very encouraging to observe how JICA and DMRC's collaboration has evolved and expanded so far. Since the operation of Delhi Metro, a major reduction of carbon footprint of 4.4 million tons has been reported. DMRC's continued efforts in the field of clean energy, proactive response to COVID-19 have gained the desired results. JICA also appreciates the impact DMRC has laid on women's safety and empowerment. Keeping in mind that women tend to use public transport more than men, improvement in the public transport system has shown immediate positive results on the lives of women and therefore has increased their ratio in the labor market.”



5. JICA SUPPORTED CAMPUS FACILITY INAUGURATED AT THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HYDERABAD (IITH)

New Delhi, August 18, 2021: The Inauguration ceremony of the academic building for Department of Materials Science & Metallurgical Engineering on the campus of Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH), which has been constructed with the support from Japan's ODA loan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), was held online. This is the first academic building in IITH campus constructed under Japan's ODA loan. The ceremony was attended by the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Government of India, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan through a recorded video message, Mr. MIYAMOTO Shingo, Minister (Economic and Development) from Embassy of Japan, and Mr.

PROJECT UPDATES

AKAMINE Kengo, Senior Representative of the JICA India office, among other dignitaries and guests.

JICA's cooperation with IITH is one of the most successful examples of its holistic programmatic approach. The cooperation was based on the commitment between the Prime Ministers of the two countries in 2007.



Hon'ble Minister for Education, Government of India, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan presented video message.



Professor B S Murty, Director IITH conveyed welcome address



Mr. AKAMINE Kengo, Senior Representative of JICA India addressed at the ceremony

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. AKAMINE Kengo, Senior Representative, JICA India said, "JICA extends its congratulations to IITH on the momentous occasion of inauguration of the first academic building under JICA's ODA loan projects. The relationship between IITH and JICA has been special. The holistic programme for collaboration with IITH is aimed at building a long-lasting partnership between India and Japan through integrated assistance, which combines several modalities of ODA scheme, and we believe it has been very successful. The collaborations between IITH and Japan has increased in many aspects, spreading out to the private sector and the academic field. Starting from this building, we are expecting more such facilities to be inaugurated in the coming months. These buildings include the symbolic facilities designed by the Japanese design team. I hope they will create good synergy with other Japan-India collaborative activities."

6. JICA ANNOUNCES TO EXPAND THE FOCUS OF ACHHI AADAT CAMPAIGN IN MUMBAI IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MMRC, MMRDA AND YOKOHAMA CITY IN JAPAN

New Delhi, October 02, 2021: On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2nd, Japan International Cooperation Agency, in partnership with Yokohama city in Japan, announces to commence supplying Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) and Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) with hygiene-related goods including 3,000 bar soaps, 9,600 masks, 290 tote bags and Information education and communication materials. These goods will be provided under the cooperation of MMRC and MMRDA to front-line workers at construction sites in JICA-supported flagship infrastructure projects; Mumbai Metro Line 3 Project and Mumbai Trans Harbor Link Road Project.

Focusing on the historical friendship between Yokohama city in Japan and Mumbai in Maharashtra, JICA decided to launch a collaborative effort with Yokohama city for Mumbai. The bar soaps provided in this activity are made in commemoration of this cooperation representing solidarity shared by two cities. The cover of the soap stipulates "For the people of Mumbai from Japan, Yokohama" with a QR code link of



PROJECT UPDATES

a video where Yokohama city is introduced to people in India. The tote bag was made in Yokohama city in 2020 to celebrate its 55th year anniversary of sister-city relations between both cities. Masks are donated by Ryohin Keikaku Reliance India Pvt Ltd who administers “MUJI” stores in Mumbai, Delhi and NOIDA. MUJI offers a wide variety of good quality items from stationery to household items and apparel.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, “Commemorating the birth anniversary of India’s greatest leader, JICA endeavors to contribute to Mahatma Gandhi’s ideal of a country free of sanitary problems. JICA has been relentlessly working with India to support in its fight against the pandemic and preparing the citizens to tackle the 3rd wave of Covid-19 in an efficient manner. The ‘Achhi Aadat’ Campaign has been successfully dispersing awareness about health and sanitation typically among the youth and children of the country. JICA believes that hygienic practices will not just reduce the rise of Covid-19 but also safeguard individuals from other viral infections. Globally, a large number of children die as a result of diarrheal infections, and it has been proven that washing hands with soap can substantially minimize this risk. This recent partnership with Yokohama city will help people act and practice the same thereby help in developing healthy habits in long term.”

7. DRIVERLESS METRO TRAINS BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY IN DELHI METRO’S LONGEST CORRIDOR WITH JAPAN’S SUPPORT

New Delhi, November 25, 2021: The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) today unveiled driverless operation of metro trains in the Pink Line of Delhi Metro. The project is funded by Japanese ODA Loans, which are being provided by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This is second line to have driverless operations after the Magenta Line, which was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2020 as India’s first driverless Metro train. With the introduction of the driverless train in Pink Line – the longest corridor of Delhi Metro – DMRC now has 96 km of driverless corridors.



