December 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address at the Japan National Press Club</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India Conference in Nagoya 2017</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address to students of IIM Bangalore</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address to students of IIT Chennai visiting under Sakura Science Programme</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Association of Medical Doctors of Asia</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with LDP MP HE Kono Taro</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception for the 66th Session of Council of UN University</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th India-Japan Symposium on Science and Technology for Sustainability</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCC Conclusion Ceremony</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit of Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit to High Energy Accelerator Organization, KEK, Tsukuba</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception in celebration of His Majesty the Emperor’s birthday</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Going carbon free</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ports in India</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darjeeling – a popular tourist destination in India</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension of date for submission of application for registration as OCI card holder in lieu of the PIO Card online</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Profile: Kerala</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Fairs &amp; Business Exhibitions in India from January – March 2017</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Queries from India</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Gallery</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"The world is not impermanent if one lives there after knowing God." – Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa
Address at the Japan National Press Club

Ambassador HE Sujan R. Chinoy addressed the members of the press and diplomatic corps at the Japan National Press Club on December 1 on India-Japan relations with a focus on the recent VVIP visit. The speech was followed by an interactive Q&A session.

India Conference in Nagoya 2017

Ambassador HE Sujan R. Chinoy met Mr. Makoto Utsumi, the former Vice Minister of Finance of Japan and Chairman of the Global Advisory Board, Tokai Tokyo Financial Holdings, Inc. on December 2 and discussed the proposed “India Conference in Nagoya 2017”. The conference’s objective is to boost up “Make in India” by updating the investment climate in India for the companies interested in business expansion into the country, and those located in Central Japan which is the largest manufacturing area.

Address to students of IIM Bangalore

Ambassador HE Sujan R. Chinoy addressed a group of 30 students of IIM Bangalore PG Programme on December 5 about the changing dimensions of India-Japan ties; the students visited Japan for their international immersion trip (December 5-9, 2016).

Address to students of IIT Chennai visiting under Sakura Science Programme

Ambassador HE Sujan R. Chinoy addressed the students of IIT Chennai visiting Shibaura Institute of Technology (SIT) under the "Sakura Science Programme" and the "Top Global University Project" on December 5. He also held discussions with Prof. Masato Murakami, President and other senior management of SIT on ways of enhancing student exchange between India and Japan.

Meeting with Association of Medical Doctors of Asia

Ambassador HE Sujan R. Chinoy met the representatives of Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA), an NGO in Okayama city, on December 6. They briefed him about their international network of 32 chapters with a specific focus on Indian chapter based in Manipal, Peace Clinic in Bodhgaya, and an MoU among Okayama University, Manipal University, AMDA International and AMDA India for the implementation of Indo-Japan Emergency Relief Training Program 2009.

Meeting with LDP MP HE Kono Taro

Ambassador HE Sujan R. Chinoy met and briefed the seven-time Liberal Democratic Party MP HE Kono Taro on December 8 on India-Japan ties, especially India’s growing energy needs.

Reception for the 66th Session of Council of UN University

Ambassador HE Sujan R. Chinoy attended the reception hosted for the 66th Session of Council of UN University on December 13 on the invitation of State Minister for Foreign Affairs HE Nobuo Kishi.

7th India-Japan Symposium on Science and Technology for Sustainability

Ambassador HE Sujan R. Chinoy inaugurated and delivered the inaugural address at the 7th “India-Japan Symposium on Science and Technology for Sustainability” organised by Indian Scientists Association in Japan (ISAJ) at Embassy Auditorium on December 15. Around 120 eminent Indian & Japanese scientists from IISc, JNCASR, Bangalore, IIT, Hyderabad, NCL Pune and Indian students studying at various Japanese research institutes/universities participated in the Symposium.
VCC Conclusion Ceremony

The VCC Ceremony to mark the successful completion of July – December 2016 semester for VCC classes was organized on December 17. A total of 334 students were enrolled in the semester for classes on Indian Contemporary Dance, Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Sambalpuri, Tabla, Yoga, Hindi and Bengali languages.

Visit of Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy

Ambassador HE Sujan R. Chinoy met Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy on December 18 during his visit to Japan (18 to 23 December). During the visit, Admiral Sunil Lanba interacted with senior leadership of the JSDF and the Defence Ministry, and visited Naval bases of the JMSDF.

Visit to High Energy Accelerator Organization, KEK, Tsukuba

Ambassador HE Sujan R. Chinoy visited the High Energy Accelerator Organization, KEK, Tsukuba on December 19. He had meetings with Dr. Masanori Yamauchi, Director General, KEK and Indian and Japanese members of the Indian Beamline Steering Committee to discuss the research collaboration in the area of Particle Physics, Advanced Accelerator Research and Material and Life Sciences between India and Japan.

Reception in celebration of His Majesty the Emperor’s birthday

Ambassador HE Sujan R. Chinoy attended the dinner reception hosted by Foreign Minister HE Fumio Kishida in celebration of His Majesty the Emperor's birthday on December 22 and also attended the reception at the Imperial Palace for the same on December 23.

