JICA Extends Its Cooperation to Strengthen India-Japan Relationship

Project Update

- JICA Is Committed to Improve Transportation, Signs Loan Agreement for High Speed Rail and Kolkata Metro Project

On September 28, 2018, JICA signed an agreement with the Government of India to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 89,547 million Japanese Yen (approximately INR 5,500 Crore) as Tranche 1 on the ‘Project for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR)’ and an ODA loan of 25,903 million Japanese Yen (approximately INR 1,600 Crore) for building the metro rail system between Howrah Maiden to Salt Lake Sector V, including an underwater section, as a part of the ‘Kolkata East-West Metro Project (III)’.

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

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “JICA is pleased to finance the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail and the ‘Kolkata East-West Metro Project (III)’. India has witnessed strong economic growth in recent years and with this growth has come a sharp rise in the volume of passengers and goods being transported in the country. With these Projects, we aim to simplify mobility, ease connectivity and enhance regional economic development with a safe and reliable inter-city transport system. JICA’s cooperation will lead to a modal shift from road traffic to public transportation systems and will eventually lead to balanced regional development and improvement of environmental conditions.”

Events/Workshops

- JICA Promotes Ease of Travel by Inaugurating the Delhi Metro’s Pink Line
- JICA Extended Technical Assistance for Capacity Development and Safety of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor
- The Project for Improvement of Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystems Management and Livelihoods Inaugurated

Events/Workshops

- JICA’s Contribution Towards The World Class International Convention Centre In Varanasi
- JICA promotes tourism at Workshop on Ajanta-Ellora

Events/Workshops

- JICA shared their insights about Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Operations at the DMIC Seminar
- JICA Experts Shared key Insights at the International Buddhist Conclave 2018 to Enhance Tourism at Buddhist Sites in India
- JICA Organizes 9th Project Directors Meeting of JICA-Assisted Forestry & Natural Resource Management Projects

Events/Workshops

- Children cherished Learning through Storytelling Session of JICA-Supported Mottainai Grandma Picture Book in New Delhi
- JICA Celebrated 12th Anniversary of VLFM / CSM Learning Convention in Mumbai
- India-Sri Lanka Youth Rugby Friendship Match between teams led by JICA Volunteers, held in Odisha

Introduction of JICA staff

- Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto joins as the new Chief Representative of JICA India
- Introducing JICA Staff

L-R: Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India with Dr. C. S. Mohapatra, Additional Secretary, DEA during the L/A Signing ceremony.
On August 6, 2018, over an eight kilometer stretch of the Delhi Metro’s Pink Line, running from Durgabhai Deshmukh South Campus to Lajpat Nagar metro station having interconnection at INA (yellow line) and Lajpat Nagar (orange line), was inaugurated. The stretch is part of the upcoming 59 km long Majlis Park-Shiv Vihar Corridor under the Phase-3 of Delhi Metro Project, which is supported by JICA. This stretch is a continuation of the operational Majlis Park - Durgabhai Deshmukh South Campus metro section which would connect four major markets of Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office said, “The Pink Line operates on the Ring Road, which witnesses traffic congestion on a daily basis. The new stretch would reduce traffic snarls and will provide easy access to markets such as INA, South Extension, Lajpat Nagar and Sarojini Nagar. JICA recognizes the need for efficient urban transport to develop Delhi. We are happy to announce that this new stretch opened for public takes the operational network of the Delhi Metro to 296 km.”

JICA Extended Technical Assistance for Capacity Development and Safety of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor

On August 14, 2018, JICA and Ministry of Railways (MOR), Government of India (GOI) signed the Record of Discussions (R/D) for “The Project for Capacity Development on Railway Safety”. JICA is supporting the ministry by providing Technical Cooperation (TC) for the project, with the objective to enhance the capacities of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) with regard to safety of the Indian railway network.

For the project, JICA’s Japanese experts will be dispatched to India for assisting the Ministry of Railways and DFCCIL on field survey and making action plans for railway safety. On-the-job training is also planned through JICA experts for sharing Japan’s learnings and knowledge in the field of rail welding, inspection, track maintenance, rolling stock maintenance, accidents investigation and safety management.

The Project for Improvement of Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystems Management and Livelihoods Inaugurated

On July 23, 2018, The JICA-supported Project for Improvement of Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystems Management and Livelihoods was inaugurated. The project aims to manage and enhance forest area ecosystems in the Project area, by sustainable forest ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, livelihood improvement support and strengthening institutional capacity, thereby contributing to environmental conservation and sustainable socio-economic development in the state of Himachal Pradesh (HP).

