Message from the Ambassador H. E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma

I am pleased to bring forth this edition of the newsletter of the Indian Embassy ‘The Indian Connection’.

This edition brings you stories of growing India as well as initiatives of the Indian Government and resulting success stories besides stories of India-Japan.

India Launched Lunar Probe “Chandrayaan 2”

On July 22, 2019 the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched unmanned lunar probe “Chandrayaan 2” (in Sanskrit means “a vehicle to go to the Moon.”) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota, Indian State of Andhra Pradesh using its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV MkIII-M1. GSLV launched the probe into its planned orbit with a perigee (nearest point to Earth) of 169.7 km and an apogee (farthest point to Earth) of 45,475 km. Chandrayaan 2 consists of a lunar orbiter, a landing aircraft, and a rover. The probe is expected to make a soft landing near the Moon’s South Pole, and carry out exploration activities.

After the injection of Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft, a series of maneuvers were carried out to raise its orbit (24th July, 26th July, 29th July, 2nd Aug, 6th Aug & 14th Aug) and put Chandrayaan-2 on Lunar Transfer Trajectory (on 20th Aug). On entering Moon's sphere of influence (on 20th Aug), on-board thrusters slowed down the spacecraft for Lunar Capture. The Orbit of Chandrayaan-2 around the moon were circularized to 100x100 km orbit through a series of orbital maneuvers (20th Aug, 21st Aug, 28th Aug, 30th Aug). Last orbital maneuver will be on 1st Sept. Vikram Lander will separate on 2nd Sept and will make 02 deorbits (3rd & 4th Sept). On the day of landing (expected date Sep 7, 2019), the lander will separate from the Orbiter and then perform a series of complex maneuvers comprising of rough braking and fine braking. Imaging of the landing site region prior to landing will be done for finding safe and hazard-free zones. Subsequently, Rover will roll out and carry out experiments on Lunar surface for a period of 1 Lunar day which is equal to 14 Earth days. Orbiter will continue its mission for a duration of one year. For more details visit the link https://www.isro.gov.in/chandrayaan2-mission.

If the rover lands safely onto the moon surface, India is expected to become the fourth country after the former Soviet Union, the United States, and China, to make a soft landing on the moon.

India launched “Chandrayaan 1” in 2008, and succeeded in reaching the Moon’s orbit. In 2013, India launched its first Mars probe. India has expressed interest in building a space station. Space development is one of the pillars of the Modi administration’s

Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.

MAHATAMA GANDHI
The Indian Connection

India is fast-becoming a startup country, rivaling the US, UK, China, Singapore and Israel, among others. Current figures estimate there are approx 3,000 tech startups in India with 800 more emerging every year. By 2020, it is predicted that this figure will rise to 10,000 with 2000 new startups emerging every year.

Based on a NASSCOM report entitled “NASSCOM 10000 Startups Report”, 6 cities in India account for 90% of the technology scene: Bangalore (now Bengaluru) and the New Delhi area account for 28% and 24% startups, although emerging scenes have established themselves in the country; from Mumbai to Hyderabad, and Pune to Chennai.

In terms of quality and talent, too, India has a clear advantage compared to other tech hubs across the world. The number of engineers and software developers dwarfs the available tech talent in the UK, for example — hence why the government needs to prioritise tech visas for different industries.

For more details visit the link [https://www.information-age.comtech-startup-scene-india-mobile-first-123484154/](https://www.information-age.comtech-startup-scene-india-mobile-first-123484154/)

**Open innovation brings Japanese companies to Startup India**

YOURSTORY Opinion by Sachino Taki, JETRO India

In the recent past, innovative collaborations between Indian companies and Japan’s corporates have been in the spotlight. From OYO entering the Japanese real estate industry, and Paytm providing technology to Softbank and Yahoo’s mobile payment app PayPay - startups with a ‘make in India’ mark, the future looks promising for collaborations between India and Japan. Both Oyo and Paytm have entered into the high growth unicorn club, having amassed more than $1 billion in valuation. Indian startups are now capturing the Japanese market primarily due to their free-thinking abilities that disrupt existing framework, advanced development skills that enable and shape ideas swiftly, and of course, energetic youth that helm such startups, who can effectively communicate with a global perspective.

In business collaborations between Japanese companies and Indian startups, direct investment for startups and investment through venture capital (VC) are de rigueur. Startups also expect Japanese companies to invest, with cases where Japanese companies have invested in distinguished VCs to approach prominent startups.

