

The Indian Connection



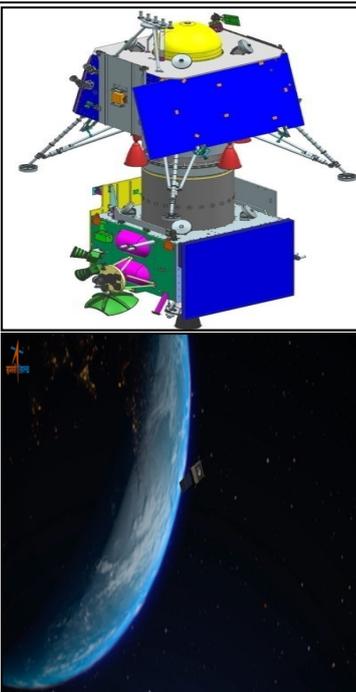
India On the Move

Chandrayaan-2, India's second lunar mission, launch in July 2019

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch Chandrayaan-2, India's second lunar mission, during the window of July 09 to July 16, 2009, with an expected Moon landing on September 06, 2019.

Chandrayaan-2 has three modules namely Orbiter, Lander (Hindi name: Vikram) & Rover (Hindi Name: Pragyan). The Orbiter and Lander modules will be interfaced mechanically and stacked together as an integrated module and accommodated inside the GSLV MK-III launch vehicle. The Rover is housed inside the Lander. After launch into earth bound orbit by GSLV MK-III, the integrated module will reach Moon orbit using Orbiter propulsion module. Subsequently, Lander will separate from the Orbiter and soft land at the predetermined site close to lunar South Pole. Further, the Rover will roll out for carrying out scientific experiments on the lunar surface. Instruments are also mounted on Lander and Orbiter for carrying out scientific experiments. All the modules are getting ready for Chandrayaan-2 launch.

The GSLV-MKIII is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle that has been designed to carry four-tonne class satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). The Chandrayaan-1 mission was launched on board a PSLV in October 2008.



India's first vaccine against Shigella

Developing a vaccine against Shigella is also one of the priorities outlined by the World Health Organisation.

Indian Council of Medical Research on 23rd April 2019 transferred the first indigenous vaccine against Shigella to MSD Wellcome Trust Hilleman Laboratories Pvt Ltd for commercialising the home-grown product after clinical trials.

Once commercialised, the vaccine developed by the National Institute for Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata (one of the ICMR laboratories) may turn out to be an effective tool against the deadly diarrhoeal disease, management of which is a challenge to the doctors in the absence of a vaccine and drug resistance.

Shigellosis is a bacterial disease, marked by bloody diarrhoea with or without fever. The infection causes huge global disease burden with nearly 125 million cases and 1,60,000 deaths, with a third of these associated with children under five years age. More than 98% of the disease burden is in the developing world.

The research was done in collaboration with Okayama University, Japan and the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan.

India is one of the world's largest vaccine producers.

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

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

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

The edition also focuses on "Parliament of India".

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

MAHATAMA GANDHI

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NASSCOM Report - "CLOUD Next Wave Of Growth In India 2019"

The report, analyses the present and the future state of the India Cloud market, identifies the major technology trends, issues and concerns of the industry in detail. It also analyzes the IaaS & SaaS demand and adoption levels across various industry verticals and the key challenges impacting uptake in India.

KEY FINDINGS

Cloud computing

- Cloud spending in India is estimated at USD 2.5 Bn. in 2018 accounting for only 6% share of IT spending compared to a global average of 7.9% and average of leading countries of 11.4%
- Cloud spending in India is estimated to grow at 30% p.a. to reach USD 7.1 – 7.2 Bn. in 2022

IaaS (Infrastructure-as-a-service)

- Indian IaaS spending is estimated at USD 1 Bn. (2018), forecasted to grow at 25% p.a. to reach USD 2.3 – 2.4 Bn. in 2022
- Improved infrastructure facilities, economic benefits, increased innovation, vibrant start up ecosystem and connected ecosystem are driving IaaS uptake in India

SaaS (Software-as-a-service)

- SaaS exports from India are estimated to reach USD 19 – 20 Bn. by 2022, contributing ~15% of the total global demand
- Recent adoption and growth of computing and a digital ecosystem, better product fit, opportunity in SME sector, increasing adoption by start-ups are driving SaaS demand in the domestic market

Cloud Growth – Strategic Direction

- A sharper focus on the multitude of other critical infrastructural and operational factors (reliable power, sustainable land regulations, high-speed connectivity) driving cloud growth in India will lead to an expedited growth in the country.

For more details download the report for free from the following link <https://www.nasscom.in/knowledge-center/publications/nasscom-cloud-next-wave-growth-india-2019>

Indian Navy guided missile destroyer INS Rajput conducts manoeuvres with JMSDF ship Samidare (106) in the Bay of Bengal. Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercises u/t to exchange best practices & improve interoperability.



The 34th Deployment Airforce Counter Piracy Enforcement (DAPE) P-3C of JMSDF conducted the bilateral exercise with the Indian Navy submarine and P-8I to improve JMSDF tactical capabilities and promote mutual understanding between the JMSDF and the Indian Navy.



The India & Japan Stories

Meghalaya to sign MoU with Japan for 'Shiitake mushroom' cultivation

Source: <https://meghalayatimes.info>, 22 April 2019

Mushroom cultivation in Meghalaya is about to get a massive boost as the state is all set to sign an MoU with a Japanese company for cultivating 'Shiitake mushrooms' in the state. Shiitake mushroom is locally known as 'tit-tung'.

If everything goes well, the Meghalaya government will be signing a MoU with the Yats Corporation Co. Ltd, a company from Japan, on 30 April 2019.

Agriculture Minister Banteidor Lyngdoh informed that under the agreement, farmers from the state will be going to Japan for a three-month training on Shiitake mushroom cultivation.

The minister also mentioned that the climate condition in East Khasi Hills and parts of West Khasi Hills have been found to be suitable for the cultivation of the Shiitake mushroom.



mfine raises \$17.2 mn from Japan's SBI Investment, others

Source: *The Times of India*, 23 April 2019

Health-tech AI startup mfine Tuesday said it has raised USD 17.2 million from Japanese venture capital firm SBI Investment, SBI Ven Capital Pte Ltd and others.



