India On the Move

Mission Shakti, India’s Anti-Satellite Missile test conducted on 27 March, 2019

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on 27 March 2019 successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test ‘Mission Shakti’ from the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. A DRDO-developed Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Interceptor Missile successfully engaged an Indian orbiting target satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in a ‘Hit to Kill’ mode. The interceptor missile was a three-stage missile with two solid rocket boosters. Tracking data from range sensors has confirmed that the mission met all its objectives.

Facts on Mission Shakti

I. What was the test?
1. On March 27, 2019 India conducted Mission Shakti, an anti-satellite missile test, from the Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Island launch complex. This was a technological mission carried out by DRDO. The satellite used in the mission was one of India’s existing satellites operating in lower orbit. The test was fully successful and achieved all parameters as per plans. The test required an extremely high degree of precision and technical capability.

2. The significance of the test is that India has tested and successfully demonstrated its capability to interdict and intercept a satellite in outer space based on complete indigenous technology.

3. With this test, India joins an exclusive group of space faring nations consisting of USA, Russia and China.

II. Which satellite was used?
The satellite used was an Indian satellite.

III. Which Missile/Interceptor was used?
The DRDO’s Ballistic Missile Defence interceptor was used, which is part of the ongoing ballistic missile defence programme.

....Continue Page 2

Because being in India doesn’t matter, being an Indian does!

#EveryIndianVOTE COUNTS

Beware of fake news in social media informing that "Those who hold Indian passport, can now vote online for 2019 elections." There is no online voting facility for any category of voter. Overseas Indians may submit application for enrolment in form 6A online at nvsp.in or by using Voter helpline mobile app. To Cast the vote on the date of poll, an overseas elector may come to his designated Polling station with his Passport

Quote: "Non violence is virtue of the strong"
MAHATAMA GANDHI

Inside this issue:

India on the Move 1
The India & Japan Stories 3
India In Japan 6
India & Business 8
Indian Elections 10
S&T / Sports / Education 11
Tourism 13
Cultural Outreach 14
Scholarships/Admission on Offer 15
Find Us At 17
IV. There are other ways to demonstrate ASAT capabilities such as "fly-by tests" and Jamming. Why has India used the particular technology of Kinetic Kill?
This is a technology where India has developed capability. Space technologies are constantly evolving. We have used the technology that is appropriate to achieve the objectives set out in this mission.

V. Does the test create space debris?
The test was done in the lower atmosphere to ensure that there is no space debris. Whatever debris that is generated will decay and fall back onto the earth within weeks.

VI. Why did India do the test?
1. India has a long standing and rapidly growing space programme. It has expanded rapidly in the last five years. The Mangalyaan Mission to Mars was successfully launched. Thereafter, the government has sanctioned the Gaganyaan Mission which will take Indians to outer space.
2. India has undertaken 102 spacecraft missions consisting of communication satellites, earth observation satellites, experimental satellites, navigation satellites, apart from satellites meant for scientific research and exploration, academic studies and other small satellites. India’s space programme is a critical backbone of India’s security, economic and social infrastructure.
3. The test was done to verify that India has the capability to safeguard our space assets. It is the Government of India’s responsibility to defend the country’s interests in outer space.

VII. Why was the test done now?
The tests were done after we had acquired the required degree of confidence to ensure its success, and reflects the intention of the government to enhance India’s national security. India has seen an accelerated space development programme since 2014.

VIII. Is India entering into an arms race in outer space?
1. India has no intention of entering into an arms race in outer space. We have always maintained that space must be used only for peaceful purposes. India is against the weaponization of Outer Space and support international efforts to reinforce the safety and security of space based assets.
2. India believes that Outer space is the common heritage of humankind and it is the responsibility of all space-faring nations to preserve & promote the benefits flowing from advances made in space technology & its applications for all.
3. India is a party to all the major international treaties relating to Outer Space. India already implements a number of Transparency and Confidence Building Measures (TCBMs) – including registering space objects with the UN register, prelaunch notifications, measures in harmony with the UN Space Mitigation Guidelines, participation in Inter Agency Space Debris Coordination (IADC) activities with regard to space debris management, undertaking SOPA (Space Object Proximity Awareness) and COLA (Collision Avoidance) Analysis and numerous international cooperation activities, including hosting the UN affiliated Centre for Space and Science Technology Education in Asia and Pacific. India has been participating in all sessions of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
4. India supported UNGA resolution 69/32 on No First Placement of Weapons on Outer Space. India see the No First Placement of weapons in outer space as only an interim step and not a substitute for concluding substantive legal measures to ensure the prevention of an arms race in outer space, which should continue to be a priority for the international community.
5. India supports the substantive consideration of the issue of Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) in the Conference on Disarmament where it has been on the agenda since 1982.

