

- **India, Japan welcome progress made in Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor**

In a joint statement issued here after delegation-level talks held here, Prime Ministers Shinto Abe and Dr. Manmohan Singh described the DMIC as a visionary India-Japan Strategic Partnership project which would enable India to access innovative, cutting edge technologies.

They also expressed satisfaction over the progress made in the implementation of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC). They expressed satisfaction that in Phase-I the procurement of civil works was at an advanced stage and that the Engineering Service Consultants for Phase-II were already in position.

The two Prime Ministers also expressed satisfaction with the signing of the first tranche of the Main Loan Agreement for Phase-II totalling approximately 136 billion Yen.

Both leaders shared the view that all instruments of funding of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), including the Special Term for Economic Partnership (STEP) may be explored.

They reviewed the rapid progress made in absorbing next generation technologies through smart community projects and directed the relevant authorities to vigorously accelerate implementation of the seawater desalination project at Dahej, Gujarat, the Model Solar Project in Neemrana, Rajasthan, and the gas-fired independent power producer (IPP) project in Maharashtra.

The two prime ministers also stressed on the early realization of other smart community projects and directed that all necessary measures be taken to provide solutions for provision of gas at reasonable rates and for electricity and environmental regulations so that each project moves ahead speedily as a symbol of India-Japan strategic partnership.

Noting the importance of increasing Japanese investment and business in India for economic growth of both countries, they expressed their expectation to advance cooperation between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan in the framework of India's "National Manufacturing Policy" in such areas as industrial human resource development and business environment improvement.

According to the joint statement, the two leaders also highly appreciated the achievements of the Visionary Leaders for Manufacturing (VLFM) programme as a valuable Japanese contribution to the development of the manufacturing sector in India and welcomed the development of this programme as the new project 'Champions of Societal Manufacturing' (CSM).

Prime Minister Singh noted Japan's interest in supporting the introduction of high speed railway system in India. Prime Minister Singh appreciated Japan's high level of expertise in designing and implementing High Speed Railway (Shinkansen) systems. Prime Minister Singh conveyed that India will plan such projects based on its infrastructure priorities, commercial viability and financial resources in India. The two Prime Ministers decided that the two sides will co-finance a joint feasibility study of High Speed Railway system on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route.