The series B round also saw participation from BEENEXT, Singapore; Stellaris Venture Partners; and Prime Venture Partners.

Including the current funding round, the startup has raised over USD 24 million and has 200 employees in Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

As part of its expansion plans, the company plans to onboard over 2,500 doctors from 250 hospitals on its platform and reach 1.5 lakh consultations a month in the next one year, mfine said in a statement.

"The company will be tripling its investments in AI, mobile engineering and hardware integration," it added.

The company said over one lakh customers have consulted on its platform in the last 15 months and its customer base is growing 30 per cent month-on-month.

It has over 500 MD/MS doctors across 20 specialties on its platform.

"We believe that India will leapfrog the methods of healthcare delivery that were adopted in the developed nations, and mobile will be at the centre of this disruption," mfine co-founder and CEO Prasad Kompalli said.

Health-tech in India has been receiving huge investor interest with an estimated USD 571 million being pumped in 2018. mfine was founded in February 2017 by Ashutosh Lawania (Myntra co-founder) and Prasad Kompalli, a former business head at Myntra.



Centre for drone development soon at IIT Hyderabad

Japan inaugurated the 'Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing' (JIM), a residential skill training centre at Sri City in Andhra Pradesh.

Experts from the Sri City based Japanese companies Kobelco Group (as lead player), Isuzu Motors India, Nippon Seiki, India Metal One Steel Plate Processing (IMOP), Kikuwa India, MCNS Polyurethanes India and Aisan Auto Parts India (AAI) will give hand-on-training to students with classroom learning.

The JIM scheme was initiated as a collaborative programme between the governments along with Japanese companies to create a pool of skilled manpower for manufacturing units in India. This partnership scheme aims at imparting training to 30,000 Indian youth in Japanese Manufacturing Soft skills. 08 JIMs are already functioning in Gujarat, Maharashtra & Karnataka. JIM is aimed at imparting training and skills in the manufacturing sector and later get engaged with various firms.

Source: The New Indian Express, 18 April 2019

In a bid to speed up the development of drones in India, Japan-based Terra Drone Corporation, Terra Drone India and the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, on Thursday announced that they have signed a pact to establish a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in India.

According to the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the centre will be set up at IIT Hyderabad.

The company is at the forefront of several innovations in the aviation industry, including promoting the application of AI technologies in drones and providing advisory services to the ongoing 'flying car' project in Japan.

"As the world's fastest-growing major economy, the potential for commercial drone market in India is huge," noted Toru Tokushige, CEO, Terra Drone Corporation.

Part of the Terra Drone Group, Terra Drone India offers a complete sales-service-support module for the drone ecosystem in India.

"The UAV ecosystem in India is rapidly evolving and drones are set to become an integral part of future working environments in several industries," said Prateek Srivastava, CEO, Terra Drone India. Terra Drone will support IIT Hyderabad to organise workshops, seminars, lectures and joint projects that leverage cutting-edge unmanned technologies and drone LiDAR systems.

Local brand platform Little Black Book raises \$5 million in Series A funding

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com>, April 3, 2019

Little Black Book (LBB), a platform to find and shop from local brands and businesses, has raised \$5 million in Series A led by Inventus India and IAN Fund. Japanese investors Dream Incubator and Akatsuki Entertainment Technology (AET) Fund and existing investors Blume Ventures and Chiratae Ventures also participated in the round.

The funds will be used to expand the tech and product team with a focus on machine learning for discovery and integration of content. A web and app based platform, LBB started off as a content and discovery platform for places, services, restaurants, events, weekend getaways, fashion and activities.

Recently, commerce was launched on the platform, which reaches over three million users a month; users are connected to 60,000 local brands and businesses across eight markets including Delhi, NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai. The LBB app has seen 6,00,000 downloads.

"We are seeing a 30 per cent month-on-month growth in products sold through LBB, since we launched commerce four months ago. Ninety-five per cent of the local merchants on LBB do not sell on other marketplaces like Amazon, or Flipkart... 60 per cent of the active users log 30 sessions per user per month," Suchita Salwan, co-founder of LBB told BusinessLine.

Nearly 70 per cent of the content, information and reviews on LBB is generated by its users. Of the 700-900 posts created, only half that are curated by LBB are retained on the platform. Co-founded by Suchita Salwan and Dhruv Mathur, LBB has raised \$7.5 million till date.

Rutvik Doshi, Managing Director, Inventus India, said, "What attracted us most to LBB is how they've made community a continued narrative in their promise to make local brands and businesses more accessible. They have demonstrated their ability in building a platform that consumers love, while also building a robust monetisation model that's powered their growth."



Sharing the Magic of Indian Handspun, Handloom Cotton

Source: <https://www.japan.go.jp/tomodachi/2019>

Striving to preserve India's ancient and traditional skills of handcrafted spinning and weaving, Fumie Kobayashi is working with local artisans to share its magic with the world.

The history of handspun, handloom cotton in India goes back very far. It is said that people have been making such cloth in the Indus Valley Civilization since around 2000 BC. Fumie Kobayashi, president of CALICO LLC, is fascinated by the texture and beauty of Indian traditional handspun, handloom cotton. While working in the Delhi office of a consulting company, she started dreaming of "further spreading the skills and promoting an appreciation of Indian handspun, handloom cotton to Japan and the rest of the world." Believing that she could improve its designs to contribute to its popularization, she founded her company in 2012. She named her company CALICO after the generic name of Indian fabrics that were extremely popular in Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries, and which even made their way to Japan.



Today, the textile industry is one of India's major industries, employing around 35 million people. The handloom industry, which is part of it, accounts for 95 percent of the entire world's handloom production, with an estimated 4.3 million or so handloom weavers in India. Surrounding a single artisan weaver are many men and women cooperating in various jobs, such as spinning yarn, preparing warps and wefts and dyeing, washing and selling the cloth. "India's father of independence, Mahatma Gandhi once said 'Khadi (handspun, handloom cotton) is the sun of the village solar system,' and even in today's 21st century, Indian textile remains an important industry that is deeply rooted in and inseparable from village life," says Kobayashi.