IX. What is the international law on weapons in outer space?
1. The principal international Treaty on space is 1967 Outer Space Treaty. India is a signatory to this treaty, and ratified it in 1982. The Outer Space Treaty prohibits only weapons of mass destruction in outer space, not ordinary weapons.
2. India expects to play a role in the future in the drafting of international law on prevention of an arms race in outer space including inter alia on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space in its capacity as a major space faring nation with proven space technology.
3. India is not in violation of any international law or Treaty to which it is a Party or any national obligation.

X. Is the test directed against any country?
1. The test is not directed against any country. India’s space capabilities do not threaten any country and nor are they directed against anyone.
2. At the same time, the Government of India is committed to ensuring the country’s national security interests and is alert to threats from emerging technologies. The capability achieved through the Anti-Satellite missile test provides credible deterrence against threats to our growing space-based assets from long range missiles, and proliferation in the types and numbers of missiles.
When starting up, every entrepreneur faces a hundred struggles from product development, team building, creating a differentiation but the most difficult of them all, most startup founders would agree, is funding. Without investment from external parties, very few startups have lived and grown to tell their stories. Naturally, startup founders who bootstrap and taste success stand out in the crowd.

The following women have bootstrapped their startups to success:

- **Shwetha Poddar**: Shwetha, 28, started an online rental platform for men’s fashion -Candid Knots- with her own savings of Rs 10 lakh, in 2016 in Bengaluru. An Erode-based VIT graduate, Shweta hails from a family that is into the textiles business. The startup has partnered with various high-end designers and labels, and has its own in-house brand. With a team of 12, CandidKnots is closing this fiscal with Rs 3 crore in revenue.

- **Vinothini Raju**: Originally from Erode, computer science graduate Vinothini spent a decade in corporate, building and testing network protocols, when she stumbled upon cloud technology. Realising that the cloud would soon need experts who could deploy services and operate them through automation, she founded Bluemeric, a cloud and devOps company in 2011. She began working as an engineer and now has a team of 25 working on cloud technology for several internet companies in the US.

- **Nidhi Yadav**: Nidhi started women’s ethnic clothing brand AKS, when she was just 25 and a mother of a seven-month-old baby. A software engineer by qualification, she has done a one-year course in Fashion Buying and Merchandising at the Polimoda Fashion School in Florence, Italy. In 2014, she launched contemporary ethnic fashion brand AKS, with her savings of Rs 3.5 lakh. AKS is closing this fiscal with Rs 100 crore in revenue.

- **Meenakshi Gupta Jain**: Meenakshi started Helper4U in 2014, in Mumbai - an employment exchange on phone to hire ABCDE (Ayah, Bai, Cook, Driver and Everyone similar). It provides services like training and background checks before hiring a help for the customer. Now 50, Meenakshi has worked in business development, content, corporate training, before embracing entrepreneurship. In 2013, she founded clickforcoach.com, an online platform connecting teachers and students. (It shut down after two years.)

- **Aparna Thakker**: Aparna, 37, is the founder and CEO of Empowerji, a startup that aims to offer digital literacy to senior citizens. A mother of two, Aparna launched Empowerji app in December 2018 to empower mobile phone users above the age of 50, to learn how to use basic apps through short videos. Mumbai-based Aparna had earlier co-founded KoolKampus, a cloud-based educational platform. She was also part of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Entrepreneurship Bootcamp programme in 2017.

- **Anitha Shankar and Tejashree Madhu**: The Bengaluru-based duo left their 15-year-long corporate career, to focus on going green, in 2017. They launched AstuEco with Rs 1 crore from their personal savings, to manufacture and sell eco-friendly plates, trays, glasses, cups, and containers that are 100 percent natural and biodegradable. As part of AstuEco, the entrepreneur duo has also established Good Earth Astu Research (GEAR) Centre, to find better products that are bio-degradable, compostable, nontoxic, chemical-free, and safer for man, animal and earth.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)’s PSLVC45 successfully launched EMISAT and 28 customer satellites [from Spain (1), Lithuania (2), Switzerland (1) and the United States (24)] from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. EMISAT is a satellite built around ISRO’s Mini Satellite-2 bus weighing about 436 kg and has been placed in sun-synchronous polar orbit of 748 km height. The satellite is intended for electromagnetic spectrum measurement.

State-owned NHPC on 15 March 2019 said its board has approved raising around $100 million from MUFG Bank, Japan's largest bank, to partly finance its ongoing projects. The company's board, which met Friday, has approved raising of fund through external commercial borrowing (ECB) in JPY equivalent to USD 100 million from MUFG Bank to part finance the capital expenditure on on-going projects, other permissible activities, NHPC said in a regulatory filing. The board also approved issuance of "fully serviced bonds" of up to Rs 2,017.20 crore as per mandate given by the government for 2018-19 through unsecured, redeemable, taxable, non-cumulative, non-convertible, taxable bonds in one or more series or tranches on private placement basis from domestic market, it added.

