Vaccine against COVID19 – India’s contribution to global efforts

As on June 2020, globally >140 candidate vaccines against COVID19 are under various stages of development. Indian institutions have also engaged in R&D for the development of COVID19 vaccines in India. With the primary scientific inputs coming from institutions like Pune-based ICMR institution National Institute of Virology (NIV) & Hyderabad-based CSIR institution Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), 06 Indian companies are working on a vaccine for COVID19.

On 29th June 2020, Bharat Biotech, Hyderabad-based Biotechnology pharma major, announced that it’s vaccine candidate for COVID-19 (COVAXIN*) [India’s First indigenous COVID19 Vaccine candidate] developed indigenously at its facility located at Genome Valley Hyderabad, India has successfully completed the preclinical phase and has received permission from the Drug Controller General of India (DGCI) - Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) approval to initiate Phase I/II human clinical trials in India. The Bharat Biotech’s COVAXIN uses the virus isolated from an Indian patient by the National Institute of Virology to develop the inactivated virus vaccine. More details at https://www.bharatbiotech.com/images/press/Indias-1st-COVID-19-Vaccine-COVAXIN-Developed-by-Bharat-Biotech-gets-DCGI-approval-for-Phase-I-and-II-Human-Clinical-Trials.pdf

On 3rd July 2020, Zydus Cadilla, an Indian pharmaceutical major, announced that its plasmid DNA vaccine candidate for COVID-19 (ZyCoV-D) developed indigenously at its Vaccine Technology Centre in Ahmedabad, India has successfully completed the preclinical phase and has received permission from the DGCI - CDSCO to initiate Phase I/II human clinical trials in India. More details at https://zyduscadila.com/public/pdf/pressrelease/Zydus_vaccine_for_COVID-19_ZyCoV-D_successfully_completes_preclinical_development_and_receives_permission_to_initiate_human_clinical_trials.pdf.

Alongwith the two Indian vaccines, COVAXIN and ZyCov-D, the world over, 11 out of 140 vaccine candidates have entered the human trials.

Recently, India’s DBT’s (http://dbtindia.gov.in/) Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), New Delhi has recommended funding support for development of DNA vaccine candidate for COVID-19 under the National Biopharma Mission as part of its COVID Research Consortium Initiative. National Biopharma Mission is an Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission of DBT for accelerating discovery research to early development for Biopharmaceuticals approved by the Cabinet for a total cost US$ 250 million and 50% co-funded by the World Bank is being implemented at BIRAC. It is dedicated to deliver affordable products to the nation with an aim to improve the health standards of India’s population. Vaccines, medical devices and diagnostics and biotherapeutics are few of its most important domains, besides, strengthening the clinical trial capacity and building technology transfer capabilities in the country.
COVID-19 & India's Efforts on Science and Technology (S&T) Front


- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have developed a new low-cost and low-tech required test for SARS-CoV-2 testing. This test is known as reverse transcription nested PCR (RT-nPCR) test. [https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1630875](https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1630875)


- India's IIT Hyderabad with India's BARC developed a low-cost, portable AI-powered & Nucleotide-based COVID19 Testing Kit which give results in ~20 min. Kit Identifies unique sequence of conserved region of COVID19 genome while AI tools capture extensive data & reduce detection errors.

On 29th June 2020, Minister of Steel & Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated “Continuous Galvanized Rebar” Production Facility set up by Madhav Alloys in Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab. The facility is first in Asia and will support the much awaited need of supplying galvanized rebar to the construction industry. The CGR technology gives superior corrosion protection to Rebars (steel bars) and thus increase lifespan of infrastructure & minimize maintenance costs.
With India’s vision of becoming a US$ 5 trillion economy by 2024-25, Union Cabinet under approved setting up of an “Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) and Project Development Cells (PDCs) in Ministries/Departments of Government of India for attracting investments in India” and put in place an investment friendly ecosystem that strongly supports the domestic investor as well as FDI.

**Objectives of EGoS:**
- To bring synergies and ensure timely clearances from different departments and Ministries.
- To attract increased investments into India and provide investment support and facilitation to global investors.
- To facilitate investments of top investors in a targeted manner and to usher policy stability & consistency in the overall investment environment.
- To evaluate investments put forward by the departments on the basis of their (i) project creation (ii) actual investments that come. Further, these departments would be given targets for completion of various stages by the Empowered Group.

**Objectives of PDCs:**
- To create projects with all approvals, land available for allocation and with the complete Detailed Project Reports for adoption/investment by investors.
- To identify issues that need to be resolved in order to attract and finalise the investments and put forth these before the Empowered Group.


### Private sector participation in Space activities approved

On 24th June 2020, Union Cabinet approved private sector participation in the entire range of space activities. The approved reforms will enhance the socio-economic use of space assets and activities, including through improved access to space assets, data and facilities. Under the reforms a newly created Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) will provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure. It will also hand-hold, promote and guide the private industries in space activities through encouraging policies and a friendly regulatory environment.

