India On the Move

India Bags First Prize at ITB, Berlin

India Bags First Prize at The International ‘Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019’ in ‘TV Cinema Spot’ Category at ITB, Berlin, the world’s leading tourism trade show. Following promotional films / television commercials produced by the Ministry as part of its Incredible India 2.0 Campaign received the awards - Yogi of the Racetrack; The Reincarnation of Mr. and Mrs. Jones; Sanctuary in Paris; Maharani of Manhattan and The Masala Master Chef

The Ministry of Tourism has launched the Incredible India 2.0 Campaign in September 2017. The 2.0 Campaign marks a shift from generic promotions across the world to market specific promotional plans and content creation. Thematic creatives on different niche tourism products have been produced and are being used in the Campaign, to cater to diverse consumer interests. These include the above Television Commercials on Yoga, Wellness, Wildlife, Luxury and Cuisine, which have been very well received worldwide, registering about 155 million views on social media. The commercials have been produced in English with voice overs in 9 international languages, viz. German, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Arabic.

India Cooling Action Plan Launched

India is one of the first countries in the world to develop a comprehensive Cooling Action plan which has a long term vision to address the cooling requirement across sectors and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand. Cooling requirement is cross sectoral and an essential part for economic growth and is required across different sectors of the economy such as residential and commercial buildings, cold-chain, refrigeration, transport and industries.

The National Anthem of India Jana-gana-mana, composed originally in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore, was adopted in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly as the National Anthem of India on 24 January 1950. The complete song consists of five stanzas. The first stanza contains the full version of the National Anthem. Playing time of the full version of the national anthem is approximately 52 seconds.

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed.

MAHATAMA GANDHI
**Oscar “Period. End of Sentence”**

A film on taboos around menstruation, set in rural India, titled "Period. End of Sentence" wins the Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject category at the 91st Academy Awards. Award-winning filmmaker Rayka Zehtabchi directed the short film, which was co-produced by Indian producer Guneet Monga's Sikhya Entertainment. There has been an increased focus on period hygiene in India, which was also the subject of a mainstream Bollywood movie Padman, starring Akshay Kumar in the lead role in a biopic on Arunachalam Muruganantham, who started making low cost pads in his village despite being ostracised.

Interestingly, to address the need of menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls residing primarily in rural areas, Government of India is supporting the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme, under which, funds are provided to States/UTs through National Health Mission for decentralized procurement of sanitary napkins packs for provision primarily to rural adolescent girls at subsidized rates.

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**Gujarat set to be the first in India to use geothermal power**

Gujarat is set to become the first state in India to use geothermal energy to produce electricity. The power plant being set up at Dholera will become operational on a pilot scale in April 2019, and it will produce 20 kW of electricity. Dholera was chosen for the plant as immense heat has been found under the earth in the form of hot springs by the Centre of Excellence for Geothermal Energy (CEGE), set up by the Gujarat state government at Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU). The geothermal energy potential in the country is estimated at more than 10,000 MW, but it has remained untapped so far.

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**New auto policy, FAME II to drive India EV push in 2019**

Union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Modi approved the proposal for implementation of scheme titled 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II)' for promotion of Electric Mobility in the country. The scheme with total outlay of Rs 10000 Crores over the period of three years will be implemented with effect from 1st April 2019. This scheme is the expanded version of the present scheme titled 'FAME India 1' which was launched on 1st April 2015, with total outlay of Rs. 895 crores. The main objective of the scheme is to encourage Faster adoption of Electric and hybrid vehicle by way of offering upfront Incentive on purchase of Electric vehicles and also by way of establishing a necessary charging Infrastructure for electric vehicles. The scheme will help in addressing the issue of environmental pollution and fuel security. For more details read at http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189081

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**One-Nation-One-Card: India’s First indigenous public transport smart card**

Prime Minister Modi launched on 4 March 2019 “One Nation, One Card” for transport mobility. The Indigenous Automatic Fare Collection System based on One Nation One Card Model i.e. National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) is the first of its kind in India. India’s First Indigenously Developed Payment Eco-system for transport consisting of NCMC Card, SWEEKAR (Swachalit Kiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System) and SWAGAT (Automated Gate) is based on NCMC Standards. These are bank issued cards on Debit/Credit/Prepaid card product platform. The customer may use this single card for payments across all segments including metro, bus, suburban railways, toll, parking, smart city and retail. The stored value on card supports offline transaction across all travel needs with minimal financial risk to involved stakeholders. The service area feature of this card supports operator specific applications e.g. monthly passes, season tickets etc.

