JICA Extends Its Cooperation to Strengthen India-Japan Relationship

1 Events/Workshops
   • Strengthening Chennai’s Transport Network by Inaugurating the Final Stretch of Phase-I of Chennai Metro Project

2 Events/Workshops
   • New Metro system to enhance mobility in Ahmedabad
   • Learning Innovative Approaches and New Techniques to Protect Forest Ecosystems
   • Encouraging Efficient Distribution System for Agricultural yields at Inaugural Ceremony of Temperature Controlled Solar Powered Warehouse in West Bengal

3 Events/Workshops
   • Ground-Breaking Ceremony of Campus Development Project of IIT Hyderabad
   • Dispatching the 1st Group of JICA Experts for Technical Cooperation Project for Capacity Development on Railway Safety
   • Inauguration of Project for Sustainable Catchment Forest Management Assures Continuous Improvement of Forests in Tripura

4 Events/Workshops
   • International Women’s Day: Taking Small Steps towards Bigger Change
   • Award Ceremony for Posters Drawn by School Children on theme of “Mottainai”

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Strengthening Chennai’s Transport Network by Inaugurating the Final Stretch of Phase- I of Chennai Metro Project

On February 11, 2019, the JICA funded 9.95 km-long Washermanpet-Metro-AG-DMS section of Chennai Metro Phase – I was inaugurated. With the launch of this stretch, the 45 km stretch of Phase-I of Chennai Metro Project will now be open to public. The newly opened stretch consists of seven underground stations namely: Washermanpet Metro, Mannadi, High Court, Central Metro, Government Estate, LIC and Thousand Lights.

The flagging-off ceremony of the stretch was inaugurated by Mr. Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister, Government of India and Mr. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Chief Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) remotely unveiling the plaques through videoconferencing, amongst other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “The newly inaugurated stretch will improve mobility to prominent areas of Chennai, directly connecting its northern and southern parts. With this stretch getting operational, people will be able to reach the airport from northern part of Chennai in 45 minutes. The inauguration of this stretch will mark the successful completion of Phase-1 of the Chennai Metro and will pave way for the Phase- 2 of the Project.”
On March 4, 2019, the Ahmedabad Metro Project partially funded by JICA was inaugurated, which consists of 18.52km North – South corridor and 20.74km East – West corridor passing through the central business district, densely populated residential area, academic area of Ahmedabad metropolitan area. The priority reach covers 6.5km stretch with Apparel Park station, Amralwadi station, Rabari Colony station, Vastral station, Nirant Cross Rd. station and Vastral Gam station.

The flagging-off ceremony of the stretch was inaugurated by Mr. Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister, Government of India and Mr. Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister, Government of Gujarat amongst other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “It is an honour for JICA to support the 1st metro project in Gujarat state, the nation’s growth driver. Ahmedabad metro will be providing alternative choice of city transportation and also easing traffic congestion and pollution. The metro is well planned as a part of the integrated urban transportation of the city and the alignment covering the core districts of economic and cultural activities as well as interconnected with other transportation mode such as the railways, MRTS, BRTS and awaited bullet train, will definitely enhance people’s mobility in the city.”

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Learning Innovative Approaches and New Techniques to Protect Forest Ecosystems

On March 12, 2019, the 11th Annual National Seminar cum Workshop on Climate Change and Technology based Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, organized by the Forest Department, Government of Tamil Nadu with support from JICA was inaugurated in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Toru Uemachi, Senior Representative, JICA India, said, “On the outset, I would like to thank the Tamil Nadu Forest Department for organizing this workshop and providing us with this excellent forum for cross learning and experience sharing amongst various stakeholders of JICA-supported projects. JICA has been a long-term partner of MoEF&CC and State Forest Departments for nearly three decades. This seminar cum workshop will help us come up with “out of the box” ideas and concrete solutions that could be adopted in our projects.”

Encouraging Efficient Distribution Systems for Agricultural yields by inaugurating Temperature Controlled Solar Powered Warehouse in West Bengal

On January 21, 2019, the Temperature Controlled Solar Powered Warehouse was inaugurated in Tapasi Mallick Krushak Bazar, Singur, West Bengal, to promote efficient sale and distribution of agricultural products. The Project has JICA as a scheme of ‘Verification Survey for Disseminating Japanese Technologies’, and has been undertaken by Kawasaki Rikuso Transportation Co., Ltd. in collaboration with the Sufal Bangla Project, Department of Agricultural Marketing, Government of West Bengal since October, 2017.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, “This JICA-supported project is helping improve the life of farmers by multiplying the sales of stable quality crops with transferring knowhow on value added activities like selection, grading and packaging of the agricultural products. It is also strongly hoped that the approach will be replicated in many communities in West Bengal as a model project.”
Ground-Breaking Ceremony of Campus Development Project of IIT Hyderabad

