PM Modi dedicated 750 MW Solar Power Project to the Nation

On 10 July 2020, Hon'ble PM Mr Narendra Modi dedicated 750 MW Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power project to the Nation via Video Conferencing.

Speaking on the occasion, PM Modi emphasized that Solar energy will be a medium of energy needs of 21st century because solar power is sure, pure and secure. Sure because of the continuous supply of Energy from the Sun, Pure as it is environment friendly and Secure because it is a secure source for our energy needs. He also mentioned that India’s exemplary progress in the field of Solar Energy would be a major source of interest to the World. He said owing to such major steps, India is being considered as the most attractive market of clean energy. He also mentioned that International Solar Alliance was launched with the motive to unite entire World in terms of Solar Energy with the spirit One World, One Sun, One Grid.

The solar plant was set up by the Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited, a joint venture between Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam Limited and the Centre’s Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

The Union Cabinet, Government of India chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on 29 July 2020, approved the NEP 2020. The new policy aims to pave way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems in the country. Built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability, this policy is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by making both school and college education more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, suited to 21st century needs and aimed at bringing out the unique capabilities of each student. NEP 2020 is result of collaborative, inclusive, and highly participatory consultation process by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) since January 2015. NEP 2020 will replace the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. The NEP 2020 can be accessed at official link https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English_0.pdf

School Education under NEP 2020 - Aims for universalization of school education, lead by globally aligned curriculum, focus on academic, extracurricular and vocational learning, holistic assessment and accreditation reforms, early childhood care and education, teacher education, to achieve 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by 2030.

Higher Education under NEP 2020 - Aims to achieve 50% GER by 2035. It envisages broad based, multi-disciplinary, holistic Undergraduate education of global standards with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit points with appropriate certification. To achieve it there will be creation of National Research Foundation, an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education, Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country, Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), a single overarching umbrella body the for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education, establish a stage-wise mechanism for granting graded autonomy to colleges, and National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, NCFS 2021.

Other unique features:

- **Inclusive & Equity in Education**: By setting up of Gender Inclusion Fund, Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups, promotes timely financial support to meritorious students though National Scholarship Portal.
- **Technology & Digitalisation**: By creation of National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) [a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration] and a Unit for digital infrastructure, digital content and capacity building to promote Online / Digital Education.
- **Multilingualism**: To promote Multilingualism in both schools and higher education, an Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation to be set up. NEP 2020 mentions that “In addition to high quality offerings In Indian languages and English, foreign languages, such as Korean, Japanese, Thai, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian, will also be offered at the secondary level (Class 9 to 12; Age 14-18), for students to learn about the cultures of the world and to enrich their global knowledge and mobility according to their own interests and aspirations. The teaching of all languages will be enhanced through innovative and experiential methods, including through gamification and apps, by weaving in the cultural aspects of the languages such as films, theatre, storytelling, poetry, and music and by drawing connections with various relevant subjects and with real-life experiences. Thus, the teaching of languages will also be based on experiential-learning pedagogy.”
- **Public investment in Education**: NEP 2020 aims that Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.

Internationalization - NEP 2020 aim to achieve having large numbers of international students studying in India, and provide greater mobility to students in India who may wish to visit, study at, transfer credits to, or carry out research at institutions abroad, and vice versa. Courses and programmes in subjects, such as Indology, Indian languages, AYUSH traditional systems of medicine, yoga, arts, music, history, culture, and modern India, internationally relevant curricula in the sciences, social sciences, and beyond, meaningful opportunities for social engagement, quality residential facilities and on-campus support, etc. will be fostered to attain global quality standards, attract greater numbers of international students, and achieve the goal of ‘internationalization at home’.

Further, under NEP 2020, India will be promoted as a global study destination providing premium education at affordable costs. An International Students Office at each Higher Education Institution (HEI) hosting foreign students will be setup to coordinate all matters relating to welcoming and supporting students arriving from abroad. Research/teaching collaborations and faculty/student exchanges with high-quality foreign institutions will be facilitated, and relevant mutually beneficial MOUs with foreign countries will be signed. High performing Indian universities will be encouraged to setup campuses in other countries, and similarly, selected universities e.g., those from among the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India. A legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India. Furthermore, research collaboration and student exchanges between Indian institutions and global institutions will be promoted through special efforts. Credits acquired in foreign universities will be permitted, where appropriate as per the requirements of each HEI, to be counted for the award of a degree.
India’s First 700 MWe Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor Attains Criticality

On 22nd July 2020, Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant, Unit-3 (KAPP-3), India’s first 700 MWe (megawatt electric) indigenously designed & developed Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) with innovative features has attained criticality. KAPP-3 is located at Kakrapar Site, Gujarat, where already two 220 MWe PHWRs (KAPS-1 & KAPS-2) are in operation and another 700 MWe PHWR (KAPP-4) is under advanced stage of construction. The reactor has been developed & operated by Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL, a PSE under DAE India; https://npcil.nic.in/index.aspx).

GRANT OF PERMANENT COMMISSION TO WOMEN OFFICERS IN INDIAN ARMY

On 23rd July, 2020, Ministry of Defence issued the formal Government of India Sanction for grant of Permanent Commission (PC) to Women Officers in the Indian Army, paving the way for empowering Women Officers to shoulder larger roles in the organisation. The order grant PC to Short Service Commissioned (SSC) Women Officers in all ten streams of the Indian Army i.e. Army Air Defence (AAD), Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME), Army Service Corps (ASC), Army Ordnance Corps (AOC), and Intelligence Corps in addition to the existing streams of Judge and Advocate General (JAG) and Army Educational Corps (AEC).

Indian Army is committed to provide equal opportunities to all personnel incl Women Officers to serve Nation.

Largest Solar Power Plant of Navy Commissioned

On 22nd July 2020, Indian Navy commissioned its largest, a 3 MW Solar Power Plant at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. This is in line with the Govt of India initiative of ‘National Solar Mission’ to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022. All components have been indigenously sourced, including 9180 highly efficient monocrystalline solar panels employing the latest technology. The project has been executed by Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (KELTRON). Earlier, on 20th July 2020, Indian Navy commissioned grid interconnected 2 MW Solar Power Plant at Naval Station Karanja comprises of 100% indigenously developed solar panels, tracking tables and inverters & state of art single axis sun tracking technology with computerised monitoring & control.


On 26th July 2020, India paid homage to the fallen heroes at National War Memorial on the 21st anniversary of India’s victory in ‘Operation Vijay’ also known as Kargil conflict. Indian Armed Forces’ victory in Kargil on 26 July 1999 is a saga of strong political, military and diplomatic actions. The Nation is celebrating this day with pride, honour and inspiration.

