India’s own regional navigation satellite system named as “Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)” is established by ISRO and is functional from April 2018 onwards. ISRO has completed all the necessary preparations with regard to establishment of Space Segment (currently 08 IRNSS satellites are in orbit) and Ground Segment (spread across India). The 07 satellites in the system are providing Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) services and 01 satellite (IRNSS-1A) is providing messaging services. The potential of this indigenous system is being demonstrated in various application sectors viz. vehicle tracking system, mobiles, timing & power synchronization, fisheries, surveying etc. For e.g., all commercial vehicles registered from 1st April’19 onwards are mandated to have vehicle trackers, which are also NavIC-enabled. > 30 companies are manufacturing Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) or International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) approved NavIC-enabled vehicle trackers in India.

Single Window System for Investors in Indian States

The State Reforms proposed by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) requires States and Union Territories (UTs) to have a Single Window System across various Departments with the following features:

- Allow online submission of application without the need to submit physical copies of the application.
- Eliminate physical touch-point for document submission and verification.
- Allow applicant to track status of application online.
- Ensure the applicant receives an SMS/e-mail notification as and when the application is submitted and/or query is raised and/or application is approved/rejected.
- Service wise approvals may be granted as and when received from the Department concerned.
- Mandate that all queries/clarifications related to investors’ application are sought in one go and within 7 days of receipt of the application.

Under the assessment exercise of States/UTs for the year 2017-18, 21 States/UTs have designed and implemented online Single Window System.

GoI established NSIL for Commercial Exploitation of ISRO’s R&D work

New Space India Limited (NSIL), has been incorporated on 06th March 2019 under the administrative control of Department of Space to commercially exploit the R&D work of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Centres and constituent units of DOS.

NSIL functions involve viz. Small Satellite technology transfer to industry, wherein NSIL will obtain license from DOS/ISRO and sub-license it to industries; Manufacture of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in collaboration with Private Sector; Productionisation of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle through Indian Industry; Productionisation and marketing of Space based products and services, including launch and application; Transfer of technology developed by ISRO Centres and constituent units of DOS; Marketing spin-off technologies and products/services, both in India and abroad; etc. NSIL would enable Indian Industries to scale up high-technology manufacturing and production base for meeting the growing needs of Indian space programme and would further spur the growth of Indian Industries in the space sector.
DRDO launches Technology Demonstrator Vehicle

Source: PIB Delhi
Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on 12 June '19 launched a Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle to prove a number of critical technologies for futuristic missions from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha State. Various radars, telemetry stations and electro optical tracking sensors tracked the vehicle through its course. The data has been collected and will be analysed to validate the critical technologies.

ICAT Releases India’s 1st BS – VI Certificate in Two Wheeler Segment

International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) released India’s first Type Approval Certificate (TAC) for Bharat Stage - VI (BS – VI) norms for the two wheeler segment in New Delhi on 10th June 2019.

Bharat Stage norms are the automotive emission norms which the automotive manufacturers have to comply to sell their vehicles in India. These norms are applicable to all two, three & four wheelers, construction equipment vehicles.

To curb growing menace of air pollution through the vehicles emission, the Government of India has decided to leapfrog from the exiting BS – IV norms to the BS- VI, thereby skipping the BS – V norms, and to implement the BS – VI norms with effect from 1st April 2020. Only those vehicles will be sold and registered in India from 1st April 2020 onwards, which comply to these norms. The norms are stringent and at par with global standards.

For more details visit the link http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=190387

Start-up India Scheme

Start-up India initiative launched on 16th January 2016, consists of 19 Action Points that act as a guiding document for the initiative. The initiative has many salient features.

Since its inception, 19,351 Startups across the country have been recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as on 24.06.2019.

Government of India has established Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) with corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore, to meet the funding needs of startups. DPIIT is the monitoring agency and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the operating agency for FFS. The total corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore is envisaged to be provided over the 14th and 15th Finance Commission cycles based on progress of the scheme and availability of funds. SIDBI has committed Rs 3123.20 crore to 49 SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). These funds have raised a corpus fund of INR 27,478 crore. INR 483.46 crore have been drawn from Fund of Funds for Startups. Further, the AIFs have invested a total of Rs. 1,625.73 crore into 247 startups.

A total of 26 states have notified and operational startup policies.

For more details visit the link http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1576140

Foreign Direct Investments in India

2018-19

Highest-ever FDI inflows in India in 2018-19; touching a whopping US$ 64.37 billion! India remains a favourable destination for FDI despite unfavourable global circumstances. Inflows in past 5 yrs have surpassed US$ 286 billion, witnessing an increase of 51% over previous 5 yrs.

FDI inflows into India grow by 6% in 2018-19 to beat global downward trends: global FDI flows plunged by 16% in 2017, and then suffered a further slump of 27% in 2018.

India has taken big steps to simplify its FDI policy over the years, with investments allowed in most sectors on automatic route. FDI equity inflows in 2018-19 through this route jumped up by 13% in 2018-19 to cross a staggering US$ 41.94 billion.