“What are we having this liberty for? We are having this liberty in order to reform our social system, which is full of inequality, discrimination and other things, which conflict with our fundamental rights." - B. R. Ambedkar
Going carbon free

The best way to reduce carbon emission is to popularise clean energy technologies among the rural population

Did you know that over three billion people in developing countries are dependent on burning of firewood, crop residue and cattle dung to prepare daily meals on traditional mud stoves, open fires and three stones? Studies have revealed that indoor air pollution significantly increases the risk of pneumonia in children and chronic bronchitis and other ailments in women. The smoke emanating during cooking procedures consists of short-lived but high impact climate change agents like black carbon which are light-absorbing carbon particles and much more potent in the short-term than greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane.

To provide sustainable, effective, incentive-based action plans, infrastructure and new technologies to enable rural communities to switch over to improved cooking technologies, Project Surya was introduced. The uniqueness of cookstove intervention project lies in its science focus: undertaking the most comprehensive and rigorous scientific evaluation to date on the efficacy of reducing biomass-fuelled cooking on climate warming, air pollution, health and human wellbeing. Project Surya aims to expand access to truly clean energy technologies among poor rural households in developing countries. In this process, the project consortium seeks to monitor measurable climate benefits of clean cooking technologies, and through this, empower rural users with climate finance. Project Surya is managed by a global consortium comprising University of California (San Diego), The Energy and Resources Institute and Nexleaf Analytics (USA).

To meet the socio-cultural and economic objectivity of the rural Indian population, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) developed a series of prototype clean cookstoves. These included a top-loading single-pot stove, a front-loading single-pot stove and a front-loading doublepot stove. Each of these sources employs a fan-driven forced draft to aid combustion as well as a standardised stove combustion chamber that can be fitted with additional components to meet local requirements. As opposed to its ‘natural draft’ counterparts (where air flows in naturally, unaided by a fan), forced draft stoves are known to have significantly higher health and environmental benefits. Wherever possible, all the components of the stove system were based on nut-and-bolt systems and used parts commonly available even in the village markets. The stoves provided options such as a solar charging unit and adding additional stove heads for larger families. The concept behind it was that the stoves adapted to people and traditional cooking habits and not vice versa. Project Surya deployed improved cooking technologies in rural communities and rapidly cut down emission levels of major pollutants like black carbon. The project aims to use two low-cost sensor technologies to estimate black carbon emission savings due to improved stove usage. Temperature is recorded through the sensor attached to the stove and transmits real-time temperature readings through an adapter circuit and thermistor to an attached mobile phone through its headset jack. This technology can be accessed on a Java-enabled phone too. The second option is utilising a miniature aerosol sampler wherein a filter is exposed to the indoor air particles. If a person has a cell phone with the facilities of GPRS and camera, a photograph of the filter can be clicked and transmitted to a centralised server wirelessly. A complex computer algorithm then takes an estimate of the black carbon emissions from the blackness of the filter in the photo. The wireless technology not only reduces the transaction costs considerably, it also provides verifiable, technology-centric and cost-effective monitoring of the usage of the stove.

The project helped in identifying forced draft stoves as a superior option among improved stove technologies, developed low-cost cell phone technologies that make it possible to measure black carbon on the ground with unprecedented spatial resolution for the first time, identified socioeconomic barriers and drivers related to cookware adoption and demonstrated the link between indoor and
outdoor concentrations of black carbon in and around Surya pilot village with cooking activities. The pilot phase of Surya Project was completed successfully in 2011.

In its ongoing phase being implemented in more than 4,000 rural households of Uttar Pradesh and Odisha, Project Surya has created a dummy ‘climate credit’ fund for rural users. Based on the usage of improved cookstoves recorded by sensors, collected centrally at TERI’s office in New Delhi, micro-payments are made on a bi-monthly basis to rural women in their bank accounts. More recently, Project Surya is working towards exploring new streams of channeling finance to improved cookstoves users, such as postal payments and mobile-based payments in association with various partner organisations.

Courtesy: XP Division, MEA.

We should not give up and we should not allow the problem to defeat us. – Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
Ports in India

Introduction

According to the Ministry of Shipping, around 95 per cent of India's trading by volume and 70 per cent by value is done through maritime transport.

India has 12 major and 200 notified minor and intermediate ports. Cargo traffic, which recorded 1,052 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) in 2015, is expected to reach 1,758 MMT by 2017. The Indian ports and shipping industry plays a vital role in sustaining growth in the country's trade and commerce. India is the sixteenth largest maritime country in the world, with a coastline of about 7,517 km. The Indian Government plays an important role in supporting the ports sector. It has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of up to 100 per cent under the automatic route for port and harbour construction and maintenance projects. It has also facilitated a 10-year tax holiday to enterprises that develop, maintain and operate ports, inland waterways and inland ports.

Market size

Cargo traffic handled by India's Major ports increased 4.6 per cent year-on-year to 264.73 million tonnes (MT) during April-August 2016. In terms of composition of cargo traffic, the largest commodity was P.O.L. (32.44 per cent), followed by coal (24.09 per cent), container traffic (19.65 per cent), other cargo (12.68 per cent), iron ore (4.6 per cent) and other liquids (4.13 per cent).