Induction of Rafale In Indian Air Force

On 27th July, 2020, the first 05 Indian Air Force (IAF) Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) Rafale aircraft arrived in India from Dassault Aviation Facility, Mérignac, France with a planned stopover en-route at Al Dhafra airbase in the UAE. The aircraft will be a part of 17 Squadron, the “Golden Arrows”, which was resurrected on 10 Sep 19, and will give IAF’s combat capability a timely boost.
India's Development Partnerships

- India’s approach to development is mainly human-centric. India want to work for the welfare of humanity. History has taught that in the name of development partnerships, nations were forced into dependence partnerships. It gave rise to colonial and imperial rule. It gave rise to global power blocks. And, Humanity suffered.
- India is making development partnerships that are marked by Respect, Diversity, Care for the future, and Sustainable development.
- Despite its own resource constraints, India has been sharing its developmental experiences and technical expertise with other countries in the spirit of “VasudhaivaKutumbakam” (meaning “world is a family”).
- For India, the most fundamental principle in development cooperation is respecting its partners. This sharing of development lessons is India's only motivation. That is why India's development cooperation does not come with any conditions. It is not influenced by political or commercial considerations.
- Indian model of developmental cooperation is comprehensive and involves multiple instruments including grant-in-aid, line of credit and capacity building and technical assistance.
- India's development partnerships are diverse. From commerce to culture, Energy to engineering, Health to housing, IT to infrastructure, Sports to science, India is working with nations across the globe.
- India is not only proud to be helping partners present. It help them create a better future for their youth. That is why training and skilling is such an important part of India’s development cooperation. They will make youngsters in India’s partner nations self-reliant and more confident to guide the future to newer heights.
- Development assistance in the form of concessional Lines of Credit (LOCs) is extended by the Government of India under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) through the Exim Bank of India. More than 300 LOCs worth US$ 30.66 billion have been extended to 64 countries.
- Grant-in-aid projects, aggregating around US$ 4 Billion, covering various sectors are under implementation.

Further details can be read at [https://www.mea.gov.in/development-partnership.htm](https://www.mea.gov.in/development-partnership.htm)

Vaccine against COVID19 – India's contribution to global efforts

Government of India’s DBT-BIRAC has facilitated the establishment of ‘first-of-its-kind’ mRNA-based vaccine manufacturing platform in India. DBT has provided seed funding for the development of Gennova’s (Pune, India based biotechnology company dedicated to the research, development, production, and commercialization of biotherapeutics; https://gennova.bio) novel self-amplifying mRNA-based vaccine candidate for COVID19.

Gennova in collaboration with HDT Biotech Corporation, Seattle, USA has developed an mRNA vaccine candidate (HGCO19), with demonstrated safety, immunogenicity, neutralization antibody activity in the rodent and non-human primate models. The company is working aggressively to ensure first human injection by the end of the year, subject to Indian regulatory approvals.

The novel mRNA vaccine candidate, HGCO19, has all the necessary arsenal to guide the host cells to make the antigen-spike protein of the virus, reported to interact with host cells receptor, and supported by ‘lipid inorganic nanoparticle (LION)’ as a delivery vehicle, which has adjuvanting property, enhanced storage stability, reduced adverse effects, improved permeability and bioavailability. The neutralizing antibody response of the vaccine in mice and non-human primates was comparable with the sera from the convalescent patients of COVID-19, above the US-FDA recommended titre of 1:160 for neutralizing antibodies.

India-Japan Webinar on Quantum Technologies

On July 28, 2020, Embassy of India in Tokyo in association with Department of Science and Technology (DST), GoI, organized an India-Japan Webinar on "Quantum Technologies", to explore possibilities to develop research collaborations. The opening remarks were made by H.E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan emphasizing on quantum technologies basic R&D and innovation as a key factor for collaboration between scientific communities of both countries. Further, the keynote address was delivered by Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST. He suggested focusing on design, prototyping, innovations and engaging industrial community for strong international partnership. He also emphasized on collaboration on QT infrastructure, fabrication, calibration and exchange of researchers/students. From Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Dr. KAJIWARA Susumu, Deputy Director-General, Science and Technology Policy Bureau delivered the opening remarks sharing the way exploring the opportunities through joint R&D on Quantum Technologies and researchers/students exchange under the bilateral collaboration.

A total of 10 presentations were made by experts (Dr. K.R. Murali Mohan, Prof. Aditi Sen De, Dr. R. Vijayaraghavan, Dr. Umakant Rapol, Dr. T.S. Mahesh and Dr Arvind) from India and (Prof. Kohei M. Itoh, Prof. Y. Nakamura, Prof. K. Ohmori, Prof. K. Nemoto and Prof. S. Takeuchi) from Japan during the Webinar.

Dr. Sanjeev K. Varshney, Head, International Cooperation, DST delivered the way forward and closing remarks and Dr. Usha Dixit, Counsellor (S&T), Embassy of India, Tokyo, concluded the webinar with the vote of thanks.

INDIA’s National Mission on Quantum Technologies

In February 2020, India’s Union Budget announced ~USD 1.5 Billion National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications for a period of five years to be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST). The Mission will be able address the ever increasing technological requirements of the society, and take into account the international technology trends and road maps of leading countries for development of next generation technologies. Implementation of the mission would help develop and bring quantum computers, secured communications through fibre and free space, quantum encryption and cryptanalysis and associated technologies within reach in the country and help address India specific national and regional issues. The mission will help prepare next generation skilled manpower, boost translational research and also encourage entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystem development. By promoting advanced research in quantum science and technology, technology development and higher education in science, technology and engineering disciplines India can be brought at par with other advanced countries and can derive several direct and indirect benefits.

Details can be seen at https://dst.gov.in/budget-2020-announces-rs-8000-cr-national-mission-quantum-technologies-applications
MoAYUSH's NMPB & ICAR's NBPGR MoU to conserve Medicinal & Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources

On 6th July 2020, National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under Ministry of AYUSH and ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with aim to conserve the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources (MAPGRs) at designated space of ICAR-NBPGR in long-term or short-term storage module in the National Gene bank and or at Regional Station, respectively and acquire hands-on training on plant germplasm conservation techniques to NMPB.

Medicinal Plants are regarded as rich resources of traditional medicines and are being used for thousands of years in the health care system. India has rich diversity of medicinal Plants resources. The natural resources are gradually getting depleted due to various developmental activities in its habitat. There is a need to conserve these natural resources and make sustainable utilization of them.