Kobayashi's company CALICO collaborates with Indian artisan weavers to plan, design and produce traditional handspun fabrics such as khadi and jamdani weave, and kantha embroidery, and then sells it to Japan and other countries around the world. Believing in building a relationship of trust with the local workers, Kobayashi says, "We always respect the artisans. We give them full autonomy and never impose overly rigid quality control or delivery ultimatums as exists in Japanese style factory production."

The history of Indian cloth in Japan can be traced back many centuries. In the 17th century, Indian cloth was very popular in the city of Edo, which is now Tokyo, and it greatly influenced Japanese attire and culture. However, the majority of Japanese and Indians are unaware of that fact. "I would like to work with India's artisans to create cloth that is handed down to the next generation as art and culture, and make Japanese people appreciate its value," says Kobayashi, who wishes to instill pride in the people of local Indian villages and help make sustainable industries out of the handicraft for them. With this wish in mind, she has been employing various ideas. For e.g., designs of hand-printed sarasa cloth, which are treated as works of art, are reproduced with a contemporary flair using traditional Ajrakh techniques from the Kutch region in the District of Gujarat. Her company CALICO also sells tote bags decorated with fine embroidery and appliqué originally used for wedding ceremony attire by the Rabari people, who live on the border between India & Pakistan.

Kobayashi also says she "wants Japan to see the cultural and historical sides of Indian handspun, handloom cotton" by inviting Indian artisans to Japanese department stores, collaborating with art museums and galleries, and actively promoting the virtues of Indian handicraft. Striving to show the entire world the charm of India's valuable traditional culture, Kobayashi is continuing to work with local artisans to create Indian cloth.

Kargil (Ladakh, J&K, India) witnesses a large number of tourists from Japan and other parts of the world in April, only to see & enjoy the beauty of **Apricot Blossom**.



Asia's largest Tulip garden in Srinagar, capital city, Jammu & Kashmir in full bloom



Japan's M3 acquires majority share in Bengaluru-based DailyRounds

Source: <https://www.livemint.com>, 22 April 2019

Japan-based M3, Inc., an online platform for medical professionals, has acquired a majority stake in Bengaluru-based Neuroglia Health Private Limited (NHPL), a provider of mobile and web-based applications for doctors and medical students, for an undisclosed amount.

Neuroglia Health owns and operates "DailyRounds" mobile app, which enables case-based problem-solving for doctors. Neuroglia Health also runs "Marrow" which is a test-preparation platform aimed at post-graduate specialty courses in medical schools in India.

This move marks M3's foray into case-based problem-solving community platform and medical test preparation business in India, in addition to its existing business Health Impetus Private Ltd. (HIPL).

HIPL, owned by M3 India, currently runs an online portal that help doctors stay up-to-date with the latest research material, medical news, evidence-based medicine, practice guidelines, and expert articles.

"With this majority acquisition, M3 India will now be able to reach out to 450,000 doctors in India on a consolidated basis, while enhancing the utility and satisfaction levels among Doctors by leveraging the strengths of both platforms. It will also enable M3 India to escalate its marketing support and market research businesses to pharmaceutical and medical devices," said Amit Singh, chief executive of HIPL in a statement.

"We are very excited with this development. With the support of M3 we will be offer better services to the existing doctors. Further, we hope to bring in new doctors as well. The goal is to be largest doctor network in India, not just by registered numbers, but in terms of active users as well," added Dr. DeepuSebin, chief executive of Neuroglia Health.

M3 also intends to import services and technologies developed in Japan and internationally into India, such as job placement support services and AI applications, with an aim to build next-generation healthcare technologies in India.

M3 also operates m3.com, an online portal for medical professionals that delivers healthcare-related information to its over 270,000 physician members in Japan and over 4.5 million physician members globally. M3.com offers marketing, clinical trial, and various other services to healthcare and pharmaceutical industries.

Future Retail Ltd has entered a franchise agreement to operate 7-Eleven convenience stores in India

Source: <https://asia.nikkei.com>, March 1, 2019

India is about to get its first 7-Eleven convenience store.

7-Eleven Inc., with more than 67,000 stores worldwide, has signed a master franchise agreement with a subsidiary of Future Retail Ltd to develop and operate 7-Eleven stores within India. The expansion marks the company's first entry into India. The first 7-Eleven convenience store in India is expected to open in 2019. The new master franchisee plans to build 7-Eleven stores as well as convert some of its existing locations to the 7-Eleven brand. 7-Eleven's entry into the country will modernize the small-retail environment and bring greater convenience to shoppers.

Internationally popular products, beverages, snacks and immediately consumable fresh foods with recipes developed for local tastes will be part of the initial convenience offering.

"7-Eleven Inc. is among the most iconic global brands in the food retail landscape. We are proud to bring this globally trusted convenience store to India and build new pathways together that will offer Indian customers greater convenience and choices, within their own neighborhood," said Kishore Biyani, founder & Group CEO, Future Group.

7-Eleven will support Future Retail Ltd to implement and localize the unique 7-Eleven business model. "This strategic relationship offers an excellent opportunity to bring 7-Eleven's brand of convenience and its iconic products to the Indian consumer," added 7-Eleven Inc. Senior Vice President and Head of International Ken Wakabayashi.

India will be the newest country or region where 7-Eleven stores operate; currently including the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Macau, The Philippines, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, United Arab Emirates, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

DoubtNut raises Rs 23 Cr from Sequoia India's Surge, existing investors, and new investor AET Japan

Source: <https://yourstory.com>, 23 April, 2019

Edtech startup DoubtNut has raised funding of Rs 23 crore (\$3.3 million) in the round led by Surge, an early-stage startup accelerator program by Sequoia India, with participation from existing investors WaterBridge Ventures & Omidyar Network India and new investor, AET, Japan. WaterBridge Ventures and Omidyar Network India were the first institutional investors in the company.



Launched in October 2017 by IIT-Delhi alumni, Tanushree Nagori and Aditya Shankar, who are also serial entrepreneurs in the education space, DoubtNut is an instant doubt clearing app leveraging AI. It helps students (Classes 6-12 + IIT JEE) get answers to math problems in an easy-to-use format – the student takes a picture of the problem and gets a video explaining the solution. The videos are prepared by experts from IIT/other leading institutions and are a valuable tool for students and can also act as an aid to teachers. There are over 100,000 videos in their library and thousands more are being added each month, the company said in a statement.

