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.

India On the Move

WORLD’S LARGEST SOLAR PARK AT INDIAN STATE OF KARNATAKA’S PAVAGADA IS NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL

World's largest solar park has now become entirely operational. The Pavagada Solar Park, located in Tumakuru district of Karnataka, has been developed by the Karnataka Solar Park Development Corporation Limited (KSPDCL), a joint venture between the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and the Karnataka Renewable Energy (KREDL). Initially, the plan was to build a solar park of capacity 2,000 MW spanning over 13,000 acres of land. Later, an additional capacity of 50 MW was added. Out of the total 2,050 MW capacity, the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) implemented 600 MW of solar PV projects, SECI implemented 200 MW, while KREDL implemented 1,250 MW.

The park is not only playing a major role in helping India achieve its renewable energy targets but also in creating employment for natives and farmers to explore new opportunities for socio-economic growth in the region.

Karnataka is the top solar state in India, with approximately 7.1 GW of large-scale solar projects in operation and approximately 1 GW of projects under the development pipeline. Karnataka boasts of a renewables share of 62 per cent in its power mix, followed by thermal power and nuclear with 35 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively. The share of solar in the total installed power capacity is 22 per cent.

India's first e-waste clinic Launched

India's first e-waste clinic was inaugurated in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 24 January. It was jointly set up by the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The e-waste clinic is being started on the basis of a three-month pilot project. If this project is successful, e-waste clinics will be established at other places in the country. The clinic is set up in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. The e-waste clinic will segregate, process and dispose of the waste from both household and commercial units.

I-STEM Portal launched at 107th ISC Bangalore


The I-STEM (Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map) Portal is designed to be the gateway for users/researchers to locate the specific type of facility they need for their R&D work and to identify the one that is either located closest to them or available the soonest. Once a researcher locates the desired facility through I-STEM, s/he can make an online reservation for using it, paying for it through a secure payment gateway.
Maiden landing of DRDO-developed LCA Navy onboard INS Vikramaditya

After completing extensive trials on the Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF), Naval version of indigenously-developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) did a successful arrested landing onboard INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier on 11 January 2020. LCA Navy has been developed by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) with Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Indian Navy, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA). With this feat, the indigenously developed niche technologies specific to deck based fighter operations have been proven, which will now pave the way to develop and manufacture the Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter for the Indian Navy.

02 Railway stations gets AI-backed Facial recognition technology as Test case

On 9th Jan 2020, Bengaluru's Manmad and Bhusawal stations were installed with the Facial recognition technology backed by artificial intelligence (AI) as test cases to identify and nab criminals. The face recognition software will alert the RPF command centre of any known offenders. After successful testing of the facial recognition system, the technology will be implemented across the railway network.


Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre(I4C) & National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal inaugurated

I4C will help to deal with all types of cybercrimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. It has seven components viz., National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit, National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, National Cyber Crime Training Centre, Cyber Crime Ecosystem Management Unit, National Cyber Crime Research and Innovation Centre, National Cyber Crime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem and Platform for Joint Cyber Crime Investigation Team.

National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in) is a citizen-centric initiative that will enable citizens to report cyber crimes online through the portal. All the cyber crime related complaints will be accessed by the concerned law enforcement agencies in the States and Union Territories for taking action as per law.

For more details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=197362 (10 January 2020)

Report of the Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline for 2019-2025 released

On 31st December 2019, Finance Minister of India Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman released the report of the Task force for National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP). Task force engaged Departments/Ministries engaged in infrastructure development, Corporates engaged in infrastructure development & construction, Banks/Financial Institutions, Private Equity funds, and Industry Associations, including CII, FICCI & ASSOCHAM, to seek information as well as suggestions on reforms required in infrastructure sectors. NIP will enable a forward outlook on infrastructure projects which will create jobs, improve ease of living, and provide equitable access to infrastructure for all, thereby making growth more inclusive. NIP includes economic and social infrastructure projects.

To achieve the GDP of $5 trillion by 2024-25, India needs to spend about $1.4 trillion (Rs 100 lakh crore) over these years on infrastructure. In the past decade (FY 2008-17), India invested about $1.1 trillion on infrastructure. The challenge is to step-up annual infrastructure investment so that lack of infrastructure does not become a binding constraint on the growth of the Indian economy. During the fiscals 2020 to 2025, sectors such as Energy (24%), Roads (19%), Urban (16%), and Railways (13%) amount to around 70% of the projected capital expenditure in infrastructure in India. Out of the total expected capital expenditure of Rs. 102 lakh crore, projects worth Rs 42.7 lakh crore (42%) are under implementation, projects worth Rs 32.7 lakh crore (32%) are in conceptualization stage and rest are under development.