For details visit the link https://dipp.gov.in/foreign-direct-investment/foreign-direct-investment-policy & https://dipp.gov.in/publications/fdi-statistics
Indian scientists develop more potent Anthrax vaccine

Researchers from the India’s Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Mysore and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) have developed a new vaccine against anthrax. It is claimed to be superior over existing vaccines as it can generate immune response to anthrax toxin as well as its spores rather than the toxin alone.

The anti-anthrax vaccines available in market generate immune response against a Bacillus protein-protective antigen – a protein that helps in transport of bacillus toxins inside the cells. This means that immune response is triggered only when spores germinate in body and start producing bacterial proteins. Anyone vaccinated with such a vaccine would show no immune response to bacillus spores and only perform once spores germinate and release toxins.

Studies have, however, shown that when inactivated spores are injected in addition to vaccine, the protection towards bacillus is enhanced. The group of researchers from DRDL & JNU decided to develop a single vaccine which is effective against both the toxin and its spores so as to provide complete protection.

For this, they stitched together portions of two genes. The protein thus produced was fusion of the two proteins and was injected into mice. After few days, scientists found that injected mice had high concentration of antibodies against fused proteins in its blood, showing immune response against the injected protein. It was found that these antibodies were also able to individually bind both protective antigen and spore protein demonstrating that the vaccine can produce immune response against both spores and the toxin. The research results have been published in journal Frontiers in Immunology.

For more details visit the link https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/indian-scientists-develop-more-potent-anthrax-vaccine/article27995317.ece

Organic Farming in India

As on June 2019, 4,53,622 farmers are practicing organic farming under Participatory Guarantee System and 11,47,401 farmers are registered in TraceNet under third party certification.

As per the ASSOCHAM and E&Y report published in 2018, the domestic organic market was valued at Rs 2500 crores including Rs. 1500 crores in organised retail and Rs. 1000 crores by farmers’ direct market. During last two years different brands have been developed at State level for organic food market under the Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North East region and Traditional Agriculture Development schemes.

Export has been initiated from Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram to Africa, UK & US, Australia and Italy respectively. Market linkage of producer clusters with some major agribusiness, phytochemical and online grocery stores have also been established.

For more details visit the link http://pib.nic.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575242

ReVolt RV 400 - India's first AI enabled 4G motorcycle (250km in single charge and top speed of 85km). Can customize sound also which again is 1st in the world in motorcycle industry.
The venture capital arm of Singapore's state-backed investment group Temasek Holdings, together with Japanese investors, will launch a $770 million fund that seeks to nurture tech startups into multibillion-dollar companies. The fund will hunt for startups with the potential to become unicorns -- unlisted companies valued at more than $1 billion. Vertex was an early backer of Singapore-based ride-hailing company Grab, one of the world's 18 "decacorns" worth over $10 billion. The new fund will be active in four regions -- the U.S., China, India and Southeast Asia, and Israel -- allocating roughly $100 million to each region. For more details visit the link https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Startups/Temasek-Vertex-recruits-Japan-Inc.-for-770m-unicorn-fund

Mitsubishi Corp to hike stake in TVS Automobile Solutions from 3% to 25%

TVS Automobile Solutions Private Limited (TASL), one of India’s leading independent aftermarket players and part of the $8.5 bn TVS group, has announced strategic partnership with Mitsubishi Corporation (MC), Japan. Mitsubishi will take a substantial minority stake in the company. The agreement is subject to approval by Competition Commission of India (CCI) & other relevant authorities, said R Dinesh, director, TVS Automobile Solutions. Mitsubishi will strive to expand TASL’s business and participate in the growing Indian market through introduction of Japanese automotive parts suppliers, and enhancement of price competitive parts line-ups for TASL. In addition, as a collaboration synergy between MC and TASL, MC aims to deploy TASL’s successful business model in overseas markets and contribute to TASL’s continuous business expansion. For more details visit the link https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/mitsubishi-corp-to-hike-stake-in-tvs-automobile-solutions-from-3-to-25-119060300528_1.html

India, Japan jointly float $187-mn fund-of-funds to back Indian tech startups

India and Japan are jointly launching a fund-of-funds of $187 million (Rs 1,298 crore) to invest in technology startups in the South Asian market. The fund-of-funds -- Indo Japan Emerging Technology & Innovation AIF -- is raising $150 million of the targeted corpus from Japanese investors while the remaining will be raised from Indian investors, according to a statement. Four Japanese investors -- Mizuho Bank, Development Bank of Japan, Nippon Life and Suzuki -- have already signed letters of intent for the fund-of-funds, it added. Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management Ltd (RNAM), the Indian asset management arm of Nippon Life, will manage the fund. The fund-of-funds aims to invest in more than 200 Indian companies focussed on emerging areas such as Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), fintech, healthcare, consumer, education, robotics, automation and business-to-business (B2B) software. For more details visit the link https://www.vccircle.com/india-japan-jointly-float-187-mn-fund-of-funds-to-back-indian-tech-startups/ OR https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Japan-to-pump-140m-into-Indian-startups-via-public-private-fund
Air Water Inc. Japan invested ¥24 billion in Air Water India

Air Water Inc. Japan invested ¥24 billion in Air Water India Pvt Ltd on 14 June to acquire related business of Praxair India Pvt Ltd to manufacture, sale, distribution of oxygen, nitrogen and argon operated in East India. Based on this investment, AW India will be qualified as a subsidiary.