What Japan needs to keep in mind when working with Indian startups

1. Clarify target issues and partners that you want to cooperate with.
2. Speedy decision-making and a commitment to the Indian market.
3. Proactively disseminate the company’s strengths and its contribution to the ecosystem to facilitate quick business negotiations.

Yet, Japanese companies feel that it is difficult to capture India’s complex and large market. Understanding it requires a long-term commitment. Now, with Indian companies being open and positive about business with Japan, they are also seeking positive and clear information. As the first step, it is important to emphasise on effective communication with Indian companies while making pertinent use of India’s innovation ecosystem.

For more details visit the link [https://yourstory.com2019/07open-innovation-japanese-companies-startup-india](https://yourstory.com2019/07open-innovation-japanese-companies-startup-india)

**India’s tiger population rises to nearly 3,000**

India’s tiger population has grown to nearly 3,000, making the country one of the safest habitats for the endangered animals.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the tiger count for 2018 on 29th July’19 saying it’s a “historic achievement” for India as the big cat’s population had dwindled to 1,400 about 14-15 years ago. India estimates its tiger population every four years. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said the tiger population was 2,226 in the last count, in 2014. The tiger is India's national animal and it is categorized as endangered under the Wildlife Protection Act.


**India’s unicorn tribe grows faster than ever this year**

India’s coveted startup club of unicorns- firms valued at $1 billion or more, is growing faster than ever. 2019 alone has produced over half a dozen unicorns so far, with a new one just last week. The unicorns created this year include grocery startup BigBasket, contract management software platform, BigBasket, trucking logistics firm Rivigo, ecommerce logistics firm Dhlivery, software firm Druva, fantasy gaming startup Dream11, IT healthcare firm CitiusTech and Ola Electric, the electric vehicle arm spun off from ride hailing startup Ola, itself one of India’s earliest unicorns, according to data from Venture Intelligence. For more details visit the link [https://www.livemint.comcompanies/start-ups/india-s-unicorn-tribe-grows-faster-than-ever-this-year-1563593970553.html](https://www.livemint.comcompanies/start-ups/india-s-unicorn-tribe-grows-faster-than-ever-this-year-1563593970553.html)
Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Mr Piyush Goyal launched the Global Innovation Index (GII) in New Delhi on 24th July 2019. This was the first time that the GII is being launched in an emerging economy. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GoI, UN’s World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) co-hosted the event.

India maintains its top place in the Central and Southern Asia region as the 52nd ranked economy this year. From 81 in 2015, India’s 29-place move up the GII represents the biggest jump by any major economy. Thanks to its high-quality scientific publications and universities, India remains 2nd among middle-income economies in the quality of innovation. It maintains top ranks in a number of important indicators such as productivity growth and exports of services related to information and communication technologies. This year India reaches the 15th spot in global companies’ R&D expenditures. It also features in the GII ranking on the world’s top science and technology clusters, with Bengaluru, Mumbai and New Delhi included in the global top 100 clusters.

The GII rankings are published every year by Cornell University, INSEAD and the UN World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and GII Knowledge Partners. This is the 12th edition of the GII rankings of 129 economies based on 80 indicators ranging from intellectual property filing rates to mobile-application creation, education spending and scientific and technical publications.


Bengaluru, the IT city of India, has the highest number of start-ups in India. Globally, the Karnataka capital, stands at 11th position, as per Startup Ecosystem ranking. The city is home to around 30% of the startups working with the Ministry of Defence to deliver latest technologies to Indian armed forces.

India’s FDI 2018-19 highest ever @USD 64.37 billion

As per Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT; dipp.gov.in), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, setting a new record, India received Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of a whopping 64.37 billion USD during the fiscal year ending March 2019, which is the highest-ever FDI inflow in any year for the country. India has also received Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth 286 billion USD in the past five years. This has resulted in the inflow of resources, latest technologies & best practices to push economic growth on to a higher trajectory.

