

Operationalization of India's first Driverless Metro Train under Japan Supported Delhi Metro Project

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New Delhi, December 28, 2020: Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the country's first driverless Metro train in Delhi. With introduction of the first driverless metro train in Delhi Metro, Magenta Line between Janakpuri West to Botanical Garden becomes operational under Delhi Metro Phase III project.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the flagging-off of Driverless Metro Train was witnessed by Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Govt. of India, Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Govt. of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, while Dr. Mangu Singh, Managing Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) was also present. Besides, other key dignitaries present on the occasion were His Excellency Mr. Satoshi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to India, Mr. Keiichiro Nakazawa, Senior Vice President, JICA Tokyo and Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India said, "The Delhi Metro project is a symbolic project of Indo-Japanese cooperation, which is considered to be emulating model for other metro projects in India. The successful inauguration of the first driverless metro operation in Delhi Metro has achieved a major milestone in advancement of the modern rail transportation systems in the country. The driverless train operation, so-called Unattended Train Operations (UTO) is supported by the state-of-art technologies of Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) Signaling Systems, which is supplied by a Japanese manufacturer supplier, Nippon Signal Corporation Ltd. JICA understands it fully that the spread of novel coronavirus pandemic has brought various challenges globally including the severe hitting of the revenue operations of Delhi Metro. Despite these testing times, Delhi Metro has relentlessly worked and achieved this milestone to become one of the prominent entity in the world. JICA would like to continue enhancing our partnership with DMRC to address such challenges in future as well.

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 & braking, operation of doors and handling of emergencies. The driverless train operation is expected to maximize the passenger carrying space, since the driver's cabin might be removed in case of 'driverless' operation, approximately 40 more passenger can be accommodated in space of the driver's car.

JICA had extended an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 321,592 million Japanese yen (approximately INR 23,000 crore) for the development of Delhi Metro's Phase 3. JICA has extended a cumulative total of 696,319 million Japanese yen in ODA loans (approximately INR 50,000 crore) for the Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project since 1997. The cumulative loan amount provided by JICA for metro projects in India (including Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Ahmedabad Metro's) exceeds 1.3 trillion Japanese Yen (approximately INR 90,000 crore). In consideration of past smooth journey of Delhi Metro, JICA is further exploring the possibility of continuing its assistance for next phase of the project so as to achieve realization of Delhi Master Plan and helping India's efforts on smoothening urban transportation.



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 provides assistance in forms of loan, grant and technical cooperation so that the emerging countries can strengthen their capabilities.

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