

First of all, I would like to express my profound gratitude to Honorable Mr. Murlidhar Mohol, Mayor of the City of Pune for inviting me to this auspicious occasion today. I feel honoured to be present at the inauguration ceremony of various developmental projects in Pune, particularly the commencement of construction of the **“Project for Pollution Abatement of Rivers Mula-Mutha in Pune.”**

As you all know, India-Japan relationship is at its zenith now. This has been made possible by the strong leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Modi, together with recent Japanese prime ministers. Our bilateral partnership as well as our collaboration has been widening and deepening day by day.

Pune is one such a place where the Indo-Japan friendship is showcased. At present, 193 Japanese companies are established in Pune and about one-third of them are head offices of their Indian business. In 2006, Pune and Okayama Prefecture of Japan signed the Friendship Exchange Agreement. The embodiment of this friendship between the two can be seen in the form of the “Pune Okayama Friendship Garden,” which is a replica of the famous Korakuen Garden in Okayama. Moreover, just yesterday, a Japanese Language Speech Contest was organized here in Pune.

Today, with the commencement of the “Project for Pollution Abatement of Rivers Mula-Mutha in Pune,” supported by JICA, we are witnessing the future of India-Japan relations unfold in front of us. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to Honorable Prime Minister and the people of Pune for this significant project, which will contribute to significantly improve the public health of the city. I am delighted to learn that the construction work of 11 sewage treatment plants (STPs) and sewerage networks as well as their operation & maintenance for 15 years have been delegated to the joint venture of Enviro Control, an Indian company, and Toshiba Water Solutions, a Japanese company. I earnestly hope that this Indo-Japan joint venture will exemplify our bilateral cooperation in the private sector.

This year 2022 marks the 75th anniversary of the independence of India as well as the 70th anniversary of the establishment of India-Japan diplomatic relations. It gives me great pleasure to witness the strengthening of our bilateral relationship through the remarkable project in Pune in such a commemorative year.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who has made today’s inauguration a huge success.

Thank you and Congratulations!!

March 6, 2022

SUZUKI Satoshi
Ambassador of Japan to India