The country's major ports handled a combined volume of 718,000 Twenty-foot-Equivalent Units (TEU) during August 2016, up from 679,000 TEUs during same month last year, while containerised cargo
tonnage rose 3.7 per cent to 10.5 MT during August 2016. During April-June 2016, the ports had handled a combined volume of 2.12 million TEUs, which is roughly around 70 per cent of the country’s overall container trade.

The government has taken several measures to improve operational efficiency through mechanisation, deepening the draft and speedy evacuations. In FY 2015-16, the Indian Port sector witnessed capacity addition of 94 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA), which is the highest in the history of major ports.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, reported that the Indian ports sector received FDI worth US$ 1.64 billion between April 2000 and March 2016.

Investments/Developments

The Indian Minister for Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Mr Nitin Gadkari, announced a massive investment in India’s ports and roads sector, which is likely to help boost the country’s economy. The Indian government plans to develop 10 coastal economic regions as part of plans to revive the country’s Sagarmala (string of ports) project.

The zones would be converted into manufacturing hubs, supported by port modernisation projects, and could span 300–500 km of the coastline. The government is also looking to develop the inland waterway sector as an alternative to road and rail routes to transport goods to the nation’s ports and hopes to attract private investment in the sector.

- India's largest container handling port Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has signed an agreement to raise US$ 400 million from State Bank of India and Development Bank of Singapore, to improve the infrastructure required for doubling its existing capacity to 9.85 million twenty foot equivalent units (TEUs) annually.

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and India Ports Global Private Limited (IPGPL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for implementation of three additional works worth Rs 476 crore (US$ 70.98 million) in the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) in Myanmar.

- The India Ports Global Pvt Ltd plans to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in Iran with participation from private Iranian and Indian firms to develop and operate the Chabahar port project, which is expected to give India a sea-land access route into Afghanistan through Iran’s eastern borders.

- Mr Julian Michael Bevis, Senior Director of Group Relations, Maersk Line India Pvt Ltd, has expressed confidence in Government of India’s policies like Sagarmala project, and stated that the company is keen on taking Indian ports on lease.

- An expert panel of the Union environment ministry has recommended approvals for projects worth Rs 20,500 crore (US$ 3.06 billion) in the aviation and port sectors.

- Minister of Road Transport and Highways, and Shipping, Mr Nitin Gadkari is hopeful of bringing a 'blue revolution' in five years which will include developing eight major ports, making 27 industrial clusters, developing rail and road connectivity with ports and will entail investment of around Rs 400,000 crore (US$ 59.7 billion)

- The Maritime India Summit 2016, which was held in Mumbai between 14th-16th April, attracted investments worth Rs 82,905 crores (US$ 12.36 billion) across 141 memorandum of understanding (MOU) and business agreements, which were signed by various players in the maritime sector.
JM Baxi Group, an integrated logistics, services and transportation conglomerate, has initiated talks with Private Equity (PE) funds to raise around US$ 150-200 million, which will be invested in its asset-heavy businesses such as port terminals and container handling facilities.

DP World Pvt. Ltd, world’s fourth biggest container port operator, plans to invest over US$1 billion in India, which will be used for augmenting its port-related operations.

Government of India plans to invest Rs 70,000 crore (US$ 10.44 billion) in 12 major ports in the next five years under 'Sagarmala' initiative.

Government of India is planning to set up low-cost non-major ports along coastline under the Sagarmala project and has asked all the 12 major ports to accord priority berthing to such vessels and to encourage quicker movement of cargo.

Jindal ITF plans to invest nearly Rs 500 crore (US$ 74.56 million) to further transloading operations in Haldia. The company, which already transports imported coal in barges to NTPC’s power plants in Farakka and Kahalgaon from the Sandheads, plans to transload cargo at the deep-drafted location at Kanika Sands and transport it to Haldia.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL) to create logistics hubs with rail connectivity at Varanasi and other places on national waterways. The joint development of state-of-the-art logistics hubs at Varanasi and other areas would lead to the convergence of inland waterways with railways and roadways, thus providing a seamless, efficient and cost-effective cargo transportation solution.

The state-run Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI) is expected to purchase five vessels from the state-owned Cochin Shipyard Ltd. It is also likely to issue tenders to buy two used Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) carriers as it looks to re-start ship purchases that were frozen after poor financial performance.

Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL, erstwhile Ennore Port Limited) has signed an agreement with M/s Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd to export automobile units through Kamarajar Port. The agreement primarily includes a clause that would restrict original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to use KPL as their primary port. KPL would in turn offer volume-based discounts on the tariffs on certain facilities for the smooth functioning of operations.

The Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) has outlined an Rs 3,000 crore (US$ 444.72 million) expansion-cum-modernisation plan aimed at enhancing the port’s capacity by nearly 50 per cent. The port is estimated to invest Rs 800 crore (US$ 118.6 million), a fourth of the planned investment, while seeking private partners to invest the remainder by way of public-private partnerships (PPPs).

Maharashtra’s Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) plans to build a satellite port at Wadhwan near Dahanu (bordering Gujarat), which is estimated to cost Rs 10,000 crore (US$ 1.48 billion) to build and likely to ease the congestion of ships at JNPT.

