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Telephone conversation between External Affairs Minister of India and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan

H.E. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India had a telephone conversation with H.E. Kono Taro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan on 22 August. Both the leaders discussed further enhancing the existing strong bilateral ties.

Meeting of Ambassador with Director General of Research and Information System

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy on 1 August met a team led by Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General at the Research and Information System (RIS) for Developing Countries to discuss potential for India-Japan co-operation in Africa on the sidelines of the AAGC Dialogue.

4th meeting of the Joint Committee on the India-Japan CEPA

The 4th meeting of the Joint Committee on the India-Japan Comprehensive and Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was held in Tokyo on 4 August led by Ms. Rita Teotia, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India and Mr. Kazuyuki Yamazaki, Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Both sides discussed a wide range of issues under the ambit of CEPA.

Ambassador attended Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy attended the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony on 6 August at Hiroshima, which was addressed by Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe, among others.

Masterpieces of Indian textiles – “Hatanaka Kokyo Collection”

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy inaugurated an exhibition on old masterpieces of Indian textiles – “Hatanaka Kokyo Collection” at Shoto Museum of Art on 7 August. 7 August is National Handloom Day, which commemorates the spirit of "Swadeshi" (Made in India) movement. The exhibition will run until 24 September. Please see this link for further details http://www.shoto-museum.jp/exhibitions/174hatanaka/

71st Independence Day of India

The 71st Independence Day of India was celebrated at the Embassy of India with great enthusiasm by a large gathering of about 600 people, including the growing Indian community in Tokyo, media representatives, Japanese friends and well-wishers. At an impressive ceremony at 9 am, Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy unfurled the national flag, which was followed by the singing of the National Anthem. Ambassador addressed the gathering and read out the President of India’s Address to the Nation on the eve of the 71st Independence Day of India. Students of Indian International School in Japan (IISJ), Tokyo and Global Indian International School (GIIS) sang patriotic songs. The programme was followed by refreshments. Three local newspapers, Japan Times, Japan News and Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun carried the message of Ambassador on the occasion, along with congratulatory messages from Japanese dignitaries. An Incredible India Photo Contest organised by the Embassy of India in association with India Tourism Office and Air India was launched to mark the celebrations on 15 August 2017.

Earlier, on 9 August, the anniversary of the Quit India movement, Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy administered a pledge to create a New India that is strong, prosperous and inclusive; an India that will make India’s freedom fighters proud.

Cultural Performances by Swanzal Foundation from Jammu and Kashmir

An evening of cultural performance by Swanzal Foundation from the state of Jammu and Kashmir of India was held at the Embassy of India on 25 August as part of the celebrations of India’s 70 years of
Independence, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. They showcased a variety of performance items including Kashmiri opera, ghazal music and lively folk dances that conveyed a message of peace, unity and respect for nature. Their performance in Nonoi city on 27 August was organised by Ishikawa Indian Association, led by Ms Maqsooda Shiotani with support from Nonoi City. Ms Muanpuii Saiawi, First Secretary of Embassy of India and Mr. Takaaki Awa, Mayor of Nonoi city and Mr. Yukiyoshi Yamano, Mayor of Kanazawa city attended the event along with a large audience. Towards the end, the audience also participated by dancing on stage. The troupe then performed at an event organised by Consulate General of India, Osaka Kobe on 29 August.

India Seminar on Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP)

A delegation from Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) led by Dr. K.P. Krishnan, Secretary, MSDE visited Japan between 28 – 30 August. Embassy of India organised ‘India Seminar on Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP)’ in collaboration with Japan International Training Cooperation Organization (JITCO) on 28 August. Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy delivered inaugural remarks, followed by welcome remarks by Mr. Kazuhiro Suzuki, President, JITCO and a keynote address by Dr. K.P. Krishnan, Secretary MSDE. Mr. Asheesh Sharma, DGT/Joint Secretary, MSDE also spoke on the occasion. The five accredited TITP Sending Organisations (NSDC, CII, ASSOCHAM, TeamLease and Centurion University) on the Indian side made presentations on their profile, their strengths and their preparedness to train and dispatch Indian intern trainees. Representatives of Suzuki, Yamaha and Toyota spoke on the Indian workforce and their skill development initiatives in India. The seminar was attended by a large gathering of Japanese Supervising and Implementing Organisations, SME associations and Chambers of Commerce interested in accepting Indian interns to TITP, which also interacted with the Indian delegation at the business matching session. The delegation also had bilateral meeting with METI, Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare and held a round table meeting with stakeholders on TITP.

Visit of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy received Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) team, led by Dr. G Athithan, Distinguished Scientist and Director General, visiting Japan to promote bilateral defence cooperation on 30 August.

Ambassador attended the dinner hosted by Shri Azim Premji, Chairman of WIPRO Group

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy attended a dinner on 29 August hosted by Shri Azim Premji, Chairman of WIPRO group to felicitate WIPRO customers/employees of Japan. Ambassador addressed the gathering attended by some of the eminent Japanese stakeholders in the IT industries associated with the operations of WIPRO in the overseas market of Asia & Pacific. He emphasized on the role of WIPRO particularly in IT sector in strengthening Indo-Japan collaboration.