India Launched World's Most Affordable COVID-19 Diagnostic Kit - Corosure

On 15th July 2020, India launched the World’s most affordable RT-PCR based COVID-19 diagnostic kit developed by IIT Delhi and approved by the ICMR and DCGI. Corosure, COVID-19 Diagnostic Kit developed by Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and with USD5 per assay is much cheaper than other kits. The kit has received ICMR approval with the highest score and DCGI approved with a very high sensitivity and specificity.


NITI Aayog Released 2nd edition of SDG India Index and Dashboard 2019

India is the first country in the world with a government-led, sub-national measure of progress on Sustainable Development Goals as "SDG India Index" which comprehensively documents the progress made by India’s States and Union Territories towards achieving the 2030 SDG targets.

More details at sdgindiaindex.niti.gov.in

India held its first ever Indian Scholastic Assessment (Ind-SAT) Test 2020 under its ‘Study in India (SII; https://www.studyinindia.gov.in/)’ programme. National Testing Agency. EdCIL (India) Limited, a PSU under MHRD (now Ministry of Education) and the implementing agency of SII handles the registrations and other aspects of the examination.

Ind-SAT is an exam for grant of scholarships and admissions to foreign students for studying in select Indian universities under the Study in India programme. The exam is designed to gauge the scholastic capability of students applying to study in India. The Ind-SAT scores will serve as a criterion to shortlist the meritorious students for the allocation of scholarships for under graduate as well as post graduate programmes under ‘Study in India’ programme.
CCI approves acquisition in Escorts Ltd by Kubota Corp and in Kubota Agricultural Machinery India by Escorts Ltd

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the acquisition (i) in Escorts Limited (Escorts) by Kubota Corporation (Kubota) and (ii) in Kubota Agricultural Machinery India Private Limited (KAI) by Escorts, under Section 31 (1) of the Competition Act, 2002, today.

The Proposed Combination is relating to acquisition of 9.09% of the total issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of Escorts by Kubota. Upon completion of capital reduction process by Escorts, this will constitute 10% of its total issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital. Further, Escorts will acquire 40% shareholding in KAI. Accordingly, Kubota and Escorts will hold 60-40% shareholding respectively in KAI.

Kubota is a company incorporated under the laws of Japan. Kubota is a comprehensive agriculture product manufacturer and offers various machinery such as tractors, combine harvesters and rice transplanters. Kubota also offers engineering, procurement, construction to maintenance, contributing to safety and security of water.

Escorts is a public limited company incorporated in India. Escorts’ shares are listed on the BSE and the National Stock Exchange of India. Escorts is engaged in the business of manufacturing and sale of agri-machinery, construction equipment and railway equipment in India.

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<tr>
<th>Hitachi wins order of transformers for 400 locomotives in India</th>
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<td>Hitachi Ltd.'s group arm in India has won an order for transformers for 400 electric locomotives from the state-backed Indian Railways for 1.2 billion rupees ($15.9 million). ABB Power Products and Systems India Ltd. will make the equipment at a plant in Vadodara, the western state of Gujarat, to be used in locomotives produced at the railway firm's Chittaranjan Locomotive Works factory.</td>
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<td>Details <a href="https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20200713/p2g/00m/0bu/082000c">https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20200713/p2g/00m/0bu/082000c</a></td>
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<th>Japanese Firm Tsuzuki To Set Up Manufacturing Unit in Haryana</th>
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<td>Tsuzuki, a Japanese company, has entered into an agreement with Model Economic Township Limited (METL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, to set up a manufacturing unit in Reliance MET, Jhajjar. Tsuzuki will manufacture steering knuckle for the automobile industry. MET has been recognised by the Government of Japan as one of the 12 sites for the development of Japanese Industrial Township (JIT). Tsuzuki India is the third Japanese company after Panasonic &amp; Denso to invest in MET.</td>
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Yokogawa to Accelerate Business Expansion in India through Open Innovation with Startups

On July 9, 2020, Japan's Yokogawa Electric Corporation announces that it has signed an agreement to invest in the Nippon India Digital Innovation Fund of Funds (below, "FoF") to accelerate its business expansion in India. Yokogawa will pursue open innovation with promising Indian startup companies and acquire leading-edge technologies and information at an early stage to support the development of new businesses.

The investment in the FoF is expected to provide access to the latest information on hundreds of leading startups, create opportunities for alliances, enable the transformation of existing businesses and entry into new markets, and accelerate innovation through the acquisition of advanced technologies. Regional subsidiary Yokogawa Technology Solutions India will develop relationships with the startups, and opportunities will be leveraged across the entire Group.

The FoF was formed as an initiative under the India-Japan Digital Partnership with the encouragement and support of the prime ministers of both countries. It will be managed by Nippon Life India AIF Management Limited (NIAIF), a subsidiary of Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India). The FoF will invest in approximately 15-20 venture capital funds in India. The investment field covers a wide range of areas, including AI, IoT, biotechnology, life sciences, security, automation, and blockchain.

India in Japan

On 8th July, Amb HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma called on HE Mr Fumio Kishida, Chairperson, LDP Policy Research Council and discussed recent progress in India-Japan relations, and ways to further strengthen India Japan Special Strategic & Global Partnership in post COVID19 world.

On 22nd July 2020, DCM Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava delivered opening remarks in Webinar on "Opportunities in Indian Food Processing, Agriculture & Agro-chemical Sector" with a focus on India-Japan collaboration was organized by Nexdigm in collaboration with the Invest India and PISL, supported by EOI.

On 30th July, DCM Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava participated in a discussion organized by the Asia Society Japan along with HE Mr. Richard Court AC, Australian Ambassador to Japan on the subject of India - Japan - USA cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

On 3rd July 2020, DCM Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava participated in a discussion organized by the Asia Society Japan along with HE Mr. Richard Court AC, Australian Ambassador to Japan on the subject of India - Japan - USA cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Vande Bharat Mission - Embassy of India, Tokyo - 5th & 6th Repatriation Flight in July 2020

On 6th & 29th July 2020, under the Government of India's Vande Bharat Mission, 5th (Narita to Delhi) and 4th (Narita to Delhi to Chennai to Bengaluru) repatriation flights took stranded Indian nationals in Japan to India. Under the guidance of Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma Embassy made the 5th and 6th flight successful. On the days of flight, Embassy Officers monitored the process to ensure comfort to passengers. They also interacted with passengers, wished them best as well as advised them to follow do's and dont's, in aircraft as well as once reaching India, for safety of own as well as of others from COVID19. Many passengers conveyed their happiness to go back home as well as expressed gratitude and praise about the way Embassy of India Tokyo & CGI Osaka conducted the whole exercise.

