

The Indian Connection



India On the Move

India's CSIR conducts Whole Genome Sequencing of over 1,000 Indians for Biomedical Applications

The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has conducted Whole Genome Sequencing of 1,008 Indians from different populations across the country as part of "IndiGen Genome project". The outcome was announced by the Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare. He also unveiled the "IndiGenome card" and accompanying IndiGen mobile application that enables participants and clinicians to access clinically actionable information in their genomes with ensuring privacy and data security, which is vital for personal genomics to be implemented at scale.

The IndiGen initiative was undertaken by CSIR in April 2019, which was implemented by the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad. This has enabled benchmarking the scalability of genome sequencing and computational analysis at population scale in a defined timeline. The ability to decode the genetic blueprint of humans through whole genome sequencing will be a major driver for biomedical science. Some of the benefits of this initiative include epidemiology of genetic diseases to enable cost effective genetic tests, carrier screening applications for expectant couples, enabling efficient diagnosis of heritable cancers and pharmacogenetic tests to prevent adverse drug reactions. The First Indian Genome was announced on 8th of December 2009.

For more details visit the link <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1589221> & <https://indigen.igib.in/>

IndiGen Genomics for Public Health in India

IGIB
INSTITUTE OF GENOMICS & INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY
Genomics Knowledge Partner



Japan's JBIC ranked India the most promising Overseas Business Development Destination

Japan Bank for International Cooperation (<http://JBIC.co.jp>) has released results of its survey amongst Japanese manufacturing companies "Report on Overseas Business Development of Japanese Manufacturing Companies - Survey Results on Overseas Direct Investment 2019" & has ranked India the most promising overseas business development destination. For the first time in 3 years, India takes the first place. Of the top 10 countries, India was deemed to have the greatest "potential for future growth in the local market." Companies that have already expanded their businesses in the country are now in full operation. The objective now is to plough deep into the market. In terms of issues to be tackled, infrastructure needs to be further developed, and operation of the legal system is still unpredictable. It is expected that the nation takes measures to attract more investment, through the government's development of business environment and measures against the slowing down of the local economy. For reading the report visit the link <http://tinyurl.com/snmapzo> (in Japanese).

EMBASSY OF
INDIA, TOKYO

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.

To lose patience is to lose the battle.

MAHATAMA GANDHI

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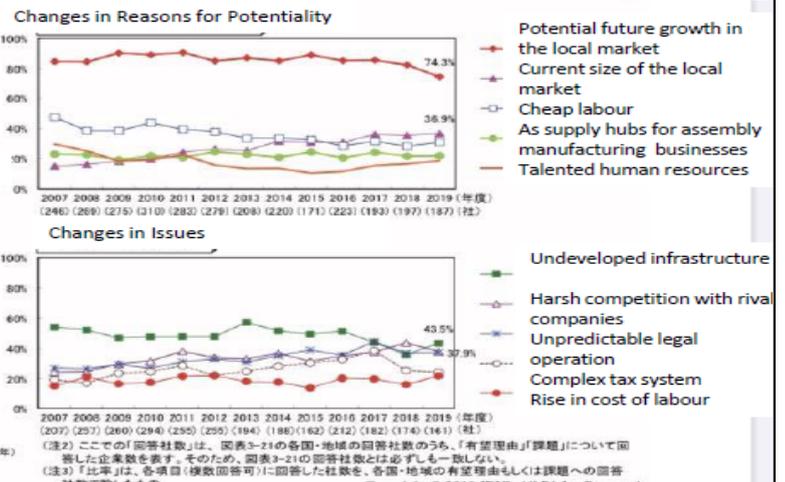
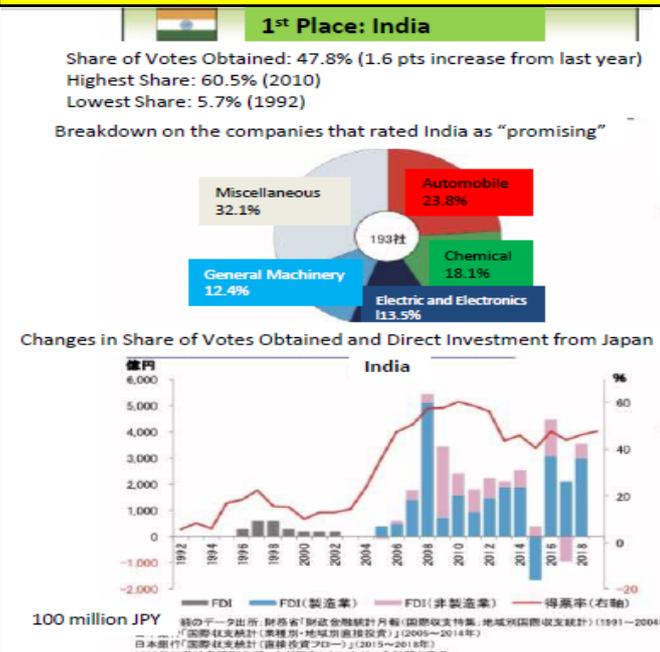
Cancer Treatment Receives a India Booster