The Public Sector Enterprise ‘New Space India Limited (NSIL)’ will endeavour to re-orient space activities from a ‘supply driven’ model to a ‘demand driven’ model, thereby ensuring optimum utilization of our space assets.

These reforms will allow ISRO to focus more on R&D activities, new technologies, exploration missions and human spaceflight programme. Some of the planetary exploration missions will also be opened up to private sector through an ‘announcement of opportunity’ mechanism.

India is among a handful of countries with advanced capabilities in the space sector. With these reforms, the sector will receive new energy and dynamism, to help the country leapfrog to the next stages of space activities. This will not only result in an accelerated growth of this sector but will enable Indian Industry to be an important player in global space economy.

### Indian Gas Exchange, first nationwide online delivery-based gas trading platform, launched

On 15 June 2020, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX; [https://www.igxindia.com/](https://www.igxindia.com/)), first nationwide online delivery-based delivery-based trading platform for delivery of natural Gas. Incorporated as a wholly owned subsidiary of the IEX - India’s energy market platform, IGX will enable market participants to trade in standardised gas contracts. The platform is fully automated with web-based interface to provide seamless trading experience to the customers.

IGX will play an instrumental role in transforming India’s gas markets, positioning India as a sustainable economy and enhancing industry’s competitiveness. The competitive price discovery will facilitate availability of gas at lower prices for cross-spectrum of industries across India, stimulate demand and facilitate greater investments in domestic gas exploration.
India launched first-ever commercial coal auctions in country

On 18\textsuperscript{th} June 2020, India launched first-ever commercial coal auctions in country. The commercial coal mining auctions are completely different from earlier restricted sectors, use and price. Now there are no such restrictions at all. The proposed auctions have terms and conditions which are very liberal allowing new companies to participate in the bidding process, reduced upfront amount, adjustment of upfront amount against royalty, liberal efficiency parameters to encourage flexibility to operationalize the coal mines, transparent bidding process, 100\% FDI through automatic route allowed and reasonable financial terms and revenue sharing model based on National Coal Index. The successful bidders also will have flexibility in coal production unlike past and have provision for incentives for early production and coal gasification.

The coal mines auction process will lay strong foundation for energy security in the country by producing additional coal providing large scale employment and huge opportunities for investment in coal sector. These efforts will supplement the 1 billion tonne coal production likely from Coal India in FY 23-24 and meet full requirement of domestic thermal coal.

More Recent initiatives of Coal Ministry to improve efficiency and promote ease of doing business can be accessed at https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1629073

India joins Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) as a founding member to support the responsible and human-centric development and use of AI

On 15 June 2020, India joined the league of leading economies including USA, UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore to launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI or Gee-Pay). GPAI is an international and multi-stakeholder initiative to guide the responsible development and use of AI, grounded in human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation, and economic growth. This is also a first initiative of its type for evolving better understanding of the challenges and opportunities around AI using the experience and diversity of participating countries. In order to achieve this goal, the initiative will look to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.

In collaboration with partners and international organizations, GPAI will bring together leading experts from industry, civil society, governments, & academia to collaborate to promote responsible evolution of AI and will also evolve methodologies to show how AI can be leveraged to better respond to the present global crisis around COVID-19.

India has recently launched National AI Strategy and National AI Portal and have also started leveraging AI across various sectors such as education, agriculture, healthcare, e-commerce, finance, telecommunications, etc. with inclusion and empowerment of human being approach by supplementing growth and development. By joining GPAI as a founding member, India will actively participate in the global development of AI, leveraging upon its experience around use of digital technologies for inclusive growth.

Pan-India Real Time Market in electricity launched

On 3\textsuperscript{rd} June 2020, Ministry of Power launched a pan-India Real Time Market in electricity. Launched placed Indian electricity market amongst a league of few electricity markets in the world, which have real time market.

Real time market is an organized market platform to enable the buyers and sellers pan-India to meet their energy requirement closer to real time of operation. Introduction of real time market will bring required flexibility in the market to provide real time balance while ensuring optimal utilization of the available surplus capacity in the system. It will also help manage diversity in the demand pattern in the country with an organized market at national level.

It is expected that shorter bidding time, faster scheduling, and defined processes (e.g. gate closure) are expected to enable the participants to access resources throughout the all India grid, promoting competition. It would lead to better portfolio management by the utilities with efficient power procurement planning, scheduling, despatch, and imbalance handling.

Navy Inducts Indigenously Developed Torpedo Decoy System

On 26th June 2020, Anti-Submarine Warfare capability of the Indian Navy received a major boost with the conclusion of a contract for Advanced Torpedo Decoy System "Maareech" capable of being fired from all frontline warships.

Design & Development of this anti-torpedo decoy system has been undertaken indigenously DRDO labs (NSTL and NPOL). Bharat Electronics Limited, a Defence PSU, would undertake the production of this decoy system. The prototype of this system installed onboard a nominated naval platform had successfully completed all user evaluation trials and demonstrated the features as per the Naval Staff Qualification Requirements.