For more details visit the link http://www.awi.co.jp/common/uploads/2019/06/ccc3bcdfdfc26e04a0f0b0a5a7a02e4.pdf

Japan’s M3 acquires majority share in Neuroglia Health

Japanese healthcare firm M3, Inc has acquired a majority share in Bengaluru-based Neuroglia Health, a startup that provides web-based applications for doctors and medical students in India.

M3 last year had collaborated with Barman family-owned Healthcare at Home to launch an online portal that provides information to Indian doctors regarding research, medical news, and evidence-based medicine.

"The acquisition will enable M3 India to escalate its marketing support and market research businesses to pharmaceutical and medical devices companies through expansion of doctor membership and enhancement of medical education contents", said Amit Singh, CEO of HIPL (M3 India).

The Japanese firm also intends to import services and technologies developed in Japan and/or internationally into India, on services such as job placement, Artificial Intelligence applications in an attempt to build next generation healthcare technologies.

Nikkei Inc buys 26pc in India's NewsRise

Japan’s Nikkei Inc has bought 25.99 per cent of the outstanding shares in Indian media startup NewsRise Financial Research and Information Services. The deal was part of its strategic initiatives to expand its footprint across Asia.

NewsRise publishes real-time financial news, research, and information for currency, debt, equity, and resources asset classes for use by banks, broking houses, asset managers, corporate treasurers, and individual investors. Established in 2013, NewsRise has news bureaus in Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, and Bengaluru.

Under the brand of Nikkei Markets, Nikkei and NewsRise have been jointly providing English-language news on Southeast Asian stock markets since April 2017.

With the capital tie-up, Nikkei and NewsRise will advance cooperation to deliver higher quality and a greater quantity of the region's market news.

CEO & MD Delhi - Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) had a very productive meeting with Mr. Yusuke Iseki, DG, Infrastructure & Environment Finance Group, JBIC on 30th May’19. Various opportunities of collaboration under industrial corridors were deliberated. DMIC is India's most ambitious infrastructure programme aiming to develop new industrial cities as "Smart Cities".

Japan Invests USD. 4.5 Billion in DMIC Project

The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial corridor project attracts 4.5 billion dollar worth of investment from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

This investment has been made in the first phase of the project and Japan holds a 26 percent stake in the same. Japan is constantly in coordination with the Indian government to track the progress of the development. Japan is also in working in sync with the Indian government for other industrial corridors and a special management team called “Japan Plus” has been set specifically to fast track Japan’s investment proposals to India. This team has been set up by the department of industrial policy and promotion and consists of officials from both Japanese and Indian government.

The DMIC project consisting of a plan to build 100 smart cities is gaining momentum as the first smart city of Dholera Special Investment region has been sanctioned Rs. 3,000 crore for development of trunk infrastructure. Work has already started on a strategic area of 22 kilometers and the first phase should get completed by 2019.

Of the seven cities that shall be developed in the first phase of project, master planning for majority of them has already been completed. About 30-35 percent projects are trunk infrastructure and central government is arranging for funds for the development while the rest 60-65 percent projects shall be developed on account of public-private partnership deals as and when it shall materialize.

DMIC was sanctioned by the government in 2007 and has been planned as a 2,700 kilometer corridor spanning the length of India—a mammoth project which is one of its kinds. Modi’s development of 100 smart cities, few of them along the corridor shall boost India as a manufacturing hub to the world and incentivize “Make in India” vision.

For more details visit the link https://dholeracity.in/web/Japan-Invests-USD.-4.5-Billion-in-DMIC-Project-June-2019.html
Less than five months after Maruti Suzuki India inked a MoU with the government of Haryana to set up a Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM), a model ITI, at Uncha Majra village in Gurugram district, Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has issued a certificate of accreditation to the facility.

Akimasa Ishikawa, Vice Minister, METI and Raj Kumar Srivastava, DCM, Embassy of India, Tokyo, handed over the certificate to Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Officer, Global Automobile Marketing, Suzuki Motor Corporation, Japan, at a ceremony held at METI office in Tokyo. This second JIM by Maruti Suzuki will train over 500 youth annually and is expected to begin operations in second quarter of FY2019-20. Maruti Suzuki’s first JIM, also METI-accredited, is operational at Mehsana Gujarat, since 2017. The first batch from JIM Mehsana, received 100% placement last year.


Japan to invest Rs 13,000 cr in Northeast

The Government of Japan has decided to invest an amount of 205.784 billion Yen, equivalent to approximately Rs.13,000 crore, in several ongoing as well as new projects in different states of India's North- Eastern region. This was disclosed after a meeting which the DoNER Minister Dr Jitendra Singh had with the Japanese delegation led by Ambassador Mr Kenji Hiramatsu, on 12 June 2019.

