On July 22, 2019 the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched unmanned lunar probe “Chandrayaan 2” from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota, Indian State of Andhra Pradesh using its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV MkIII-M1. After the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft was put on Lunar Transfer Trajectory and entering Moon's sphere of influence on-board thrusters slowed down the spacecraft for Lunar Capture. The Orbit of Chandrayaan-2 around the moon were circularized to 100x100 km orbit through a series of orbital maneuvers with last orbital maneuver was on 1st Sept. Vikram Lander separated from Chandrayan 2 orbiter on 2nd Sept and made 02 deorbits (3rd & 4th Sept). On the day of landing (Sep 7, 2019), the lander will separated from the Orbiter and then performed a series of complex maneuvers comprising of rough braking and fine braking. Imaging of the landing site region prior to landing were done for finding safe and hazard-free zones. On Sept 7, 2019, Vikram Lander descent was as planned and normal performance was observed upto an altitude of 2.1 km. Subsequently communication from lander to the ground stations was lost. On Sept 10, 2019, Vikram lander has been located by the orbiter of Chandrayaan-2, but no communication with it yet. All possible efforts are being made to establish communication with lander.

As on 19 Sept, 2019, Chandrayan 2 Orbiter continues to perform scheduled science experiments to complete satisfaction. Also a National committee of academicians and ISRO experts is analysing the cause of communication loss with Vikram Lander.

Chandrayaan-2 mission was a highly complex mission, which represented a significant technological leap compared to the previous missions of ISRO, which brought together an Orbiter, Lander and Rover to explore the unexplored south pole of the Moon. Since the launch of Chandrayaan-2 on July 22, 2019, not only India but the whole world watched its progress from one phase to the next with great expectations and excitement. This was a unique mission which aimed at studying not just one area of the Moon but all the areas combining the exosphere, the surface as well as the sub-surface of the moon in a single mission. The Orbiter has already been placed in its intended orbit around the Moon and shall enrich our understanding of the moon’s evolution and mapping of the minerals and water molecules in the Polar Regions, using its eight state-of-the-art scientific instruments. The Orbiter camera is the highest resolution camera (0.3m) in any lunar mission so far and shall provide high resolution images which will be immensely useful to the global scientific community. The precise launch and mission management has ensured a long life of almost 7 years instead of the planned one year. The Vikram Lander followed the planned descent trajectory from its orbit of 35 km to just below 2 km above the surface. All the systems and sensors of the Lander functioned excellently until this point and proved many new technologies such as variable thrust propulsion technology used in the Lander. The success criteria was defined for each and every phase of the mission and till date 90 to 95% of the mission objectives have been accomplished and will continue contribute to Lunar science, notwithstanding the loss of communication with the Lander.
India has joined the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub as a new member. This was announced on 12th Sept 2019 by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology in New Delhi. This expands the global partnership working to address challenges and improve coordination and collaboration in global AMR R&D to 16 countries, including JAPAN, the European Commission, two philanthropic foundations and four international organisations (as observers).


### India’s 1st Greenfield “Industrial Smart City” inaugurated

PM Modi dedicated India’s 1st Greenfield “Industrial Smart City” in Aurangabad branded as Aurangabad Industrial City or 'AURIC City' (AURIC) on 8th Sept’19. DMIC is India's most ambitious infrastructure programme aiming to develop new industrial cities as "Smart Cities".

AURIC was created as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) between the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) and the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC).


### IIT-B startup 1st to be listed on BSE Startup platform

A startup in the medical technology sector incubated by IIT-Bombay’s Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship became the first to list itself on the newly-launched BSE Startup platform ([https://www.startupsbse.com/](https://www.startupsbse.com/)).

Mumbai-based Transpact Enterprises Ltd ([http://transpact.in](http://transpact.in)) is an ISO-certified company that makes products for vestibular rehabilitation, neuro-developmental and sensory integration therapy. The IPO opened on Aug 26 and got fully subscribed.

---

The National Supercomputing Mission envisages empowering India’s national academic and R&D institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising of >70 high-performance computing facilities. The Mission also includes development of highly professional High Performance Computing (HPC) aware human resource for meeting challenges of development of these applications. The Mission would be implemented and steered jointly by the Dept of Science & Technology (DST) and Dept of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) at an estimated cost of Rs 4500 crore over a period of 07 years. For more details visit the link [https://nsmindia.in/about](https://nsmindia.in/about)

---

The Indian Income Tax department has made history with a quantum jump in the e-filing of Income–Tax Returns (ITRs) with an all time high record of 49,29,121 ITRs filed in a single day on 31st Aug’19. This has perhaps created a history as the tax administration nowhere in the world has achieved such huge online e-filing ITRs in a single day and that too so smoothly; with the IT department actively interacting with taxpayers on social media to help them resolve their grievances and e-filing related queries.

---

Genome Valley at Hyderabad is India’s first systematically developed R&D cluster with facilities in the form of Industrial / Knowledge Parks, Special Economic Zones, Multi-tenanted wet laboratories and Incubation facilities & has over 150 life sciences companies. For more details visit the link [http://genomevalley.co/index.html](http://genomevalley.co/index.html)

---

The Indian Income Tax department has made history with a quantum jump in the e-filing of Income–Tax Returns (ITRs) with an all time high record of 49,29,121 ITRs filed in a single day on 31st Aug’19. This has perhaps created a history as the tax administration nowhere in the world has achieved such huge online e-filing ITRs in a single day and that too so smoothly; with the IT department actively interacting with taxpayers on social media to help them resolve their grievances and e-filing related queries.

