



Japan International Cooperation Agency Newsletter

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Special days

- On International Education Day: JICA shares its plans to strengthen and upskill the Indian Youth and contribute to the collective wellbeing of the society
- On National Cleanliness Day, JICA marks one-year of the Achhi Aadat Campaign impacting more than 30 million beneficiaries in 15 states in India
- World Water Day 2022: JICA promises to deliver funding solutions to tackle groundwater depletion across India
- JICA commissions intervention research with PwC to further strengthen its commitment to gender equality in India

Project Updates

1 First Orthotropic Steel Deck (OSD) Erected in Package 1 of JICA funded 'The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) Bridge project

New Delhi, January 14, 2022: The first Orthotropic Steel Deck (OSD) span for the 10.380 km of civil work Package 1 section, western half of the bridge, was erected today. The civil work Package 1 is awarded to the consortium of Larsen & Turbo (L&T) Limited (India) & M/s IHI Infrastructure Systems Co. Ltd. (Japan).

Financed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), MTHL Bridge is an under-construction 21.8 km long six-lane marine road bridge implemented by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA). Sea crossing section of around 16.5 km and land section of remaining 5.3 km connects Mumbai with Navi Mumbai and is expected to mitigate traffic congestion in the island city and promote economic development in Navi Mumbai. The Link has interchanges at Sewri in Central Mumbai, Shivaji Nagar at Mumbai Bay and NH-4 B at Chirle, Navi Mumbai.

The bridge, when completed, would be the longest sea bridge in India and would cater to 70,000 vehicles daily.

OSD bridge has lesser self-weight but stronger structure than concrete or composite girder bridges, which requires fewer and smaller piers. 180m length OSD, which is applied to the MTHL Bridge, is the world's longest level of span length that requires advanced manufacturing technology and severe quality control. IHI Infrastructure System, under IHI Corporation, a comprehensive heavy-industry manufacturer, has achieved its highest fabrication quality by using its group factory mainly in Japan and Vietnam with supervision of their Japanese higher skilled fabrication engineers. OSD contributes to a shorter construction period and mitigation of safety-risks at the project site since it is manufactured in a factory and requires less on-site work. Moreover, fewer and smaller piers and shorter construction period mean less impact on

environment and ecosystem.

The deck segments were separated into six to eight blocks as 30 MT maximum and delivered to the site in total 33 shipments by ocean liner. These blocks were assembled at the project site into erection units, maximum length 180m, maximum weight around 2,600 MT, and moved on SPMT (Self-Propelled Modular transporter) to the temporary jetty. OSD were loaded onto the special barge equipped with lifting towers with 16 numbers of 300 MT strand jacks and lifted with the strand jacks onto the piers. Then, the barge was towed for 4 to 8km to the erection location.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, "The MTHL Project is a shining example of JICA's focus on quality infrastructure and strong India-Japan partnership. Once completed, the project will reduce the travel time from South Mumbai to Navi Mumbai from 120 minutes to merely 20 minutes. I am confident that the project would contribute to decongestion of the island city and further development of the Navi Mumbai Area. I am very pleased to inform that Japanese expert had recommended the adoption of the OSD for the project on account of environmental and navigational challenges and Japanese companies such as IHI corporation and JFE steel are involved in the project. I strongly hope that some of the approaches and innovative technologies, adopted under MTHL become models of excellence, which could be replicated in other infrastructure projects in India."

Project Updates

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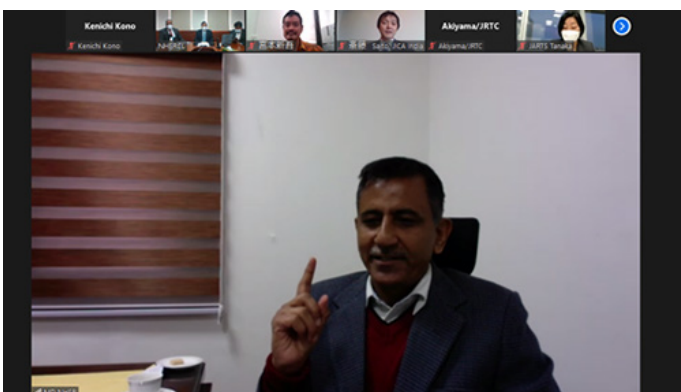
The Contract for 237.1 km long Track package of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project has been signed