According to Delhi Metro, the two-way communication between Operation Control Centre (OCC) and train control system enables remote control of trains operation, including starting and stopping, acceleration and braking, operation of doors and handling of emergencies.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “The Delhi Metro project is a symbolic project of Indo-Japanese cooperation, and is considered to be the emulating model for other metro projects in India. JICA is now supporting the extension of Pink Line in Delhi Metro Phase 4 which connects Mukundpur and Maujpur, and provides circle seamless connectivity. JICA would like to continue enhancing our partnership with DMRC to deliver a more functional metro system.

8. FIRST FULL SPAN PRE-STRESSED CONCRETE BOX GIRDER ERECTED IN A CASTING YARD IN NAVSARI, FOR MUMBAI-AHMEDABAD HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT

New Delhi, November 25, 2021: The Government of Japan participated in the ceremony organised by National High Speed Railway Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) to celebrate steady progress on its construction

PROJECT UPDATES

work under Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project. As part of the project, the first full span Pre-Stressed Concrete Box Girder was erected in a casting yard in Navsari, Gujarat on November 25th. The ceremony was attended by Mr. MIYAMOTO Shingo, Minister, Embassy of Japan and Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India.

The ceremony was held under the civil work contract for Package C-4, which covers about 47% of total alignment of MAHSR project (508 km), from Maharashtra- Gujarat Border to Vadodara in the state of Gujarat. The scope of work includes construction of viaducts (237 Km), stations (4 stations namely Vapi, Billimora, Surat and Bharuch), maintenance depots, tunnel between Vapi and Vadodara, as well as the Surat Depot. The contract was concluded between NHRCL and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Ltd on November 26, 2020.

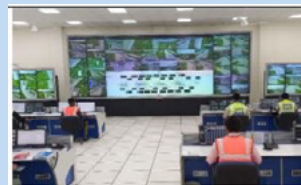
Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, "The commencement of erecting the Full Span Pre-Stressed Concrete Box Girder marks a significant milestone for the MAHSR project. I am delighted to hear that state-of-the-art construction methodologies such as Full Span Launching Methodology (FSLM) will be adopted to accelerate the progress of work and that an extremely heavy PSC Box Girder weighing 975 MT and of 40-meter length will be used for the first time in the construction industry in India. I am confident that innovative technologies adopted under the project will become models of excellence, which could be replicated in other infrastructure projects in India."



9. INAUGURATION OF THE DELHI EASTERN PERIPHERAL EXPRESSWAY (EPE) INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEM (ITS) INSTALLATION PROJECT WITH JAPAN'S SUPPORT

Dasna, Ghaziabad, December 23, 2021: The inauguration ceremony of the Delhi Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) ITS Project was held at Traffic Management Centre in Dasna, Ghaziabad district in the state of Uttar Pradesh today. The ceremony was attended by Honorable Union Minister, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRT&H), Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Honorable Minister of State, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Rtd. General Vijay Kumar Singh, and other dignitaries from India, and H.E. Mr. SUZUKI Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative of JICA India and other officials from Japan.

The Delhi EPE ITS Project was implemented by National Highway Authority in India (NHAI) with provided financial support by Japan, amounting to JPY 6,870 million (approximately 453 INR crore) to introduce Intelligent Transport System (ITS) comprising Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) and Toll Management System (TMS) systems on Delhi EPE (135km). JICA assistance to this project is aim to construct an advance traffic monitoring/management system to meet the



ITS Control Center



Inauguration Ceremony



Address by Mr. Suzuki Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan



Ribbon Cutting for ITS Building

increasing traffic volume, such as mitigation of traffic congestion at the toll gates and reducing the accident rate of Delhi EPE, by introducing ITS, thereby contributing to promote regional socio-economic development.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SUZUKI Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India, pointed out that proving road traffic environment is not only crucial for economic growth and enhancing supply chain, but also for reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the transport sector, and that Japan always stands with India in terms of enhancement and improvement of connectivity.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, "With rapid urbanization, severe traffic congestion is becoming a serious economic problem by causing a bottleneck for business activities. Delhi, second largest city in India surrounded by the other states (Uttar Pradesh and Haryana), is an important point of road transportation. It is quite significant that Introduction of ITS system will reduce the waiting time and travel cost, and will increase safety, comfort and convenience of road transportation. It was great pleasure to witness the successful installation of the ITS system for Delhi EPE under the JICA assistance " .

10. JICA EXPERTS' DEMONSTRATION AND TRAINING FOR PORTABLE TRACK GEOMETRY MEASURING TROLLEY UNDER TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ON RAILWAY SAFETY



JICA transferred a portable track geometry measuring trolley to Northern Railways



Indian engineers and JICA experts while demonstration at the site.

