India On the Move

India Fights CORONA
Developed low-cost, less time diagnostic test kit “Chitra Gene LAMP-N”

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Trivandrum, an Institute of National Importance, of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has developed a diagnostic test kit “Chitra Gene LAMP-N” that can confirm COVID19 in 2 hours at a low cost. The confirmatory diagnostic test, which detects the N Gene of SARS-COV2 using reverse transcriptase loop-mediated amplification of viral nucleic acid (RT-LAMP), will be one of the world’s first few if not the first of its kinds in the world. The detection time is 10 minutes, and the sample to result time (from RNA extraction in swab to RT-LAMP detection time) will be less than 2 hours. A total of 30 samples can be tested in a single batch in a single machine allowing a large number of samples to be tested each day.


HCARD, a robot, to assist frontline COVID-19 healthcare warriors

Healthcare workers at hospitals are risking COVID-19 infection while taking care of those infected by it 24/7. Perhaps the level of risk may get reduced hereafter with the help of a new friend, HCARD. The robotic device HCARD, in short for Hospital Care Assistive Robotic Device, can help frontline healthcare workers in maintaining physical distance from those infected by coronavirus.

HCARD is developed by Durgapur-based CSIR lab, Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute. The device is equipped with various state-of-the-art technologies and works both in automatic as well as manual modes of navigation.

This robot can be controlled and monitored by a nursing booth with a control station having such features as navigation, drawer activation for providing medicines and food to patients, sample collection and audio-visual communication.


You have to dream before your dreams can come true.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Ex-President of India

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COVID-19 & India's Efforts on Science and Technology (S&T) Front

- Team led by IIT Bombay student develops low-cost mechanical ventilator Ruhdaar, Design has been incubated at Design Innovation Centre, IUST, Pulwama [Details at https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1618378]
- A team of engineering students from IIT Bombay, Nit Srinagar and Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Awantipora, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir has come up with a low-cost ventilator using locally available materials. (https://youtu.be/0EeaVn4i8Ng)
- AarogyaSetu: A multi-dimensional bridge (a mobile app developed in public-private partnership and will enable people to assess themselves the risk for their catching the Corona Virus infection. It will calculate this based on their interaction with others, using cutting edge Bluetooth technology, algorithms and artificial intelligence.) (https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1610301)
India Fights Corona: Efforts on Science and Technology (S&T) Front

- Masks that use electrostatics of materials to protect healthy individuals from COVID 19 developed by DST's CeNS. (https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1615785)
- Science-based website on COVID 19 launched (https://covid-gyan.in)
- DST's Vigyan Prasar started Science and Technology (S&T) efforts by India on COVID19. Details at https://vigyanprasar.gov.in/covid19-newsletters/
India Fights Corona : Efforts on Science and Technology (S&T) Front

- IIT-Roorkee & a start-up at IIT-Hyderabad’s incubation center developed low-cost portable ventilators called Prana-Vayu & “Jeevan Lite” respectively.
- Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre has reported COVID19 whole genome sequence which will be helpful in tracking origin, drug targets, vaccine & association with virulence.
Excerpts from PM Modi thoughts on "Life in the era of COVID-19"

On 19th April 2020, Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi shared few thoughts on LinkedIn, which would interest youngsters and professionals. Following is the text of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi’s thoughts which was shared on LinkedIn.

"It has been a topsy-turvy start to the third decade of this century. COVID-19 has brought with it many disruptions. Coronavirus has significantly changed the contours of professional life. These days, home is the new office. The Internet is the new meeting room. For the time being, office breaks with colleagues are history.

I have also been adapting to these changes. Most meetings, be it with minister colleagues, officials and world leaders, are now via video conferencing. In order to get ground level feedback from various stakeholders, there have been videoconference meetings with several sections of society. There were extensive interactions with NGOs, civil society groups and community organisations. Besides that, I have been making numerous phone calls daily, taking feedback from different sections of society.

One is seeing the ways through which people are continuing their work in these times.

The work place is getting Digital First. And, why not?

After all, the most transformational impact of Technology often happens in the lives of the poor. It is technology that demolishes bureaucratic hierarchies, eliminates middlemen and accelerates welfare measures.

Let me give you an example. When we got the opportunity to serve in 2014, we started connecting Indians, especially the poor with their Jan Dhan Account, Aadhar & Mobile number. This seemingly simple connection has not only stopped corruption and rent seeking that was going on for decades, but has also enabled the Government to transfer money at the click of a button. This click of a button has replaced multiple levels of hierarchies on the file and also weeks of delay. India has perhaps the largest such infrastructure in the world. This infrastructure has helped us tremendously in transferring money directly and immediately to the poor and needy, benefiting crores of families, during the COVID-19 situation.

