

Remarks by H.E. SUZUKI Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India,
on the occasion of
Contract Agreement Signing Ceremony
For Design and Construction of 237 km Viaducts, 4 Stations,
Depots & Tunnel, between Vapi and Vadodara (C 4 Package) of
the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor

26th November, 2020

Mr. Vinod Kumar Yadav, CEO & Chairman, Railway Board

Mr. Achal Khare, Managing Director, NHSRCL

Mr. Sekharipuram Narayanan Subrahmanyam, CEO & Managing
Director, Larsen & Toubro Limited

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am immensely pleased to have this opportunity to join our friends of India for witnessing the signing of the C 4 Package Agreement today.

There is certainly much reason for celebrations, as this is the first major contract of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project. This contract covers its longest civil work Package, and thus, is about creating the “spine” of MAHSR. I would like to congratulate all those who gathered here on this auspicious occasion.

To date, the Indian and Japanese stakeholders have worked very hard together, now truly becoming one team. Without the dedicated efforts of this team, we would not have been able to carry out today’s ceremony. I know how complex the High Speed Rail project is. I would, therefore, like to sincerely thank each one of you for putting in your best efforts, and joining forces towards the realization of this grand project.

And, I would also like to congratulate L&T for the successful bidding for this Agreement. This is not only the longest civil work package of the MAHSR Project, but also one of the largest infrastructure projects ever in India, with the amount of 25,000 crore Indian rupees. The fact that this crucial work is to be executed by a renowned Indian company cannot be over-emphasized.

I believe, this Package will surely help the Indian economy with a much-needed spur and job creation, after long and difficult time resulting from COVID-19. And more importantly, this is not the end; all the civil Packages are open to Indian companies for tenders.

The MAHSR is our flagship project, which symbolizes a solid Japan-India friendship. Through joint efforts, Japan's technical expertise and know-how will be transferred to India. Not only with the amazing speed of "bullet trains", but also the MAHSR Project will provide a fresh outlook to the Indian railway system and its culture, with top-level safety, comfort, and convenience. The Project also can reshape the way Indian cities will look like in the future, as transit-oriented city development takes roots on Indian soil.

Today, with the signing of this Agreement, we have taken a bold step forward towards such a future.

Once again, I would like to thank and congratulate you all.

Thank you.

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