Some of the important projects in which Japan will collaborate include Guwahati Water Supply Project and Guwahati Sewage Project in Assam, Northeast Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project spread over Assam and Meghalaya, Northeast Network Connectivity Improvement Project in Meghalaya, Bio-diversity Conservation and Forest Management Project in Sikkim, Sustainable Forest Management Project in Tripura, Technical Cooperation Project for Sustainable Agriculture & Irrigation in Mizoram, Forest Management Project in Nagaland, etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh appreciated the Japanese contribution to the development and transformation of the North-Eastern region in the last three to four years. He said, in the times to come, new areas of collaboration will also be sought to be worked out, which could possibly include Bamboo-related collaboration. Significantly, it was the Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, which amended the 90-year old "Indian Forest Act of 1919" of the British Government to bring the home-grown Bamboo out of its purview, he added.

Beyond Next Ventures and Indian Incubator Tying up for Full-Fledged India-Bound Investment

Japan’s incubator, Beyond Next Ventures and India’s Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms or C-CAMP concluded a business partnership agreement. Based on the agreement, Beyond Next Ventures and C-CAMP will be establishing a consortium called “C-CAMP Beyond Next Ventures Innovation Hub” (CBIH), aiming to nurture Indian and Japanese entrepreneurs and to promote personnel and technology exchange through their existing acceleration programs. They aim to create innovations both in India and Japan through the combination of investments towards India’s tech-oriented start-ups, and hands-on supports.

Established in August, 2014, Beyond Next Venture is a private accelerator which specializes in incubation investments towards tech start-ups. Since its establishment, the company has extended supports to a number of startup businesses, many of which are academic origin. It is also making incubation investments to domestic and foreign medical and life-science start-ups to materialize their business and to promote their growth.

Bangalore-based C-CAMP is one of leading incubators in India. India is known as a country which possesses high growth potential. Among many sparkling cities of India, Bengaluru is known as “India’s Silicon Valley”, contributing to the country’s growth as its the innovation center. Established by the Ministry of Science, the Government of India in 2009, C-CAMP has supported over 100 start-ups, especially in the field of life-science. It has invested in cutting-edge research and development programs, and offered mentoring supports and incubation facilities to them, promoting industrialization and growth of life-science start-ups.

The recent business partnership between C-CAMP and Beyond Next Ventures many enable Beyond Next Venture to gear up its investment activities in India and other Asian nations.

For more details visit the link https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=000000056.000017460&g=prt
A symposium on Indian Economy 2019 was organized by the Institute for Indian Economic Studies (IIES) on June 10, 2019 at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce & Industry Hall, Tokyo. Ambassador H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma delivered the inaugural speech, emphasizing India’s new economic policies towards consolidation of friendship between India and Japan specially after the re-election of Indian PM Mr. Narendra Modi for the second term in 2019. Dr. Viral V Acharya, Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India made a keynote address, on the topic “Development of viable capital market: The Indian experience”.

The event also witnessed a panel discussion on the topic “New Government’s policy toward New India: New Direction and Challenge”, which was attended by Indian panelist Mr. Dharmakriti Joshi, Chief Economist CRISIL Ltd. Mr. Balbir Singh, Senior Advocate, Delhi High Court along with Japanese panelist Mr. Muneo Kurauchi, Advisor MUFG Bank Ltd and Takehiko Koyanagi, Editor-At-large, Nikkei Asian Review. Professor Eisuke Sakakibara, President of IIES was the moderator. The panel discussion was followed by a question answer session, on various topics ranging from general election in India, direction of new economic policies, big ticket projects like High Speed Shinkansen rail project, Make in India, Digital India and Start Up India etc.

Invest India met on 19th June with Mr. Junsuke Koike, Managing Director & Regional Executive for India, MUFG and discussed future partnerships & explored various possibilities for collaboration.

Invest India & JETRO India facilitated a visit for GoAssam to Japanese Industrial Township Neemrana to discuss prospects of having a conducive Japanese business ecosystem in Assam on 20th June.

Honda to Introduce New Scooter to Indian Market

Honda on 12th June introduced its new scooter which meets all requirements indicated in the new exhaust gas regulation. The company plans to introduce the new product to the market as early as this fall, before the new regulation becomes effective in the spring next year. The company developed new engine which is capable of reducing exhaust emission by utilizing the technology which Honda developed on its own. Moreover, the company was able to improve fuel efficiency of the new scooter by reducing the weights of engine components and lowering friction between them.

A delegation led by Mr Vijay Kumar, Financial Commissioner, Ministry of Railways & Managing Director, Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) participated in Roadshow and exhaustive interaction with prospective investors regarding JPY equivalent of USD300 million Syndicated Term Loan Facility. Mandated Lead Arranger and Book-runner (MLAB) include MUFG, SMBC and Mizuho Bank. Mr Muneo Kurauchi, Advisor/Chairman MUFG Bank Ltd. presented the opening remarks and welcome speech was given by Mr Ravindra Verma, Railway Adviser. Detailed presentation on IRFC activities was made by Mr Niraj Kumar, Director Finance. Syndication process and investors issues were discussed by senior management from MLAB. The discussion was followed by Q&A session to address the queries from investors.
India, the world’s most populous democracy with a population of 1.3 billion, holds the key to the Free-and Open Indo-Pacific Concept. In November, 2018, the first Japan-US-India summit was held. India’s importance is on the increase.