Indian Railways has successfully eliminated all Un-Manned Level Crossings (UMLCs) throughout the country. With this historic move, train accidents and station mishaps will now be fewer.
India pilots resolutions on Single-use Plastics and Sustainable Nitrogen management at 4th UNEA

In a significant first, India piloted resolutions on two important global environment issues relating to Single-use Plastics and Sustainable Nitrogen management at the fourth session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) which was held in Nairobi from 11th to 15th March 2019. UNEA adopted both the resolutions with consensus. The theme of the UNEA this year was Innovative Solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable production and consumption.

The global nitrogen use efficiency is low, resulting in pollution by reactive nitrogen which threatens human health, eco system services, contributes to climate change and stratospheric ozone depletion. Only a small proportion of the plastics produced globally are recycled with most of it damaging the environment and aquatic bio-diversity. Both these are global challenges and the resolutions piloted by India at the UNEA are vital first steps towards addressing these issues and attracting focus of the global community.

JICA to Support IIT-H’s Campus Development: The ground breaking ceremony, the first day of construction, of 25 advanced buildings in IIT Hyderabad was held on March 28, 2019. The project is supported by JICA under “Campus Development Project”.

3rd Indo-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction held in New Delhi

The 3rd Indo-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction was held here today. The workshop was attended by about 140 delegates from Japan and India including experts from both the governments, top premium research institutes, city administrators, specialized Disaster Management agencies and private sector.

The Government of India and the Government of Japan had signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in September 2017. The 3rd Indo-Japan workshop is the follow-up of the deliberations held during the 1st Indo-Japan Workshop on DRR held on March 18-19, 2018 in New Delhi as well as during the 2nd Indo-Japan workshop on DRR held on October 13-15, 2018 in Tokyo, Japan. The 3rd workshop was organized with an objective of enhancing collaboration between research institutes, cities and the private sector in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction.

Inaugurating the workshop, Dr. P. K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, said that both India and Japan have world class research institutions and collaboration among them can lead to capacity building at all levels. He added that the collaboration between cities, research institutions and private sector will also result in mutual benefit and long-term Disaster Risk Reduction. Our world is changing very fast and evolving targets of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) need to be supported by solid research. He emphasised that the collaboration between India and Japan should be strengthened in the areas of Early Warning Systems, build-back-better, capacity development, Science & Technology application and institution strengthening.

The Japanese delegation included Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Cabinet Office, Mr. Akihiro Nakamura, Ambassador of Japan to India, Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, along with Government officials, domain experts from leading research institutes and various private companies working in the fields of Disaster Risk Reduction had participated in this workshop. Japanese Ambassador, in his address, appreciated that the workshop has been held once every six months and reiterated the significance of three themes set for this workshop as collaboration amongst research institutes, among cities and among private companies, from the point of view that Disaster Risk Reduction should be strengthened in the areas of Early Warning Systems, build-back-better, capacity development, Science & Technology application and institution strengthening.

Ms Mami Mizutori, Assistant Secretary General and Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), in her address, said that disasters are complex problems, and no country or organization has all the answers on how to best mitigate every type of disaster. India and Japan are two countries that have faced some of the biggest disasters in human history, but have also taken concrete steps towards better Disaster Management in the future. There is a lot to share between the two countries and she strongly believed that their joint efforts will advance global resilience. On the sidelines of the event, Dr. P. K. Mishra held bilateral talks with Mr. Akihiro Nakamura, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Cabinet Office, Japan. During bilateral talks, the two countries reaffirmed their commitment for bilateral cooperation in the areas of Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
Japan’s Voyage Group invested in India’s StayAbode

Bengaluru-based StayAbode Ventures Pvt. Ltd, which offers co-living spaces, has raised additional capital as part of its pre-Series A funding round from new investor Japanese media and advertising technology company Voyage Group. The firm’s existing investors Akatsuki Entertainment Technology Fund (AET Fund), the investment arm of Japanese gaming company Akatsuki Inc., and Incubate Fund, a Japanese seed investment firm also put in money, a statement by the startup said. This is the Voyage Group’s first investment in India. Founded in 2016 by Chhajer, Varun Bhalla and Devashish Dalmiya, the company manages 1,200 beds across 19 properties in Bengaluru. The co-living company provides fully furnished and managed rooms on an individual and sharing basis for single occupants. StayAbode claims to have clocked in 97% occupancy across its properties and will add 1,000 beds in the next 6 months, with plans for geographical expansion.