New Delhi, India, December 28, 2021: Under the ongoing Technical Cooperation (TC) Project 'Capacity Development on Railway Safety', JICA Experts team visited Northern Railway Track Maintenance Depot for demonstration of track geometry measurement with the help of a portable measuring trolley, lectured on the measuring mechanism and function equipped in the measuring trolley from

December 13 through 24, 2021.

In the context of frequent railway accidents including consecutive train derailments, Ministry of Railways, Government of India, in 2017, requested JICA for technical cooperation to improve railway safety. this TC project commenced in December 2018, being jointly implemented by Indian and Japanese side, is expected to result in enhancing capacities of the Indian Railways (IR), Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) and Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) with respect to the safety of railways network in India.

In this technical cooperation project, During the 2019, JICA's Experts team visited few track maintenance depots in Northern Railways to identify track maintenance practices in India and discussed various issues to improve the quality of track conditions from railway safety point of view. Subsequently, again during the 2019, Indian counterpart team was invited to Japan to visit track maintenance works site and take lectures from Japanese railway authorities and related manufacturers / suppliers. Based on the result of the discussions between Indian and Japanese counterparts, JICA has decided to provide Northern Railways with a portable track geometry measurement trolley, commonly used in Japan to enrich the capacity improvement of the railway safety.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. MAKOTO Ishida, Chief Advisor JICA expert team said, "The portable, self-driving, trailer type of track geometry measuring equipment is very common in Japan. This kind of equipment is convenient and helpful in quick track conditions monitoring. On the occasion

PROJECT UPDATES BASIS SIGNING OF PROJECT AGREEMENT

of the present Japanese expert's visit to India, the said portable track geometry measuring trolley, commonly used in Japan, was handed to Northern railways. Technical demonstration, training and lectures for its usage and measurement mechanism were taken care by JICA Experts team, based on



Japanese expertise and experience. JICA experts and Indian Railways officers have discussed in detail the safety criteria against train derailment and ride comfort criteria of track geometrical irregularity which is the most fundamental and important subject in the field of track geometry management even under different circumstances of vehicle / track interaction between India and Japan. I am happy to inform that Indian counterpart have recognized the effectiveness and convenience of this equipment, and have shown positive intent and enthusiasm for utilizing this equipment in their work sites."

1. JICA SIGNS A RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS FOR A TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT AT THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HYDERABAD (IITH)

New Delhi, July 29, 2021: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Record of Discussions with the Government of India for "the Project for Future Researchers at IITH 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 experts will be dispatched to the institute and several initiatives will be implemented. These include 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.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said, "The relationship between JICA and IITH is steeped in legacy and has strengthened with time. Initially, in 2007, it was based on the commitment between the Prime Ministers of the two countries. Since then, we have been cooperating with IITH through various projects such as ODA loan for campus development, several technical cooperation projects, joint research projects and public-private partnership projects. The FRIENDSHIP project is one of the core activities between JICA and IITH, which supports personal and organizational interaction at various levels of faculty members, industry experts and students in the field of science and technology by providing opportunity and facilitation. I believe these activities are contributing towards enhancing academic and industrial relationship of two countries and in achieving



PROJECT UPDATES BASIS SIGNING OF PROJECT AGREEMENT

quality growth of India in developing innovative technologies and conducting cutting edge research at the frontiers of science and technology.”

2. JICA SIGNS LOAN AGREEMENT FOR WOMEN’S FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN INDIA

New Delhi, August 25, 2021: On August 25th, 2021, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a \$50 million loan agreement with Northern Arc Capital (NAC), an Indian financial institution, to fund non-bank financial entities that provide financial services to women. This loan will be provided through co-financing with the United States International Development Finance Corporation (USDFC) based on the Facility for Accelerating Financial Inclusion in Asia (FAIA) announced on March 27, 2020.

JICA’s initiative will improve women’s access to finance in the country by providing loans to non-bank financial entities via NAC, that offer financial services for women, thereby contributing to the rectification of gender inequalities and sustainable economic growth in the country. It will also contribute to SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) 1, 5, 8, and 17 as an initiative that supports the “G7 2X Challenge: Finance for Women,” which was announced at the G7 Summit 2021 in Cornwall to be implemented in a new phase until 2022.

NAKAZAWA Keiichiro, Senior Vice President of JICA, said, “NAC is one of the unique and important financial institutions to support funding of Indian NBFC sector, which is a key to promote financial inclusion in India. We expect more Indian women to have accesses to financial service through the partnership with NAC. Also, we are delighted that this loan is the first co-financing with USDFC in India.