The startup will use the freshly infused capital to deepen and widen its product offerings in terms of subjects, languages and classes and expand its team.

Namita Dalmia, Principal, Investments, Omidyar Network India said that Tanushree and Aditya's insights came from their own experience where despite the high quality of teaching, they were not able to cater to individual doubt resolutions of students without turning to technology.

Their passion led them to launch the app in 12 vernacular languages in a really short time and create relevant learning journeys for the next half-billion users," she added.

Tanushree, co-founder, DoubtNut said, *"According to two different studies, doubt clearance and homework help are the biggest student needs and 62 percent of Indian parents spend 12 hours per week on that. We are using technology to solve for the students' biggest pain point and aim to provide a comprehensive education solution to all students in the language and in the manner that they understand the best."*

The company said in a statement that DoubtNut users study in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, and much of the growth continues to come from outside India's larger metropolitan centres. The app is currently ranked among the top 10 free education apps on the Google Play Store in India, it added.

Renewable Energy Scenario in India - Updates

India had installed power capacity reaching 347.22 GW as of December 2018.

As of January 2019, total renewable power installed capacity (excluding large hydro) in the country stood at 74.08 GW. As of October 2018, India ranked 5th in installed renewable energy capacity. India is running one of the largest global renewable energy expansion programmes globally. The country has set an ambitious target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022, which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power. India is the fourth most attractive renewable energy market in the world. India has made rapid progress in expanding its renewable energy capacity over the past few years. The total solar energy production in the year 2018-19 till the end of January 2019 was 27.584 billion units. As of December 2018, Government of India has installed 35 GW of wind power capacity against the target of 60 GW by 2022. India is expected to install 54.7 GW of wind capacity by 2022. Starting in June 2019, the Government of India will launch transmission line tenders worth US\$ 5 billion to achieve its 175 gigawatts (GW) renewable energy capacity target by 2022.

For more read at official website of India Brand Equity Foundation

[energy.aspx](https://www.ibef.org/industry/renewable-energy.aspx)

<https://www.ibef.org/industry/renewable-energy.aspx>

Mergemart Japan M&A Forum

On 10th April, DCM Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava gave a keynote speech and participated in Mergemart Japan M&A Forum in the panel "Betting Big on India". He highlighted the complementarities between India and Japan being the key driver for the momentum that we see in economic & commercial relationship today. One of the Venture Capital companies (Dream Incubator) highlighted their increasing profile and investments in the Startup eco-system in India.



Indian Mangoes

India And Business

CGI Osaka organised Seminar on Urban Development/Smart Cities: Business Opportunities in India with Focus State Maharashtra on 23 April'19 with participation 86 companies F/B meetings with interested Investors/



CGI Osaka organised "Comprehensive Seminar on Healthcare , Pharmaceutical, Medical Devices, HR Exchange : Business Opportunities in India" on 23 April 2019 with participation of 98 companies F/B



Indian mangoes come in various shapes, sizes and colours with a wide variety of flavour, aroma and taste. The Indian mango is the special product that substantiates the high standards of quality and bountiful of nutrients packed in it. A single mango can provide up to 40 percent of the daily dietary fibre needs – a potent protector against heart disease, cancer and cholesterol build –up .In addition, this luscious fruit is a warehouse of potassium, beta- carotene and antioxidants. In India, mangoes are mainly grown in tropical and subtropical regions from sea level to an altitude of 1,500m. Mangoes grow best in temperatures around 27°C.

For maintaining highest quality standards, State-of-the-art packhouses have been set up in major production zones. Keeping in view the different country requirements, internationally recognized treatment facilities like Hot water treatment, Vapour heat treatment and Irradiation facilities have also been set up at various locations across the production belt.

Unique product identification system, compliant to the traceability networking and Residue Monitoring Plan has been developed for the consumer safety and readiness to product recall in case of any emergency.

Varieties: India is the home of about 1,000 varieties. However, only a few varieties are commercially cultivated throughout India. Most of the Indian mango varieties have specific eco - geographical requirements for optimum growth and yield. The Northern/Eastern Indian varieties are usually late bearing compared to Southern and Western Indian varieties. Some of the local varieties of mango bear fruits throughout the year in extreme southern parts of India.

The important commercial varieties are as :

- Andhra Pradesh: Banganapalli, Suvarnarekha, Neelum and Totapuri
- Bihar: Bombay Green, Chausa, Dashehari, Fazli, Gulabkhas, Kishen Bhog, Himsagar, Zardalu, Langra
- Gujarat: Kesar, Alphonso, Rajapuri, Jamadar, Totapuri, Neelum, Dashehari and Langra
- Haryana: Chausa, Dashehari, Langra and Fazli
- Himachal Pradesh: Chausa, Dashehari and Langra
- Karnataka: Alphonso, Totapuri, Banganapalli, Pairi, Neelum and Mulgoa
- Madhya Pradesh: Alphonso, Bombay Green, Dashehari, Fazli, Langra and Neelum
- Maharashtra: Alphonso, Kesar and Pairi
- Punjab: Chausa, Dashehari and Malda
- Rajasthan: Bombay Green, Chausa, Dashehari and Langra
- Tamil Nadu: Alphonso, Totapuri, Banganapalli and Neelum
- Uttar Pradesh: Bombay Green, Chausa, Dashehari and Langra
- West Bengal: Fazli, Gulabkhas, Himsagar, Kishenbhog, Langra and Bombay Green

India is also a prominent exporter of fresh mangoes to the world. The country has exported 49180.48 MT of fresh mangoes to the world for the worth of Rs. 382.34 crores/ 59.28 USD Millions during the year 2017-18.



For Guidelines for export of Indian Mangoes to Japan by APEDA please visit the official link at http://apeda.gov.in/apedawebsite/Announcements/Japan_Mango.htm

Ambassador's visit to Hiroshima Prefecture

HE Ambassador of India to Japan Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma visited Hiroshima Prefecture from 19-21 April 2019.