Farming-as-a-service startups that are empowering farmers, and making the sector more profitable

Farmers are the backbone of the India, with over 70 percent of Indian households still dependent on farming. Adopting the farming-as-a-service (FaaS) model, numerous agritech startups are now endeavouring to bring forth farming-related advanced technological mechanisms to help farming become a sustainable and profit-yielding enterprise. These agritech startups provide a wide variety of services to farmers – from providing farming equipment at affordable prices, to ensuring crop protection. Not only are FaaS-based agritech companies aiding the farming community to become more profitable, they are also able to make profits themselves. Perhaps this is why even big tech giants such as IBM are betting big on the agrarian sector.

Below is a list of some of the most innovative and successful agritech startups, revolutionising the agricultural community in India.

**Agribolo:** This farmer engagement startup, which adopts farm-to-mill, farm-to-fork, and farm-to-warehouse models, aims to link farmers to the marketplace. Agribolo has engaged over 2,5 lakh farmers across India.

**Oxen Farm Solutions:** Founded in 2012, the startup aims to boost India's agricultural productivity by ensuring farming equipment is made affordable and accessible. Oxen provides equipment for various services, including land preparation, crop harvesting, management, and more. The founder claims that Oxen reduces farmers' labour cost by 50 percent. The firm also uses high-tech mechanisms, such as IoT, to determine machine performances. Oxen Farm also uses satellite images to look into the health of the crops and harvesting status.

**Gold Farm:** Founded in 2016, FaaS-based Gold Farm enables farmers to access any farm equipment via a mobile app, or by contacting the firm's call centre. So far, Gold Farm's platform connects around 250 booking agents, and over 500 tractor owners to farmers in its mobile app and has helped around 25,000 farmers.

**Trringo:** The company was launched in 2016 by Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, and aims to rent farming equipment to farmers at affordable rates across the country. The firm has a toll-free number, and a mobile app that helps connect farmers to the platform and place orders for farm equipment. The company has already helped over one lakh farmers, and is established in Karnataka, Maharashatra, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

**farMart:** This farm equipment providing startup aims to make farming more affordable and respectable. So far, the company's services has been availed in over 300 villages and by over 1,500 farmers.

**DeHaat:** Patna-based DeHaat is an online platform that connects small farmers with a network of micro entrepreneurs – suppliers of various farm input and equipment – who procure various inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, and even equipment, as well as offer crop advisory and market linkages. Today, DeHaat claims to have over 150 micro entrepreneurs who serve more than 55,000 farmers in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha. The platform has over 520 different agricultural inputs listed, and has partnered with the likes of UPL Ltd, IDBI Bank, IFFCO, DuPont, Pepsico, Bayer Ag and Yara International. There are also more than 100 institutional buyers associated with DeHaat to facilitate procurement of agricultural produce directly from farmers.

Mr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, Niti Aayog, GoI co-chaired the 9th Joint Committee Meeting of Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project with Dr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Adviser to PM, Japan in Tokyo on 28 March 2019. During the visit, he also delivered a talk on “Strategy for New India @75” and interact with a diverse group of economists, industry representatives and public policy specialists at the Centre for International Public Policy Studies in Tokyo as well also meet Mr. Tatsuya Terazawa, Vice Minister METI, Japan in Tokyo to discuss a range of issues for promoting Indo-Japan cooperation in trade, innovation and frontier technologies.
Hack Osaka 2019 was organised by Osaka Business Innovation Centre, an affiliate of Osaka City Government. Event included Panel discussion, interactions of start-ups and International Pitch Contest. In the International Pitch contest two Indian start-ups represented and pitched for their product and Niramai led by Ms Nidhi won the gold prize in the pitch contest and the judges praised the start-up saying it is very focused and is focusing on a specific problem of early detection of a cancer which is prevalent in India and will help in saving many lives.

The first start-up was **Nirog Street** which is an online web platform. Details can be seen at the weblink [https://nirogstreet.com/](https://nirogstreet.com/). The platform is working as an aggregator of Ayurveda practitioners across India and connect the Indian population with the authentic practitioners. Platform claims to create a digital connect between Ayurveda doctors and the patients. The company has already received some investment from Japan and is working on extending their network to Japan wherever feasible. We will be in touch with the company for facilitation assistance from our side as and when the opportunities come.

The second start-up was **Niramai Health Analytix Private Ltd** led by Ms. Nidhi Mathur who is Chief Operating Officer and Co-founder. Details can be seen at the weblink, [https://www.niramai.com/](https://www.niramai.com/). Start-up is working on early detection of breast cancer. Present detection of breast cancer is very low because of cultural factors, lack of awareness, no widespread screening availability and the present modality of detection, Mammography has low sensitivity for detection. The thermal analytic imaging which was pitched, will be analysing the high growth malignant cells by imaging so it would be in a position to detect breast cancer at early stage. Early detection sometimes helps to cure the cancer with radical surgery and in some case help to postpone its spread and do timely rehabilitation. According to promoter there is a Japanese Company manufacturing the said machine and will be used in India in Hospitals. Promoter has not disclosed the name of the company but the undersigned has suggested Ms Nidhi to get in touch with us for any facilitation, assistance from Government side or connecting with Invest India for further assistance.