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Cabinet approves Phase II for setting up 12,000 MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic power projects

Cabinet Committee chaired by Prime Minister Modi approved a proposal by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy for implementation of the Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Scheme Phase-II for setting up 12,000 MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic (SPV) power projects. These projects will be set up by Government Producers with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support of Rs. 8,580 crore for self-use or use by Government or Government entities, both Central and State Governments.

The 12,000 MW or more capacity of grid connected solar power projects will be set up by the Government Producers in the four-year period, 2019-20 to 2022-23, as per the terms and conditions specified in Government Producer Scheme.

The scheme will mandate use of both solar photovoltaic (SPV) cells and modules manufactured domestically as per specifications and testing requirements fixed by MNRE.

"The scheme will also help in giving a push to 'Make in India' by encouraging Government Producers to procure solar cells and modules from domestic manufacturers. The scheme will create sufficient demand for domestically produced solar PV cells and modules for next 3 to 4 years."

Cabinet approves launch KUSUM Scheme

Cabinet Committee chaired by Prime Minister Modi approved on 19 Feb 2019 launch of KUSUM (Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) Scheme formulated by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, GoI.

The KUSUM Scheme provides for:
(i) installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of Capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas;
(ii) installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfil irrigation needs of farmers not connected to grid; and
(iii) solarisation of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also enable them to sell surplus solar power generated to DISCOM and get extra income.

The scheme will have substantial environmental impact in terms of savings of CO2 emissions. All components of the scheme combined together are likely to result in saving of about 27 million tonnes of CO2 emission per annum.

Cabinet approves Phase-II of grid connected rooftop solar programme

Cabinet Committee chaired by Prime Minister Modi approved Phase-II of Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Programme for achieving cumulative capacity of 40,000 MW from Rooftop Solar (RTS) Projects by the year 2022. The program encourages installation of rooftop solar photovoltaic power generation plant for self-consumption as well as supply/sale of electricity to the grid.

Under the phase II Programme Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for the residential sector has been restructured. Further, focus will be on increased involvement of DISCOMs and performance based incentives will be provided to them.

The scheme will have substantial environmental impact in terms of savings of CO2 emissions. Consider average energy generation of 1.5 million units per MW, it is expected that addition of 38 GW solar rooftop plants under phase II by the year 2022 will result in CO2 emission reduction of about 45.6 tonnes per annum.

The Indian government has set a growth target of installation of 175 GW aggregate capacity of renewable energy by 2022. Out of total 175 GW, target of 100 GW has been set for Solar Power.

For more details read at http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1565282

India Largest Grid connected Solar Rooftop Plant of 7.52 MW is at Dera Beas, Distt. Amratsar, Punjab

Japan announced joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA) submitting the instrument of ratification on 29th October 2018. Japan became the 71st country to sign and 48th country to ratify the ISA FA.

Mirai Kikai, a Japan-based robotics startup, has successfully commenced the trial operation of its dry-cleaning robots at Bhadla Solar Park in Rajasthan, one of the largest mega solar projects in India. For the period from February 2019, the pilot model of Mirai Kikai’s Type 2 autonomous dry-cleaning robots will run across the RattanIndia’s 70MW solar panels wiping out dusts and fine sands from the surface.
Cabinet approves Strategy for Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Modi has approved the following proposals:

- Setting up of a National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, to drive clean, connected, shared, sustainable and holistic mobility initiatives; and
- Creation of Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) valid for 5 years till 2024 to support setting up of a few large-scale, export-competitive integrated batteries and cell-manufacturing Giga plants in India. The scheme will be finalised by the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, and all necessary approvals will be taken.
- Creation of a PMP valid for 5 years till 2024 to localize production across entire Electric Vehicles value chain. The scheme will be finalized by the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, and all necessary approvals will be taken.

Benefits: The decisions will help in better coordination among Ministries, Departments and Governments in ushering a transformative multi-modal mobility paradigm, and will facilitate setting up of few Giga-scale integrated cell and battery manufacturing facilities in India. The programme will provide a plan which will send clear signal to the industry to make the necessary investments in capacity to localize the value chain. The Mission aims to bring technology-driven sustainable and holistic mobility solutions within the reach of common man by scaling up the manufacture of these vehicles. Promoting transformative mobility is a highly innovative programme since it involves development in high technology areas and involves research and development with rational and international institutions.