During his visit, he met HE Mr Hidehiko Yuzaki Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture and Mr Matsui Kazumi, Mayor of Hiroshima City. During the meeting with Governor, discussions on India-Japan Digital Partnership, StartUp Hub and Nasscom-Hiroshima Digital collaboration were held and the two decided to work towards the same.

In meeting with Mayor, Ambassador expressed India's feeling of solidarity towards Hiroshima and India's efforts towards sustainable peace. He also visited Hiroshima Peace Memorial where he paid his respects by offering a flower wreath at the cenotaph. Ambassador expressed India's sense of solidarity to the victims of war in Hiroshima and wrote his impressions on the Museum guest book for dignitaries.

During his visit Ambassador also attended and made remarks at the 17th Annual Yoga therapy conference held in Hiroshima by Japan Yoga Therapy Society. He spoke of the need to popularise the proven benefits of Yoga for palliative care and other medical benefits. He urged the participants to encourage an evidence-based understanding of Yoga. Also, as part of Mahatma Gandhi 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations Prof Ayako Uno of International Christian Univ, Tokyo & an expert on Gandhian studies spoke on the "Relevance of Gandhi in Modern Era".

As part of community outreach, Ambassador along with his spouse, Mrs Gunjan Verma interacted with members of the Indian Community in Hiroshima and encouraged them to become agents in India- Japan growing economic partnership, especially Technology & Digital Cooperation. The community organised a cultural performance as well.

Ambassador also visited Hiroshima University and interacted with Vice President (Research) Prof. Shinichi Tate & other faculties working in the cutting edge of Research and India-Japan collaboration in Technology. Ambassador said that collaboration as that between HU and various institutions in India (IIT's, CSIR, etc) would pave the way for path-breaking innovation.



HE Amb Sanjay Kumar Verma met HE Mr Takashi Yamashita Member, House of Representatives, Diet of Japan & Minister of Justice, Govt of Japan and discussed about IndiaJapan bilateral relations & Immigration laws



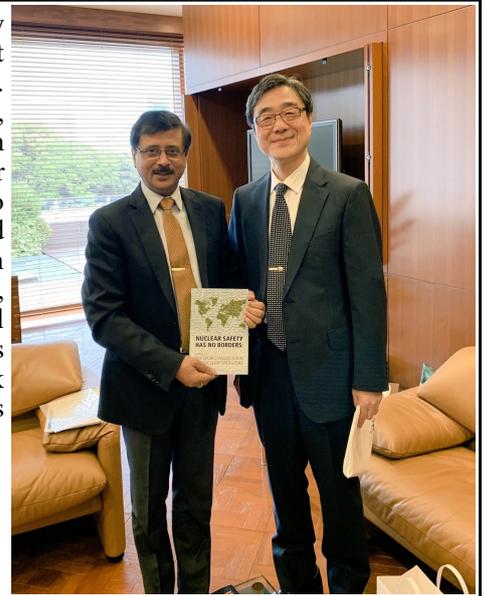
HE Amb Sanjay Kumar Verma met with Mr Shuichi Ohno, President, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation and discussed various activities of the Foundation in India.



HE Amb Sanjay Kumar Verma called on HE Mr Yukio Hatoyama, Former Prime Minister of Japan and discussed the relevance of Gandhian Philosophy as well as presented a book on Gandhi in Japanese "Gandhi's Words" [ガンジーの言葉; Gandhi no kotoba].



HE Amb Sanjay Kumar Verma met at Embassy Dr. Naoki Chigusa, DG, World Association of Nuclear Operators, Tokyo Centre. DG briefed the Amb on mission of WANO, an NPO, to make commercial nuclear power plants safer & its work with nuclear plants in India.



H.E. Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan met General Goro Yuasa, Chief of Staff JGSDF and discussed initiatives to further advance Defence Cooperation between Indian Army and Japan's JGSDF.



H.E. Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan, met General Yoshinari Marumo, Chief of Staff JASDF and discussed initiatives to further advance Defence Cooperation between Indian Air force and Japan's JASDF.



Parliament of India

The Parliament of India is a magnificent manifestation of the democratic ethos of India as a country. As the national legislature and repository of the constituent powers of the Union, it occupies a central position in India's democratic polity. Over the years, Parliament has evolved as an institution having multi-dimensional roles. Nurturing and encouraging participatory democracy, Indian Parliament has been instrumental in ushering in social change and development through progressive legislations and meaningful debates on crucial issues facing the nation, thus, paving the way for good governance as well as promoting diligently the cause of the people, which constitutes the basic principle of Indian Constitution. Besides functioning as the highest law making body, Indian Parliament has also functioned as the 'grand inquest' and 'watch dog' of the nation. Evolving as the 'fulcrum of our democracy' it has responded effectively to the new challenges, complex needs and emerging trends of the modern times for e.g. expansion of committee system, televising and broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings, use of ICTs which indicates its adaptability besides affirming its credibility as a truly representative body.

The federal structure of Indian polity rests on the principle of parliamentary form of government which makes the executive accountable to the legislature. The Parliament of India has three constituents, namely, President of India, the Rajya Sabha (Council of States/Upper House) and the Lok Sabha (House of the People/Lower House). The President of India is the constitutional head of the executive. There is a Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions.

Women Participation in Politics:

| Organization & structure of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Rajya Sabha | Lok Sabha |
| No. of Members | 233 (elected**) 12 (nominated by President of India) | 543 (elected*) 2 (nominated by the President of India) |
| Minimum age for becoming member | 30 years (and mentally sound, should not be bankrupt and should not be criminally convicted) | 25 years (and mentally sound, should not be bankrupt and should not be criminally convicted) |
| Term | A permanent body not subject to dissolution. 1/3 rd of members retire biennially after completing a term of 6 years | Five years. Subject to dissolution by President of India |
| Requirement for nomination | Persons having spl knowledge or practical experience in fields such as literature, science, art & social service. | Persons belonging to the Anglo-Indian Community |
| Term of members | Permanent House, the term of a member is 6 years. 1/3 of members retire every second year | 5 years (unless dissolved earlier) |
| Presiding Officers | Chairman (Vice-President of India is the ex officio Chairman) and Deputy Chairman. | Speaker Deputy Speaker |
| <p>*directly elected by citizens of India on the basis of universal adult franchise representing Parliamentary constituencies across the country. Every citizen of India who is over 18 years of age, irrespective of gender, caste, religion or race, who is otherwise not disqualified, is eligible to vote for the Lok Sabha.</p> <p>** Indirectly elected by Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) of the states. The number of members from a state depends on its population.</p> <p>Note: In case of Lok Sabha, the total elective membership is distributed among the States in such a way that the ratio between the number of seats allotted to each State and the population of the State is, so far as practicable, the same for all States.</p> | | |

A broader measure of political participation includes number of women candidates who compete for elections and win to represent.