First Secretary(Trade), Dr. Satya Pal Kumar made the inaugural address at the Tea Seminar called “Chai-Varta” organized jointly by the embassy of India and Japan Tea Association (JTA) at the multifunction room of the Embassy on 7th March, 2019. About 45 members from the Japan Tea Association participated in the event. The JTA certified tea instructors demonstrated the making and serving of Indian tea during the ensuing session of the Tea Seminar. Mr. Satoshi Tanaka, Managing Director of JTA addressed the participants and informed the audience about Nilgiri tea. The Basic objective of the Seminar was to promote Indian tea in the Japanese market. A short film on Indian tea showcasing different varieties like Nilgiri tea Assam tea and Darjeeling tea & Sikkim tea etc. was shown to the Japanese audience. A Quiz was also organized to promote awareness about Indian tea. The winners of the Quiz received Gift pack of Indian tea from FS(Trade).
India’s new ambassador to Japan sees strong potential in technology cooperation

BY MASUMI KOIZUMI; STAFF WRITER; JAPAN TIMES; MAR 21, 2019

India’s new ambassador to Japan believes the two countries can complement each other in terms of talent and technology, and that cooperation could lead to new innovations.

“Indian software competence, married with Japanese hardware production … if these two can merge together, you have embedded systems on very efficient hardware, which can lead to new products,” Sanjay Kumar Verma said during a courtesy visit to The Japan Times on Wednesday.

Verma, who began his current stint on Jan. 17, sees it as his mission to “increase engagement” between India and Japan “in all sectors and fields.”

When Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Tokyo last October, the two governments agreed to cooperate on a range of objectives, from regional security to promoting digital industries. Verma is looking to carry that vision forward.

Democracy, technology, startups — “all these fields are open for global leadership and we need to collaborate with each other,” he said. “The digital economy is now becoming synonymous (with) India and Japan.”

The combination of Japan’s labor shortage and India’s youthful workforce makes the countries a “good match,” Verma said, noting that over 60 percent of his country’s 1.3 billion people are aged 35 or under. This presents a “huge complementarity,” he said.

“India has been sending engineers (to Japan), depending on the demand of the Japanese companies and Japanese market. The only difficulty so far faced is the Japanese language,” he said.

When it comes to security, Verma stressed the need to ensure the “rule of law” prevails in the Indo-Pacific region.

Asked about the rise of China, he avoided singling out Beijing but said that when any country attempts to “behave in a unipolar manner, that is the time all other countries have to get together and tell them, ‘That’s not OK.’”

Verma, 53, has worked at Indian consulate generals and embassies around the world, including Hong Kong, Vietnam, Turkey and Italy. He was also ambassador to Sudan. Before his appointment to Japan, he was responsible for administration and cyber diplomacy at the Indian foreign ministry. His interests include information technology and artificial intelligence, as well as facilitating small business and investment.

With Japan, Verma aims to help build bridges for doing business. “We need to do a lot together,” he said.
Embassy hosted International Friendship Exchange Council Executive Meeting

A Program of FEC (The International Friendship Exchange Council) Executive Meeting was organized by FEC in honour of H.E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan on 14th March 2019 at Embassy of India, Tokyo. The programme began with opening remarks by Mr. Hiroshi Hirabayashi, President and Representative Director, Japan-India Association. H.E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma gave a welcome speech. Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Tokyo also spoke on the topic ‘Current Status of India and Future Prospects of India-Japan Relationship’. This was followed by Q&A Session and Luncheon. The participants included representatives from Urano Law Office, Imagination Co. Ltd., Tokyo LFEC, JNC Corporation, Mari Poserian, Webstaff Co. Ltd., NHK News Check 11, Fund & IIT Alumni Association Japan, SE Corporation, Asahi Tax Co., Sojitz Corporation, Cognitive Research Laboratories, Marubeni Corporation, JETRO, Japan-India Association, Takushoku University, Imperial Hotel Ltd., Sakura Global Holding Co. Ltd., Shogakukan, KPMG Japan, Moonlight Wave Corporation, Asahi Tax Co.