3. SUPPORTING INDIAN DX STARTUPS THROUGH INVESTMENT IN A JAPANESE VC FUND (PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT FINANCE)

New Delhi, October 29, 2021: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) announced the conclusion of an agreement on October 29 to invest \$4 million in the Rebright Partners IV Investment Partnership (RP 4th Fund), which is managed by Rebright Partners Pte Ltd (Rebright) (Managing Director: EBIHARA Takeshi), a Japanese venture capital (VC) firm. JICA’s investment will be allocated to startups in India that are engaged in solving the country’s social issues such as education, healthcare, agriculture, climate change, and financial inclusion through digital transformation (DX).

India is witnessing the rapid emergence of startups thanks to the country’s world-class IT industry and the abundant and talented human resources that support it. JICA will continue to support startups and funds that are tackling social issues in emerging countries by leveraging the knowledge and network it has gained through its collaboration with the RP 4th Fund.

4. SIGNING OF RECORD OF DISCUSSION FOR “PROJECT FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN TAMIL NADU”

New Delhi, 13 December 2021: The Record of Discussions (RoD) was signed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Health and Family Welfare Department of the Tamil Nadu State Government, for the Project for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in Tamil Nadu, which is a Technical Cooperation, aimed at Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the state of Tamil Nadu. The project is expected to start from the fourth quarter of FY2021. It would focus on strengthening the managerial and technical capabilities of health personnel with respect to NCD prevention and control.

PROJECT UPDATES BASIS SIGNING OF PROJECT AGREEMENT

Speaking at the occasion, Mr SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, “Japan has contributed in several ways to India’s health sector besides series of COVID-19 crisis response emergency support since last year. The project for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases is another step in the same direction. The likelihood of contracting non-communicable diseases has increased manifold in the last few years, especially with the urbanization of lifestyles of people that are not necessarily healthy. It is important to focus on these diseases because overlooking the same could have grave consequences. We aim to continue strengthening India’s health sector in as many ways as possible.”

5. SUPPORTING INDIAN SMES ENGAGED IN SOLVING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES THROUGH INVESTMENT IN AN IMPACT INVESTMENT FUND (PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT FINANCE)

New Delhi, December 28 2021: On December 24, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) concluded a 2.14 billion Indian rupee (approximately 3.2 billion yen) investment agreement with the SVL-SME Fund (commonly known as Neev Fund II), whose fund manager is SBICAP Ventures Limited (SVL), a subsidiary of India’s largest state-owned bank, State Bank of India (SBI). JICA’s investment will be appropriated for investment in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are engaged in solving social and environmental issues in India.

In spite of India continuing to experience rapid economic and population growth, the unemployment rate as of 2019 stands at 5.27%, the highest among other South Asian countries. The creation of new employment opportunities has become an important issue for sustainable socio-economic growth. The country is home to 63.38 million SMEs (as of 2020), which account for 31% of GDP, 45% of exports, and about 25% of the workforce, or 124 million jobs (as of 2018), and plays an important role in job creation. On the other hand, SMEs in the country are experiencing challenges in raising funds, and the gap between supply and demand for investments is approximately 283 billion dollars (as of 2017), making it difficult for them to develop new businesses that involve aggressive risk-taking.

This fund will create jobs by facilitating the expansion of SMEs in India that are engaged in businesses such as renewable energy, climate action, environmental improvement, sustainable agriculture, and urban transportation, in addition to clean water, health and sanitation. It will also contribute to solving ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) issues as well as achieving the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

1. MR. SAITO MITSUNORI APPOINTED AS THE NEW CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY INDIA OFFICE

New Delhi, August 27, 2021: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has announced the appointment of Mr. SAITO Mitsunori as the new Chief Representative of its India office, effective on August 24. He succeeds Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, who completed his tenure with JICA India after three years of service. Prior to this, Mr. SAITO was working as the acting Director General of the Infrastructure Engineering Department at JICA. Over the years, he has been responsible for projects and operations strategy under Official Development Assistance (ODA) programmes of JICA and has experience of working at the Africa and Middle East divisions too. In addition, he used to work as a representative of India office from 2006 to 2010.



On assuming office, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, said, “This appointment is indeed a great honor for me. India has been making extraordinary progress across sectors. And the nation’s development is expected to contribute significantly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which will have a global impact. I believe that stronger relationship between Japan and India based on the cooperation to tackle the development challenges will contribute to a more secure and sustainable region and the world. Toward this, JICA has collaborated with several Indian institutions and agencies on ODA loan projects and technical cooperation projects, initiated private sector partnerships, dispatched Japanese volunteers to India and offered India its assistance to fight the pandemic. I look forward to nurturing this deep partnership based on mutual trust during my tenure in the country.”

2. HELLO KITTY SINGS FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA TO WASH HANDS TOGETHER

New Delhi, August 27, 2021: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japanese entertainment company Sanrio (Sanrio Company, Ltd.), have jointly produced a video where Hello Kitty sings a song to promote the correct way of handwashing for children in India. People in India can access the video for free on JICA India YouTube Channel.