Defence Innovation Organisation

The Government of India has approved a Scheme of Defence Innovation Fund (DIF), aimed at creating an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in defence by engaging R&D institutes, academia, industry including MSMEs, start-ups and even individual innovators and provide them award based grant/ funding to carry out innovative development, which has good potential for future commercialization. The Scheme is proposed to be implemented through a ‘not for profit’ company under section 8 of the Companies Act, namely Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) est in April 2017 with Bengaluru as its headquarter. The DIO would be funded by 2 Defence Public Sector Undertakings, namely Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). For more details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168797.
Union Home Minister introduced Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganisation) Bill, 2019
President of India issues Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order 2019
Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2019 introduced in Rajya Sabha (Upper House)
All of the above passed in Rajya Sabha unanimously

- Article 370 as discriminatory on the basis of gender, class, caste and place of origin. The youth is being taken for a ride by the political elite. This provision was temporary in the first place and it has to go in the larger interest of the people of J&K.
- repeal of the Article 370, doors to private investment in J&K would be opened, which would in turn increase the potential for development there. Increased investments would lead to increased job creation and further betterment of socio-economic infrastructure in the state.
- because of article 370, democracy never took root in J&K, corruption flourished, widespread poverty took root and no socio-economic infrastructure could come up.
- article 370 impedes people from outside the state to do business there. Absence of economic competition has prevented development and corruption flourished.

For more details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192487

Parliament approves Resolution to repeal Article 370; paves way to truly integrate J&K with Indian Union (06 AUG 2019 by PIB Delhi)

- Now, local representatives would have a voice in the hill councils. The governments would be democratically elected and would run the local government and administration in J&K.
- PoK and Aksai Chin are an inalienable part of JK and the seats are still part of the legislature.
- J&K would have a Legislative Assembly with elected representatives and it is a misnomer that the administration would be run by the Centre.
- By repealing this provision, we can bring the people to the mainstream.
- Pakistan has misused the presence of article 370 to sow the seeds of separatism and terrorism in J&K.

For more details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1581391
Invest Punjab team discussed potential investments in Medical Devices with Globexi (OPC) Pvt Ltd (a new age water treatment brand which originates from Japan) & Japanese counterparts Nemoto Kyorindo. Investors appreciated the IBDP2017 incentives like employment subsidy and GST reimbursement.

FICCI India (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) signed an MoU with the Fintech Association of Japan (https://www.fintechjapan.org/) in the presence of the State Minister during 2nd Round Table on India-Japan Opportunities in Fintech in Delhi. MoU was also signed between FINOLAB Japan (https://finolab.tokyo/) and Mumbai Fintech Hub. Collaboration in Fintech areas between India and Japan will be enhanced furthermore through this opportunity.

The Nikkei (30 July)

Indian robotics maker, GreyOrange, is tagging up with Japanese partners, such as Daiwa Housing Industry, to expand the market share in Japan. The company has already provided its goods-to-person system, Butler, to Japanese furniture distributor, Nitori.

According to a study done by Fuji Keizai Group, Japan’s next generation logistic market is expected to expand into 3.9 trillion-yen market by 2025, registering 89.1% growth compared to the market scale of 2017. While the size of EC market in Japan continues to expand, there’s a growing need to realize labor saving operation in Japan’s logistic industry as there’s no effective way to solve the labor shortage in the sight. And many foreign robotic makers see it as an opportunity to introduce their robots to Japanese market.

For more details visit the link https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGKKZO47915830Z20C19A7TJ2000/

Delhi based Electric vehicle (EV) start-up SmartE (https://www.getsmaite.in/) has raised Rs 100 crore from Japanese major trading house Mitsui & Co in a Series B funding round. In addition to the capital, Mitsui will bring to SmartE multiple synergies through its existing businesses in the EV domain to enable the company for long-term growth.

Founded in 2014, SmartE provides electric mobility services and focuses on offering shared last-mile connectivity. It has moved over 35 million commuters till date. With its fleet of nearly 1,000 electric three-wheelers in Delhi-NCR, it moves around 100,000 commuters daily.

The company will use the funding to rapidly increase its fleet size within Delhi-NCR as well as other key cities around the country. It will also use the funds to significantly ramp up its charging infra network to offer both plug-in vehicle charging and battery swapping solutions.

For more details visit the link https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/electric-vehicle-start-up-smarte-gets-rs-100-crore-investment-from-mitsui-119072100766_1.html

ANA to start direct Tokyo-Chennai flight from October 27

Japan’s largest 5-Star airline All Nippon Airways (ANA) will begin serving a route connecting Tokyo's Narita International Airport and Chennai International Airport from October 27 onwards. The route will be the first direct connection between Japan and southern India.