This induction not only stands testimony to the joint resolve of the Indian Navy and DRDO towards indigenous development of Defence technology, but has also given a major fillip to the Government’s ‘Make in India’ initiative and the country’s resolve to become ‘Self-reliant' in niche technology.

IAF Inducts Indigenous Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT)

June 2020 : The Indian Air Force has designed, developed and inducted an ARPIT. This pod will be utilised for evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude area, isolated and remote places. This indigenously designed lightweight isolation system is made from aviation certified indigenous material and designed based on guidelines issued by India’s Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHPW) & National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) and Centre for Disease Control (CDC), USA and has been developed at 1% cost compared to the imported systems.

For more details visit the link https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1630268

Indian Railways creates a new world benchmark by commissioning 1st high rise Over Head Equipment (OHE), which has contact wire height of 7.57 meter and successfully run double stack containers in electrified territory on Western Railway. This tremendous achievement is a first of its kind in the entire world and will also boost the ambitious mission of Green India as a latest green initiative over Indian Railways. With this remarkable development, Indian Railways has proudly become the first Railway to run Double Stack Container train with high reach pantograph in high rise OHE territory, the Operations of which successfully commenced on 10th June, 2020 from Palanpur & Botad stations in Gujarat.

India’s MoD launches online portal for issue of NOC for power, oil and gas exploration projects

On 29th June 2020, Ministry of Defence (MoD), with aim to establish an effective, speedy and transparent mechanism as well as to ensure ease of business, launched a new online application portal (https://ncog.gov.in/modnoc/home.html) for getting MoD Security Clearance / No Objection Certificate (NOC) for undertaking power projects and Research Survey Exploration Exploitation (RSEE) activities in the Indian Territorial Waters (TW) and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

MoD accords security clearances to various private/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)/Government organisations for power/wind/solar projects in areas nearby defence installations and also RSEE activities in the Indian TW and EEZ for applications received through different Ministries like Ministry of New and renewable Energy (MNRE), Ministry of Power, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Ministry of Shipping, Director General of Hydrocarbons, etc.

The newly launched MoD web portal will facilitate the applicants in submitting their proposals online as well as will establish an effective, speedy and transparent mechanism to process these proposals. The Ministry has earlier launched a similar portal for grant of NOC for aerial survey.
Union Cabinet approves establishment of Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) as Subordinate Office under Ministry of AYUSH

On 3rd June 2020, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval to re-establish Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H; https://pcimh.gov.in/) as Subordinate Office under Ministry of AYUSH by merging into it Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM) and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL)- the two central laboratories established at Ghaziabad since 1975.

Presently, Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) is an autonomous body under the aegis of Ministry of AYUSH established since 2010. The merger is aimed at optimizing the use of infrastructural facilities, technical manpower and financial resources of the three organizations for enhancing the standardization outcomes of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs towards their effective regulation and quality control. More details at https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1629040

PCIM&H has developed Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeia and can be accessed at https://pcimh.gov.in/show_content.php?lang=1&level=0&ls_id=3&lid=3

Immunity booster Herbal Tea

National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) at SAS Nagar, Mohali has developed Immunity booster Herbal tea aimed at modulating immune response in body so that it may be used as a preventive remedy against covid-19 viral infection.

This Herbal Tea is a combination of 6 locally available herbs like Aswagandha, Giloy, Mulethi, Tulsi and Green Tea that are mixed in carefully selected proportion keeping in mind their action as immunity enhancer, sensory appeal, ease of preparation and acceptable palatability. The selection of Herbs was based on RASAYANA (means Rejuvenation) concept described in Ayurveda. These Herbs have long been used in various Ayurvedic formulations and are known for their immunomodulatory effects. These Herbs act at the cellular immunity level and boost the immune response generated by our body to fight viral/bacterial diseases. This tea can be taken 3 times a day. It is also safe for children and aged persons. It can help the body to fight seasonal flu problems also.
On 4 June 2020, India pledged 15 Million US Dollars to Gavi, the international vaccine alliance.

India stands in solidarity with the World in these challenging times. India’s civilization teaches to see the world as one family and that during this pandemic it had tried to live up to this teaching. India did it so by sharing the country’s available stocks of medicines with over 120 countries, by forging a common response strategy in its immediate neighborhood and by providing specific support to countries that sought it, while also protecting India’s own vast population.

India has a vast population and limited health facilities and that it understands the importance of immunization. Mission Indradhanush, aims to ensure full vaccination of the country’s children and pregnant women, including those in the remote parts of the vast nation. In order to expand protection, India has added six new vaccines to its National Immunization Programme. India had digitized its entire vaccine supply line and developed an electronic vaccine intelligence network to monitor the integrity of its cold chain. These innovations are ensuring the availability of safe and potent vaccines in the right quantities at the right time till the last mile. India is also the World’s foremost producer of vaccines and that it is fortunate to contribute to the immunization of about 60 percent of the World’s children.

