

Remarks by Ambassador Hiramatsu at the Inauguration of Delhi Metro's Dwarka to Najafgarh Section of Grey Line

Date: 4 October 2019

Venue: Metro Bhawan, New Delhi

H.E. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of State, Housing and Urban Affairs,
Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, Hon'ble 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 inauguration of Delhi Metro's line 9, as well as the 3 newly-opened Metro stations that are located in this section.

Japan is proud of partnering with the Delhi Metro, technically and financially, from its very inception. Japanese ODA supports the construction of about 116 km section out of a total of 159 km of the Delhi Metro Phase 3, 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. So far, we have committed JPY 705 billion, or approximately INR 6,000 crores so far for the project.

Japan is also supporting other Metro Projects in India, based on our successful experience with the Delhi Metro. In March this year, I witnessed, together with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the inauguration of Ahmedabad Metro (Phase 1). I, on behalf of Japan, would like to express our continuous commitment to supporting various Metro Projects, including the 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 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.

I am really happy that I have been able to experience and witness the prominent progress together with you, hand in hand, for the Delhi Metro project. I am proud of the project as a symbol of Japan-India friendship and feel closely attached to this project. It is the continuous enthusiasm, dynamism, and the spirit of no-compromise towards completing this project, that make me feel this way.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to all the people who have been working so hard to ensure that this section can be inaugurated today.

I shall conclude my remarks by reiterating, --- I always mention this, but please allow me to use the same phrase again ---, that Delhi Metro perfectly exemplifies the long-lasting and cooperative relationship between India and Japan. Delhi Metro personifies the BEST of the best in our long story of cooperation. We will continue working together with sincerity and commitment in the years to come.

Congratulations again for today's inauguration.
Thank you very much.