India On the Move

India’s First Indigenous Fuel Cell System launched

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, unveiled the first Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in partnership with Indian industries under India’s flagship program named “New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)” on the occasion of CSIR Foundation Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 26 September 2019.

A unique example of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) among CSIR’s 03 Laboratories [CSIR-NCL, Pune; CSIR-NPL, New Delhi & CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi] and 02 Indian industries; M/s Thermax Limited, Pune and M/s Reliance Industries Ltd, Mumbai exemplified exploiting materials of science developments at CSIR labs into practice by Industry. The 5.0 kW fuel cell system generates power in a green manner using methanol / bio-methane, with heat and water as bi-products for further use; amounting to greater than 70% efficiency, which otherwise may not be possible by other energy sources.

The developed technology is world class and the development has placed India in the league of developed nations which are in possession of such a knowledge base. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwXIPy72SwE)

For more details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585284

Navy's first new stealth frigate, INS ‘Nilgiri’ launched

Defense Minister of India Shri Rajnath Singh launched of INS ‘Nilgiri’, the first of the Navy's seven new stealth frigates, at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai on 28 Sept 2019 and emphasised on ‘Make in India’ and ‘Design and Make in India’ with regard to defence equipment. NS Nilgiri is the first ship of Project17A. Project 17A frigates is a design derivative of the Shivalik class stealth frigates with much more advanced stealth features and indigenous weapons and sensors. These frigates are being built using integrated construction methodology. The P17A frigates incorporate new design concepts for improved survivability, sea keeping, stealth and ship maneuverability.


To lose patience is to loose battle.

MAHATAMA GANDHI
Skill India and IBM come together for nationwide Train-the-Trainer program in Artificial Intelligence

The Directorate General of Training (DGT) division of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, has signed an agreement with Global IT major IBM where the latter will carry out a nationwide Train-the-Trainer in Basic Artificial Intelligence Skills. As part of the program, ITI trainers will be trained on basic Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills towards using the technology in their day-to-day training activities.

This program aims at enabling the trainers with basic approach, workflow and application of artificial intelligence that they can apply in their training modules. IBM aims at training 10,000 faculty members from ITIs across the country and the program will be executed over a period of one year with 14 trainers across 7 locations with over 200 workshops.

For more details visit the link [https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585284](https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585284)

Prime Minister of India announced Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) at UN Climate Action Summit 2019

Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi announced a global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 held in New York City, USA, on September 23, 2019.

There are 12 founding members of CDRI: Australia, Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Rwanda, Sri Lanka and the UK.

On the occasion of the announcement of the coalition, witnessed by global leaders, government functionaries, international delegates and diplomats from across the world, Shri Modi stated, “What is needed today is a comprehensive approach that covers everything including education, values to lifestyle and development philosophies. What we need is a global people’s movement to bring about behavioral change; need, not greed is our guiding principal. So, therefore India is here today to present a practical approach and roadmap...In order to make our infrastructure resilient in the face of disasters, India is launching a Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. I invite all member states to join this Coalition.”

The partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks, financing mechanisms, private sector, and knowledge institutions will promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

Developed through consultations with more than 35 countries, CDRI envisions enabling measurable reduction in infrastructure losses from disasters, including extreme climate events. CDRI thus aims to enable the achievement of objectives of expanding universal access to basic services and enabling prosperity as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals, while also working at the intersection of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Established as a platform for generating and exchanging knowledge, CDRI will conduct country-specific and global activities. CDRI will provide member countries technical support and capacity development, research and knowledge management, and advocacy and partnerships to facilitate and encourage investment in disaster resilient infrastructure systems. The CDRI Secretariat, located in New Delhi, India will anchor and coordinate these functions.(CDRI Brochure [https://resilientinfra.org/iwdri/pdf/CDRI_Brochure.pdf](https://resilientinfra.org/iwdri/pdf/CDRI_Brochure.pdf))

In its formative stage, CDRI will focus on developing resilience in ecological infrastructure, social infrastructure with a concerted emphasis on health and education, and economic infrastructure with special attention to transportation, telecommunications, energy, and water. Within 2-3 years, the coalition aims to have a 3-fold impact of achieving considerable changes in member countries’ policy frameworks, future infrastructure investments and high reduction in economic losses from climate-related events and natural disasters across sectors.

CDRI will uphold the UN Agenda 2030 principle of leaving no one, no place, and no ecosystem behind, focusing on the most vulnerable regions and populations, while enabling inclusive and deliberative processes that recognize national and local efforts as primal.