Details of report can be read at link http://164.100.117.97/WriteReadData/userfiles/DEA%20IPF%20NIP%20Report%20Vol%201.pdf
India’s Renewable Power to Contribute 20% of All Energy Consumed in the Country by 2040

The Nikkei (28 Jan)
According to stats released by BP, 60% of energy consumed in India is coal origin. Thermal power generation with coal emits not only the large amount of CO2, but also PM2.5, a particular matter which is said to influence human health. Indian cities like New Delhi and Mumbai are suffering greatly from the air pollution and the severity of the pollution is sure to propel India’s effort to spread the use of the renewable energy in the country. Currently, the contribution rate of the renewable energy to India’s energy consumption is less than 10%, but BP expects it to reach 20% in 2040, lessening the reliance on coal and oil.

For more details visit the link https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXMZOS4896090X20C20A1FFJ000/

India’s Renewal Energy Sector Sees Emergence of New Players: Propelling the Country’s Effort to Tackle Air Pollution

The Nikkei (28 January)
Investment bound to India’s renewable energy sector is expanding. ReNew Power, an emerging renewable energy player plans to expand their solar and wind power generation capacity by 60% from the current level in 2021. Another new player in the sector, Greeko Energy Holdings procured 90 billion yen to expand their business sphere. Being faced with serious air pollution, the Government of India extends supports to the spread of renewable energy in the country. Tata, the country’s largest conglomerate, also started getting serious about the renewable power business.

ReNew Power plans to enhance its power generation capacity by 3 GW, in both wind and solar, by June 2021, to 8 GW in total. Mr Sumant Sinha, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the company, said about 100 million yen is required to secure power generation of 1 GW with renewable energy. In order to achieve the goal it set, the company procured 375 million dollars in March 2019 by issuing green bonds and additional 300 million dollars from HSBC and other investors in June 2019.

Greeko Energy Holdings agreed to receive additional fund of 800 million US$ from GIC of Singapore and Investment Agency, Abu Dhabi in 2019, hoping to expand their business. Their main pillar of business is the solar power, but the company envisages directing the procured fund to the wind power generation or to the development of storage batteries.

As the country faces sever air pollution, Govt of India aims to double the renewable power generation by 2022 to 175 GW. In the long run, the Govt hopes to expand it to as much as 450 GW. The Govt implements bidding system in order to attract private players to take active role in the development of country’s renewable power sector. Under this system, project-wise bidding will be implemented and a private company which won the bid would construct a power generation facility and would be given the right to sell the power generated on 25-year contract. Tata Powers, the group company of Tata Group, has already won several contracts to build renewable energy power generation facilities in the country. Agni Group is to follow the suit, heating up the competition among the existing players and new comers in the renewable power sector.

For more details visit the link https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXMZOS4896090X20C20A1FFJ000/

5 DRDO Young Scientists Laboratories dedicated to the Nation

On 2nd January 2020, PM Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation 5 Young Scientists Laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Bengaluru.

DRDO Young Scientist Laboratories (DYSLs) are located in five cities viz, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad. Each lab will work on a key advanced technology of importance to the development of futuristic defence systems viz, Artificial intelligence, Quantum technologies, Cognitive technologies, Asymmetric technologies and Smart materials.

For more details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/news/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=197246

India emerges as Asia's leader in socially beneficial markets

Nikkei (8 Jan)
India is fast overtaking countries like Japan and South Korea in creating ways for socially minded entrepreneurs to raise funds from impact investors. The aim is to get more capital to companies that bring social benefits, like education and health care, many of which are thriving.

For more details visit the link https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Markets/India-emerges-as-Asia-s-leader-in-socially-beneficial-markets

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For more details visit the link https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXMZOS4896090X20C20A1FFJ000/
Indian Snacking Startup Samosa Singh raised funding from VCs incl from Japan based AET Fund

Bengaluru-based Snacking Startup "Samosa Singh" raised $2.7M in Series A funding from VCs including from Japan based AET Fund (https://aet.fund/) to scale up its operations, production, expansion, etc.

Samosa Singh will use this fund to expand the capacity expansion of its central kitchen, which is located in Bengaluru. Most of the food is prepared in the central kitchen to retain the quality and consistency of the product. The product is then distributed to its cloud kitchen and offline stores. Also the company is planning to set up 100 cloud kitchens in major South Indian cities by March 2021. Moreover, the company is also planning to sell products through its website. India has a massive food market—it was pegged at $193 billion, and Samosa Singh is targeting that market.

For more details visit the link https://in.finance.yahoo.com/news/funding-alert-food-startup-samosa-053650440.html

Japan's Credit Saison and India's Capital Float join hands to offer digital financing to SMEs

India's Non-banking finance company (NBFC) "Capital Float" has entered into a co-lending partnership with Japanese financial services major "Credit Saison", which will see both parties disburse business loans to India’s Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs).

