India among top 10 countries with higher climate performance

India, for the first time, ranks among the top 10 in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) released on 19th Dec 2019 at the COP25 climate summit in Madrid, Spain. The index is jointly presented by Germanwatch, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network.

The current levels of per capita emissions and energy use are still comparatively low and, along with ambitious 2030 targets, result in high ratings for the GHG Emissions and Energy Use categories. While the country receives an overall medium rating in the Renewable Energy category, India’s 2030 renewable energy target is rated very high for its well-below 2°C compatibility. Government aims to increase the share of non-fossil fuels to 175 GW by 2022 and further take it to 450 GW.

For more details visit the link https://www.climate-change-performance-index.org/country/india

ISRO’s PSLV-C48 successfully launches RISAT-2BR1 and nine commercial satellites incl. from Japan

India’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its fiftieth flight (PSLV-C48), successfully launched RISAT-2BR1, an earth observation satellite, along with 09 commercial satellites of Israel, Italy, Japan and USA from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

RISAT-2BR1 is a radar imaging earth observation satellite and will provide services in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Disaster Management. 9 Commercial satellites were launched under commercial arrangement with New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

For more details visit the link https://www.isro.gov.in/launcher/pslv-c48-risat-2br1

India’s First Woman Naval Pilot

A proud moment as Sub Lieutenant Shivangi created history as the India's first woman Naval pilot. The coveted "Wings" were presented to her by Vice Admiral AK Chawla, FOC-in-C (South) on 2nd Dec 2019.

For more details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=195299
India’s PSLV-C47 successfully launched Cartosat-3 & 13 commercial Nan satellites

On 27th Nov. 2019, ISRO’s PSLV-C47 launched in space Cartosat-3 satellite, a third generation agile advanced satellite having high resolution imaging capability. 13 Commercial Nanosatellites from USA were also successfully injected into designated orbit. These satellites were launched under commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

For more details visit the link [https://www.isro.gov.in/launcher/pslv-c47-cartosat-3-mission](https://www.isro.gov.in/launcher/pslv-c47-cartosat-3-mission)

IAN-BIRAC Launches BioAngels – India’s First BioTech Focused Angel Funding Network

In a bid to unlock the immense potential of the Indian biotech industry, BIRAC-Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, in partnership with Indian Angel Network, has launched “BioAngels” at the Global Bio India 2019. This platform aims to be the single largest national platform for biotech angel investing.

By combining the power of regulatory vision and angel investment, such initiatives aim to strengthen and assist BIRAC in escalating the growth of the Indian bioeconomy, enabling it to surpass $100 billion by 2025. The first-of-its-kind focused funding program will accomplish this by facilitating budding innovators with access to capital, mentorship, and growth opportunities. IAN-BIRAC Launches BioAngels is expected to give a significant boost to the Indian Biotech Industry.


Indian Textile Industry Attempting to Bring Revolution to Global Fashion Industry

The Nikkei (5 December)

Textile industry is one of traditional industries of India. It has been providing many jobs to Indian nationals following agriculture. In recent years, however, its rivals, China and Bangladesh, have emerged as global manufacturing sites for textile products, surpassing India. Now the Indian textile industry is exploring the possibility to regain its international reputation by adopting IT technology.

It used to take a long time and a large number of skilled workers to produce a sari. First, a designer may create a prototype design composed of a series of complex patterns. Dying process may include preparing block stamps to reproduce the designed patterns on a long cloth which may sometimes stretch out to some hundred meters, and actual printing by rubbing block stamps with different colors on the cloth. This tiring process is being changed by IT technology.

Mr. Sandip Bowsla, Colors International, says “We first show design and coloring samples to our client. We only manufacture designs and colors that our client like and agree on” by utilizing digital printer. The company has the state-of-art digital printer which is capable of printing designs created on computers. Once the desired design and color pattern is sent to the printer, it can print them on a cloth as long as more than 10,000 meters a day.

With the power of digital, the company is capable of procuring one design with a numerous color variations. Current size of India’s textile industry is estimated to be over 200 billion US dollars, but digital printing constitutes only 2% of it.

The digital printer that had been adopted by the Colors International was created with technology provided by a Japanese company, Kyocera. Mr. Hironobu FUJIIHASHI, Kyocera Asia Pacific, says “Digital printing technology could reduce the environmental pollution in India. We would like to cooperate with local partner companies to contribute to Make in India policy”. The recent development in India’s textile industry is a good example which proves that we can enhance the competitiveness of traditional industries if we can refine them and apply India’s strength today to them.

For more details visit [https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGKKZO52973080U9A201C1FFE000/](https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGKKZO52973080U9A201C1FFE000/)
CSIR Developed Anti-Diabetes Medicine

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), through its constituent laboratories namely CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow; and CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow developed scientifically validated herbal product NBRMAP-DB as anti-diabetic formulation and the knowhow for the product was licensed to M/s AIMIL Pharma Ltd., Delhi who are manufacturing and marketing it as BGR-34, across the country. M/s AIMIL Pharmaceuticals, the licensee carried out the clinical study of BGR-34 and the trial was registered in clinical trial registry of India (Registration number: CTRI/2016/11/007476). Further, the formulation has shown therapeutic efficacy for treating newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes, as found in independent clinical trials conducted at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi.

For more details visit the link https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6174273/

IIT Jodhpur researchers develop catalytic converter for cars

A research team from the IIT-Jodhpur chemistry department has developed a catalytic converter for cars using Rajasthani clay. It will be cheaper and more effective in reducing pollution. The new catalytic converter was developed by the extraction of Iron-Nickel-Cobalt nanoparticles from the Rajasthani clay. The clay acts as an oxygen reservoir. It turns the pollutants less harmful. The Rajasthani clay will reduce the temperature. It can be used as a replacement for Palladium and Cerium. This will also help in redesigning the converter. The catalytic converters that are currently used have expensive rare earth elements namely Palladium and Cerium. The life span of these elements is about 10 years against an approximate 15-year life of a four-wheeler.