For more details visit the link [https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585284](https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585284) & [https://resilientinfra.org/iwdri/](https://resilientinfra.org/iwdri/)
Wargaming software handed over to Indian Navy

Institute for Systems Studies and Analysis (ISSA) Delhi, a premier DRDO laboratory, has designed and developed a new generation Wargaming Software in collaboration with Maritime Warfare Centre, Visakhapatnam to meet the contemporary operational and tactical level wargaming requirement for the Indian Navy. The key focus has been to create a wargaming environment which enables Maritime Warfare Centres (MWCs) to train using the latest technological and computing tools.

For more details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585195

A2A missile Astra successfully flight tested from Su-30

Air-to-Air missile, ASTRA, has been successfully flight tested on 16 Sept 2019 off the coast of Odisha. The missile was launched from Su-30 MKI aircraft as a part of User trials. The live aerial target was engaged accurately demonstrating the capability of first indigenous air-to-air missile. For more details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585284

Navy's First Aircraft Carrier Dry Dock Inaugurated

Hon’ble Defense Minister of India Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the new Aircraft Carrier Dry Dock at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on 28 Sept 2019. The Aircraft Carrier Dock is capable of accommodating INS Vikramaditya, IAC-I, the indigenous Aircraft Carrier under construction at Cochin Shipyard Limited and ships with tonnage upto 90000 tonnes, making it the largest dry dock of the Indian Navy. Measuring in at 281 meters long, 45 meters wide and 17 meters deep, the construction of the dry dock required innovative and extreme engineering methods.

For more details please visit https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/navys-first-aircraft-carrier-dry-dock-inaugurated-raksha-mantri-mumbai

BRAHMS Supersonic Cruise Missile, with major indigenous systems, successfully test-fired

BRAHMS supersonic cruise missile featuring Indian propulsion system, airframe, power supply and other major indigenous components, was successfully test fired on 30 Sept 2019 from ITR, Chandipur in Odisha. The missile was successfully test-fired for its full range of 290-km during the launch jointly conducted by DRDO and BrahMos Aerospace. With this successful mission, the indigenous content in the formidable weapon has reached a high value, thus bolstering India’s defence indigenisation and the flagship ‘Make in India’ programme.

For more details please visit https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585284

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) delivers 2nd Scorpene submarine “KHANDERI” to Indian

MDL called ‘Ship Builder to the Nation’, is one of India’s leading Defence public sector undertaking shipyards under the Ministry of Defence continuing their service to the nation with “Make in India” programme. They delivered the 2nd Scorpene submarine ‘KHANDERI’ to the Indian Navy at an event held in Mumbai on 19 Sept 2019. Submarine ‘KHANDERI’ is named after the wide snouted Saw fish, a deadly sea predator of the great Indian Ocean & can undertake multifarious tasks typically undertaken by any modern submarine which include anti-surface as well as anti - submarine warfare.

For more details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585284

LCA (Navy) crosses path breaking milestone

On 29 September, 2019, LCA Naval Prototype-2 launched off the ski jump at 1621 hours and then subsequently “trapped” at 1631 hrs on the arresting gear site (both locations situated at Shore Based Test Facility INS Hansa, Goa). While both these activities had been achieved individually earlier, this was the first occasion when the complete cycle of launch and recovery necessary for aircraft carrier operations was accomplished in a single sortie.

For more details please visit https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585284
The Government on India on 20 Sept 2019 announced its decision to expand the scope of corporate social responsibility (CSR) 2% fund spending. Now CSR 2% fund can be spent on incubators funded by Central or State Government or any agency or Public Sector Undertaking of Central or State Government, and, making contributions to public funded Universities, IITs, National Laboratories and Autonomous Bodies (established under the auspices of ICAR, ICMR, CSIR, DAE, DRDO, DST, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) engaged in conducting research in science, technology, engineering and medicine aimed at promoting Social Development Goals (SDGs). This is expected to attract more funds on research and development in the country.

The Companies Act requires firms with a net worth of Rs 500 crore, turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or net profit of Rs 5 crore or more to set aside 2% of their average net profit over the last three years towards ‘approved’ CSR activities. These include initiatives that would have social, economic and environmental impact or a way to give back to the society.

Boost to S&T Research in India - Firms can use CSR funds for R&D

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NASSCOM REPORT - MAKING URBAN MOBILITY SUSTAINABLE, SEAMLESS AND SAFE

The report highlights the key urban mobility trends and challenges in India, and how it can be improved through technology interventions. The overall aim of the report is to look for ways to achieve a sustainable, seamless and safe urban mobility for the country, which will require greater collaboration between stakeholders.