A path-breaking cancer-treating device, developed in India, by an Indian scientist at the Bengaluru-based R&D facility of an American company, has just received approval from the US Food and Drugs Administration's (FDA) Center for Devices & Radiological Health, under the Breakthrough Device Program. This device named cytotron provides non-invasive tissue engineering that can help treat solid tumours of the breast, liver and pancreas, and is also useful in pain relief and palliative care. The body's tumour suppression mechanism is reactivated non-invasively by quantum magnetic resonance therapy (QMRT) by targeting calibrated doses of radio- or sub-radio frequency, non-ionising, non-thermal electromagnetic waves at the tumour site. This triggers the production of new tumour suppressing nucleoproteins that lead to apoptosis (programmed cell death). Cytotron is likely to be of immense benefit in other solid tumours such as adult and pediatric brain tumours, lung cancer and many other life-limiting diseases. Its technology is also indicated for regrowing cartilage, and treatment of spinal dysplasia and sports injuries.

For more details visit the link <https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/cancer-treatment-receives-a-india-booster/1762918/>

JBIC's "Report on Overseas Business Development of Japanese Manufacturing Companies - Survey Results on Overseas Direct Investment 2019"

For the first time in 3 years, India takes the first place. Hopes are high for longstanding primacy. Of the top 10 countries, India was deemed to have the greatest "potential for future growth in the local market." Companies that have already expanded their businesses in the country are now in full operation. The objective now is to plough deep into the market. Regarding tariff, they are in discord with the U.S., but the conflict is hasn't attracted much attention as China. This has helped them retake the first place from China for the first time in three years. In terms of issues to be tackled, infrastructure needs to be further developed, and operation of the legal system is still unpredictable. It is expected that the nation takes measures to attract more investment, through the government's development of business environment and measures against the slowing down of the local economy.



Khadi gets separate unique HS code, exports to get a boost

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GoI on 4th Nov 2019 issued an exclusive HS code (is a 6 digit ID code developed by the World Customs Organization and used by custom authorities to clear export-import of commodities) for the Khadi to categorize its products in export. The step will open a new chapter in the field of Khadi export as it would be possible to keep a track of export figures and plan export strategies accordingly. Khadi and Village Industries products are eco-friendly and natural, and are in great demand in the International Markets. Recognizing its potential to generate exports and its eco-friendly importance, the Ministry of Commerce had accorded deemed Export Promotional Council Status (EPCS) to KVIC in 2006, to boost the export of Khadi products.



स्वच्छ भारत
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

MSME

KHADI, AS A FABRIC HAS ADAPTED TO CHANGING NEEDS OF MODERN TIMES.

स्वच्छ भारत
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

MSME

Do you know that 1 meter of KHADI CLOTH uses just 3 litres of water AGAINST 55 litres of water used in the spinning mills.

First “Global Bio-India 2019” Summit

The Global Bio-India 2019, one of the largest biotechnology stakeholders conglomerate was held for the first time in India at New Delhi from 21st to 23rd November, 2019. This mega event provided an opportunity to biotech community to attract investments, showcase indigenous strengths and fuel the hopes and aspirations of the indigenous talent pool. The summit also helped to identify key challenges in the areas of bio-agri, bio-pharma, bio-industrial, bio-services and bio-energy.