For more details visit the link https://www.fresherslive.com/current-affairs/articles/iit-jodhpur-researchers-develop-catalytic-converter-for-cars-23202

IISc Researchers Develop Portable Device To Detect TB

Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru researchers have developed a compact, stand-alone and portable device that promises to overcome the limitation of conventional DNA Based test called NAAT- Nucleic Acid Amplification Test by drastically cutting down the costs. The new device uses the principle called LAMP detection or Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification of the DNA of the TB bacteria present in infected samples.

For more details visit the link https://www.biotecnika.org/2019/11/iisc-researchers-develop-portable-device-to-detect-tb/

CSIR becomes a member of the WAITRO

India’s Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR; https://www.csir.res.in/) become a member of the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations (WAITRO). WAITRO (https://www.waitro.org/) is a non-governmental, independent and a non-profit association under the United Nations system and aim to promote and encourage co-operation among industrial and technological research and development organizations (RTOs).

Joining WAITRO will give CSIR benefits like free usage of SAIRA’s research & technology development open innovation platform and partner search (to submit challenges) with other members with aim to achieve UN SDGs.

IIT Hyderabad developed the world’s first ever Indian Brain Atlas

Researchers at IIT Hyderabad developed the world’s first-ever Indian Brain Atlas which defines a template for the brains of people living in the Indian subcontinent. The study revealed that the Indian brain is smaller in size, width, and volume when compared to the brain from the Western and Eastern populations.

The study is desirable in order to build a larger atlas as it is important to understand structurally what is normal. This would help to find several brain conditions in the early stage.

For more details visit the link https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/an-indian-brain-atlas/article29822964.ece
Panasonic to build New Wiring Device Factory in Southern India

On 17th Dec 2019, Panasonic Corporation announced a plan that will expand its manufacturing footprint in India. Panasonic Life Solutions India Pvt., Ltd., the Thane, Maharashtra-based manufacturing and sales arm of Panasonic's Life Solutions Company, will build a new factory to produce wiring devices, electrical wire and switchgear with an investment of 2,946 million rupees (approx. 4.6 billion yen). The new factory in Sri City Industrial Park in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh will be Panasonic's fourth electrical equipment material production base in the country, and is scheduled to start production in autumn 2021.


Japan's Suntory to Enter Indian Market

The Nikkei (17 December)

It was learned that Suntory Holdings would start its quest into the largest spirits consuming country in the world, India. In its attempt to tap potential whiskey demands in India, it plans to market whiskey developed exclusively for India and blended in India. In addition, the company will export its flagship product, Roku, to the market.

In India, spirits is gaining public support, not only among affluent population, but also among young Indians.

Suntory will start marketing their whiskey with a brand name of “Oak Smith” this week. The price of one 750ml bottle is 836 rupee and 1,375 rupee, targeting middle and upper class consumers. For 2020, the company aims to sell 120,000 cases (1 case = 9 litters) and in 2022, over one million cases.

For more details visit the link [https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGKKZO53438500W9A211C1MM8000/](https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGKKZO53438500W9A211C1MM8000/)

Medikabazaar gets Rs 112 crore in Series B by investors led by Japan’s Toppan Printing Co

Medikabazaar, a B2B online marketplace for medical equipment and supplies, has got Rs 112 crore in its latest funding round, led by a clutch of new and existing investors.

Healthcare-centric VC firm HealthQuad, Belgium-based diversified group Ackermans & van Haaren, early-stage investment firm Rebright Partners and Japan’s Toppan Printing Co led the fundraise. The startup will use the proceeds to build on its technology suite, supply chain infrastructure and for augmenting its team. For Japan's Toppan Printing Co Limited this is its maiden startup investment in India.

Existing investors CBC Co Ltd, Elan Corporation, Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Venture Capital, Belgium's Kois Invest, Sasaki Foods, etc.


Orix to Launch Market Research Business by Partnering with Indian Market Research Company

The Nikkei (7 December)

Orix would be launching a market research service in Japan as an agent for Indian market research major.

Japan’s “Orix” signed a contact with India’s “Markets and Markets”, a market research major which has strength in conducting prospective study for emerging industries. Orix will be acting as an exclusive agent for Markets and Markets in Japan. In Japan, Orix will be providing a fix-rate service which subscribes over 5000 reports on new developments in emerging industries to corporate subscribers with no limitation. In addition to information provision services, Orix may provide consulting services or carry out researches based on requests from corporate customers.

Established in 2009, Markets and Markets has strength in researching the prospective study in emerging industries, such as “food production through 3D printer". It has offices in India, US and Germany.

Through the partnership with Markets and Markets, Orix envisages to take part in M&A or new business initiatives by corporate customers from the very early stage of them so that Orix can provide its financial services to them during the course of their project.
Shunsuke's "Sagri," utilizes remote sensing to solve farming issues in Japan and India

Former space-engineering student, TSUBOI Shunsuke, had the idea to utilize remote sensing to solve farming issues in Japan and overseas. Sagri, his web-based application, incorporates farmers’ records with satellite data to help them visualize their tacit know-how and become more efficient with AI. His company is entering the Indian market - where nearly 50% of the population are farmers - to address their agricultural challenges. **SAgri Bengaluru**, is the Indian subsidiary of Japan’s SAgri (headquarters: Tanba City, Hyogo Pref.; [http://sagri.tokyo/en/]). Recently, SAgri Bengaluru participated in TechSpark 2019, an exhibition held in Bengaluru from 11th to 12th October 2019 and showcased services they offer to various startups, senior managers of related companies and investors.