**Government Initiatives**

Some of the major initiatives taken by the government to promote this sector in India are as follows:

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plan to take up 82 highway development projects under the Bharatmala project, which would help in improving connectivity to both major as well as minor ports in the country.
• The Ministry of Shipping plans to install 160.64 megawatts (MW) of solar and wind based power systems at all the major ports across the country by 2017, thereby promoting the use of renewable energy sources and giving a fillip to government’s Green Port Initiative.

• Mr Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Shipping, Government of India expects investment proposals worth Rs 1.2 trillion (US$ 17.9 billion) in the shipping sector to be finalised during the upcoming two-day Maritime India Summit (MIS), scheduled to be held in Mumbai.

• The Union Cabinet is planning to propose amendments to the Multi Modal Transportation of Goods Act, 1993, with a view to increase transparency in the shipping and logistics sectors and to discourage container freight stations from overcharging both importers and exporters.

• The Government of India plans to amend the current Model Concession Agreement (MCA), by providing a better allocation of risks between the government and private firms, thereby encouraging investments in the sector.

• The Government of India plans to introduce a new framework on renegotiation of Public Private Partnership (PPP) contracts, which will allow renegotiations based on sector-specific issues, especially for national highways and ports, and provide greater flexibility to the parties involved.

• The Ministry of Shipping, India and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Korea have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in terms of sharing technology and experiences in port development and operation, and joint port-related construction, building and engineering projects.

• The Government of Maharashtra plans to come up with a policy by January 2016 for developing ports along the 720 km long coastline of the state, including development of creeks at Vasai, Jaigad and Rajapuri for integrated coastal shipping.

• The Union Minister stated that the Government of India has set an ambitious target to convert 101 rivers across the country into waterways to promote water transport and propel economic growth.

• The government plans to establish two new major ports, one at Sagar in West Bengal and the other at Dugarajapatnam in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the Fourth Container Terminal of Jawaharlal Nehru Port at Mumbai, which is expected to increase the existing capacity of the container terminal by more than twice.

• The Ministry of Shipping, in collaboration with Rajasthan government, has planned to develop an Inland Shipping Port at Jalore, Rajasthan.

• The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the Mechanisation of East Quay (EQ) Berths-1, 2 and 3 at Paradip Port on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis, under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, which will increase their coal handling capacity from existing 7.85 million tonnes to 30 million tonnes.

• The government is considering a proposal to set up an Integrated National Waterways Transport Grid (INWTG), which covers primarily five national waterways. The INWTG plan involves the development of these national waterways with at least 2.5 metres of least available depth (LAD), upgrade/setting up of priority terminals, and establishment of road connectivity (wherever feasible) and rail and port connectivity. The Central Government has approved amendments to ‘The National Waterways Bill, 2015’ which will provide for enacting a Central Legislation to declare 106 additional inland waterways, as the national waterways.
The Government is undertaking the following measures for the ports’ capacity expansion:

- Up to 100 per cent FDI would be allowed under the automatic route for port development projects.
- Income tax incentives would be allowed as per the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- Bidding documents such as RFQ, RFP and Concession Agreement have been standardised.
- The Shipping Ministry’s power to delegate finances has been enhanced to accord investment approval for PPP projects.
- Security clearance procedures have been streamlined.
- The major ports’ developmental projects are being closely monitored.

Road ahead

Increasing investments and cargo traffic point towards a healthy outlook for the Indian ports sector. Providers of services such as operation and maintenance (O&M), pilotage and harbouring and marine assets such as barges and dredgers are benefiting from these investments.

The Planning Commission of India forecasts an investment of Rs 180,626 crore (US$ 26.93 billion) for this industry in its 12th Five Year Plan. In addition, through The Maritime Agenda 2010–2020, the Ministry of Shipping has set a target capacity of over 3,130 MMT by 2020, which would be driven by participation from the private sector. Non-major ports are expected to generate over 50 per cent of this capacity.

Exchange Rate Used: INR 1 = US$ 0.0149 as on September 21, 2016

References: Indian Ports Association, Ministry of Shipping, Media Reports, Press Releases

Source: www.ibef.org

“Beauty doesn’t need ornaments. Softness can’t bear the weight of ornaments.” - Munshi Premchand
Darjeeling – a popular tourist destination in India

Fast Facts

Temperature:
Summer: 14.9-8.6°C
Winter: 6.11-1.5°C

Season: March to Middle June and October to December.

Clothing: Light Woollens & Tropical; Winter-Heavy Woollens

Languages spoken: Gorkha, Tibetan, Bengali, Hindi, English.

STD Code: 0354

Tourism Centres: Tourist Bureau, Government of West Bengal, 1 Nehru Road, Darjeeling-734101, Tel: 2254-050/2254-102.

