

Remarks by Ambassador SUZUKI Satoshi
at the Inauguration of Intelligent Transport System (ITS)
on 6-lane Eastern Peripheral Expressway
at ITS Control Room Building (EPE), Dasna
(23 December, 2021)

H.E. Mr. Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways,

General V.K. Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways,

Ms. Alka Upadhyaya, Chairperson, National Highways Authority of India,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the successful inauguration of the Intelligent Transport System on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway and its Control Room here in Dasna.

The EPE connects eastern satellite cities surrounding Delhi as a vibrant logistics corridor of Delhi NCR. This ITS project equips the EPE with an advanced traffic management system. The sophisticated ITS, including Toll Management System and Advanced Traffic Management System, provides drivers and transporters with more comfortable and much safer travel.

One cannot expect even a single business activity without efficient logistics, making such improved road traffic environment very crucial for economic growth. Smooth movement of goods enhances supply chain which in turn ensures increase in productivity for manufacturers and helps retailers avoid losing opportunities of timely sales. One of the lessons we have learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic is the importance of securing the supply chain.

Furthermore, smoother movement reduces fuel consumption as well, consequently, resulting in minimizing the emission from the transport sector. Thus, this ITS system contributes to the decisive Net Zero target that was announced by Prime Minister Modi at COP26 one and a half month ago.

It is great honour to us that Japan has supported the development of this valuable ITS on EPE through its ODA. Besides the financial assistance amounting to approximately 4.6 billion INR, Japan has supported the development of the institutional capacity for the operation and maintenance of expressways through JICA's technical assistance from 2013 to 2015. This has provided the foundation of today's operations of EPE as well as other expressways which are being developed across India under *Bharatmala Pariyojana*.

Quality connectivity is indispensable for better development of a nation. Japan always stands with India for enhancement and improvement of connectivity in the country. We will continue our cooperation in accordance with the MoC between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.

The upcoming year 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of Japan - India diplomatic relations. Thus, today's ceremony can be seen as a decorative figure of this promising year.

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my gratitude to all those who have dedicated their tireless efforts to make this excellent ITS a reality.

Thank you very much.

(End)