SAgri Bengaluru became the first Indian subsidiary established (5 Sept 2019) with the support program called **“Japan-India Startup Hub”** which is promoted by JETRO Bengaluru. The company utilizes data it collects from survey of firming lands and from satellite. Based on such data, the company provides farmers with effective planting methods. To financial institutions, the company supports their effort to find hopeful loan recipients without checking their financial status. With the launch of Indian subsidiary, SAgri plans to shift R&D function to Bengaluru and will be hiring Indian engineers who are knowledgeable about farming in India.

For more details [https://www.nna.jp/news/show/1960530?fbclid=IwAR0TnYMjO4zNm809P_b0v3QdILaDuhzF9Mt0I_Inm8JaHitKSZHtk](https://www.nna.jp/news/show/1960530?fbclid=IwAR0TnYMjO4zNm809P_b0v3QdILaDuhzF9Mt0I_Inm8JaHitKSZHtk)

### IIT Hyderabad to collaborate with Japan’s ItsEV on development of Li-ion batteries for EVs

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH), in collaboration with Japan’s ItsEV Inc, plans to develop Lithium ion (Li-ion) batteries for various applications, including electric vehicles. IITH and ItsEV Inc expect to come out with a Li-ion battery that will be superior to the other existing batteries in India. A research group of IIT Hyderabad, has demonstrated that high-energy Li-ion batteries have double the energy of similar batteries produced in 2018. The researchers have also demonstrated 100-200 mAh sodium-ion cells at the Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratory in Hyderabad.

India imports Li-ion batteries from China, South Korea, Japan & Europe, which are made into battery packs, before marketing. Even though a billion people use Li-ion batteries, there is not a single indigenous manufacturing company producing Li-ion batteries. The Government of India plans to convert 30% of all vehicles on the road into electric ones by 2030.

For more details visit the link [https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/iit-hyderabad-to-collaborate-on-development-of-lithium-ion-batteries-for-electric-vehicles-other-use/article30129676.ece](https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/iit-hyderabad-to-collaborate-on-development-of-lithium-ion-batteries-for-electric-vehicles-other-use/article30129676.ece)

### SMBC Invested into India’s Non-banking Financial Institution

The Nikkei (17 December) reported that SMBC on 16th announced that it made an investment to India’s non-banking financial institution, Northern Arc Capital ([https://www.northernarc.com/](https://www.northernarc.com/)). With the amount invested by SMBC, the Northern Arc Capital aims to expand their operation. It plans to open its third office in India in 2020.

By investing into the Northern Arc Capital, who has deep knowledge in dealing with India’s SMEs and agricultural sector, SMBC aims to expand their investment and loan business in India.

Though the total investment amount was not revealed, SMBC became the 7th largest shareholder of NAC with 5.7% contribution rate.

For more details visit the link [https://www.nikkei.com/article/ DGXMDZO53419030W9A211C1EE9000/](https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXMDZO53419030W9A211C1EE9000/).

### Nippon Steel Completes Acquisition of Major Indian Steel Firm

Kyodo News 16 December 2019

Nippon Steel Corp. and European firm Arcelor Mittal announced on the 16th that they have completed the purchase of major Indian steel firm Essar Steel for 500 billion INR. Of the 500 billion INR (770 billion JPY), 40% (approx. 300 billion JPY) will be funded by Nippon Steel, and the remaining 60% by Arcelor. Both companies will be naming equal numbers of board members, and will both be equity method companies. In 2018, Essar produced about 6.5 million tons of steel. Nippon Steel and Arcelor have a mid-term plan to raise the production level to 8.5 million tons.

For more details visit the link [https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2019/12/d6a441b8802-nippon-steel-arcelormittal-complete-7-bil-india-steel-firm-purchase.html](https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2019/12/d6a441b8802-nippon-steel-arcelormittal-complete-7-bil-india-steel-firm-purchase.html)
Global Logistic Companies Exploring India: Nittsu Invested in Subsidiary of Future Group

The Nikkei (12 December)

Global logistic companies are exploring Indian market. DHL plans to increase the number of distribution centers in India in order to respond to the growing demands from internet shopping sites.

Nittsu will be acquiring 22% of issued shares of an Indian logistic company which is a subsidiary of Future’s Group, India’s retail giant, by investing about 10 billion yen. Nittsu will be providing Future Group with its know-how in low-temperature logistics and its fine-knitted delivery plan management.

For more details visit the link https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXMZO53243540R11C19A2TJ2000/

India’s LT Foods and Japan’s Kameda Seika JV will manufacture “Kari Kari” in India

LT Foods announced that Daawat Kameda India Private Limited, a 51:49 Joint Venture (JV) between LT Foods Limited and Kameda Seika, Japan has inaugurated a manufacturing facility in Sonipat as on December 27, 2019. The JV Company Daawat Kameda India Private Limited will manufacture “Kari Kari” from locally sourced ingredients & raw materials and will now be expanding its distribution pan India.

LT Foods is a leading rice-based food company with Strong Global Brands of Basmati, i.e., “Daawat”, “Royal”, etc. and other Specialty Rice, Organic Foods and Rice-based Convenience Products and Kameda Seika, a Japanese snack food major entered into a joint venture in 2017 to manufacture rice based premium snacks in India.

For more details visit the link https://www.indiainfoline.com/article/news-top-story/lt-foods-up-6-after-announcing-inauguration-of-manufacturing-facility-in-sonipat-119122700338_1.html

DMICDC Logistics Data Services (DLDS)

DMICDC Logistics Data Services (DLDS; https://dldsl.in/) is a joint venture between Government of India represented by National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) and Japanese IT major NEC Corporation, with 50:50 equity participation.