---

The National Supercomputing Mission envisages empowering India’s national academic and R&D institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising of >70 high-performance computing facilities. The Mission also includes development of highly professional High Performance Computing (HPC) aware human resource for meeting challenges of development of these applications. The Mission would be implemented and steered jointly by the Dept of Science & Technology (DST) and Dept of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) at an estimated cost of Rs 4500 crore over a period of 07 years. For more details visit the link [https://nsmindia.in/about](https://nsmindia.in/about)
## Indian Army Prepares to Receive & Train the 1st Batch of Women Soldiers

Preparations are under to receive and train the first ever batch of women soldiers for the Indian Army. Women soldiers are presently under the selection process from thousands of volunteers across the Nation and the training of the selected 100 is likely to start in December’19 in Bengaluru. Duration of the training will be for 61 weeks just as male soldiers in the spirit that they are ‘soldiers first’. Every year, a batch of 100 will be inducted till there will be 1700 cadre strength.

## DRDO successfully flight-tests QR-SAM against live aerial targets

Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) in August’19 successfully flight-tested its state-of-the-art Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM) against live aerial targets from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur.

Two missiles, developed by DRDO, were tested against two live targets meeting complete mission objectives of engaging the targets. QRSAM, with many state of the art technologies, engaged the targets at different ranges and altitudes. The systems have been tested in final configuration with RADAR mounted on a vehicle & missiles on the launcher. The system is being developed for Indian Army with search and track on move capability with very short reaction time.

For more details visit the link [https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192480](https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192480)

## DRDO successfully flight-tests indigenously developed low weight, fire & forget Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM) on 12th Sep 2019

This is the third series of successful testing of MPATGM. The missile is incorporated with state-of-the-art Infrared Imaging Seeker along with advanced avionics. The test paves the way for the Army to have developed 3rd generation man portable ATGM indigenously.

## A major achievement for indigenous capability – LCA (Navy) makes successful arrested landing

On 13 Sept. 2019, the First ever arrested landing of LCA (Navy) at the shore-based test facility, INS Hansa Goa took place which will pave the way for this Indigenous platform to undertake Aircraft Carrier landing demonstration on board the Indian Naval Aircraft Carrier, Vikramaditya. The achievement has put India on the world map as a nation with the capability to design a deck landing aircraft.

## ‘Make in India in Defence Industry’

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has taken several steps to ease licensing, promote exports and Foreign Direct Investment in the Defence sector.

The process of acquiring defence industrial licence (DIL) has been eased to significantly enhance ‘Ease of Doing Defence Business’.

To promote defence exports, steps have been taken to rationalise the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for reducing the time taken for granting permission for exports.

‘Make in India’ portal for Defence Production has been revamped and re-launched. A new portal, [www.defenceexim.gov.in](http://www.defenceexim.gov.in) has been created for end-to-end processing and communication of export license applications and generating and disseminating export market leads.

FDI in Defence and Aerospace in the last five years was Rs 1,664 crore.

In addition, the MoD launched a dashboard to keep track of the major components of Defence Production incl defence exports, defence offsets, defence projects under ‘Make in India’, startups in defence sector, investments in defence corridors and artificial intelligence projects in defence.

### Make in India 2018-19 success: DIL applications received from various companies and 63 of them were disposed off within the time-frame in 2018-19. For exports 668 No Objection Certificates were issued to companies during 2018-19. The average time taken has reduced by 100 % to 32 days now. Defence exports have recorded a substantial rise to Rs 10,745 crore in 2018-19 from Rs 4,682 crore in 2017-18.

## Bhabha Kavach - India’s First indigenously developed bullet-proof jacket

Bhabha Kavach, named in honour of Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha - the father of India's nuclear programme, is a light weight bullet-proof jacket which has been developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Dept of Atomic Energy, GoI for security forces. It gives personal protection against bullets of different threat level (level 3+) like against bullets from SLR, AK-47 (hard steel core bullet) and it weighs around 6.6 kg. The jacket is made using extremely hard boron carbide ceramic that is hot-pressed with carbon nano-tubes and composite polymer. BARC has transferred the technology of Jacket to Mishra Dhatu Nigam, Hyderabad (a GoI PSU), for its large-scale production. Being of International standards, the jacket is being exported to 100 countries.
VSAT solutions provider Nelco, a Tata enterprise, on 13th Sept.’19 announced the launch of maritime communication services, becoming India’s first company to provide broadband services to the maritime sector. The service was inaugurated by Mr Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice.

Nelco, through global partnerships and infrastructure, including transponder capacity on the satellite of ISRO and service portfolio, will help energy, cargo and cruise vessels by enhancing operational efficiency.

The in-flight and maritime communications (IFMC) licence has not only enabled connectivity for on-board users on ships but also brings operational efficiencies for shipping companies which were less evolved until now.

### DST Sets up 4 Centers for R&D in Clean Energy Storage Technologies

Identifying the need for renewable energy in the country’s power mix, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is gearing up to support India’s target of adding 175 GW of renewable energy production by 2022 by harnessing state-of-art research-led innovative and cost-effective materials, technologies and processes for clean energy advancement in the country.

According to the DST, the initiative has been linked both nationally and internationally through a Materials for Energy Conservation and Storage Platform (MECSP). The MECSP will support research and development of energy conservation and storage technologies from early-stage research to technology breakthroughs in materials, systems and scalable technologies to maximize resource use efficiency.

Four centers have already been developed under DST – MECSP on supercapacitors, batteries, and hydrogen. These centers constitute knowledge networks of more than 20 well-known institutions and 80 research personnel working on materials and next-generation devices in batteries, supercapacitors, solid-state hydrogen storage, and fuel cells.