Tourism Centre (Siliguri), M4 Building, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri Tel: 0353-2511974/2511979 Fax: 2517561

Darjiling Gorkha Hill Council, Silver Fir Building, Mall Darjeeling-734 101, Tel: 2254-879/2254-214, Fax: 2254214. Email: dghctourism@hotmail.com

Kanchenjunga from Darjeeling

Location Map of West Bengal

Peace Pagoda in Darjeeling

Tea Plantations in Darjeeling
High up near the Himalayas with Mt. Kanchenjunga as a backdrop, Darjeeling in the state of West Bengal, is worth a visit, where, ancient forests, quaint houses and friendly people make the trip to this most famous hill station of India worth it. The mystique of Darjeeling is glamorous thanks to its landscape. The toy train enables travellers to explore the wonderful hill station at a calm pace, soaking in the environs and culture of every part of destination that is Darjeeling. The place is famous honeymoon destination and trailhead for numerous treks as well as a great countryside ideal for adventure sport lovers.

Sights to See

The World Heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is an engineering wonder and travels from New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling passing some quaint sights on the way which is a photographer’s delight.

Tiger Hill

The undisputed highlight of a trip to Darjeeling is the Tiger Hill located at an altitude of 3000 meters (8482 ft.). Situated 15 km from the town of Darjeeling, the place offers a spectacular view of the Kanchenjunga peak.

Ghum Monastery

Founded in the late 1800s by Lama Sherab Gyatso, Ghum Monastery is the most famous Buddhist monastery around Darjeeling. The most revered image in the monastery is a 5m-tall (16-ft.) clay statue of the Maitreya Buddha. It makes a sublime detour due to the breathtaking location and views of the landscape.

Batasia Loop

Another attraction of Darjeeling is the railway loop of Batasia Loop, an amazing feat of engineering. 5 km from Darjeeling, the place offers a spectacular view of Darjeeling town with the Kanchenjunga and other snowy mountains in the back-drop. Here the War memorial was built in the memory of the Gorkha soldiers who laid down their lives for the country.

Dhirdham Temple

Another landmark of Darjeeling, this temple is a replica of the famous Pashupatinath temple of Kathmandu in Nepal.

Observatory Hill

Apart from the outstanding view it commands, Observatory Hill is held sacred by Hindus and Buddhists.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park

This is the only specialized zoo in the country and internationally recognized for its conservation breeding programmes of Red Panda, Snow Leopards, Tibetan Wolf and other highly endangered animal species of Eastern Himalayas.

Senchal Lake

Located 10 km to the south-east of Darjeeling, Senchal Lake provides water supply to Darjeeling town. Located at an altitude of 8,160 ft atop a hill, the place is a favourite picnic spot.
Lloyds Botanical Garden

Lloyds Botanical Garden should be your stopover if you are on a sightseeing trip to Darjeeling. Laid out in 1871, this beautiful garden occupies an area of 40 acres. Situated just below the Market Motor Stand, the garden is the habitat of bamboo, oak, magnolia, arisaema, cotoneaster, wild geranium, and rhododendron. The garden is a delight for the nature lovers who throng here in large number.

Happy Valley Tea Estate

Of about seventy tea gardens in this hilly region, this is one of the nearest, about 3 km from the town. Here one can see the processing of the world famous Darjeeling tea.

Lebong Race Course

The smallest and highest horse race course in the world, Lebong Race Course is about 8 km from the Mall, famous stroll-through destination in Darjeeling.

Tibetan Refugee Self Help Centre

Tibetan refugee self help centre was set up on 1st October 1959 to rehabilitate the exiled Tibetans who had followed Dalai Lama to India. This centre produces excellent carpets, woollen goods, wood work, leather work etc. The Tibetan craftsmen can be seen at work dyeing, weaving, and spinning wool on old bicycle wheels at the centre. Here a fascinating museum houses photographs exhibiting the establishment of the centre, the Tibet struggle, and the famous visitors.

Peace Pagoda

Peace Pagoda, Darjeeling is one of the Peace Pagodas designed to provide a focus for people of all races and creeds to help unite them in their search for world peace. Like most of the other Peace Pagodas, it was built under the guidance of Nichidatsu Fujii (1885–1985), a Buddhist monk from Japan and a close friend of Mahatma Gandhi. He was founder of the Nipponzan-Myōhōji Buddhist Order.

Excursions

Mirik (49 km)

Mirik, a beautiful mountain retreat in the outskirts of Darjeeling, makes an amazing holiday getaway in the hills. Far from the crowd that throngs the Mall in Darjeeling, Mirik is a blissfully secluded hill station.

Kalimpong (51km)

One of the most famous hill stations in West Bengal that has been holding a magical allure for travellers is Kalimpong located in Darjeeling district of the state. A stunning destination for travellers of all stripes, Kalimpong is 2 1/2 hours from Darjeeling.

Bijanbari (38 km)

Located 38 km from Darjeeling in the blossom of green mountains with perennial streams, Bijanbari’s beauty is dear to the people visiting this wonderful town in West Bengal. Situated at an altitude of 760 m above sea level, this hill station allures those who long for unhurried pace of life.

