Message from the Ambassador H. E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma

I am pleased to bring forth this edition of the newsletter of the Indian Embassy ‘The Indian Connection’.

This edition brings you stories of growing India as well as initiatives of the Indian Government and resulting success stories besides stories of India -Japan.

The edition also focuses on “PM Narendra Modi’s speech at Central Hall of Indian Parliament - 25th May 2019”.

2019 Indian General Election

The 2019 Indian general election was held in seven phases from 11 April to 19 May 2019 to constitute the 17th Lok Sabha. About 900 million people were eligible to vote and turnout was over 67 per cent – the highest ever as well as the highest participation by women voters. Total number of contestant were 8049 (incl. 719 Women) for 542 seats. Election saw the highest ever voter turnout at 67.47%.

The counting of votes took place on 23 May 2019, and on the same day the results were declared. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 303 seats, further increasing its substantial majority and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won 353 seats. The Indian National Congress (INC) party won 52 seats, and the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) won 91. Other parties and their alliances won 98 seats. The total number of elected women members is 78 (14.3%) and highest ever.

Union Council of Ministers - Hon’ble President of India Ram Nath Kovind as advised by Hon’ble Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has directed the allocation of portfo- lios among the members of the Union Council of Ministers. Check the full list: http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1572883

“I understand democracy as something that gives the weak the same chance as the strong.”

MAHATAMA GANDHI

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The NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) unveiled in December 2018 its comprehensive National Strategy for New India, which defines clear objectives for 2022-23 i.e. when India will celebrate its 75th Year of Independence. It is a detailed exposition across forty-one crucial areas, that recognizes the progress already made, identifies binding constraints, and suggests the way forward for achieving the clearly stated objectives.

NITI Aayog followed an extremely participative approach in preparing the strategy. Over 800 stakeholders from within the government – central, state and district levels – and about 550 external experts were consulted during the preparation of the document.

The overarching focus of the Strategy document is to further improve the policy environment in which private investors and other stakeholders can contribute their fullest towards achieving the goals set out for New India 2022 and propel India towards a USD 5 trillion economy by 2030. The forty-one chapters in the document have been disaggregated under four sections: Drivers, Infrastructure, Inclusion and Governance.

- The first section on Drivers focuses on the engines of economic performance with chapters on growth and employment, doubling of farmers’ incomes; upgrading the science, technology and innovation eco-system; and promoting sunrise sectors like fintech and tourism.
- The second section on Infrastructure deals with the physical foundations of growth which are crucial to enhancing the competitiveness of Indian business as also ensuring the citizens’ ease of living.
- The third section on Inclusion deals with the urgent task of investing in the capabilities of all of India’s citizens. The three themes in this section revolve around the dimensions of health, education and mainstreaming of traditionally marginalized sections of the population.
- The fourth & final section on Governance delves deep into how the governance structures can be streamlined and processes optimized to achieve better developmental outcomes.


**PSLV-C46 successfully launches RISAT-2B**

Source: PIB, Delhi

India’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C46) on 22nd May 2019 successfully launched the RISAT-2B satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

RISAT-2B is a radar imaging earth observation satellite with an indigenous advanced technology of 3.6m radial rib antenna weighing about 615 kg. The satellite is intended to provide services in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Disaster Management.

Radial Rib antenna (RRA) is a world class technology demonstrated during the mission. This 3.6 metre antenna was folded & stowed during launch and later successfully unfurled & deployed in-orbit. The deployment was completed in 7 mins and 20 seconds. For more details read http://pib.nic.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1572359

**IAF’s Aircraft formally Certified to Operate on Indigenous Bio-Jet Fuel**

Indian Air Force (IAF)’s AN-32 aircraft was formally fleet certified to fly on blended aviation fuel containing up to 10% of indigenous bio-jet fuel. The indigenous bio-jet fuel was first produced by the CSIR-IIP lab at Dehradun in 2013 and later was tested for commercial use on aircraft as well as evaluating the performance of this fuel against international standards in IAF facilities. This is a huge step in promoting the ‘Make in India’ mission as this bio-fuel would be produced from Tree Borne Oils (TBOs) sourced from tribal areas and farmers, augmenting their income substantially.
Successful Firing of BrahMos Air Launched Missile from Su-30 MKI Aircraft

Source: PIB, Delhi

On 22nd May 2019, IAF successfully fired the BrahMos air version missile from its frontline Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft. The air launched BrahMos missile is a 2.5 ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile with ranges of close to 300 km, designed and developed by BAPL. The IAF became the first Air Force in the world to have successfully fired an air launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category on a sea target on 22 Nov 17. This was the second such live launch of the weapon.


MRSAM Firing Trials

Source: PIB, Delhi

The Indian Navy achieved a significant milestone in enhancing its Anti Air Warfare Capability with the maiden cooperative engagement firing of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM).

The firing was undertaken on the Western Seaboard by Indian Naval Ships Kochi and Chennai wherein the missiles of both ships were controlled by one ship to intercept different aerial targets at extended ranges. The firing trial was carried out by the Indian Navy, DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries.

With the successful proving of this cooperative mode of engagement, the Indian Navy has become a part of a select group of Navies that have this niche capability. This capability significantly enhances the combat effectiveness of the Indian Navy thereby providing an operational edge over potential adversaries.


UNDRR confers Dr P.K. Mishra with the prestigious Sasakawa Award 2019

Source: PIB, Delhi

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conferred on 16th May 2019 “The Sasakawa Award 2019” for Disaster Risk Reduction to Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India. The award was announced during the 6th Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019 at Geneva. Dr. Mishra received the award in recognition of his long-term dedication to improve the resilience of communities most exposed to disasters and his personal commitment to social inclusion as a critical principle to reduce inequality and poverty, enhancing the safety net of the socially and economically marginalized.