21st Japan India Student Conference

Ms. Muanpuii Saiawi, First Secretary of the Indian Embassy attended the inaugural ceremony of the 21st Japan India Student Conference (JISC) in Tokyo on 5 August. 11 Indian students from Kolkata and Chennai visited Japan under the JISC. They also visited the Embassy for an interaction on 8 August.

"Essence of Indian Philosophy" Lecture

Dr Ram Vaidya, renowned Sanskrit scholar, conducted a lecture titled "Essence of Indian Philosophy" to inaugurate the VCC Workshop on Sanskrit and Vedas for August - September. Ms Muanpuii Saiawi, First Secretary welcomed the audience, after which Dr Ram Vaidya spoke on various facets of Indian philosophy. The programme was well-attended by over 60 VCC students on 10 August.
Visit of Tama City International Center

A familiarization visit to Embassy of India, Tokyo was conducted for 30 members of the Tama City International Center on 22 August. Ms Muanpuii Saiawi, First Secretary gave the welcoming remarks, after which the visitors experienced yoga asanas and breathing exercises with Dr Hemant Sharma, VCC Yoga Teacher. This was followed by a lecture and Q&A session on India’s economy, culture and tourism by Mr Taichi Watanabe PO (VCC).

The ‘Quit India Movement’ was an important milestone in the Indian Freedom Movement. It was this movement that had made the entire nation determined to attain freedom from the British Rule. This was the time when the people of India, in every part of the country – everyone came together shoulder to shoulder and became a part of the ‘Quit India Movement.’ – Narendra Modi during ‘Mann Ki Baat’ on 30th July 2017
Reaching for the stars, India’s quest for the outer space: Aryabhata to Mangalyaan

India has a rich tradition of using outer space as a tool for national development. The poorest of the poor have always been the beneficiaries of India’s space technologies, from farmers to fisher folk. Indian satellites touch the lives of almost the entire 1.3 billion population.

As India celebrates its seventieth birthday it has already entered the golden era of space technology, sectors like satellite television, banking, smart city development, weather forecasting, smart phones, e-governance, satellite aided navigation are all catering to India’s unending appetite to deploy high technology to ease the life of the common man.

India’s quest for space has been pioneered by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) set up in 1969 and today has an annual budget of about $ 1.4 billion. The country has a constellation of 44 satellites in orbit and can now on its own launch up to four tons of communication satellites into orbit. This gives India end to end capabilities in space technology from making its own satellites to launching its own rockets and has even sent an Indian made satellite Mangalyaan or the Mars Orbiter Mission all the way to the Mars travelling a distance of over 200 million kilometres.

The journey for ISRO began from the humble fishing village of Thumba on the coast of the Arabian Sea where the scientists used the premises of a church to set up the first rocket launch facilities and the first rockets were carried on bicycles and first satellites pulled in on bullock carts. Today India’s heaviest rocket the Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV MK III) also lovingly named ‘Bahubaali’ weighs a whopping 640 tons or the weight of more than 200 fully grown elephants. This elegant rocket had its maiden launch on June 5, 2017 when it launched a communications satellite GSAT-19 into orbit and promises to become the mainstay for all heavy lifts.

The first satellite to be launched by India was way back in 1972 when the 360 kilogram Aryabhata satellite named after India’s legendary mathematician was lifted into orbit from the erstwhile USSR. This space science satellite paved the way for ISRO to reach for the stars. In the next few months this year India hopes to launch its heaviest ever satellite GSAT-11 that will weigh about 5725 kilograms.

By launching ‘Bahubaali’ the Indian space agency entered into a bold new world muscling its way to make its mark in the world’s heavy weight multi-billion dollar launch market. ISRO chairman Dr A S Kiran Kumar a man of modest words said ‘we pushed ourselves to the limits to ensure that this new fully self-reliant Indian rocket succeeds in its maiden launch’.

This heavy lift rocket is capable of placing up to 8 tons in a low Earth orbit, enough to carry India’s crew module. Incidentally what may please Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi a known space buff is that this launch has ‘made in India’ boldly written all over it.

ISRO has already prepared plans of hoisting a 2-3 member human crew into space as soon as the government gives it a sanction of about 3-4 billion dollars. The expectation is that the ISRO friendly Modi may want to leave his own stamp on history by initiating the human space flight program before the end of his first term in 2019. India would become only the fourth country after Russia, USA and China to have a human space flight program. Incidentally ISRO asserts the first Indian to go into space could well be a woman! Kumar confirms ‘in principle it will be the GSLV Mk-3 or its variant that will be human rated in future’.