New Delhi, January 21, 2022: National High-Speed Railway Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) and IRCON International Ltd have concluded the contract for Track Package T-2 of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Corridor. A contract signing ceremony was organized by NHSRCL on January 21, 2022, which was attended, in online mode, by Mr. MIYAMOTO Shingo, Minister, Embassy of Japan and Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India.

of Track and Track related works including testing and commissioning. Two Japanese agencies namely **Japan Railway Track Consultants (JRTC)** and **Japan Railway Technical Service (JARTS)** will be working closely with the contractor of the T-2, IRCON International Ltd.

Japan Railway Track Consultants (JRTC) will work as Nominated Sub Contractor for track design works. Japan Railway Technical Service (JARTS) will coordinate and mobilize Japanese experts, with vast experience and expertise in Japan's Shinkansen's construction works, to provide the Indian side with Training & Certification and Advisory services.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. MIYAMOTO Shingo, Minister, Embassy of Japan in India said, "MAHSR project is a symbol of Japan-India collaboration, contributing to India's first High Speed Rail project by introducing Japan's High Speed Rail technology. Under MAHSR track packages, Indian contractors will have a technology transfer opportunity from Japanese agencies. Japan and India will always walk together like this until the completion of this project. This Japan-India collaboration will not only ensure the Transfer of Technology from Japan's High Speed Rail system to India, but also give a boost to "Make in India" initiative."



This is the first track contract concluded under the MAHSR project. The T-2 Package covers about 47% of total alignment of the MAHSR project (508 km), from Maharashtra- Gujarat Border to Vadodara in the state of Gujarat. The scope of works in this package include design, supply and construction



Project Updates

3

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi celebrates inauguration of JICA's project on pollution abatement of Mula-Mutha rivers in Pune

Pune, March 6, 2022: The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, today lauded the inauguration of the Project for Pollution Abatement of Rivers Mula-Mutha in Pune, funded by Japanese ODA Loan, at a ceremony organized by the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC). He was joined by representatives of the Government of Japan including H.E. Mr. SUZUKI Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India; and Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) India Office.

The objective of the project is to improve the water quality in the three rivers in Pune by augmenting sewage collection systems and sewage treatment facilities in the PMC area. It also includes taking other measures required for pollution abatement and thereby improving the sanitation and living conditions of people who reside in Pune city and in the watershed of the downstream area.

The project was provided with a loan of approx. INR 1270 crores (approx. 19,064 million yen). The ceremony marked the awarding of a large procurement package for this project, which includes most of the project scope such as 11

Sewerage treatment Plants (STP) with 396 Million Liters per Day (MLD) treatment capacity in total, Intermediate Pump Stations and Main/Sub-main and Branch sewers, to a joint venture comprised with Enviro Control Pvt. Ltd., an Indian company, and Toshiba Water Solutions Pvt. Ltd., a Japanese company.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, *"I know that the city of Pune is famous for its wide range of educational institutions and its people have strong sympathies with Japan as it is one of the cities where many people study Japanese. I am glad to attend the inauguration ceremony of the project which aims to support sewerage development to prevent water contamination in the major rivers, reduce public sanitation challenges, and improve life quality in the city of Pune. Since the major component of this project has been awarded to a Joint Venture entity composed by Japanese company and Indian company, I expect this inauguration will contribute to the strengthening of the Japan-India relationship through improving the river water quality and the quality of the life in the region."*

Project Updates

4 JICA, MoRTH hold final JCC meeting on capacity development project of highways in mountainous regions

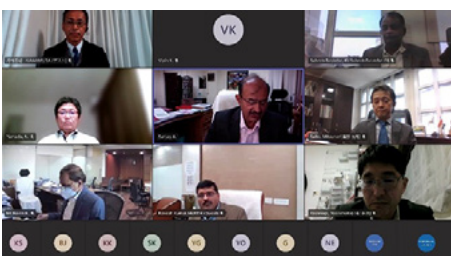
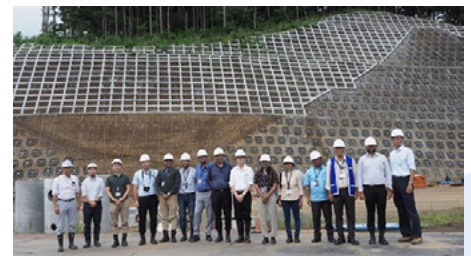
New Delhi, February 11, 2022: The 9th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) supported 'Capacity Development Project on Highways in Mountainous Regions' was organized online by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) today. The Technical Cooperation (TC) Project, commenced in April 2016, with an aim to enhance institutional capacity of developing highways in mountainous regions. This JCC was the final meeting before closing of the project in March, 2022.