The DBT, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India along with its Public Sector Undertaking, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) organized this event. The event had been structured to bring together stakeholders from 30 countries, 250 start-ups, 200 exhibitors. Central and State ministries, regulatory bodies, investors, totaling to 3500 participants were involved. The event will strengthen the indigenous research capabilities, bio-entrepreneurship, investments and last-mile-delivery of technology across rural India and tier-2, 3 cities.

For more details visit the link <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=194002>

IIT-M launched India’s 1st Standing Wheelchair

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Madras) has launched the country’s first indigenously designed standing wheelchair ‘Arise’ made in collaboration with Phoenix Medical systems which enables a differently-abled person requiring a wheelchair to shift from sitting to standing position, and vice versa, independently and in a controlled manner. The project also got support from foreign countries like the United Kingdom, commercialisation of the Standing Wheelchair technology made possible through support from Wellcome, UK, through an ‘Affordable Healthcare in India’ Award, which brought together the research and manufacturing partners.

For more details visit the link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/education/iit-madras-launches-countrys-first-standing-wheelchair-arise-iitm-ac-in-6106197/>

Indian scientists identify a protein that helps regulate blood sugar levels

CSIR’s Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) Hyderabad have demonstrated the role of a protein secretagogin (SCGN) as a functional insulin-binding protein with therapeutic potential against obesity-induced diabetes. SCGN is shown to bind to insulin and protects it from various stresses, increase its stability and add to its action.

For more details visit the link: <http://newsonair.com/News?title=Indian-scientists-identify-a-protein-that-helps-regulate-blood-sugar-levels&id=374959>

TCS, Qualcomm launch innovation hub in Hyderabad to build AI, IoT, 5G solutions

Tata Consultancy Services with the support from Qualcomm Technologies is set to launch an innovation hub to build domain-specific solutions that utilise the combinatorial power of AI, IoT and 5G technologies. The hub will utilise TCS' expertise in digital technologies, along with Qualcomm Technologies' depth in 5G, edge AI and edge devices to build solutions to entirely new use-cases. It will explore the possibilities opened up by 5G in different industries such as healthcare, automotive, manufacturing, retail and utilities.

For more details visit the link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/tcs-qualcomm-launch-innovation-hub-in-hyderabad-to-build-ai-iot-5g-solutions/articleshow/72142009.cms?from=mdr>

Export of organic products from India registered a growth of about 49% in FY19

The export of organic products from India registered a growth of about 49% in FY19. According to APEDA, organic products worth Rs. 5,151 crore were exported during the year 2018-19 and flax seeds, sesame, soybean, tea, medicinal plants, rice and pulses such as arhar and chana are the key organic food products that drove this growth.

India produced around 2.67 million tonnes of certified organic products including oilseeds, sugarcane, cereals & millets, cotton, pulses, medicinal plants, tea, fruits, spices, dry fruits, vegetables and coffee. The country also produces organic cotton fibre and functional food products.

As on March 31, 2019, total area under organic certification process (registered under “National Programme for Organic Production” stood at 3.56 million hectares. This includes 1.94 million ha cultivable area and another 1.49 million Hectare for wild harvest collection.

As per the available statistics, India’s rank in terms of World’s Organic Agricultural land was 9th and in terms of total number of producers was 1st as per 2018 data (Source: FIBL & IFOAM Year Book 2018).



Agricultural & Processed Food Products
Export Development Authority.
Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



National Programme for
Organic Production

The India & Japan Stories

Venu Srinivasan conferred Deming Award for TQM

Venu Srinivasan, Chairman of TVS Motor Company and Sundaram Clayton, has been conferred the prestigious Deming 'Distinguished Service Award For Dissemination and Promotion Overseas', at a ceremony held in Tokyo today. He becomes the first industrialist from India to receive prestigious award for his contributions in the field of Total Quality Management (TQM).