India - Japan agreement for the BSA has become effective from 28.02.2019

The agreement for the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) has become effective from 28.02.2019. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) & Bank of Japan have completed signing of the Agreement for Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) between India and Japan. India can access the agreed amount of USD 75 billion for its domestic currency, for the purpose of maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments or short-term liquidity.

BSA was negotiated by India & Japan during visit of Prime Minister Modi to Tokyo on 29th Oct., 2018. BSA provides for India to access 75 billion in US dollars whereas the earlier BSA had provided for US $50 billion. Union Cabinet had approved BSA on 10th Jan. 2019.

Japan, UNEP Announce New Cooperation to Boost Knowledge on Marine Plastic Litter in Southeast Asia and in India

Japan and the UNEP announced, on 4th March 2019, that they will join hands in effort to boost information and know-how to develop countermeasures against marine plastic litter in Southeast Asia and in India.

The new initiative, Promotion of countermeasures against marine plastic litter in Southeast Asia and India, will develop a simulation model for plastic leakage and monitor to determine leakage hotspots along the Ganges and Mekong. Additionally in India, State Governments and Urban Local Bodies in Mumbai, Agra, and selected cities along the Ganges will receive support to stop plastic pollution. The Government of Japan has earmarked 123 million Japanese yen – over US$1,100,000 – to support the initiative starting March 2019, which be implemented by the UNEP Asia and the Pacific Office based in Bangkok, Thailand.

India’s Act East Policy and Indo-Japan Partnership

India-Japan Act East Forum

The forum was established in pursuance of the “Memorandum of Cooperation to establish the India-Japan Act East Forum” signed on 14th September 2017 during the visit of Prime Minister Abe to India. The Act East Forum aims to provide a platform for India-Japan collaboration under the rubric of India’s “Act East Policy” and Japan’s “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy”. The Forum has identified specific projects for economic modernization of India’s North-East region including those pertaining to connectivity, developmental infrastructure, industrial linkages as well as people-to-people contacts through tourism, culture and sports-related activities. The first meeting was held in December 2017 and the 2nd meeting was held in October 2018 (Details of 2nd Meeting at https://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/files/000407217.pdf)
Ambassador’s Bilateral engagements

DCM Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava attended the memorial service at Onagawa town for the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011. The town faced the tallest hit of 70 ft tsunami & resulted in loss of 914 lives. Indian NDRF (National Disaster Relief Force) team came to town for ten days from 28/3/11 for rescue and recovery operations.

Amb HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma inaugurated the India Pavilion at Asia’s largest FOODEX JAPAN 2019 (The 44th International Food and Beverage Exhibition) at Makuhari Messe Expo Centre, Tokyo, Japan (March 5-8). The Indian exhibitors delegation led by Tea Board of India, Spice Board of India, Cashew Export Promotion Council of India and around 40 Indian companies displayed/promoted Indian food, processed food, spices, tea varieties and other products besides having B2B meetings.

India Participated at FOODEX Japan 2019

NHSRCL (National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited) has been conferred with Dr. A.P.J. Kalam Innovation in Governance Award on 28th February 2019 for application of LiDAR (Laser Detection and Ranging) technology in the project.

India in Japan
Ambassador of India to Japan HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma meet Mr. Yuji Kuroiwa, Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture in Yokohama City. Both discussed Ayurveda and Yoga in context of the 2018 Memorandum of Cooperation in Healthcare and Wellness (between MoAYUSH, GoI and Kanagawa Prefectural Government), use of big data and IoT in healthcare, exchange/training of human resource, and other ways to deepen relationship.

As part of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Ambassador also presented a book in Japanese on Mahatma Gandhi.

A seminar on "Emerging opportunities in Insolvency & Food sectors; Practical aspects of M&A in India" was jointly organized by Shardul Amarchand and Mangaldas, Mori Hamada & Matsumoto with the support of Embassy of India, Tokyo on 1st March, 2019. The objective of the seminar was to discuss the growing opportunities in the Food Sector of India and opportunities for the Japanese Companies in Insolvency/ M&A in India. Ambassador H.E. Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma grace the occasion by delivering the opening remarks at the Seminar. Three Japanese companies namely ISE Foods, Nissan Steel Industry &Miyachi Co. Ltd gave presentations sharing their experience and giving overview of the Indian Food Sector. Ms. Naoko Udagawa, Deputy Director, The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries also gave presentation on Opportunities in food processing sector in India and the need for India-Japan Cooperation. Mr. Shardul Shroff, Executive Chairman and National Practice Head gave a presentation on Introduction of Insolvency Regime in India and M&A opportunities in insolvency space. The closing remark was delivered by Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Chief of Mission. The seminar was attended by more than 50 representatives from various Japanese companies.