India already has two operational rockets the workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) that can hoist satellites of 1.5 tons into space and was the preferred vehicle for India’s maiden mission to Moon and Mars. The second the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II can hoist 2 ton class of satellites. Between them, ISRO has done fifty launches and recently even earned a world record by successfully placing 104 satellites in orbit beating an old Russian record of hoisting 39 satellites in a single mission.
This year India embarked on space diplomacy like never before. For the first time, New Delhi flexed its prowess of space technology by embarking on an unprecedented and un-chartered `stratospheric diplomacy' through a special Rs 450 crore gift for south Asians. India carved a very unique place in the universe, when New Delhi `gifted' a heavy weight bird in the sky to its neighbours through the `South Asia Satellite'. India opened its heart out by extending its neighbourhood first policy beyond the stratosphere. This `gift' of a communications satellite for use by neighbours at no cost has no parallels in the space fairing world, all other current regional consortia are commercial for-profit enterprises.

The `South Asia Satellite’, a 2230 kilogram satellite is purely a communications satellite costing Rs 235 crores. The uniqueness of this satellite is that it has a footprint that extends all over South Asia and India gifted this heavenly messenger to its neighbours.

The South Asia Satellite has 12 Ku band transponders which India’s neighbours can now utilize to increase communications. Each country will get access to at least one transponder through which they could beam their own programming and there could be common `south Asian programing’ as well. Each country is developing its own ground infra-structure though India is willing to extend assistance and know-how. According to the government, the satellite will `enable a full range of applications and services to our neighbours in the areas of telecommunication and broadcasting applications viz. television, direct-to-home (DTH), very small aperture terminals (VSATs), tele-education, telemedicine and disaster management support.’ The satellite also has the capability to provide secure hot lines among the participating nations in addition since the region is highly prone to earthquakes, cyclones, floods, tsunami’s. It may help in providing critical communication links in times of disasters.

In this unusual message of peace, India’s most hostile neighbour Pakistan has fully opted out. Rest of the seven countries, part of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), namely Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are part of this mission. Experts say Pakistan has missed an opportunity since its own space program is currently in a primitive stage as compared to India’s. Hopefully friendly skies can result in reduced hostilities on Earth.

In 2013, India launched the Mangalyaan the country’s first mission to Mars and it hit Bulls Eye when on September 24, 2014 it entered the orbit of Mars and India created global history by becoming the first country to reach the orbit of Mars on its maiden attempt a fact that eluded global giants like USA and Russia. Made for a nominal mission life of 180 days, this year the Mangalyaan completed 1000 days in orbit and continues to beam back data and some of its images like those of the full disc of Mars are so good that they featured on the cover of the venerated National Geographic magazine.

Early next year, India plans to hoist its second mission to the Moon, Chandrayaan-2 which will include landing its flag on the lunar surface on an indigenous rover. Continuing with inter-planetary exploration missions are also planned for Venus and a re-visit to Mars.

Human space flight is also in the offing, India’s latest rocket the GSLV Mk III could be India’s vehicle of choice to launch Indians into space, from Indian soil using Indian rockets. This is only the beginning reaching for the stars and exploring the wonders of the universe are all on the horizon but whatever it does, India’s common person will continue to reap the maximum benefits of India’s capabilities in space.

By Pallava Bagla

(Pallava Bagla is a globally recognised Indian science journalist and author of book ‘Reaching for the Stars: India’s Journey to Mars and Beyond’ published by Bloomsbury. He can be reached at Pallava.bagla@gmail.com)

“Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned.” — Gautama Buddha
Banking Sector in India

Introduction

As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India’s banking sector is sufficiently capitalised and well-regulated. The financial and economic conditions in the country are far superior to any other country in the world. Credit, market and liquidity risk studies suggest that Indian banks are generally resilient and have withstood the global downturn well.

Indian banking industry has recently witnessed the roll out of innovative banking models like payments and small finance banks. RBI’s new measures may go a long way in helping the restructuring of the domestic banking industry.

Market Size

The Indian banking system consists of 27 public sector banks, 26 private sector banks, 46 foreign banks, 56 regional rural banks, 1,574 urban cooperative banks and 93,913 rural cooperative banks, in addition to cooperative credit institutions. Public-sector banks control more than 70 per cent of the banking system assets, thereby leaving a comparatively smaller share for its private peers. Banks are also encouraging their customers to manage their finances using mobile phones.

ICRA estimates that credit growth in India’s banking sector would be at 7-8 per cent in FY 2017-18.

Investments/developments

Key investments and developments in India’s banking industry include:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to allow banks to invest in real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) which is expected to benefit both real estate and banking sector in diversifying investor base and investment avenues respectively.

- The Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) and the Caisse de Depot Quebec (CDPQ) have acquired a 1.5 per cent stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank from Mr Uday Kotak, Executive Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank, for a total consideration of Rs 2,254 crore (US$ 350.0 million).

- Fullerton India Credit Co Ltd, a non-banking finance company (NBFC), has raised Rs 500 crore (US$ 75 million) through masala bonds, to support its onward lending and other financing activities.