The United Nations Sasakawa Award is the most prestigious international award in the area of Disaster Risk Management. It was instituted more than 30 years ago and is jointly organized by the UNDRR and the Nippon Foundation, Japan. The theme of the 2019 Sasakawa award was “Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies”.


IISc team confirms breakthrough in superconductivity at room temperature

A team led by Prof. Anshu Pandey from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru confirms that their material exhibits major properties of superconductivity at ambient temperature and pressure. A material is said to be a superconductor if it conducts electricity with nil resistance to the flow of electrons.

Superconductors will help build very high efficient devices leading to huge energy savings. Till now, scientists have been able to make materials superconduct only at temperatures much below zero degree C and hence making practical utility very difficult.

For more details please visit the link [https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/finally-iisc-team-confirms-superconductivity-at-room-temperature-pressure/article27246496.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/finally-iisc-team-confirms-superconductivity-at-room-temperature-pressure/article27246496.ece)
The Indian Connection

Tech Mahindra & MKI Collaborate to Develop Next Gen Digital Enterprise Solutions


May 28, 2019, Tech Mahindra, a leading provider of digital transformation, consulting and business re-engineering services and solutions today announced a collaboration with Mitsui Knowledge Industry Co., Ltd. (MKI) to develop next generation digital enterprise solutions, in the Japanese market.

As part of this collaboration, Tech Mahindra and MKI aim to address the lack of SAP skilled workforce for ECC migration to SAP S/4HANA by 2025 in the Japanese market by creating a 600-member engineering pool in Japan and India, out of which Tech Mahindra is expected to bring 300 members. In addition, both the teams will leverage tools, technologies and best practices to manage various aspects of the customer’s SAP S/4HANA transformation journey including pre-sales, assessment, requirement gathering, implementation and support.

This announcement marks the next phase of collaboration between MKI and Tech Mahindra to set-up dedicated infrastructure to help Japanese enterprises in their journey to migrate to next generation enterprise solutions. As part of the TechMNxt charter, Tech Mahindra is betting big on next generation technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, 5G, and Internet of Things to deliver enhanced experience to customers globally.

About Mitsui Knowledge Industry Co., Ltd.: Mitsui Knowledge Industry Co., Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsui & Co., Ltd. specialized in providing services and products related to ICT (information and communication technology). Partnering with various global ICT vendors and supporting more than 1,500 companies, MKI offers best-in-class solutions to customers. Website: [https://www.mki.co.jp/english/](https://www.mki.co.jp/english/)

About Tech Mahindra: Tech Mahindra represents the connected world, offering innovative and customer-centric information technology experiences, enabling Enterprises, Associates and the Society to Rise™. We are a USD 4.9 billion company with 121,840+ professionals across 90 countries, helping over 935 global customers including Fortune 500 companies. Our convergent, digital, design experiences, innovation platforms and reusable assets connect across a number of technologies to deliver tangible business value and experiences to our stakeholders. Tech Mahindra is the highest ranked Non-U.S. company in the Forbes Global Digital 100 list (2018) and in the Forbes Fab 50 companies in Asia (2018).

AI Solutions Provider ParallelDots Wins Invest India-SoftBank’s Tech4Future Challenge

Gurugram-based AI and deep learning solutions provider ParallelDots has won the Tech4Future challenge, a collaboration of Japanese conglomerate SoftBank and Invest India under Japan India Startup Hub.

Launched in November 2018, Tech4Future challenge sought to identify the most promising startups across artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, facial recognition and cyber security sectors.

As the winner, ParallelDots has received a cash prize of $50K. SoftBank has also invited ParallelDots for an incubation opportunity in Japan for 2-3 months.

Invest India and SoftBank group had narrowed down the problem statement for the startups to find a solution to across the four fields:

1. Machine Learning: Crowd sourced platforms/Data processing units leveraging technology to detect and block fake news
2. Artificial Intelligence: Leverage technology to solve global mobility problems with a focus on road traffic safety
3. Facial Recognition: Leverage technology to usher face recognition feature to the next level
4. Cyber Security: Leverage technology to secure digital vehicle components and systems to avoid tampering

With the narrowed focus points, 300 startups had applied for the challenge.

For more details visit the link [https://inc42.com/buzz/paralleldots-wins-tech4future-challenge-hosted-by-softbank-invest-india/](https://inc42.com/buzz/paralleldots-wins-tech4future-challenge-hosted-by-softbank-invest-india/)

Muji Opens Large-scale Shop in India

Source: The Nikkei (21 May)

Ryohin Keikaku, the company which operates and manages Muji shops plans to open large-scale shop in India. Also, the company aims to shift the manufacturing sites of its brand products from China to Southeast Asian countries to reduce production costs, such as personnel and tariff so that they can lower the product price, thus boosting the overall sales. Japanese listyle brand MUJI, which made its debut in India 2016.
Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce Kerala (INJACK) has mooted a proposal to set up joint ventures with Japanese firms for tuna processing in the State, considering the market potential of this particular fish variety in that country.

Currently, there is no export of sashimi grade chilled tuna to Japan, which is mainly depending on Sri Lanka and Maldives. Lakshadweep has good presence of yellow fin tuna used for sashimi, but there is need for technical and onboard handling of sashimi grade tuna, said Sajiv K Menon, President, INJACK.

Training needed
Quoting CMFRI data, he said tuna handling in India was 22,587 tonnes. However, small but modern vessels with facility for onboard handling of tuna are required. Moreover, attempts to promote sashimi exports from India to Japan is yet to yield results. Since the fishing community in Kerala are not trained in tuna handling, there is scope for joint ventures in providing training in this sector, said KS Srinivas, Managing Director, Marine Products Export Development Authority.

Joint ventures mooted
INJACK, Menon said, would like to create 100 Japanese joint ventures in Kerala as the State government has unveiled a slew of measures to enhance the ease of doing business. The Electronics/Cyber Park is ideal for Japanese clusters and Kerala with its highly trained manpower, especially in IT/ITeS can offer good support with private participation.


