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Bullet train will boost GSDP of Maharashtra, Gujarat: CM

State gets nod for Rs 30K cr loan from Japan that will expedite Metro: Fadnavis

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MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

CHIEF MINISTER Devendra Fadnavis said Thursday the high-speed bullet train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai would boost economic growth and lead to higher Gross State Development Product (GSDP) for both Maharashtra and Gujarat. Stating that Maharashtra was fortunate to have the first bullet train in the country, Fadnavis said the Japanese government has given its consent to provide Rs 30,000 crore for infrastructure projects in Mumbai. The two crucial projects for which the state government will seek financial support from the Japanese government are the Metro network and the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL).

"The Japanese government has agreed to give Rs 30,000 crore for mega-infrastructure projects in Mumbai," Fadnavis said. The state government reckons that the Japanese government's commitment to provide loans, for both the bullet train and infrastructure projects, spread over a period of 50 years at a low interest rate of 0.1 per cent would not financially burden Maharashtra.

A source in the government said: "The total cost of the bullet train project would be Rs 80,000 crore at an interest rate of 0.1 per cent. In the first 15 years, the state government does not have to make any repayment."

The state will have to bear only 25 per cent of the cost unlike Gujarat. The loan of Rs 30,000 crore for the Metro and MTHL projects would be for 40 years with an interest rate of 0.5 per cent.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe performed the 'ground-breaking' ceremony of the bullet train project in Ahmedabad.



PM Narendra Modi, his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe, Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis during the ground-breaking ceremony for the high speed rail project, in Ahmedabad on Thursday. PTI

Fadnavis, who was also present, highlighted how the investments would help fast-track projects in Mumbai.

The economic survey of Maharashtra (2016-17) pegs the state's GSDP growth rate at 9.4 per cent. For agriculture and allied sectors the growth rate is 12.5 per cent, for industry it is 6.7 per cent and the service sector it is 10.8 per cent. The state has set a target to take its GSDP to 12 per cent in the next fiscal.

"We are not just laying the foundation stone for the bullet train but for a new India that is the concept and dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Although Maharashtra and Gujarat are fortunate to have the first project, I believe, the benefits would extend to the entire country," Fadnavis said.

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train will pass through 12 stations and reduce the travel time between the two cities from seven hours to three hours.

The state government has described the Japanese PM's visit as a step forward to realising projects in Mumbai.

The 172.5-km Metro network across Mumbai worth Rs 80,000 crore has been in the pipeline for several decades. Officials believe that the soft loan from the Japanese government would help fast-track the project to provide a better and faster mode of transport for Mumbaikars. The developments would also help expedite the 21.8-km stretch of the MTHL aimed at decongesting the city and connecting the island city of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai through Sewri-Nhava Sheva.

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'Fly' on train from Mumbai by 2022

Modi, Abe lay foundation stone for the ₹1,10,000 crore, 508 km high-speed railway link to Ahmedabad

MAHESH LANGA
KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE
GANDHINAGAR

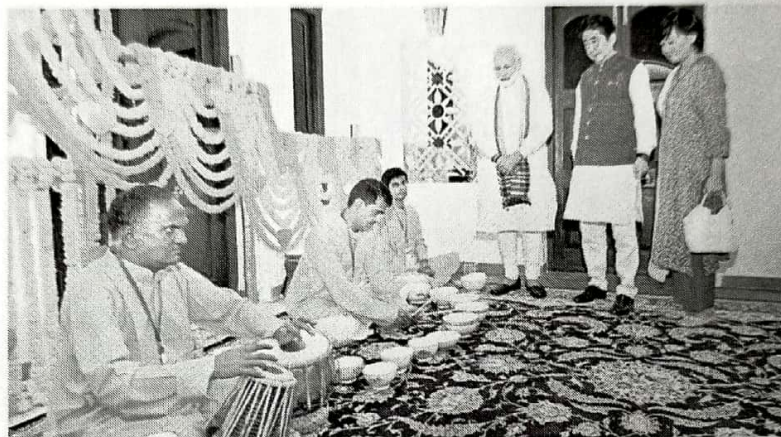
Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe on Thursday laid the foundation stone in Ahmedabad for the country's first ₹1,10,000 crore, 508 km high-speed rail project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The ambitious project is being implemented with nearly 90% financial support and technology from Japan.

To be built on elevated corridor with a seven-km undersea tunnel in Mumbai, the project will be based on the famed Japanese Shinkansen high-speed railway system with a record of zero casualties in its 50 years of operation.