These centers will contribute to the development of the national research network for materials for energy storage. The four centers are:

1. DST- IISc Energy Storage Platform on Supercapacitors
2. DST- NFTDC Energy Storage Platform on Hydrogen
3. DST- IIT Delhi Energy Storage Platform on Batteries

For more details visit the link [https://www.iamrenew.com/green-energy/dst-sets-up-4-centers-for-rd-in-clean-energy-storage-technologies/](https://www.iamrenew.com/green-energy/dst-sets-up-4-centers-for-rd-in-clean-energy-storage-technologies/)
From noodles to sushi, Japanese cuisine makes inroads in India

Japanese food favorites such as udon noodles and sushi are gaining a presence in India, where the country's distribution network and tradition-bound food culture present Japanese entrepreneurs with formidable challenges. But with a growing economy and a population of some 1.3 billion, India's potential is such that Japanese restaurateurs are even planning to woo Indian diners with Japanese-style curry.

According to the Japan External Trade Organization, there are now ~100 restaurants in India that serve mainly Japanese cuisine, up from about 60 last year.

Ichibanya Co., which operates Japanese curry shop Coco Ichibanya, made headlines when it announced in July it is planning to expand into India – the world's curry mecca. In a joint venture with trading house Mitsui & Co., Ichibanya aims to open its first branch in India in the beginning of next year and 30 stores, including franchises, in 10 years.

India is a new frontier for Japanese food". "The key to success is figuring out how to establish brands."

For more details visit the link https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2019/09/a2f0cb33b4e2-feature-from-noodles-to-sushi-japanese-cuisine-makes-inroads-in-india.html

Used car marketplace Truebil raises $1M from Spiral Ventures

Mumbai-based used car marketplace Truebil has raised $1 million from Japanese venture capital firm Spiral Ventures. The raised funds will be used by the company to strengthen its technology stack and marketing.

Started in 2015 by IITians Suraj Kalwani, Ravi Chirania, Shubh Bansal, Rakesh Raman, Ritesh Pandey, Shanu Vivek, and Himanshu Singhal, Truebil follows an integrated online and offline model for buying and selling pre-owned cars. The startup has developed proprietary technology stack and marketing.

In January 2019, Truebil secured $14 million in series B round, led by Japanese investor Joe Hirao along with existing investors, which includes Kalaari Capital, Inventus Capital, Kae Capital, Shunwei Capital, and Tekton Ventures.

For more details visit the link https://yourstory.com/2019/09/startup-funding-used-car-marketplace-truebil-ventures

Recruit Invests in PayMate India, A Provider of Digital Payment Platform for B2B Transactions

The digital payment platform provided by PayMate establishes a B2B network for conducting transactions throughout the supply chain. Not only does it consolidate processes throughout the finance/taxation/cash-flow management processes (payment procedures, delivery confirmations, creation & publishing of invoices, payment confirmations, etc.), but it even handles them automatically. By automating the traditional paper-based payment process you can not only significantly reduce the time required to complete that process, but you can also establish trust with financial institutions, allowing for the provision of working capital at a low rate of interest.

Throughout the new investment, Recruit will support the improvement and expansion of this service, and PayMate intends to use the funds provided to intensify their work in sales promotion and feature development.

For more details visit the link https://www.recruit.co.jp/en/newsroom/pdf/20190814_11.pdf

Competition Commission of India clears Mitsubishi’s stake increase to 25% in TVS Automobile Solutions

Competition Commission of India (CCI) on 9th Sept 2019 approved increase in shareholding of Japan based Mitsubishi Corporation in TVS Automobile Solutions Private Limited from 3.26% to 25%.

The total investment will amount to Rs 250 crore. With this development, Mitsubishi hopes to play a more active role in TASL's management and help grow its line-up of competitively-priced automobile parts by connecting it with Japanese suppliers. TASL, a part of the $8.5 billion TVS group, is one of India's leading independent aftermarket players. The Japanese conglomerate also plans to leverage its global network to develop TASL's business model in overseas markets, including developing countries.
Aichi Steel to buy 11% stake in India’s Vardhman Special Steels, give technical aid

Aichi Steel Corp., an affiliate of Japan’s Toyota Motor Corp., will buy an approximately 11-percent stake in Vardhman Special Steels Ltd. and provide technical assistance to the Indian manufacturer, aiming to establish a future foothold for supplying materials for its forging business in Southeast Asia.

The two companies signed an agreement on the deal worth some 740 million yen ($7 million) in a ceremony held on 27th August 2019 in Aichi Prefecture where the Japanese firm is located. The partnership will help Aichi Steel “strengthen the foundation of its special steel business by improving quality and cost competitiveness on a global basis.”

Founded in 1973, Vardhman is headquartered in Ludhiana in the northern state of Punjab. The company mainly manufactures bars of special steels for motor vehicles and motorcycles. In the year to March 2019, its production amounted to 180,000 tons, with sales totaling about $170 million.

For more details visit the link https://www.nna.jp/english_contents/news/show/20190829_0004

India’s Elconconnectors Cables to produce wiring harnesses with Japan, Indonesian partners

India’s leading automotive component maker Elconconnectors Cables Pvt. Ltd. will set up a joint venture with two Indonesian companies, including a subsidiary of Japan’s Banshu Electric Equipment Co., to manufacture wiring harnesses in India.

The three companies, also including P.T. Banshu Electric Indonesia and P.T. Askara Internal, will invest 200 million rupees ($2.8 million) to build a wiring harness plant in the city of Greater Noida, northern India, under the joint project. The joint venture will be named Elcon Banshu Wiring Systems Pvt. Ltd. (EBWS), and the 4,180 square meter plant will house an extensive research and development center.

With its headquarters in Noida, Elconconnectors Cables has overseas bases in Germany, South Korea, and Singapore, dealing in wire harnesses for the automotive industry and other components including connectors.