Mr. S.K. Nirmal, Additional Director General (Zone-II &V), MoRTH joined the JCC meeting as the chairperson. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India gave a short speech at the meeting in the presence of other dignitaries and officials from Government of India (MoRTH, National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL), and National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)), Embassy of Japan and JICA.

Achievements of each project activities and the overall accomplishment of the project was discussed in the meeting. One of the most significant achievements is the five technical

guideline development in the field of Planning, Tunnel, Slope Protection, Bridge and Operation and Maintenance. MoRTH has successfully approved these guidelines on January 31, 2022 and will publish them soon. The meeting also touched upon successful implementation of the Model activities including DPR recommendation for NH54 in Assam and NH717 in West Bengal and Technical transfer to Implement Pilot Project of NH10 in Sikkim.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, " JICA will support India's efforts to improve road connectivity through enhancing sustainability and resilience. This is a milestone event for JICA in terms of our assistance towards road sector development in India. We believe that the project has contributed significantly for development of highways in mountainous regions of the country. We are very pleased to contribute to the development of five technical guidelines, which are finally adopted as MoRTH guidelines. Based on the successful completion of this project, we will continue to provide our support to enhance capacity development for the maintenance of resilient mountainous highways as a new technical cooperation from April 2022."



Project Updates basis signing of project agreements

2

JICA, MoRTH sign agreement for capacity development for resilient mountainous highways in India

New Delhi, February 1, 2022: Japan International Cooperation Agency and India's Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) signed the Record of Discussions (dated December 17, 2021) for capacity development for the maintenance of resilient mountainous highways. The project, which is a Technical Cooperation Project, aims at enhancing institutional capacity of organisations concerned with operation and maintenance of mountainous highways. Work on the project is expected to commence from April 2022, for which administrative approval was obtained on January 24, 2022.

MoRTH is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Expressways and National Highways. As a part of Bharatmala Plan (Phase 1), the Ministry pays special attention to highway development in the mountainous regions such as Northeastern Region, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh etc.

Development of roads in mountainous areas is important in terms of improving connectivity within region and border areas. Roads in mountainous areas are often composed of multiple civil engineering structures including bridges and tunnels, and proper maintenance is essential to maintain the road function as a network. In India, there is a scarcity of technical experts in the field of designing as well as in supervision of highway works including tunnels in hilly terrain, thus creating the need for capacity enhancement.

Through this project, JICA will dispatch a long-term Japanese expert based in India and short-term experts from Japan who will support in the development of handbooks for maintenance by utilizing Japanese knowledge and experience. As part of the project, training of personnel will be conducted both in India and Japan to share the Japanese experience, a country surrounded by mountains and forests. It is expected that

the maintenance capacity of personnel from government-affiliated organizations such as National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL), and National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) will improve. In addition, it is expected to contribute to the maintenance and management of the loan assisted projects including the Northeastern Province Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project (Phase 1 to 5), which are being developed as part of the Japan's cooperation towards the development of India's North Eastern Region.



Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, “ JICA will support India's efforts to improve road connectivity through enhancing sustainability and resilience. Highway development is one of the primary concerns for economic development in India. The road development in the mountainous regions is significantly important to improve connectivity in regions and the borders. JICA expects that this project will significantly contribute to enhancing institutional capacity of organizations concerned with operation and maintenance of mountainous highways. JICA will focus on the development of technical handbooks to assess disaster risk of slopes on mountainous highways, technical inspection manuals of road maintenance for road facility, and an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) manual for tunnel as a part of the project activities.”