Kurseong (32 km)

With an altitude of 1458 metres, a pleasant climate throughout the year and relics of the colonial era, dawns often bathed in early-morning mist, it’s not difficult to see what lures the tourists to the beautiful hill-station of Kurseong, 32 km from Darjeeling.
Adventure

DHR operates 3 pairs of Regular Trains

1D Up. from New Jalpaiguri (NJP) departing at 09.00 hrs to Darjeeling (DJ) arriving at 15.30 hrs.
2D Dn. from Darjeeling (DJ) departing at 09.15 hrs to New Jalpaiguri (NJP) arriving at 16.00 hrs.
3D Up from New Jalpaiguri (NJP) departing at 08.30 hrs to Kurseong (KGN) arriving at 13.10 hrs.
4D Dn from Kurseong (KGN) departing at 14:30 hrs to New Jalpaiguri (NJP) arriving at 19.00 hrs.
9D Up from Kurseong (KGN) departing at 15.00 hrs to Darjeeling (DJ) arriving at 18.00 hrs.
10D Dn. from Darjeeling (DJ) departing at 10.15 hrs to Kurseong (KGN) arriving at 13.00 hrs.

Joy Ride Train:
This is running from Darjeeling to Ghum and back to Darjeeling with a 10 minutes stoppage at Batasia loop and 30 minutes stoppage at Ghoom Museum and the fare includes entry fee of the Ghoom Museum.

Sukna Steam Special:
This is running from Siliguri Junction to Sukna and back to Siliguri Junction with a 30 minutes stoppage at Sukna for visiting Sukna Photo Gallery.

Jungle Safari Special:
The Holiday Specials are offered on Saturdays, Sundays and on General Holidays on demand from Siliguri Jn. To Tindharia and back. The Tourists can enjoy breathtaking views of Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary and the World Famous Z-Reverses between Sukna and Tindharia.

For more information visit www.dhr.indianrailways.gov.in

Trekking

Darjeeling is a captivating destination for adventurous travellers. The area has an exceptional array of trekking routes. The trekking season in Darjeeling generally begins at the end of March and closes around the middle June. The second season begins around the last week of September & goes right into the first week of December.

Getting there

By Air:
Bagdogra is the nearest airport connected by flights to major cities like Kolkata, Delhi and Guwahati.

By Rail:
Nearest railway stations New Jalpaiguri (NJP) that is directly connected by rail to all the major places in India.

By Road:
Darjeeling is connected by good motorable roads to all places in India.
Darjeeling is:
- 686 km from Kolkata
- 80 km from Siliguri
- 32 km from Kurseong
The date for submission of online application for registration as OCI card holder in lieu of PIO Card by the erstwhile PIO card holders has been extended till 30.06.2017. It is advised that PIO card holders may submit their online OCI applications for registration by 30.06.2017. An OCI card holder is entitled to multiple entry multi-purpose life-long visa for visiting India, exemption from registration with local police authority for any length of stay in India and parity with Non Resident Indians (NRIs) in respect of economic, financial and educational fields except in relation to acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties. No parity shall be allowed in the sphere of political rights (For more details, please refer to website - www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in ). Further, the OCI card will facilitate quicker immigration clearances at the Immigration Check Points and also for obtaining various consular services from the Indian Missions. Further, for those residing in India, it will facilitate in availing various services in India.

“A man is not called wise because he talks and talks again; but if he is peaceful, loving and fearless then he is in truth called wise.” — Gautama Buddha
Kerala is known as God’s own country. The state is located along the coastline to the extreme southwest of the Indian peninsula, flanked by the Arabian Sea on the west and the mountains of the Western Ghats on the east. The state has a coastline of 580 km.

At current prices, Kerala’s Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) was about US$ 89.44 billion in 2015-16. The state’s GSDP recorded at a CAGR of 11.65 per cent between 2004-05 and 2015-16. The state’s per capita GSDP was US$ 2,677 during 2015-16 compared with US$ 810 during 2004-05. As of June 2016, Kerala had a total installed power generation capacity of 4,097.8 megawatt (MW).

Kerala is one of the few states to have marketed its natural beauty successfully to the leisure tourism sector. The state’s unique heritage and cultural diversity have helped attract tourists from the world over. BBC Travel survey has rated Kerala as the top favourite tourist destination among foreign travelers. Foreign tourist arrivals increased by 5.86 per cent during 2015-16 over 2014-15.

It is a leading agricultural state in the country and the largest producer of rubber, pepper, coconut and coir. As per budget 2016-17, Government of Kerala proposed an outlay of US$ 116.74 million for the agriculture sector.

Kerala has a wide range of fiscal and policy incentives for businesses under the Industrial and Commercial Policy and has well-drafted sector-specific policies. Kerala stands 18th among Indian states in rankings based on ease of doing business and reforms implementation, according to a study by the World Bank and KPMG.

According to DIPP, during April 2000 to March 2016, FDI inflows into Kerala, including Lakshadweep, totalled to US$ 1.30 billion.

Key Sectors:

- During 2015-16, the Government of Kerala announced plans to establish 150 production units under Coir Udyami Yojana, 600 units under Mahila Coir Yojana and 5 units under the Development of Production Infrastructure scheme.