The ruling party BJP achieved a victory in the general election held in India in April-May, 2019. H.E. Mr. Verma, who has assumed the post of Ambassador of India to Japan in January, 2019, expressed his expectation for the second term of the Modi Administration as follows; “Japan and India are deeply committed to the Indo-Pacific Region. There is an excellent chemistry between the personalities of the two prime ministers. Therefore, we can see the continuation of what was being discussed and implemented in the first five years of this government to continue for another five years.”

The biggest surprise of the new cabinet’s lineup was the appointment of Dr. Jaishankar, a former diplomat, as External Affairs Minister. He succeeded previous External Affairs Minister Swaraj, who had stepped down due to a health issue. “The wife of Minister Jaishankar is a Japanese lady. He has served in the Indian Embassy in Tokyo. So he has very close association with Japan. He has also served in China and the US.” We can expect that the new external affairs minister can build strong ties with Japan, with his realistic recognition of matters related to the United States and China.

When asked about “OBOR,” Ambassador Verma did not hide India’s distrust for China; “Our position on OBOR is clear: It should not violate the sovereignty of any nation, in territorial and otherwise, through its projects. One of its projects has actually violated the territorial integrity of India, and therefore India is not a signatory, or participant of OBOR.”

In regards to the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Concept, Japan, the United States, and India maintain the position that it should be inclusive. China has expressed its opposition to the concept, saying that it is “politically-intended and exclusive.” India and Russia have traditionally maintained friendly ties. During his visit to Japan in May, 2019, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov described the concept as “closed alliance” and refrained from commenting on Russia’s position on the possibility of cooperation under the concept.
During his first visit to Japan's Tottori Prefecture, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met Mayor of Tottori City Mr. Yoshihiko Fukazawa at Tottori City Office. Both exchanged opinions on possible areas of cooperation between India and Tottori City. Later, Ambassador met Governor Tottori Prefecture HE Mr Shinji Hirai at Prefectural Government Office. Both agreed to start working-level talks with aim to promote cooperation between India and Tottori Prefecture. Ambassador also visited Tottori Sand Dunes and the Tottori Sand Museum. Museum has chosen "South Asia" as this year's theme to mark Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary. Ambassador was deeply impressed by the great sand sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi.

During his first visit to Japan's Shimane Prefecture, HE Ambassador visited the Dr Nakamura Hajime Memorial Hall in Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture, Japan. Ambassador wrote in his message "Dr Nakamura’s works dedicated to the integration of Indian Buddhist Philosophy with various other thoughts will lead to peace and harmony of the mankind". He also met Matsue City Mayor Mr Masataka Matsuura. Both discussed ways to further promote the relationship between India and San-in Region, especially in the field of tourism. He also delivered a lecture on the India Japan Bilateral Relations at the Sanin India Association’s General Assembly and attended a reception in Matsue City. Later Ambassador attended luncheon hosted by Sanin India Association's Chairman Emeritus Mr Furuse, Sakaiminato City Mayor Mr Nakamura & other members and discussed ways to enhance relations between India Japan's Sanin Region (comprises of Tottori & Shimane Prefecture). He also met Shimane Prefecture Governor Mr Tatsuya Maruyama. Both agreed on the significance of cooperation in various fields including Disaster Management. He also delivered opening remarks at a Bharathnatyam dance event held Matsue City and enjoyed the splendid performance depicting a story about Lord Shiva and Shakti. Ambassador also met Shimane Prefecture's Okuizumo Town Mayor Mr Yasunori Katsuta at Matsue City and discussed cooperation for hosting Indian Hockey teams training camps for Tokyo2020.

On 24 June 2019, H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan had a meeting with H.E. Hideaki Ohmura, Governor of Aichi Prefecture and H.E. Takashi Kawamura, Mayor of Nagoya city. They discussed about the significance of International Day of Yoga and its celebration throughout Japan, the presence of companies from Aichi prefecture in India, and the potential of further strengthening the ties between India and Japan.

The Fighter pilot delegation of the Indian Air Force visited Komatsu Air Base, Ishikawa Prefecture, from 10-12 June, 2019, to exchange opinions and to conduct boarding experience of an F-2. Participants promoted mutual understanding and strengthened trusting relationship through interaction. The Koku-Jieitai will take various opportunities to further promote defense cooperation and exchanges with the Indian Air Force.
Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare attended the Joint Session of G20 Health and Finance Ministers in Osaka, Japan on 28th June 2019. The key interventions were:

- Multi-dimensionality as well as the plurality of pathways towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) goals are two aspects that we should be mindful of, while deliberating on this subject.
- India launched the world’s largest Universal Health Coverage program, the Ayushman Bharat (Long Live India), which adopts a continuum of care approach and comprises of two inter-related components. He elaborated that the first component of Ayushman Bharat is focused on achieving preventive, promotive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative healthcare through setting up of 150,000 Health and Wellness Centres. Focus on wellness converges India’s traditional knowledge of Yoga, to eat-right, cessation of alcohol & tobacco and creating community awareness about lifestyle changes.
- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojna (Prime Minister Health Protection Scheme) provides health protection cover to 107.4 million poor and vulnerable families for secondary and tertiary care, assuring hospitalization cover of Rs. 5,00,000 per annum per family.
- To generate sustainable resources a new Health and Education Cess of 4% is in place in India. Further, highest tax at very high rates is levied on tobacco products and sweetened carbonated beverages, he stated.