Gavi is not just a global alliance but also a symbol of global solidarity and a reminder that by helping others we can also help ourselves. India recognizes and values the work of GAVI, that is why it became a donor to GAVI while still being eligible for GAVI support. India’s support to GAVI is not only financial but that India’s huge demand also brings down the Global price of vaccines for all, saving almost 400 Million Dollars for GAVI over the past five years.

India stands in solidarity with the world along with its proven capacity to produce quality medicines and vaccines at low cost, its own domestic experience in rapidly expanding immunization and its considerable scientific research talent. India not only has the capacity to contribute to the global health efforts, but also has the will to do so in a spirit of sharing and caring.

CeNS develops low-cost catalyst for hydrogen generation from water

The Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), have researched on a low cost and efficient way to generate hydrogen from water using Molybdenum dioxide (MoO$_2$) as a catalyst. The scientists have shown that MoO$_2$ nanomaterials annealed in hydrogen atmosphere can act as efficient catalysts to reduce the energy input to bring about water splitting with great efficiency. Electrolytic splitting of water is a promising method to generate hydrogen but requires energy input that can be brought down in the presence of a catalyst.

Hydrogen is considered as the future of clean and sustainable energy as it can be generated from water and produces water on energy generation without any carbon footprint. Hydrogen can be directly used as a fuel similar to natural gas or as input for fuel cells to generate electricity. It is the future energy for a clean environment and an alternative to fossil fuels, underlining the necessity of low-cost catalysts for its production.

JICA India has launched the “SDGs Business Co-Creation Lab - Tsunagaru Lab” as a place to connect Japanese companies that have the following needs with Social Enterprises in India. The platform will provide business matching support and information on related events for Indian social enterprises and for Japanese companies that are implementing or considering doing business in India.

- Looking for promising start-ups with unique technology, products and services.
- Looking for a local partner to deliver goods and services to the last one mile in India.
- Looking for local partners to collect data and conduct research for R&D and Marketing purposes.
- Looking for reliable local partner with a proven track record in relation to CSR activities in India.
- Looking for information on the activities of social enterprises in India and good cases of new initiatives.

For details visit the link [https://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/office/others/tsunagaru.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/office/others/tsunagaru.html)

In January 2020, to address the growing need to upskill students to create a future-ready workforce, Panasonic India - a diversified technology company, today announced the launch of its two education based solutions: “CareerEx” and “XcellIT”. CareerEx has been designed to address the needs of college and university students to advance their skillset with emerging technologies such as Data Science, Cloud Computing, Machine Learning/AI and Internet of Things to name a few. XcellIT on the other hand is designed for school students primarily residing in Tier II & III cities, to ready them for all competitive exams.


Indian Finance Minister, Sitharaman announced on 15th May a new economic policy which earmarked 100 billion rupee (or 140 billion yen) to agriculture and food-related emerging businesses, stressing that “We want to develop a system which would enable us to provide organic vegetables or nutritious agricultural products”. In India, the domestic distribution of agricultural products has been hindered due to COVID-19. The government is now focusing on the development of new supply chain and locally-branded foods.

In India, more than 200 million people, almost a half of India’s employed workforce, are engaged in agriculture. Many of the farmers are traditional small-scale farmers, and according to the World Organic Farming Association, an industrial organization, there are only 830,000 organic farmers in India. According to a report by a private institution, the size of India’s organic vegetable market is estimated to be around 40 billion rupee.

Hasora, a distributer and seller of organic vegetables, operating in Gurgaon since last 4 years (founders are Asuka and Mai Hatta), offers various delivery package services and have became able to cooperate with some of very reliable farmers who grew their crops organically. Hasora is now considering adopting traceability technology which would enhance safety of their vegetables.

More details at [https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXMZ059899640S0A600C2FFJ000/?n_cid=SNSTW001](https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXMZ059899640S0A600C2FFJ000/?n_cid=SNSTW001)
India in Japan

On 5th June, HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma gave keynote address at A K Mylsamy & Associates LLP & IJCCI (Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry) webinar "India: Investment opportunity due to Global Business Realignment" supported by UNIDO ITPO #Tokyo & invest India. IJCCI is an all-India bilateral Chamber for strengthening Japan-India relations in educational, cultural and economic fields. In case u missed, watch full webinar https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_RfGCxJFU

On 4th June 2020, DCM Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava participated in a Webinar being organized by Zinnov, an Management Consulting firm, to discuss what makes India a preferred investment destination (Technology & Manufacturing hub) in a Post-Covid World. DCM highlighted that "Healthcare, HeathTech, Agriculture, AgroTech, and Digital are sectors we are going to see a lot of opportunities for Japan and India to collaborate and create valuable solutions across these key sectors."

MP-IDSA hosted a discussion with SDF officers NIDS, Tokyo. DG Amb Sujan Chinoy delivered inaugural remarks & vibrant exchange of ideas on Pandemic & Security Environment in Indo Pacific, new vistas of cooperation in India Japan ties including security situation in South Asia were discussed.

Social Innovation Hackathon 2020

Themes of the Hackathon

Road Map

Eligibility Criteria

- B.Tech/MCA/M.Tech/Phd students
- Teams of minimum 2 and maximum 6 students.