On 30th July 2020, DCM Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava participated in the fireside chat at Zinnov Confluence on the theme of "Asia as epicenter of World order" on the subject of - triateral partnership opportunities in the post COVID19 world including digital tech and innovation. of trilateral cooperation between Japan, America, and India."
In these times, it is natural to talk about revival. It is equally natural to link global revival and India. There is faith that the story of global revival will have India playing a leading role. I see this closely linked with two factors.

The first is - Indian talent. World over, you have seen the contribution of India's talent-force. This includes Indian professionals, doctors, nurses, bankers, lawyers, scientists, professors, our hard-working labourers. Who can forget the Indian tech industry and tech professionals. They have been showing the way for decades. India is a powerhouse of talent, that is eager to contribute, ever ready to learn. There is two-way synergy that is greatly beneficial.

The second factor is India's ability to reform and rejuvenate. Indians are natural reformers! History has shown that India has overcome every challenge, be it social or economical. India has done so with a spirit of reform and rejuvenation. The same spirit continues now.

On one hand India is fighting a strong battle against the global pandemic. With an increased focus on people's health, we are equally focussed on the health of the economy. When India talks of revival it is revival with care, revival with compassion, revival which is sustainable - both for the environment and the economy.

India has made great gains in areas such as Total financial inclusion, Record housing and infra construction, Ease of Doing Business, Bold tax reforms including the GST, Roll out of the world's largest health care initiative - Ayushman Bharat. These gains have set the foundations for the next round of development initiatives.

Indians have the spirit to achieve what is believed to be impossible. No wonder that in India, we are already seeing green shoots when it comes to economic recovery. In this time of a pandemic, we have provided relief to our citizens and undertaken deep structural reforms. We are making the economy: more productive, investment friendly and competitive.

Our relief package has been smart and targeted to provide the most poor with the most help. Thanks to technology, every penny has reached the beneficiaries directly. The relief includes, providing free cooking gas, cash in the bank accounts, free food grains to millions of people and many other things. As soon as we unlocked, we have launched one of the world's largest public works program to provide employment to millions of workers. This will not only re-energise the rural economy, but also help in creation of durable infrastructure in the rural areas.

India remains one of the most open economies in the world. We are laying a red carpet for all global companies to come and establish their presence in India. Very few countries will offer the kind of opportunities India does today. There are many possibilities and opportunities in various sunrise sectors in India. Our reforms in agriculture provide a very attractive investment opportunity to invest in storage and logistics. We are opening the doors to investors to come and invest directly in the hard-work of our farmers.

We have brought reforms in the MSME sector. A booming MSME sector will also complement big industry. There are investment opportunities in the defence sector. With relaxed FDI norms, one of the world's biggest militaries invites you to come and make products for it. Now, there are more opportunities for private investment in space sector. This will mean greater access to commercial use of space tech for the benefit of people. India's tech and start-up sector is vibrant. There is a market of millions of digitally empowered, aspirational people. Imagine the kind of products you can make for them.

The pandemic has once again shown that India's pharma industry is an asset not just for India but for the entire world. It has played a leading role in reducing the cost of medicines especially for developing countries. Vaccines made in India are responsible for two-thirds of the vaccination needs of the world's children. Today also, our companies are active in the international efforts for development and production of COVID-19 vaccine. I am certain that India will have an important role in developing and in scaling-up production of the vaccine once it is discovered.

130 crore Indians have given the call for an AtmaNirbhar Bharat. A self-reliant India. AtmaNirbhar Bharat merges domestic production and consumption with global supply chains. AtmaNirbhar Bharat is not about being self-contained or being closed to the world. It is about being self-sustaining and self-generating. We will pursue policies that promote efficiency, equity and resilience.

The pandemic has also seen the increasing appeal of Yoga, Ayurveda and traditional medicines world over. India's ancient culture, India's universal, peaceful ethos, is our strength.

India is ready to do whatever it can to further global good and prosperity. This is an India that is reforming, performing and transforming. This is an India that offers new economic opportunities. This is an India that is adopting a human-centric and inclusive approach to development.

This year we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN). It is an occasion to recognise the UN's many contributions to human progress. It is also an opportunity to assess the UN’s role and relevance in today’s World, and to shape a better future for it. India was among the 50 founding members of the UN immediately after the Second World War. A lot has changed since then. Today the UN brings together 193 member countries. Along with its membership, the expectations from the organisation have also grown. At the same time multilateralism is facing many challenges today.

From the very beginning, India has actively supported the UN’s development work and the ECOSOC. India also contributed to shaping the ECOSOC agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Today, through our domestic efforts, we are again playing a salient role in achieving Agenda 2030 & SDGs. We are also supporting other developing countries in meeting their SDGs.

India is home to one-sixth of humanity. We are mindful of our weight and responsibility. We know that if India succeeds in achieving its development objectives, it will go a long way in achievement of global goals. And so we have taken “whole-of-society” approach by engaging our States, our local governments, our civil society, communities and our people.

Our motto is 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' - meaning 'Together, for everyone's growth, with everyone’s trust'. This resonates with the core SDG principle of leaving no one behind. Be it access to nutrition, health education, electricity or housing - we are making great progress through our inclusive programmes. Last year, we achieved full sanitation coverage in our six hundred thousand villages. In five years, we built over 110 million household toilets, which improved our rural sanitation cover from 38% to 100%. Our massive awareness generation programmes are empowering our women. We have achieved gender parity in elementary and secondary education. Nearly 70 million women in rural India are part of self-help groups under our Livelihood Mission. They are transforming lives and livelihoods on a big scale. Over a million women are elected representatives of our local governments, leading the process of participatory development. In the last six years, we opened 400 million bank accounts for the unbanked, out of which 220 million are owned by women. We have leveraged the power of technology for financial inclusion. This is based on the trinity of a unique identity number, a bank account, and a mobile connection for everyone. It has allowed us to make Direct Benefit Transfers of 150 billion dollars to over 700 million persons. Our food security programmes reach 813 million citizens.