The Cabinet approved the draft National Commission for Indian Systems of Medicine (NCIM) Bill, 2018, which seeks to replace the existing regulator Central Council for Indian Medicine (CCIM) with a new body to ensure transparency.

The draft bill is aimed at bringing reforms in the medical education of Indian medicine sector in lines with the National Medical Commission proposed for setting up for Allopathy system of medicine.

The proposed regulatory structure will enable transparency and accountability for protecting the interest of the general public. The NCIM will promote availability of affordable healthcare services in all parts of the country.

Ashwagandha (Withania somnifera, a popular herb in Ayurveda, the traditional home medicine native to India) has capacity to treat cancer - it furnishes wild type p53 tumor suppressor activity in cancers with p53Y220C mutation. A collaborative study from DAILAB at IIT Delhi and National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan has been published in the Journal of Experimental and Clinical Cancer Research (JECCR).

AYURVEDA IN JAPAN
Japanese deep science fund UTEC partners with Blume Ventures to take Indian tech startups global

The University of Tokyo Edge Capital (UTEC), which invests in deep science and deep tech startups, and has seen several of its portfolio companies go public, is now actively investing in India. To date, it has made investments in two companies: Bugworks and Tricog. What many may not know that its journey in India is a partnership with Blume Ventures (founded by Karthik Reddy and Sanjay Nath and one of India’s most sought-after early-stage investors). The two funds are going to set up Blume UTEC Deep-tecH Accelerator (BUDHA), an initiative to invest in and mentor Indian startups working in the sectors of deep science and technology.

UTEC’s current investments in India include:

**Tricog Health**: An AI cardiology services provider, offers accurate, real-time diagnosis of an ECG. UTEC also introduced Japanese manufacturers of ECG machines, potential business partners from Japan, and cardiologists from the country to expand Tricog’s markets and complement its scientific base.

**Bugworks Research**: The startup designs antibiotics against bacteria with antimicrobial resistance (AMR), also known as “superbugs”. UTEC also introduced Bugworks to Japanese pharmaceutical companies for potential partnerships.

SoftBank invested $350 million in logistics start up "Delhivery"

Soft Bank has completed its investment in Gurugram-based e-commerce logistics startup Delhivery, and in the process catapulting it into India’s growing list of startups with billion-dollar valuations post-investment the Delhivery has valuation $1.6 Billion. On February 27, SoftBank received the final approval from Competition Commission of India (CCI) to pick up 22.44% of the total share capital of Delhivery Pvt. Ltd. Delhivery was founded in 2011 by Mohit Tandon, Sahil Barua, Bhavesh Manglani, Kapil Bharati, and Suraj Saharan. It services about 600 cities and 8,500 pin codes in India. As of December 2018, the company had 12 fulfilment centres for B2C and B2B services and works with ecommerce companies such as Flipkart and Paytm.

Trade Fairs & Exhibitions in India in 2019

To know plz visit https://www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/

Soft Bank invested $350 million in logistics start up "Delhivery"

India’s e-commerce leader, Rakuten, is partnering with India’s Tech Mahindra to implement the world’s first cloud native mobile network. The ‘greenfield’ development is being designed and constructed in record time, forging the legacy requirements common elsewhere in the industry in favour of an innovative cloud-based approach. It is an example of what is possible in the 5G digital economy, so long as governments and regulators develop suitable policy frameworks to support this new innovation.

India – Japan Business

**Global Collaboration for the Global 5G Business**

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**Escorts-Kubota JV to make tractors in Faridabad**

In Feb 2019 Escorts and Kubota Corporation laid the foundation stone for Escorts Kubota India’s manufacturing plant on Escorts land in Faridabad.

Escorts Kubota India plant will manufacture advance technology tractors to cater to Indian and overseas markets. The initial investment for the new plant would be Rs. 300 crore. The plant will have a capacity of 50,000 tractors in the initial phase. The new unit would be operational from June 2020.

The newly formed company will leverage leading Japanese technology from Kubota and Indian engineering excellence of Escorts to manufacture tractors for attaining global leadership position.

The Japanese government on March 11, 2019 announced a donation of some $31,800 to the Rabindra Bharati Museum located at the Jorasanko Thakurbari campus of the Rabindra Bharati University in a bid to strengthen historical and cultural ties with India. The renovated and refurbished Japan Gallery in the Museum will go a long way to commemorate Rabindranath Tagore’s contribution in the Japan-India relations. RN Tagore, Asia’s first Nobel Prize recipient, visited Japan notably in 1916, 1924 and 1929, renewing relations between the countries as India’s leading cultural ambassador.