Seminar on Regulatory Landscape in India

A seminar on Regulatory Landscape in India was organized by INDUSLAW in association with XIB Capital partners’ Inc. on March 14, 2019 at the Embassy of India, Tokyo. The seminar was aimed to educate Japanese investors about the Mergers & Acquisitions in India as well as the regulatory landscape of investing in India. Ambassador H.E. Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma gracing the occasion by delivering the opening remarks at the Seminar highlighting the Indian Government efforts on removing regulatory hurdles and attract foreign investments in India. A presentation was also made by Gaurav Dani, Founding Partner, INDUSLAW on Regulatory Landscape and Governance followed by Mr. Saurav Kumar, Partner, INDUSLAW on Mergers & Acquisitions in stressed assets in India, by Mr. Naokuni Kuwagata, Counsel and Mr. Taeko Suzuki, Counsel of Nishimura & Asahi on Mergers & Acquisitions in stressed assets in India - Japanese perspective and by Mr. Stuart Witchell, Managing director, APAC region, Berkley Research Group on Overview of Anti-bribery and Anti-corruption. Seminar had a turnout with over 100 Japanese guests from diverse sectors including steel, chemicals, logistics, automotive parts, electricals, IT, real estate, nuclear energy, trading houses and financial services.
The Indian Connection

NASSCOM Avasant India Blockchain Report 2019

The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) launched the findings of the AVASANT-NASSCOM India Blockchain Report 2019, which highlighted the developments in the global and Indian Blockchain market and ecosystem. The report has been developed extensively by incorporating inputs from over 50 industry leading experts and participants of the Blockchain ecosystem. The transformational potential that blockchain possesses has been recognized by enterprises and governments across the world and more than 50 countries have already embarked on initiatives to integrate the technology in their economies, and develop a holistic environment for the same.

According to the report, the past year has witnessed a massive surge in investments in blockchain based companies and startups and globally touched over USD 20 billion, across an array of industries, technologies and use cases. The Indian Public Sector has driven blockchain based projects with nearly half the Indian states involved to address different elements of citizen service delivery. The state governments are also ensuring a progressive approach is taken up, to impart a conducive framework for startups and niche service providers to participate in these initiatives. Further, enterprises across all key industries in India are also identifying different applications of blockchain. The BFSI sector has seen the highest adoption, but other industries, such as healthcare, retail and logistics are also accelerating rapidly.

The report also analyzed the Blockchain Regulatory Framework across 120 countries. Singapore, Switzerland, Netherlands, Malta, Japan and Abu Dhabi emerged as the leading countries where, the government actively formulates new regulations and encourages formation of a self-regulatory body to enforce standards among the community. The report recommends a more conducive regulatory framework that focuses on the use case rather than the technology used, stating that a proactive, consultative and defined regulatory approach to blockchain will boost the blockchain ecosystem growth in the country.

To access the detailed report go to https://www.nasscom.in/knowledge-centre/publications

Trade Fairs & Exhibitions in India in 2019 To know plz visit https://www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/trade_fairs.html

Invest India: The National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Government of India. It is the first point of reference for the global investment community. It acts as a one-stop shop for foreign investors looking to enter India, and handhold investors through their ENTIRE investment journey in the country! The Japan Desk at Invest India has a some special features to cater Japanese Investment like -Japanese version of Invest India website (https://www.investindia.gov.in/country/japan-desk); Dedicated twitter handle @investindiaJPN; Dedicated email ID to take queries japan@investindia.org.in; Sector specific Brochures in Japanese language; one-stop-shop for exploring and materializing India entry plans; Working closely with the Union Ministries, States and regulatory authorities.
“A Dance of Democracy” is the popular epithet given to what is arguably the biggest democratic exercise on our planet: the Indian General Elections. The 2014 General Elections, saw a voter turnout of 553,801,801 voters – about 66.4% of the total population of India and roughly five times the population of Japan. The 2019 General Elections will see about 84 million first time voters, out of which 15 million are aged between 18 and 19. With such big numbers and the governance of the largest democracy at stake, it is no small feat to maintain the integrity of the election process.

In India, people place their votes using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Electronic Voting Machine (also known as EVM) is voting using electronic means to either aid or take care of the chores of casting and counting votes. An EVM is designed with two units: the control unit and the balloting unit. These units are joined together by a cable. The control unit of the EVM is kept with the presiding officer or the polling officer. The balloting unit is kept within the voting compartment for electors to cast their votes. This is done to ensure that the polling officer verifies your identity. With the EVM, instead of issuing a ballot paper, the polling officer will press the Ballot Button which enables the voter to cast their vote. A list of candidates names and/or symbols will be available on the machine with a blue button next to it. The voter can press the button next to the candidate’s name they wish to vote for. In a country with such a large population like India, counting ballots would take 30-40 hours, whereas, EVMs allow the elections results to be declared within 3-5 hours. Not to mention, EVMs do away with the need to print millions of ballot papers for every election, allowing for massive savings by way of cost of paper, printing, transportation, storage and distribution. Integrity of the vote is maintained as a vote can be registered only once, ensuring the principle of one person, one vote. Also, EVMs are programmed to register only five votes per minute. Being the main agency to collect and count votes, these machines are at the heart of the matter of ensuring a safe, secure and transparent electoral process. They ensure greater efficiency and speed of the voting process, thus increasing voter turnout and confidence that the votes have been counted properly. As a direct result of this, there is an increased interest in the political process which only serves to enhance political engagement between the civilians and the government.