This will be ANA’s third route offering service to India, along with flights from Narita to Mumbai and Delhi, the airline in a statement added.
Japanese global apparel retailer UNIQLO on 17th July 2019 announced its plans to make a foray into the Indian market and will open three stores in the first year in Delhi-NCR. Given the size and fast growth of the Indian market, the launch will involve three separate stores. The first of the three UNIQLO stores will open in October in New Delhi, the company said in a statement.

The company's announcement to start operations in India comes after the country allowed 100 per cent FDI in single brand retail, although foreign retailers still need to source 30 per cent of their products from local suppliers, preferably medium and small enterprises.

For more details visit the links https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/uniqlo-to-kick-off-india-journey-with-3-stores-from-october-119071700565_1.html & https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXMZO47428400X10C19A7H63A00/?fbclid=IwAR20rS_BuumL1DXvgEsHoaIv4S1UJyFUFKrxtIOXm6hKGCBlzZqwNKb_9YQ

Japan’s Mitsubishi Corp to invest Rs 100 cr in India's SastaSundar Healthbuddy

Japan’s Mitsubishi Corporation has inked a commercial agreement with SastaSundar Healthbuddy Ltd (www.sastasundar.com), one of the leading digital networks of healthcare in India. As per the deal, the former will invest Rs 100 crore in digital platform.

Founded in 2011 & Supported by a network of Physical Counseling and Service Centres called “Healthbuddies”, SastaSundar ensures an integrated supply chain of Pharma & Wellness Products and Services on its digital platform. It has also innovated personal health tech solutions to provide personalized services using technology. The digital healthcare firm claims to have invested in personal health technology solutions to provide personalised services to customers.

The capital infusion by Mitsubishi comes after Japanese drug maker Rohto Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd invested $5 million (around Rs 32.4 crore) in May 2017 in exchange for a 13% stake.

For more details read the link https://www.vccircle.com/mitsubishi-to-invest-in-digital-healthcare-platform-sastasunda/

India's FreshtoHome raises funds in fresh round led by Iron

FreshtoHome, a Bengaluru-based online fresh fish and meat retailer, 26th August 2019 raised $20 million in a Series B funding round that was led by Iron Pillar and also included Japanese investor Joe Hirao, Founder of ZIGExN.

The startup also announced that it crossed $30 million (Rs 200 crore) in a

For more details read the link https://www.livemint.com/companies/start-ups/iron-pillar-joe-hirao-invest-20-million-in-freshtohome-1566824078445.html
The Nikkei (18 July)

Sumitomo Realty & Development Co., Ltd announced on 17th that it would be developing a rental office building in Mumbai, a western Indian city. The total building expense is estimated to be around 70 billion yen, including the land acquisition and construction expenses. The company plans to open the rental office building after the March period in 2023. This is the first time in 20 years for the company to develop a rental office building abroad.

The Nikkei (17 July)

Japan’s convenience store, Seven Eleven, is entering India.

Seven & I Holdings, Seven Eleven’s managing company will be teaming up with Indian partner, the Future Groups, India’s major retailer. Together, they aim to open over 500 stores in India in next three to five years. The size of India’s retail market is estimated around 70-trillion and it is expected to further grown in the future. Many of retailers in India are small and mid-sized, and are family-owned. Convenience stores are very rare in India. The entrance of convenience-store giant to India is expected to accelerate the modernization of Indian retail sector that we may see more home-grown convenience store chains spurring in the near future.

About a half of Indian population is under the age of 25 and the country’s consumption activity would pick up the pace. According to a study done by the British survey company, Euro Monitor, the sales of the retail sector in India in 2018 was 630 billion US dollars, about a half of Japan, but it is expected to touch 900 billion US dollar in 2023.

The Government of India has deregulated foreign investment regulations in various industrial sectors in order to invite foreign investment. In the retail sector, the government already opened its door to single-brand retailers, such as IKEA and Muji, by loosening the FDI regulation for them. For multi-brands retailers, the cap is set to 51% and the minimum investment amount is 100 million US dollars. Foreign multi-brand retailers have to procure at least 30% of products they sell at their stores from local partners. Moreover, they only can open their stores in Indian cities with the population over 1 million.

For more details visit the link https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXMZO47392020W9A710C1FFJ000/
India And Business

On July 25, the 10th Joint Committee Meeting on Mumbai-Ahmadabad High Speed Railway was held in New Delhi, India. From the Japanese side, Dr. Hiroto Izumi, Spl. Advisor to PM, who served as Joint Chairman, and representatives of MOFA, MOF, MLIT, JICA, and other organizations attended the meeting. From the Indian side, Mr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, who served as Joint Chairman, and representatives of the Ministry of Railways, the MEA, other related ministries and the National High Speed Rail Corporation attended the meeting.