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India said “JICA recognizes the importance of the livelihood improvement and poverty alleviation in the forest areas. With this Project JICA aims to improve the quality of forests and grasslands of Himachal Pradesh, and conserve the ecosystem through participatory and collaborative management. This will improve the ecosystem in the state, and help in the conservation of water resources and prevent soil erosion and landslides.”
JICA’s Contribution Towards The World Class International Convention Centre In Varanasi

On June 12, 2018, JICA, the Embassy of Japan in India (EOJ), Ministry of Tourism (MOT), Government of Maharashtra (GOM), and Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) jointly organized the Promotional Workshop on Ajanta-Ellora. Through the workshop, JICA representatives shared their learnings on enhancing visitors’ experience and on improving tourism development in India.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Takayoshi Tange, Senior Representative, JICA India said, “JICA believes that investing in tourism development is essential for ensuring visitors’ satisfaction and comfort. The excellent Visitor Centres constructed at Ajanta and Ellora can improve visitors’ experience only if both centres are operated properly under streamlined policies, and if the operators continuously improve the objects on display, in consultation with academicians, local populace, and private sector enterprises.”

JICA Promotes Tourism at Workshop on Ajanta-Ellora

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JICA shared their insights about Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Operations at the DMIC Seminar

On June 20, 2018, JICA shared the progress of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), expressing views and ideas about the DFC operation stage at the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Seminar. The seminar was jointly hosted by Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The seminar was attended by dignitaries such as Mr. Alkesh Sharma, CEO&MD, DMICDC; Mr. Miyake, Counsellor, Embassy of Japan; Mr. Hayashidani, Chief Representative, JBIC; Mr. Yamada, JICA Expert; Mr. Murayama, JICA Expert and Mr. Takayoshi Tange, Senior Representative, JICA India.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Takayoshi Tange, Senior Representative, JICA India, said “We are constructing Quality Infrastructure in collaboration with Japanese and Indian companies, as well as Dedicated Freight Corporation of India Ltd. The corridor will be partially inaugurated in the near future. After starting the operation, the logistics between Delhi and Mumbai will be reformed. JICA is willing to collaborate with private companies in order to maintain good quality of operations.”

JICA Experts Shared key Insights at the International Buddhist Conclave 2018 to Enhance Tourism at Buddhist Sites in India

On August 24, 2018, JICA shared its experiences on promoting cultural tourism at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi and Ajanta Visitor Centre, at the five-day International Buddhist Conclave. The Government of Japan was the partner country for the Buddhist Conclave. The theme of the conclave was “Buddha Path – The Living Heritage”. The Conclave was organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in collaboration with the State Governments of Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The inaugural session was attended by dignitaries such as Mr. Ram Nath Kovind, President of India; Mr. K.J. Alphons, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India, Embassy of Japan among others.

JICA Organized 9th Project Directors Meeting of JICA-Assisted Forestry & Natural Resource Management Projects


Dignitaries who attended the meeting included Mr. Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India (GOI); Mr. A.K Mishra, Director (Japan), DEA, GOI; Mr. D.K Sinha, Inspector General of Forests (IGF), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), GOI and Mr. Saibal Dasgupta, Additional Director General (ADG), MoEF&CC, GOI. The JICA representatives who attended the meeting included Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India; Mr. Toru Uemachi, Senior Representative, JICA India; Mr. Vineet Sarin, Additional Chief Development Specialist, JICA India and Mr. Anurag Sinha, Lead Development Specialist, JICA India.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “JICA recognizes the need for implementing sustainable forestry management in India and we aim to facilitate the same with the assistance from Japanese expertise. It gives us immense pleasure to support such an important cross-learning experience, where project directors of various JICA-supported projects can cohesively learn from each other”. 
Events/Workshops

Children cherished Learning through Storytelling Session of JICA-Supported Mottainai Grandma Picture Book in New Delhi

On June 4, 2018 The Hindi version of Japanese Children’s picture book ‘Mottainai Grandma’, published in India with the support of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) facilitated a storytelling session for over 100 primary school children at Dwarka Metro Station today. The National Book Trust (NBT) of India and Kodansha Co. Ltd., a major Japanese publishing house, organized the storytelling session, with cooperation and support of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), IJ Kakehashi Service Pvt. Ltd. (IJK) and JICA. The Hindi version of the book was published in India with JICAs support in January 2018.

JICA acknowledges that encouraging children to share the spirit of ‘Mottainai’ with their families and friends would bring out much-needed change towards conservation of resources.