For more details visit the link https://www.nna.jp/english_contents/news/show/20190830_0008

Japan's Ajinomoto becomes sole Owner of India’s Granules OmniChem Private Ltd

Ajinomoto Co. Inc. has agreed to acquire, through its consolidated subsidiary S.A. Ajinomoto OmniChem N.V. ("AOC"), an additional 50% equity stake in Granules OmniChem Private Ltd. ("GOC"), which is a joint venture between Granules India Limited ("GIL") and AOC. The parties entered into a purchase and sale agreement on August 29, 2019 (IST). As a result, the Ajinomoto Group will hold 100% of the shares of GOC. This acquisition enhances the Ajinomoto Group’s active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufacturing capabilities, a key component of its global biopharmaceutical contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO), which operates as Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services.


HMSI launches first BS6-compliant two-wheeler Activa in India

Japanese vehicle manufacturer Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt Ltd (HMSI) on 11 Sept 2019 introduced Bharat Stage VI (BS VI) emission norm-compliant variant of its popular scooter Activa. The new Activa will be 13% more fuel efficient than its earlier variant.

BS VI emission norms that are the most stringent in the world, will kick into effect in India from April 1, 2020. India is leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI norms to try and counter rising vehicular pollution in the country.

For more details visit the link https://www.businesstoday.in/sectors/auto/honda-launches-india-first-bs-vi-compliant-two-wheeler-activa-125-price-starts-at-rs-67490/story/378470.html
SoftBank-funded construction technology startup Katerra to ramp up India business

Katerra Inc thrives on construction technologies that are faster than traditional methods, and has a turnkey approach where it implements integrated offsite manufacturing technology and the concept of DFMA (Design for manufacturing and assembly) for projects. Earlier this year, SoftBank led an $865 million investment in Katerra, founded in 2015 by Michael Marks, its chairman. The firm is building nearly 700 projects in the US.

The Silicon Valley start-up entered India in 2018 after acquiring KEF Infrastructure. It has invested close to $250 million in the country so far. Katerra took over KEF’s offsite manufacturing plant in Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu and has a captive plant in Lucknow for the Lulu mall project. By 2020-end, Katerra will have the capacity to build 30 million sq. ft a year in India. It currently has 40 projects in its portfolio.

For more details visit the link https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/construction-tech-startup-katerra-to-ramp-up-india-business-1567534647060.html

L&T-Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems' LMB wins THDC India deal

L&T-MHPS Boilers, a joint venture company of India's Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Japan's Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems (MHPS), has secured an order to design, engineer, and manufacture steam generators for THDC’s 2x660MW Khurja Super Thermal Power Project in Bulandshahr district, Uttar Pradesh, for which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone in March 2019.

The contract covers steam generators and associated packages, including site levelling.

LMB, in which L&T owns 51% equity and MHPS holds the remaining 49%, is also working on nine units of steam generator packages in other parts of the country. The subsidiary owns a facility in Hazira, Gujarat for manufacture of pressure parts and coal pulverisers for supercritical steam generators.

For more details visit the link https://www.constructionweekonline.com/258218-lt-mitsubishi-hitachi-power-systems-lmb-wins-thdc-india-deal

Swachh Bharat: Japanese co installs 35,000 low-cost toilets to address issue of open defecation

Japanese multinational firm LIXIL expects India to be one of the top three global markets outside its home country Japan for its water technology business in the next 7-8 years. It expects its prefabricated bathrooms, which it puts together and delivers within 16 hours, to drive growth.

With LIXIL focus on providing access to sanitation, India becomes a key focus area, given the problem of open defecation and the fact that Swachh Bharat Mission is in place. LIXIL want to use its platform “Sato toilets” it is using to solve sanitation issues in Africa and Bangladesh. LIXIL already installed some 35,000 of these units across the country and are targeting 15 lakh consumers by 2021. They have started with a few pilot villages in states such as Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission there are some 47,000 toilets being built every day in India. LIXIL research suggest that almost half of those toilets fall into disuse after a few months. This is primarily due to functional issues such as the twin pits getting filled too fast or pits getting clogged. We decided to solve this issue through technology and developed a new system called the VTrap that helps slow down the rate of filling of the pit as it uses a lot less water and avoids clogging of junction boxes used in the twin pit system. Both help solve the problem of toilets falling into disuse.

LIXIL has two businesses in India – LIXIL Water Technologies and LIXIL Housing Technologies -- to solve day-to-day needs of the country. In the next three years, India would be among our top three markets. They have invested Rs 400 crore for a ceramics factory in Vijaywada, spread across 44 acres, which has a capacity to produce 1.2 million pieces of ceramics a year. It has also set up a windows fabrication unit at Manesar at an investment of Rs 20 crore. The company may also invest another Rs 100 crore to double capacity of ceramics business in another three years in India.

As part of its ongoing efforts to accelerate global capital access to Indian tech startups and promote technological exchanges between India and Japan through cross border collaboration, NASSCOM Japan VC Network culminated its two-day start-up pitch session at Embassy of India Tokyo from 3-4 Sept'19. A first of its kind initiative in partnership between NASSCOM, Embassy of India, Tokyo, in association with Deloitte Tohatsu Venture Support brought together 26 innovative technology start-ups (selected from 1500 startups) from India who travelled along as part of NASSCOM delegation to Tokyo and presented their ideas in front of more than 125 Japanese Institutional Investors in a live pitch session.


These participating VC/CVC/ Corporates who registered for the NASSCOM Japan VC network have invested in approx 1200 portfolio companies with 1300 investment transactions globally. In due course, NASSCOM plans to further scale up the network to other VC firms and institutions from Japan and other countries.

Following the Pitch sessions, more than 180 one-on-one meetings averaging a minimum of 7 meetings and maximum of 12 per company were also arranged for these startup companies to meet with interested Japanese investors.