For more details visit the link [http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1576229](http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1576229)
India’s Minister for Power participates in G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions & Global Environment for Sustainable Growth at Karuizawa, Japan

Source: pib.nic.in
Shri RK Singh, Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy attended the G20 Ministerial Meeting held in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture, Japan on 15-16 June, 2019.

His key interventions were:

- Highlighted the path breaking achievements in household electrification and providing energy access to all in India. He expressed confidence that India will achieve 40% RE in energy mix by 2030. In addition to this Shri Singh mentioned various energy efficiency programs and reiterated India’s commitment for greener and healthier planet. Shri Singh said that India is achieving one of the largest expansion of renewable energy in the world and has become a net exporter of power in past 5 years. He also talked about India’s achievements in Transmission systems - One nation one Grid, Green Energy Corridors etc.

Further, the Minister had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Hiroshige Seko, METI, Japan and discussed various aspects of bilateral cooperation in Energy sector.

For more details visit the link http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=190488

India’s Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs attended the G20 FM’s & CBGs meeting at Fukuoka

Source: PIB Delhi
Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Government of India, participated in the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting and associated events during June 8-9, 2019 at Fukuoka, Japan. Her key interventions were:

- Urgency to fix the issue of determining right nexus and profit allocation solution for taxing the profits made by digital economy companies. In this respect, strongly supported the potential solution based on the concept of ‘significant economic presence’ of businesses taking into account the evidence of their purposeful and sustained interaction with the economy of a country. This concept has been piloted by India and supported by large number of countries including the G-24.

- Need for international cooperation on dealing with fugitive economic offenders who flee their countries to escape from the consequences of law. Informed about the fugitive economic offenders law passed by India which provides for denial of access to courts until the fugitive returns to the country. This law also provides for confiscation of their properties and selling them off. Drew attention to the practice permitted by many jurisdictions, which allow economic offenders to use investment-based schemes to obtain residence or citizenship to escape from legal consequences and underlined the need to deal with such practices. Urged that closer collaboration and coordinated action were required to bring such economic offenders to face law.

- Need for the G20 to keep a close watch on global current account imbalances to ensure that they do not result in excessive global volatility and tensions.

- Emphasized on the importance of making investments in cost-effective and disaster resilient infrastructure for growth and development. She suggested the G20 focus on identifying constraints to flow of resources into infrastructure sector in the developing world and solutions for overcoming them. Also took note of the close collaboration of India, Japan and other like-minded countries, aligned with the Sendai Framework, in developing a roadmap to create a global Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

For more details visit the link http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=190332

Hon. CIM Piyush Goyal participated in the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Trade & Digital Economy in Japan and had fruitful and constructive discussions regarding boosting trade and investment ties, and unlocking the potential of a digital economy were held during the summit.

Besides other bilateral, he also held bilateral meeting with METI Minister HE Mr. Hiroshige Seko on India Japan bilateral cooperation in Trade & Investment area as well as coop. in other multilateral and plurilateral forums including RCEP & WTO on sidelines of G20 Trade Ministerial Meeting.

Digital delegation leader for the G20 Trade and Digital Economy Ministerial meeting Mr Rajiv Kumar, Joint Secretary had meeting with Governor of Ibaraki HE Mr. Kazuhiko Oigawa and held discussion on cooperation in IT area, startups between India-Japan.
On June 29, 2019, Prime Minister of India had meeting with Prime Minister of Japan and President of USA on margins of G20. The 2nd JAI Trilateral was a productive one as there were extensive discussions on the Indo-Pacific region, improving connectivity and infrastructure development and working together an open, stable & rule-based Indo-Pacific region.
GNLU-Osaka University establishes International Joint Lab for studies in South Asia at Osaka Univ.

With an aim to promote its academic initiatives, Osaka University established the International Joint Research Promotion Program (IJRPP) in 2013. In order to further enhance research quality and promote globalization of Osaka University, Osaka University supports advanced research between international researchers and Osaka University researchers. This year there are 7 such research proposal is being awarded by the President of Osaka University under IJRPP. Out of which 5 went to science and engineering department, whereas 2 were awarded to humanities. Out the two one is awarded to the research team of Modernisation of Law and Society in south Asia: Comparative Study in Context of Modernisation in Asia. As an outcome, International Joint Lab is established at Graduate School of Law and Politics, Osaka University, Japan. Professor Kota Fukui Professor, Osaka University is the Leading Professor for the Project and Dr Richa Mulchandahi, Assistant Professor, Gujarat National Law University is International Research Scholar (Specially Appointed Associate Professor) for the Programme. The Research team have to conduct research and submit the research paper by 2021. The Duration of the project is of three years i.e. 2019-2022. This is a first time that a dedicated International Study Lab on South Asian Comparative Study is being establish at Osaka as an outcome of joint efforts led by Osaka University and GNLU faculties. Allied with Act to East Policy, GNLU also promotes Japanese legal studies by offering special certificate course on Japanese law at its campus and Dr, Richa also teaches Indian Legal History and Studies and Indo-Japanese Relation at Osaka University.