The participants discussed the schedule of the high speed railway project, and confirmed the progress of the development of station areas, and HR trainings.

The Japanese government aims to maintain close cooperation with the Indian government to realize the introduction of Shinkansen into the Mumbai Ahmadabad High Speed Railway.

220th Tea Seminar called “Chai-Varta” organised

The 220th Indian Tea Seminar called “Chai-Varta” was organized jointly by the Embassy of India, Tokyo and Japan Tea Association (JTA) at Embassy on 9th July, 2019. About 49 member from JTA participated in the event. The Basic objective of the seminar was to promote Indian tea in the Japanese market. The inaugural address was made by Dr. Satya Pal Kumar, First Secretary (Trade) with information about Indian tea and the short film to showcase the variety of Indian Tea, such as Darjeeling, Assam, Nilgiri, Kangra and Sikkim, etc was shown to the audience. A quiz was organized to promote awareness about Indian tea. The quiz winners received Tea caddy gifts. Mr. Satoshi Tanaka, Managing Director, JTA addressed the participants and informed about the tasting of Assam tea. JTA certified tea Instructor demonstrated to make and serve delicious Indian tea during the session of the Tea Seminar.

Familiarization with Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) ecosystem of Japan

A 16 member CII-IPR delegation led by Mr. Arvind Thakur, visted Japan for 3 days from Aug 5 to 7, 2019. The objective of their maiden visit was to familiarize with the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) ecosystem of Japan and to initiate industry level consultation for further cooperation between the two countries. During their two days meeting on Aug 5&6 in Tokyo, the delegation held several meetings with their counterparts in JETRO, WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization), JPO (Japan Patent Office), and JIPA (Japan Intellectual Property Association). The members of the delegation also met Ambassador H.E Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma and apprised him about the objective of their visit to Japan. The delegation went to Osaka on August 7, 2019 for an industry visit to Panasonic Corporation during which they shared their industry experience of IPR, licensing, taxation, R&D so as to explore areas of joint collaboration. The members highlighted India's Global Innovation Index which improved from the rank of 81 in 2015 to 52 in 2019.

India's first startup IPO by Alphalogic Techsys sails through

Startup Alphalogic Techsys became the first enterprise to float India’s first startup IPO, which allowed it to raise growth capital from a group of investors instead of select VCs. The IPO got fully subscribed on Day 2 of the bidding process. received bids for 7,60,000 shares against the total issue size of 7,36,000 shares as per the BSE data.

The Pune-based boutique software consulting firm has fixed the issue price at Rs 84 per share and the minimum units one needs to buy is 1,600 shares, requiring a minimum investment of Rs 1,34,400. Overall, 7.36 lakh shares are on the block, worth Rs 6.18 crore.

Markets regulator Sebi in February 2019 paved the way for a separate platform for startups to provide young companies easier access to capital and a way to bring in a new class of investors.

Four Clearance Divers of Indian Navy participated in J2A (Mine Warfare Exercise and Minesweeping Special Exercise) Exercise at Matsu Bay Japan alongside US Navy and Japan’s JMSDF. Indian Divers were also an intrinsic part of Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) teams.

Bridges of Friendship : 16th August 2019 - Responding to a request for medical evacuation from JMSDF warship Sazanami, a Seaking helicopter of Indian Navy was launched ex- INS Shikra with medical team. The helicopter landed on the Japanese ship at sea, 234 Km off Mumbai and evacuated the injured crew member to the Naval Air Enclave at Santacruz. The patient was then shifted to a local hospital by the Japanese Consulate.

JS SAZANAMI (DD 113) as the Deployment Surface Force for Counter Piracy Enforcement (34th DSPE) made port visit to Kochi, India on 13-14 Aug. During the stay, JS SAZANAMI deepened mutual understanding with Indian Navy through goodwill events.