India and Japan have decades-long history of friendly bilateral trade relations which has also shaped both the country's start-up and investor relationship over the years. With more than 15.1-billion-dollar investments globally in the last 5 years, the Japanese Venture Capital and Corporate Venture Capital investment has been witnessing a steady growth of 79% YoY. With deal size growing 37.32% year on year in the last 5 years, more than 44.76% of the investment has been made into Angel funding, followed by 32.09% in Series A round, globally. India on the other hand, with a dramatic increase in number of unicorns, resurgence in investments, and rapid growth in advanced technology in startup ecosystem in 2018, continues to be the 3rd largest start-up ecosystem in the world with over 7500 companies.

Speaking on India-Japan partnership, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Indian Ambassador to Japan, stated, "India and Japan enjoy a Special Strategic and Global Partnership which has become so due to our civilizational linkages and convergence of values. This partnership is now flourishing into areas which were not foreseen earlier. This is so because of the developments that are taking place in the two countries internally as well as the changing landscape at the regional and global level. Our partnership not only provides mutual benefits but also contributes to regional and global peace and prosperity. It’s a long lasting partnership due to the convergences as well as due to the complementarities. The skill set, the core competence, the business processes and the demographic situation that we bring together are so complementary in nature that we benefit each other by partnering. Innovation is the next frontier in socio-economic space and that’s why it’s even more important for Japan and India to collaborate, not only for themselves but also for the globe.”

Speaking on the occasion, Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM said, " The Indian startup ecosystem, today, provides an unparalleled opportunity to the investors globally and Japan has been a leading partner to India's start-up story. … and we are confident that this one of a kind NASSCOM Japan VC Network will further stimulate the Japan-India partnership in this age of digital era and will expedite participation and active deal flow from Japan to Indian startup ecosystem.”

Keynote speech by HE Tetsuya Terazawa, Special Advisor to Japan's METI Minister. He emphasized on the importance of a partnership between India & Japan to excel in today's competitive digital era.
Prime Minister of Japan Mr Shinzo Abe met with Prime Minister of India Mr Narendra Modi on the occasion of Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia. A wide range of subjects incl economic, defense & security, start-up & 5G areas were discussed besides exchanged views on regional situation and the two leaders expressed their strong will to further strengthen bilateral ties. This meeting comes after leaders interacted at the G-20 Summit in Osaka and G7 in Biarritz.

PM Modi along with President Putin, PM Abe and Mongolian President Battulga witnessed Jigoro Kano International Judo Tournament which brought together under-18 Judo players from 6 countries including India.

On sidelines of 7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting, 16th ASEAN India Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting and the 7th East Asia Economic Ministers Summit in Bangkok from 8-10 Sept’19, Indian Commerce & Industry Minister (CIM) held a bilateral meeting with Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Mr Hiroshige Seko.

Seminar on Indian Intellectual Property (IP) System was organized at the JETRO with Mr Om Prakash Gupta, Controller General of India presenting the overview of Patent Law & Regulations and Trademark registration system. 11 Sept 2019
Ministerial Meeting of G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ was held at Matsuyama, capital of Ehime Prefecture, Shikoku, Japan from Sep 1-2, 2019. Indian Delegation was headed by Hon’ble MoS(IC) for Labour & Employment Mr Santosh Gangwar. During the Ministerial meeting, he addressed several thematic sessions & discuss issues ranging from future of work, responses to demographic changes, gender equality, etc. Addressing G20 Plenary session on initiatives & policy recommendations for longer working life Hon’ble Minister spoke on advantage of G20 demographic variation and stressed on life long learning & skill enhancement with financially sustainable social security systems being in place. In various other sessions, he spoke on initiatives taken by India on Youth Employment, skilling, startup recognition, entrepreneurship & how G20 mutual recognition of the same among G20 countries would be beneficial. He also stressed on creating a global cadre of careworkers and an international platform for skilling of these workers. In another session, he stressed on prioritising employment generation at G20 and cautioned against use of Global Supply Chain to hamper employment generation. Also he mentioned that decent work should be promoted as per national laws & regulations. During session on Gender Equality, he made intervention & stressed on facilitating Women Entrepreneurs, promoting Skill Development for enhancing employability & suggested G20 countries to constitute task force to provide policy recommendations. On the sidelines of G20 Ministerial meeting he held bilateral meeting with Germany on issues like skill development, interlinking of employment services portal, furthering OSH collaboration and on future of work. He also held bilateral meeting with Saudi Arabia & discussed issues like social security of migrant workers from India, vocational skill training & mutual skill recognition. Both countries also discussed on focus areas to be taken up in next meeting.

India-Japan Defence Ministerial Dialogue

Hon’ble Union Minister of Defense of India Mr Rajnath Singh visited Japan from 1-4 September 2019 to attend the Annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue with aim to further deepen and strengthen India’s bilateral defence relations with Japan and to explore new avenues for defence cooperation and engagement. On his arrival, the Minister was accorded Guard of Honour at the Japan’s Ministry of Defence Headquarters in Tokyo. He also laid wreath at Self-Defense Forces (SDF) memorial at Ichigaya in Tokyo. This memorial was built in 1962 for SDF personnel who died in the line of duty.

During the Annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue with his Japanese counterpart, Mr. Takeshi Iwaya, Minister of Defence of Japan, both discussed the full spectrum of India-Japan defence cooperation. Hon’ble Minister also attended a traditional Japanese dinner graciously hosted by Mr. Takeshi Iwaya. Hon’ble Minister also visited Japan Marine United (JMU), ISOGO Works where he observed JMU ship building facility. Besides this, he also visited the Hamamatsu Air Base where he learnt the functioning of F-15 and also spent some time checking out the kawasaki trainer plane.

Hon’ble Minister also called on the Hon’ble Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe during which he conveyed to him the Government of India’s commitment to further enhance the defence engagements between both the countries.
1. The Ministers recalled that Prime Ministers of Japan and India in their Vision Statement in Oct 2018 reiterated their unwaivering commitment to working together towards a free and open Indo-Pacific. The two Prime Ministers had also expressed their satisfaction at the progress made in fostering defence cooperation for shared security, and reaffirmed their desire to further deepen the strategic and defence cooperation between Japan and India.