Women members in Lok Sabha has increased from 24 (4%) in 1st Lok Sabha (1952) to 66 (12%) in 16th Lok Sabha (elected in the year 2014). Similarly, the number of women in Rajya Sabha has gone up from 15 in 1952 to 28 (11%) in 2019. Similarly, Women's representation in State Assemblies has registered increase over years from around 1.8% to around 9% (of 4118 MLAs) in 2019. The participation is still less (against women comprise ~49% of total population) but steadily increasing.

To encourage participation of women electors, India in 1993 made constitutional amendments to reserve 33% of seats in local governments for women. Seats reserved for women are rotated for assurance that each seat has an equal chance of being reserved. After the establishment of women reservations, political participation went from 4-5% to 25-45% among women, and gave millions of women the opportunity to serve as leaders in local government. These women leaders at local government are gradually entering state and national politics too.

The Women's Reservation Bill (108th amendment) has been introduced in the national parliament to reserve 33% of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies seats for women. The bill was passed by Rajya Sabha in 2010 and is pending with Lok

Science & Technology / Sports / Education

Promotion of Japanese Language in India

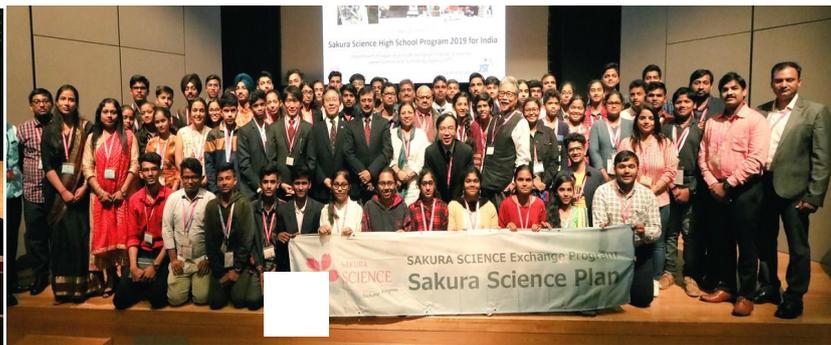
Anirvana Advisory Japan through its brand CAVI (Cultural Ambassador Vocational Institute) announced on 22nd April 2019 in Patna, “An integrated Japanese Culture, Language & Skilled Industry Expertise Programme”, in collaboration with its partner “Hamamatsu Japanese Language College (HJLC)”.

CAVI in Patna will run two programmes initially: 1) 10 months in India followed by 2 Years in Japan & 2) 10 months in India followed by 1 year 6 months in Japan. Anirvana Advisory Japan is currently in discussions with Farmers Association, automobile manufacturers and their suppliers in Japan, enabling them with skilled talent having exposure to the Japanese language & culture.

CAVI opening ceremony, held on 22nd April 2019 in Patna was attended by Shri Anjani Kumar Singh (Chief Advisor to Chief Minister Bihar) as Chief Guest and Mr. Ken Nakamura (Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata) as Guest of Honor.

Interaction with Sakura Science High School Programme Students

HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma interacted at Embassy with a group of Indian Students visiting Japan under Japan Science & Technology (JST) Agency's Sakura Science High School Prog. The group, a microcosm of Indian diversity & budding prowess in S&T, also comprised of INSPIRE awardees of India's DST (Dept of Science & Technology).



Polar Research collaboration between India & Japan

Japanese Delegation from National Institute of Polar Research, Japan visited National Centre for Polar and Ocean research (NCPOR), Goa for bilateral meeting on 18 March 2019. Delegates shared and discussed future research collaboration in polar sciences with Director and Group Directors, NCPOR. The visit was under an MoC concluded in October 2018 between India's National Centre for Polar and Ocean research (NCPOR) and Japan's The National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) to strengthen cooperation in the study of Polar Sciences and related logistics.



NIPR
National Institute of Polar Research



WOWOW announced their new athlete! The Para Shooting RISING STAR from India Manish Narwal joins in WOWOW's Paralympics Documentary Series **Who I Am** Season4 which starts this Summer. “WHO I AM” is a sports documentary series approaching the world's highest para athletes for five years until 2020 when the Tokyo Paralympics Games are held. It is a joint project of IPC (International Paralympic Committee) and WOWOW.



Paralympic Documentary Series

WHO I AM



MOU signed between Ministry of AYUSH and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

Source: www.pib.nic.in, 22 April 2019

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi on 22 April 2019 for cooperation in research and education in areas of traditional systems of medicine and its integration with modern science. The MoU was signed by Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH and Dr. Shekhar C. Mande, Director General, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR in the presence of senior officials from both the organizations.



Speaking on the occasion, Secretary stated in due cognition of the growing interest of traditional medicines worldwide, there is a need of multipronged and innovative approaches for the acceptance of this science. He said that the combination of traditional healthcare and modern basic science has a huge possibility to do innovative and path-breaking researches which can be used for the explanation of various basic concepts.

DG, CSIR appreciated the ongoing projects and programmes between the two organizations. He stated that enhancing the collaboration through joint R&D efforts ranging from fundamental science to validation and thereafter product development, will significantly help in the growth of the Indian contributions to this important sector, not only nationally but internationally as well. Futuristic efforts of this inter-ministerial cooperation shall include pursuit of Data mining & analytics and Artificial Intelligence to enable and facilitate concepts such as “Traditional knowledge inspired drug discovery and development” and “Food as Medicine”.