Our 'Housing for All' programme will ensure that every Indian will have a safe and secure roof over her head by 2022, when India completes 75 years as an independent nation. By then, 40 million new homes would have been made under this programme - more than the total number of households in many countries. Today, our 'Ayuushmaan Bharat' scheme is the world’s largest health protection programme, covering 500 million individuals. In the fight against COVID, our grass-roots health system is helping India ensure one of the best recovery rates in the world. We are also on track to remove TB by 2025. Other developing countries can learn from the scale and success of India's development programmes. And from the technologies and innovations we have deployed. It is this realisation that under-pins India's own development partnership with the global South.

While marching forward on the path to development, we are not forgetting our responsibility towards our planet. Over the past few years, we have reduced 38 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually. This was achieved by electrifying our villages, providing clean cooking fuel to 80 million poor households, and introduction of energy efficient measures. We have set a target to install 450 Gigawatt of renewable energy and restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. We have an age-old tradition of living in harmony with nature. We launched one of the largest campaigns for cleanliness and discouraged usage of single-use plastic. Internationally, our Initiative to set up the International Solar Alliance was a practical manifestation of climate action. Similarly, the Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure brings together all relevant stake-holders for a comprehensive approach. We have always prided ourselves as the first responder in our region - a friend in need. Be it earthquakes, cyclones or any other natural or man-made crisis, India has responded with speed and solidarity. In our joint fight against COVID, we have extended medical and other assistance to over 150 countries. We also helped create a SAARC COVID emergency fund in our neighborhood.

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely tested the resilience of all nations. In India, we have tried to make the fight against the pandemic a people’s movement, by combining the efforts of Government and society. We have given the highest priority to deliver benefits to poor households. We have announced a package of more than 300 billion dollars. It will bring the economy back on track, build modern infrastructure and put in place a technology-driven system. We have put forward a vision of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ a self-reliant and Resilient India, integrated with the global economy.

India firmly believes that the path to achieve sustainable peace and prosperity is through multilateralism. As children of planet Earth, we must join hands to address our common challenges and achieve our common goals. However, multilateralism needs to represent the reality of the contemporary world. Only reformed multilateralism with a reformed United Nations at its center can meet the aspirations of humanity. Today, while celebrating 75 years of the United Nations, let us pledge to reform the global multilateral system. To enhance its relevance, to improve its effectiveness, and to make it the basis of a new type of human-centric globalisation. The United Nations was originally born from theariums of the Second World War. Today, the fury of the pandemic provides the context for its rebirth and reform. Let us not lose this chance.

India has been elected to UNSC at this very important time. With our deep commitment to maintaining global harmony, to improving socio-economic equity, and to preserving nature’s balance, India will play its role in full support of the UN agenda.

We all agree that the world is in need for a better future. And, it is all of us who have to collectively give shape to the future. I firmly believe that our approach to the future must primarily be a more human-centric one. Our growth agenda must place the poor and vulnerable at the core. ‘Ease of Living’ is as important as ‘Ease of Business’.

Recent experience has taught us that the global economy has been too focused on efficiency and optimization. Efficiency is a good thing. But, on the way, we forgot to focus on something equally important. That is resilience against external shocks. It has taken a global pandemic to remind us how important resilience is.

Global economic resilience can be achieved by stronger domestic economic capacities. This means improved domestic capacity for manufacturing, restoring the health of the financial system and diversification of international trade.

India is contributing towards a prosperous and resilient world through the clarion call of an ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’. And, for that, we await your partnership!

Today, there is global optimism towards India. This is because India offers a perfect combination of openness, opportunities and options. India celebrates openness in people and in governance. Open minds make open markets. Open markets lead to greater prosperity.

We have made many efforts to make our economy more open and reform oriented. Reforms have ensured increased ‘Competitiveness’, enhanced ‘Transparency’, expanded ‘Digitization’, greater ‘Innovation’ and more ‘Policy stability’.

India is emerging as a land of opportunities. Opportunities in technology also include opportunities in the frontier technologies of 5G, Big data analytics, Quantum computing, Block-chain and Internet of things.

The options to invest in India are extensive. India invites you to invest in the hard-work of our farmers. India has done historic reforms in the agriculture sector recently. There are investment opportunities in: Agricultural inputs and machinery, Agriculture supply chain management, Ready-to-eat items, Fisheries and Organic produce. India’s food processing sector is expected to be worth over half a trillion dollars by 2025. To grow more streams of revenue, the best time to tap investment opportunities in Indian agriculture sector is now!

India invites you to invest in healthcare. The Healthcare sector in India is growing faster than 22% every year. Our companies are also progressing in production of medical-technology, tele-medicine and diagnostics. India and the US have already built a robust partnership in the Pharma sector. To achieve scale and speed, now is the best time to expand your investment in Indian health-care sector!

India invites you to invest in energy. As India evolves into a gas-based economy, there will be big investment opportunities. There are also big opportunities in the clean energy sector. This is the best time to enter the Indian power sector!

India invites you to invest in infrastructure. Our nation is witnessing the largest infrastructure creation drive in our history. Come, be a partner in building housing for millions, or building roads, highways and ports in our nation.

Civil Aviation is another area of great potential growth. The number of Air passengers are expected to more than double within next 8 years. The top private Indian airlines plan to include over a thousand new aircraft over the coming decade. This is a huge opportunity for any investor who chooses to set up manufacturing facilities in India, which can become a base for supplying regional markets. A similar case is obvious for setting up Maintenance Repair and Operations facilities. This is an ideal time to invest in the Indian aviation sector.

India invites you to invest in defense and space. We are raising the FDI cap for investment in defense sector to 74%. India has established two defense corridors to encourage production of defense equipment and platforms. We offer special incentives for private and foreign investors. A few weeks ago, we cleared breaking reforms in the space sector. Come, be a part of these upcoming sectors.

India invites you to invest in finance and insurance. India has raised FDI cap for investment in insurance to 49%. Now 100% FDI is permitted for investment in insurance intermediaries. The insurance market in India is growing at a rate of more than 12% and is expected to grow to 250 billion dollars by 2025. With the success of Ayushman Bharat health assurance scheme, PM Crop insurance scheme and Social security schemes, the government has laid the ground for quick adoption and acceptance of insurance products. There are large untapped opportunities for increasing insurance cover in health, agriculture, business and life insurance. To generate long term and assured revenues, the Indian insurance sector is one of the best investment options right now!

When the markets are open, when the opportunity is high and the options are many, can optimism be far behind! You can see the optimism when India rises in key business ratings. Particularly, the Ease of Doing Business ratings of the World Bank.

Investment is the best show of confidence. Every year, we are reaching record highs in FDI. Each year is significantly higher than the earlier one. FDI inflows in India in 2019-20 were 74 billion dollars. This is an increase of 20 percent from the year before that. Also see what has happened even during the ongoing pandemic. In the middle of COVID, India has attracted foreign investment of more than 20 billion dollars between April and July 2020!