2. In this context, the Ministers affirmed their intention to hold the first Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue (2+2) ahead of the Japan-India Annual Summit this year for advancing cooperation towards peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region.

3. The Ministers welcomed that negotiations on the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) have shown progress since the announcement of the commencement of negotiations in the Summit Meeting in October last year.

4. The Ministers recognised that peace and stability of the Indian and Pacific Oceans are crucial for ensuring prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and the entire world, and had a frank exchange of views on the current security situation in the Indo-Pacific region, including developments on the Korean Peninsula and in the South China Sea.

5. The Ministers welcomed the steady progress in bilateral cooperation in the area of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) based on the Implementing Arrangement for Deeper Cooperation between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and the Indian Navy signed last year.

6. The Ministers welcomed the regular interactions at all levels of their two defense authorities incl that bilateral exercises have been conducted between all components by the end of last year, underlined their intention to seek more concrete cooperation among all components, and shared the views to promote cooperation and exchanges in the following areas:

   (1) **Exchanges between the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) and the Indian Army:** The Ministers welcomed that the first bilateral exercise between the JGSDF and the Indian Army in the area of counter-terrorism “Dharma Guardian” was held in the autumn of 2018. Noting that the preparation for the 2nd exercise this year has been steadily progressing, the Ministers welcomed that the both sides have produced concrete results for making it a regular exercise.

   (2) **Exchanges between the JMSDF and the Indian Navy:** The Ministers noted the significance of bilateral exercise and welcomed that the JMSDF and the Indian Navy have conducted bilateral exercises at an advanced level. The Ministers welcomed that the Japan-India-U.S. trilateral maritime exercise “MALABAR 2019” will be held from late Sept to early October this year. The Ministers also welcomed that the 2nd Japan-India-U.S. trilateral mine-countermeasures exercise (MINEX) was held in July’19, and expressed their resolve to continue the trilateral exercise in the same framework from next year onwards. The Ministers recognised the conduct of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) in 2018 and shared the view to conduct the exercise on a regular basis. The Ministers further shared their intention that JMSDF and Indian Navy will make efforts towards participating in multilateral exercises including participation as observers.

   (3) **Exchanges between the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) and the Indian Air Force:** The Ministers welcomed that ‘SHINYU MAITRI 18’, the first bilateral exercise between the air components, was held in Dec 2018, and the coordination for the 2nd round of the exercise has been smoothly proceeding. The Ministers also welcomed the 1st participation of JASDF in the India-US bilateral exercise “Cope India” as observer in Dec’18 & further underlined the importance of increasing the scope and depth of the Air Force to Air Force engagements incl fighter aircraft cooperation.

   (4) **Education and Research Exchanges:** The Ministers welcomed the regular exchange of students between the defence educational and research institutions of the two countries, including the National Institute of Defence Studies and the JSGF Staff Colleges of Japan, and the National Defence College and the Defence Services Staff College of India. They also shared their view to continue such exchanges.

   (5) **Cooperation on Third Countries:** The Ministers shared the view to explore cooperation with countries in the Indo-Pacific region through various initiatives that would further the shared vision of peace and stability of the region.

   (6) **Cooperation in Defence Equipment and Technology:** The Ministers reaffirmed that strengthening cooperation in the area of defence equipment and technology is essential for further accelerating the cooperation between Japan and India. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed that high-level exchanges between the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency (ATLA) and the Department of Defense Production (DDP) have been actively held including the visit of the Secretary of Defence Production to Japan in Nov.’18 and the visit of the Commissioner of ATLA to India in February 2019, and shared their view to accelerate the working-level efforts to hold the Fifth Joint Working Group on Defence Equipment and Technology Cooperation (JWG-DETC) as early as possible in this year. The Ministers highly appreciated that the Aero India 2019 and the Second Japan-India Defence Industry Forum were held successfully in Bengaluru in Feb.’19, and mutual understanding between defence industries of Japan and India has been promoted. The Ministers reaffirmed their intention to deepen discussion between the ATLA and the DDP on measures to promote active entry of Japanese defence industry into the market of Indian defence industry which has large potential in general as also in the newly established Defence Corridors in India, and noted the importance of interaction between defence industry associations of Japan and India. Invitation for the Japanese delegation to attend the DEFEXPO-2020 in India was also extended.
Constitution of India and Human Rights: The constitution of India has many provisions to ensure respect for human dignity, commitment to equality and non-discrimination and concern for the weaker section in the society. In other words, the Indian Constitution guarantees the basic human rights to every citizen of India.

The Preamble: The Preamble to the Indian Constitution says "We the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic and to secure to all citizens: JUSTICE - social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thoughts, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all; FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation...". In short, the Preamble concisely sets out Quintessence of human rights, which represents the aspirations of the people, who have established the Constitution.

Fundamental Rights: A unique feature of the Indian Constitution is that a large part of human rights are named as Fundamental Rights, and the right to enforce Fundamental Rights itself has been made a Fundamental Right. The Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution constitute the Magna Carta of individual liberty and human rights. Fundamental Rights under Articles 14-31 of Constitution provide individual right based on right to equality, right to freedom, right against exploitation, right to freedom of religion, right to cultural & educational rights. These are negative rights which are made enforceable against the state, if violated.

Directive Principles of State Policy: The Part IV of the Constitution popularly known as the Directive Principles of State Policy provides a long list of human civil and economic rights for the people of India. They form the bedrock of human rights in India. The main purpose of this charter of positive rights is to ensure social, political and economic justice to all by laying down basic principles of governance. These principles are intended to be kept in mind both by the legislatures in enacting laws and by the executive authorities in enforcing laws. Although these principles are not enforceable by any Court yet they are fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws for the general welfare of their men, women and children.