Japan seeks nurses from Manipur

A team comprising two members from Japan, currently camping in Manipur to mobilise youths of the state on nursing careers in Japan, called on state Governor Dr Najma Heptulla on 16 May 2019. The team discussed job opportunity in nursing care in Japan along with the Governor at length.

According to the Japanese delegates, they were currently mobilizing youth of Manipur on employment opportunities in Japan for the youths of the state in nursing care sector. The team has been conducting seminars at various nursing school and colleges in the state. So far, they have visited GNM School and Tunnu Nursing School in Churachandpur, RDO Nursing College and Shija Hospital & Research Institute in Imphal. The Japanese delegations said that once they were recruited, the youths from the state will be given training on Japanese language and culture.

There has been an increase in demand of nurses from the State in South East Asian countries who are widely seen as compassionate and sympathetic.

Japan, India and Sri Lanka Signed MOU over the Colombo Port Development Project

As per agreement, Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA) will hold 51% majority stake in the port development while Japan and India will have combined stake of 49 %. The three governments have decided to work out details at joint working group meetings and advance their cooperation towards early commencement of work and operation of the terminal.

SLPA said the joint project reflects the longstanding good will and cooperation among the three countries. It said Sri Lanka, Japan and India will work together for further development of the Colombo Port and contribute to further regional prosperity and stability of global trading networks. The deal is significant as over 70% of India’s transhipment business is handled at Colombo ports. One of the terminals is controlled by Chinese company and there was a long pending proposal to handover the development of Eastern terminal to an Indian company. The deal is part of Memorandum of economic cooperation signed between India and Sri Lanka in 2017.
An industrial complex, developed jointly by major Japanese trading house Sumitomo Corporation and local businesses, has opened in the southern Indian city of Chennai. An opening ceremony was held on 26 April 2019 for the completion of the first phase which spans across 107 hectares. The area is known as a hub for the automobile industry and high expectations have been placed on the arrival of Japanese firms. Two Japanese companies have decided to set up there. The machinery manufacturer Yanmar is building an engine factory.

India is posting a growth rate of over seven percent and an increasing number of Japanese firms have been making inroads with an aim to seize part of the colossal market. There are now more than 1,400 Japanese companies in India, and their numbers have more than doubled over the past decade. Chennai is drawing attention because in addition to domestic distribution, its huge port could serve as a base for exports to neighboring southeast Asian countries.

Japanese trading houses and banks are developing other industrial complexes, to facilitate the arrival of more Japanese businesses. Sumitomo's General Manager of the Infra Business Unit, Tsutomu Akimoto, said India has a huge potential for domestic demand because of its large population. He said helping to attract Japanese firms will also lead to business for his company.

Orix Co., Ltd., announced that it would purchase the wind power generation business in India, which has been managed by a SPV composed of seven ventures. Orix originally had 49% of SPV’s share by investing 20 billion yen into it. The company plans to make the SPV its 100% subsidiary by purchasing the remaining 51% owned by Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), India. IL&FS has been selling off its assets due to the financial difficulties.

Orix will exercise its right under the terms of an existing pact with IL&FS (Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd) wherein Orix can match the price offered by the highest bidder to buy Iwel’s stake in the wind power plants, IL&FS said in a release.

AI powered robotics company GreyOrange gets $140 million from Thiel’s fund, Mitsubishi

Artificial Intelligence-powered robotics company GreyOrange founded by BITS-Pilani graduates Samay Kohli and Akash Gupta, produces up to 1,500 robots a month and has R&D centres in the US, China and India. The company’s main offerings are ‘Butler’, which helps in automated inventory storage and replenishment, picking and combining orders in fulfillment and distribution centres, and ‘Sorter’, which helps in sorting of orders in warehouses and distribution centres. It routes packages based on weight, volume, destination or any predefined parameter.

GreyOrange has raised Funds from Mithril Capital, Mitsubishi, Flipkart, Project Verte and Blume Ventures etc. Flipkart along with ecommerce platforms Myntra, Jabong and Pepperfry, besides logistics players such as Aramex, DTDC, Delhivery and Mahindra Tractors are some of GreyOrange’s customers in India. The company sees 60% of the revenue coming from repeat customers.

The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) on Tuesday launched an ‘M2Smart Project’ Testbed to develop low-carbon models for Indian transportation. IIT and Japanese researchers and officials from Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Traffic Police and Japan’s MEXT, and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) were present. The testbed would generate a practical ‘handbook’ on low-carbon urban transportation for developing countries based on big data of Indian transportation and create traffic flow models from data analysis.

‘M2Smart’ (Smart Cities for Emerging Countries based on Sensing, Network & Big Data Analysis of Multimodal Regional Transport System) is a joint research project under S&T Research P’ship for Sustainable Dev Prog between India & Japan.

For more details visit the link: https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/iith-launches-testbed-for-low-carbon-transport-models/article27298021.ece
# Online grocery firm Grofers raises over $200 mn led by Softbank Vision Fund

Grocery delivery firm Grofers has raised over $200 million in a fresh round of funding, led by the SoftBank Vision Fund. A new investor, KTB, and existing investors, Tiger Global Management and Sequoia Capital, were also part of the funding Round F, raising the stakes in the high competition grocery market.

Last year in March, it had raised $62 million in a round that was also led by SoftBank Group. It had utilised the funds for doubling its warehousing space as well as fresh hiring and increasing the number of private labels.

Over the last two years, Grofers’ technology platform and focus on core markets has helped it grow 800 per cent to an annual revenue of $400 million.

With increased smartphone usage, the launch of more affordable 4G network data, and increasing consumer wealth are accelerating e-commerce adoption in the country. According to a recent report on the sector by consultancy EY, e-commerce and consumer internet companies raised over $7 billion in private equity (PE) and venture capital (VC) in 2018.