Regarding the issues surrounding the use of EVMs, Michael I. Shamos, PhD, distinguished Career Professor at Carnegie Mellon University, in a Dec. 31, 2016 article for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette titled "Why Our Voting Systems Are Safe," wrote: "It is always possible to modify a voting machine in a laboratory. That proves nothing. The question is whether any tampering is feasible involving a large number of machines under real election conditions. No one has even proposed, let alone demonstrated, a plausible scenario by which that might be done. Each machine is an island never connected to the internet. The software cannot be modified during an election — any tampering would have to be done in advance in a guarded warehouse that is under video surveillance. It can’t be done quickly, either. Machines must be forklifted off high shelves, seals must be broken, new stealth software installed and forged seals applied.”

There are also legal safeguards against electoral malpractices called Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations, which enable lay civilians to report such violations to Election Commission which then takes appropriate action against the offending candidate/s or person/s. As such, the Indian elections are and continue to strive to be a model for successful democratic processes and ensuring the democratic rights of every individual citizen.

More details about documents required, the verification process, how to cast your vote, etc (information brochures and posters on Overseas Voters) can be found at http://ecisveep.nic.in/voters/overseas-voters.
A Pune-based IT firm is developing software for the world’s largest ground-based telescope, the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT), which is likely to come up on Mauna Kea in Hawaii. The telescope is being constructed jointly by India, US, China, Japan and Canada and is likely to become operational in the mid-2020s. India is building the telescope’s complex optical structure, called the Segment Support Assembly (SSA), which will comprise 492 hexagonal mirror segments, collectively forming the primary mirror. An eight-member team at the IT firm, ThoughtWorks, is designing three different software — Common Software Services (CSS), Data Management Services (DMS) and Executive Software (ES) — to deal with the control systems to manoeuvre the telescope and manage the big data that will be generated once it becomes operational.

**JSPS-DST Japan - India Forum for Advanced Study**

India Japan S&T cooperation is gaining breadth and depth. From March 7-16, the JSPS-DST Forum was held jointly with Nagoya Univ, NIPR & Niigata Univ in the field of Earth Sciences. DCM Raj Kumar Srivastava attended the final day in Niigata.

**School Outreach**

Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma attended as Chief Guest the Graduation Ceremony 2019 of Indian International School in Japan (IISJ) at Tokyo. He addressed the Graduates and encouraged them to be responsible citizens for a better world. He also donated books on theme “Bharat Ek Parichay - Sharing knowledge with the world” for the School library & felicitated 10th Japan Times Scripps Bee winner Master Ariya Narayanasamy.
“Kabaddi Gaining Popularity in Japan Due to a Comic “Shakunetsu Kabaddi” or “Burning Kabaddi” (『灼熱カバディ』)
Asahi Shimbun (26 Feb, evening edition), Takuya Sumi, Tokyo

The number of Japanese kabaddi players is increasing. According to the Japan Kabaddhi Association, the number of players registered with the association almost doubled from five years ago to 348. The number of participants to kabaddi seminar that the association organizes on regular basis is also increasing. Many of them are teenagers or in their twenties. Asked for the reason why they participated in the kabaddi seminar, many of them explained that they are fan of a comic called “Shakunetsu Kabaddi” or “Burning Kabaddi”. The author is Mr. Hajime Musashino. The comic is being shown on the internet comic site called “ura Sunday”. It first appeared on the site in July, 2017.

Official HP of the comic: https://urasunday.com/kabaddi/index.html
In the Mahaparinirvana sutra, the Buddha tells his followers that they can attain merit and a noble rebirth by going on pilgrimage to the places where he was born (Lumbini), gained enlightenment (Bodhgaya), first taught (Sarnath), and attained Nirvana (Kushinagar).

The Buddhist tourist train takes you to these places and helps you experience firsthand the self-disciplined and legendary life of Lord Buddha. India, the country where Buddhism originated has rich memories of the Buddhist legacy. As part of its drive towards austerity, the only kind of art and architecture that it supported were Stupas (stone cased moulds that commemorated relics of Buddha), Chaityas (prayer halls) and Viharas (cells for the monks). Buddhist Train India will help you visit all these places up close for a truly religious experience. Come, discover the path to enlightenment, towards Buddha by train.

Brochure available in Japanese too. For more details visit https://www.irctcbuddhisttrain.com/

For details contact Air India Tokyo http://www.airindia.in/tokyo.htm

Telangana Tourism’s Theme Song, won the Best Film Award in Cultural Tourism Category at the Japan World’s Tourism Film Festival, held in Osaka, Japan on March 13-14th, 2019. Well known documentary filmmaker Dulam Satyanarayana received this award.