Excerpts from the Prime Minister Modi’s address to the Nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 73rd Independence Day- August, 15, 2019

- ‘One nation, One constitution spirit’ has become a reality after scrapping of provisions of Article 370 and India is proud of it.
- ‘Population explosion’ causes new challenges for coming generations, central and state governments should launch measures to deal with it.
- There is a ‘huge’ scope for improvement in tourism sector, everyone should visit at least 15 tourist destinations within India by 2022.
- Chief of Defence Staff to ensure coordination and provide effective leadership to three services will be created.
- Discussions should now be held on ‘One Nation, One Election’, it is imperative to make the country great.
- India can become a 5 trillion dollar economy in the next five years.
- We have decided to invest Rs 100 lakh crore in infrastructure building.
- India does not want to wait too long for incremental progress. A high jump is needed, our thought process has to be expanded.
- Our aim is to reach among first 50 nations in ‘ease of doing business’.
- ‘Jal Jivan’ Mission to make drinking water available to all households announced, govt will spend Rs 3.5 lakh crore for it.
- GST brought to life the dream of ‘One Nation, One Tax’. India has also achieved one nation, one grid in energy sector.
- Scrapping of triple talaq will help Muslim women live a better life; the decision should not be seen through political prism.
- India is strongly fighting against those supporting terrorism.
- India is not the only target of terrorism in the region — countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan have also been affected.
- If 2014-19 was an era to fulfill people’s needs, the time since 2019 is about meeting aspirations and dreams.
- Peoples trust in us have given us new strength, the 2019 mandate shows that hopelessness has given way to hope among masses.
- Every effort made to remove corruption and black money is welcome; these are menaces that have ruined India for 70 years.
- Government should have minimal role in people’s lives.
- Let our people have the freedom of pursuing their own aspirations, let the right eco-system be made in this regard.
- India will soon become open defecation free country.
HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met Mr. Masami Iijima, Representative Director, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mitsui Corporation of Japan and exchanged views on potential of cooperation in different sectors between India and Japan.

HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma received a call by members of the Kobe City Assembly, Japan India Friendship Council and discussed ways to promote cooperation between Kobe and Ahmedabad. The two cities signed an MoU on Sister City relationship in June 2019.

HE Amb Sanjay K. Verma hosted dinner for some Japanese Venture Capitalists (VCs), corporate venture capitalists and corporations to brief them about the visit of NASSCOM’s ’s Delegation of 26 Indian Tech startups (from sectors like Finance, Automobile, Agri, Logistics, Healthcare, Robotics) that can interest Japanese VC Network. to Tokyo on 3-4 September for the Pitching Event at the Embassy and invited them to participate in the event.

HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma called on HE Mr Norikazu Suzuki, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of MOFA Japan on 28th August 2019 and discussed various India-Japan bilateral issues.

On 16th July, Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar received delegation of Japanese Ambassadors to India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives and discussed with them advancing India-Japan cooperation & synergizing India’s Act East Policy.

Ambassador of India H. E. Sanjay Kumar Verma presented credentials to the President of The Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) H.E. Hilda C. Heine. During the meeting, Ambassador and the President had a fruitful discussion on a range of issues including cooperation in multilateral fora and bilateral economic cooperation consisting of cooperation in the fields of IT, Education, Health, HRD, Solar Energy and people to people exchanges.

During the occasion, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the RMI, Hon. John M. Silk signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) framework agreement pending ratification by the Parliament of RMI.
A 20 member business delegation from the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CACC∑) led by its President Mr. Samir Modi met Ambassador H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma on July 23, 2019 at the Embassy Conference room. The CACC∑ members comprised of a broad spectrum of sectors ranging from food processing, logistics to cosmetics from the countries of Asia Pacific including Bangladesh, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and India.

The visiting members of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) also participated in the meeting. During his interaction with the CACC∑ team Ambassador briefed the members about the growing Indo-Japan cooperation and scope for future economic engagement with the Asia Pacific region. While answering to the queries of the members, he explained about Japan’s Indo-Pacific strategy and emphasized on emerging areas of cooperation between India and Japan in the field of start-ups, Artificial Intelligence, IOT, robotics, digital partnership, e-vehicle, food processing and healthcare sectors where CACC∑ may seek to explore the possibilities of joint collaborations for mutual economic benefits.

Great trade opportunities in Seafood and Related Technologies sector were explored by Indian entrepreneurs at the Japan International Seafood & Technology Expo 2019 from 21-23rd Aug 2019 at Tokyo Big Sight.