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) has allowed insurers to invest up to 10 per cent in additional tier 1 (AT1) bonds, that are issued by banks to augment their tier 1 capital, in order to expand the pool of eligible investors for the banks.

- Qatar’s Doha Bank plans to apply to the Qatar Central Bank and Reserve Bank of India for permission to establish a local subsidiary in India, with the vision to create a retail branch network in India.

- Fairfax Financial Holdings, a Canada-based financial services firm, has received an approval from the RBI to acquire a majority 51 per cent stake in Kerala-based Catholic Syrian Bank for Rs 1,000 crore (US$ 150 million), which will be the first takeover of an Indian bank by a non-banking financial entity, after RBI tweaked ownership norms.

- IndiaPost has received the final license from RBI to start its payment bank operations, thus becoming the third entity in India after Bharti Airtel and Paytm to receive payment bank license from RBI.
Microfinance firm Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd has announced starting of banking services across its branches under the name of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd, thus becoming the largest among five small banks which are scheduled to start their operations or have already started.

**Government Initiatives**

- Finance Minister Mr Arun Jaitley has proposed various measures to quicken India's transition to a cashless economy, including a ban on cash transactions over Rs 200,000 (US$ 3,100), tax incentives for creation of a cashless infrastructure, promoting greater usage of non-cash modes of payments, and making Aadhaar-based payments more widespread.

- The Government of India has announced demonetisation of high denomination bank notes of Rs 1000 and Rs 500, with effect from November 08, 2016, in order to eliminate black money and the growing menace of fake Indian currency notes, thereby creating opportunities for improvement in economic growth.

- The RBI has cut its key repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent, in order to boost growth as according to RBI, the inflation momentum has moderated because of a normal monsoon.

- The Government and the regulator have undertaken several measures to strengthen the Indian banking sector.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proactively instructed banks to increase their levels of provision on the loans provided to the telecom sector as a prudent measure, which will help to shore up provisions for future recognition of any non-performing assets arising out of the sector.

- The RBI has allowed banks in India to raise funds through issuance of rupee-denominated bonds overseas, also called masala bonds, within the current limit of Rs 2,44,323 crore (US$ 36.6 billion) set for foreign investment in corporate bonds.

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment has successfully opened around 3,840,863 bank accounts as on December 26, 2016, for workers especially in the unorganised sector, as part of its campaign to promote and ensure cashless transfer of wages to workers.

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) plans to provide around 200,000 point-of-sale (PoS) machines in 100,000 villages and distribute RuPay cards to over 34 million farmers across India, to enable farmers to undertake cashless transactions.

- The Government of India's indigenous digital payments application, BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money), has recorded 18 million downloads since its launch on December 30, 2016, according to Mr Amitabh Kant, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog.

- The Ministry of Finance has lowered the threshold for making electronic payments to suppliers, contractors or institutions from Rs 10,000 (US$ 150) to Rs 5,000 (US$ 75), in order to attain the goal of complete digitisation of government payments.

**Road Ahead**

Enhanced spending on infrastructure, speedy implementation of projects and continuation of reforms are expected to provide further impetus to growth. All these factors suggest that India’s banking sector is also poised for robust growth as the rapidly growing business would turn to banks for their credit needs.

Also, the advancements in technology have brought the mobile and internet banking services to the fore. The banking sector is laying greater emphasis on providing improved services to their clients and
also upgrading their technology infrastructure, in order to enhance the customer’s overall experience as well as give banks a competitive edge.

Many banks, including HDFC, ICICI and AXIS are exploring the option to launch contact-less credit and debit cards in the market shortly. The cards, which use near field communication (NFC) mechanism, will allow customers to transact without having to insert or swipe.

Mr Bill Gates, Co-founder of Microsoft Corp, has stated that India will move quite rapidly to a digital payments economy in as little as seven years, based on the introduction of digital payment banks combined with other things like direct benefit transfers, universal payments interface and Aadhaar.

Exchange Rate Used: INR 1 = US$ 0.0155 as of April 17, 2017.

References: Media Reports, Press releases, Reserve Bank of India, Press Information Bureau, www.pmjdy.gov.in, Union Budget 2017-18

Source: www.ibef.org

“However many holy words you read, however many you speak, what good will they do you if you do not act on upon them?” — Gautama Buddha
**Fast Facts**

**State:** Bihar

**Temperature:**
- Summer: 47-28°C
- Winter: 28-04°C

**Season:**
- October to March

**Clothing:**
- Light cotton in summer and light woollens in winter

**Languages spoken:**
- Hindi, Bhojpuri and English

**STD Code:**
- 0631

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**Bodhgaya Temple**

**80 feet Buddha Statue, Bodhgaya**
Gaya is the second largest city of Bihar, India, and it is also headquarter of Gaya District. Gaya is situated 100 km south of Patna, the capital city of Bihar. This ancient city grew on the banks of Phalgu River (Niranjana, as mentioned in Ramayana). This place is considered holy among the Hindus, the Buddhists and the Jains. It is surrounded by small rocky hills (Mangla-Gauri, Shringa-Sthan, Ram-Shila and Brahmayoni) by three sides and the river flowing on the fourth (eastern) side. Gaya derives its name from the mythological demon Gayasur (which literally means Gaya the demon). The legendary spiritual enlightenment site of the Buddha under the holy Bodhi tree has become the magnetic point for human congregation ever since. The magnificent Mahabodhi temple that had been declared as a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO is a great source of peace. The Kesaria Stupa, highest among the excavated Buddhist stupas is also situated in Bihar.