Amid the pandemic, JICA and Sanrio have considered ways to support India in strengthening its resilience against infectious diseases including COVID-19. They have decided to produce educational videos where Hello Kitty appears and sings in English and Hindi to the children of India, facilitating children in learning to enjoy the handwashing practices. The videos are also going to be used as IEC materials in JICA’s “Achhi Aadat” (Good Habit) Campaign launched early this year to raise awareness about the importance of hygiene practices in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. JICA and its related organizations have also provided educational sessions in schools in states such as Delhi NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. NAGAI Shinsuke, Senior 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 India needs to prevent the third wave of the surge, we need to continue to convey this message. We hope that more and more people in India will enjoy the Hello Kitty videos and continue to keep in mind the importance of handwashing practices.”

JICA India YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YikiZ2GOzWg>

3. JICA SUPPORTS INDIA FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ON RAILWAY SAFETY

New Delhi, September 16, 2021: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Ministry of Railways (MOR), Government of India (GOI) held 5th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting for Technical Cooperation (TC) project of Capacity Development on Railway Safety to discuss the ongoing progress and future activities.

At the JCC meeting, the current progress of safety action plans implemented in India based on the learning from various training programs held in Japan and also future action plans were discussed. The meeting was Co-chaired by Mr. Ashutosh Gangal, General Manager, Northern Railway cum Project Director of this TC Project and Mr. NAGAI Shinsuke, Senior Representative of JICA India, along with Dr. Makoto Ishida, Chief Advisor of the TC Project.

In 2019, before the Covid-19 outbreak, JICA invited officials from IR, DFCCIL and CRS to attend training programs in Japan, focusing on Track Maintenance, Rail Welding, Rolling Stock Maintenance and Accident Investigation. These training programs in Japan organized by JICA highlighted good



practices of Japanese railway maintenance works and Japanese knowledge and experiences for Indian officials. This was an online meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. NAGAI Shinsuke, Senior Representative, JICA India Office said, “JICA expert team and Indian officials have been communicating and keeping on-line discussions about the safety action plans even under the current Covid-19 pandemic situation. At this JCC meeting, both sides have agreed to extend the cooperation period further up to February 2022 to fully utilize the learnings from the training programs conducted in Japan and make it more effective on the ground. It is hoped that this technical cooperation project would contribute in enhancing safe environment in India and action plans would be functionally implemented to promote safe operations and appropriate maintenance in Indian Railway.”

4. JICA ANNOUNCES TO DISCLOSE A VIDEO WHERE HELLO KITTY SINGS IN HINDI AS AN EDUTAINMENT GIFT TO CHILDREN ON DIWALI

New Delhi, November 01, 2021: Today, it is Hello Kitty's birthday. On this very date, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japanese entertainment company Sanrio (Sanrio Company, Ltd.) announces to disclose a video where Hello Kitty sings a song in Hindi to promote the correct way of handwashing. The video is a small edutainment gift for children to celebrate the Indian festival of lights, Diwali. The video will be available on JICA YouTube Channel "JICA Channel2" on November 4th, 2021.



Hello Kitty is a world-renowned character, known for her adorable looks and kindness for others. In recent years, she has expanded her focus to promotion activity 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 SDGs engagement around the world through her videos.

In January 2021, JICA launched a campaign titled, "Achhi Aadat (Good Habit)" to raise awareness about the importance of good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. This program has been implemented in collaboration with IJ Kakehashi Services Pvt. Ltd and various NGOs, as well as government authorities and private companies to directly educate more than 40,000 people.



Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, 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. We hope that more and more people in India will enjoy the Hello Kitty videos and continue to keep in mind the importance of handwashing practices."

5. JAPANESE CHARACTER KUMAMON MET HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO JAPAN, INTRODUCING HIS FIRST INDO-JAPAN COLLABORATION VIDEO

New Delhi, November 26th, 2021: Japanese famous character Kumamon met His Excellency Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan, introducing his first Hindi video recorded in Delhi NCR and Kumamoto prefecture in Japan. The video disclosing ceremony was held in the Embassy of India in Tokyo with the attendance of Mr. NAKAZAWA Keiichiro, Senior Vice President of JICA.

For this ceremony, Mr. KABASHIMA Ikuo, Governor of Kumamoto prefecture in Japan communicated to everyone through a video message for celebration. The video has been produced as part of Achhi Aadat Campaign initiated by JICA India Office promoting hygiene practices including



handwashing, nail cutting and so on. The video is now available on JICA YouTube Channel "JICA Channel2" and KUMAMON TV Channel respectively. In the video, Kumamon tries dancing to the music in Hindi style together with children and dancers in India.

Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative of JICA India, commented after watching the video, *"Hey Kumamon! You can dance harder, can't you? Practice hard for becoming an Indian film star!! There's a long way to go! Come to India!! Learn how to dance enthusiastically from, let's say, Mr. Tiger Shroff by applying for becoming his apprentice... By the way, Kumamon will play a significant role in inspiring children and the youth in India to enjoy learning hygienic practices. According to his official settings, Kumamon is the top administrative officer of the government, Director of Happiness and PR. He is willing to come to India in the future. We also would like to support him to realize his dream of coming to India, after his great contribution to our hygiene promotion activity, Achhi Aadat Campaign. And, if anyone in India wants to see this mysterious character more, please call out to KUMAMON with love!!"*

1. OLYMPIC GAMES TOKYO 2020: JICA COMMUNICATES ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS STRENGTHENING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PROMOTING SPORTS

New Delhi, July 22, 2021: On the commencement of Olympic games Tokyo 2020, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) expresses its hope that the Indian athletes can give their best and enjoy staying in Japan as well as games.

JICA would reiterate its collaboration agreement with the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) to enhance contributions to international society via sports. JICA endeavors to solidify social development in India, which was highly impacted due to the pandemic through the means of sports.

The overall goal of this effort is to reassert the significance of sports' influence on human-society ties, as well as to maximize the impact of these traits for the benefit of international cooperation.

Highlighting JICA's contributions, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said, "I would like to congratulate the Indian athletes on their participation in the Tokyo Olympic Games and look forward to their success. Sports are the most effective means of communicating values and contributing to the development of a more peaceful and harmonious society. JICA's mission is to promote sports around the world, in order to help build both Indian and international societies. Our JOCV program has relentlessly worked to assist India in training youth in improving swimming abilities for schoolchildren and teaching Japanese martial arts of Judo and so on, as we believe in the fundamental value of sports in social development and international cooperation."



2. JICA CONGRATULATES INDIA ON 75 GLORIOUS YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

New Delhi, August 13 2021: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) celebrates the 75th Independence Day of India. Over the decades, India has made remarkable development in every sector and is playing significant role in global society now. Most recently the success of its athletes at the Tokyo Olympics is quite commendable. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) congratulates all Indian athletes for overcoming hardships brought in due to the COVID-19 pandemic and emerging victorious against all odds.

India is the largest development partner of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan. Japan's ODA to India started in 1958 as the first recipient of Japanese ODA loan in the world. Since then, over 6,566 billion Japanese Yen (approximately INR 4,37,742 Crore) in ODA loans have been committed to India for more than 300 public projects across various sectors. In addition to ODA loans, JICA have partnered with various institutions and agencies in India for technical cooperation projects, private sector partnerships, as well as dispatch of volunteers from Japan to India.

While this year marks 75 years of India's Independence, it continues to battle against the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, like the rest of the world. JICA extends heartfelt condolences to everyone who lost their loved ones to Covid-19 and reiterates its commitment for continuous support toward India for its swift recovery from this difficult period.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, “It is with the great pleasure that we congratulate India on 75 glorious years of Independence. India’s development makes a great impact on global society not only in achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) but also in maintaining global stability and prosperity. India and Japan have agreed to collaborate on various projects and the relationship between the two nations will continue to strengthen in the years to come. We share common values such as democracy, freedom, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. Our close ties can provide good influence to tackle global challenges such as the pandemic and climate change. We will further strengthen bilateral economic cooperation with India toward 2022, which would mark the 70th anniversary of Japan and India’s diplomatic relations.”

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. M.P Singh, Chief of Development Operations, JICA India, said, “This day commemorates and symbolizes India’s 75 years of independence and countless years of blooming development. As quoted by Prime Minister Modi on 15th July 2021, on occasion of inauguration of Varanasi Convention Centre, “Japan is one of the most trusted friends of India today, and the Japan India friendship is considered to be the most Natural Partnerships in the entire region.” JICA has been contributing to the social and economic development of India in the efforts to build this friendship and partnerships stronger. One good example of Indo-Japanese partnership and transforming Indian society are the metro projects in six metropolitan cities, wherein the introduction of Automatic Driverless Trains, Communication Based Train Control System, Regenerative Power Braking System and earning of the Carbon Credits are few notables, besides the execution of Dedicated Freight Corridor and High-speed Train projects. Similarly, Water Supply & Sanitation Sector and Forestry Sectors projects are largest covered sectors projects.” He further added, “The country is rapidly becoming a significant part of global societies, and we wish to promote bilateral cooperation in the fields of economic cooperation marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India in the year 2022.”