The Deming Prize is the highest award for TQM in the world. Deming 'Distinguished Service Award for Dissemination and Promotion Overseas' is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the dissemination and promotion of Total Quality Management (TQM) and is sponsored by Japanese Union of Scientists and Engineers (JUSE). Candidates of this award require recommendation from the members of the Deming Prize Committee, and whose primary activities must be limited to outside Japan.

For more details visit the link <https://www.autocarpro.in/news-international/venu-srinivasan-conferred-deming-award-for-tqm-44578>



Baba Kalyani & Jyotsna Suri received "Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star" by the Government of Japan

Mr. Baba Kalyani, CMD, Bharat Forge Ltd. & Dr Jyotsna Suri FICCI Past President, Present Chairperson, FICCI Tourism Committee & CMD Lalit Hotels Group has been bestowed upon the "Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star" by the Government of Japan on 07 Nov 2019 at an award ceremony in Tokyo. Both are among the foreign recipients of this year's Autumn Decorations. Mr Baba Kalyani got the order for his contribution to strengthen the Japan and India relations in the economic field. He also holds the position of co-chairman of Japan – India Business leader's Forum since 2013. He has been actively contributing to the forum by leading the discussions & preparing the reports to address the economic issues. Dr Jyotsna Suri got the order for Contributed to strengthening the economic and tourism relationship between Japan and India.



METI certified 02 new Japan-India Institutes for Manufacturing (JIMs)

On November 11, 2019, METI certified two human resource development institutes established respectively by Bellsonica Corporation (at Manesar, Haryana) and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Inc. (at Ahmedabad, Gujrat) as **Japan-India Institutes for Manufacturing (JIMs)**. As a result of this certification, the total number of JIMs has come to 12. **JIM initiative is under** the November 2016 METI, Japan and MSDE, India MoC on the Manufacturing Skill Transfer Promotion Programme. For details visit the links https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external_economy/cooperation/oda/india.html & https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external_economy/cooperation/oda/pdf/1911JIMJEC.pdf

India's Chennai-Andaman and Nicobar Islands (CANI) submarine cable system project by NEC Corp of Japan

The state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) had placed an order with NEC Technologies India Pvt. Ltd. (NECTI) to design, engineer, supply, install, test and implement an optical submarine cable system connecting Tamil Nadu's capital Chennai and the union territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&N Islands) in the Bay of Bengal.

NEC Corporation, the parent company of NECTI, will manufacture the optical submarine cable at its facility in Japan and provide technical assistance during the turnkey implementation and project is expected to be completed by 2020.

For more details visit the link <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/chennai-andaman-submarine-cable-system-project-to-be-completed-by-2020/articleshow/72020886.cms?from=mdr>

Sony to Establish Research Center in India

Sony Corporation ("Sony") on 14 November 2019 announced the establishment of a research center in India to tap into the country's sizeable pool of talent, with plans for multiple sites. The first location will be opened in Bangalore in 2020 as one of Sony's global R&D centers. Sony has been carrying out software development with local talent for over twenty years in the country, and this move will augment Sony's competitive edge in the Indian market and strengthen its research and development capabilities in India. Sony is well-positioned to provide excellent career opportunities for researchers possessing relevant information technology-related skills who are currently living in India or are willing to relocate to India.

Sony is also promoting open innovation with local universities through research sponsorships as well as collaborative partnerships with faculty and researchers in India, in order to establish lasting initiatives for motivating and fostering research talent. More importantly, Sony will provide career opportunities, not only in India, but also at worldwide Sony Research sites as employees' careers advance.

AEPPL signs MoU with Gujarat govt for lithium-ion battery project

Automotive Electronics Power Private Ltd (AEPPL) on 14 Oct 2019 signed an MoU with Gujarat government to invest Rs 4,930 crore in two phases to set up a lithium-ion battery plant at Hansalpur in Ahmedabad district.

As per the MoU, AEPPL, a joint venture between Japanese Toshiba Corporation, Denso Corporation and Suzuki Motor Corporation, will make investments in two phases at Hansalpur. In the first phase, facilities to construct lithium battery packs and module manufacturing will be built by the company at a cost of Rs 1,250 crore by the end of 2020. In the second phase, the AEPPL will invest Rs 3,715 crore.