Ambassador H.E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma delivered a key note speech on July 31, 2019. During his interactive session with Japan Akademeia on the topic “The Political and Economic situation in India and future prospect of India-Japan relations”. The session was attended by 50 participants from Japan Akademeia, members of which represented business, labour, education, research, accounting, and legal fraternities. The objective of the session was to allow members of the Japan Akademeia to interact with the foreign Ambassadors with a view to build a global network and to foster relations across the world through sharing ideas towards meeting challenges and providing solutions to the global community. Other Embassy officers were also present at the event. Ambassador’s presentation was followed by an one hour Q&A session. The interactive session generated a lot of interest among the participants to know more about India’s stand on various political, economic, military and strategic affairs relating to wide ranging issues such as energy policy, US-China trade friction, Indo-Pacific vision, China’s Belt & Road Initiative, global warming, peace process in Afghanistan, middle-east peace plan, WTO reforms as well as progress in various free trade agreements including CPTPP and RCEP. Ambassador replied to all the questions with lucid explanation, clarity and frankness, which was quite appreciated by the audience.

INDIA TREND FAIR has become a one stop platform for Indian exhibitors to showcase their trends and products in Japan market. The fair offers a comprehensive platform to Indian manufacturers to showcase their value added products to the most influential buyers and designers in Japan. The product profile at INDIA TREND FAIR encompasses Leather goods, Garments, Home furnishings and Handicrafts, Fashion accessories and Decorative articles etc.
India Day in Kanazawa

On 16 July 2019, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma visited Japan Advanced Institute of Science & Technology, Nomi City, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan (JAIST.ac.jp) and met Mr Tersuo Asano President and exchanged views on potential of S&T cooperation (incl Healthcare Startups, Innovation and Patents, Electric Vehicles) between India and Japan incl JAIST. Also meet JAIST’s Faculty incl Indian faculty as well as Indian Research Students.

After JAIST visit, HE Ambassador visited Kanazawa University and met Dr Koetsu Yamazaki President & other faculty members of Kanazawa University, Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan and exchanged views on potential of cooperation in Ayurveda Research, Buddhist Studies, Innovation, Startups, Affordable Technologies, Japanese Language promotion in India.


HE Amb also met a group of 30 Indian Students from JAIST, Kanazawa University & Alice International College, Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Pref, encouraged them to act as bridge to fill technology gap by identifying technologies which can be customized as per India's need. HE Amb also replied to students queries on variety of issues.

As part of Economic Outreach, HE Amb addressed a gathering of ~80 companies from Japan's Hokuriku Region (comprises Ishikawa, Fukui & Toyama prefecture) at 1st Economic Seminar organised at Kanazawa Chamber of Commerce by Hokuriku Economic Federation (hokkeiren.gr.jp) & Ishikawa Indian Association. Seminar also had address by Chairman Hokuriku Eco Federation & presentations by First Secretary (Trade) Dr Satya Pal, Embassy of India, Research Manager from JETRO, President & CEO Ise Foods Inc, GM Chief Economist Mitsui & Co Global Strategic Studies Institute, President JAIST, Ms Shiotani Maqsooda, President Ishikawa Indian Association, CEO ALS Global Inc. Seminar informed the participants about Govt of India's initiatives to Ease of Doing Buisness, Startup ecosystem in India, Future possibilities in India, etc with aim to attract investments & buisnesses in India.

In the evening, HE Amb attended "India Day in Kanazawa" reception. Reception had presence of Mr Hajime Sasaki, Member -House of Representatives, Diet Parliament of Japan, Mr Isao Nakamura, member-Ishikawa Prefecture assembly, business leaders & members from Hokuriku Economic Federation, members of Indian community incl Indian Students. Reception had Odissi Dance, Bollywood Dance, Japanese Taiko performance & presentation on India Tourism.
Three Indian trainees arrived in Chubu, Japan last week to start their journey under Technical Intern Training Program (TITP). Trained by Navis Human Resource, Bangalore the trainees were received by Social Welfare Corporation, Shunsei Kai, Aichi, Japan as Care-Worker interns.

NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation) New Delhi is the implementing and monitoring agency on behalf of MSDE, Govt. NSDC is steering impactful execution of the program in India and Japan. It has empanelled over 24 Sending Organisations to drive the desired agenda of training the youth, who will advance their careers and contribute towards economic progress of the respective countries. For more details visit the official website of NSDC at https://www.nsdcindia.org/titp

As part of Student Outreach, HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma & Cons (Political) Mr Brahma Kumar interacted at Embassy of India with the students of Diplomacy & International Relations from Chuo University Tokyo and discussed about India & its foreign policy and relations followed by Q&A.