On August 24, 2018, Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India and Ms. Maniko Shinju, author of “Mottainai Grandma”, attended the Donation Ceremony of picture book “Mottainai Grandma”, held at the Muni International School, New Delhi. The book donation was Japan’s endeavor to contribute towards improving India’s environment through the spread of environmental education with the picture book. Under the initiative, around 1,000 picture books will be donated, to schools in New Delhi.

JICA Celebrated 12th Anniversary of VLFM / CSM Learning Convention in Mumbai

On July 26, 2018, JICA celebrated the 12th Anniversary of Visionary Leaders for Manufacturing (VLFM)/Champions for Societal Manufacturing (CSM) Learning Convention, organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Mumbai. The convention focused on ‘Leader’s Mindset Change’ which leads to personal, organizational, and social transformation in the manufacturing sector. This memorial event was supported by JICAs Technical Cooperation Project of CSM.

During the present edition of the Convention, 60 graduates of 11th Batch received certificate and accolades by Mr. Jamshyd N. Godrej, Chairman, VLFM Initiative & Past President, CII, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India and Mr. Ryoji Noda, Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai; among other dignitaries.

India-Sri Lanka Youth Rugby Friendship Match between teams led by JICA Volunteers, held in Odisha

On June 16 and 17, 2018, JICA, India Rugby-Football Union (IRFU), Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) and The Kids Sports Exchange (TKSE) jointly organized a two-day Youth Rugby Friendship Match at the cricket stadium of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The match was supported by Japan Rugby Football Union (JRFU) and Sri Lanka Rugby Football Union (SLRFU). The match was held between the teams coached by JICA Volunteers, widely known as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), in India and Sri Lanka. In the men’s division, the Sri-Lankan team won, while in the women’s division, the Indian team emerged victorious.

L-R: Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative of JICA India, praised the sportsmanship of every player at the closing ceremony in presence of Mr. Sho Miura, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan (ECU); Mr. Tuan Zarook Dole, Council Member of SLRFU; Mr. Koji Yoshida, General Manager of Rugby Team at Yamanashi Gakuin University; Mr. Priyadarshi Mishra, MLA of Odisha, President of Odisha Rugby Football Association (ORFA); Mr. Masatoshi Mukoyama, Representative Director of TKSE, Head of International Cooperation Section, JRFU; Mr. Makoto Nishiki, Executive Member of Asia Rugby and Deputy Chairman of Rugby Development Committee, JRFU
On June 1, 2018 JICA announced the appointment of Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto as the new Chief Representative of JICA India. Previous to this, Mr. Matsumoto was closely engaged in the work related to the South Asian region while being the Deputy Director General of South Asian Department (SAD) at the JICA Headquarters, Tokyo. He has rich experience of working for some of the largest Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan projects in the South Asian region.

On assuming the office, Mr. Matsumoto said, “It is my pleasure to be appointed as Chief Representative of JICA India Office. While India is expected to become the world’s fastest growing economy, in the coming future, it shall also become home to the world’s largest population by 2022. In this context, development of India is expected to contribute greatly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals with a global impact. JICA’s cooperation can contribute to the Government of India’s initiatives to address issues and challenges of economic and social development. JICA will make maximum efforts as a Japanese government agency so that we can further contribute to strengthening and developing bilateral relations.”

Mr. M.P Singh
Being techno-economic professional with an experience on to higher echelons of public service in Government of India, Mr. Singh joined JICA (former OECF) with an objective to work for improving the life empowerment and socio-economic conditions of poorest section of the people through infrastructure, environment and social sector projects.

Role in JICA: Given the complex nature of developmental issues, presently Mr. Singh handles Water Sanitation and Transport sector through effective policy dialogue, harmonized procedures, consensus building among diverse stakeholders and intensive projects monitoring. He is taking care of iconic Delhi Metro (shining example of Indo-Japan Cooperation) since inception of the project and is now lending his experience to Metro projects in Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Kolkata, besides Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project, Ganga/Yamuna Action plans, water/sewerage projects in Agra, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack (Odisha), Grant aid of Varanasi Convention Centre and so on.

Mr. Kenichi Kono
After working for JICA’s cooperation in Middle East countries and finance scheme improvement at headquarters, Mr. Kono has been working in India since March 2018, to take bigger challenges developing countries faces in the present world.

Role in JICA: Mr. Kono is responsible for the Transport sector development. He is striving to overcome the challenges in transport area, working to get expedited implementation of high speed rail project and technical cooperation of railway safety so as to evolve fast and safer railway infrastructure in India.