DLDS was formed with the objective of effectively leveraging ICT across the Indian Logistics Sector, inculcate best practices across the various processes and work towards bringing in efficiency in the supply chain. The company aims at bringing visibility and transparency in Logistics environment, streamline the operations across the supply chain and help in government’s plan of improving the Ease of Doing Business in India. The objective is to provide the Export Import Container visibility service across the Western corridor of India along with comparative performance metrics for all Logistics Container Operators to enable the users in taking informed decisions. The flagship product of the company “Logistics Data Bank System (LDB System)” is an overarching solution that integrates the information available with various agencies across the supply chain to provide detailed real time information within a single window.
India And Japan Business

On 4th Dec, His Excellency Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met 03 Indian interns (category-construction) arrived in Japan under Japan’s Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP). Also met representatives of Sending (SO), Implementing (IO) & Supervising Organisations (SVO) under the prog. India Signed TITP agreement in October 2017 and under the agreement, India has sent around 160 interns (as on November 2019).

Delegation from Kobe Sister City Ahmedabad

A 13 member goodwill Mission from Gujarat led by Ms Bijal Patel, Mayor of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation met Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma on December 5, 2019 at the embassy Conference room. Mr. Mukesh Patel, the President of the Indo-Japan friendship association made a presentation about the rich cultural heritage of the city of Ahmedabad showcasing present initiatives undertaken by the Government of Gujarat to connect with Japan under the sister city agreement with Kobe. The delegation comprised of members selected from a broad spectrum of sectors including education, sports, culture, business, industry, infrastructure development and scientific research. During his long interactions with the members of the delegation, Ambassador briefed about the Japanese best practices in various fields such as business, tourism, culture, school education and advised them to adopt appropriately so as to promote relations for enhanced bilateral exchanges between Ahmedabad and Kobe. Ambassador mentioned that an advance team of Japanese delegation desiring to visit Gujarat in January 2020 met him at the embassy and apprised about their forthcoming visit to Gujarat. Indian Community Associations in Kobe (India Club, ISS and ICCJ) signed agreement with India-Japan Friendship Association in presence of Mayor Ms Bijal Patel and CG Mr Shyam towards a stronger economic partnership Kobe Ahmadabad Sister City at Community event.

On 21st November 2019, a Seminar and Business Matchmaking event on TITP was held in Osaka, Japan to enhance bilateral cooperation between India and Japan in the area of skill development and labor mobility. Seminar was organized by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and National Skill Developing Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration Consulate General of India, Osaka-Kobe and JITCO, Tokyo and was attended by over 200 stakeholders including Sending Organizations, Implementing Organizations and Supervising Organizations.

On 2nd Dec, His Excellency Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma delivered the opening address at the Symposium organized by Japan External Trade Organisation JETRO (https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/) and Ibaraki Prefecture Japan on economic exchanges with India focusing on local companies of Ibaraki Prefecture at Tsukuba Startup Park (http://tsukuba-stapa.jp).
On 20 December 2019, a Technical Seminar was held in New Delhi on ‘Johkasu’, a decentralised wastewater technology developed by Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan.

Officials from Ministry of Environment, Govt. of Japan also called on Hon'ble Minister for a presentation meeting on ‘JOHKASHOU’ model of domestic waste water treatment of Japan. Officials from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India were also present in the meeting.

Progressive Punjab Investors Summit was held on 6 December 2019 at Indian School of Business (ISB), Mohali, Punjab. The Summit had special ‘Japan Country Session’. The session had presence of many Indian & Japanese Corporate leaders besides representatives from businesses, investors, Startups etc. The broad contours of discussion included the investor friendly climate in Punjab which includes beneficial government policies, excellent connectivity and logistics infrastructure and exceptional facilitation by the Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion.

Mr. Yasuyuki Murahashi, Chief Director General, JETRO, in his keynote remarks, said that Japan “is giving its utmost priority to India,” in terms of investments &Japanese businesses consider India a very promising country to invest. He also remarked that he was “quite impressed” with what Punjab has to offer.

Mr. Yogi Taguchi, Chairman & Managing Director, Mitsubishi Corporation India Pvt Ltd & President, JCCII spoke about the good relations between India & Japan and the presence of Mitsubishi Corporation in India. However, he made a request to the Govt of Punjab to further market themselves and make themselves known to Japanese Investors to further increase interaction between Japan and Punjab.

Mr. Kazunori Ajiki, Managing Director, Yanmar India highlighted Yanmar’s presence in Punjab, remarking that 20 Japanese people are already working at the Solarika International factory in Punjab. He said that Yanmar is positioning Indian as their export hub, increasing their export volume over time.

Mr. Hiroshi Ota, Sr. Vice President – Corporate Planning, SML Isuzu Ltd. provided his experience operating in Punjab and highlighted the areas of operation. He shared the key things Japanese businesses look for while investing in a place: low cost of labour, local material sourcing, and conducive regulatory environment.

Mr. Sachit Jain, Managing Director, Vardhman Special Steels concluded the session by sharing his experience working with the Japanese, remarking that he has been collaborating with Japan since the year 1977. He shared that in his experience, the Japanese value quality and trust above all else. He further shared that Punjab with its hard-working skilled manpower, good working environment and conducive Government support is perfectly positioned to complement what the Japanese investors are looking for.

FIEO Multi-Product Business Delegation to Japan (Tokyo & Osaka) - Feb / March 2020

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO; https://www.fieo.org/index.php) is taking a Multi-Product Business Delegation to Japan in the last week of February / 1st week of March 2020. The objective of the delegation is to boost India’s exports to the region and interact with the prospective buyers through focused B2B Meets.