As part of the agreement, Capital Float and Bangalore based Credit Saison India or Kisetsu Saison Finance India (Indian subsidiary of Credit Saison est in June 2018 and received its NBFC licence from the Reserve Bank of India in Oct 2019 & initiated digital lending operations in the Indian market) will provide working capital financing to MSMEs, particularly to those from the country’s tier-2 towns and cities and beyond. The Indian MSME sector is largely deprived of liquidity, thereby slowing down their growth. The co-lending partnership would help boost the much-needed liquidity within the MSME segment.


Daikin to strengthen their maintenance services in India and South Asia

Daikin Industries Ltd is going to develop human resources rapidly in India and South Asia where the demand for air conditioners increase. They started to operate a new training facility this month in India in Rajasthan state and it is their second one in India. The number of service engineers that they can train in the country will be 50,000 per year, 1.5 times as many as before. They aim to increase the number of human resources that they can train in a year by 2.5 times (200,000 people) by 2025. The household penetration rate of air conditioners in India is 7% and it is expected to increase up to 60% in 10-15 years. The demand for maintenance services is high due to voltage fluctuation caused by frequent blackouts or breakdown of air conditioning heat exchangers. They will teach the technique of maintenance to the sales staffs in the business stores as well. For more details visit the link https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGKKZO54778180T20C20A1TJ2000/;

Mitsui Fudosan to Develop Office Buildings in India with Local Partner RMZ

RMZ Corp, Bengaluru-based privately-owned real estate company, has entered into a strategic, equal partnership with Mitsui Fudosan (Asia) Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of Mitsui Fudosan Co Ltd, a global real estate developer headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. This 50:50 joint venture of up to $1 billion, has been forged to augment RMZ Corps’ Future of Space landscape, in India.

Mitsui Fudosan will be developing office buildings in India with Indian partner, RMZ. They plan to build four office buildings in Bangalore by 2023. Global majors are establishing offices in Bangalore that Mitsui envisages tapping demands for office spaces. Though the entire development expense is not disclosed, but it has been agreed that Mitsui and RMZ will split the expense. This is the first time for Mitsui Fudosan to engage in business activity in India and is the first office building development project in Asia.

Indian entrepreneurs create water-saving solution for farmers out of Okinawa fruit scraps

Two Indian entrepreneurs (Puran Rajput and Narayan Gurjar from Udaipur Rajasthan) working (since last year) as part of an entrepreneur support program at Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University in Okinawa Prefecture are developing an organic polymer made from fruit scraps that can retain water 50 times its weight, in a potential breakthrough for farming in water-scarce regions. The polymer is made mainly from pineapple crowns and the skins of shīkwāsā limes and bananas, which often go to waste when the fruits are processed.

For more details visit the link https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/01/24/national/india-entrepreneurs-eco-polymer-okinawa-fruit/#.XkP7qTlzBIU

Suntory HD Hopes to Establish a Whiskey Production Site in India in Next Five Years

Mr. Takeshi NIINAMI, the Managing Director of Suntory HD on 23rd spoke to the Nikkei in Davos, Switzerland where the Davos Economic Forum was held. He said that the company hoped to establish a whiskey production site in India which is the largest spirits consumer in the world in next five years. For more details visit the link https://www.nikkei.com/article/DAKKZO54841650U0A120C2TJ2000/

Bandai Namco opens its largest amusement arcade in India - On 10 Jan 2020, Major Japanese video game producer Bandai Namco Amusement Inc. has opened its second and biggest amusement arcade in India. For more details visit the link https://english.nna.jp/articles/3870

Hirotech Group inaugurates facility in Coimbatore - Japan's Hirotec Group on 16 Jan 2020 inaugurated its new state-of-the-art stamping die tooling facility in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu to meet the requirements of car manufacturers in the country. Rs 100-crore plant would start building sheet metal stamping dies for the Indian market and achieve an annual manufacturing capacity of 100 dies by 2025. For more details visit the link https://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/auto-components/hirotech-group-inaugurates-facility-in-coimbatore/73302981

In December 2019, Union Cabinet approves 4th MoU between Central Electricity Authority, India and Japan Coal Energy Centre for Japan-India cooperation for Efficiency and Environmental Improvement for Sustainable, Stable and Low-Carbon supply of Electricity. This MoU will provide an enabling framework to address issues and barriers in expediting sustainable, stable and low carbon thermal power development by means of studies, training program and knowledge-sharing activities, outcomes of which are to be conducive to overall power development in India as well as to expedite relevant policy implementation by the Govt of India. For details of earlier 3 MoUs visit the link http://cea.nic.in/cea-jcoal.html.