For more details read the report at link https://www.nasscom.in/knowledge-center/publications/making-urban-mobility-sustainable-seamless-and-safe

CIM Launches Common Digital Platform for Issuance of Electronic Certificates of Origin

Commerce and Industry Ministry launched Common Digital Platform for Issuance of electronic Certificates of Origin (CoO) in New Delhi on 16 Sept 2019. This platform will be a single access point for all exporters, for all FTAs/PTAs and for all agencies concerned. Certificate of Origin will be issued electronically which can be in paperless format if agreed to by the partner countries. Authorities of partner countries will be able to verify the authenticity of certificates from the website.

For more details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1585169

日本 特別経済への未来の投資国

インプレッション 2020年までに750億ドル

インドの送電設備業界の予測規模

1,344,244トン 2017-18年のインドからの海産物の輸出量

インドの航空

1,151.7億ドル 2025年までのインドの資本財業界の売上増長の予測

1.7兆ドル インドの小売市場の2026年の予測規模

3,6億人 2020年までの航空旅客数の予想
Japan’s Nippon Express acquires 22% stake in India’s Future Supply Chain Solutions Ltd

Japan’s Nippon Express has acquired a 22 per cent stake in Kishore Biyani’s Future Supply Chain Solutions Ltd (FSC) for Rs 641 crore as the logistics company looks to tap into the rapidly-growing Indian logistics market.

As part of the deal, Nippon Express has bought the 14.6 per cent stake of the existing share capital held by SSG Capital Management in FSC. With deal, Nippon Express entitled to hold a board seat in FSC.

Nippon Express and FSC plan to explore synergies between the two organisations. FSC and Nippon Express will jointly evaluate leveraging Nippon Express’ competency in diverse sectors for India. FSC plans to leverage Nippon Express’ Japanese and MNC clients for exploring new business opportunities in India, especially for 3PL and express logistics operations.

Nippon Express first entered the Indian market in 2007 and currently focusses on international freight forwarding of cargo arriving in and departing from India.

For more details visit the link https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/nippon-express-acquires-22-stake-in-biyanis-future-supply-chain-solutions/article29470902.ece

Japanese drug maker Santen forays into India

Japan’s Santen Pharmaceutical will enter the Indian market this year with glaucoma and dry-eye medicines, tapping demand in a country where economic growth has helped improve medical infrastructure. The company will roll out Tapros, a treatment for glaucoma and ocular hypertension, along with its Hyalein dry eye treatment in India this year.

For more details visit the link https://asian.nikkei.com/Business/Pharmaceuticals/Japanese-drugmaker-Santen-forays-into-India

SUKILLS Tokyo to Support Japanese Startup to Recruit Indian IT Engineers

SUKILLS, a Tokyo-based recruitment consultant, will be launching a business to connect talented Indian IT engineers and Japanese startups. The company will develop a data base called “Tech Japan”, providing Japanese startups with information such as educational background and IT skills of Indian candidates who consider working in Japan or with Japanese startups. Moreover, the company plans to donate a course at IIT Hyderabad to inform students there what kind of social issues Japanese startups are attempting to address and kind of technologies they are developing in order to deal with them. The company will also be providing students with internship opportunities at registered Japanese startups and be promoting joint research projects with IIT faculties.

SUKILLS is established in February this year by Mr. Naotaka NISHIYAMA who used to lead the India business at Deloitte Tohmatsu Venture Support.

For more details visit the link https://r.nikkei.com/article/DGKKZ050558800T01C19A0TJ39007s=5

Fintech startup SlicePay raises Rs 20.5 Cr in debt

Fintech startup SlicePay, which offers instant credit to students and young professionals, has raised Rs 20.5 crore debt from Japan-based Gunosy Capital and Pegasus Wings Group.

SlicePay is likely to utilise the funds for meeting the working capital requirements and expand its operations across India.

SlicePay enables college students to buy collateral-free products and services online on EMI through an app. It offers RuPay-powered physical card to purchase and pay later – similar to credit cards.

For more details visit the link https://entrackr.com/2019/09/slicepay-debt-fund-rs-20-5-cr/
Flipkart’s 2GUD and Miniso India enter into strategic partnership

India’s leading ecommerce marketplace – Flipkart and Japanese designer brand Miniso have entered into a partnership ahead of the festive season sale.

Under this partnership, 2GUD, the independent value platform of Flipkart will provide online distribution rights for Miniso’s products in India starting from end of September. The partnership will allow Miniso to extend its reach beyond its existing brick-and-mortar stores, into Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and will enable the brand to leverage 2GUD platform’s million plus customers across the country.

For more details visit the link https://yourstory.com/2019/09/flipkart-2gud-miniso-india-partnership

Japanese EV boost in Gujarat, India

Japanese majors Suzuki Motors, Toshiba and Denso have formed a consortium to set up a plant for manufacturing lithium-ion batteries and electrodes in Gujarat. The plant will come up near Hansalpur in Gujarat. The proposed lithium-ion battery plant will be the biggest in the world.