3. ZERO EMISSIONS DAY: JICA SUPPORTS INDIA TO MEET ITS ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS

New Delhi, September 21, 2021: The world has a plausible road to achieving net-zero emissions in the global energy sector by 2050, but it is limited and demands a massive shift in how energy is produced, transported, and utilised globally as per a special report by International Energy Agency (IEA). JICA aims to support India in meeting goals such as secure and affordable energy supply, universal energy access, and robust economic growth. Through all its projects in India, JICA strongly attempts to empower comprehensive growth in the environmental, social as well as economic dimensions.



JICA assists India’s sustainable development by funding metro rail projects across the country, with an aim to provide a public alternative mode of transportation that decreases pollution and traffic

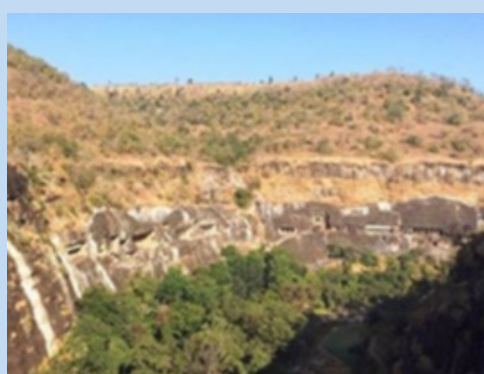
congestion in its cities, and carbon emission as well. Efficient use and generation of energy is vital for attaining zero emission goals. Japan's competence in energy efficient technology and system and building renewable energy systems has been supporting India's development in a sustainable and energy-efficient manner, reducing carbon / Green House Gas emission. JICA is also very active in non-sovereign side approach, Private Sector Investment Finance (PSIF). On March 25, 2021, 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. TCCL, a joint venture between Tata Capital Limited (Tata Group) and IFC (World Bank Group)

Speaking on the occasion of Zero Emissions Day, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, "Climate change is a substantial threat to human security, stability and prosperity across our societies. As a development partner, JICA is exerting efforts to address climate change in developing countries with the momentum of the Paris Agreement and other international frameworks, including the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Recognizing the importance of generating long-term solutions for India, we have provided strategic counsel and support on smart innovations. We are working together on programmes that will help us improve the energy efficiency and thereby have a positive impact on the environment. The goal is to take a comprehensive strategy to mitigate the effects of climate change."

4. JICA COMMEMORATES WORLD TOURIST DAY BY INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE TO STRENGTHEN TOURISM EXPERIENCE IN INDIA

New Delhi, September 27, 2021: The Travel and Tourism sector holds about 3.6% share of India's total GDP as per The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2019 published by the World Economic Forum. The report also suggested that while India excels in terms of cultural resources, it lags with tourist service infrastructure and environment sustainability. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) recognizes the potential that the Indian tourism industry holds and aspires to improve the whole tourist experience and services in the country.

One of the successfully completed projects driven towards the advancement and enrichment of better tourism services was the International Cooperation and Convention Centre named 'Rudraksha', in Varanasi. JICA assisted the construction of the same by providing a Grant in Aid of 3,042 million Japanese yen (approximately INR 200 crore) under the Japanese ODA scheme. The state-of-the-art convention center has positioned a platform for knowledge exchange and for exhibitions, international conventions, and even concerts. The centre also meets all environment standards and qualifies for Level 3 status under the Centre's Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA).



Speaking on the occasion of World Tourism Day, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, "JICA is working rigorously to encourage foreign tourism in India. Our efforts aim to improve the country's tourist infrastructure and environmental sustainability by incorporating excellent tourism practices from Japan. Enhancing developments in the two areas would effectively contribute towards an improved economy as well as social relations of the country. "

5. JICA ORGANIZES CONTEST ON GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY TO PROMOTE CORRECT HANDWASHING HABITS, UNDER ITS 'ACHHI AADAT' CAMPAIGN

New Delhi, September 30 2021: Recognizing that children are the “Change Agents” for tomorrow, JICA is calling for participants in a contest for Global Handwashing Day, under the Achhi Aadat Campaign. The theme for the contest is “Promoting Correct Handwashing Habit in All” and has several categories for participation. There are four categories in the contest as shown below:

1. Create a Video
2. Make a Poster
3. Click a Photograph
4. Draw a Special Character *For the fourth category of “Draw a Special Character”, children may take inspiration from the [Hello Kitty hand wash video](#) and all entries must be related to handwashing, its benefits and why it is so important.

Achhi Aadat

“Good habits” protect you and your family

On the Occasion of “Global Handwashing Day” 15th October 2021, you are invited to participate in the contest under “Achhi Aadat Campaign” launched by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) India Office.