Another case in point is the education sector. There are many outstanding professionals already innovating in this sector. Invigorating technology in this sector has its benefits. The Government of India has also undertaken efforts such as the DIKSHA Portal, to help teachers and boost e-learning. There is SWAYAM, aimed at improving access, equity and quality of education. E-Pathshala, which is available in many languages, enables access to various e-books and such learning material.

Today, the world is in pursuit of new business models.

India, a youthful nation known for its innovative zeal can take the lead in providing a new work culture.

I envision this new business and work culture being redefined on the following vowels. I call them- vowels of the new normal- because like vowels in the English language, these would become essential ingredients of any business model in the post-COVID world.

Adaptability:

The need of the hour is to think of business and lifestyle models that are easily adaptable. Doing so would mean that even in a time of crisis, our offices, businesses and commerce could get moving faster, ensuring loss of life does not occur.

Embracing digital payments is a prime example of adaptability. Shop owners big and small should invest in digital tools that keep commerce connected, especially in times of crisis. India is already witnessing an encouraging surge in digital transactions.

Another example is telemedicine. We are already seeing several consultations without actually going to the clinic or hospital. Again, this is a positive sign. Can we think of business models to help further telemedicine across the world?

....continue
Excerpts from PM Modi thoughts on "Life in the era of COVID-19"

....Continue from page 4

**Efficiency:**
Perhaps, this is the time to think of reimagining what we refer to as being efficient. Efficiency cannot only be about how much time was spent in the office.

We should perhaps think of models where productivity and efficiency matter more than appearance of effort. The emphasis should be on completing a task in the specified time frame.

**Inclusivity:**
Let us develop business models that attach primacy to care for the poor, the most vulnerable as well as our planet.

We have made major progress in combating climate change. Mother Nature has demonstrated to us her magnificence, showing us how quickly it can flourish when human activity is slower. There is a significant future in developing technologies and practices that reduce our impact on the planet. Do more with less.

COVID-19 has made us realise the need to work on health solutions at low cost and large scale. We can become a guiding light for global efforts to ensure the health and well being of humanity.

We should invest in innovations to make sure our farmers have access to information, machinery, and markets no matter what the situation, that our citizens have access to essential goods.

**Opportunity:**
Every crisis brings with it an opportunity. COVID-19 is no different. Let us evaluate what might be the new opportunities/growth areas that would emerge now.

Rather than playing catch up, India must be ahead of the curve in the post-COVID world. Let us think about how our people, our skills sets, our core capabilities can be used in doing so.

**Universalism:**
COVID-19 does not see race, religion, colour, caste, creed, language or border before striking. Our response and conduct thereafter should attach primacy to unity and brotherhood. We are in this together.

Unlike previous moments in history, when countries or societies faced off against each other, today we are together facing a common challenge. The future will be about togetherness and resilience.

The next big ideas from India should find global relevance and application. They should have the ability to drive a positive change not merely for India but for the entire humankind.

Logistics was previously only seen through the prism of physical infrastructure – roads, warehouses, ports. But logistical experts these days can control global supply chains through the comfort of their own homes.

India, with the right blend of the physical and the virtual can emerge as the global nerve centre of complex modern multinational supply chains in the post COVID-19 world. Let us rise to that occasion and seize this opportunity.

I urge you all to think about this and contribute to the discourse.

The shift from BYOD to Work from Home (WFH) brings new challenges to balance the official and personal. Whatever be the case, devote time to fitness and exercising. **Try Yoga as a means to improve physical and mental wellbeing.**

Traditional medicine systems of India are known to help keep the body fit. The AYUSH Ministry has come out with a protocol that would help in staying healthy. Have a look at these as well.

Will wait to hear from you all."
CCI approves Hitachi’s proposed acquisition of 80.1% in power grid business of ABB Limited

On 7th April 2020, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves proposed acquisition of 80.1% stake by Hitachi in the power grid business of ABB Limited, in its meeting held today through video conferencing.

The proposed combination envisages acquisition of 80.1% share capital of ABB Management Holding AG (ABB Management) by Hitachi Limited (Hitachi) from ABB Limited (ABB). ABB Management will hold the entire power grid business of ABB (Target Business).

