

JICA extends ODA Loan of INR 1,061 Cr for the Strengthening of North East Road Network Connectivity

~ NH 127B (Srirampur - Dhubri section) in Assam to reduce the travel time to just 46 minutes~

New Delhi, March 26, 2021: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has agreed to extend an official development assistance (ODA) Loan of **15,285** million Japanese Yen (approximately INR **1,061** Crore) for the North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project Phase 5 with the Government of India.

Through a series of North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Projects (Phase 1 to Phase 4), JICA have assisted to improve regional connectivity within the region and cross border connectivity with outside of the region. The Project (phase 5) aims to improve the connectivity in North Eastern Region of India through establishing and improving NH 127B (Srirampur-Dhubri Section) in Assam, thereby promoting regional socio-economic development. This project is expected to be operationalized in February, 2024.

National Highway 127B (NH127B) is connected to National Highway 31C, which is a part of the East-West Corridors that connects Northeast area and the other areas of India. In addition, this road will function as a part of the corridor that runs from Gueref in Bhutan to Dar on the Bangladesh border to improve the international connectivity of the region. This NH127B is an integral part of approach road to new Dhubri - Phulbari Bridge under construction over the Brahmaputra River which is also financed by JICA. Provision of the assistance towards the project is confirmed at Japan-India Summit Meeting in 2018 and it is expected to enhance movement of people and products which influence economic property and stability of the region, in line with wide open India-Pacific vision.

The ODA loan agreement was signed between Dr. C.S. Mohapatra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. MATSUMOTO Katsuo, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “Japan and India regularly discussed development issues in the Northeast region through the “Act East Forum” and agree to implement prioritized projects by use of the Japanese ODA. This project will significantly contribute to improve road network in the Northeast region and regional connectivity with neighboring countries such as Bhutan and Bangladesh. Once the road is completed, traveling time between Srirampur - Dhubri will be drastically reduced from 86minutes to 46 minutes. Additionally, traffic volume, passenger volume and cargo volume are expected to be increased dramatically. For example, traffic volume (PCU/Day) is expected to be increased from 3,500 in 2020 to 8,500 in 2025. This network will allow the local population to travel conveniently and will bring in an economic transformation and regional connectivity is also enhanced, which will play an essential role for improving both better living standards and vigorous industrial and economic development. Until now, JICA has supported improving and constructing prioritized national highways (Total 603km) through the North East Connectivity Improvement Projects (Phase1 - Phase 4.”

Since 2008, JICA has extended 231 billion Japanese Yen (approximately INR* 15,400 crore) as concessional ODA loans for development of North East Region. Enhancing connectivity is one of prioritized area to support. Japan has extended 146 billion Japanese Yen (approximately INR* 9,733 crore) over Phase 1 to



Phase 4 of the North East Road Connectivity Improvement Project, to help develop and improve national highways in the North East States, including NH-40, NH-51, NH-54 and NH-208.

***Exchange Rate:** INR 1/-=JPY 1.5/-

About JICA

Established, by a specific law, as an incorporated administrative institution under the Government of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) aims to contribute to the promotion of international cooperation, as a sole Japanese governmental agency in charge of ODA implementation. JICA is the world's largest bilateral donor agency. JICA works as a bridge between Japan and emerging countries, and aids in forms of loan, grant and technical cooperation so that the emerging countries can strengthen their capabilities.

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