The decision of the three Japanese companies to set up their lithium-ion battery and electrode manufacturing facility appears to be a move to tap the huge potential market in India. The Indian government has announced its intent to shift to 100% electric cars by 2030.

With the Indian government’s push to increase EV and its component production in India, the additional cost of imported EV batteries can be avoided. This will make electric vehicles more affordable in India. As part of the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, the government plans to set up around 50GWh factories, which can be used to power one million homes and 30,000 electric vehicles. The initiative has been launched to push the transformation from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles to electric vehicles.

For more details visit the link https://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/rs-50k-cr-japanese-ev-boost-in-gujarat/71121219

Tech-logistics Startup Blowhorn raises fresh funding from Japan’s Dream Incubator among Others

Intracity Tech-logistics Startup Blowhorn raises Fresh Funding from Venture Catalysts and Japanese investor Dream Incubator and others. Blowhorn is India’s leading intracity logistics start-up founded in 2014 & operates in all major metros in India with a broad suite of services from the first mile, middle mile, and last mile while handling goods from 1gm to 1 Tonne. The company has expanded its presence to over 30 cities and now has over 25,000 driver partners on its platform.

Interestingly, it was one of the startup which pitched at Japan VC Network by Embassy of India in association with NASSCOM at Embassy of India Tokyo.

For more details visit the link https://www.indianweb2.com/2019/09/17.tech-logistics-startup-blowhorn-raises-fresh-round-funding/

Hero Cycles Partners With Yamaha Motor Company For India’s First Centre Motor E-Cycle

India’s Hero Cycles has partnered with Japan’s Yamaha Motor Company to launch the Lectro EHX20. India’s first Center Motor E-Cycle, it promises to revolutionize the adventure e-bicycling experience landscape in India. The premium product is the first outcome of the three-way strategic partnership initiated last year between Hero Cycles Ltd, Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd. and Mitsui & Co., Ltd.

The alliance brought together by Mitsui & Co., Ltd., is aimed at creating technologically superior high-performance products through collaboration between Hero Cycles’ and Yamaha Motor’s electric drive units, with go-to-market sales, distribution & marketing support by Mitsui & Co., Ltd.

For more details visit the link https://www.motoroids.com/news/ranveer-singh-is-calling-you-to-test-drive-the-new-xl6-at-your-nearest-nexa-dealership/
Showa Corporation To Invest at Japanese Industrial Park in Tumkuru

Showa Corporation, a manufacturer of high-performance automotive, motorcycle and outboard suspension system, has finalised investment of Rs 200 Crore at Japanese Industrial Park in Karnataka's Tumkuru based Vasan-thanarasapura Industrial Area which is being developed into a major industrial hub as part of the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) project.

Spread over 519.5-acre area, Japanese Industrial Township is exclusive facility to host Japanese businesses in Karnataka and is becoming one of the Japanese investment hub in South India.

For more details visit the link [https://nfapost.com/showa-corporation-to-invest-rs-200-crore-at-japanese-industrial-park-in-tumkuru/4320/](https://nfapost.com/showa-corporation-to-invest-rs-200-crore-at-japanese-industrial-park-in-tumkuru/4320/)

Nippon Life completes acquisition of an additional stake in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Mgt.

On 30th Sept 2019, Japan's Nippon Life Insurance successfully completed the acquisition of 75 per cent stake in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM). With this, RNAM has become a subsidiary of Nippon Life.

Nippon Life will continue to contribute to development of the life insurance and asset management in India as well as to increase Nippon Life’s profit which would result in enhanced benefit for their policy holders.


Manugraph announces partnership with Japanese Seiken Graphics for new 4x1 press

Mumbai-based Manugraph, India’s largest manufacturer of web offset presses, has tied-up with Japan-based Seiken Graphics to manufacture a ‘highly advanced’ double width, single circumference press at Manugraph’s facility in Kolhapur. The press will run at a speed of 75,000-cph, providing great versatility for customers with higher print runs.

Offering Japanese technology at Manugraph’s existing 4x1 press price level, it also comes with plenty of other benefits, like a reduction in the cost of consumables. Additionally, customers do not require to import 4x1 technology, as the new collaboration will provide great cost effectiveness, by way of an immense saving on foreign exchange, no expense on duty or shipping, easily available spare parts, and prompt and faster after-sales service. Seiken Graphics has earned the industry's trust with installations of their presses in Japan and around the world.

For more details visit the link [https://www.printweek.in/News/manugraph-announces-partnership-with-japanese-company-for-new-4x1-press-42109](https://www.printweek.in/News/manugraph-announces-partnership-with-japanese-company-for-new-4x1-press-42109)
Chemexcil Buyer-Seller meet was held at Embassy of India, Tokyo on September 18, 2019. 30 Indian companies and around 80 Japanese companies participated in the event. The main objective of the event was to facilitate conversation between Indian companies and their Japanese counterparts engaged in the chemical industry to have a mutually-beneficial interaction.