Hitachi, headquartered in Japan, is the parent company of the Hitachi group of companies. It is active in a variety of business segments including IT Solution, Energy Solution, Industry Solution, Mobility Solution, and Smart Life Solution.

The Target Business involves development, engineering, manufacturing and sale of products, systems and projects in the power grids sector.

For details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?

Bugworks Raises $7.5 Mn Series B round led by UTEC Japan To Kill MDR Bacteria

Bengaluru-based biotech startup Bugworks Research has raised $7.5 Mn in Series B funding round led by Japan-based University of Tokyo Edge Capital (UTEC). Bugwork will utilise the fundings to complete the first phase of the clinical research of the GYROX series intravenous drug. The drug, currently being researched in laboratories in Bengaluru, is said to be effective against bacterial superbugs, which are typically resistant to commonly-used antibiotics. For details visit the link https://inc42.com/buzz/bugworks-raises-7-5-mn-series-b-to-kill-drug-resistant-bacteria/

Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India

EEPC India is the premier trade and investment promotion organisation in India. It is sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, and caters to the Indian engineering sector. As an advisory body it actively contributes to the policies of the Government of India and acts as an interface between the engineering industry and the government. Set up in 1955, EEPC India now has membership base of over 13000 out of whom 60% are SMEs.

EEPC India organises a large number of promotional activities such as buyer-seller meets (BSM) – both in India and abroad, overseas trade fairs/exhibitions, and India pavilions/information booths in selected overseas exhibitions to demonstrate the capabilities of the Indian engineering industry and to provide overseas buyers with true value as propagated by Brand India.

EEPC India has been the face of Indian engineering exports over a span of 63 years when India grew from a nation exporting just $10 million of engineering goods in 1955 to $81 billion in 2018-19 and is regarded as the model EPC in India by Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

For more details visit the link https://www.eepcindia.org/ & For EEPC India E-Catalogue for Medical Device Sector : http://engineering-brands.com/catalogue/ecatalogue_product_categories

13th Indian Fashion Jewellery & Accessories Show in Virtual Avatar “IFJAS 2020 Virtual Fair” : The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) is organizing the 13th Indian Fashion Jewellery & Accessories Show in Virtual Avatar “IFJAS 2020 Virtual Fair” from 1st - 4th June, 2020. This is India’s First Virtual Fair in the handicrafts sector and an exclusive B2B platform developed to assist buyers all across the globe planning to source from India. Interested participants may register online at https://ifjas.in/visitors/ & https://ifjas.in/
India is pro-actively engaging with countries world over todevice a coordinated response in battling COVID19 pandemic. International cooperation in Medical supplies and Research & Dev is key to overcome the current situation. India has responsibly tried to live up to its international commitments while also ensuring domestic requirements.

**International Cooperation in Medical Supplies and R&D:**

Keeping in view the demand from many countries for Hydroxychloroquine and Paracetamol produced in India to treat COVID-19, India has removed the blanket ban on HCQ export and de-licensed PCM. India has gifted 5 million HCQ tablets to countries in the neighbourhood and the IOR, Africa, Latin America, Central Asia, Eurasia and West Asia. India has also provided 1.32 million PCM tablets to neighbouring and partner countries. Apart from HCQ and PCM, India will also be providing a big basket of other medical aid which includes essential drugs and life-saving antibiotics; medical consumables and other equipment for laboratories and hospitals. Value of total medicines and other supplies to be gifted by India stands at INR 38.3 Crore (about USD 5 million).

India has undertaken several medical and supply missions across the world to combat the pandemic. Operation Sanjeevani delivered 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines and hospital consumables to Maldives. Similar initiatives taken for Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Seychelles and Dominican Republic. Indian Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) comprising of doctors, nurses and paramedics have so far been deployed in Maldives and Kuwait on the request from their respective governments.

India is also procuring supplies of test kits, PPEs, masks etc through international cooperation- India has already procured 6.5 lakhs test kits, 10.5 lakhs rapid antibody test kits, 400 tonnes of medical supplies from China, test kits ventilators, goggles and PPEs from different countries including USA, South Korea, Germany etc. Collaboration between Indian and foreign agencies in research & development efforts related to COVID-19 such as on Remdesivir, PLX Cells etc.

India has continued to facilitate the evacuation of foreign nationals by their governments. 43,207 foreign nationals from 55 countries have been repatriated so far.

24 April 2020

**INVEST INDIA** ([https://www.investindia.gov.in/](https://www.investindia.gov.in/)) paper titled "Why is India the best place for Japanese Investments in the post COVID-19 world".