CSC with IIT Delhi and NEC to push technology in rural India to improve quality education

Common Services Centre (CSC) on 11 Jan 2020 joined hands with Japanese technology giant NEC Corporation and IIT Delhi to empower rural students by providing them quality education. They organized a hackathon on “Digitalising rural education” to support the motion. In the hackathon, 30 teams selected from all over the country participated in brainstorming sessions organised to develop ideas to simplify education delivery to students living in rural India. Both CSC and NEC Corporation will jointly design and develop tools and products for rural students.


Japan's NEC Corp looks to tap opportunities in smart digital solutions in India

Japan-based NEC Corporation, which was also involved in Aadhaar implementation programme in India, is looking to tap opportunities in smart digital solutions space in the country and has set a revenue target of USD 1 billion in five years. Besides, the IT solutions provider is betting big on the cyber security segment in view of ever-rising incidents of cyber threats.

On 23rd January 2020, Union Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry Mr Piyush Goyal had a meeting with Tadashi Maeda, Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation at WEF in Davos. They discussed avenues for increasing investments in India’s infrastructure sector and ways to enhance economic cooperation between India and Japan.

Defence Minister of India Mr Rajnath Singh with DG IDSA, Amb Sujan R Chinox launched the book titled “Scaling India-Japan Cooperation in Indo-Pacific and Beyond 2025: Corridors, Connectivity and Contours,” edited by Dr. Jagannath Panda, Fellow & Coordinator, East Asia, Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses (IDSA).

On 23rd January 2020, Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), Invest India, NASSCOM, JioGenNext (a startup accelerator backed by Reliance Industries) & Maharashtra State Innovation Society hosted a conference in Mumbai to enable discussions & explore opportunities to solidify the partnership of Indian & Japanese startups & tech businesses.

Addressing the audience, the chairman of Japan Venture Capital Association, Shinzo Nakano, explained that Japan presents wide opportunities for Indian startups in terms of tech adoption. Nakano also highlighted that many VCs, investors, and institutions are looking to promote Japan-India open innovation and create great business opportunities.

For more details visit the link https://inc42.com/buzz/japanese-vcs-invest-india-highlight-opportunities-for-indian-startups-in-japan/

On 23rd January 2020, NASSCOM India hosted the delegation of senior leaders of 21 group companies of Toyota Tsusho India for a session on understanding the Indian startup ecosystem & how NASSCOM is enabling the industry towards Open Innovation through NIPP (NASSCOM Industry Partnership Programme). NASSCOM (nasscom.in) is India’s apex body for the IT-BPM industry in India.

On 10 January, 2020, National Maritime Foundation, India had workshop with MOFA Japan & Embassy of Japan New Delhi on "Maritime Security in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean Region : Exploring Convergent Views" at New Delhi. Speakers included Commander Hiroshi Shiokawa, JMSDF.

The National Maritime Foundation (NMF; http://maritimeindia.org/) New Delhi, was established in 2005 as the nation’s first maritime think-tank for conducting independent and policy-relevant research on ‘matters maritime’. While it's an autonomous think-tank, its intellectual and organisational development is supported by Ministry of Defence and the Indian Navy.
India’s Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity)’s Startup Hub (MSH) & Japan’s JETRO signed a partnership document to strengthen the India & Japanese tech startup ecosystem. Meity Startup Hub aims to support Japanese tech-startups in India by providing a soft landing sector-specific technology incubation platform for 6 months free of cost. Also, MSH with support of JETRO will simultaneously help Japanese companies facilitate acceleration programs in India.

### Fifth wave of India Japan relations

With an aim to accelerate and provide global capital access to Indian tech start-ups, NASSCOM is coming with the 2nd Edition of Japan VC Connect in partnership with the Embassy of India, Tokyo. The network will allow selected Indian tech startups, focused on solving issues faced in domestic markets to present their start-up ideas in front of over 150 Japanese venture capital (VC) firms and institutions and get a chance to raise capital. Click here and apply - [http://bit.ly/NASSCOM_JapanVC-2](http://bit.ly/NASSCOM_JapanVC-2)

On 28th January 2020, ASSOCHAM India hosted a delegation from Japan and had interactive meeting on Indo-Japan relations. Tokyo Metropolitan University Chairman-Board of Trustees, Haruo Shimada while addressing mentioned that India is an essential future investment destination for Japan.

"Fifth wave of India Japan relations" Investment Handbook by Invest India ([https://www.investindia.gov.in/](https://www.investindia.gov.in/)) along with Standard Chartered Tokyo for Japanese businesses for setting up operations in India.