Process for Hackathon

- Visit the website by scanning the QR code
- Fill out the registration form

**Selected students will get chance in Winter/Summer Internship with scholarship in following organizations:

- Indo-Japan Laboratory (Japan), IIT Roorkee, IIT Hyderabad, NIT Nagpur, NIT Durgapur
- SEED Grant

Coordinators

- Dr. Sujay Saha, Department of CES, NIT Durgapur
- Dr. Manojit Saha, Department of CES, NIT Durgapur
- Prof. Koito Katsurao, IIT Hyderabad
- Dr. Rani Chatterjee, RIKAI India
- Prof. Rajib Shaw, Indo-Japan Laboratory, Keio University, Japan
- Prof. Malasa Mukherjee, IT R
- Prof. Sambuddha Dutta, NIT Nagpur

Vande Bharat Mission - Embassy of India, Tokyo - 3rd & 4th Repatriation Flight on 21 & 22 June

On 1st June, 21st & 22nd June 2020, under the Government of India's Vande Bharat Mission, 2nd (Narita to Delhi), 3rd (Narita to Mumbai to Bengaluru to Trivandrum) and 4th (Narita to Delhi to Chennai) repatriation flights took stranded Indian nationals in Japan to India. 3rd & 4th flights were first to South India under the Vande Bharat Mission. Under the guidance of Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, Embassy made the flights 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 flight as well as once reaching India, for safety of own as well as of others from COVID19. Many passengers too conveyed their happiness to go back home as well as expressed gratitude and praise about the way Embassy of India Tokyo conducted the whole exercise.
India was elected as the non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in the elections held on 17 June 2020. India was elected with overwhelming support, garnering 184 votes out of 192 to become a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term 2021 - 2022. India was elected unopposed, as it was the sole candidate for the Asia-Pacific seat. The strong support by the entire UN membership for India’s election demonstrates the goodwill that India enjoys in the UN and the confidence that the international community has reposed in India's capability to contribute to the work of the Council. India two-year term will begin on the 1st of January 2021. This will be the eighth time that India will be serving on the Security Council, bringing with it rich experience and legacy. India look forward to being a voice for all those who are not represented in the council. As a founding member of the United Nations, India is fully committed to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter. India work in the Security Council will be guided by dynamic priorities and approaches.

Priorities are:
- Seeking responsible and inclusive solutions;
- Concrete and result-oriented action at the Security Council for an effective response to international terrorism;
- Reformed Multilateralism to reflect contemporary realities;
- A comprehensive approach to peace and security, guided by dialogue, mutual respect, commitment to international law, for which we also hope to help streamline UN Peacekeeping; and
- Technology with a human touch

Approaches guided by:
- Sammaan - Respect,
- Samwad - Dialogue,
- Sahyog - Cooperation, and
- Shanti - Peace, to create conditions for universal
- Samriddhi - Prosperity

Through these priorities and approach, India seek to move towards a new orientation for a reformed multilateral system, which can be encapsulated as 'New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System', - also known as NORMS. It is clear that the United Nations and indeed multilateralism itself needs to change to reflect contemporary realities and remain effective and credible. As a rule-abiding democracy and a positive contributor to the security of global commons, India will:
- Work constructively with partners to overcome old and new fault lines, and offer innovative and inclusive solutions;
- Help developing countries obtain the necessary support to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Help focus more on development;
- Support greater involvement of women and youth in shaping a new paradigm; and finally,
- Enhance transparency, credibility, representation and finally effectiveness of the Council, thereby promoting its institutional reform.

As World look forward to celebrating the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, India's presence in the Security Council will help bring to the world our ethos that the "world is one family", Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

Official Launch of e-VidyaBharti and e-ArogyaBharti Project by External Affairs Minister (October 09, 2019)

External Affairs Minister of India Dr S. Jaishankar formally launched the e-VidyaBharti(Tele-education) and e-ArogyaBharti(Tele-medicine) Project (e-VBAB) on 7th October 2019. Tele-education portal www.iLearn.gov.in, which provides access for African students to over 500 courses in various disciplines including engineering and technology, education, mathematics and sciences, education, humanities and arts and teacher training. The portal would also offer 15000 scholarships to Africans to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate courses from premier public and private Universities of India.

e-VBAB project offers tele-medicine and continuing medical education for African doctors, paramedics and patients. These services will be provided by the Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Center for Development of Advanced Computing and other stakeholders.

The e-VBAB Network Project will be completely funded by the Government of India for its entire duration and will be open for participation to all our partner countries in Africa. The Project is an important milestone in our development partnership with Africa and seeks to equip African youth to meet the challenges of the 21st century knowledge economy.

The Embassy of India, Tokyo in collaboration with JETRO and Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JCCI; www.jcci.or.jp) organized a Webinar on “Investment Opportunities in the State of Southern India” on June 3, 2020 to provide information on opportunities and facilitate Japanese companies interested to set up/expand operations in the States of Southern India. During the webinar, opening remarks was made by H. E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan. He highlighted the special strategic and global partnership between India and Japan and the Government of India’s initiatives to promote economic growth and investor’s confidence in the country. He has also given emphasis to the growing links between prefectures in Japan and States in Southern India which has benefited in terms of economic and cultural exchanges to both sides.