The focused sectors of the delegation are Apparels, Engineering, Medical equipment’s and Pharmaceuticals, Food and Agro Products, Tea & Coffee, etc.
On 6th Dec 2019, His Excellency Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma hosted a dinner at his residence (India House) for HE Mr Hiroyuki Hosoda, MP House of Representatives & President Japan India Parliamentarians’ Friendship League (JIPFL). They discussed way forward for further deepening of India-Japan relationship.

On 6th Dec 2019, His Excellency Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met Mayor Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture, Japan Mr Masataka Matsuura. They discussed recent visit of CM Kerala to Matsue & potential areas of cooperation between Sanin region & Kerala including Cold Storage Technology, Water Resource Management, Tourism and Biotechnology.

On 5th Dec 2019, His Excellency Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma hosted at Embassy of India Tokyo an outreach event for Japanese media friends. Presentations were made on continued momentum of different pillars of India-Japan Special Strategic Global Partnership (SSGP) as well as recent developments in India.

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Both sides reiterated the importance of the Dialogue as an important mechanism between the two countries and agreed to hold the next round of Dialogue on a mutually convenient date in India.

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India - Japan Naval Passage Exercise

On 25th Dec. 2019, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) Ship Sazanami arrived at Mumbai on a 3 day visit. Cdr Shoji Ishikawa Commanding Officer of JMSDF Ship called on Rear Adm S J Singh, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCW) upon arrival at Mumbai Port Trust. JMSDF Sazanami participated in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with INS Tarkash in Central Arabian Sea with aim to increase Mutual understanding of operating procedures, communication & exchange of best practices. Also included Flying Oerations by integral SH -60J/K helicopter of the JMSDF. Indian Navy & JMSDF have attained high levels of interoperability through bilateral and multinational naval exercises. The visit by JMSDF Sazanami further enhances cooperation & strengthen bonds between the two navies.

Indian Army - JGSDF

Indian Army Chief General Bipin Rawat was on 4-day official visit to Japan. On 4th Dec 2019, General Rawat was accordered ceremonial welcome and presented with Guard of Honour on arrival at Ministry of Defence Japan. General Rawat had an interaction with General Goro Yuasa, Chief of Staff Japan Ground Self Defence Force (JGSDF) and discussed issues of mutual concern. On 5th Dec 2019, General Rawat called upon Minister of Defence of Japan, HE Mr Taro Kono at the Ministry of Defence and General Koji Yamazaki, Chief of Staff, Joint staff Japan Self Defence Force (JSDF) and discussion was on issues of mutual concern. On 6th Dec 2019, General Rawat visited 34 Infantry Regiment at Itazuma Japan. The Regiment had participated in Dharma Guardian Exercise held in November 2019 in India. General Rawat interacted with Colonel Mitsuo Fukada and witnessed Close Quarter Battle and Room Intervention drills by the Regiment.

India-Japan MoC&I and METI Ministerial Meeting

On 10th Dec. 2019, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Government of Japan, Hiroshi Kajiyama met in new Delhi and discussed bilateral issues between India and Japan. Minister Goyal raised the issue of trade deficit between India and Japan and the review of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries and stressed that balancing trade is a high priority for India with all partners. Similarly, market access for India’s goods and services with partner countries is very important but despite commitments in CEPA from Japan, market access for India’s goods and services remains elusive. Both Ministers tasked officials of both countries to prepare a time bound action plan to address all these issues to strengthen Indo-Japan trade relations.

India-Japan MoP&NG and Steel and METI Ministerial Meeting

On 10th Dec 2019, Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Government of Japan, Hiroshi Kajiyama met in new Delhi and discussed enhancing composite engagement in both energy and steel sector to further help elevate the multidimensional bilateral ties between India and Japan.

Speaking about extensive co-operation in steel sector, Minister Pradhan mentioned about Japan importing iron ore under a long term agreement and India importing high grade steel from Japan. He expressed happiness at major Japanese steel companies investing in India through Joint Ventures (JVs) with Indian companies and invited more Japanese investments in sector in India.

Speaking about co-operation in energy sector, Minister Pradhan mentioned that India will see a massive investment of US$ 160 billion by 2024 in oil and gas exploration, refineries and in setting up of natural gas infrastructure and thus there is a huge potential for both to enhance engagements in energy sector, especially in LNG business, Gas Hydrates as well as India’s ambitious Strategic Petroleum Reserves Program.

For more details visit the link https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1595810
Seminar on "Ayurveda and Yoga" in Tokyo - 4th December 2019

On 4 December 2019, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt of India organised at Embassy of India Tokyo an Ayurveda & Yoga Seminar. Welcome remarks were delivered by Ambassador HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma followed by Guest of Honor HE Ms Seiko Hashimoto, Minister Tokyo2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games, Minister I/C Women Empowerment, MoS Gender Equality Govt of Japan remarks. It was followed by lectures "Dinacharya for Preventive Medicine & Curative Treatment" by Dr Shiho Oikawa, Assistant Director, Nippon Ayurveda School; "Dealing with Geriatric Illnesses" by Prof Vaidya K S Dhiman DG CCRAS MoAYUSH; "Preventive Aspects of Healthy Aging" by Dr Deepak Londhe, Research Officer, CCRAS; "Ayurveda for a Better Quality of Life" by Dr UK Krishna, Director, Nippon Ayurveda School; “Therapeutic Potentials of Ashwagandha, the Queen of Ayurveda: Biology to Biotechnology” by Dr. Sunil Kaul, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology (AIST), Japan; "Sanskrit to learn Ayurveda & Yoga" by Ms Makiko Sato of Satvik Inc. Japan. Deputy Chief of Mission Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava gave vote of thanks. Seminar was attended by more than 150 Ayurveda & Yoga practitioners & members of public.