Main attractions in Gaya are:

(i) **80 feet Buddha Statue**
The Great Buddha Statue popularly known as 80 feet Buddha Statue was unveiled and consecrated on November 18, 1989 with a ceremony graced with the presence of His Holiness the XIV the Dalai Lama, who blessed the 25-meter statue. It was the first great Buddha statue built in the modern history of India. The statue is situated next to Mahabohdi Temple at Bodhgaya. Under the slogan "Spread Buddha's rays to the Whole World," Daijokyo spent seven years on construction of the Great Buddha Statue.

(ii) **Mahabodi Temple**
This is the World Heritage site declared by UNESCO since 2002. The most holy site for any Buddhist devotee is the Bodhi tree which stands in the middle of the Mahabodhi temple complex. About 2600 years ago Gautama Siddhartha is supposed to have realised the enlightenment at this very place under a Peepal tree known as Mahabodhi tree. His philosophy, the way to lead human life has evolved as Buddhism. The original Mahabodhi temple is believed to have been built by the emperor Ashoka, after about 250 years of Buddha’s Mahaparinirvana (demise). The present temple had been first restored in 1883, by Sir Alexander Cunningham along with J. D. Beglar and Dr. Rajendralal Mitra to restore Bodh Gaya to its former glory. There is a part of a stone railing surrounding the temple which is the only ancient remains of the past.

Recently a beautiful Meditation Park, a garden space especially designed for meditation with arrangements for suitable seats under the tree shades is built to facilitate the devotees.

There are various spots to commemorate the sacred footsteps of Buddha inside the temple complex.

(a) **Vajrasana:** Inside Mahabodhi Temple complex in Bodhgaya Located under the Mahabodhi Tree, next to the Mahabodhi Temple a platform is built to commemorate the holy incidence where the Buddha is believed to have experienced the ‘Silent State’ before his enlightenment, which showed him the path of Buddhahood.
(b) Animesh Lochan Stupa: This place is located at the north-east side of Mahabodhi Temple Complex, where Buddha is said to have spent the ‘2nd week’ after his enlightenment. The meaning of Animesh Lochan is unblinking eyes as the Buddha is believed to have gazed at the Bodhi Tree for seven days without blinking his eyes as he was engrossed in a divine pleasure after the Truth of life unfolded before him. A stupa is built at the spot to commemorate this time.

(c) Chankraman Asthal: This place is located at north-west of Mahabodhi Temple inside the temple complex where it is believed the Buddha spent the ‘3rd week’ after his enlightenment. The Buddha spent the entire week walking around at this holy place. A stone structure 53’ long, 3.6’ wide, 3’ high with 19 lotus images in the memory of the footprints of Buddha while in walking state has been built.

(d) Ratanghar (Ratnagriha): This place is located near the entrance of the Mahabodhi Temple Complex where the Buddha is said to have spent the ‘4th week’ after his enlightenment. The legend tells that during meditation, a holy light of five colours spread in the whole atmosphere which radiated from Buddha’s body. In the memory of this divine state, we now see a statue of the Buddha in meditation posture at this open place. These colours now reflect on Buddhist Holy Flag also.

(e) Azapal Tree: It is located near the entrance of Mahabodhi Temple Complex at the middle of the path that leads to the main temple. At this place a tree named Azapal stood under which the Buddha is said to have spent the ‘5th week’ after his enlightenment. This divine state is explained in inscription of Burma (Earlier name of Myanmar) on a ‘white stone plate’ situated here. Buddha spent the entire week meditating.

(f) Muchalind Tank: It is situated at the south of Mahabodhi Temple as the legend goes that the Buddha spent here the ‘6th week’ after his enlightenment in a sitting posture. The mythical tale says that a snake king named Muchalind living in this tank saved the Buddha during meditation from heavy storm and rain sent by the ‘dark forces’ to distract him from his divine path.

(g) Rajayatan: Located at the south side of the Mahabodhi Temple Complex, this is the place where Buddha spent the ‘7th and last Week’ after his enlightenment at this place. In this week he decided to work for mankind. Two businessmen of Utkal Tapassu and Bhallik, who were passing by this place, became his first disciples. After this first teaching, Buddha started travelling towards Sarnath.

(iii) Thai Monastery

It is situated in Bodhgaya and is one of the oldest foreign monasteries built in the ornamental regal Thai architectural style. The grandeur of the exterior as well as the interior is utterly awe-inspiring. The temple reflects like a red and golden gem over a calm pool at the front patio.