Contest theme
Promoting correct handwashing habit in all

Category

- Create a video
- Make a poster
- Click a photograph
- Draw a special character

Exciting Prizes for the Winners
Last date for entry: 07th October 2021 (6 PM, India time)

Come and join Achhi Aadat Campaign

JICA India

For any other queries,
Kindly call on 8178742604 Or email : aacijk2021@gmail.com

JICA Achhi Aadat Campaign webpage

In partnership with

LIXIL KAI unicharm MUJI Yakult KANGAROO

KODANSHA Sanyo JICA BITECC

6. ON GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY, JICA INDIA UNDERTAKES ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT HYGIENE AND CLEANLINESS

New Delhi, October 18, 2021: Global Handwashing Day is observed internationally to inculcate hygienic and clean habits among citizens. Earlier this year, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) launched the Achhi Aadat (Good Habit) campaign to inculcate better and cleaner practices among people in India. Considering the urgency of preventing the spread of coronavirus, the campaign aims to encourage regular and proper handwashing, nail cleaning and wearing masks the correct way. This in turn would ensure better health and safety for ourselves as well as the people around us. JICA, in collaboration with IJ Kakehashi Services Pvt Ltd, along with NGOs, governments and other private companies implemented the campaign and spread awareness to over 100 million people across the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “Proper hygiene is the need of the hour and keeping this in mind, JICA India aims to not only increase awareness about the same in India, but also hopes to inculcate practices in children and adults to maintain the same. For this, we partook in various activities and distributed several packets of sanitary products, alongside offline and online events to promote proper hygiene. Keeping in mind the still prevalent COVID-19 pandemic, the Achhi Aadat campaign launched by JICA India aims to spearhead a cleanliness and hygiene movement. Our activities towards Global Handwashing Day aims to keep the spirit of the same alive.”

7. JICA CELEBRATES WORLD TOILET DAY

New Delhi, November 19, 2021: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) celebrated World Toilet Day, an annual global event which aims at promoting sanitation and raising awareness on the importance of hygiene. Improvement in sanitation is one of the high priority areas of intervention for JICA. For over the past 30 years, JICA has been consistently supporting India's water and sanitation sector through ODA loans, technical cooperation and grants. Nearly 30 million people receive water from water supply projects, while 15 million people are expected to be benefited from sewerage projects. JICA has also launched its «Achhi Aadat (Good Habit)» to raise awareness among 10 crore people about the importance of good hygiene practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, in collaboration with NGOs, government authorities and Japanese companies.

Speaking on the occasion of World Toilet Day, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India Office said, *“JICA is committed to support the Government's Swachh Bharat Mission and has been working towards the betterment of India's sanitation sector by supporting the construction and maintenance of toilets and sewerage facilities across the country. Furthermore, our “Achhi Aadat (Good Habit)” campaign has been raising awareness about the importance of hygiene practices in India. The campaign seeks to introduce simple and practical approach to hygiene and sanitation related issues by promoting handwashing, nail cleaning and other hygiene practices. Ushering in behavioural change in society lays down the foundation of enabling sustained change. This makes the Achhi Aadat campaign highly significant.”*

8. JICA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY TO STRENGTHEN PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGE BETWEEN INDIA AND JAPAN

New Delhi, December 3, 2021: International Volunteer Day is celebrated every year on December 5th to recognize the contribution of individual volunteers, communities and organizations to encourage development at the local, national and international levels. To promote international cooperation on volunteering, the JICA Volunteer programme was started in 1965. As of September 2021, about 55,000 volunteers have been dispatched in 98 countries and regions to work in areas such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries, fabrication, repair operations, civil engineering, sanitation, education and culture, sports as well as planning and administration.

Speaking on International Volunteer Day, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, *“We believe that our programme has a positive impact on the lives of the people, with our volunteers working with local communities at grassroots level, nurturing friendship and developing mutual understanding with them. JICA's vision for India is in alignment with the Government's program to build self-reliant communities. Our volunteers have been working with the people in India to support their efforts in being self-dependent and self-reliant by developing their skills and knowledge. We will continue to put our efforts in increasing the number of JOCV's in India.”*

9. NATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION DAY: JICA SUPPORTS INDIA'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE TARGETS SET UNDER THE NATIONAL ELECTRICITY PLAN

New Delhi, December 14 2021: In compliance with Section 3 of the Electricity Act 2003, the Government of India notified the **National Electricity Plan (NEP)**. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) understands that electricity is a critical infrastructure on which India's socio-economic development of the country depends and as always is ready to support the nation's efforts in this direction. To support India, take ahead and achieve the targets set under the electricity plan, **Mr. YASHIRO Kazushige**, JICA Energy Expert was appointed at Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in

November 2021.

Speaking on his arrival, Mr SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “JICA is keen to be more active in India’s energy sector. JICA has been supporting country’s energy projects since a long time. The appointment of the energy expert is going to be a stepping-stone in India’s energy journey. From being responsible to review and analyzing the entire power & energy sector including sector optimization, he will also update the status of power resource diversification, operation of GENCOs, and donor’s activities. He will check the reports published by the CEA and also survey the issue of power quality. We hope this technical cooperation will result in better energy optimization and conservation in a sustainable manner.”