Making Human Rights Work: Indian Judiciary and other Human Rights Institutions in India

Indian Judiciary: The Indian judiciary occupies a unique place in Indian democratic set up. As an interpreter of the Constitution, it is an independent organ of state and contains the power to strike down executive, quasijudicial and legislative actions as unconstitutional. The Supreme Court’s interpretation of the law is binding to all the higher or lower courts within the Indian territory. Except this, all authorities like civil or judicial in India shall act in aid of the Supreme Court. It is armed with the power to punish for contempt of the law or court and also reinforces the position of the judiciary as a Constitutional authority that enforces accountability and answerability of the other organ of the state. In recent years, it is witnessed that the court has emerged as a dynamic institution which play active role in the task of expanding the scope and content of individual and collective rights of the citizens in civil and political spheres and in the economic, social and cultural spheres.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC; http://nhrc.nic.in/): It was established in 1993 under the legislative mandate of the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993. The Commission takes up the issues involving cases of human rights violation that are of significance, either through suo moto, or when the civil society organization, the media, concerned citizens, or expert advisers, bring the cases to its notice. It focuses on the protection of human rights to all section of society, particularly the vulnerable or marginalized sections of the society. Over the past few years, the Commission has given a positive meaning and a consent to the aims set out in the PHRA, 1993.

The National Commission for Minorities (NCM:http://ncm.nic.in/): The NCM is a body constituted by the Govt of India to monitor and evaluate the progress of people classified as minorities by the Indian Govt. Essentially the minorities in India consist of followers of all religions other than Hinduism. It was formed as a result of an act of the Indian Parliament in 1993. The Commission evaluates the progress of the development of Minorities under the Union and States, to monitor the working of the safeguards provided in the Constitution and in laws enacted by Parliament and the State legislatures, to make recommendations for the effective implementation of safeguards for the protection of the interests of Minorities by the Central or the State Govts, and to look into specific complaints regarding deprivation of rights and safeguards of the Minorities and take up such matters with the appropriate authorities.

National Commission for Women (http://ncw.nic.in): It is a statutory body for women in the Indian Union. The Commission is established under specific provisions of the Indian Constitution. The main concern for the NCW is to provide a voice for the problems faced by the women, thus it represents the rights of women in India. They have actively worked and campaigned against injustices, which hampers the human rights of women, such as dowry, equal representations for women in jobs, politics, religion, domestic violence, cases of rape, sexual harassment in work place or educational institutions and the exploitation of women in labor. The Commission can investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws.

National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes: The Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are those people who are explicitly recognized by the Constitution of India who require special support and assistance from state to overcome centuries of discrimination in the society. Articles 338 and 338A, provides two statutory commissions, one is The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (http://nscs.nic.in) and The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (https://nscst.nic.in) for effective implementation of the various safeguards which are included into the constitution and other legislations.
Ambassador HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma visited Shimane University and met President Prof Yasunao Hattori and Directors of Research Centres including Raman Centre. They had discussion on potential partnership in areas of mutual interest like Startups, Ayurveda research, cloud-based AI for medical applications, etc.

**International Conference on Emerging Advancement in Science & Technology and 10th India-Japan Science & Technology Conclave** was organised at New Delhi from 5-6 Sept'19. The event aims at bringing together National and International researchers working in various areas of science & tech under one umbrella to exchange scientific ideas and foster future collaborations. It was attended by Hon'ble MoS(IC) for Labour & Employment Mr Santosh Gangwar and other distinguished speakers from India and abroad, academicians and experts from Industries. The event was jointly organised by Indian JSPS Alumni Association (IJAA), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and Solid State Physics Lab (SSPL), DRDO, Delhi.

**One Step Towards Precision Medicine For Sickle Cell Anemia**

Research team in CSIR-IGIB (Council for Scientific & Industrial Research - Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology) led by Dr. Sivapракash Ramalingam have successfully generated and characterized patient specific induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) as a model for sickle cell anemia.

Currently, the only treatment available is blood and bone marrow transplant. There is no long term solution for the problem.

Researchers are actively engaged in trying to understand the disease and discover cure. However, due to limited biological models, the current disease modeling and drug discovery programs fail to recapitulate the disease phenotypes. To generate a better system to understand the disease and find therapy, more focus is being given towards stem cells.

IGIB Scientists used the approach of generating patient specific models for diseases which would serve as an excellent disease model and offer a sustainable tissue resource for modeling the disease, develop novel therapeutic strategies using genetic modification and drug screening and opens a new arena for personalized medicine.


On 13 Sept.'19, DCM Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava delivered a speech at Embassy on the topic "India-Japan Special & Global Partnership" followed by interactive Q&A session to a group of young students/fellows from Matsushita Institute of Government & Management, Tokyo, Japan. Also gifted 02 books on Mahatma Gandhi in Japanese for the library of Institute.

**AI & Robotics R&D at IJCAIR**

NEC Corporation signed an LoI to support R&D activities in the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics at the proposed India Japan Centre for Artificial intelligence and Robotics (IJCAIR) at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB).

The LoI was signed by Hirohito Iseki, General Manager, AI Platform Division, NEC Corporation and Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director, IIT Bombay in presence of H. E Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Indian Ambassador to Japan at the Indian Embassy in Tokyo on 6 Sept 2019.
### OISCA Japan and NMCG joint plantation drive

Over 1,000 saplings were planted on 07 Sept’19 by the delegation from OISCA, Japan in collaboration with NMCG (National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI) in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh. Executive Director -NMCG Sh. Rajiv Kishore and other senior officials also took part in the plantation drive. The plantation drive was carried out as a part of the MoU between Japan’s OISCA ([http://www.oisca-international.org/](http://www.oisca-international.org/)) & NMCG which was kicked off during their meeting with NMCG yesterday. The OISCA delegation also took part in the drive. Sh Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, DG-NMCG, along with NMCG officials, held a meeting with the team from OISCA, Japan, headed by Mr. Nakano Toshihiro, Acting President, to initiate the association between the two organisations for Ganga rejuvenation.