Project Updates basis signing of project agreements

3

Declaration of strategic partnership between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and SBICAP Ventures Ltd (SVL) for private sector

Tokyo/Mumbai, March 1, 2022: The SVL-SME Fund (Neev II Fund) has been launched by SBICAP Ventures Limited as an initiative for investing equity into high-impact climate action, sustainability, and social impact businesses especially for SMEs- Small and Medium Enterprises- in India. The Neev II Fund currently has global and domestic investors including the EIB, FCDO, SIDBI, SRI Fund and the SBI Group as sponsors.

The Fund is rapidly adding global investors to its cohort and has unlocked a pool of private equity capital from JICA- Japan's International Cooperation Agency in December 2021.

On December 24, 2021, 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 II Fund), 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.

With the addition of JICA, Neev II Fund presents an opportunity for developing a strong Japan - India corridor, with the SBI Group at the forefront is focused on the SME space and further strengthening existing ties between the two countries.

JICA and SVL will continue its efforts to support SMEs and funds that are tackling environmental and social issues in India by leveraging the knowledge and network it has acquired through its collaboration with this fund. This also strengthens the existing relationship between SBI and JICA to take forward their cooperation to power the SMEs in India through private sector finance.

With this declaration, JICA and the SVL acknowledge that innovative solutions for climate change and environmental sustainability require innovative financing tools. With the support of JICA and SBI, Neev II Fund will provide equity and quasi-equity financing to pioneering SMEs that deliver solutions that benefit the population both locally and globally. In the Declaration Ceremony on March 1, two portfolio companies of Neev Funds delivered a presentation on their business that are solving environmental and social concerns. JICA and SVL will collaborate through the Development Impact Committee of Neev II Fund and Tsunagaru Lab which is JICA's initiative that provides a platform to innovative social enterprises.

Suresh Kozhikote, MD & CEO of SBICAP Ventures said: *"We are delighted to embark on this strategic partnership with JICA to provide a platform for innovative SMEs that solve major environmental and social issues in India."*

Mr. HARA Shohei, Director General, JICA said: *"JICA will continue working closely with the SVL-SME Fund (Neev II) to gather and disseminate knowledge on ESG and impact investments and strive to solve pressing issues in India."*

Project Updates basis signing of project agreements

4 JICA signs grant agreement of 4 billion Yen (INR 250 crores approx.) with the Government of India for the 'Project for the Improvement of Power Supply in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

New Delhi, March 30, 2022: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) today signed a grant agreement with the Government of India, to provide aid of up to 4,016,000,000 Japanese Yen (INR 250 crores approx.) for the Project for the Improvement of Power Supply in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The objective of the project is to utilise the power generated from renewable energy sources and stabilise the power supply in South Andaman, by introducing necessary equipment and facilities such as storage battery system (30MW / 15MWh), grid interconnection cassette, SCADA, buildings etc. for energy storage, thereby contributing to the improvement of industrial competitiveness in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The scope of work for the project includes construction of facilities, procurement and installation of equipment, and consulting services.

Speaking on the grant agreement signing, Mr SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India,

said, "Stable and reliable power supply is critical for a better livelihood and promotion of industries in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Being disconnected from the mainland, the group of islands currently rely on isolated generation and distribution systems powered by the diesel generation with frequent blackouts. However, the Power development Plan in Andaman & Nicobar is under transitional stage from Diesel Power generation to Clean renewable energy. This project is assisting Power development policy and plan by Andaman and Nicobar Administration through reduction of the carbon footprint by gradually replacing diesel-based power generation with greener energy. JICA is hopeful to support the Government of India's commitment made at the COP 26 Summit, towards net zero carbon emissions by 2070 as well as supplying 24X7 reliable and quality power to the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. We will provide all necessary support to the administration in achieving various milestones and targets outlined in this project roadmap."

5 JICA extends ODA loan of INR 2942 crores for project to strengthen Assam's Health System

New Delhi, March 31, 2022: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to JPY 45,605 million (approximately INR 2942 crores) for the Assam Health System Strengthening Project.

The objective of the project is to improve the quality of medical services for the residents of the target areas in the state of Assam. This project takes a comprehensive approach of promoting

the development of public medical institutions, mainly secondary and tertiary medical facilities that will serve as core medical centers, the capacity development of medical personnel, and improvement of the management of medical services, thereby contributing to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the state. Through the project, comprehensive improvement in the quality of medical services for local residents in Assam will be achieved.