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# BARC, three other viewership measurement agencies form a global alliance

Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), which provides television viewership measurement to the Indian broadcast and advertising ecosystem, has joined hands with three other viewership measurement agencies to form the Global Alliance for the Measurement of Media Audiences (GAMMA). The Indian viewership measurement agency has collaborated with Mediametrie (France), Numeris (Canada) and Video Research (Japan) on future audience measurement initiatives, including development of common technical standards and operational processes.

The four founding nations collectively account for a total population of more than 1.5 billion and represent a combined advertising spend of $78 billion, which amounts to 15 per cent of the total worldwide ad-sends.

The joint body will be led by veteran audience measurement executive Brad Bedford, who has been appointed global managing director of GAMMA.


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# Japanese company EMURGO setup a Blockchain academy in India

EMURGO Global is the official commercial and venture arm of the Cardano Project, registered in Tokyo since June 2017 and in Singapore since May 2018. Being a pioneer in the space of Blockchain, EMURGO enable pragmatic solutions by leveraging “3rd Generation Blockchain Technology – Cardano”. With a strong presence in Singapore, New York and Indonesia, they have recently set foot in India.

EMURGO Academy is a Global Blockchain Learning Solutions entity of EMURGO Global established in January 2019 in Bengaluru, India to focus on incubation, Training and evangelizing Blockchain to foster deep fundamental understanding of blockchain technology and thus establish an education program to drive practical usage of Blockchain Technology around the globe.

According to Markets and Markets, Blockchain will be a $23.3 billion industry by 2023 from the $1.1 billion market size it holds now. Toronto-based think-tank Blockchain Research Institute has said that the highest demand is from the US and India. IT professionals across India are seeing the technology as the next wave of opportunity, and trying to reskill for it. Indeed’s Blockchain Jobs report for 2019 revealed that India’s Silicon Valley, Bengaluru, will be the hub for crypto and Blockchain-related careers, followed by Pune, Hyderabad, and Noida.

Emurgo, which has academies in Indonesia, Uzbekistan, and Japan, is also an investor in Blockchain-based businesses. It has not made any investments in India, but is looking at working with the startup ecosystem closely.

India's Lupin targets generic potential of biotech drugs

India's third-largest drugmaker by sales, Lupin, has diversified into biosimilars -- cheaper versions of expensive biotech drugs in a bid to stimulate growth amid a slowdown in recent years. Lupin plans to supplement its traditional business in generics and specialty drugs with biosimilars slated for launch in Japan, Europe and other markets by the end of the year, Lupin Biotech President Cyrus Karkaria told the Nikkei Asian Review.

The company joins a growing list of Indian pharmaceutical makers that seek to take advantage of a window of opportunity that will open up when several major biotech drugs lose their patent protection soon. Biotech drugs, also known as biologics, are medicines made using living organisms, compared to conventional pharmaceutical drugs which combine chemical compounds. Sales of biosimilars, especially in Japan and Europe, will be important to offset the dimming outlook for the company's legacy drugs.

Lupin plans to work with Dutch pharmaceutical group Mylan for sales in most overseas markets, but has partnered with generic drug company Nichi-Iko Pharmaceutical for its Japanese operations. Kyowa Pharmaceutical, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Lupin, has a plant at Sanda, Japan and Tottori, Japan.

For more details read the link [https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Companies/India-s-Lupin-targets-generic-potential-of-biotech-drugs](https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Companies/India-s-Lupin-targets-generic-potential-of-biotech-drugs)

Southeast Asian and Indian Startups Successfully Inviting Investment

**Source:** Nikkei, Tokyo (27 May)

Startups in Southeast Asian countries and India are increasing their presence in terms of investment procurement. They have been able to draw a large amount of investment from various investors. In Jan-Mar 2019, the total amount of investment procured by Southeastern and Indian startups surpassed that of by China for the first time in five years. Altogether, they drew 7.2 billion dollars (or 785 billion yen). Among the top ten companies, four are of Southeastern countries and India for the recent period whereas in Apr-June, 2018 period, Chinese companies occupied the all ten seats in the ranking.

One of the new comers is India’s logistic service provider, “Delivery”. They were able to procure 400 million dollars to their business, successfully joined the club “Unicorn”.

According to India’s IT industrial organization, the number of startups in India exceeded 7000. In 2018 alone, 1200 startups were born in India. There are about 20 unicorn companies which spurred in India. In addition, there are 5 Indian startups which are expected to become new unicorn companies sometime this year.

NEC to Launch Internet Financing and Medical Services in Indian Rural Villages

**Source:** Nikkei, Tokyo

NEC would be launching internet financing and medical services by teaming up with an Indian partner. NEC will be cooperating with CSC, India’s state-owned company, to provide financial and medical services in rural villages in India. CSC has about 300,000 franchise offices in rural villages through which it provides public services, such as issuance of administrative documents or subsidy deliveries. As CSC offices also function as agents for mobile phone services and insurance services that they have related big-data with them. NEC would provide financial and medical services by taking advantage of the big-data that CSC offices had accumulated.

Temasek's Vertex recruits Japan Inc. for $770m unicorn fund

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.

Japanese investors will contribute 20% of the capital for the fund created by Vertex Ventures. As of Friday, investment house Risa Partners had committed $50 million, while Aozora Bank had pledged $20 million.

Several more Japanese institutional investors are expected to take part by a September deadline. The fund is described as the first Vertex vehicle in which foreign investors play a major role.