But, India offers many more opportunities. We have what is needed to power the global economic recovery.

The rise of India means: a rise in trade opportunities with a nation that you can trust, a rise in global integration with increasing openness, a rise in your competitiveness with access to a market which offers scale. And a rise your returns on investment with the availability of skilled human resources.

[Full address at: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1640502]
On July 1, 2020, the Embassy of India in Tokyo in association with JETRO, Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC), Invest India and State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab organized an Indo-Japan Webinar on “Investment Opportunities in Northern States of India” on July 1, 2020 to provide information on opportunities and facilitate Japanese companies interested to set up/expand operations in the Northern States of India. The opening remarks was made by Ms. Mona Khandar, Minister (Economic & Commerce), Embassy of India in Tokyo highlighting the series of reforms announced in Atma Nirbhar Bharat stimulus package by the Government of India post COVID-19 as well as the opportunities for Japanese investors. She also highlighted the taxation reforms undertaken by the government to promote Make in India initiative and India’s infra pipeline policy for the next 5 years which will cover more than 6,500 projects.

Mr. Yasuyuki Murahashi, Chief Director General, JETRO India made presentation on the investment environment in the Northern States and Representatives from the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab gave presentations highlighting the incentive schemes and series of reforms for ease of doing business as well as the investment opportunities for Japanese investors on their respective states. Mr. Yogesh Arora, Plant Head of Denso India Pvt. Ltd. shared their Make in India experience in the Uttarakhand and Mr. Yugo Hashimoto, Managing Director and CEO, SML Isuzu Limited made presentation on the advantages of manufacturing industry in Punjab. Mr. Kazunori Ajiki, Managing Director, Yanmar India Pvt. Ltd. also made presentation on their operation in India. Yanmar consider India as the global supply hub for tractors because of its strategic location, cost competitiveness and stable work force. Ms. Harshita Madan, Investment Specialist, Invest India made presentation about Invest India and how they could assist Japanese companies planning to make investment in India. In the end of the webinar, a Networking and B2B session was held during which Japanese companies and Indian companies introduced themselves briefly and was given the option to interact among themselves through chat box. The webinar was attended by around 130 participants from Japan and India.

The full webinar can be see at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UuNhScgcKg&list=PLW7rCij3F7z1ElFjBM52DPy2MooYoQ1f&index=2&t=0s

Taking another step towards clean fuel, Indian Railways successfully tested the 1st Battery operated Rail Engine "Navdoot". This engine has been built in the Jabalpur division of the Indian Railway and works in dual mode.
On July 8, 2020, the Embassy of India in Tokyo in association with JETRO, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Government of Japan, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer’s Welfare, Government of India, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India and the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab & Odisha organized an Indo-Japan Webinar on “Agro-Processing Sector: Challenges & Emerging Opportunities” on July 8, 2020 to provide information on opportunities and facilitate Japanese companies interested to set up as well expand operations in India. H. E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador delivered the opening remarks where he highlighted Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s aim to make Indian economy “Atma Nirbhar i.e. self reliant” not only for self but for global markets and further promote the Make In India initiative in view of the supply chain disruption faced by the world during this global pandemic. He also emphasized on the incentives/policies announced by the Government of India promoting India as a manufacturing destination for foreign companies such as incentives schemes/tax stimulus, taxation reform and fast track investment clearance. He further stated that India’s food processing industry is expected to attract US$ 33 billion of foreign investment by 2024 , thus, emphasizing the available opportunities for Japanese companies to invest in India.

Mr. Hiroaki Kinoshita, Director & Negotiator for South Asia, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan made presentation on Post Covid-19 Challenges for Agro-Processing Sector where he explained MAFF’s activities for developing food value chain as well as the ongoing bilateral cooperation between India and Japan in food processing sector.

Mr. Vivek Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer’s Welfare and Ms. Reema Prakash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Govt of India made presentation on the Government facilitation and investment opportunities in Agro-Processing sector in India. Ms. Mona Khandar, Minister (Economic & Commerce), Embassy of India, Tokyo delivered her speech highlighting the series of reforms announced in Atma Nirbhar Bharat stimulus package by the Govt of India post COVID-19 as well as the opportunities for Japanese investors.

Representatives from State Governments of Punjab, Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh gave presentations highlighting the incentive schemes and series of reforms for ease of doing business as well as the investment opportunities for Japanese investors in their respective states especially in agro-processing sector.

Mr. Tomoyuki Iwama, Director-Production & Science, Yakult Danone India Pvt. Ltd. made presentation by sharing their “Make in India” experience and Mr. Devendra Prasad, Deputy General Manager, APEDA and Dr. Ram Mohan M. K., Joint Director (Quality Control), MPEDA made presentations on Agro-processing Sector in India. Ms. Kayo Takikawa, Deputy Section Head, Japan Food Research Laboratories (JFRL) made presentation about food import inspection in Japan as well as the activities being conducted by JFRL.

Ms. Meetu Kapur, Executive Director, Food and Agriculture, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) also made presentation on the future growth prospects in Agro-processing sector in India. Ms. Harshita Madan, Investment Specialist, Invest India gave the vote of thanks and introduced the activities of Invest India on how they could assist Japanese companies planning to make investment in India. In the end of the webinar, a Networking and B2B session was held during which Japanese companies and Indian companies introduced themselves briefly and was given the option to interact among themselves through chat box. The webinar was attended by around 110 participants from Japan and India.

Webinar recording can be seen at Embassy official Youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YA0Dp9vNXQQ
On July 22, 2020, the Embassy of India in Tokyo in association with JETRO, Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC), Invest India, State Governments of West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Assam and Ministry of Development of Northeast States (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Sikkim) organized an Indo-Japan Webinar on “Investment Opportunities in Eastern & Northeastern States of India” on July 22, 2020 to provide information on opportunities and facilitate Japanese companies interested to set up/expand operations in Eastern & Northeastern States of India.

The opening remarks was made by Ms. Mona Khandar, Minister (Economic & Commerce), Embassy of India in Tokyo underlining the investment opportunities in the Eastern & Northeastern States of India which has a vast untapped natural resources and hold a strategic position connecting India to South Asia and South East Asia. She also emphasized the series of reforms announced in Atma Nirbhar Bharat stimulus package by the Government of India post COVID-19 as well as the taxation reforms undertaken by the government to promote Make in India initiative and India’s infra pipeline policy for the next 5 years which will cover more than 6,500 projects.