The loan agreement was signed between Mr. Rajat

Project Updates basis signing of project agreements

Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “I am delighted to support a comprehensive health system improvement project in the North Eastern Region of India. Healthcare is an important parameter of a nation’s success especially in the recovery phase

from the tragic damage caused by the pandemic. Focusing on the improvement of the secondary and tertiary health care facilities is vital for having a deeper impact on the well-being of the citizenry. I am proud to bring to your notice that this project is also in line with JICA’s Global Health Initiative, which supports the speech of Japan’s former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga at the UN General Assembly in September 2020.”

JICA extends ODA Loan of INR 7517 crores for the Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 2) (III)

New Delhi, March 31, 2022: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed Loan Agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to JPY 116,520 million (approximately INR 7517 crore) for the construction of Western dedicated freight railway system under Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 2) (III).

The objective of the Project is to cope up with increase in freight transport demand in India by constructing new dedicated freight railway system between Delhi and Mumbai, thereby promoting comprehensive regional economic development along the freight corridor as the backbone of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial corridor (DMIC) development plan. The project includes areas where outstanding economic and industrial development has occurred recently, including both Delhi and Mumbai Metropolitan Areas, which have witnessed massive

population growth.

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.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor being developed by the project runs between Delhi and Mumbai and covers the areas where significant commercial and industrial development is seen. The Western DFC Project is an important part of the “Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) initiative”, which is part of the Japanese-Indian collaborative Project aimed at comprehensive regional development. It will help to promote comprehensive regional economic development along the freight corridor in DMIC area.”

Project Updates basis signing of project agreements

7 JICA extends ODA Loan of INR 4710 crores for Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase 2 (II)

New Delhi, March 31, 2022: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed loan agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to JPY 73,000 million (approximately INR 4710 crore) for the construction of Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase 2 (II).

The project aims to not only inter-connect existing metro networks for providing a seamless ride to commuters but to cope up with increased traffic congestion and road accidents in Chennai. In addition, regional economic development will be promoted by expanding the mass rapid transportation system in the Chennai region.

This project is envisaged to develop additional Metro Rail System network of approx. 51 km that includes Corridor 3 from Madhavaram Milk Colony to Sholinganallur, and Corridor 5 from Madhavaram Milk Colony to CMBT. It would help in mitigating the increasing traffic, enabling a shift from the road traffic to public transportation system. This will also

create lesser traffic related pollution and lead to an environment friendly future.

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.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India office said, *“Upon the completion of the project, the Chennai metro system would ensure comfortable, reliable and greener transport for the citizens. JICA is proud of its partnership with CMRL. As traffic congestion in Chennai is increasing, Chennai Metro will play a pivotal role to address the issues such as vehicular pollution, and traffic accidents, by further promoting the modal shift from road traffic to public transportation. We strongly hope that the new loan also supports CMRL in further strengthening its operational structure, providing a convenient mode of transportation to the citizens.”*

8 JICA extends ODA loan of INR 680 crore for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response

New Delhi, March 31, 2022: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to JPY 10,535 million JPY (approximately INR. 680 crores) for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for against Climate Change Response.

The project aims to mitigate and adapt to climate

change and improve the ecosystem thereby contributing to sustainable socio-economic development in Tamil Nadu.

Taking advantage of JICA's loan, Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD) will implement the project, which consists of the five components:

1. Ecosystem-based climate change measures,
2. Human wildlife conflict measures,

Project Updates basis signing of project agreements

3. Promoting supply chain development,
4. Livelihood improvement activities, and
5. Management capacity development.

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

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “JICA has implemented afforestation projects in Tamil Nadu since 1997. JICA conducted an impact study on the previous project in Tamil Nadu in 2021. The key

takeaways attained through the study have been incorporated in the new project and the evaluation result of the previous project was widely shared to officials in Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and forest department in each state through the online workshop in January 2022. The new project is the first case where JICA specifies “climate change” in the project name with the consensus of Government of India and Government of Japan. This embodies our commitment for tackling climate changes. The Project will contribute to mitigation of climate change impact, with an estimated annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction of 243,054 t CO2 equivalent.”