'Symbol of New India'

The Narendra Modi government has set an ambitious deadline to complete the project on August 15, 2022 when India marks 75 years of Independence. The project will be executed through a special purpose vehicle, the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd.

"The bullet train project



Setting stage: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Japanese PM Shinzo Abe and his wife Akie Abe, witness the performance of 'Jal Tarang' in Ahmedabad. •PTI

will take care of high speed, high growth and high-end technology," Mr. Modi said, describing it as "a symbol of New India" that his government wants to build by 2022.

According to him, the bullet train project will be "humanity friendly" and "eco-friendly" and will usher in the next generation economic growth along the corridor between the two cities.

However, launching the ground breaking ceremony

of the project just two months before the Gujarat Assembly polls has invited sharp reaction from the opposition Congress.

"Its good to have bullet train but lets not forget that the Ahmedabad is yet to have a metro train despite the Gujarat government talking about it for 10 years. And also under his government, railways have seen highest number of accidents and daily there is an incident of

train derailment in the country," said Congress leader and in charge of Gujarat Ashok Gehlot.

Special, strategic ties

"Japan has been a friend of India and this friendship has stood the test of time," Mr. Modi said, giving credit for speedy implementation of the project to his "personal friend" Mr. Abe.

In his address, Mr. Abe said he hopes to enjoy the

beauty of India through the windows of the bullet train in next few years. "I would like to state that India-Japan partnership is special, strategic and global and Japan is committed to support 'Make in India' and Japanese industries were working with the country to boost the manufacturing base in India," he said.

India's Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd and Japan's Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd will tie up for manufacturing the rolling stock for bullet train project, Mr. Abe said. Stressing on the strong Indo-Japan partnership, Mr. Abe said, "A strong India is in favour of Japan and a strong Japan is in favour of India."

As part of the project, a training centre in Vadodara is being set up to train over 4,000 employees who will be responsible for execution, operation and maintenance of the bullet train. The project will cover 12 stations - Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad and Sabarmati - and once operational, the train is expected to service 1.5 crore travellers a year.

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Bullet train dream inches closer, to run in 2022

Modi, Abe lay foundation stone for A'bad-Mumbai bullet train project



PM Modi and Shinzo Abe at groundbreaking ceremony of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project, in Ahmedabad, on Thursday —PTI

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Get ready to see paradigm shift in the field of transportation as the dream of bullet train has come inches close to reality. The first bullet train of the country will connect Ahmedabad and Mumbai and foundation stone for the same was laid by Prime Ministers of Japan and India Shinzo Abe and Narendra Modi on Thursday near to Sabarmati Railway station in the city.

The 508-km National High Speed Rail Project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, (MAHSR) will reduce journey time between Ahmedabad and Mumbai to 2.07 hours from the 8 hours it takes at present.

This is possible due to operating speed of 320 kmph, the highest in the world currently for a railway system on wheels. The Japanese technology Shinkansen is being used for MAHSR. Japan will fund the project, whose cost is estimated Rs 1 lakh crore out of which 81 per cent fund is allocated

from Japan as a soft-loan at the interest rate of 0.1 per cent. Japan is going to fund Rs 88,000 crore. The ambitious project is going to complete by 2022.

Foundation stone laying ceremony was also held for a training centre for high speed rail network at Vadodara.

The Rs 1 lakh crore project will bring many changes in country Modi said during the event. "It's a new chapter in Indian history which is going to bring many changes. Earlier the civilisations and development happens near to river banks. Now the next generation growth will happen around the high speed corridors. It may be road, water an air corridors," said Modi.

Modi said this project will not only shorten distance between places but among people too.

Japanese PM Shinzo Abe also expressed a desire to travel to Ahmedabad by bullet train next time.

"This train will fulfil Narendra Modi's Make in India dream. Japan is with him for his dream of New India," added Abe.

FEATURES OF BULLET TRAIN

SAFETY

Based on Shinkansen design with a record of zero passenger fatalities in over 50 years of operation. Equipped with disaster prevention system. Railway track with no level crossing.

SPEED:

Travel time reduced from 8 hrs to 2 hrs.

COMFORT:

Rotating seats, special seats for disabled.

ECO-FRIENDLY:

CO2 emission per km travelled is 1/4th that of an aeroplane, 2/7th of a car

ENERGY SAVING:

Energy consumption per km travelled is 1/3rd that of an aeroplane, 1/5th of a car

CONVENIENCE:

Designed for a train every 8 minutes in each direction, the double-line length of the 508 km. Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail will be passing through two states, Maharashtra (155.642 km) and Gujarat (350.530 km) and one Union Territory — Dadra and Nagar Haveli (2 km)