**Introduction:** The ongoing COVID19 outbreak has severely disrupted economic and social life across the world. Besides an ever-increasing human toll, the economic costs of the pandemic have also been immense. Recent announcements by the Japanese government offering massive incentives to their companies to move out of China and argues why Japan should look towards India as the foremost destination for diversifying its supply chains. As will be seen through the course of this paper, India offers several unique returns for Japanese companies to boost their presence and investments in the country in the post-COVID world.

**Conclusion:** India has a variety of factors and reasons to be the favorite destination for Japanese investments, including its global role and position as a key international player, its large market size offering immense opportunities for trade, its consistently strong growth rates, its vast pool of cheap yet skilled labour and last but not the least, its open and democratic values. A deepening of the Indo-Japanese relationship proves a win-win for both; promoting India as the prime place for Japanese companies to invest in, goes a long way in that direction.

India in Japan

03 Indians among the 2020 Spring Decorations recipients (Japan’s National Decorations)

On 29th April 2020, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2020 Spring Decorations (Japan’s National Decorations). Among recipients, 03 are Indians viz.

1. Professor Anita Khanna, Former Professor, Centre for Japanese Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi has received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, in recognition of her contributions to developing Japanese language education and promoting mutual understanding between Japan and India.

2. Mr. Rohit Relan, Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Seats Ltd, and Co-Chair, Indo-Japan Business Cooperation Committee has received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, in recognition of his contributions towards promoting economic exchanges between Japan and India.

3. Dr. Thangjam Dhabali Singh, Former President, Manipur Tourism Forum has received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, in recognition of his contributions to promoting the understanding of Japan in India, and friendship between Japan and India.


Telephone Conversation between PM of India and Prime Minister of Japan

April 10, 2020

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spoke on telephone today with H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

The two leaders discussed the global health and economic challenges emerging out of the COVID-19 pandemic. They also discussed the steps taken in their respective countries to deal with this crisis.

Both leaders expressed appreciation for the support and facilitation provided during the present crisis to each other's citizens present in their respective territories, and agreed to continue such coordination.

The two leaders agreed that the India-Japan partnership could play a critical role in helping the world find solutions to the challenges arising out of the pandemic.


On 14 April Amb HE Sanjay Kumar Verma and DCM Mr Raj Srivastava interacted with NASSCOM members and representatives of Indian IT companies in Japan. Ambassador informed about various Embassy of India initiatives and discussed challenges & opportunities in IT sector in the context of COVID19 pandemic.
On 28th April 2020, in an effort to sensitize Indian Community in Japan about COVID19, Embassy of India Tokyo and CGI Osaka organized an online talk with Indian Community including Representatives from Indian Associations in Japan. The topic of the talk was "COVID19: How to deal with it? Facts & Myths" by Prof (Dr) Ruby Pawankar [MD, PhD, FRCP (UK), FAAAAAL, HoD of Allergy, Dept of Pediatrics, Nippon Medical School Tokyo & Guest Prof at Showa University School of Medical School Tokyo; President, Asia Pacific Association of Allergy Asthma and Clinical Immunology; Past President, World Allergy Organisation (1st Woman President) & Pravasi Bhartiya Samman (PBS) 2010 Awardee].

Talk began with remarks by H.E. Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan. Following HE Ambassador remarks, Dr. Ruby Pawankar made an hour long detailed presentation on #COVID19 facts viz what is COVID19, Global Scenario, mechanism of infection of COVID19, Symptoms, Disorders in COVID19, Risk Factors for COVID19, Mode of transmission & spread, do's and dont's to remain safe incl for pregnant & breast feeding mothers, Preparedness for protection, What to do in case of a situation, importance of healthy diet & healthy lifestyle including by #Yoga, etc and busted various myths around the COVID19 pandemic including stigma related to patients. Following presentation, Dr Pawankar took various Questions from participants and replied them. Questions were ranging from use of masks, healthy food, what to do in case someone is COVID positive in surrounding, . She advised all participants to remain healthy, safe and alert by following the instructions by Japanese Authorities besides avoid panic and myths.

The talk can be seen at

Embassy organized a online talk for Indian Community "COVID19: How to deal with it? Facts & Myths" by Dr Ruby Pawankar

On 3rd April, Embassy interacted with representatives of Indian associations in Japan over Video Conference. Amb HE Sanjay Kumar Verma spoke about COVID19 situation in India, precautions to take, suspension of commercial flight services, etc & responded to queries of participants.