Shimane University Signs MoU with IITH

Shimane University, a Japanese national university located in Matsue, signed MoU with IIT-Hyderabad in June 2019. Both universities agreed to promote exchange of students, faculty members and foster joint research programs. In order to identify core research areas for collaboration, Prof. Hemanth Noothalapati, Research Administrator in Shimane University visited IIT-Hyderabad late last year. Meetings with Director, Deans and Faculty members were successful. Some of the areas of mutual interest include Artificial intelligence/Machine learning and development of non-invasive biomedical imaging techniques. Through the above mentioned activities, both universities not only endeavor to improve the educational and academic cultures of both countries but also promote greater friendship contributing to international understanding, goodwill and peace.

Book Title “Research on Indian Mathematics; Ganatatilaka and Sinhatilaka : Full translation & Commentary” (Indo Sanjyutsu Kenkyuu) authored by Prof Takao HAYASHI, Prof Emeritus, Doshisha University. Other works by him are “Indo no sugaku” (Indian Mathematics) & “Indo Daisugaku Kenkyu” (Research on Indian Algebra)

Mr Raj K. Srivastava, Deputy Chief of Mission, interacted with students of AFS JAPAN who will be travelling to India on a study abroad programme strengthening India-Japan partnership at people-to-people (P2P) level.

FIH Men’s Series Finals Bhubaneswar Odisha June 2019: India clinched the top spot and have earned a berth in the FIH Olympic qualifiers. Defeating the USA, Japan took third place. India defeated Japan in Semifinal and South Africa in Finals.

FIH Women’s Series Finals Hiroshima June 2019: India clinched the top spot and have earned a berth in the FIH Olympic qualifiers. India defeated Chile in Semifinal and Japan in Finals.
Cultural Outreach

Odishi Dance in National Theatre of Japan

For the first time, National Theatre of Japan included an Indian dance form Odishi in its cultural calendar. A team led by Ms. Masako Ono performed Odishi dance at the National Theatre of Japan on May 25, 2019, much to the delight of the house-full crowd. At the invitation of the Director of National Theatre of Japan, Ambassador of India to Japan H. E. Sanjay Kumar Verma and Mr. Bhagirathi Behera, First Secretary (Eco) witnessed the dance performance of Ms. Masako Ono who is an ICCR certified dancer. The programme was a memorable one as it received rousing reception among the Japanese crowd.

Lecture on “Rabindranath Tagore and His Perception of Japan” and “Kokoro: Japan at Santiniketan”

Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Tokyo, hosted a lecture by Mr Nilanjan Bandyopadhyay on “Rabindranath Tagore and His Perception of Japan” and “Kokoro: Japan at Santiniketan”. On this day, H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan, released “The Scarecrow’s Prayer”, a collection of poems and calligraphic works by Mr Nilanjan Bandyopadhyay. Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director (VCC) inaugurated

Japanese Hockey team during FIH Men's Series Finals in Odisha visited at Dhauli- shanti stupa. Dhauli is a hill with vast open space adjoining it, and has major Edicts of Ashoka engraved on a mass of rock, by the side of the road leading to the summit of the hill.

Incredible India!!

“These photos look so different that you may think they are of different countries, but they are ALL shot in India! Thank you India for giving me a week of never-ending excitement.” - these are words by Hirofumi Tomastsu who was on 3rd visit to India in Golden Week 2019. Mr Hirofumi is famous as “Ryman Traveller” in Japan (http://www.ryman-traveler.com) who travels the world on weekends as “Salaryman” and has traveled to 123 cities in 58 countries in 7 years including 3 times to India.
**Donation of 150 Trees by GoI to be planted on Mt. Fuji on World Environment Day**

On behalf of the people and government of India, the Embassy of India, Tokyo, donated a total of 150 trees to be planted on Mt Fuji on World Environment Day on 5th June to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This activity was conducted in conjunction with OISCA International’s Mt. Fuji Reforestation Project. Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, Vivekananda Cultural Centre, attended two ceremonies organized by OISCA International to mark the beginning of the tree planting. The first ceremony was held at the main planting site on the Yamanashi Prefecture side of Mt. Fuji and Prof. Siddharth Singh inaugurated the occasion along with dignitaries from OISCA International, Yamanashi Prefecture and Ogino Co. Ltd. The planting of the trees was conducted on-site with students of Koun Elementary School, who enthusiastically took part in the activities. The second ceremony was held at Road Station Narusawa which has an excellent view of Mt. Fuji. Here, Prof. Siddharth Singh; Mr Akinori Watanabe, Vice Mayor of Narusawa Village; Mr. Toshihiro Nakano, Executive Vice President, OISCA International; Mr Shingo Kanemaru, Chairperson, OISCA Yamanashi; Mr. Ogino Kanji, President and CEO, OGINO Co., Ltd.; and other dignitaries conducted the tree planting. A commemorative sign marking the occasion was also installed in the location.