Previously, CSIR jointly with Department of AYUSH (now Ministry) developed the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), a globally recognized proprietary database on Indian systems of medicine for preventing bio-piracy and misappropriation of our traditional knowledge. The constituent laboratories of CSIR and councils of the Ministry of AYUSH have also supported each other in the development of improved varieties and captive cultivation of the medicinal plants including rare, engendered and threatened (RET) species, Botanical Reference Standards and Pharmacopoeial standards, and Ayurgenomics, among many others.

In due cognition of the upward surge in the usage of herbal medicines and supplements globally, the endeavor of Ministry of AYUSH and CSIR is to bring the organizations under an umbrella understanding for pursuing focused R&D efforts in the domain. Under the MoU, both organizations shall jointly endeavor to pursue: R&D covering fundamental research; AYUSH specific diagnostic tools; linking microbiome, gene expression and prakriti; multi-ingredient herbal formulations, including their standardization; exploring modern scientific methods for integration with traditional Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM); linking disease signatures; etc.; Furthering the collaboration in preserving and protecting traditional knowledge related to the Indian systems of healthcare, through the existing TKDL platform; and Development of international standardized terminologies (disease-morbidity codes) in Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU), Database on Medicinal plants, Foods, etc.

Chyawanprash effects on slowing skin photoaging

A group of researchers led by Dr Takauji Y of Graduate School of Nanobioscience, Yokohama City University, Kanagawa, Japan conducted a study on Chyawanprash, a formulation of traditional Ayurvedic medicine and on the basis of study suggested that Chyawanprash may have beneficial effects on slowing skin photoaging. The research was published in the Journal of integrative medicine 14(5):60272-8 · July 2016).

Chyawanprash is an Ayurvedic health supplement. The term Chyawanprash comprises two lexes, “*Chyawan*” and “*Prasha*”. The word *Chyawan* is the name of a sage, and also symbolizes ‘degenerative change’. *Prasha* denotes a drug or foodstuff that is suitable for consumption. It is meant to restore drained reserves of life force (*ojas*) and to preserve strength, stamina, and vitality, while stalling the course of aging. Chyawanprash is formulated by processing around 50 medicinal herbs and their extracts, including the prime ingredient, *Amla* (Indian gooseberry), which is the richest source of vitamin C. Chyawanprash preparation involves preparing a decoction of herbs, followed by dried extract preparation, subsequent mixture with honey, and addition of aromatic herb powders as standard. The finished product has a fruit jam-like consistency, and a sweet, sour, and spicy flavor. The role of Chyawanprash in therapeutics has been mentioned in ancient Ayurvedic texts and treatises, along with ethnobotanical, ethnopharmacological, and scientifically validated literature.

Cultural Outreach

Celebrations of 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev

As part of Gandhi 150 Birth Anniversary celebrations Embassy of India organised an amateur Gandhi Photo Competition titled "India as Envisioned by Gandhi" in collaboration with Air India Tokyo. Award ceremony was held on 16 April & top prize was awarded to Ms Atsuko Katsura.

As part of the celebrations for Guru Nanak Dev 550th Birth Anniversary Year, the Embassy hosted a lecture by Dr Shunji Hosaka of Chuo University titled "Modern Significance of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Philosophy". The lecture explored the peaceful co-existence of Hindus and Muslims as well as the similarities between Sikh thought and Japanese Buddhism. H.E. Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan spoke of the relevance of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's message today. The programme included recitals of Shabad and Kirtan by members of the Sikh community. During this event, the winning entries for the Gandhi Photo Contest were also announced and the winners were awarded by Ambassador. Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, VCC, gave the closing remarks



"A Day of Indian Dance & Music: Gandhi@150 Tribute Recital"

HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma gave remarks at "A Day of Indian Dance & Music: Gandhi@150 Tribute Recital" on 29 April'19 Embassy of India's Vivekananda Cultural Centre in collaboration with Tokyo based Contemporary Natyam Company & Vinayakam School of South Indian Percussion. The event has Bharatnatyam, Tagore Song & Dance, Carnatic Music & Indian Movie Dance.



Yoga - Its origin and benefits to the mankind

Yoga, an ancient Indian practice, is known for its healing and wellness benefits, uniting one's mind, body and soul. Through various controlled breathing techniques and regular, disciplined practice, it brings one to a state of holistic well-being as leads to all round personality development at physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual level

It is great gift to the mankind by great sages and seers with aim to bring universal peace and harmony everywhere.

Real comfort lies in good health. Yoga literally means 'union' or 'to join'. Usually it is considered that it's a form of exercise. Actually Yoga operates on different planes. It takes care of corrections and development in all aspects of health as defined by **WHO**. By taking Yoga as a way of life we get benefits in all aspects of life and depending upon our consciousness and intellectual capability we are able to see the changes and development. For our mental health it works wonder to control stress, corrects attitude, gives motivation and positivity. For emotional health it helps to develop healthy relationships, gratitude, forgiveness and non violence. On spiritual front Yoga helps to understand self-consciousness, purpose of life and achieving a stage of complete stability and calmness of mind.

There are two main factors through which we can correct our wellbeing. **Food and life style** which is known as 'aahaar and vihaar' in Yoga and Ayurveda. By taking food according to different seasons one can keep himself away from bodily disturbances.

People who practice yoga everyday, their attitude towards life becomes more positive and they live more peaceful and joyful life. Maharshi Patanjali has considered Yoga as a discipline and has given Ashtang yoga path. Regular, sincere efforts towards this path gives unbelievable results.

Yoga is a prophylactic system to promote and maintain the physical and mental health. Yam and Niyam for mental purification, Asan gives stability and strength to the body, Pranayam is breathing technique to control the mind and then pratyahar, dharna, dhyana helps to achieve the ultimate goal of life. Pranayam helps us to breathe correctly and rejuvenates the cells and organs of a person physio-psychologically and helpful in delaying the aging process. Asan, Pranayam and Meditation are helpful in the prevention and management of High blood pressure, Stress, Dementia, Depression, Sleeplessness, low back pain, neck pain, migraine, Diabetes which are very common these days.

Yoga is like a flowing river of knowledge and wisdom, depending on the size and shape of cup we can pick and drink it. The experience speaks for itself and one can achieve goal of life.

Yogic cleansing techniques reduce the excess deposition of fat in the whole body. Dynamic practices of yoga make the body more flexible, active and supple. By regular practice of yoga, complications of obesity naturally become less.