On 9th April, Embassy interacted with representatives of Indian associations in Japan over Video Conference. Amb HE Sanjay Kumar Verma spoke about COVID19 situation in India, precautions to take, suspension of commercial flight services, etc & responded to queries of participants.
Indian Professor Dr Thalappil Pradeep of IIT Madras won prestigious 25th Nikkei Asia Prize 2020 in Science & Technology category for developing low-cost water Purification Technology using Nanotechnology. The deionization method was established and the world’s first filter for drinking water was developed. Supply purified water at a cost of 2 Paisa (about 0.03 yen) per liter in India. Notably, Dr Thalappil was conferred with India’s one of the highest civilian honour “Padma Shri” in 2020 for his distinguished service in the field of Science & Engineering (pioneering contribution in nanochemistry-based purification and arsenic removal).

Nikkei Asia Prizes, which are awarded each year, are designed to recognize outstanding achievements that contribute to the region’s sustainable development and to the creation of a better future for Asia. Nikkei Asia Prizes are awarded annually in three areas of achievements: “Economic and Business Innovation,” “Science and Technology” and “Culture and Community." Past winners from India are:

- Dr. Mannohman Singh (1997) [Regional Growth category]
- Mr. N. R. Narayana Murthy (2001) [Regional Growth category]
- Ms. Urvashi Butalia (2003) [Culture category]
- Mr. Gopal Venu (2007) [Culture category]
- Dr. C.N.R. Rao (2008) [Science, Technology and Innovation category]
- Ms. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (2009) [Regional Growth category]
- Dr. Tejraj Aminabhavi (2013) [Science, Technology and Innovation category]
- Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty (2014) [Economic & Business Innovation category]
- The Akshaya Patra Foundation (2016) [Economic & Business Innovation category]
- Mr. Nandan Nilekani (2017) [Economic & Business Innovation category]
- Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak (2018) [Culture and Community category]


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**Fifty Indian Books Donated to Tokyo 2020 Host Town Kurobe City**

Toyama Shimbun (April 7, 2020) & Kitanihon Shimbun (April 7, 2020)

Fifty books on the history and culture of India and calendars have been gifted to Kurobe City the host town for the Indian National Archery Team, by the Embassy of India, on April 6, 2020. Kurobe City, as Host Town, will host the Indian National Archery Team before Tokyo Olympic.

The city also received a letter written by Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma; “Ahead of the Tokyo Olympics, I would like to again express our gratitude for Kurobe City's host-town cooperation. I hope this will lead to long-term sports and cultural exchange.” & “Let us wish that the postponed event will achieve a success at an early date. Until then, let us work together for the further expansion and strengthening of our cultural exchange.”

The gifted books written in English, Hindi, and Japanese, for children, youths and adults, cover a wide range of genres and themes such as Textbooks, Photography books, Biographies, Religions, Festivals, Buddhist Art, Politics, Economy and Arts & Literature. The city will utilize the books for a special exhibition on India to be held at the City Library and Unazuki Yugakukan this year and also exhibit the books at elementary and junior high schools.

Kurobe City has been making preparations for receiving the Indian Archery Team, and also planning some familiarization programs for the citizens. Kurobe City Mayor Hisayoshi Ono visited the Embassy of India in January, and discussed the Olympics-related cooperation and long-term exchange between the city and India.
In February 2020, the academic agreement/partnership between the Indian Institute of Management Nagpur (IIM Nagpur) and Chuo University, Graduate School of Strategic Management, GSoSM was signed and has come into effect from April 2020. The agreement was signed by Prof. L S Murty (Director, IIM Nagpur), and Prof. Emiko Tsuyuki (Dean, Chuo University, GSoSM).

The partnership will entail the following activities:

1. Joint research on topical issues including entrepreneurship, cross-cultural management, and management of technology
2. Exchange of faculty members and jointly taught courses (by Chuo University, GSoSM and IIM Nagpur faculty members)
3. Student exchanges and jointly conducted projects (involving both Japanese and Indian students)
4. Jointly organized conferences
5. Jointly organized cultural events

The newly formed Indo-Japan Research Center (IJRC) at IIM Nagpur will spearhead these activities and nurture the collaborations with Japanese academia and industry all the while involving the Indian academia and industry.

On 9th April 2020 marked the 70th anniversary of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), the government body which oversees India's cultural relations with other countries, and operates Indian cultural centres across the world, including Vivekananda Cultural Centre (VCC), Embassy of India, Tokyo. Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR, addressed the students and faculty of VCC via an online conference app. ICCR President highlighted the importance of the spirit of "vasudhaiva kutumbakam" (the world is one family) for expanding India’s cultural ties with the whole world, as well as in the context of people helping each other during the current Covid 19 pandemic.

