

Remarks by H.E. Mr. SUZUKI Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India
at the Inauguration of Delhi Metro's Najafgarh - Dhansa Bus Stand Section of Grey Line
--- Completion of Phase 3 of Delhi Metro ---

Date: 18 September 2021

H.E. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs,
Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi,
Dr. Mangu Singh, Managing Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the successful inauguration of the Delhi Metro's Najafgarh - Dhansa Bus Stand extension of Grey Line. The commencement of operation of this section is expected to have a remarkable impact on the connectivity in suburban Delhi. The section serves a densely populated area of South-West Delhi with mass rapid transit. Needless to say, the operation of this section will contribute to reducing the volume of road traffic, and thus, building a carbon neutral society in Delhi.

Besides the significance of the section itself, the completion of the section also marks the completion of the Japan assisted Phase 3 of Delhi Metro Rail Project.

It is our great honour that Japan has supported the construction of the approximately 116 km section out of a total of 159 km of the Delhi Metro Phase 3, through its ODA.

I would like to affirm that Japan is always willing to support the efforts of Delhi Metro. Japan's continuous involvement in the Delhi Metro Project is testimony to the firm cooperation and friendly relationship existing between Japan and India. Japan decided to support Delhi Metro Phase 4, and already exchanged notes for the provision of ODA loan amounting to approximately 120 billion Japanese Yen, or approximately 8,157 crore Indian Rupees, in March of 2021.

The metro rail system is a key and inevitable driver for sustainable, clean and green development. Alongside the support through Japanese ODA Loan, Japan is also pleased to accelerate bilateral cooperation in this field, including Transit Oriented Development, under cooperation between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.

As I witness the completion of Delhi Metro Phase 3 today, I recall the commencement of operation of the Delhi Metro in December 2002. 20 years later, in the year of 2022, we will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of India's independence, as well as the 20th Anniversary of the inauguration of Delhi Metro. Coincidentally, the year 2022 is also the 70th Anniversary of Japan - India Diplomatic Relations. So, today's ceremony is a great preview of this bright year to come.

I shall conclude my remarks by reiterating that Delhi Metro, called the Shining Example, perfectly exemplifies the long-lasting and cooperative relationship between India and Japan. Delhi Metro has been demonstrating the BEST of the BEST in our long story of cooperation.

Thank you very much.

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