Ms. Sumita Dawra, Joint Secretary, DPIIT made presentation on Make in India initiative of the Government of India followed by presentation on Foreign Direct Investment Facilitation by Ms. Akriti Bajaj, Japan Desk Lead of Invest India. Mr. Yukihiko Okuno, Senior Investment Advisor, JETRO, Chennai spoke on the investment environment in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh and Mr. Takashi Suzuki, Director-General, JETRO Bangalore spoke about Telangana and Karnataka as the leading state of Indian innovation. Mr. Masahiro Yano, Chief Marketing Officer, Sojitz Motherson Industrial Park and Mr. Masahiro Yamaguchi, Managing Director & CEO, Toray Industries shared their Make in India experience.

Representatives from the State of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka in their presentations highlighted the initiatives undertaken by their respective State Governments for ease of doing business and opportunities for Japanese companies planning to invest in India.

Ms. Mona Khandhar, Minister (Economic & Commerce), Embassy of India made closing remarks highlighting the initiatives of the Government of India post COVID-19 and the opportunities for Japanese investors. The webinar was attended by around 200 participants from Japan and India.

Virtual pitch session “NASSCOM Japan VC Connect-2” held on June 12, 2020 which saw e-pitching by 7 startups & 50+ attendees from Japanese business community. Shri Darpan Jain, JS, MoC delivered opening remarks & VC firm Rebright Partner shared its experience with Indian startup ecosystem.
The Embassy of India, Tokyo in collaboration with Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade), Invest India, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry (METI), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JCCI), Japan Textile Products Quality and Technology Center (QTEC) and Japan Textiles Machinery Association organized an Indo-Japan Webinar on Textile Sector: Challenges & Emerging Opportunities on June 10, 2020 to provide information on post-Covid 19 investment opportunities in Textile sector in India. During the webinar, opening remarks was made by H. E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan highlighting the strength of Indian Textile industry across the entire value chain from fiber, yarn, fabric to apparel. He has also given emphasis on Technical textile which is a very promising sector in India as well as the initiatives and reforms by the Government of India to promote economic growth and improve investors’ confidence.

During the course of the webinar, Mr. Yasujiro Miyake, Director, METI, Govt. of Japan made presentation on the Challenges for Textile Sector Post Covid-19 followed by Ms. Sherry Lalthangzo, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India on Government Facilitation and Investment Opportunities in Textiles Sector in India and Invest India on Make in India and FDI Facilitation. Mr. Ajai Singh Sirohi, Chief Development Officer, M/s To-ray Industries (India) Private Limited also shared their Make in India experience in textile sector.

Presentations were also made by Mr. Kei Funaki, Executive Officer and General Manager, QTEC on Japanese Textile Standards, Mr. Junji Iwata, Manager, Nisseken Quality Evaluation Center on Indo-Japan Testing Facilitation for Textiles, Mr. Raja M. Shanmugam, Chairman, Tiruppur Exporters Association on Overview of Exports Products, Mr. T. Rajkumar, Chairman, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry and Mr. Kenichi Tomiyoshi, Executive Vice President, Japan Textiles Federation on Sectoral Overview of Textiles in Japan.

Representatives from the State of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Punjab made presentations about their respective states to promote the investment opportunities for Japanese companies. Ms. Mona Khandhar, Minister (Economic & Commerce), Embassy of India made closing remarks highlighting the initiatives of the Government of India post COVID-19 and the opportunities for Japanese investors. The webinar was attended by around 130 participants from Japan and India.

Webinar recording at link - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Voomyhdb_mo&list=PLW7rCij3F7z1ElfjBMMS2DPy2MooYoQ1f&index=4&t=0s
The Embassy of India, Tokyo in association with JETRO, Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC), Invest India and State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Rajasthan organized an Indo-Japan Webinar on “Investment Opportunities in the Western & Central States of India” on June 17, 2020 to provide information on opportunities and facilitate Japanese companies interested to set up/expand operations in the Western & Central States of India.

The opening remarks was made by H. E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan 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 upon the incentives/policies announced by the Government of India recently in order to promote India as an alternative manufacturing destination for Japanese companies.

Ms. Aparajita Gupta, Investment Specialist, Invest India made presentation about Invest India’s mandate and how they could assist Japanese companies planning to invest in India. Mr. Kenji Marusaki, Director, JETRO Ahmedabad made presentation on the investment environment in Gujarat and Mr. Tetsuo Ogawa, Senior Investment Advisor, JETRO Mumbai made presentation on the investment environment in the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Goa. Representatives from the State of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan gave presentations highlighting the investment opportunities in their respective states.