JICA extends ODA loan of INR 413 crores for the Uttarakhand Integrated Horticulture Development Project

New Delhi, March 31, 2022: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to JPY 6,401 million (approximately INR 413 crores) for the Uttarakhand Integrated Horticulture Development Project.

The objective of the project is to promote profitable horticulture and improve farmer’s income by infrastructure development and capacity development for production, processing, and marketing of horticulture crops, thereby contributing to economic and social development in Uttarakhand state.

This project aims to empower farmers through 1) trainings and technology dissemination, with demonstrations for skill development, 2) institutional development of FPO (Farmer Producer Organisations), 3) capacity building of FPO, 4) creating managerial cadres for supply chain management of fruits, vegetables, spices etc., 5) establishment of centers of excellence showcasing hi-tech cultivation of fruits and vegetables, 6) rejuvenation of senile plantation, and 7) provide support to farmers for adoption of sustainable

organic horticulture practices. Climate change adaptation measures shall also be strategically promoted via this project.

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

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “The Government of India has committed to boost the agricultural / horticulture development and to double the farmer’s income by 2022, especially in the rural areas under the strategy named “Doubling Farmer’s Income (2017)”. It is therefore important to increase the productivity of the existing cultivated area as well as add value of horticultural produces, overcoming the major constraints, such as lack of access to services including water, technology and agricultural input and insufficient marketing facilities. This project aims at doubling the productivity of fruits, vegetables and spices or more, and would increase net irrigated area for 2,090 ha. JICA is elated to partner with the Department of Horticulture for the Uttarakhand Forest Resource Management Project.”

Project Updates basis signing of project agreements

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JICA extends ODA loan of INR 2391 crores for Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Phase 3)

New Delhi, March 31, 2022: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed loan agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to JPY 37,068 million (approximately INR 2391 crore) for the construction of water supply and sewerage facilities under Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Phase 3) (II).

This project aims to provide safe and stable water supply and sewerage services by carrying out the construction of water treatment plant and sewage treatment plants and related facilities for the residents in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) area, including 110 villages, where approximately 3.5 million people are expected to be benefitted from the project. This would not only uplift living conditions of the residents, but would promote investment environment in BBMP areas in the state of Karnataka.

JICA has been supporting the construction of water supply and sewage facilities and services in core city and surrounding Urban Local Body areas of Bengaluru with Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) since 1996 under phase 1 and 2. This phase 3 project will bring the synergistic effect, by expanding the earlier JICA supported both phase projects, in order to cater the growing

needs of increased population.

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

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, *“The installation of water supply and sewerage facilities has been significantly promoted in the core city of Bengaluru, but there are no such facilities in 110 villages of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). With the rapid growth of population and the economy, we are hopeful that the project will provide safe and reliable water supply to BBMP areas, by constructing a water treatment plant and sewage treatment plants together with related facilities. In addition, it will provide an opportunity for Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to review and develop a new business plan for ensuring sustainability. I am confident that the advanced technologies, such as integrated SCADA system, will become a model of excellence, by equipping water consumption and demand forecast modelling, flow measurement, and value monitoring system at key strategic locations in distribution network.”*

11

JICA extends ODA Loan of INR 1492 crores to India for the North-East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project (Phase 6)

New Delhi, March 31, 2022: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed loan agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to JPY 23,129 million (approximately INR 1492 crore) for the North East Road Network

Connectivity Improvement Project (Phase 6) for National Highway 208 (Khowai – Sabroom) in Tripura State.

The objectives of the project are in line with the Government of India approved “North

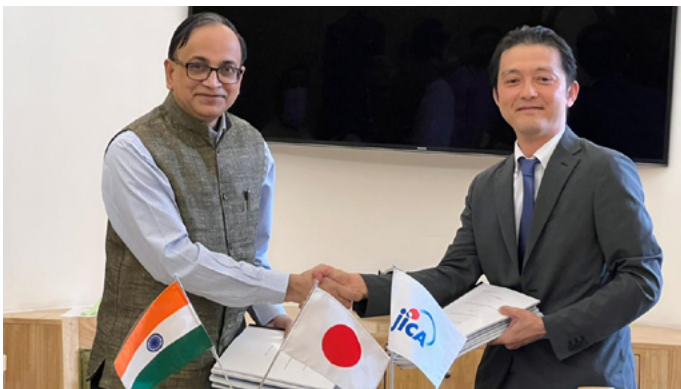
Project Updates basis signing of project agreements

Eastern Region vision 2020, aiming to develop transportation infrastructure by strengthening the connectivity in North East Region of India as well as the connectivity with other part of India and a neighbouring country, thereby promoting regional socio-economic development”.