Meeting with Governor & AYUSH Seminar in Kanagawa Prefecture – 3rd December 2019

Ambassador HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma alongwith Ministry of AYUSH, Govt of India's delegation (led by Prof. Vaidya K.S. Dhiman, DG, CCRAS, Ministry of AYUSH www.ccras.nic.in) met Governor Kanagawa Prefecture HE Mr Yuji Kuroiwa at Kanagawa Prefectural Government Office. During the meeting, Governor presented Kanagawa Prefecture efforts towards healthy life by ME-BYO (Disease Prevention) concept and discussed about ongoing and further cooperation in healthy life promotion using concepts like ME-BYO & Indian Traditional Medicine Systems including Yoga and Ayurveda under the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in October 2018 between MoAYUSH and Kanagawa Prefecture in the field of Healthcare & Wellness. They agreed to find some convergence between "MEBYO Index" by Kanagawa Prefecture and "Swasth or Healthy Index" being developed by MoAYUSH, GoI.

After the meeting, a Joint seminar was organized by MoAYUSH, Embassy of India Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefectural Government in collaboration with Jiva Japan, Japan Yoga Therapeutic Society (JYTS) and Maharishi Institute of Total Education Japan on "Ayurveda and Yoga" at Kanagawa Industrial Promotion Centre in Yokohama. Ambassador HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma and Mr Kenji Shuto, Vice Governor of Kanagawa, gave the opening remarks. Ambassador in his remarks emphasized that all ancient civilizations have some short of disease prevention through their traditional medicinal systems and Ayurveda is highly significant among all those. Vice Governor in his remark mentioned that since healthcare nowadays has to be personalized to fulfill different health conditions of individual patients thus MoAYUSH and Kanagawa Prefecture can cooperate with each other towards the realization of happy and healthy aging among our citizens. This was followed by a lecture titled “Efficacy of Ayurveda and Prospective of Ministry of AYUSH by Prof. Vaidya K.S. Dhiman, Director General, CCRAS, Ministry of AYUSH. Next, Ms. Shiena Tirkey, Under Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH and Dr. Deepak Londhe, Research Officer (Ayurveda), CCRAS, Ministry of AYUSH gave a joint presentation on title "Overview of Traditional Indian Systems of Medicine". From the Japanese side, presentations were given by Mr. Nobutaka Kanai, Chief Promotion Officer, Healthcare New Frontier Division, Kanagawa Prefectural Government on topic "ME-BYO (Disease Prevention) Initiatives in Kanagawa Prefecture"; and Dr. Koji Usui, Director, Ginza Rengadori Clinic on title "Clinical Examples of Ayurveda in Japan and Scientific Research". Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India; and Mr Nobutaka Kanai of Kanagawa Prefecture gave the vote of thanks. The event also had Q&A sessions where participants asked interesting questions about Ayurveda for Maternal & Child Health, Management of Dementia, High Blood Pressure, Cancer and Aging through Ayurveda & Yoga. Prof Dhiman replied to queries focusing on the use of Yoga, Panchakarma, healthy lifestyle and use of herbs, etc. and also gave examples of scientific studies being conducted in India on these aspects. There were more than 100 participants in the seminar mainly practitioners of Yoga and Ayurveda.
On 26th Nov 2019, DCM Raj Kumar Srivastava gave remarks at the ceremony for "2019 Japan International Award" (also known as the “Japan Award”) for Young Agriculture Researchers" for Research & Development in related areas in developing countries by JIRCAS (http://JIRCAS.go.jp) & Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) JAPAN. Awardees included Dr. Rebijith KAYATTUKANDY BALAN of India for Molecular approaches in identification, diversity and management of important insect pests in India. More details at https://www.jircas.go.jp/en/reports/2019/r20191129

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Interested undergraduate Japanese students of recognized Institute/University are invited to apply for the short term internship program at IIT Hyderabad for a period of 08(eight) weeks probably in the middle of May 2020 to middle of July 2020. Application last date 20 January 2020.


Counsellor Political & IEC Mr Bramha Kumar and Third Secretary Mr Ranjan Shenoy from Embassy of India Tokyo attended the closing ceremony of JENESYS 2019 (SAARC 1st batch) on 2nd December 2019 at Tokyo. Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth (JENESYS) SAARC is being implemented by Japan International Cooperation Center as entrusted by MOFA of Japan. 10 of Indian students from agricultural universities (NDRI, IVRI, CIFE, FRI, GBPUAT) as well as high schools (KVs) participated. As part of programme, students gained experience on agriculture as well as economic revitalization and disaster management through field visits to several places and institutes in Japan. In closing ceremony the students presented a 60-day action plan to spread their ideas in India- through social media, school newspapers, seminars- to the youth, villagers and the scientific community. Counsellor Political & IEC Mr Bramha Kumar in his remarks mentioned the importance of JENESYS in adding value to daily lives and encourged the participants to collaborate to solve problems as global citizens.
On 13th December 2019, Charge d' affaires a.i. (Cd'a a.i.) Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava delivered a talk on title "Social Innovation of India - commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi" at an charity event "Praying for Peace" at International House in Japan, Tokyo organised by National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ) to commemorate 30th Anniversary of the World TERAKOYA Movement (WTM).

In his talk, Cd'a a.i. mentioned about the recent initiatives by Government of India leading to social innovation in India viz Swatch Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), Skill India Mission, Social Entrepreneurship Accelerators for Healthcare and Agriculture. Cd'a a.i also highlighted Mahatma Gandhi as one of the Social Innovator in terms of India's freedom Struggle. Event had cultural performance as well as Charity Auction of Paintings. Profits from auction will be donated to NFUAJ activities.

The event had presence of President NFUAJ Mr SATO Yoshiki, DG NFUAJ Mr SUZUKI Yuji among others. NFUAJ (https://www.unesco.or.jp/en-activities/), an international non-governmental UNESCO organization, works in various countries of world including India to achieve the United Nations SDGs.