The splendid Buddha idol along with the mural paintings depicting Buddha’s life and some modern events like importance of planting trees painted in a stylized manner are utterly marvellous.

The minimal aesthetics sense of the eating quarter for the monks at the side of the main temple built with bamboo and net structure is truly admirable.
(iv) **Dungeshwari Temple**
Gautama Siddhartha is believed to have piously meditated at this place for six years before he went to Bodh gaya for the final realisation. Two small shrines are built to commemorate this phase of Buddha. A golden emaciated Buddha sculpture memorising the rigid penance is enshrined in one of the cave temples and a large (about 6’ tall) Buddha’s statue in the other. A Hindu goddess deity Dungeshwari is also placed inside the cave temple.

A well maintained concreted path leads to the niche of the hill where the temples are tucked in the hill rocks. There are several Buddha image engravings on the black rocks next to the temple. The gold leafs pasted by the devotees on the black surface of these rocks makes it an exquisite spectacle. There are seven stupa remains on the top of the hill. There is one small shop selling water and snacks at the base of the temples from where one can view from atop the panorama of the land below.

(v) **Sujata Garh**
This ancient stupa is believed to be the place where Gautama Siddhartha meditated following severe penance of fasting before he attained enlightenment. The legend goes as that a village lady, Sujata, offered a bowl of rice pudding when she saw meditating Gautama severely emaciated. Gautama accepted the offer and realised the futility of the self deprivation. After this incident, He went to meditate under the Bodhi tree and was enlightened and became the Buddha. The fairly large ancient stupa lies in serenity at the middle of cultivating land. There is a peepal tree growing at the top of this stupa to remind the visitor the connection between the Buddha and the holy tree.

(vi) **Kauva Dol**
This place is still not much explored by tourists although the infrastructure has improved a lot during the last decade. A magnificent ancient Buddha statue of black stone in a sitting posture, measuring about 8ft tall had been excavated from this site. The sculpture has been placed in a small shrine and next to the shrine lay the scattered pillars, some only visible partly above the ground as the remains of a Buddhist monastery which are still to be excavated. Few yards away, at the foothill rocks of the hill there are fantastic engravings of numerous Hindu gods and goddesses. Most of the carvings are of goddess Durga and other deities like Ganesha and Shivlingas.

**Courtesy:** [www.bihartourism.gov.in](http://www.bihartourism.gov.in), [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org), [www.mapsofindia.com](http://www.mapsofindia.com)

“For a successful revolution it is not enough that there is discontent. What is required is a profound and thorough conviction of the justice, necessity and importance of political and social rights” - B. R. Ambedkar
Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India with a population of 200 million people. Uttar Pradesh shares its borders with Nepal on the north, the Indian states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh towards the northwest, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan on the west, Madhya Pradesh on the south, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand to the southeast and Bihar in the east.

Uttar Pradesh is a favoured tourist destination in India due to the location of Taj Mahal, one of the Eight Wonders of the World, in Agra. In 2015, 3.10 million foreign tourists visited the state of Uttar Pradesh. Under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme, for the development of Varanasi, the amount sanctioned and released by the Ministry of Tourism for the state, during 2015-16, were recorded to be US$ 3.06 million and US$ 623.28 thousand, respectively.

Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of food grains in India and accounted for about 18.39 per cent share in the country’s total food grain output in 2015-16. Food grain production in the state in 2015-16 stood at 46,547.9 thousand tonnes. Major food grains produced in the state include rice, wheat, maize, millet (bajra), gram, pea and lentils. With overall vegetable production of 26.12 million tonnes in 2015-16, the state of Uttar Pradesh was the second largest producer of vegetables in India, after West Bengal.
As of 2015-16, Uttar Pradesh is recognised as a major milk-producing state in the country, accounting for around 20.55 per cent share in the total milk produced in the country. During 2015-16, the state’s milk production was around 32.95 million tonnes, growing at a CAGR of 6.26 per cent from 2003-04 to 2015-16. As of June 2016, Uttar Pradesh had a total installed power generation capacity of 19,292.99 megawatt (MW).

Owing to the state’s large base of skilled labourers, it has emerged as a key hub for IT and ITeS industries, including software, captive business process outsourcing (BPO) and electronics. The state has become a hub for the semiconductor industry with several major players having their offices and R&D centres in Noida. Uttar Pradesh ranks 10th among Indian states in rankings based on ease of doing business and 5th in complying with labour regulations, according to a study by The World Bank and KPMG.

The state offers a wide range of subsidies, policy and fiscal incentives as well as assistance for businesses under the Industrial and Service Sector Investment Policy, 2004 and Infrastructure & Industrial Investment Policy, 2012. The state has well-drafted, sector-specific policies for IT and biotechnology. In the 2015-16 Budget, the state government proposed an investment of US$ 50.3 billion for enhancements in power, health and transportation sectors.

