

Congratulatory Message of Ambassador Hiramatsu on the Inauguration of
Ahmedabad Metro's First Section between Vastral Gam - Apparel Park of East-West Corridor

Date: 4 March 2019

I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations on the successful inauguration of the section between Vastral Gam and Apparel Park of East-West Corridor, as the first section of Metro serving the people of Ahmedabad.

The Government of Japan is supporting the construction of about 39 kms. of Ahmedabad Metro, through Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan. The Government of Japan and the Government of India signed the Exchange of Notes on Japanese ODA Loan amounting to JPY 82.4 billion, approximately INR 4,432 crores, in November 2015.

In addition, Japanese expertise and technologies are being applied to this section. The project management has been done by Oriental Consultants Global. Mitsubishi Electric is supplying the propulsion system for the rolling stocks; Nippon Signal is installing its Automated Fare Collection System and Signalling and Train Control System; and Mitsui & Co. has been roped in for the procurement of rail, which is manufactured by Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal.

Thus, Ahmedabad Metro indeed exemplifies the current strong relationship existing between Japan and India, unprecedentedly developed under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Modi. However, Ahmedabad Metro will go on to become a much bigger symbol of the friendship between our two countries with the successful completion of the Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project.

I still vividly remember the warmest welcome extended by the people of Ahmedabad in September 2017 when PM Abe visited here and also attended the inauguration ceremony of the Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project.

I believe that Ahmedabad must be developed as a city representing "New India" with the foundation of these two key projects which have synergy effects. I am pleased to convey that Japan will continue to cooperate in all possible ways in order to maximise the economic and social impact of these projects, through its renowned know-how in transit-oriented development, based on its cutting-edge technology and finest urban development models in the world.

I also hope that these Ahmedabad Metro and Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Rail projects will affect more Japanese people and more Japanese companies to come to Gujarat.

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 congratulatory message by reiterating that Ahmedabad Metro is a perfect example of the long-lasting and cooperative relationship between India and Japan, which will continue to flourish in the years to come.