Read full Handbook at [https://www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/pdf/FifthWaveofIndiaJapanRelations.pdf](https://www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/pdf/FifthWaveofIndiaJapanRelations.pdf)
On 20th January 2020, HE Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma gave inaugural address at “Invest India 2020” seminar organized by BSE India Brokers Forum (Bombay Stock Exchange Brokers Forum; BBF), Embassy of India Tokyo, Japan Securities Dealers Association (jsda.or.jp/en/) and Invest India. Ambassador in his address highlighted the scope for the Japanese investors to invest in the Indian stock which offered promising opportunities to them due to the commendable performance of the Indian Capital market consecutively for a period of last 5 years. Event had welcome remarks by BBF Chairman, Opening remarks by VC JSDA and opening remarks by GM SEBI India followed by 03 Technical Sessions.

One of session was on “Facilitation & Regulation” chaired by Director, MoF Japan had Minister E&C Mona Khandhar, GM Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), representatives from Financial Service Agency & Tokyo Stock Exchange as panelists and during the session recent economic stimulus announced by GoI was presented by Minister E&C. There were discussions about State of Indian economy, Capital market and Investment opportunities in India as well as facilitation and regulatory standards prevalent in Japan and India. The Technical Sessions were followed by a Question and Answer Session during which many Japanese financial entities asked India related questions on GST, cross border transaction, transfer pricing mechanism, listing of Japanese ETF in NSE as well as Samurai bond market in India etc. More than 60 representatives from Japanese financial entities including banks, legal firms, pension fund, securi-
On 27th January 2020, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met JSW Sports CEO Mr Mustafa Ghouse. They discussed about preparation for India's 1st ever hospitality house at Olympics "India House" by JSWSports & IOA (Indian Olympic Association; https://www.olympic.in/) at Tokyo during Tokyo2020 Olympic and Paralympic celebrating India's cultural diversity and facilitation.

India honors Dr Tetsu Nakamura, a well known Japanese social worker who was killed in Afghanistan by conferring with 4th highest civilian award of India i.e. Padma Shri.

On 24th December 2019, Senior Scholars from NIDS Japan, Dr. Marie Izuyama and Dr. Masafumi Iida met DG, IDSA, Ambassador Sujan R Chinoy & interacted with IDSA scholars on foreign policy trends and regional security issues in Indo-Pacific.

On 31st January 2020, HE Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma delivered opening remarks at seminar organized by JETRO on the subject of “Hiring highly skilled talent from India”. He encouraged the initiative by JETRO and suggested to focus on other reputed engineering colleges of India apart from top Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) like new IITs and National Institute of Technology (NITs) under Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt of India.

Welcome remarks were delivered by Exe Vice President Mr. Ichiro Sone of JETRO. Other speakers were Mr. Yukio Takeyari, Advisor of Tech Japan & author of book "India Shift", Dr. Kotaro Kataoka, Associate Prof IIT Hyderabad and representatives from companies such as DENSO, Spiral, DG Takano and NTT-AT. The seminar saw participation of senior management of more than 100 Japanese companies incl HR companies.

On 31st January 2020, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma hosted New Year lunch for friends from Japanese Think Tanks, Academicians, etc. There were discussions about future direction of India Japan Special Strategic Global Partnership, India's Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative as well as update on India's internal matters including Kashmir & CAA.
On 28th Jan 2020, DCM Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava participated in the closing ceremony of 2nd IDEAS programme by IDE-JETRO (Institute for Developing Economies-JETRO) Japan. Ms Sanjana Manaktala of NITI Aayog, India alongwith participants from other 16 countries attended the IDEAS Programme in Tokyo. NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) serves as a Think Tank of the Govt of India, a directional & policy dynamo to the Govt of India.

On 9th January 2020, Defence Minister of India Mr Rajnath Singh held a telephonic conversation with the Minister of Defence of Japan Mr Taro Kono. The two Defence Ministers had discussions on enhancing the bilateral security cooperation under the framework of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. They also exchanged views on regional security situation.

On 15th Jan, HE Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma interacted with representatives from "Indian Professionals in Japan (IPJ)" Association. He got briefing about IPJ activities and suggested ways & means to add value to IPJ platform to sustain growth and interest of members. He emphasized the facilitative / informative role of IPJ in sectors like Startups & Investment, Recruitment of High Skilled Professionals, Networking with Indian Professionals in India & across the Globe, guiding Youngsters to secure Jobs, etc. He also stressed upon the fact that Professionals has big role to contribute to Nation's Growth Story and offered IPJ all help to the extent possible from the Embassy side.

On 13th Jan. 2020, Japan Coast Guard (JCG) Ship Echigo was warm welcomed at Chennai by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) during her 04 days visit for the Joint Exercise “Sahyog-Kajin” with aim to Combat transnational maritime crimes. As part of exercise, crews communicate, exchanged opinions for anti-piracy measures with the ICG.

On 14 Jan, a High Level Meeting between ICG and JCG was held at ICGHQ, N Delhi. ICG delegation was headed by ICG Director General K Natarajan and JCG delegation led by JCG Commandant Admiral Takahiro Okushima.