Representatives from Hyogo Prefectural Government and Wakayama Prefectural Government delivered their presentations highlighting their working relationships with the State of Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively. Three Japanese companies subsidiaries in India i.e. Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., Daikin Air-conditioning Pvt. Ltd. And Bridgestone India Pvt. Ltd. shared their Make in India experience in Western & Central States of India.

Ms. Mona Khandhar, Minister (Economic & Commerce), Embassy of India made closing remarks highlighting the series of reform measures by the Government of India post COVID-19 and the opportunities for Japanese investors. The webinar was attended by around 170 participants from Japan and India.

Youtube link for webinar is given below:-  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TP_VWkCk7wk&list=PLW7rCij3F7z1EFlfjBMM52DPy2MooYoQ1f&index=5&t=0s
The Embassy of India, Tokyo in association with JETRO, Department of Heavy Industry, Government of India, Invest India and State Governments of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Haryana organized an Indo-Japan Webinar on Capital Goods Sector: Challenges & Emerging Opportunities on June 24, 2020 to provide information on opportunities for Japanese companies interested to set up/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 India’s capital goods sector, a robust, multi-level and diversified segment of the Indian industry that gives wide range of opportunities for Japanese companies for investment, as well as, 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.

Ms. Kyoko Kashiwabara, Deputy Director General for Trade Policy, METI delivered her speech on the challenges for capital goods sector post Covid-19. Mr. Arun Goel Secretary and Ms. Sukriti Liki, Joint Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry made presentation on the policies, incentives and opportunities in Indian capital goods sector. Ms. Mona Khandhar, Minister (Economic & Commerce), Embassy of India also delivered her speech 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.

Representatives from the State Government of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Haryana made presentations on the eco-system for capital goods sector in their respective states and the investment opportunities for Japanese companies. Mr. Yuichi Kanazawa, Managing Director, Toyota Tsusho India Pvt. Ltd. made presentation on the company’s investment in India and Mr. Sankaran K. S., Vice Chairman, Makino India Pvt. Ltd. shared their “Make in India” experience in capital goods sector. Ms. Seerat Kohli of Invest India gave the vote of thanks and delivered brief presentation on foreign direct investment facilitation for Japanese companies planning to invest in India. The webinar was attended by more than 200 participants from Japan and India.

The webinar recording can be watched at Embassy of India official youtube channel - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu1XHp5ep7w
Overview
Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Japan and throughout the world, IDY celebrations could not be organised in the traditional manner during June 2020 in order to comply with guidelines from the Japanese government to maintain appropriate social distancing measures. In light of this situation, most celebratory activities were conducted online. Where physical events were held, the Embassy of India, Tokyo, and its partners made every possible effort to implement measures to prevent infection including, but not limited to, wearing of masks, hand sanitisation and maintaining distance between participants.

1. IDY Celebrations with Japanese Parliamentarians - 12th June 2020

Summary:
The 6th International Day of Yoga was celebrated at the House of Councillors Building (National Diet) on 12th June 2020 with a commemorative Yoga Session for Parliamentarians. The Yoga session was organized by the Embassy of India Tokyo and the Parliamentary League for Promotion of Yoga in Japan, in association with all major Yoga organizations in Japan including the Yoga Organisation of Japan and Maharishi Institute of Total Education. Mr Hakubun Shimomura, former MEXT Minister and Chairman of the Parliamentary League for Promotion of Yoga in Japan; Mr Hiroshi Yamada, Member of the House of Councillors and the Secretary General of the Parliamentary League for Promotion of Yoga in Japan and Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Chief of Mission addressed the gathering. DCM remarked that the importance of yoga as a means of mental and physical relief are increased during the present COVID-19 pandemic. The subsequent yoga session was conducted by Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture, Vivekananda Cultural Centre and Ms Amami Ichikawa, former Miss World Japan Miss Yoga Awardee and QCI certified yoga instructor. Ms Akiko Kato, winner of Miss World Japan 2015 Special Award and QCI certified yoga instructor, gave a presentation on the benefits of yoga. Numerous Japanese MPs attended the event. Social distancing protocols were observed during the session.

Prominent Dignitaries were Mr Hakubun Shimomura, Member of the House of Representatives & Chairman of the Parliamentary League for Promotion of Yoga; Mr Hiroshi Yamada, Member of the House of Councillors & Director General of the Parliamentary League for Promotion of Yoga; Ms Asako Omi, Member of the House of Representatives; Sh Raj Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Chief of Mission, EoI Tokyo


3. The Embassy has also received many messages of congratulations from dignitaries and personalities across the social spectrum, and these were combined with Ambassador’s video to create a continuous celebratory video.