The state has attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows worth US$ 563 million during the period April 2000 to March 2016, according to data released by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

**Key Sectors:**

- The major factor driving the growth in the manufacturing sector is the availability of robust infrastructure, extensive road network, large pool of talent, and various investments and incentives offered by the state government.

- The state government arranged for an amount of US$ 6.11 million for the purpose of establishing Electronic Manufacturing Clusters along the Yamuna Expressway according to state budget 2016-17.

- Uttar Pradesh accounts for strong demand for fertilisers on account of the high availability of acreage coupled with the large size of the state.

- Richness in the availability of raw material is an important factor for setting up cement plants. As of 2014-15, the state was home to 12 large cement plants with a cumulative capacity of 7.2 million tonnes.

**Courtesy:** [www.ibef.org](http://www.ibef.org)

"India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend and the great grand mother of tradition" - Mark Twain
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Product Profile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Agri Asia Gandhinagar</td>
<td>Radeecal Communications</td>
<td>International exhibition on agricultural technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.agriasia.in">http://www.agriasia.in</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>TTF Travel &amp; Tourism Fair</td>
<td>Fairfest Media Ltd.</td>
<td>International exhibition for travel &amp; tourism industry</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.ttfotm.com">http://www.ttfotm.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Umex Mumbai</td>
<td>ITEI International Trade and Exhibitions India Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>International trade fair for used machinery</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.umexonline.com/Home">http://www.umexonline.com/Home</a></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>TechIndia Mumbai</td>
<td>International Trade and Exhibitions India Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>International exhibition for engineering and manufacturing industry</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.techindiaexpo.com/Home">http://www.techindiaexpo.com/Home</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Imex Mumbai</td>
<td>ITEI International Trade and Exhibitions India Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>International trade fair for tools and machinery</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.imexonline.com/Home">http://www.imexonline.com/Home</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jewellery &amp; Gem Fair New Delhi</td>
<td>UBM plc</td>
<td>International trade fair for gems &amp; jewellery</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://jewelleryfair.in">http://jewelleryfair.in</a></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Laser World of Photonics India New Delhi</td>
<td>MMI India Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>International trade fair for photonics</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>International FoodService India Mumbai</td>
<td>Koelnmesse YA Tradefair Pvt Ltd.</td>
<td>International trade fair for catering and retail technology</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.foodservice-india.com">http://www.foodservice-india.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Annapoorna – World of Food India Mumbai</td>
<td>Koelnmesse YA Tradefair Pvt Ltd.</td>
<td>International trade fair and conference for food and beverage industry</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.worldoffoodindia.com">http://www.worldoffoodindia.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The Big 5 Construct India Mumbai</td>
<td>Expotim International Fair Organisation Inc.</td>
<td>International trade fair for construction products and technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.thebig5constructindia.com">https://www.thebig5constructindia.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Analytica Anacon India Hyderabad</td>
<td>MMI India Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>International trade fair for laboratory technology, analysis, biotechnology and diagnostics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.analyticaindia.com">http://www.analyticaindia.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Global Industrial Expo</td>
<td>Global Media Communication</td>
<td>International trade fair for industrial goods and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Name</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Organizing Body</td>
<td>Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>INMEX SMM India Mumbai</td>
<td>October 3-5, 2017</td>
<td>Hamburg Messe und Congress GmbH</td>
<td><a href="https://www.inmex-smm-india.com">https://www.inmex-smm-india.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>44th IHGF Delhi Fair – Autumn</td>
<td>October 12-16, 2017</td>
<td>Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts</td>
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<td>Drink Technology India Mumbai</td>
<td>October 26-28, 2017</td>
<td>MMI India Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.drinktechnology-india.com">www.drinktechnology-india.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Acetech</td>
<td>November 2-5, 2017</td>
<td>Asian Business Exhibitions &amp; Conferences Ltd.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.etacetech.com">www.etacetech.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Automotive Engineering Show Chennai</td>
<td>November 9-11, 2017</td>
<td>Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aes-show.com">www.aes-show.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biofach India</td>
<td>November 9-11, 2017</td>
<td>NurnbergMesse India Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.biofach-india.com">www.biofach-india.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bengaluru India Bio</td>
<td></td>
<td>MM Activ</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Website</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 16-18, 2017</td>
<td>IIFJAS Chennai (Chennai)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iifjs.com">www.iifjs.com</a></td>
<td>South India’s Authentic trade exhibition for imitation &amp; gold covering jewellery</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 23-24, 2017</td>
<td>OSH India (Chennai)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oshindia.com">www.oshindia.com</a></td>
<td>International trade fair and conference for occupational safety and health</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 28-30, 2017</td>
<td>P-MEC India (Ahmedabad)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cphi.com">www.cphi.com</a></td>
<td>International trade fair for pharmaceuticals, medical devices and accessories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trade Queries from India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Commercial Interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. | Mr. Viral Rathod  
M/s WINGS IMPEX  
Rajkot, Gujarat | Spice, agro products, fresh vegetable and fruits & Auto parts |
| 2. | Mr. Mayank Agarwal  
M/s Sunrise Enterprises  
06 Civil Lines, Opp. Prem Mandir, Roorkee – 247667, Uttarakhand  
Tel: +91-954-959-4444 / +91-916-077-2146 | Agricultural productions of wheat, cereals, millets, rice and herbs |
| 3. | Mr. Shaktisinh Jadeja  
Mob: +91-95123-74545 | Tiles and sanitary ware |
| 4. | Ms. Preeti Nair  
M/s ALL TIME FASHION COMPANY  
43, Milap Nagar, Tonk road, Jaipur (India)  
Pin-302018  
Tel: 0141-3341867 | Garments |
| 5. | Mr. Arjun Mishra  
M/s Hydra International Ltd.  
3-37-1 Oomori bldg. 3F, Asagaya Minami, Suginami-ku, Tokyo  
Tel: 03-6276-9406  
Mob: 09025569469  
E-mail: asanchez@hydrainternational.jp | Mango |
| 6. | Mr. Gyan Singhvi  
M/s Singhvi Tradelink LLP  
102, Ashopalav Arcade, Plot No.4, Sector 9/A, Gandhidham – India 370201 | Steel Raw Material & Steel Products and Solid Waste Recycling Technology. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company/Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Products</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Mr. SINGH, Abhisek Pratap</td>
<td>Singh Medical, 69 Jelia Para Lane, Salkia,</td>
<td>Mob: +91-9824286229 E-mail: <a href="mailto:gcsinghvi@singhvigroup.com">gcsinghvi@singhvigroup.com</a></td>
<td>Gelatine Free Encapsulation Material for Pharmaceutical usages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Howrah – 6 (W.B.)</td>
<td>Tel: +91-8420-14-1122 E-mail: <a href="mailto:a1abhisek@gmail.com">a1abhisek@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Mr. E. Selvam</td>
<td>M/s Wings Overseas</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:wingsoverseas2106@gmail.com">wingsoverseas2106@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>leggings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Mr. Romanbhai</td>
<td>M/s Aramcon Exporter</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:romanbavddin777@gmail.com">romanbavddin777@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Coffee, tea and spice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Mr. Rahul Sarawagi</td>
<td>M/s Finch Exports</td>
<td>Tel: +91-512 2609588 +91-8120040440 E-mail: <a href="mailto:finchexports@gmail.com">finchexports@gmail.com</a> URL: <a href="http://www.finchexports.com">www.finchexports.com</a></td>
<td>Poly (Vinyl Chloride) Resins, Vinyl Chloride (Chloroethylene), Unsrtd, Other Isocyanates, Naoh in aq soln (Soda Lye or Lqd Soda), Meal of Soyabean, Solvent extracted (Defatted) Variety and Cashew Karning Whole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Mr. Danish Raza</td>
<td>M/s Marks General Traing</td>
<td>Email : <a href="mailto:info@marksinternationalns.com">info@marksinternationalns.com</a> web: <a href="http://www.marksinternationalns.com">www.marksinternationalns.com</a></td>
<td>Fruits, Vegetable, Spices, Foods, Grains</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy reads out the message of the Hon’ble President of India on the 71st Independence Day of India