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 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 $100 million to each region.
Indian pharmaceutical sector industry supplies over 50% of global demand for various vaccines, 40% of generic demand in the US and 25% of all medicine in UK. India contributes the 2nd largest share of pharmaceutical and biotech workforce in the world. The pharmaceutical sector in India was valued at US$ 33 billion in 2017. Indian drugs are exported to more than 200 countries in the world. Generic drugs account for 20% of global exports in terms of volume, making the country the largest provider of generic medicines globally and expected to expand even further in coming years. India’s pharmaceutical exports stood at US$ 17.27 billion in FY18 and US$ 17.15 billion in FY19. In FY18, 31% of these exports from India went to the US. The ‘Pharma Vision 2020’ by GoI aims to make India a major hub for end-to-end drug discovery. The sector has received cumulative FDI worth US$ 15.93 billion between April 2000 and Dec 2018. Indian pharmaceutical sector is expected to grow at a CAGR of 15% in the near future and medical device market expected to grow $50 billion by 2025. For more details visit the link [https://www.ibeef.org/industry/pharmaceutical-india.aspx](https://www.ibeef.org/industry/pharmaceutical-india.aspx).

India ranks among the best countries to invest in Retail space. Factors that make India so attractive include the second largest population in the world, a middle class of 600 mn people, increasing urbanisation, rising household incomes, connected rural consumers and increasing consumer spending. India has overtaken China to grab the top spot in A.T. Kearney's 2017 Global Retail Development Index. Retail is India’s largest industry, currently accounting for over 10% of the country’s GDP and 8% of total employment. Recent policy changes allow 100% FDI under the automatic route for single-brand retail trading.

For more information, visit the link [https://www.investindia.gov.in/](https://www.investindia.gov.in/). The Retail market in India has undergone a major transformation and has witnessed tremendous growth in the last 10 years. The Retail market is set to cross the $ 1 tn mark by 2020 from $ 672 bn in 2017. India’s e-commerce market is also set to grow at a CAGR of 30% for gross merchandise value to be worth $ 200 bn by 2026.

For more details visit the link [https://www.ibeef.org/industry/pharmaceutical-india.aspx](https://www.ibeef.org/industry/pharmaceutical-india.aspx).
India, with a 1.3 billion population is the world’s largest market for motor cycles. About 20 million new ones are sold annually from low powered scooters to heavy duty Harley-Davidsons. Industry players estimate that 200 million people possess a license to drive at least a basic two wheeler. As the traditional model of Uber and Ola is reaching its limits in India several startups-backed by big silicon valley venture firms and Uber’s main Indian competitor, Ola are betting on the shared “two wheelers” or scooters which are better suited to wallets and transportation needs than the cares that are the heart of the ride-sharing industry. Off late car rides are becoming too expensive for most Indians.

In India’s tech hub city of Bengaluru two companies namely Vogo and Bounce are providing a low-tech approach to the self-driving e-motorbikes by making customers available with low cost transportation. Vogo requires people to pick up and drop off their bikes at designated locations, while Bounce bikes can be picked up or left anywhere. At present Vogo and Bounce bikes are racing for dominance aiming to acquire around 50,000 e-motorbikes each to make their service truly convenient in Bengaluru. The successful operating model of these ride-sharing platforms is expected to be followed in other big cities of India. Vogo and Bounce are hoping to cut costs by stocking their fleets with electric motorbikes, which not only cost less by the mile than gasoline ones but also qualify for government subsidy under clean-energy initiative. A Bengalureu start-up named Ather Energy is planning to produce about 500 e-scooters a month at its factory and is seeking manufacturing partners to vastly increase its production.

India offers huge potential as it is the world’s biggest market for scooters and motorcycles with annual domestic sales exceeding 19 million in the fiscal 2017-18, which is six times that of car sales over the same period. The next biggest market is China with annual sales of about 17 million in FY 2017-18. Electric scooters make up a fraction of the total but are growing fast. In FY 2017-18, sales of e-motorbikes more than doubled to 54,800 from a year ago while electric car sales fell to 1,200 from 2000 over the same period. By 2030, sales of electric scooters are expected to cross 2 million a year, even as most car makers resist bringing electric cars to India.

Considering the demand for e-motorbike, the supply chain is not robust, which means manufacturers need to rely on importing components. Importantly, electricity supply in smaller towns and cities, where demand is picking up, is irregular although frequent power shortage in India are a thing of the past. Judging by the above analysis India’s electric revolution will be led by two wheelers rather than by four wheelers. India is now working on a new policy that aims to incentivize investment in electric vehicle manufacturing, batteries and smart charging instead of only giving benefits on sales. With recent election result favouring continuation of the Modi government for the second term, the target set by PM Narendra Modi for electric vehicles making up 30 per cent of new sales of car and electric two wheelers by 2030 would become more relevant now. The new move to promote electric two wheelers is expected to offer good opportunities for Japanese manufacturers as it opens up a new market for global companies like Yamaha Motor, Suzuki and others to launch electric scooters and motorcycles in India. Right now most of the Japanese companies are waiting for a proper road map with clear government policy to emerge after the constitution of a new government in India after May 30, 2019.

Invest India facilitated meetings of one of Japan's largest logistics companies, that is looking to set up operations in Gujarat. The strategic consultative meetings with various stakeholders were held to discuss the way forward to make the project successful.
On 24 May 2019, HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma visited Senko Co. Ltd and exchanged views on potential of cooperation in logistic sector between India & Japan with Mr. Yasuhisa Fukuda, President and his team.

On 27 May 2019, HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met MoEF & CC delegation led by Shri Sidhanta Das, DGF&SS, and exchanged views on potential of cooperation in the field of forest and forestry sector between India and Japan. During visit, JWG with MAFF, Japan was also held.

On 24 May 2019, HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma hosted Mr. Mitsuhiro Miyakoshi, Minister, Dr. Tomohiko Taniguchi, official from MAFF, JOIN and participants from logistics sector such as Senko, Japan and JCurve from India at Embassy of India, Tokyo.

HE Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma delivered a talk on “India-Japan bilateral relations in digital age” at the Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR) with focus on India-Japan Digital Partnership.