Mr Yasuyuki Murahashi, Chief Director General, JETRO, India made a presentation about the Eastern & Northeastern States of India highlighting the investment environment of the region and representatives from the States of West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Assam, Sikkim and Ministry of Development of Northeast States (covering states of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur & Sikkim) gave presentations on the investment opportunities as well as the series of reforms for ease of doing business undertaken by their respective states. Mr Raghuram M. K., General Manager, Kyocera CTC Precision Tools Pvt Ltd and Mr. CV Sastry, Managing Director, Jamshedpur Continuous Annealing & Processing Co Pvt Ltd. also shared their company’s Make in India experience in the state of Jharkhand. Ms Akriti Bajaj, Manager, Invest India made presentation about Invest India and how they could assist Japanese companies planning to make investment in India.

In the end of the webinar, a Networking and B2B session was held during which Japanese companies and Indian companies introduced themselves briefly and was given the option to interact among themselves through chat box. The webinar was attended by around 100 participants from Japan and India.

Webinar recording can be seen at Embassy official Youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCoZMULgkXk

Read full handbook "Great Places of Manufacturing in India" by Invest India at https://static.investindia.gov.in/s3fs-public/2020-06/Invest%20India%20Full%20Report_Lighter10%20June.pdf

Mizoram state of India
http://zorammegafod.com/
Indo – Japan Webinar on Steel sector: Challenges & Emerging Opportunities

On July 29, 2020, Embassy of India in Tokyo in association with JETRO, Japan-India Business Co-operation Committee (JIBCC), Invest India, State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, organized an Indo-Japan Webinar on Steel sector to provide information on opportunities and facilitate Japanese companies interested to set up/expand operations in India. The opening remarks were made by Ms. Mona Khandar, Minister (Economic & Commerce), Embassy of India in Tokyo underlining the investment opportunities in the Steel sector in India. She also emphasized the series of reforms announced in Atma Nirbhar Bharat stimulus package by the Government of India post COVID-19 as well as the taxation reforms undertaken by the government to promote Make in India initiative and India’s improvement of business environment for doing business in India.

Mr. Osamu Onodera, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan made a presentation about Post Covid 19 Challenges for Steel sector highlighting bilateral issues in Steel sector discussed during the visit of Minister of METI to India last year and analysis of policy of Japanese companies toward India in COVID-19 and also important points which Japanese side is expecting to steel sector in India.

State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand gave presentations on the investment opportunities as well as the series of reforms for ease of doing business undertaken by their respective states. Mr. Hideki Ogawa, Executive Counselor, Nippon Steel Corporation and Mr. Ryooji Hayashi, Mahindra Sanyo Special Steel Pvt. Ltd. have made presentations about “Make in India” experience in Steel sector. Mr. Somesh Biswas, Chief Strategy, corporate Strategy & Planning, Tata Steel also shared their presentation about Steel sector in India. Ms. Seerat Kohli, Invest India made presentation about Invest India and how they could assist Japanese companies planning to make investment in India.

In the end of the webinar, a Networking and B2B session was held during which Japanese companies and Indian companies introduced themselves briefly and was given the option to interact among themselves through chat box. The webinar was attended by around 120 participants from Japan and India.

Webinar recording can be seen at Embassy official YouTube channel : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMlEpJyCzI4
On 29th July 2020, an interactive web session was organized by Embassy of India in Tokyo in association with Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI) Japan for presenting the ongoing research activities.

Objectives of the seminar was to present an overview of the ongoing research activities and identify the subjects of mutual interest for future studies. To Enhance knowledge of issues related to spatial modeling, fuel cell trains, RAMS and use of big data & IoT in railway maintenance.

Opening remarks were made by Ambassador H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma that the technology, research and innovation have become the key focal points in present times and the researchers will find such sessions useful as it will help them start conversation on new areas. The session will further lay the foundation for possible technical and financial collaboration to further strengthen our relationship through academic exchange.

On the occasion, Shri Sushan Kumar Mishra, Secretary, Railway Board, Ministry of Railways highlighted the importance of learning and sharing experience to enable technological advancement and capacity augmentation of railways. Shri Achal Khare, MD/NHSRCL mentioned the need of developing technical capabilities and cost effective solutions so as to contribute to railways and self reliant nation. Dr. Atsushi Furukawa, Exe Director, RTRI informed regarding new R&D projects started in view of the ongoing pandemic to make the railways more resilient. Mr. Yoshihiro Kumamoto, Deputy DG, JR-East highlighted the importance of networking with railway businesses as HSR is an integrated system developed by combined effort of researchers, manufacturers, universities, industries and several organizations.

From RTRI, presentations were made by Dr. Masayuki Koda, Director, Head of Structures Technology Division, Mr. Takashi Yoneyama, Senior Researcher, Hydrogen and Sustainable Energy, Vehicle Control Technology Division, Mr. Itaru Matsumura, Assistant Senior Researcher, Power Supply Technology Division, Mr. Mizuki Tsunemoto, Senior Researcher, Power Supply Technology Division on topics viz. Fuel Cell based trains, Reinforced Railroads, Contact-less Overhead Line Geometry Measurement, Hybrid Sensing Methods, Development of Shinkansen Simple Catenary System for operation over 300 km/h. MoR students in Japanese Universities briefly presented research work on 19 subjects related to traction, energy efficiency, material technology, analytical techniques.

Summing up the session, way forward and announcement regarding next sessions were presented by Ravindra Verma, Counsellor Railway Adviser, Embassy of India Tokyo.
We are traversing through a very difficult time which comes once in a century. It tests us, it destructs us, and it constructs us but only after a painful devastation of our life and livelihood. One thing remains intact which is human instinct to survive with our belief system. Traditional wisdom has always helped us to pass through such a testing time. I feel this is how we have come so far from the time of invention of wheel.

The wheel tells us about the system of cycle and its stable axis. The axis controls the movement of the wheel to give a desirable pace and momentum. Similarly, human body lives in a very delicate harmony. The COVID 19 pandemic has impacted our economies and societies around the world. Other impacts of this pandemic are wider pessimism and isolation at the level of individuals. While our governments are trying their best to mitigate impacts of COVID 19 pandemic, many of us find ourselves in a time of uncertainty, with little information or too much information with no real way to extract its truthfulness.