Chief of Staff, Joint Staff of Japan General Yamazaki Koji took part in Raisina Dialogue 2020 in Delhi over 600 participants from more than 100 countries. This marks the third time that Chief of Japan Joint Staff takes part in the dialogue.

On 3rd January, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma interacted at Embassy with a group of Indian Students studying in Japan and explained provisions of CAA. It was followed by interesting Q&A session. Students thanked Ambassador for the guidance.

On 10th January 2020, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met Mayor of Kurobe City, Toyama Prefecture, Japan Mr Hisayoshi Ono. They discussed about pre-training camp for Indian Archery team before Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics under Japan's PMO Host Town Initiative as well as ways to promote India's culture, food, Yoga, Ayurveda in Kurobe City.

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He also called on Defence Minister Mr Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on January 15, 2020. Also, had meeting with Gen Bipin Rawat, India's first Chief of Defence Staff.

Indian & Japanese Defence Minister discuss ways to enhance bilateral security cooperation
SAKURA SCIENCE Exchange Programme for Indian Researchers

On 31st January, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma gave congratulatory remarks at debriefing session / wrap-up session of SAKURA SCIENCE Exchange Programme for Indian Researchers by Japan Science & Technology Agency (JST) and supported by MEXT Japan in which a group of 25 Indian Young Scientists and 02 officers from Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt of India participated. Ambassador in his remarks mentioned that given the complementarities between India and Japan there is big potential of India Japan Science & Technology collaboration by co-creation and co-production in various areas including in Digital Space, 5G, Startups, Disruptive Technologies, Skill, etc.

Participants gave impressions, review and feedback on Programme to make it more beneficial to India Japan S&T ecosystem. After debriefing session, Ambassador interacted with Scientists and motivated them to work towards India Japan S&T collaborations esp in emerging areas and societal domains.

Special remarks were by Hon’ble MP, ex S&T Minister, President Japan India Parliamentary Friendship League Mr Hiroyuki Hosoda.

JENESYS SAARC Reporting Session

On 27th January 2020, Embassy of India Tokyo Officers Counsellor (Political & IEC) Mr Bramha Kumar and Third Secretary Mr Ranjan Shenoy attended the Reporting Session of JENESYS SAARC 2nd Batch (Theme: Communication).

The Indian participants, comprising of working professionals from CDOT, IIMC, etc Indian Postal Services officers & students from various universities & institutions like TISS, FTII, XIC, etc presented their findings and enriched experiences and suggested an action plan to implement these in India. They mentioned that its worth observing for then that Tokyo, despite being having high population density, is not congested. They were surprised that cars running on hydrogen fuel cells are commercially available.

Mr Bramha Kumar while delivering his remarks congratulated all the teams for their activities and wished them the very best for success of their action plans. He emphasized that Japan’s remarkable development is due to coordinated and sustained efforts by the government, private sector and the citizens.

The JENESYS Prog (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) is a project advanced by Govt of Japan from the standpoint of providing a sound foundation for strong solidarity within Asia through large-scale youth exchange.

Mr Kamal Kishore, Member National Disaster Mgt Authority (NDMA) of India delivered the keynote Address at International Recovery Platform Secretariat at Kobe City with UNDRR. Key Message: A) Resilient Infra needs to be underpinned by a systems approach, better spatial planning & nature-based solutions. B) We must reconcile the seemingly competing needs of quick recovery & resilient recovery of infrastructure. C) Unprecedented investment in infrastructure is an opportunity to lock-in resilience for the long term...
On 22nd January 2020, Embassy of India Tokyo organized a unique brainstorming event (AWSAR - Action oriented Working group for Scientific, Academic and R&D initiatives) in which Indian / Indian origin Scientists and Researchers in Japan presented novel ideas to further bilateral India Japan collaboration in Science and Technology (S&T). His Excellency Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma gave the opening remarks and emphasized the key role played by Indian Scientists / Researchers in bilateral S&T relations.

The event which was coordinated by Science & Technology Wing of Embassy saw participation of about 40 Scientists / Researchers with 20 presentations of ideas in fields like Environment, Healthcare, Physics, Nanotechnology and Infrastructure etc. The vote of thanks was delivered by DCM Shri Raj Kumar Srivastava where he emphasized that S&T is one of the major complementarities between India and Japan and India Japan collaboration in S&T emerging fields like Healthcare, Energy Security, Digital technologies, Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, Agritechology, Biotechnology, Food Processing, etc will contribute to strengthen the bilateral relations.

Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER), Pune are working to indigenously produce Graphene at significantly reduced costs. The team has created 1gm of reduced graphene oxide (rGO), a modified version of graphene in the lab which is reportedly 100 times less costly than commercial rGO available in international market.