By Tamaki Matsuoka (The Yomiuri Shimbun, December 10, 2019)

An increasing number of Indian movies are now shown in Japan. While studying Hindi at the Tokyo Institute of Foreign Studies forty eight years ago, I came across an Indian movie at a gathering of Indians living in Tokyo, and was fascinated by what I saw. Since then, I have been working to promote Indian movies in Japan.

In 1998, “The Dancing Maharaja” became a big hit in Japan. I translated the movie’s subtitles. After that, the Bollywood boom dwindled for some time. In 2013, the boom came back when “All is Well” was released. I translated the movie’s subtitles. This year, twelve movies Indian would have been released by the year end.

“Bhaijaan” and “The Secret Movie Star” were this year’s hit movies. I feel that an increasing number of Japanese people have become Bollywood fans. Last year, the “Baahubali” series attracted movie goers’ attention.

It seems Japanese people like movie with the following features: 1. Moving stories; 2. Movies shedding light on social movies; 3. Hollywood-type movies. In India, close to 2000 movies are produced annually. Indian movies coming to Japan are only a tiny part of Bollywood. More Indian movies are waiting to be shown in Japan.

A tree exchange ceremony was conducted at the Mulagandhakuti Vihara, Sarnath under the Mahabodhi tree by representatives of the Mahabodhi Society of India and Kumano Hayatama Taisha, a UNESCO World Heritage Japanese Shinto Shrine. In the ceremony, Mr Akira Ueno, Head priest of Kumano Hayatama Taisha exchanged tree leaves from a thousand-year-old sacred Nagi tree from the shrine for sacred leaves of the Mahabodhi tree which were presented by Ven. P Seewalee Nayak Thero, Secretary-General of Mahabodhi Society of India. Also on the same day, the exchange programme of Mahabodhi tree leaves and Nagi tree leaves took place between Ven. Sumedha Thero, Head Priest, Jambudwip Buddhist temple, Sarnath and Mr.Ueno Akira, Head Priest, Kumano Shinto temple at Jambudwip Buddhist temple, Sarnath. The exchanges took place seeking peace and harmony in the world in the new Japanese Reiwa Era and for the long life of Japan’s new Emperor Naruhito. This historic exchange was witnessed by a delegation of Shinto and Buddhist figures from Japan, members of Mahabodhi Society and members of the local community.
On 21st Nov 2019, the Embassy of India hosted a familiarization visit by members of Jodo Buddhist Sect, Koto Ward Youth Association. Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, Vivekananda Cultural Centre, gave welcoming remarks and gave a talk on Buddhist heritage sites in India. The visitors then participated in a yoga session with Dr Reeta Sharma, VCC Teacher of Indian Culture, in which they learned basic yogic asanas, breathing exercises and meditation. The monks of Jodo Sect who took part in the visit will be travelling to India next year to visit Buddhist pilgrimage sites.


On 17th Nov., Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture at EoI’s Vivekananda Cultural Centre, organized a public Yoga session in Yoyogi Park on the morning of Sunday 17th November. The session focused on Krida Yoga, or yogic games for all-round personality development. VCC students, their families, friends and members of the public enthusiastically took part.

On 14th Nov, Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture at Vivekananda Cultural Centre, conducted a lecture titled “Introduction to Vedas”. Veda is a systemic traditional and cultural scientific process to manifest divinity within through all round personality development (physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual). The lecture was attended by over 50 VCC students and members of the public.

VCC’s July – December 2019 Semester conclusion ceremony

On 13th December 2016, a Conclusion Ceremony was organized to celebrate the successful completion of the semester and showcase what students learned at VCC. Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, Vivekananda Cultural Centre, gave the opening remarks and presented the students with certificates for their attendance. All VCC teachers and a large number of students attended the event. Selected students gave demonstrations including yogic asanas, musical performances, dance performances, songs and skits. This semester, VCC offered classes on Yoga, Ayurveda, Tabla, Bharatanatyam, Indian Movie Dance, Odissi and Hindi language.
मैं सन २०१४ से हिंदी पढ़ने लगी | इसके पहले मुझे पता था कि भारत में अनेक धर्म हैं | वहाँ लोग अलग-अलग धर्म को मानते हैं | समारे देश में ऐसा नहीं है | यहाँ तो बहुत सारे लोग किसी भी धर्म को नहीं मानते हैं | फिर भी, यहाँ सभी धर्मों को मानने वाले लोग हैं और हम सभी धर्म का सम्बन्ध करते हैं |

I started studying Hindi from 2014. Before this I knew that there are many religions in India. This is not so in our country. Here many people do not believe in any religion. Nevertheless, there are people who believe in all religions and we respect all religions.

सन २०१७ में मैंने एक किताब पढ़ी | जिसका नाम 'आप रीवर' है | यह पुस्तक माशुर जापानी लेखिका 'एंटो शशुक' ने लिखी है | यह पुस्तक पढ़ने के बाद मैं जानने की चाह की दिलचस्पी बढ़ गई | फिर मुझे पता चला कि गंगा को वहाँ माता कहते हैं | फिर मैं सोचने लगी कि एक नंदी माता कैसे हो सकती है | अब गंगा के बारे में मैं अधिक जानना चाहती थी | फिर मुझे पता चला कि गंगा भारत का एक पत्तन नहीं है | यह सब जानकर भारत की दूसरी नदियों को भी जानने और हिंदू धर्म के बारे में अब सब कुछ जानना चाहती थी | इसलिए मैंने सोचा कि हिंदू धर्म को और भारत को जानने के लिए मुझे हिंदी भी पढ़ना पड़ेगा | 

In 2014, I read a book. Whose name is 'Deep River'. This book has been written by the famous Japanese writer 'Ando Shusak'. After reading this book, my interest to know about the rivers of India increased. Then I came to know that Ganga is a sacred river of India. Knowing all this, I wanted to know other rivers of India and know everything about Hinduism. That's why I thought that I would have to study Hindi to know Hinduism and India.