On March 28, 2019, the ground-breaking ceremony of the “Campus Development Project of IIT Hyderabad” was held in Hyderabad, Telangana. JICA has supported construction of 25 advanced buildings of IIT-H, of which the ground-breaking ceremony was held for 9 buildings, namely: International Guest House, Sports & Cultural Complex, Convention Centre, Technology & Incubation Park, Knowledge Centre, Research Centers Complex, Chemistry Building, Material Science & Metallurgical Engineering Building and Bio technology & Bio Medical Engineering Building. The first 6 buildings mentioned above are designed by experts from Urban Engineering Department, University of Tokyo.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office said, “JICA understands the need for developing a campus that caters to the high quality education environment. We are pleased to witness the ground-breaking ceremony of one of the most respectable institutions in India. These state-of-the-art facilities would constitute the face of the new campus and will play a central role in symbolizing the exchange between Japan and India.”

Dispatching the 1st Group of JICA Experts for Technical Cooperation Project for Capacity Development on Railway Safety

On February 25, 2019, the first batch of JICA Experts for railway accident investigation came to India to have discussions with Indian Railways (IR) in order to deepen mutual understanding of methodology for railway accident investigation in India and Japan, under the Technical Cooperation (TC) Project which aims to enhance the capacities of the IR and the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) with regard to safety of the railway, especially in the fields of Rails welding and inspection, Track maintenance, Rolling stock maintenance, Accident investigation, and Safety management.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. M.P Singh, Chief Development Specialist, JICA India said, “Through this TC Project, JICA Experts are jointly working with IR and DFCCIL for mutual learning and co-creation of possible solutions to the safety related issues. We are jointly planning training programs in Japan for sharing Japanese knowledge and experience in various aspect of railway safety.”

Inauguration of Project for Sustainable Catchment Forest Management Assures Continuous Improvement of Forests in Tripura

On January 16, 2019, the JICA-supported Project for Sustainable Catchment Forest Management (SCATFORM) was inaugurated in Tripura. The inauguration ceremony was organized by Tripura Forest Department and was attended by Mr. Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon’ble Chief Minister, Government of Tripura (GoT) amongst other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Toru Uemachi, Senior Representative, JICA India said, “Through this project, JICA focuses to improve the quality of forests in Tripura and to conserve the ecosystem through participatory and collaborative management. One of the unique approaches of this project is co-financing by the State Government which is done to promote and uplift sustainability of selected activities of the Project and showcase the strong initiative by the Forest Department. This forum’s objective is to expand the cooperation between Japan and India in the North Eastern Region (NER).”
Events and Workshops

International Women's Day: Taking Small Steps towards Bigger Change

On March 8, 2019, JICA commemorated International Women’s Day by striving to achieve gender equality in India by prioritizing gender equality and women empowerment through the projects it supports.

JICA’s vision is in line with the theme for International Women’s Day 2019, which is “Think equal, build smart, innovate for change. Our projects use an inclusive approach towards betterment of women’s economic empowerment, rights & security, education and health.

One such example is that of the JICA funded Delhi Metro, which introduced a coach dedicated for women passengers with exclusive seats for women and CCTV cameras on the station, which strengthened the security level and encouraged women to ride even at odd hours. Similarly, JICA has been encouraging women employment in India by introducing a new method in harvesting vegetables. Jharkhand Horticulture Intensiﬁcation by Micro Drip Irrigation Project has increased ownership for women, thereby empowering 30,000 farmers to be financially independent.

Award Ceremony for Posters Drawn by School Children on theme of "Mottainai"

On January 21, 2019, a poster exhibition was organized as part of the “Reading Caravan” in collaboration with Kodansha Ltd. supported by JICA, from January 14-28 at the Japan Foundation, New Delhi. The exhibition displayed handmade posters which were drawn by school children from Delhi and Haryana based on their understanding and imagination of the word “Mottainai". The prizes were awarded to 5 individuals and 3 groups at the ceremony in which otherwise a total of 120 posters drawn by individuals and 30 posters drawn by groups.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Kengo Akamine, Senior Representative, JICA India said, “Mottainai is a thoughtful Japanese word that means “wasteful” and the book “Mottainai Grandma” lays importance on 4Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Respect. The purpose of this poster making is to encourage the thought of mindfulness on environment-friendly ways of living. The message of “Mottainai” is also in line with the message of Swachh Bharat Mission, and it advocates better awareness and behavior towards an environment. JICA understands the importance of inculcating best sanitation practices amongst people, therefore this exercise will not only help children understand the importance of their environment but will encourage everyone to contribute towards building a better world.”

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