During the inaugural ceremony of the event, opening remarks were given by Shri Ajay Kadakia, Chairman, Chemexcil (Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council, set up by Ministry of Commerce of India; https://chemexcil.in), which was followed by remarks from H.E. Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan. In his speech, H.E. Ambassador mentioned that chemical is one of the priority industries of Make in India campaign of the Government of India and in this sector foreign investors can participate through 100% investment in their venture in India with full access to the domestic market. He also mentioned that the current per-capita consumption of chemicals in India is very low as compared to the international levels – 1/10th of the world average. And therefore, it makes sense to invest in India in this sector and to grow with the growth of the industry, both domestically and at the international platform.
In October, 2018, Japan and India started a wide-ranging digital partnership during Indian Prime Minister Modi’s visit to Japan. Since then, India's startup ecosystem and Japanese venture capitals have been interacting with each other on a frequent basis. As of now, there are more than three hundred unicorn companies valued at one billion dollars or more in the world. The United States is the biggest startup ecosystem in the world, where more than half of the world’s unicorns are located. China comes second, with approximately 30 percent, followed by UK and India (source: CB Insights, January 2019). Softbank has invested in four of the thirteen unicorns in India.

The following are factors contributing to the rapid development of India’s startup ecosystem: 1. There are a large number of Indian engineers and entrepreneurs actively operating business all over the world; 2. They support startups as investors and accelerators after returning to India; 3. Twenty three Indian universities including IIT have incorporated entrepreneurship into their curriculum.

On September 4, I delivered a lecture entitled “Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Silicon Valley” at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, one of the top universities in India. During my visit to India, I met with entrepreneurs and investors and witnessed the actual situation of startups in India.

When you talk about Indian startups, you may think about Bangalore, the so-called “Silicon Valley of India.” However, Mumbai is fast catching up as a major startup hub.

**Rapid Growth of Startup Ecosystem in Mumbai**

India has the second biggest startup ecosystem in the world. Prime Minister Modi launched “Startup India Action Plan” in January, 2016, to promote the growth of India’s startup ecosystem.

There are more than twenty thousand startups in India. They are addressing economic and social challenges, and generating employment and skills. NASSCOM, an association of major IT companies established in Mumbai, is taking the initiative of programs for supporting more than ten thousand start-ups. The association is working to expand the network of incubators and facilitate the establishment of startups throughout India.

According to Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, the main pillars of startup assistance are simplification, hand-holding, funding/ incentives, incubation, and industry-academia partnership.

“Education in India has drastically changed in recent years. Universities encourage students not only to obtain degrees but also conceive startup ideas, and apply for patents. They are trying to link academia and industry, and make higher education more professional and innovative.”

Mr. Srivastava continued, “The unique characteristic of India’s startup ecosystem is that more than half of startups are engaged in non-technical fields with a focus on improving systems and productivity, and solving social issues through innovation. Many of them are related to SDGs.”

Bangalore is called the “Startup Capital,” whereas Mumbai is called the “Financial Capital,” which attracts investors’ attention. Mumbai’s ecosystem is often compared to that of New York City, as it has strengths in finance, consumer business, media and retail.

**IIT Bombay’s Culture**

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) is playing an important role in the startup ecosystem. I interviewed IITB’s Guest Professor Masaaki Nagahara and Professor Debasish Chatterjee about the institute’s culture and other characteristics.

Professor Chatterjee said, “At IITB, students master engineering in a fun and vivacious atmosphere. Many teachers are continuing their studies. They teach students the importance of continuing to learn. Students are also engaged in art, sports, and social activities. You can enjoy strolling in the green environment. There is also a national park near the campus.”

IITB graduates will either pursue the path of academia or business. Many of them continue to live in India, but some choose to move to the United States or other countries. Many IITB graduates start their own business. Some of them even become presidents of major companies in Silicon Valley.

“Some IITB graduates are working in the University of Tokyo, Nagoya University, and Kyushu University. Mumbai is often called the Maximum City. It means that Mumbai is an open city which the capacity to accept a wide variety of people. Mumbai is growing as a global city.”
IITB and other technological universities in many other Indian cities have turned into innovation hubs. Through the development of accelerator programs, these innovation hubs are pushing forward the Startup Revolution, and generating huge profits. More than sixty Japanese universities are supporting India’s startups as counterparts. The academia-industry cooperation is expected to lead to new innovations.