More key findings of the report –

**Startup Landscape**
- 7200-7700 Start-ups incepted during 2013-18; overall base growing at 12-15%
- 1200+ Start-ups added in 2018
- 8 Start-ups become Unicorns in 2018; highest addition in a single calendar year ever!!!
- In addition to metro cities, tier II and tier III cities are also emerging as new hubs for startups.

**Funding and Merger & Acquisition**
- USD 4.3 Bn funding received by Start-ups in 2018 (Jan-Sep); more than 100% YoY growth
- USD 9.4 Mn average funding per deal (144% increase over 2017); Seed stage funding further down by 21%
- 70+ M&As, which is 15% increase from 2017

**Funding by Verticals** –
- AI Start-ups’ Funding grew by 120% YoY and Over $150 Mn invested in 2018
- Blockchain funding (though on a smaller base) grew by 500% YoY ($2 Mn to $11 Mn)

**Startup Ecosystem Enablers** –
- 210+ active Accelerators/Incubators; 11% increase compared to 2017
- 35+ Corporate Incubators/Accelerators incepted in the last 3 years
- 14+ active International Startup Exchange missions

**Emerging Sectors**
- Enterprise Software, FinTech, and HealthTech are leading verticals, which comprise 50% of total Startups
- Advanced Tech Startups grew over 50% in 2017 alone
- Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence and IoT Startups are witnessing fastest adoption across Industry verticals.


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**Japan India Startup Hub:** It is an online platform to bridge the gap between Indian & Japanese startup ecosystems and enable meaningful synergies to promote joint innovation in both economies. The Hub was conceptualized as part of a joint statement signed between the METI (Japan) and MoC&I (India) on 1st May 2018. The Hub enables collaborations between startups, investors, incubators, & aspiring entrepreneurs of both countries and provide them requisite resources for market entry & global expansion.

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**TIDE 2.0**
Ministry of Electronics & IT (Meity), Government of India has launched the “The Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0)” scheme. The scheme has been devised to promote the momentum into the tech entrepreneurship landscape. The scheme provides financial and technical support to incubators engaged in supporting ICT startups using emerging technologies such as IoT, AI, blockchain, robotics etc. in seven pre-identified areas of societal relevance.

**Features:**
- Grants of upto Rs. 192 crores for startups under TIDE 2.0.
- Meity, GoI’s Startup hub to facilitate foreign incubation for Indian startups under TIDE 2.0
- Over 2000 tech startups to benefit from the activities of Meity, GoI’s Startup Hub.
A 7 member team comprising 5 members from Invest India and 2 members from Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) visited Japan from February 25 to March 1, 2019. The delegation organized 2 India Investment Seminars and had 19 one-to-one meetings with Japanese companies in Kyoto & 18 meetings in Osaka on 25 & 26 February 2019 in association with CGI Osaka-Kobe, MV Consultancy, Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kyoto Chamber of Commerce and Industry and JETRO. During the seminar, Invest India highlighted Investment opportunities in India and introduced a single online platform named Invest India Grid (IIG) for Japanese investors.

SECI showcased investment opportunities and publicized about the recent global tenders floated by the Government of India in the field of Renewable Energy. The delegation visited Tokyo on February 28 & March 1, 2019 and attended 32 meetings with their Japanese counterparts at the multi-function room of the Indian Embassy. The objective of the delegation was to promote Japanese Investment in India by providing hand-holding support and facilitation to Japanese companies desirous of making investment in India. Out of the 57 Japanese companies listed during Indian PM’s visit to Japan in October 2018, about 15 companies from various sectors including automobile, engineering, automotive components, electronics manufacturing, solar energy and environmental technologies participated at the one to one meetings. Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava, DCM and Mr. Bhagirathi Behera, First Secretary (Eco) along with the Team Invest India attended the meetings. The two days meetings generated a lot of interest among the Japanese investors. Some of the Japanese companies already operating in India were keen either to scale up their investment through business expansion or to seek joint venture with their Indian counterparts. The total commitment of Japanese investment from the participating companies during the period amounted to more than $ 2 billion.