- The Government of Kerala proposed an outlay of US$ 11.7 million for the handloom and power loom sector under the Annual Budget for 2015-16.
As of July 2016, Kerala has nine operational IT/ITeS SEZs which are located in Kakkanad, Thiruvanthapuram, Pallipuram Village, etc. Leading IT companies such as TCS, Infosys and UST are providing job opportunities and the industry is expected to add 23,500 new jobs by 2017.

The electronic hub proposed at Kochi is a prestigious project of the Government of Kerala to promote electronic hardware manufacturing and assembling units and R&D centres, and to support infrastructure for the same.

Under budget 2016-17, the Government of Kerala made a total allocation of US$ 47.59 million for 24 schemes for development of Tourism sector in the state, while an allocation of US$ 76.38 million was made towards the Rubber Production Incentive Scheme of Government.

During 2015-16, overall production of spices in Kerala stood at 130.44 thousand tonnes and area under cultivation was 167.25 thousand hectares.

As per budget 2016-17, the Government of Kerala proposed an outlay of US$ 2.13 million for khadi and village industries. Moreover, the Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board has been provided with a financial assistance of US$ 152.76 thousand for the establishment of Gandhi-Khadi Museum at Payyannur.

Among maritime states in India, Kerala ranks second in marine fish production. In 2015-16, total fish production in the state stood at 0.68 million tonnes.