**Venture Capitals in India**

Before my departure for India, Mr. Prithwee Bhat, who runs the corporate venture capital division of Innotech, a TSE-listed company, introduced me to Mr. Sanjay Nath, the founder of Indian VC “Blume Ventures.”

I met with Mr. Nath and his two subordinates in Mumbai. One of them is an IITB graduate, who obtained MBA in India. The other is an Oxford graduate. Both of them are well-versed in technology.

Blume Ventures invests in early-stage tech startups engaged in fields such as fintech, educational technology, healthcare, and agricultural technology. The company also takes special interest in platforms for solving issues related to tech products and the global market.

Both Mr. Nath and Mr. Karthik Reddy, the co-founder of Blume, have lived in the United States. After returning to India, Mr. Nath started to invest in startups as a member of the Indian Angel Network, and Mumbai Angels.

Back then, major VCs were investing in private equities in pursuit of major growth. On the other hand, Mr. Nath established Blume Ventures in 2010 with a focus on early stage startups. Within nine years, Blume Ventures has become one of the leading VCs in India by achieving more than twenty companies’ exists.

“What is most attractive about India is that each region produces different kinds of startups. Mumbai, the Bollywood City, is the center of entertainment, and the financial capital, where fintech companies and media-related companies are born. In addition, IITB produces tech startups,” Mr. Nath pointed out.

As for other regions, in Delhi, startups are engaged in a variety of genres ranging from consumer business, e-commerce/retail/market place, to state-of-the-art technology. In Bangalore, many startups are involved in AI, ML, and deep learning. Bangalore-based startups frequently collaborate with companies in other startup hubs such as Hyderabad, Chennai, and Kerala.

Mr. Nath added, “Indian entrepreneurs are globally-minded from the initial stage.”

I would like to introduce two emerging startups currently drawing attention in India. BabyChakra is an emerging startup run by Ms. Naiyya Saggi, who has obtained MBA from Harvard and worked for Facebook at the invitation of CEO Mark Zuckerberg and COO Sheryl Sandberg.

BabyChakra operates India’s biggest platform for guiding parents of children up to age five. The ML-based platform connects more than 2.5 million users per month with medical doctors and products.

The second promising startup is Skillenza, which provides a platform for the recruitment and hiring of engineers. Cofounder and CEO Subhendu Panigrahi belonged to E-Cell when he was a student and a budding entrepreneur.

Based in Bangalore, Skillenza caters to many international companies within and outside India. Fifty million top-level engineers have already been registered. Companies can find and hire engineers with required skills through the platform.

Mr. Panigrahi said, “We are trying to maintain the right balance between strategy and implementation, create best teams, uplift their spirit and motivate them to achieve best results.”

Here is what I found during my stay in Mumbai: The Indian government and educational institutes are providing all-out support for startups, and there are sufficient human resources to meet their expectations. With the population of more than 1.3 billion, India is the world’s second most populous country. It is also the seventh largest country in terms of land area. India is indeed a superpower in the world of startup ecosystem.

For more details visit the link: [https://forbesjapan.com/articles/detail/30013](https://forbesjapan.com/articles/detail/30013)
Organised by Jute Products Development & Export Promotion Council (JPDEPC), JUTEXPO 2020 is India’s focussed Buyer-Seller Meet on export promotion of Jute Products from India.

Scheduled in Kolkata, the Jute Capital of India on 12th and 13th January 2020, JUTEXPO 2020 is your one stop shop for sourcing quality Jute Products from India.

Select overseas buyers will be offered complimentary hotel stay and air-flights to visit JUTEXPO 2020.
The 23rd edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise MALABAR, was held between the navies of India, Japan and USA from 26 Sep to 04 Oct 19 off the coast of Japan. Two frontline indigenously designed and built Indian Naval Ships, the Multipurpose Guided Missile Frigate Sahyadri and ASW Corvette Kiltan, with Rear Admiral Suraj Berry, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet embarked onboard, participated in the Exercise. In addition to the ships, a ‘P8l’ Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft also participated in the Exercise. This was the fist-ever deployment of an Indian Naval Maritime Patrol Aircraft to Japan. The US Navy was represented by USS McCampbell, a Los Angeles-Class Attack Submarine and a ‘P8A’ Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft. The JMSDF participated with its Izumo Class Helicopter Destroyer JS Kaga, Guided Missile Destroyers JS Samidare and Choukai and a ‘P1’ Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

MALABAR 2019 endeavours to further strengthen India - Japan - US Naval cooperation and enhance interoperability, based on shared values and principles. The Exercise involved conduct of complex maritime operations in the surface, sub-surface and air domains, and focus on Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Air and Anti-Surface Firings, Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) including Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) and tactical scenario based Exercise at Sea. In addition, the partner navies conducted official protocol visits, professional interactions including Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE), reciprocal ship visits, sports fixtures and social events during the harbour phase.