At the invitation of Seisa University Japan’s Prof Genjiro Ito, HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma delivered a talk on 20.07.19 at Kotokuin Temple in Kamakura Japan. Focus was on diversity and various cultural aspects of India incl Ayurveda, Yoga and Indian Textile.

Four members of SWADOM, Osaka University's Society for Research of International Issues, paid a courtesy call on Amb H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma on 7th Aug. Ambassador thanked them for their contribution to the logistical support provided to the visiting Indian delegation during G20 Summit in Osaka.

HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma delivered a talk on the topic “India Japan Economic Relations and India's Economic Policy” at Ryukoku University Kyoto & replied to queries from Students. Also met the President Dr Takashi IRISAWA, other faculty members & Indian students at the University.

Amb HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma addressed the participants of 23rd Japan-India Student Conference (JISC) at Embassy of India, Tokyo. During the interactive session with the participants, issues pertaining the India Japan bilateral relations came up for discussions. On same day, Director VCC Prof Siddharth gave the opening remarks in the 23rd JISC held at National Olympics Memorial Youth Center, Tokyo. A cultural programme consisting of Rabindra Sangeet by the Indian participants and Tsugaru Shamisen performance by a Japanese participant was rendered. The event concluded with a Calligraphy workshop.
Embassy of India, Tokyo organized the “Ayushman Bharat Cricket Cup” in association with “Men in Blue” team at Edogawa Cricket Ground, Tokyo as part of 73rd Independence Day Celebration for the 1st time. The event was inaugurated by Amb HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma.

In addition to the Embassy of India, Tokyo and Men in Blue, the other contesting Cricket teams of Japan were Tigers Cricket Club, Indian Engineers Club, Tokyo Falcons, Tokyo Titans and AQCC—Passion for Cricket. The cultural programme consisting of dance performances by Indians as well as Japanese artists of PJ flow Bhangra Group from Osaka and Indian Bollywood Dance School was also rendered. The winning team of the cup was Men in Blue and runner-up team was Tokyo Falcons.
A seminar on Yoga & Ayurveda was held in the VCC Auditorium by Maharishi Institute of Total Education. The programme commenced with a minute’s silent prayer for former External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj who passed away on 6th August. This was followed by remarks by Amb H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma and a lecture by Dr Palakurthi Manohar. Ambassador stated that “Ayurveda and Yoga both tend to eradicate the suffering of the life by eliminating the root cause of the suffering. As Yoga is not just confined to the Asana (Bodily postures only), similarly Ayurveda is not just confined to herbs and plants only. Both are like a deep ocean encompassing the all secrets of the inner and outer life, which can be unraveled by its practice only. Both together, if incorporated properly, can make this world towards the ultimate goal of Satyam (Truthfulness), Shivam (Divinity) and Sundaram (Beauty”). The event was well-attended by members of the public with an interest in yoga and Ayurveda.
Bringing a new style of suppleness, a Japanese female director of photography is constantly receiving offers in Bollywood, the home of India’s giant movie industry.

The mention of Bollywood movies conjures an image of brightly-clad and gorgeously made-up beautiful women singing and dancing in dazzling movies shot with light hitting every nook and cranny to prevent shadows. However, Japanese director of photography (DOP) Keiko Nakahara applies shadow with near-natural light and uses handheld cameras to bring subtle nuance and reality to Bollywood.

The use of such realism in filming technique used to be unpopular in India, but Nakahara’s style has disproven this assumption by charming not only Bollywood directors but also the audiences and media as well.

Nakahara says, “The Indian people are truly rich in emotional expression.” Although a rich mix of emotions can bring forth stormy behavior on set, the same richness is also why India has a culture that enjoys movies wholeheartedly. Seeing their smiling faces is what drives Nakahara’s work.

For more details visit the link
ムラド（ランヴィール・シン）は、雇われ運転手の父を持ち、スラムに住む青年。両親はムラドが今の生活から抜け出し成功できるよう、彼を大学に通わせるために一生懸命働いていた。しかしムラドは、生まれで人を判断するインド社会に憤りを感じ、地元の悪友とつるみ、内緒で身分の違う裕福な家庭の恋人と交際していた。ある日大学構内でラップをする学生MCシェール（シッダーント・チャットゥルヴェー）と出会い、言葉とリズムで気持ちを自由に表現するラップの世界にのめりこんでいく。そして“ガリーボイ”（路地裏の少年）と名乗り、現実を変えるためラップバトルで優勝を目指す事を決意する。

http://gullyboy.jp/