Indian Navy & Japan Marine Self Defence Force conducted passage exercises (PASSEX) in Andaman Sea with INS Sahyadri, JS Izumo & JS Murasame. The ships conducted intensive Maritime Ops including tactical manoeuvres & AS exercises on expendable target EMATT. This was fifth such interaction of INS Sahyadri with JMSDF ships in last one year having interacted previously during MALABAR 18, RIMPAC 18, KAKADU 18 & JIMEX 18.

H.E Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan, called on Admiral Hiroshi Yamamura, Chief of Staff, JMSDF and discussed initiatives to further advance Defence Cooperation between Indian Navy and JMSDF.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th May 2019 addressed a meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) after he was formally elected their leader. Setting out the agenda for the next term of his government in the Central Hall of the Parliament. Here are the highlights from his speech:

- A massive mandate also increases one's responsibility, we accept that
- You have been a witness to the change in India's politics and are responsible for it
- Today we are here to take forward our promise of 'New India' with a renewed energy. We must move ahead with new energy but at the same time also understand the Indian democracy
- People have accepted us due to our 'seva bhav'. One has to prepare oneself to be always ready to help people even when you move through the lanes of politics and power
- The conscience of Indian voter is unparalleled, he never respects those hungry for power
- You have chosen me your leader but I am one of you, just an equal
- The NDA must walk shoulder-to-shoulder but I am always happy to be one who takes the blame if anything goes wrong
- The country not only voted us to power in 2014, they also showed us the way, they were participants
- The 2019 elections have worked towards breaking down walls and connecting hearts. In a way, it became a way to unite the society. It took this election to a new height. People have started a new era and we are all a witness to it
- A voter never accepts 'satta ka rutba' (arrogance of power). He might tolerate it due to helplessness, but will never accept it
- When people have faith, instead of anti-incumbency, there is a pro-incumbency wave. This pro-incumbency wave is woven with trust. The trust was not only between people and government, but also among people themselves. This is a positive vote. This thinking has given such a big mandate
- We are there for people who have supported us, we are there for people who will support us
- There has been record voting in election, and women have voted on par with men. Next time they will cross men
- We also have the largest number of women parliamentarians this time
- Two things critical today are national ambition and regional aspirations (NARA)
- NDA's core is energy and synergy
- Never let arrogance creep in, do not think anything - even 'Modi' - made you win. People made you win
- The country doesn't like VIP culture. Why shouldn't we stand in line for security check at the airport
- You may have been elected from somewhere but you are India's lawmaker, you have to think of Kashmir and Kerala both
- Always believe in the teachings of Gandhi ji, Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Ram Manohar Lohia, Baba Saheb Ambedkar
- From 2014 to 2019, we have had a government for the poor and in 2019, this government, I can say with confidence, was made by the poor
- We have worked for Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, now we have to strive for Sabka Vishwas
- In 2019, we must replicate the spirit of 1942 to 1947. We no longer want to live with the 'developing' country tag
Shimane University, a Japanese national university located in Matsue, established Raman project center for medical and biological applications in Feb 2014. The name Raman is from Sir. C.V. Raman who was the first Asian (Indian) Nobel laureate in Science (Physics). According to director Prof. Tatsuyuki Yamamoto, “Raman spectroscopy is so profound that Prof. C.V. Raman was awarded Nobel Prize in 1930, just two years after his discovery of Raman effect. It is a powerful technique with myriad applications and is especially useful in disease diagnosis. Thanks to Embassy/Consulate of India for being instrumental over the years for creating research network between Raman center and Indian institutions”. Prof. Yamamoto also serves as the President of ‘The Japan Association of Medical Spectroscopy’. Raman center in Shimane University is multidisciplinary in nature with researchers from various backgrounds jointly work on cutting edge research for medical, biological, material and agricultural applications. The center also has one Professor of Indian origin (Prof. Hemanth Noothalapati) and has strong international joint research collaborations with premier institutions in India, Taiwan, Poland and Israel etc. Ambassador believes that research activities in Raman center can lead to path breaking innovation in the years to come.

India-Japan established 3 laboratories to work on Data Science based farming support system for sustainable crop production, Architecting intelligent, dependable cyber physical system targeting IoT& mobile Big Data analysis & IoT, to be operational for IIT Hyderabad, IIT Bombay & IIT Delhi

An India Japan Academic workshop held IIT Hyderabad to review Collaboration hubs for bilateral research prog in ICT. SK Varshney, Head, I’national Bilateral Cooperation-DST, Mr Mitsuyki Ueda, Director (I’national Cooperation), MEXT, Japan, Ms Yoshiko Shiroki-zawa, ED, JST & others participated.

As part of Student Outreach, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma participated in 92nd May Festival of University of Tokyo (UoT) and interacted with Indian Students from "University of Tokyo Indian Students Association" (UTISA). He also visited UTISA stall "Namaste India" showcasing Indian Culture. UoT has more than 100 Indian Students pursuing Post Graduate / PhD / Post Doc courses in various fields.

HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met IIT Delhi’s Prof Jain and Dr Rakshit, Indian PIs of the joint project under SPARC program of HRD Ministry and discussed the progress & way forward. IIT Delhi & Kyushu University have a joint project in Green & Renewable Technology under the program.