Participation of IN ships and aircraft in the Exercise would significantly bolster the strong maritime bonds of friendship between the three countries and contribute to security and stability in the region.

On Sept 26, 2019 Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State of the United States of America, Senator The Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia and H.E. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India held a Japan-Australia-India-U.S. Ministerial at New York.

On September 26, Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and H.E. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India held a bilateral meeting at New York on sidelines of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
The Indian State of Kerala

Kerala State is situated in the southwestern end of the Indian subcontinent. It has a long history of art and cultural heritage and foreign trade with other countries. The state with the highest literacy rate in India, is noted for its achievements in education, health, gender equality, social justice, law and order. In addition to these, the state has the lowest infant mortality rate in the country. Kerala has been successful in achieving demographic and human development indicators. In achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2018) by the States in India as computed by the NITI Aayog, Kerala ranks first with a score of 69 against national average of 57. Kerala ranks first in SDGs relating to health, education, and gender equality.

Economy: Kerala’s Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew at 7.18% in 2017-18 in constant (2011-12) prices [11.42 % at current prices]. Per capita GSDP in real terms grew at 6.65% in 2017-18 as against 5.70% in 2016-17. In 2017-18, the contribution from primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors at constant prices (2011-12) [13.20%, 24.24% and 62.56% respectively at current price]. The GSDP in real terms for agriculture & allied activities (livestock, forestry & loggig and fishing & aquaculture) registered a growth rate of 3.64 % in 2017-18. The GSDP growth in the manufacturing sector was 9.2 % in 2017-18.

Major Export Industries from Agri & Allied Sectors:

- **Marine Products:** Marine products’ export from Kerala went up both in quantity and value in 2017-18. The quantity aggregated to 1.79 lakh MT in 2017-18 as against 1.59 lakh MT in 2016-17. Frozen shrimps maintained its position as a major item in the export basket accounting for 35.55 per cent in quantity and 49.41 per cent for earnings and recording a growth of 40.70 per cent in quantity and 34.70 per cent in value in 2017-18, followed by frozen fish and squid. Japan is among the Major importers of Kerala’s marine products (4.8% of total marine products exports by Ker-

- **Coir Industry:** It is a major traditional industry of Kerala in terms of the employment generation and foreign exchange earnings. Kerala accounts for 61 % of coconut production and about 85 per cent coir products in India.

- **Cashew Industry:** Kerala is among the major cashew producing States of India and account for 10% of total produc-

- **Tourism Industry:** Kerala is an internationally recognised popular tourist destination. Year 2017 witnessed 5.15 % growth in foreign tourists arrival and 11.39 % growth in domestic tourists arrival in the State. There was 12.56 % in-

Industrial Policy 2018: The industrial policy of the Kerala Government focuses on increasing domestic and foreign investment in the State. The new industrial policy visualises setting up industrial parks on Public Private Participation (PPP) mode with an objective to achieve 10 per cent industrial growth rate in the coming 2 years. Under the new policy, regulatory process for setting up industries in Kerala will be relaxed with the objective of making Kerala an industrial investment friendly State.

Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC; https://www.ksidc.org/): As the nodal agency for foreign and domestic investment in Kerala, KSIDC provides comprehensive support for investors, helping them access various incentives and schemes and facilitating constant interaction between the Government and the industrial sector.


Ease of Doing Business (EoDB): KSIDC is the nodal agency of the State to carry out the EoDB initiatives. On basis of a study & recommendations (by KSIDC) on the modification / amendments to be made in the concerned Rules and Regulations related to clearance procedures in the State the amendments in respective Acts and Rules were approved by the Govt. of Ker-

Kerala Startup Mission (https://startupmission.kerala.gov.in): Government of Kerala has setup a dedicated space for bring-

**India - Japan Polar Research Cooperation**

Indian Arctic Expedition team attended NIPR Japan Workshop held at Ny-Alesund organised by Japanese Government on 10th September, 2019.

There was an MoC in October 2018 between India's National Centre for Polar and Ocean research (NCPOR) and Japan's The National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) to strengthen cooperation in the study of Polar Sciences and related logistics.

**JIM Mehsana, Gujarat records 100% placement**

The Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM), Mehsana, Gujarat has secured 100% placement for its second successive batch of students. The batch of 308 students have been offered placement in reputed organizations. A CSR initiative of Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL), the institute was set up in 2017 in collaboration with Ganpat University Gujarat. In line with the Skill India Mission, JIM makes youth employable through quality industry relevant training.

Having set a new benchmark for skill-based training in India, JIM Mehsana has been awarded ISO 29990:2010 certification by TUV-SUD.