Video Link: https://youtu.be/KTvbsXEFqbm

Featured Dignitaries:
- H.E. Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan
- Mr Hakubun Shimomura, Member of the House of Representatives (LDP) and Chairman of the Parliamentary League for Promotion of Yoga
- Mr Hiroshi Yamada, Member of the House of Councillors (LDP) and Secretary General of the Parliamentary League for Promotion of Yoga
- Mr Tsurutaro Kataoka, TV Personality and QCI Certified Yoga Instructor
- Ms SHIHO, Fashion Model and Yoga Enthusiast
- Ms Marika Sera, Miss World Japan 2019
- Mr So Takei, TV Personality and Former Japanese Decathlon Champion
- H.H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Founder of Art of Living
- Mr Osamu Tatsumura, Representative, Japan Yoga Federation
- Dr Shizuo Suzuki, Representative, Maharishi Institute of Total Education Japan
Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Tokyo, produced a series of original videos on yoga by Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture (VCC), which were released on the Embassy’s official YouTube channel for 6 consecutive days leading up to IDY 2020 on 21st June, 2020 on which the worldwide version of Common Yoga Protocol was shown.

Video Links:
- Digital Yoga Series Part 4 – Yog Nidra for Relaxation [https://youtu.be/1baoDqIlk3tc]
- Digital Yoga Series Part 7 – Common Yoga Protocol [https://youtu.be/acp0s6nLEzg]

4. IDY Celebration at Tokyo SkyTree - 19th June 2020
The 6th International Day of Yoga was celebrated virtually at a height of 450 meters at the observatory of the iconic Tokyo Skytree on the night of 19 June 2020. Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, Vivekananda Cultural Centre, delivered the opening remarks and Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture (VCC), Ms Amami Ichikawa, former Miss World Japan Miss Yoga Awardee and QCI certified yoga instructor; and, Ms Akiko Kato, winner of Miss World Japan 2015 Special Award and QCI certified yoga instructor, provided instruction during the yoga session at the event. The session was organized by the Yoga Organization of Japan with support from the Embassy of India, Tokyo.

5. Release of Congratulatory Message & Yoga Demonstration Videos by Japanese Yoga Organisations – 15 June onwards:
VCC had invited various yoga organisations throughout Japan to create celebratory videos for IDY 2020, and extended nominal support for those that took part. As a result, numerous organisations filmed and sent in original content which was then shared on the Embassy’s social media.

Video Links:
- Yoga Mudra [https://youtu.be/r22YINAovts]
- Japan Fitness Yoga Association [youtu.be/WdastVZ2trk]
- Yamamoto Yoga Research Centre [https://youtu.be/BSALQRIV9hs]
- HSS Japan [https://youtu.be/Dfj3KUw9bq1]
- Vanakkam Yoga School [https://youtu.be/hk4kQUxT6Xw]
- Japan Yoga Federation [https://youtu.be/2hrzaUGTloE]
- Maharishi Institute of Total Education Japan [https://youtu.be/qcuPURSH7Lo]
- Patanjali Japan Foundation [https://youtu.be/z0Y4lwtnWLU]
- Japan Yoga Niketan [https://youtu.be/EOAciSfei0]

6. Release of Yoga Videos by Diplomacy for viewing by Japanese public – 12-30 June:
In addition to the original content, viz. Digital Yoga Series and congratulatory videos described above, numerous yoga-related videos from the Indian Diplomacy and AYUSH Ministry official YouTube channels were widely shared on the Embassy of India, Tokyo’s social media accounts.

On 23rd May 2020, H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan, gave his message at a special online 02 days event organised by Nihon Kairali Association Tokyo, with support of Embassy of India, Tokyo, titled "NK Showtime". Ambassador in his message congratulated community for organizing the positivity and happiness spreading engaging event during COVID19 Pandemic using digital platform. The event recorded video can be seen at Youtube links [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfO1H3Blc & https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYkgZqntgL]
In the end, I would like to thank Indian Embassy for their tremendous support for this event in abroad. About 15 years ago, when I first came to India, since then I have visited to India many times. At this time, I had the opportunity to live eight months in my favorite country.

India will be eradicated as soon as possible. The people I met in India were kind to me. They were very open-minded. Whenever I go to India, people are always kind and impressed by me.

This is my 15th visit to India, since then I have visited to India many times. At this time, I had the opportunity to live eight months in my favorite country.

During my studies in abroad, I also faced major social and political issues related to religion. Teachers in school who would always kind and impressed with me. Even if you are now in Agra, do not think that this is India. I resonate strongly with his words. The food is good, there are many colorful. I like this rainbow country.

At this time, people of India are in a very difficult situation due to Corona virus. Unfortunately, our study has been suspended in abroad. Tsuji san and I returned to Japan on a special flight that was operated during lockdown. This was the first time I ever saw the city of Delhi so uninhabited. Some friends of my school have not yet returned from India. I hope that corona virus infection in India will be eradicated as soon as possible.

As long as my body is healthy, I will keep visiting India. Because of this, I am studying Hindi. I want to help those in India who are visiting Japan. And I hope that my experience as an editor can be put to good use on that in the future.

Photo
01 जयपुर में, पहाड़ियों ने मुझे सिखाया कि पंग़ू जैसे उतारी जाती है।
(Security person in jaipur taught me how to fly a kite) 02 NATURE MORTE
Population of the majestic Asiatic Lion, living in Gujarat’s Gir Forest, is up by almost 29%. Geographically, distribution area is up by 36%.

Song can be listened at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dsBzcibCQM