पिछले डे वर्ष से हिंदी पढ़ना में भारत के बारे में बहुत कुछ जानने लगी हैं | इसलिए में २०१४ में ही भारत गई थी और वहाँ के कई शहरों में धुंधले वर्डों की संस्कृति और वहाँ के लोगों के बारे में भी जान सकी | इस वर्ष अगस्त २०१९ में भी मुझे भारत और नेपाल दोनों देशों के लिए गई | लेकिन तबकियाँ खराब होने के कारण नेपाल से ही मुझे वापस आने पड़ा | मैंने देखा कि नेपाल में भी लोग हिंदी बोलते हैं | इस बार मैंने सोचा कि किसी धर्म का सम्बन्ध और देश का सम्बन्ध वहाँ की भाषा से भी होता है | जापानी भाषा और हिंदी भाषा के व्याकरण में भी बहुत कुछ एक समान है | दोनों के अनेक शब्द भी एक जैसे हैं | इसलिए मेरा मन अब हिंदी में लग गया है और मैं आगे भी हिंदी पढ़कर भारत के साथ कुछ अच्छा करना चाहती हूँ | 

For the past one and a half years, I have come to know a lot about India by reading Hindi. That is why I went to India only in 2014 and after visiting many cities there, I was able to know about the culture and people there. In August this year also, I went to see both India and Nepal. But due to ill health, I had to come back from Nepal. I noticed that people in Nepal also speak Hindi. This time I thought that the relation of any religion and country is also related to the language of the country. Japanese language and Hindi language grammar also have much in common. Many words of both are also same. That's why my mind is now in Hindi and I want to do something good with India by reading Hindi even further.

भारत और जापान के बीच का अनेक दोनों के अनेक दोनों के अनेक दोनों के अनेक बन रहे हैं | इसलिए हिंदी पढ़कर मुझे कुछ और ज्यादा खुशी हो रही है | हिंदी की पढ़ाई पूरी करने के बाद मैं भारत के साथ मिलकर भविष्य में काम करना चाहती हूँ | हिंदी के कारण ही अब तक मेरे वर्तमान के भारतीय मित्र बन गए हैं | उन सबके साथ उनकी भाषा में बात करने मुझे अच्छा लगता है | शायद उन्हें भी कभी अच्छा लगता होगा कि मुझे कहते हैं कि हिंदी का दूसरा भाषा के विद्वानों में जब महात्मा गांधी के उपर एक मात्र तैयार किया तो मैं भी उसमें भाग लें | अब मैं चाहती हूँ कि हिंदी के साथ हमेशा जुड़ी रहें और इस क्षेत्र में कुछ करती रहूँ | जब मुझे बताया गया कि भारत का दूसरा भाषा के बाहरी बोलों को जानना चाहतो है तो मुझे बहुत खुशी हुई | 

ध्यानित | 

Relations between India and Japan are also becoming very good, so I am happy to read Hindi more. After finishing Hindi, I want to work with India in future also. Due to Hindi, many of my Indian friends have become friends so far. I love talking with them in their language. Perhaps they also like that I speak their language. This year, when students of our Hindi class prepared a play on Mahatma Gandhi, I participated too in it. Now I want to always be associated with Hindi and keep doing something in this area. I was very happy when I was told that the Embassy of India wants to know our things.

Thank you.
The Indian Connection
Issue 12

STUDY IN INDIA
!!Scholarship Alert!!

“General Scholarship Scheme (for Graduation / Post Graduation / Ph.D. courses) for Japanese Students for the Academic Year 2020-21” and “Indian Music and Dance Scholarship Scheme for Japanese Students for the Academic Year 2020-21”

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Also visit http://www.iccr.gov.in/a2a/iccr-scholarship for related information.

For any query / guidance / assistance from the Embassy of India, Tokyo please contact at the email: edu.tokyo@mea.gov.in

幼き王子を背負い、馬と剣を操る！マニカルニカ（http://manikarnika-movie.com）の見惚れる程に気高く美しい戦いを見よ！

この度、インドのジャンヌダルクとも呼ばれる実在の“戦う王妃”マニカルニカの生涯を描いたスペクタルアクション歴史劇『マニカルニカ ジャーンシーの女王』が、2020年1月3日（金）より、新宿ピカデリーにて2週間限定で公開することが決まった！

マニカルニカを演じるのは、『クイーン 旅立つ私のハネムーン』（14）で高い評価を受けたカンガナー・ラーナーウト。撮影に備えて馬術と剣術の訓練を重ね、気迫に満ちた演技で気高いヒロインを体現。

脚本を手掛けたのは、『バーフバリ』シリーズの監督S.S.ラジャマウリの父であり、同シリーズや『バジュランギおじさんと、小さな迷子』、『マガディーラ 勇者転生』、『マッキー』など数々のインド映画の名作で脚本を手掛けたK.V.ヴィジャーンドラ・ブラサード。歴史を見事に角色し、見応えのあるドラマを描いている。

映画『マニカルニカ ジャーンシーの女王』（2020年1月3日（金）新宿ピカデリーにて2週間限定ロードショー！）

"General Scholarship Scheme (for Graduation / Post Graduation / Ph.D. courses) for Japanese Students for the Academic Year 2020-21“ and “Indian Music and Dance Scholarship Scheme for Japanese Students for the Academic Year 2020-21”

The application portal is open to apply for ICCR (Indian Council of Cultural Relations) Scholarships of the Government of India for the courses beginning from the Academic Year 2020-21.

Application and all required documents are to be submitted online via the portal http://www.a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in/

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