The institute offers training in seven courses in the domain of automobile manufacturing, maintenance and service.

JIM is born out of a collaboration between the Governments of Japan and India to create a pool of skilled manpower for manufacturing in India. It follows from a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed in 2016 between Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Govt of Japan and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, for a “Manufacturing Skill Transfer Promotion Programme” to train youths in India. The concept is aligned to ‘Make in India’ and ‘Skill India’ for better employability amongst youth & provide Skills training using state-of-the-art curriculum and infrastructure.

**India U-18 National Football Team lifted the SAFF U-18 Championship for the first time when they defeated Bangladesh U-18 2-1 in the final in Kathmandu on September 29, 2019. The victory makes it sweeter with the U-15 National Team having lifted the SAFF U-15 Championship beating Bangladesh in the final in August 2019. While the U-16 National Team went on to qualify for the AFC U-16 Championships.**

**GIFU Univ & IIT G Joint Degree Prog launched**

Gifu University launched (in April 2019) 03 joint degree programs (master's and PhD) with the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG, in July 2019) to advance internationalization and enhance its education and research strengths. These are 01 Masters and 02 PhD course.

1. Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Gifu University International Joint Department of Food Science and Technology - Masters Course
2. United Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Gifu University International Joint Department of Food Science and Technology - PhD course
3. Graduate School of Engineering, Gifu University International joint Department of Integrated Mechanical Engineering - PhD course.

In a joint degree (JD) program, a single degree certificate is awarded by two or more partner universities to a student who has completed the program implemented by these universities. Revision of the University Establishment Standards has made it possible for a student to be jointly awarded by the multiple universities with signatures of duly authorized representatives of those institutions on a single paper.

For more details visit the link [https://www.gifu-u.ac.jp/en/international/office/jdprogram.html](https://www.gifu-u.ac.jp/en/international/office/jdprogram.html) & [https://www.iitg.ac.in/chemeng/imdfst/](https://www.iitg.ac.in/chemeng/imdfst/)

His Excellency Ambassador of India to Japan Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met Mr Somen Debnath ([https://www.somen2020world.com/](https://www.somen2020world.com/)), an Indian who is on a World Bicycle Tour since 2004 and is in Japan from 27 Sept 2019 (for around 40 days cycling from North to South of Japan). The aim of Mr Debnath World bicycle tour is to spread the message of peace and humanity as well as awareness on HIV / AIDS covering over 191 countries. Interestingly he had started his tour in
Ambassador HE Sanjay Kumar Verma gave inaugural remarks at the opening ceremony of Namaste India 2019 at Yoyogi Park on 28th September in the presence of a Government of Manipur sponsored dance and music troupe, members of Japan India Association, Discover India Club, Indian Associations, Japanese cultural organizations, media and a large number of Japanese and Indian members of the public.

In his inaugural remarks, Ambassador spoke on the traditionally warm and friendly relations between India and Japan and the growing bilateral relations in the present age.

Namaste India is the biggest Indian cultural festival held in Japan. The Festival which started in 1993 celebrates the diverse culture of India showcasing Indian cuisine, yoga, handicrafts, music and live cultural performances over two days with over 200,000 attendees.

President Kovind met a delegation of Soka Gakkai International led by Shri Minoru Harada. The President appreciated the role of Soka Gakkai in furthering India-Japan ties and for promoting values of peace and shared responsibility based on the philosophy of Buddhism.

DCM Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava addressed at the Embassy of India the meeting of "Ayurveda & Yoga associations in Japan". In the meeting the future course of action to promote Yoga & Ayurveda in Japan in synergetic manner was discussed.

As part of Community Outreach, His Excellency Ambassador H.E. Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma inaugurated Nihonkairali (Kerala Association in Japan) Onam function, by lighting the traditional lamp. While addressing the community, Ambassador stated that by celebrating Indian Festivals like Onam we are all celebrating the CONCEPT OF INDIA. He also presented the award to this year (2019) Keraleeyam Awardee Ms. Hiromi Maruhashi for her contribution to Kerala Culture and appreciated the efforts of Nihonkairali to recognize people who have contributed to our culture. Ambassador with other community members had Onam Sadhya, the traditional Kerala style vegetarian meals.
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https://www.indiaperspectives.gov.in/ja/

Through, 'Mann Ki Baat' (Hindi: मन की बात, roughly, "Heart's Voice") a radio programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with people across the country every month on a range of important subjects and encourage them to sharing their ideas and suggestions.

In Man ki Baat Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks about Taboo in Society , Encourages good work done by Indian to improve society and country as a whole, Cites Example of acheiver in various fields.

To listen latest edition in Japanese visit the link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oy5feHM5gf4&feature=youtu.be

One of the painting by School Students in Japan as part of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi celebrations