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." — Mahatma Gandhi

Courtesy://www.ibef.org
<table>
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<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Product Profile</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Travel &amp; Tourism Fair Chennai</strong> January 06-08, 2017</td>
<td>First Media Limited</td>
<td>International Trade Fair for Travel and Tourism</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2017</strong> January 10-13, 2017</td>
<td>Industrial Extension Bureau (iINDEXtb)</td>
<td>International Industry Exhibition</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Energy Storage India</strong> January 11-13, 2017</td>
<td>Messe Düsseldorf India Pvt. Ltd</td>
<td>International Trade Fair for Production and Storage of Renewable Energy</td>
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<td><strong>Travel &amp; Tourism Fair Bengaluru</strong> January 13-15, 2017</td>
<td>First Media Limited</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>India Rubber Expo 2017</strong> January 19-21, 2017</td>
<td>All India Rubber Industries Association</td>
<td>International Exhibition and Conference on Rubber Technology, Machineries</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Bengal Global Business Summit</strong> January 20-21, 2017</td>
<td>West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited</td>
<td>International Business Summit</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Acetech</strong> January 20-22, 2017</td>
<td>The Economic Times Acetech Secretariat</td>
<td>International Trade Fair for Architecture, Building Materials, Innovation and Design</td>
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<td><strong>Tooltech</strong></td>
<td>Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers’ Association</td>
<td>International Trade Fair for Tooling Technology</td>
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<td>Event Name</td>
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<td>Industry/Focus Area</td>
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<td><strong>Stonemart 2017</strong></td>
<td>January 26 – February 1, 2017</td>
<td>Centre for Development of Stones &amp; Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce &amp; Industry</td>
<td>International Trade Fair for Stone Industry</td>
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<td><strong>IFEX 2017</strong></td>
<td>February 2-5, 2017</td>
<td>The Institute of Indian Foundrymen</td>
<td>International Trade Fair on Foundry Technology, Equipment and Supplies</td>
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<td><strong>10th Signature IIJS</strong></td>
<td>February 2-5, 2017</td>
<td>Gem &amp; Jewellery Export Promotion Council</td>
<td>International Trade Fair for Gem &amp; Jewellery</td>
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<td><strong>43rd IHGF Delhi Fair Spring</strong></td>
<td>February 8-10, 2017</td>
<td>Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts</td>
<td>International Trade Fair for Handicrafts</td>
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<td><strong>ChemTECH World Expo 2017</strong></td>
<td>February 14-17, 2017</td>
<td>Chemtech Foundation</td>
<td>International Trade Fair for Chemical Industry</td>
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<td><strong>Indian Ceramics 2017</strong></td>
<td>March 1-3, 2017</td>
<td>Unifair Exhibition Service Co., Ltd.</td>
<td>International Trade Fair on Ceramic Industry</td>
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<td><strong>Home and Personal Care Ingredients India (HPCI)</strong></td>
<td>March 2-3, 2017</td>
<td>NürnbergMesse India Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>International Trade Fair for Home &amp; Personal Care Products Ingredients</td>
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<td><strong>India Electronics Week</strong></td>
<td>March 2-4, 2017</td>
<td>Bangalore International Exhibition Center (BIEC)</td>
<td>International Trade Fair for Global Electronics Industry</td>
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<td>S/N</td>
<td>Company Name</td>
<td>Commercial Interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mr. Amit Kumar Jha M/s MAIT</td>
<td>Consumer Premise Equipment (CPE)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PHD House, 4th floor, Ramakrishna Dalmia Wing 4/2, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016 Tel:+91-11-2685 5487 Mob: +91-9910 412 202 Fax: +91-11-2685 1321 <a href="mailto:amit@mait.com">amit@mait.com</a> <a href="http://www.mait.com">www.mait.com</a></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Mr. Ramakrishnan M/s SRIABHU &amp; CO., No.46, 1st Floor, Salai Muthu 1st Cross, Nehru Nagar, Bye-pass Road, Madurai-625 010, India Tel: +91 452 2385119 Hp:+91 99451 05994 <a href="mailto:sriahhumd@gmail.com">sriahhumd@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Cotton Fabric Products such as Terry Towels, Floor Matt’s, Cotton White shirt and Cotton Lungies</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>M/s Precigem DC-6092 B, 6th floor, D Tower, Central wing, Baharat Diamond Bourse, Bandra-kurla complex, Bandra(East), Mumbai 400 051 Tel: 91-22-2369 2623 91-22-2364-0255 91-22-2366-6341 Fax: 91-22-2363-0799 <a href="mailto:accounts@precigem.com">accounts@precigem.com</a> <a href="http://www.precigem.com">http://www.precigem.com</a></td>
<td>Polished diamond and diamond/precious stones studded jewelery</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Mr. Najaf Alam M/s Mittal Group</td>
<td>Salt</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **5.** | Mr. Nishit Mistry  
M/s TERRA INTERNATIONAL  
Tel: 91-9712458667  
info@terrainternational.in  
mistrynj@terrainternational.in  
www.terrainternational.in | 3 Phase Induction Motor |
| **6.** | Mr. Prabuddha Sankar Raychaudhuri  
M/s PMRC Corporation  
8/3 Central Park[Ground floor], P.O.-Jadavpur University, Kolkata 700032, India.  
Mob: 91 98303 04437  
pmrccorp@gmail.com  
www.pmrccorp.com | Garments, fish products and confectionaries. |
| **7.** | Mr. Satish Hirpara  
M/s HB EXPORTHOUSE  
413, 4th Floor, Dreamland Building, Sarthana Jakat Naka, Surat-395006, Gujarat, India  
Tel: 91-9427 008484  
hbexporthouse@gmail.com  
| **8.** | Mr. Jaymin Bhatt  
M/s Shrayoj Enterprise  
219, Satyam Mall, Near Jodhpur cross road Satellite, Ahmedabad-380015, Gujarat, India.  
Mob: 91-8866 740 740  
shrayojenterprise740@gmail.com;  
info@shrayojenterprise.com  
www.shrayojenterprise.com | Metal enclosure |
| **9.** | Mr. S. Subhash  
M/s Green House Export and Import  
Mobile No: +91 9632719908  
Website: www.greenhouseimpex.com  
Email ID: greenhouseexim@gmail.com | fresh fruits and vegetable |
| **10.** | Mr. A. Chandrabapulu  
M/S New Aruna Exporters  
Phone:+91 9442291218  
+91 9597954453  
Ms.New Aruna Exporters 331/c, Gandhi nagar Attur.Salem DistrictTamilnadu. India  
Pin 636102  
e-mail: new.aruna.exporters@gmail.com | coconut oil and desiccated coconut product |
<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address and Contact Details</th>
<th>Products</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Mr. Karthik Ravi</td>
<td>M/s Mantra Associates Mantra Associates - Chennai - India</td>
<td>spice, cashew nuts, pepper</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Exporters of Nuts &amp; Spices)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel: +91 44 48505372 / Mobile: +91 9663294131</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:karthik.mantra2016@gmail.com">karthik.mantra2016@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Mr. Nihal</td>
<td>M/s Fox Agro India <a href="mailto:foxagroindia@gmail.com">foxagroindia@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>fresh fruit, vegetables, frozen products, spices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>M/s Jay Enterprise</td>
<td>Jay Enterprise Sampad, Prantij Sabarkantha - 383120 Gujarat, India</td>
<td>spices, herbs, rice and agro</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.jayenterprise.co.in">www.jayenterprise.co.in</a> <a href="mailto:jayenterprise1511@gmail.com">jayenterprise1511@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Mr. M. Sekar</td>
<td>M/s M.S.R. Enterprises &amp; Exports M.S,R Entreprises &amp; exports M.Sekar. 1102,North 4th Street, pudukkottai.622001 cell no;+919500631875 email: <a href="mailto:sekarmsr.sm@gmail.com">sekarmsr.sm@gmail.com</a> web:www.msrenterexpo.com <a href="mailto:sekarmsr.sm@gmail.com">sekarmsr.sm@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>spice, cashew nut, spirulina, honey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Mr. Dilip Kevadiya</td>
<td>M/s Swan Exports <a href="mailto:swanexports9@gmail.com">swanexports9@gmail.com</a> Tel. No. 91-9909243232</td>
<td>Natural Diamond</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ambassador H.E. Sujan R Chinoy met Mr. Makoto Utsumi, former Vice Minister of Finance.

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy inaugurates the 7th ISAJ Symposium - “India-Japan Symposium on Science and Technology for Sustainability.”

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R Chinoy visits the High Energy Accelerator organisation, KEK, Tsukuba.

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R Chinoy addressed the students of IIT-Madras, Chennai visiting Shibaura Institute of Technology (SIT).
Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy addressed 30 students of Post Graduate Programme of IIM Bangalore

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy at the Japan National Press Club

VCC Students of the July to December semester performed at the VCC Conclusion Ceremony