DBT India announced the launch of first Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) at Regional Centre for Biotechnology, Faridabad. A national facility to store, manage, archive and distribute all kind of biological data. More details at http://dbtindia.gov.in/latest-announcement/indian-biological-data-centre-ibdc

**Immune Booster**

Kadha, or a decoction, is a mixture of potent Indian herbs, roots, and spices which are known to boost one's immune system. Try this Immunity Booster Spice Tea Kadha to enhance the body's natural defense system.
By Komine Kenji, Asahi Shimbun (evening edition, April 10, 2020)

To this day, countless songs composed by the great modern poet, Tagore, are being sung by people of the Bengal region. What is the charm that attracts the love from people across generations? “Tagore Songs,” filmed in the Bengal region by a young Japanese director, will soon be released in cinemas.

Tagore, a Nobel Prize winner in literature, was active during the British rule. Although famous as a great “sacred poet” Tagore actually composed more than 2000 songs. These songs have long been loved by those in the Bengal region, both in India and Bangladesh.

Director Mika Sasaki has been fascinated by these songs of Tagore. Her interest was triggered while studying the Bengali language in Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. “I had an image of Tagore’s poems being noble, but to discover that he was someone close to the hearts of Bengali people is what sparked my interest.”

I learnt that Tagore’s songs in particular are rooted deeply in people’s lives, for example being used for the national anthems of India and Bangladesh. “To convey the relationship people have with songs, screen would be better than paper,” she thought and decided to make a film.

Sasaki went to the Bengal Region a total of four times to interview people such as Tagore song singers and record collectors. People say that Tagore lives inside of everyone. That they have learned everything from Tagore. If one person starts singing, then another joins in. Soft choruses are heard in open areas and streets. “Simply asking a local, ‘what kind of person is Tagore?’ and they would start singing their favorite song,” Sasaki smiles.

Although this is Sasaki’s first work, the film and its structure are well made and masterful. She’s been to workshops and says, “I learnt how to move cameras and write plots from one.” She brought her project to a professional producer and with the premise of a theater release, she was joined by three staff members on her side.

“This will go out to the world and I want to make something I’m not ashamed of.” Sasaki’s film made with this passion will be released in theaters beginning from Tokyo. “Over generations, many people have been supported by Tagore’s songs. Although Tagore is unfamiliar in Japan, I hope his charms will be conveyed through this film.”
India released National List of 100 Intangible Cultural Heritage

On World Heritage Day (18th April), during Dekho Apna Desh (Let’s See Country) webinar series H’ble Minister of Culture Mr Prahalad Patel unveiled a National List of 100 Intangible Cultural Heritage (13 of which have also been recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity).

The National ICH List is an attempt to recognize the diversity of Indian culture embedded in its intangible heritage. He said that It aims to raise awareness about the various intangible cultural heritage elements from different states of India at national and international level and ensure their protection.

Following UNESCO's 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, this list has been classified into 5 broad domains in which intangible cultural heritage is manifested:

- Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage;
- Performing arts;
- Social practices, rituals and festive events;
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;
- Traditional craftsmanship.

Few examples are:

For details visit the link [https://www.indiaculture.nic.in/national-list-intangible-cultural-heritage-ich](https://www.indiaculture.nic.in/national-list-intangible-cultural-heritage-ich)
ATTENTION INDIAN COMMUNITY
Please DO NOT fall prey to FRAUD / SPOOF CALLS demanding money or seeking personnel information.
BE ALERT and inform any such incident.

The Embassy of India, Tokyo would like to draw kind attention of Indian Community in Japan about fraudulent calls being received by members of Indian community, especially Indian students and professionals, from unscrupulous elements using name of Indian Embassy and spoofed telephone numbers. The callers generally speak English and sometimes Hindi.

It is requested that in the event of receiving such calls, the number from which call has originated, date and time of call, contact number on which call was received and nature of demand or threat may be furnished to the local Police as well as Embassy of India, Tokyo at following email IDs sscons.tokyo@mea.gov.in with cc to fscons.tokyo@mea.gov.in and mincons.tokyo@mea.gov.in (in prescribed format below).

https://www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/pdf/Advisory_on_Fraud_Calls_sep25.pdf?fbclid=IwAR29u8icPkJ-NR19HPZMY_EVvnKotM56GloaA0cFcw1QSGPNdjaXWOpqUoc