India plans to have EVs accounting for 30% of total vehicle population on its roads in the next decade. Graphene is an energy source which is environmentally friendly, efficient, fast charging and affordable and can provide supercapacitor for these vehicles. This will reduce the use of toxic lead-acid batteries.

For more details visit the link [https://inc42.com/buzz/indian-scientists-look-to-produce-cheaper-graphene-to-boost-ev-adoption/](https://inc42.com/buzz/indian-scientists-look-to-produce-cheaper-graphene-to-boost-ev-adoption/)
### Cultural

#### Familiarization visit by Prefectures / Cities representatives in Tokyo

On 16th January 2020, Embassy hosted a familiarisation visit by officials representing more than 40 prefectures and cities from across Japan. Prof. Siddhath Singh, Director, Vivekananda Cultural Centre, gave welcoming remarks. The visitors enjoyed a Yoga session with Dr Reeta Sharma, VCC Teacher of Indian Culture, in which they learned basic yogic asanas, breathing exercises and meditation. They were then given an introduction of India in Japanese by PO VCC Mr Taichi Watanabe in which they learned about various facets of Indian & its culture. The visitors had interactive Q&A session with Mr Karan Yadav, Second Secretary, and exchanged ideas about how to further relations in areas like Tourism, Human Resource, etc between India and Japan through their respective regions.

### Restoration project of the paintings done by Japanese master painter Mr. Kosetsu Nosu at Sarnath

A restoration project of the paintings done by Japanese master painter Mr. Kosetsu Nosu is going on at Mulagandha Kuti Vihar Buddhist temple, Sarnath, Varanasi in association with Mahabodhi Society of India. In 1918, Kosetsu Nosu, an ardent Japanese Buddhist, came to India, drawn by the aesthetics of the Ajanta mural paintings. Kosetsu Nosu made copies of ancient Indian paintings at Ajanta Caves and then did paintings on the walls of the temple depicting major events of the Buddha’s life during year 1932-36. The temple is celebrated for being built at the same place, where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon and the temple contains the body relics of the Buddha.

The restoration project is undertaken by the “Society for Honouring the master artist Kosetsu Nosu” and the first phase of the restoration was held during Nov 28-Dec 17, 2019 under the leadership of technical supervisor Prof. Takayasu Kijima and curator Shigeki Mizobuchi. The restoration project’s main collaborators are Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (Society for the Promotion of Buddhism), in special Cooperation with Foundation for Cultural Heritage and Art Research, Travel Saray, Sai-shiki Sekkei Corp. and Discover India Club (DIC). The project is being supported by Embassy of India, Tokyo, Kagawa Prefecture, The Japan-India Association, The Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute, Shukutoku Gakuen and Musashino University.

### Around 40 km from Bodh Gaya lies a cluster of four caves, namely Karan Chaupar, Lomas Rishi, Sudama and Visvakarma, known as the Barabar Caves. Carved out from a monolithic granite rock, these are supposed to have been constructed by emperor Ashoka for the use of Ajivaka ascetics. The most unique cave is Lomas Rishi, whose façade is an exact replica of the wood and thatch huts of monks. The interior of the cave has a remarkable glass-like polish.
On 30th Jan., H.E. Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma with Director Embas-
ssey’s Vivekananda Cultural Centre paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi on
the occasion of Martyr’s Day organized by Japan Bharat Sarvodaya
Mitrata Sangha at the Nipponzan Myohoji Kudan Dojo to commemorate
the 72nd anniversary of his death. Addressing the gathering, Ambassador
remarked that, “Mahatma Gandhi was born an Indian and he was steeped
in Indian tradition, but at the same time, he rose above the differences of
race, religion, and language to become a truly humane and compassion-
ate human being.” To conclude, Ambassador called on people to work
together to spread Mahatma Gandhi’s mes-
sage of truth, peace, and non-
viole

An event celebrating Vishwa Hindi Diwas was held at the VCC
Auditorium, Embassy of India on 10th January 2020. H.E. San-
jay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan, gave the open-
ing remarks and read out the message from H.E. Shri Narendra
Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India. The programme included
a variety of performances and presentations, such as a talk on the
similarities between Hindi and Japanese languages by Prof. Hiro-
yuki Sato of Musashino University; poetry readings by Embassy officials; a speech on “Values
of Family Life” by students of Global Indian International School; Ganesh mantra and a Hindi
movie dance performance by VCC students. At the end of the event, students of Tokyo Univer-
sity of Foreign Studies performed the Hindi play “Gandhi Ji Ki Mahanata” which was received
well by the audience. The concluding remarks were delivered by Prof Singh, Director VCC.