### Comedian Takajin’s Legacy Funds Construction of School in India

Sankei Shinbun 12 Sept 2019

A school building was built in a village in Western India this summer. Its construction was funded by comedian Yashiki Takajin’s fund that was donated to his alma mater, St. Andrew’s School, as well as donations collected by the students of the school. Former headmaster of the school and Mr. Takajin’s former classmate, Mr. Shiro Nukui, aged 69, joyously commented that “Mr. Takajin had a passion for children. Building a school with his legacy would be his wish.”

Mr. Takajin graduated from St. Andrew’s High school in 1968. He later became a well-known singer and TV personality, but passed away in January 2013 at the age of 64. After his death, part of his legacy, which was approximately 66 million yen, was donated to St. Andrew’s school.

St. Andrew’s School had been working to build schools in developing countries through funds raised from students’ fundraising activities, and they have already built a kindergarten and a junior school building in the Philippines. It was then decided that the third project site would be in India, and Mr. Takajin’s donated legacy was used for the first time to fund the construction.

The school building was built in Veldala school of Veldala (spelling unconfirmed) village in Rajasthan, India. 12 year-groups spanning from junior to high school students study in the same school. There is just over 1,000 residents in the village, and 490 children go to the school, but the school building has had issues such as leaking. St. Andrews school used approximately 2 million yen of the donated legacy as well as 700,000 yen raised by the students to fund for the construction of a school building. The construction was completed on the 5th of August.

The previous building had no electricity, and teachers and students had to resort to sunlight from the windows, but the new building is powered by solar panels. According to Takashi Shutou, a teacher from St. Andrews that participated in the completion ceremony, the student representative were happy that there are now fans on the ceiling as well as electricity, which enables them to use computers for classes.
Hindi Diwas Celebrations 2019

H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan inaugurated an event celebrating Hindi Diwas at the Vivekananda Cultural Centre on 13 September 2019. The programme included a lecture by Prof. Hideaki Ishida of Daito Bunka University; performances of songs and dance by students of India International School; and performances of Bhajan, a Hindi song and Hindi movie dance by VCC students. Concluding remarks were delivered by Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, VCC.

Hindi Diwas Celebrations 2019

Commemorating the Guru Nanak Dev ji 550 birth anniversary celebrations, Padma Shri awardee Prof Tomio Mizokami delivered a keynote lecture in the "I Love India event series" at Osaka University in collaboration with CGI Osaka on 3rd Sept 2019.

PM Modi conferred PM Award for outstanding contribution in promotion and development of Yoga (in institutional international category) 2019 to Japan Yoga Niketan, Japan at a function held at New Delhi on Aug 30, 2019.

PM Award (Yoga Promotion) to Japan Yoga Niketan

PM Modi conferred PM Award for outstanding contribution in promotion and development of Yoga (in institutional international category) 2019 to Japan Yoga Niketan, Japan at a function held at New Delhi on Aug 30, 2019.
In India spirituality and religion are part of people’s everyday life. Personal devotional belief, rituals and temple worship, have created the most amazing architecture. India is known for its rich past and cultural heritage. Each dynasty that ruled on Indian soil left its mark in the form of architectural marvels that are today a phenomenon for the world to witness. From North to South and East to West, every state is resplendent with different styles of temples, gurdwaras, mosques, monasteries and churches, many of which have been declared heritage sites for their antiquity and craftsmanship. A visit to India would be incomplete without beholding the beauty and richness of these architectural sites.

For more details visit the link [https://www.incredibleindia.org/content/incredibleindia/en/experiences/spiritual/all-spiritual](https://www.incredibleindia.org/content/incredibleindia/en/experiences/spiritual/all-spiritual-).

This impressive 32 Mt. tall statue of Maitreya Buddha, overlooking the Shyok River at Diskit in Nubra Valley, Ladakh is believed to be the world’s tallest Maitreya Buddha.

Jewish Synagogue at Fort Kochi is situated at one end of Jew Street in the Jew Town enclave of Mattancherry, Kerala. The Synagogue was built in 1568 and is the oldest in the Commonwealth of Nations.

The beautiful and highly revered Golden Temple or Sri Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar, which is most revered shrine of Sikhs and attracts devotees from all over the globe.

The largest church in Goa, the Se Cathedral is dedicated to St. Catherine. Built in Portuguese-Gothic style, Se Cathedral has a Corinthian interior and Tuscan exterior. The main highlight of the cathedral is the Cross of Miracles that attracts a large number of visitors. The bell of Se Cathedral is one of the oldest in the state and is known as the Golden Bell.

Sri Ramanatha Swamy and Parvathavarthini temple are located near the sea Shore on the eastern side of the island. It is well known for its architectural beauty of magnificent corridors with massive sculptured pillars on either side.

Ajmer-e-Sharif or the Dargah is the final resting place of Sufi Saint Moinuddin Chishti and is visited by people of all religions. The Sufi Saint Khawaja left for his heavenly abode in 1256 AD after a 6-day prayer in isolation. These 6 days are celebrated every year as annual Urs, which is attended by thousands of pilgrims irrespective of their faith and belief. The shrine is considered to be a place of wish fulfilment for the devout.
India’s ranking rises by 6 places to reach 34th position out of 140 countries in the WEF (World Economic Forum) Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index 2019.

From 65th position in 2013, ranking of India has been steadily improving to 52nd in 2015, 40th in 2017 and now 34th in 2019.