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<tr>
<th>Yoga Workshop for Children at KIDZANIA Tokyo</th>
<th>YOGA FOR ALL - Workshop at Nursery</th>
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<td>Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture at Vivekananda Cultural Centre conducted a yoga workshop for children at the Indian Cultural Festival which was held at KIDZANIA Tokyo on 29th May. At the event, local children experienced yoga, Indian dance workshops, a Holi parade and Indian games. As part of the celebrations for Bapu @150, the participating children also learned about the life of Mahatma Gandhi.</td>
<td>On 22nd May 2019, Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture, Vivekananda Cultural Centre conducted a yoga workshop, demonstration and lecture at Nobi Nobi Nursery in Sumida City, Tokyo. The event saw enthusiastic participation by children and their parents.</td>
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**Conclusion Ceremony of January-June 2019 Semester in Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Tokyo**

The Vivekananda Cultural Centre held a conclusion ceremony at the end of the January-June 2019 semester on 14 June. H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan, gave congratulatory remarks and awarded certificates to those who had completed their course in Yoga, Bharatnatyam, Contemporary Indian Dance, Odissi and Tabla. This was followed by presentations by students of each of the classes, enthusiastically demonstrating what they had learned during the semester.

Two Japanese musicians who studied traditional music in India have held a concert back in their home country. The rhythmic sounds of the “sitar” by Daikichi Yoshida and the “tabla” by 16 years old Leo Hayashi attracted a big crowd, and the pair hope their performance will persuade others to give the instruments a try.

For more details visit the link https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/videos/20190619154446652/.

“Secret Superstar” - a Bollywood movie will be released in theatres of Japan on 9th August 2019. A 2017 Indian musical drama film tells the coming-of-age story of a teenage girl who aspires to be a singer, uploading videos on YouTube while disguising her identity with a niqab, and her relationships with her mother, father and mentor. The film deals with social issues incl feminism, gender equality, etc.
International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2019

International Day of Yoga 2019 was celebrated across Japan by various Japanese yoga organizations (JYTS, YOJ, Yog Mudra, Maharishi Institute, Patanjali Yoga, Heal Tokyo, etc) during the month of June. In total, over 100 individual yoga events were held, with overall participation reaching well over 11,000 people. Some notable events are as follows:

**Yoga Session at First Members’ Office Building, House of Representatives, National Diet of Japan:** A yoga session with members of the Parliamentary League for Promotion of Yoga was held at the First Members’ Office Building, House of Representatives, National Diet of Japan. The event was held in collaboration with partner organisations including Yoga Organisation of Japan, Maharishi Institute of Total Education, Patanjali Yog Samiti Japan and Art of Living Japan. H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan addressed the participants of the event, along with H.E. Hakubun Shimomura, Chairman of the Parliamentary League for Promotion of Yoga, as well as numerous prominent Japanese MPs.

**Yoga with JMSDF:** The Yoga Organisation of Japan, in association with Embassy of India, Tokyo, held yoga sessions celebrating IDY 2019 with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force at various locations across Japan, including JMSDF headquarters, Hiroshima and Chiba.

**IDY 2019 in Chubu:** IDY 2019 was organized at Nagoya by the International Yoga Day Tokai Executive Committee and Japan Yoga Therapy Society in association with the Embassy of India, Tokyo. H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan had a meeting with H.E. Hideaki Ohmura, Governor of Aichi Prefecture and H.E. Takashi Kawamura, Mayor of Nagoya city. They discussed about the significance of International Day of Yoga and its celebration throughout Japan, the presence of companies from Aichi prefecture in India, and the potential of further strengthening the ties between India and Japan.

Japan’s Yoga Niketan awarded PM’s Awards for Promotion & Development of Yoga -2019

Japan’s Yoga Niketan received the “Prime Minister's Award for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of Yoga for the year 2019” in the category “Organisation-International”.

Japan Yoga Niketan was established in 1980 and has been a torch-bearer of Yoga in Japan. It functions is association with Yoga Niketan, Rishikesh and S-VYASA Yoga University, Bengaluru. The Institute runs several Yoga training and therapy courses of high quality, through which Yoga has developed roots in Japan. The Institute is instrumental in bringing institutionally certified Yoga professionals into Japan, which helped to bring standards and strengthen the scientific concepts of Yoga in that country. Their publication, ‘Yoga Therapy Theory: Modern Methods Based on Traditional Teachings of Human Structure and Function’ is respected for its authenticity. The centre which teaches Raja yoga and yoga therapy was established by yoga acharya Keishin Kimura for the purpose of conveying traditional yoga in Japan.

The winners will be felicitated with a Trophy, Certificate and a Cash Award each. The value of each Cash Award would be Rs. 25.00 lakhs