

Remarks by Ambassador Hiramatsu at the Flagging off ceremony of Delhi Metro's Lajpat Nagar - Mayur Vihar Pocket 1 section of Pink Line

Date: 31 December 2018

Venue: Metro Bhawan, New Delhi

H.E. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of State, Housing and Urban Affairs,

Mr. Manish Sisodia, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi,

Mr. Mangu Singh, Managing Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.,

Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations on the successful completion of this segment of Delhi Metro's line 7, as well as the 5 newly-opened Metro stations that are located in this section.

I am very pleased to see this long-awaited section's commencement. It will considerably ease the connectivity in South Delhi and will also

prove to be a catalyst for the environmentally-friendly, transit-oriented, urban development technology, bringing about better access to residential, commercial, and leisure spaces.

Japanese know-how in transit-oriented development is recognized as one of the finest urban development models in the world. Therefore, I believe that the Japanese expertise will certainly spur the urban development initiatives in India.

The Delhi National Capital Region is one of the first urban centers in India to introduce the Metro system, enabling Delhi Metro to offer world-class services, with regard to safety, reliability, punctuality, comfort, and customer satisfaction.

Japan is proud of partnering in the construction of the Delhi Metro, technically and financially, from its very beginning. The support of Japanese Government covers the construction of about 116 km section out of a total of 159 km of the Delhi Metro Phase 3, utilizing Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan. Last October, during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Japan, I signed and exchanged the notes relating to the provision of an additional ODA loan, amounting to JPY 53.7 billion, approximately INR 3,500 crore, for the Delhi Metro Phase 3. We have disbursed JPY 276.8 billion, or approximately INR 18,000 crores so far for the project.

Japan's consistent involvement in the Delhi Metro Project emphatically denotes the mutually complementary and friendly relationship existing between our two countries.

Japan is also supporting other Metro Projects based on our successful experience in Delhi Metro. On 21st December, I signed another Exchange of Notes regarding Chennai Metro Project (Phase 2) amounting to JPY 75.5 billion, approximately INR 4,800 crore, with special concessional terms. Likewise, I would like to continue supporting various Metro Projects including future Delhi Metro Phase 4.

The Japanese principles of safety in project management are being implemented in the Delhi Metro. Oriental Consultants, a premier consultancy firm that specializes in public transport construction management, is securing the safety and efficiency of the construction sites. In addition, Japanese technologies and quality control are also being applied, with Mitsubishi Electric supplying the propulsion system for the rolling stocks, and Mitsui & Co. roped in for rail procurement.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all the people who have been working so hard to ensure that this section can be inaugurated today. I would like to conclude my remarks by reiterating that Delhi Metro perfectly exemplifies the long-lasting and cooperative relationship between India and Japan. We will continue working together with sincerity and commitment in the years to come.

I wish you all a happy new year.

Thank you very much.