IMTECH’s novel compound treats colistin-resistant bacteria

A novel compound isolated from a soil bacterium (Paenibacillus sp; found in the soil at Malvi village in Jind district, Haryana in Jan 2016) shows promise in killing Gram-negative bacteria (K. pneumoniae & E. coli) that are resistant to colistin, a powerful, last-line antibiotic. The compound was effective in killing colistin-resistant bacteria in studies done in vitro and on mice models. Unlike colistin, the compound was found to be safe and did not damage the kidney of mice, a team led by Dr. Hemraj Nandanwar from Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH) found. The compound is novel and this is also the first time that antibacterial effects of tridecaptin family of compounds on colistin-resistant bacteria have been studied. Source: https://journosdiary.com/2019/05/24/imtech-colistin-resistant-bacteria-e-coli/

May 2019: On basis of an Indo-Japanese joint call for proposal under India-Japan Cooperative Science Programme (IJCSP) by DST, MoS&T, GoI, N Delhi and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for joint research projects / workshops in the areas of i) Fundamental Sciences, ii) Materials & System Engineering, iii) Natural Systems, iv) Astronomy, Space, Earth System & Sciences and v) Maths & Computational Science, out of total of 116 proposals, 23 proposals (20 joint research projects and 3 workshops) have been selected. For the detailed list visit the link http://www.dst.gov.in/sites/default/files/Note%20for%202019%20JSPS%20Result%20on%20website_0.pdf.
The Indian Connection

Hindi: Achievement of my Life

Graduate School of Global Studies, Master’s Prog in Global Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Namaskar!

Hindi से मेरा मिलना तोक्यो विदेशी अध्ययन विश्विद्यालय (TDFS) में प्रवेश करने के समय हुआ। लेकिन वास्तव में इस विश्वविद्यालय में प्रवेश से पहले ही मुझे भारतीय संस्कृति में बहुत रंग थी। जापान के हाई स्कूल के पाठ्यक्रम में ऐसा विषय है जो मिन-मिन विचारों को व्यक्तिगत रूप से देखा जाता है। इस पाठ्यक्रम में हिंदी, बांड और जीन आदि भारतीय धर्म-दर्शन आदि को पकड़ कर मानस-भारतीय विचारधारा का एक अंश आकर्षित हुआ। अतः विश्वविद्यालय में भी मैंने भारतीय संस्कृति के संबंध में पढ़ने का निर्णय लिया।

I got to know about Hindi after entering to Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TDFS). But in reality, I had a great interest in Indian culture even before entering to this University. There is a subject in the syllabus of High School in Japan where different viewpoints are seen extensively. In this syllabus, after reading Indian philosophy on Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, I was attracted towards Indian ideology. Therefore, in this University also, I decided to study about Indian culture.

For this, besides interest in knowing India, I had interest in Indian languages too and therefore, I took admission in TDFS. After admission in TDFS, I started learning Hindi. In the beginning, I should have practiced Devanagari script. Then I noticed an interesting point that the sequence of Devnagri characters resembles the sequence of letters called Japanese “hiragana”. For example, like “k”, “Kh”, “G”, “d” in Devnagri, Japanese also has sequence of letters like “ka”, “ga”. According to the professor, this similarity is coming from Indian Linguistics. One day Professor said that “shari” of sushi which means rice of “sushi”, came from the word “k”, “Kh”, “G”, “d” in Devnagri, Japanese also has sequence of letters like “ka”, “ga”. Professor explained the importance of learning Japanese language with this example. For me at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TDFS), I started learning Japanese. In the beginning, I should have practiced Japanese script. Then I noticed an interesting point that the sequence of Devnagri characters resembles the sequence of letters called Japanese “hiragana”. For example, like “k”, “Kh”, “G”, “d” in Devnagri, Japanese also has sequence of letters like “ka”, “ga”. According to the professor, this similarity is coming from Indian Linguistics. One day Professor said that “shari” of sushi which means rice of “sushi”, came from the word “k”, “Kh”, “G”, “d” in Devnagri, Japanese also has sequence of letters like “ka”, “ga”.

Hindi के साथ, इसके बाद मैं भारत और जापान के ऐतिहासिक संबंध के बारे में भी सिखाया जाता था। इसके कारण, मैं ऐसी बातें जानने लगा कि जब जापानी जानते हैं लेकिन बहुत महत्त्वपूर्ण है। मैं अपनी भाव रखता हूँ कि मैं एक प्रोफेसर कहते हैं कि “मुझे हिंदी का भाषा मत बोलो”। मुझे शुरू में साफ़ तौर पर इसका अर्थ समझ में नहीं आया था। लेकिन हिंदी पढ़ना, जापानी भाषा से बातचीत करना, उनके साथ ही रहना आदि के माध्यम से मैंने समझा कि किसी भाषा को पढ़ना केवल एक भाषा को पढ़ना नहीं बल्कि वहाँ की संस्कृति और वहाँ के लोगों को समझना भी होता है।

“मुझे की भाषा” का मात्र समझना उन लोगों की भाषा है जिनके पास हमारे भाषा बोलने वाले क्षेत्र की संस्कृति अथवा इतिहास का कुछ जानना नहीं। यह मेरे लिए बहुत अज्ञात बात नहीं। इससे पहले मेरे मन में भारत के विषय प्रेरणा का भाव तपस्या में था। अब मेरे मन में भारत के वेतन उसी भाषा को पढ़ना भी था जो मेरे लिए रंगल है। जब मेरी पूरी समझे पर मुझे लगता है कि भाषा पढ़ने वाले को भाषा के साथ – साथ उस भाषा के क्षेत्र को भी व्यक्तिक जान अवश्य मिलता पाइएगी।

Along with Hindi, I also took classes in the history of India and South Asia. In these classes, the historic relationship of India and Japan were also taught. Because of this, I started to learn such things which little Japanese knows but that are very important. I still remember that one of my professors used to say that “do not speak language of a silly man”. In the beginning I did not understand its meaning clearly. But through Hindi, talking to the Indians, staying in touch with them etc., I understood that learning a language does not mean learning only a language but it also means to understand its culture and people. The language of fools means the language of those who do not have any knowledge of the culture and history of the areas where that language is spoken. For me, it was a wonderful thing. Before that, the picture of India in my mind was in the mere imagination. I used to study about only that part of India that was interesting to me. But when I understand the whole thing, I feel that those who study the language should also get a broad knowledge of that language.