Aadil Gurezi is an Indian musician, singer and composer from the State of Jammu and Kashmir. He sings in Kashmiri, Punjabi as well as Hindi. Adil represents those youth of Kashmir who are in step with these ever changing times and they know of the vastness of this world but are also aware of their own depth.

To know more visit the link https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInJapan/videos/424900358263457/
Celebration of International Women's Day, 2019 at Embassy of India, Tokyo

Lectures and cultural programmes marking International Women's Day, 2019 was held at Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Tokyo. The theme for this year's celebrations was focused on the contributions of Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba to women's empowerment. The event was inaugurated by H.E. Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan. There were a variety of lectures by distinguished speakers: Shri Aftab Seth, former Ambassador of India to Japan; Mrs. Gunjan Verma, spouse of Ambassador; Dr. Anjoo Sharan Upadhyaya, Professor of Political Science, Banaras Hindu University; Prof. Priyankar Upadhyaya, UNESCO Chair for Peace, BHU & Global Fellow, Peace Research Institute Oslo; and, Dr. Hiroko Maruyama, Board Member, Japan Buddhist Women's Federation. This was followed by cultural programmes organised by Japan India Women's Forum, including a poetry reading by Ms. Tamiko Ohba and dance performances. After the programme a networking session was held in which visitors enjoyed traditional Indian vegetarian food in order to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi.

Ambassador’s Meeting with Indian Sikh Community in Tokyo

As part of community outreach, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma meet on 14 March few prominent and proactive members of Indian Sikh Community in Tokyo & discussed topics of community welfare incl. celebrating together Guru Nanak Dev ji 550th birth anniversary in 2019.

‘Forbearance’ pays off: India International School in Japan student Narayanasamy wins 10th Japan Times Bee

Ariya Narayanasamy, a seventh-grade student at India International School in Japan, Tokyo campus, emerged victorious in The 10th Japan Times Bee competition Sunday, fending off challenges by 39 contestants. He took a trophy and various prizes back home. Forty students from age 7 to 14 from 14 prefectures — including Kyoto, Aomori and Okinawa — took part in this year’s contest. The announcer asked the participants to spell words as easy as “blue” and as complicated as “rambunctious.” They also went through multiple “oral vocabulary” rounds in which they had to choose a correct definition of the given word.

He will be heading to National Harbor, Maryland, in late May to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which will be broadcast nationwide in the U.S. The Japan Times will sponsor his trip. The Scripps National Spelling Bee originated in the United States in 1925 and has been one of the most widely recognized academic competitions. Its goal is to deepen an individual’s knowledge of the English language through the study of accurate spelling and building of a diverse vocabulary.

The Japan Times Bee, which started in 2010 and is hosted by the oldest English-language newspaper in the country, is the only spelling contest in the nation officially endorsed by the Scripps National Spelling Bee.
As part of cultural outreach, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma attended Sri Ramakrishna Birth Celebration by Vedanta Society of Japan (Nippon Vedanta Kyokai). The event included Puja, Homa, Pushpanjali, discourse and musical program by Japanese & Indian devotees.

As part of 150th Birth Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, we bring here the Online Quiz on the Life of Mahatma Gandhi.

The quiz is open to two categories (NRIs/OCs and Japanese Nationals) and each category is divided into two age groups (i. 15 years and below & ii. 16 years and above). The quiz is open from 24th March 2019 to 30th April 2019 (inclusive of both dates).

Quiz on the life of Mahatma Gandhi (for age group above 15 years) – English and Japanese

Quiz on the life of Mahatma Gandhi (for age group 15 years and below) – English and Japanese

For participating, please visit the Embassy of India website. You can also use the QR Code below.

We request you all to participate as well as to encourage your family, friends to participate in the Quiz.

Top 3 Winners in each category will be honored at a Award ceremony with special gifts along with a certificate of achievement while next Top 10 participants in each category will be honored at the same Award ceremony with a gift & certificate of participation. The date of the award ceremony will be announced later.

Embassy of India Official Website / インド大使館公式ウェブサイト
URL: www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in
India Perspectives is the flagship magazine of the Ministry of External Affairs, India. It is printed in 16 languages including Japanese.

It is available in 170 countries, disseminating interesting information about India’s rich culture and tradition.

For a copy of the magazine, mail us at: poip@mea.gov.in

Scholarship for the Academic Session, 2019-20 under the Scheme of Propagation of Hindi Abroad at Central Institute of Hindi (KHS) Agra. Brochures and the application forms of the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan are enclosed, herewith, however it can be downloaded from www.khsindia.org. The last date of submitting the application has been extended to 30th April 2019. For details send an email at edu.tokyo@mea.gov.in / vcc.tokyo@mea.gov.in

Advisory on Fraud Calls https://www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/pdf/Advisory_on_Fraud_Calls_sep25.pdf