Yoga practice is an effective tool to prevent and manage **Diabetes**. Yogic techniques help to overcome metabolic disorders like Diabetes Mellitus. The therapeutic application of yoga is not a symptoms-based approach but it treats the person as a whole.

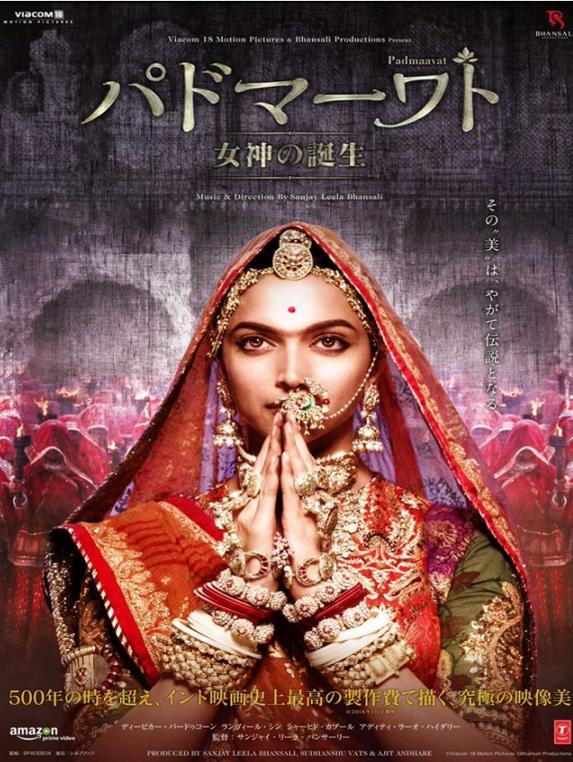
Yogic relaxation plays a vital role in energizing and revitalizing entire body system. Yoga works on preventive, promotive & curative aspects of health. It is an effective tool for physical, mental, emotional & spiritual upliftment of human beings.

Meditation is a method of calming the mind. It involves a set of techniques that are intended to encourage an increased state of awareness and focused attention.

The story of love and pride depicted in the ancient Indian biography "Padmavat" created in the 16th century will be revived with the ultimate visual beauty and bollywood's most expensive films made ever! The movie will be release all-Japan on 7th June 2019. For more details visit the link <http://padmaavat.jp/index.html>

INDIA PERSPECTIVES

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150 YEARS OF THE MAHATMA'S LEGACY | AIRPORTS OF INDIA RISING TO THE OCCASION | HORNBILL FESTIVAL NAGALAND'S TRIBAL HERITAGE | THE BHOJPURI SPREAD FLAVOURS FROM THE REGION

17 May 2019 at VCC, EOI TOKYO

भारत का दूतावास, टोक्यो
विवेकानंद संस्कृतिक केंद्र
Vivekananda Cultural Centre
Embassy of India, Tokyo

Celebration of Buddha Purnima

釈尊生誕日 祝賀講演会

Guest Lecturers

Smt. Shobhana Radhakrishna
Chief Functionary,
Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate
Governance, SCOPE

Dr Kuniko Hirano
Director, Padma Yoga Ashram
Visiting Fellow,
Institute of Asian, African and Middle
Eastern Studies, Sophia University

Dance Performance

Ms Masako Ono
ICCR Empanelled Odissi Artist

ゲスト講師

ショバナー・ラダクリシュナ氏
インド政府SCOPE
ガンジー倫理的企業統治フォーラム
代表職員

平野久仁子先生
パドマ・ヨーガ・アシュラム代表
上智大学アジア文化研究所
客員学員

ダンスパフォーマンス

小野雅子氏
オリッジ賞讃家(インド政府ICCR登録)

Buddha Purnima Celebration 釈尊生誕日 祝賀講演会

Date: Fri, 17th May 2019
Venue: VCC Auditorium, Embassy of India
Venue Opens: 14:15 / Start: 14:30
Attendance Fee: Free
N.B. Advance reservation by E-mail required.

開催日: 2019年5月17日(金)
会場: インド大使館VCC講堂
開場: 14:15 / 開始: 14:30
入場料: 無料
※メールによる事前申込が必要となります。

How to Attend: Entrance is free. Please send your full name, specifying this event, to the following email address by 17:00, 16th May. Reservations subject to availability and taken on first come, first served basis.
参加方法: 本公演は入場無料です。5月16日17:00までに参加者全員の氏名をご連絡下さい。(定員に達し次第受付終了)
vcc.tokyo@mea.gov.in

Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Tokyo インド大使館 ヴィヴェカナンダ文化センター
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Website: www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/india_culture_centre.html Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInJapan/
Office Hours / 受付時間 09:00 - 17:30 (Mon. - Fri. except gazetted holidays / 月～金 指定休館日除く)

Issue has an article on India-Japan Global Special Strategic Relationship

STRATEGIC CONVERGENCE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan in October 2016, strengthened the relationship between the two countries and focused on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest

BY NICHOLAS POONJIT

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently concluded his third visit to Japan for the fifth India Japan Annual Summit. Organised between October 26 and 29, this was the fifth annual summit meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and their sixth meeting since 2014. Under the framework of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan, the two leaders had wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Modi's visit strengthened the traditional bond of friendship between the two countries and also reaffirmed their multilateral cooperation in diverse fields. The visit also advanced the mutually shared vision of India and Japan to promote peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

The two leaders, who share a very warm personal relationship, started their discussions at a lakeside hotel near Mount Fuji. Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Abe spent an entire day together. PM Modi was also invited to PM Abe's private villa near Lake Kawaguchi in Yamaguchi, where the two leaders enjoyed a one-on-one dinner beside a fireplace. In fact, PM Modi became the first foreign leader to be invited to the Japanese PM's home. The two leaders even travelled together to Tokyo by train.

A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
During a briefing in the run-up to PM Modi's visit, Keiji Yamamoto, the Japanese ambassador to India, while outlining the main areas of convergence for the two nations remarked, "Trade and investment have dominated relations, defence and security now need to catch up." PM Modi's trip laid the foundation

The visit saw 32 documents being exchanged in the presence of the two leaders

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