And here comes in Yoga, physical benefit and psychological fitness are dovetailed in practice of yoga. Yoga exercises helps a person manage stress, which is known to have devastating effects on the body and mind. Stress can reveal itself in many ways, including back or neck pain, sleeping problems, headaches, drug abuse, and an inability to concentrate and The purpose of yoga is to build strength, immunity, awareness, and harmony in both the mind and body, increased flexibility, muscle strength and tone, improved respiration, energy and vitality, maintaining a balanced metabolism, weight control, cardio and circulatory health, improved athletic performance and protection from injury. Empirical evidences show that people who practice Yoga experience less anxiety, less depression, and fewer symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

We get inner strength for self-discipline and self regulation. These two are ‘mantra’ for positive directions and feelings towards life. The flow of positive energy is essential to bring in empathy for human kind and also for the nature. With reducing the friction between our body and mind, Yoga produces beautiful harmony. It reveals Mother Nature to us and we become more natural and true to our own emotions. By providing solutions to our physical and mental illnesses, Yoga also contributes to growth, development and peace throughout the world.

Yoga combined with Ayurveda eradicates the root cause of the suffering or disease. Yoga and Ayurveda go beyond Asana (bodily postures) and herbs & plants, respectively. Both are like Deep Ocean encompassing the all secrets of inner and outer life. Both together, if incorporated properly, can make this world towards the ultimate goal of Satyam (Truthfulness), Shivam (Divinity) and Sundaram (Beauty). Yoga has continued to spread and mainstreaming in Japan’s long tradition of believing in holistic well-being, which is very much the essence of Yoga too. Our Embassy in Tokyo is committed to continue spreading message of Yoga through virtual training sessions and talks by our Yoga Teacher. Increasing number of students registered with the Embassy is proving that our virtual Yoga courses run by Vivekananda Indian Cultural Center are getting popularity.

In order to keep everyone safe and healthy, this year we had chosen to celebrate the International Day of Yoga either in a restricted way or by the virtual means but its universal message was helping us within even our closed spaces to overcome the current challenge. It is happy to note that various yoga institutions in Japan celebrated 6th edition of International Yoga Day virtually.

On 27th July 2020, Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture at Embassy’s Vivekananda Cultural Centre, conducted an online yoga workshop.

The topic was on Chidakash, mantra meditation and yogic practices for glowing and wrinkle-free skin. The session had close to 100 online participants.
मूकि त्सुजज़ / Yuki Tsuji (Mr.)
हिंदी छात्र (बैच 2019-20) केंद्रीय हिंदी संस्थान, अगरा /
HINDI STUDENT (BATCH 2019-20) CENTRAL HINDI Institute Agra

मैं निचले साल के 5 अगस्त से इस साल के 4 अप्रैल तक भारत सरकार की छात्रवृत्ति के द्वारा केंद्रीय हिंदी संस्थान अगरा में रहते हुए हिंदी सीख रहा था।

I was learning hindi by a scholarship from the Government of India, from 5th August of last year to till 4th April of this year, residing at Central Hindi Institute Agra.

इसके दौरान पूरे आठ महीनों में केवल हिंदी की पढ़ाई में नहीं करता रहता था, गहरी पढ़ाई के अलावा स्थानीय परिष्कारण, भारत के तरह-तरह धर्म के समारोह मनाने के मौके, छोटी यात्रा करने के मौके, सब विद्यार्थियों की प्रत्येक कहानी, गाना, नृत्य करना तथा दिखाने की संस्कृतिक योजना आदि बातें भी थीं यानी, इस योजना में हम केवल हिंदी ही नहीं पढ़ते थे, बल्कि भारत को अच्छी तरह से समझने का अवसर भी हमें मिलता था।

During this, I did not only study Hindi for the entire eight months, apart from deep studies, local cruises, opportunities to celebrate religious ceremonies of India, opportunities of short trips, There were other things like watching and showing all the clothes, songs, dances and cultural events of all the students. In this scheme, we did not only read Hindi, but also we had the opportunity to understand India well.

सत्र के दिन में कक्षाएँ प्रातः: दस बजे से शुरू होती थीं, और दोपहर के समय एक बजे तक चार कक्षाएँ लेकर दो बजे तक योजना का अवकाश होता था, हम होस्टल में खाना खाते फिर पांचवीं कक्षा के बाद भारतीय कला की कक्षाएँ भी होती थीं। शाम को में मित्रों के साथ आयोग का बाजार या सुपर मार्केट जाता था।

On session day, classes started from ten in the morning, and Taking four classes till 1.15pm in the afternoon, there was a lunch break till two o'clock. We used to eat food in hostels and then there were Indian art classes after fifth grade. In the evening I used to go to a nearby bazaar or super market with friends.

प्रत्येक परीक्षाओं के बाद कभी-कभी में दिल्ली या गुरुग्राम आदि दूसरी जगह घूमने जाता था, संस्थान के स्थानीय परिष्कारण से में ऋषिकेश और हरिद्वार घूमने गया, वहाँ मैंने गंगा के तट के घाट पर स्नान किया, इसके अलावा आश्रम का जीवन, योग, सब नए अनुभव बहुत अच्छे लगे।

After every exam, sometimes I used to go to Delhi or Gurugram, etc. From the local cruises of the institute, I traveled to Rishikesh and Haridwar, where I took a bath on the banks of the Ganga. Apart from this, the life of the ashram, yoga, all new experiences was very good.

एक बार संस्थान के शिक्षक के साथ साहित्यिक आयोजन में भाग लेने के लिए में अरुणाचल प्रदेश भी जा सकता। सत्र की छुट्टियों में मैंने मित्रों के साथ मुंबई और गोवा में यात्रा की।

Once I was also able to go to Arunachal Pradesh to participate in a literary event with the teacher of the institute. During the winter holidays I traveled to Mumbai and Goa with friends.

इस साल कोरोना वायरस का संकट पूरी दुनिया में फैल गया, और इसकी वजह से संस्थान में वारिक परीक्षाओं नहीं थीं। निर्धारित सत्र को पूरे सवार कर पाया, मुझे शोधा दुख है, फिर भी इस छात्रवृत्ति और आयोजन से मैंने भारत में बहुत अच्छे अनुभव लिए।

This year the corona virus crisis spread all over the world, and because of this the institute did not have annual examinations, could not complete the scheduled session, I am a little sad, yet I have had very good experiences from this scholarship and organization in India.

इस योजना से जुड़े सभी लोगों के प्रति में कृतज्ञ हूँ, और सब के प्रति हार्दिक आभार एवं धन्यवाद व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ।

I am grateful to all those involved in this scheme, and I would like to express my Hearty gratitude to all.

जय हिंद!! Jai Hind!!