The National Highway 208 (NH208) will ensure regional connectivity for promoting domestic regional trades as well as promoting foreign trades between India and Bangladesh. The proposed regional connectivity will facilitate in promoting industrial development for Tripura State through establishing a direct land bridge between the north east states and the ports of Chattogram and Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh. The project is expected to contribute in regional economic development which is consistent with the India’s development challenges and cooperation policy between Japan and India. The targeted section will undertake widening and rehabilitation of (4 lanes) 133.7 Km in total including construction of seven new bypasses (21.375 Km), rehabilitation of two major bridges and fifty eight minor bridges.

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

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India office said, *“JICA will support India’s efforts to improve connectivity for enhancement of sustainability and resilience. The road development in the North East Region is significantly important to improve connectivity in regions and the borders. JICA expects this project will act as growth engine for the economic development of the region as well as create employment opportunities for the local population in the State of Tripura and promote bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh. JICA is proud of its long-standing partnership with National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL). We strongly hope that the JICA’s cooperation extended through Technical cooperation and ODA loan provision will further strengthen its cooperation in the North East States and thereby complete the project efficiently”.*



Special days



On International Education Day: JICA shares its plans to strengthen and upskill the Indian Youth and contribute to the collective wellbeing of the society

New Delhi, January 24, 2022, Monday: On International Education Day, the Japan International Cooperative Agency (JICA) shares its aim of strengthening education as a public endeavor and guiding the digital transition, as well as unlocking the potential of every individual to contribute to collective well-being. JICA has been consistently contributing to bringing positive change among the children and youth of India. The agency's most recent efforts include (1) training at Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology, (CIPET) Lucknow, (2) Technical Cooperation Project at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH), and (3) ongoing Achhi Aadat campaign.

In relation to (1) above, the Government of India is promoting the enhancement of export competitiveness of the manufacturing industry and expansion of employment with the "Make in India" policy, aiming to generate 100 million jobs in the sector by 2022. The "Skill in India" policy is aimed at promoting human resource development to achieve the goal of "Make in India".

To support the initiative, JICA under the project of "Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Training Engineers for Modular Dies in India", has introduced a training programme. Gifutadaseiki Co., Ltd., one of the Japanese leading plastic mould company with

unique technology of modular mould, is selected to introduce their technology to India, through training of trainers and support for training of students at CIPET Lucknow. The training programme under CIPET-GIFUTADASEIKI project was conducted to verify the effectiveness of modular mould through demonstration of engineer training for base-unit of modular mould.

During the JICA training programme, 25 students were trained under the project scheme, 2 of them were trained at Gifutadaseiki's plant in Japan. CIPET institute introduced the training programme to the curriculum to help students improve their technical abilities in the modular manufacturing process. Even after the completion of the JICA project, 35 students from two batches are undergoing the same training. Due to COVID restrictions, the majority of the theory is taught online, with a total of 52 students benefiting from the training programme.

Speaking on the occasion of International Education Day, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, "JICA is happy to contribute towards helping India improve the share of manufacturing to its GDP by 2022 through one of its most recent initiative that aims to introduce new technology in the country and train students in manufacturing industry projects. Together Japan and India aim to upskill its youth for greater growth and development of the economies."

Special days

2

On National Cleanliness Day, JICA marks one-year of the Achhi Aadat Campaign impacting more than 30 million beneficiaries in 15 states in India

New Delhi, January 30th, 2022: On National Cleanliness Day, the Japan International Cooperative Agency (JICA) celebrated one-year anniversary of the Achhi Aadat Campaign (AAC) in India. In collaboration with NGOs, government agencies, and Japanese enterprises, JICA India started the “Achhi Aadat (Good Habit)” campaign last year to promote awareness among 10 crore people about the importance of good hygiene habits in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Through the campaign, JICA has been consistently contributing to bringing positive change in India, especially among the children and youth.