Visit of Team Invest India to Japan for Investment Roadshow

**Invest India has some special features to cater Japanese Investment like -**

- Japanese version of Invest India website (https://www.investindia.gov.in/country/japan-desk)
- Dedicated twitter handle @investindiaJPN
- Dedicated email ID to take queries japan@investindia.org.in
- Dedicated Japan desk that ONLY focuses on Japanese investments!
- Sector specific Brochures in Japanese language

The Japan Desk at Invest India is the one-stop-shop for exploring and materializing your India entry plans. Working closely with the Union Ministries, States and regulatory authorities, we bring to you a seamless experience in kick-starting your India business.
India ranked 77th in the World Bank’s ease of doing business index last year in 2018, gaining the most in the construction permit category where it climbed 129 ranks to be ranked 52nd. This report recognized six reforms in India that allowed this improvement – starting a business, getting electricity, dealing with construction permits, getting credit, paying taxes and trading across borders. For construction permits India has implemented an online single window system, introduced deemed approvals and reduced the cost for obtaining these permits. In the electricity sector, the time taken to obtain a new connection has reduced from 105 to 55 days. For resolving insolvency, India has put in place a new Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and time bound reorganization procedure for corporate debtors. In light of these advancements, we would like to highlight the labour law reforms undertaken by the Indian government in recent years.

**Legislative Initiatives**

- **Under Payment of Bonus Amendment Act**, eligibility limit for payment of bonus enhanced from Rs 10000/- to Rs. 21000/- per month and the Calculation Ceiling from Rs. 3500/- to Rs. 7000/- or the minimum wages.
- **Payment of Wages (Amendment) Act, 2017** enabling payment of wages to employees by cash or cheque or crediting it to their bank account.
- **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016** provides for complete ban on employment of children below 14 years in any occupation or process.
- **Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, 2017**, increases the paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
- **The Employee Compensation (Amendment) Act**, seeks to rationalize penalties and strengthen the rights of the workers under the Act.
- **The Payment Of Gratuity (Amendment) Act, 2018**, provides flexibility to the Central Government firstly to increase the ceiling limit of gratuity to such amount as may be notified from time to time and secondly to enhance the calculation of continuous service for the purpose of gratuity in case of female employees who are on maternity leave to such period as may be notified from time to time. Vide Notification dated 29th March, 2018, the ceiling limit of gratuity has been increased from Rs. 10 Lakh to 20 Lakh and this period of maternity leave for calculation purpose has been enhanced from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.

**Governance Reforms**

- Ministry has notified “Ease of Compliance to maintain Registers under various Labour Laws Rules, 2017” on 21st February 2017 which has in effect replaced the 56 Registers/Forms under 9 Central Labour Laws and Rules made there under in to 5 common Registers/Forms. This will save efforts, costs and lessen the compliance burden by various establishments.
- **A Model Shops and Establishments (RE&CS) Bill, 2016** has been circulated to all States/UTs for adoption with appropriate modification. The said Bill inter alia provides for freedom to operate an Establishment for 365 days in a year without any restriction on opening/closing time and enables employment of women during night shifts if adequate safety provisions exist.
- **Under Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946**, the category i.e. Fixed Term Employment, with all Statutory Benefits, has been extended to all Sectors to impart flexibility to an establishment to employ people to meet the fluctuating demands, vide the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central (Amendment) Rules, 2018.
- Ministry has also notified Rationalization of Forms and Reports under Certain Labour Laws Rules, 2017 on 28.03.2017 for reduction of number of Forms / Returns under 3 Central Acts / Rules from 36 to 12 by reviewing redundant and overlapping fields.
- **UNIFIED ANNUAL RETURN** - “Unified Annual Return returns have been made mandatory in respect of the these Central Labour Acts [the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947] on the ShramSuvidha Portal”.

For more information please visit:

http://www.doingbusiness.org/content/dam/doingBusiness/country/i/india/IND.pdf
The Third Japan-India Cyber Dialogue was held in Tokyo on February 27, 2019. Japan and India shared views that ensuring cyber security enhances each nation’s security, socio-economic activities, and people’s daily lives, and both sides reaffirmed their commitment to an open, free, secure and stable cyber space. Areas of discussion included information sharing on recent cyber-attack incidents and response, update on domestic cyber security strategies and policies, policy and measures on supply chain risk. Also, discussions on bilateral cooperation in the field of international cooperation and capacity building etc. were discussed.

The First Meeting of the Japan-India Space Dialogue was held in Delhi on March 8, 2019. The dialogue brought together outer space related ministries and agencies in two countries and provided an opportunity to exchange information on the space policy of each country and to hold discussions on space security, bilateral cooperation between JAXA-ISRO, their space industries, global navigation satellite system, space situational awareness (SSA), space-related norms and other areas of mutual interest. Both sides shared the view that they would deepen the mutual understanding on respective space policies and explore concrete cooperation between two countries and also decided to hold this dialogue on a regular basis to enhance bilateral cooperation. This Dialogue will be held following the decision at the Japan-India Summit Meeting in October 2018 to launch an annual space dialogue for enhancing bilateral cooperation in outer space.

ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)

Established – 15 August 1969
Vision : Harness space technology for national development, while pursuing space science research and planetary exploration.
Achievements till present
- 103 Spacecraft Missions incl. 03 Nano Satellites, 1 Micro Satellite
- 72 Launch Missions incl. Scramjet-TD & RLV – TD
- 10 Student Satellites
- 2 Re-entry Missions
- 269 Foreign Satellites of 32 Countries incl. Japan

GSLV-Mk III / Chandrayaan-2 Mission

Chandrayaan-2, India's second mission to the Moon is a totally indigenous mission comprising of an Orbiter, Lander and Rover. After reaching the 100 km lunar orbit, the Lander housing the Rover will separate from the Orbiter. After a controlled descent, the Lander will soft land on the lunar surface at a specified site and deploy a Rover. The mission will carry a six-wheeled Rover which will move around the landing site in semi-autonomous mode as decided by the ground commands. The instruments on the rover will observe the lunar surface and send back data, which will be useful for analysis of the lunar soil.

The Chandrayaan-2 weighing around 3290 kg and would orbit around the moon and perform the objectives of remote sensing the moon. The payloads will collect scientific information on lunar topography, mineralogy, elemental abundance, lunar exosphere and signatures of hydroxyl and water-ice.

GSLV-F10/Chandrayaan-2 Mission is planned during early 2019.
NASA Says Earth Is Greener Today Than 20 Years Ago Thanks To China, India

The recent finding by NASA and published in the journal *Nature Sustainability*, compared satellite data from the mid-1990s to today using high-resolution imagery. Initially, the researchers were unsure what caused the significant uptick in greening around the planet. It was unclear whether a warming planet, increased carbon dioxide (CO2) or a wetter climate could have caused more plants to grow. After further investigation of the satellite imagery, the researchers found that greening was disproportionately located in China and India. If the greening was primarily a response from climate change and a warming planet, the increased vegetation shouldn’t be limited to country borders. In addition, higher latitude regions should become greener faster than lower latitudes as permafrost melts and areas like northern Russia become more habitable.

In contrast to the perception of China and India’s willingness to overexploit land, water and resources for economic gain, the countries are responsible for the largest greening of the planet in the past two decades. The two most populous countries have implemented ambitious tree planting programs and scaled up their implementation and technology around agriculture. India continues to break world records in tree planting, with 800,000 Indians planting 50 million trees in just 24 hours.
The bat that is the pride of the nation! Made with homegrown willow, Kashmiri cricket bat is made in factories which combine traditional tools with modern technology. To explore more visit the link https://www.facebook.com/154186704651950/posts/2521096247960972/

Visa on arrival is available for Japanese citizens. Please visit Embassy of India’s website for details.

Advisory on e-Visa
Foreigners having e-Visa travelling to India on a passport different from the passport mentioned on Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) issued to them, must also carry the passport on which ETA was issued to avoid denial of their entry into India.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULE FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS TO LOK SABHA

Information for Overseas Indian Electors
In response to common queries regarding voting rights of overseas Indians, it is clarified that every Indian citizen staying in a foreign country owing to employment, education, etc, who has not acquired citizenship of a foreign country and is otherwise eligible to be registered as a voter in the address mentioned in the passport and has completed 18 years as on 1st January of the year of revision of electoral roll and is not disqualified to be enrolled as an elector, is an eligible Overseas Elector.

The application in Form 6A can be submitted online (with requisite documentary proofs) or to the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) concerned by post (02 copies of filled Form 6A required) or in person (with the original passport produced for verification). The name of your constituency and part in the district/state of residence and Form 6A can be obtained from the official website of the Election Commission of India www.eci.gov.in. Form 6A can be filled online at www.nvsp.in.

More details about documents required, the verification process, how to cast your vote, etc (information brochures and posters on Overseas Voters) can be found at http://ecisveep.nic.in/voters/overseas-voters.

Voter list is continuously updated till the last date of filing of nominations by the candidate. This is approximately 3 weeks before the polling date. Lok Sabha elections are scheduled from 11 Apr – 23 May, 2019.