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy at the India Seminar on Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP)

Ms. Rita Teotia, Commerce Secretary and Mr. Kazuyuki Yamazaki, Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan at 4th meeting of the Joint Committee on the India-Japan CEPA

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy with Ms. Rita Teotia, Commerce Secretary
Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy with team led by Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy with Mr. Kokyo Hatanaka at the "Hatanaka Kokyo Collection-Masterpieces of Old Indian Textiles" at the Shoto Museum of Art, Shibuya.

Ambassador H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy with Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) team

Ms Muanpuii Saiawi, First Secretary and Mr. Naveen Ramakrishna, Second Secretary with students of 21 Japan India Student Conference (JISC)
An evening of cultural performance by Swanzal Foundation at Embassy

Swanzal Foundation performed at Nonoichi city in Ishikawa prefecture
INcredible India PHotO CONTEST
Win a Free Trip to India!

APPLICATION PERIOD
15 August, 2017—30 September, 2017

AWARDS
2 Best Photos: Return trip to India with hospitality
2 Runners Up: Return trip to India
Up to 10 Honourable Mentions: Surprise gifts
*Awards ceremony will be announced later
*All winners will have their work exhibited
*Conditions apply. Please read carefully

ELIGIBILITY
This competition is open to Japanese amateur photographers, currently residing in Japan.

THEMES
We are looking for photographs showcasing the beauty of India. Subject matter can be anything that can be photographed in India, such as historical monuments, nature, people, culture, food etc.

HOW TO ENTER
Please visit the website of Embassy of India for information on how to enter the competition.

Organised By: Embassy of India, Tokyo

India Tourism

Access Entry Webpage from Below

Incredible India

Indiatourism Tokyo

www.airindia.in

www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/photocontest.html

www.incredibleindia.org