JICA's efforts has impacted more than 30 million beneficiaries through direct, indirect and media outreach, by conducting various innovative activities, utilizing materials and video content developed in partnership with Japanese private companies, in schools, hospitals and village communities in India. These beneficiaries cover total 15 states of India and Delhi NCR, amongst whom major activities around good habits were

conducted. The major activities were - conducting both online and physical sessions to share the principles of the AAC, providing Information Education and Communication (IEC) material in schools, distributing hygienic goods, performing demonstration activities and undertaking multiple awareness drives in collaboration with NGOs across schools and hospitals of various Indian states.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, *“JICA is pleased to contribute to India's efforts to not only combat the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak, but also to enhance the country's healthcare and sanitation conditions. We believe that the future belongs to the younger generations, and through the Achhi Aadat campaign, JICA is attempting to instill good practices in India's children and youth, so that they can prevent the spread of communicable diseases. The campaign has been quite effective over the last year, and JICA will continue to adopt new initiatives for larger societal development.”*

Special days

3

World Water Day 2022: JICA promises to deliver funding solutions to tackle groundwater depletion across India

New Delhi, March 22, 2022: On the occasion of World Water Day, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has reaffirmed its commitment to mitigate water scarcity issues in India. This year's theme for the annual World Water Day observed on March 22, is "Groundwater: making the invisible visible". Keeping with this year's theme and following the issues of water shortage, contamination, and even distribution, JICA is supporting various projects that may help make clean drinking water and adequate water supply a reality for all.

JICA has implemented various projects such as Rural Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Projects, Water Supply and Sewerage Projects as well as Irrigation and Livelihood Improvement Projects in various states across the country. The main objective of these projects is to provide safe and adequate drinking water supply to all, expansion of sewerage facilities to improve the natural resources and quality of life of people in the region and increasing the agricultural productivity, thereby developing strategies to ensure that there is no water scarcity in the country.

As we mark this occasion, it is essential to

acknowledge the importance of the value of water and the role it plays in our lives even more, as we are facing the impact of climate change. In a country like India where populations often overpower resources, we need to bring about significant changes to ensure we utilize our water sources sustainably and efficiently.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, *"Living in these unprecedented times where nothing is certain, we must learn our lessons and be extremely cautious of how we utilize Earth's depleting resources. It is more critical especially for countries like India where freshwater resources are very limited and water scarcity is daily concern for hundreds of millions of people. The water sector plays a vital role in all areas of life, be it social, economic or personal. Safe water, adequate supply and efficient sanitation should be a reality for all. While we may soon emerge out of these unprecedented times, it is imperative we don't create a water crisis for ourselves in the future. It is important to apply the SDG theme of "leave no one behind" to provide water and sanitation for all by sustainably using groundwater and making the invisible visible",* he added.

Special days

4 JICA commissions intervention research with PwC to further strengthen its commitment to gender equality in India

New Delhi, March 8, 2022: On International Women's Day, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has reinforced its commitment towards enabling gender equality across sectors by designing and implementing intervention research with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). The research identified action-oriented solution(s) to support and improve the wellbeing of female health workers (FHWs) while enhancing their efficiency on field. Through this study, JICA intends to generate critical insights for practitioners, policy makers and programme implementers on the need, options, and ways to ensure gender equity and justice in programme delivery in a post COVID-19 developmental paradigm.

The overall objective of the study was to equip stakeholders with an understanding of how an unprecedented crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Female Healthcare Workers (FHWs). It also aims at finding ways to resolve the psychosocial issues resulting out of such situations, presently and in the future. Based on the findings of the research, JICA prepared and conducted structured training modules for FHWs, their family

members and departmental supervisors to spread awareness on key issues. The modules focused on improving the knowledge and skills of the FHWs to address biased gender norms and stigma that has aggravated their work and performance during the pandemic. The final report shall be released by the end of March 2022.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India said, "JICA's mission aligns with the theme of this year's International Women's Day, 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow.' The interim findings of the report will help provide necessary awareness and empowerment to women health workers. We recognize the need of encouraging women to engage in all sectors and platforms on an equal footing. However, this can only be achieved through offering equal opportunities and awareness to women about their rights. Our projects take an all-encompassing approach to improving women's economic empowerment, security, education, and health. JICA's projects focus on women's roles in society and give a forum for their empowerment."