To listen please visit the link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsMSPnIbtEs&feature=youtu.be

Tourists travelling or planning to travel to India can seek help and information for a hassle-free experience. Toll Free Number 1800-111-363 OR on a short code 1363

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Kashmiri Cricket Bat
The bat that is the pride of the nation! Made with homegrown willow, Kashmiri cricket bat is made in factories which combine traditional tools with modern technology. To explore more visit the link https://www.facebook.com/154186704651950/posts/2521096247960972/
Embassy of India, organised a public yoga session in the famous Yoyogi Park, Tokyo on the morning of Sunday 10 March to mark International Women’s Day. Activities included asanas, meditation, mantra chanting and laughing yoga by Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture at the Embassy’s Vivekananda Cultural Centre (VCC). In addition, discussions about International Women’s Day, singing the Hindi song “Hum Honge Kaamyaab” and a talk on Mahatma Gandhi also took place.

Kumbh Mela 2019 created three Guinness world records. The first world record is for organising and played more than 500 shuttle buses on the highway in one go that has been rated as the biggest crowd and traffic management plan by the Guinness team. The second world record is for the painting exercise conducted on March 1 under the Paint My City Scheme. And the third world record is for biggest collective cleaning exercise as more than 10,000 sanitation workers engaged in the cleaning work at Prayagraj Kumba Mela simultaneously.

India’s Kumbh Mela 2019 at Prayagraj district in northern state of Uttar Pradesh has been considered the world’s largest religious gathering, which is estimated to be attended by over 120 million people.

Excerpts from The Mainichi Shimbun (morning edition, 10 March 2019)

Serial: Tabi-La Vita—By Miki Myochin

India is the motherland of yoga. … Here are some glimpses of India’s various cultures and festivals.

Kumbh Mela was held in Prayagraj from January through early March, 2019. … Ms. Keiko Aikawa, who is called “Yogmata” by Indian people, was taking part in the Parade of Sadhus…After her encounter with a sadhu from the Himalayas in 1984, Ms. Aikawa practiced deep meditation in the Himalayas. “People nowadays are suffering, as they are under a constant pressure to be productive. If you can feel that you are living in the cosmic cycle of Nature, your mind will calm down.” “Kumbh Mela celebrates such acts. Therefore, it is called a festival of peace.”

Recently, Yog Mata Keiko Aikawa was in New York to switch on lights highlighting Yoga poses at UN HQs
Lectures & Cultural Programmes Marking International Women’s Day

Date: Tuesday 19th March 2019
Venue: VCC Auditorium, Embassy of India
Venue Opens: 14:30 / Start: 15:00
Attendance Fee: Free
N.B. Advance reservation by E-mail required.

[Programme]

*Programme may change without notice.

1500 Opening Remarks by H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan
1510 Talk on “The Power of Women” by Sh. Aftab Seth, former Ambassador of India to Japan
1530 Lecture on “Success of Women: Indian Perspective” by Smt. Gunjan Verma, Spouse of Ambassador
1545 Lecture on “Women, Peace and Development: South Asian Experience” by Dr Anjoo Sharan Upadhyaya, Prof. of Political Science, Banaras Hindu University
1605 Lecture on Gandhi’s Vision for Women Empowerment by Profesor Priyankar Upadhyaya, UNESCO Chair for Peace, Banaras Hindu University & Global Fellow, Peace Research Institute Oslo
1625 Talk by Dr Hiroko Maruyama, Director, Japan Buddhist Women’s Federation
1640 Poetry recital by Ms Tamiko Ohba, Representative, Japan India Women’s Forum
1650 Indian Movie Dance by Ms Lisa Itakura and Musashino University Students
1655 Dance Performance in Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by Ms Lisa Itakura
1700 Vote of Thanks

Supported by
Japan Buddhist Women’s Federation
Japan India Women’s Forum

How to Attend: Entrance is free. Please send your full name, specifying this event, to the following email address by 17:00, 18th March. Reservations subject to availability and taken on first come, first served basis.

Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Tokyo
Indian Cultural Centre, Tokyo
Address: 2-2-11 Kudani Minami, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0074
Phone: +81-3-3262-2391 E-mail: vcc.tokyo@mea.gov.in
Website: www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/India_culture_centre.html Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/indiaJapan/
Office Hours: 09:00 – 17:30 (Mon. to Fri. except gazetted holidays / Half day holidays on public holidays)
India Perspectives is the flagship magazine of the Ministry of External Affairs, India. It is printed in 16 languages including Japanese.

It is available in 170 countries, disseminating interesting information about India’s rich culture and tradition.

For a copy of the magazine, mail us at: poip@mea.gov.in