On the occasion of the 71st Republic Day of India, in the morning of 26 January 2020, H.E. Ambassador Mr. Sanjay Kumar
Verma hoisted the National Flag at the Embassy of India in Tokyo in the presence of huge number (about 700) of members of
enthusiastic Indian Community, Japanese and friends of India. This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem and
the customary reading out by the Ambassador of the President’s Address to the Nation on the eve of Republic Day. Students
of India International School in Japan (IISJ), Tokyo and Global Indian International School (GIIS), Tokyo and a group of
ladies from Embassy sang patriotic songs. Two Japan’s leading national newspapers, "Japan News" and "Japan Times",
brought out a special supplement on India’s 70th Republic Day. They carried the Ambassador of India’s Message as well as
congratulatory messages by Japanese dignitaries as well as various players in India-Japan Trade & Commerce Sphere.

On Martyrs Day (30th January) i.e. Death Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, India’s External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar released the
autobiography of Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation and recipient of 2018 Gandhi Peace Prize and has led the battle against
leprosy which is a cause so dear to Mahatma Gandhi’s heart.
A reception to mark the 71st Republic Day of India was hosted at the landmark Okura Hotel in Tokyo on 24 January 2020 by His Excellency Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan. His Excellency Mr. Hiroyuki Hosoda, Hon‘ble Member of Parliament of Japan and President of the Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour and addressed the audience. The reception was attended by over 450 guests. The august gathering also included Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, MP & Former PM, Mr. Natsuo Yamaguchi, MP & Chief Representative of Komeito, Mr. Keiichi Ishii, MP, Komeito, Ms. Asako Omi, MP & Parliamentary Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Toshiro Ino, MP, Mr. Yoshiaki Wada, MP, Mr. Shunsuke Mutai, MP, Mr. Ichiro Aisawa, MP, Mr. Akimasa Ishikawa, MP, other members of the India-Japan Parliamentary Friendship group, captains of the business community, senior officials from various Ministries, heads of cultural organizations, representatives of think-tanks, the scientific community, academia, media, the Indian community and the diplomatic corps. Mr. Natsuo Yamaguchi, MP & Chief Representative of Komeito did the Toast to the guests. During his toast, he mentioned that Japan and India can work together to create a better international community.

Ambassador Verma welcomed the Chief Guest Mr. Hosoda after the playing of the National Anthem of both the countries. In his remarks, Mr. Hosoda greeted the guests and expressed his heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of India’s Republic Day and also conveyed his appreciation to the hosts, Ambassador Verma and Mrs. Verma, for bringing together such a large gathering to celebrate an event of such great significance for India. Mr Hosoda in his remarks mentioned that Japan and India share strategic interests and universal values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and maintain friendly relations founded on our long history of exchanges. Referring to the regular meetings between PMs of India and Japan, he emphasized that continuous high-level exchanges between two sides represent Japan’s high expectations for India and the trust we place in India and expectations for the further expansion of bilateral cooperation and partnership on regional and global issues. He said parliamentary exchange can contribute to the Japan India relationship.

Ambassador in his speech mentioned that while there are concerns relating to slowing growth of the global economy and its impact on India, it has maintained a steady outlook and aspires to emerge as a US$ 5 trillion economy by 2025. He also mentioned that rapidly evolving India-Japan relations epitomise a Special Strategic and Global Partnership with complementarities and convergences in our vision and universal values of freedom, humanism, democracy, tolerance, non-violence. India-Japan are important partner for global peace, stability and prosperity. New drivers of India’s economic growth and Japan’s ever increasing engagements in India’s economic development indicate the future trends in India-Japan partnership in the new decade.

Exhibition to mark 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji, 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and 70th Anniversary of adoption of Indian Constitution was showcased and was well appreciated by everyone. A cultural performance organized by the mission included Kathak dance by Ms Atsuko Maeda, Odissi dance by Ms Hoshino Akane and group, Bharatanatyam dance by Ms Kyoko Nobi and Gujarati dance by Ms Hetal Jhaveri & group and was well appreciated by guests. Marking the India Japan Special Strategic and Global Relationship a unique Ikebana exhibition titled "India Japan - A Beautiful Harmony" was organised by the Embassy and group of Indian ladies led by Sensei, Ms Rumiko Matsumura. The exhibition explored the various facets of this special relationship, with each arrangement embodying a unique aspect ranging from culture, values and traditions. This exhibition stands as a shining example for the deepening people-to-people connect between India and Japan, and the mutual appreciation that exists for cultures of both the countries. Finally, Mrs. Gunjan Verma, Spouse of Ambassador Verma awarded two return tickets sponsored by Air India to the winners of a lucky draw held during the event. Mr Akimasa Ishikawa, Hon‘ble MP, Diet's House of Representatives and Mr Tagami Naoki of MLIT won the prize.
India’s 1st ever hospitality house at Olympics "India House"

By JSW Sports & IOA (Indian Olympic Association) at Tokyo during Tokyo 2020 Olympic & Paralympic celebrating India's cultural diversity.

More details visit official link at www.indiahouse2020.in