अब में एह लिए हिंदी ने उस भारतीय संस्कृति को दर्शाया और जिसके साथ भारतीय आध्यात्मिकता गहराई और चौहाड़ है, जो में आतंक जान का भाषार। हिंदी के माध्यम से मुझे भारत की विविधताओं का जानना का मौका मिला। भारत का समझ, यहाँ का जीवन और संस्कृति सब मुझे अच्छा लगा। मुझे लगता है कि हिंदी सीखने मेरी आंखें खुल गई और में भारत को अच्छी तरह समझने की कोशिश कर रहा हूँ। हिंदी को में अपने जीवन के एक बड़े उपकरण मानता हूँ।

In fact, Hindi has opened for me the door of that Indian culture which has amazing depth and width, where there is a store of infinite knowledge. Through Hindi, I got an opportunity to know the various things of India. I liked the society of India, its life and culture. I feel that my eyes were opened after learning Hindi and I am trying to understand India very well. I consider Hindi a great achievement in my life.

And at the end thanks again for this occasion to the Embassy of India.

The article was written by Mr Kesuke Kikuchi in Hindi and translated in English & Japanese by Embassy of India, Tokyo.
Cultural & Tourism Outreach

Embassy of India Tokyo in collaboration with India Tourism Tokyo organised a "Know India Seminar" at Embassy of India's Vivekananda Cultural Centre (VCC) on 22nd May 2019. The seminar was attended by a large number of participants (both Japanese and Indians) from Japan's Tour & Travel industry as well as representatives from Japan's Government i.e. MLIT/JNTO. The event had speech by His Excellency Ambassador of India to Japan Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma. In his speech, His Excellency Ambassador mentioned the similarity in the Japanese concept of "Okyakusama wa Kamisama desu" and India concept of "Athithi Devo Bhava" when it comes to host-guest relationship. He also mentioned about the rich diversity of India which makes India an exotic destination for tourists from all over the world. He mentioned about the efforts being made by Government of India to make India a world-class tourist destination. On the occasion, Director General Tourism, Government of India Mrs Meenakshi Sharma graced with her presence and delivered a presentation on India Tourism. Her presentation with beautiful award-winning videos on IncredibleIndia took the participants to a mesmerizing journey of India as Tourist destination. After her presentation, there was Q&A session and DG Tourism took all kind of questions and shared lot of recent efforts by Government of India to make India a comfortable tourist destination. She mentioned about toll free number 1800111363 or on a short code 1363 and operational 24X7 (365 days in a year) offering a “multi-lingual including Japanese helpdesk” with objective to provide information relating to travel and tourism in India to the domestic and international tourists. She also invited suggestions from the participants to make India a more attractive tourist destination for Japanese tourists. The event had a beautiful Odissi Dance performance by Japanese artists from Tokyo based Studio Odissi. After the session, participants proceeded for networking gathering & meet and greet where they also enjoyed the Indian cuisines too.

Buddha Purnima Celebrations at Embassy of India, Tokyo

An event celebrating Buddha Purnima was held on 17 May 2019 at the Vivekananda Cultural Centre Auditorium, Embassy of India. Shri Raj Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Chief of Mission, delivered the opening remarks, after which Rev. Ryosen Kono and Rev. Garyo Kono of Enmeiji gave a talk and conducted Buddhist chanting. Lectures were given by Smt. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Functionary, Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance, SCOPE; Dr Kuniko Hirano, Director, Padma Yoga Ashram; and Ms Masako Ono, an ICCR empaneled Odissi artist. This was followed by a Kathak performance by Ms Masako Sato, Mr Shigeru Moriyama and their students. Prof. Siddharth Singh gave the closing remarks and felicitated the speakers and artists.
58th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Tagore

H. E. Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma gave opening remarks on the occasion of 158th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore organized by Bengali Association of Tokyo, Japan. Various cultural programmes including Rabindra Sangeet, dances and dance drama were rendered on the occasion. Smt. Gunjan Verma, spouse of Ambassador of India to Japan, recited the selected poems of Tagore’s book ‘Gitanjali’.

Vegetarian Food Festival marking the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

The Embassy of India, Tokyo, held a Vegetarian Food Festival marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at the VCC Auditorium in collaboration with Japan Vegetarian Society. The event was inaugurated by H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan, who highlighted Gandhi’s vision of vegetarianism. Mr Hiroshi Hirabayashi, President, Japan-India Association, and former Ambassador of Japan to India, spoke about his experiences of hosting dignitaries with various dietary needs in India. Dr Mitsuru Kakimoto, President, Japan Vegetarian Society, gave remarks on the occasion followed by a talk by Mrs Hema Parekh titled “My Journey as a Vegetarian in Japan”. This was followed by a performance of Japanese songs by Vegitariart Music, a group composed of vegetarian musicians; and a Kathak recital by Ms Om Agarwal accompanied by Mr Shigeru Moriyama on the table, and Mr Shinsuke Nishizawa on the Sarangi. Ambassador felicitated the speakers, artists and Ms Fumiko Oka who translated “A Guide to Health” by Mahatma Gandhi into Japanese. The event concluded with a get-together where the attendees enjoyed a variety of Japanese and Indian vegetarian cuisine.

Lecture on “Ancient Indian approach to Peace and Conflict Management” @Gifu Women’s University

Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, VCC delivered a lecture on “Ancient Indian approach to Peace and Conflict Management” at Center for South Asian Studies, Gifu Women’s University, Tokyo. Prof. Singh, citing various ancient Sanskrit and Pali sources, emphasized that the ancient Indian culture took a holistic approach to Peace realizing the relationship of outer peace with inner peace. Welcome address was delivered by Prof. Fukunaga Masaaki, Assistant Director and vote of thanks was expressed by Prof. Pema Gyalpo, Director of the Centre.