For more details visit the link <https://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/auto-components/aeppl-signs-mou-with-gujarat-govt-for-lithium-ion-battery-project/71591009>

OYO-SoftBank JV Acquires Japanese Apartment Rental Firm For \$100 Mn

OYO's, the Gurugram-based hospitality decacorn with SoftBank Group has reportedly acquired a Japanese apartment rental company, MDI (80% stake in MDI for \$100 Mn). The deal is going to benefit OYO in leveraging MDI's strong network and business development capabilities in Japan's real estate market.

In February, OYO partnered with Yahoo Japan for a JV, "OYO Technology and Hospitality Japan", to start its co-living service OYO Life. OYO Life lets users find, rent, and leave apartment rooms via a smartphone app and targets millennials who prefer to rent rather than buy properties. The Indian company owns 66.1% of the joint venture.

For more details visit the link <https://inc42.com/buzz/oyo-softbank-jv-acquires-japanese-apartment-rental-firm-for-100-mn-in-japan/>

"Credit Saison Launched On-Line Loan Service by Partnering with Indian EC Startup, "zest"

The Nikkei (10 October)

Japanese credit card major, Credit Saison will launch on-line loan service in India. The service will be provided by its Indian subsidiary, Kisetsu Saison Finance, through a partnership with EC startup, "zest". They target individual users initially, but intend to expand the business to cater the needs of SMEs.

The number of individuals and SEMs who are unable to borrow funds because their level of credibility is often evaluated lower. On the other hand, the on-line loan market is expanding along with the spread of smartphone use in the country. It is expected that the on-line loan market in India, which current scale is estimated to be around 11 trillion yen, may expand to 35 trillion-yen in scale by 2023.

Credit Saison intends to increase the number partner companies in India to 25 in next five years. The company envisages adopting the business model they develop in Indian market to third countries such as Bangladesh and African countries eventually.

Mr Koji Fujiwara, the President and CEO of Mizuho Bank visited NSRCEL, the startup hub at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB). Mr. Fujiwara spoke about 'Leadership in the Digital Era'. He also interacted with Startups at NSRCEL in an effort to further boost the Indian startup ecosystem. N S Raghavan Centre of Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL) has since in inception in 2002, brought together entrepreneurs, academicians and industry experts to create an impact in the start-up ecosystem.

Toshiba Water Solutions partnering in re-viving India's Lifeline through Technology

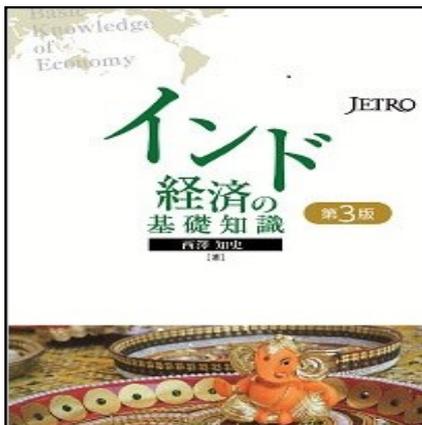
Toshiba Water Solutions Private Limited, a Toshiba Group Company based in India, has been a partner to the Indian government's Clean Ganga initiative since 2014.

Toshiba Water Solutions has so far established a total of 110 km of sewage network, and 03 STPs with a combined wastewater treatment capacity of 78 MLD along the stretches of the river Ganges.

For more details visit the link <https://www.toshiba-clip.com/en/detail/7580>



India And Business



Visit of Secretary, Heavy Industries, GoI to Japan 5-10 Nov 2019

A four member delegation led by Secretary, Heavy Industries Mr. A.R. Sihag visited Japan from November 5-10, 2019. The basic objective of the delegation was to study Japanese Auto industries and to visit their manufacturing sites for seeking collaboration on Electric Vehicle (EV) production and improving automobile infrastructure Eco-system in India, as part of an automobile dialogue proposed between the two countries.

The delegation visited Toshiba Kashiwazaki plant in Niigata as well as Toyota and Densho Anjo Plant in Aichi prefecture to explore the possibility of tie-up in futuristic EV and automobile Eco-system.

On Nov 8, the delegation held a meeting with the officials of the manufacturing Industries bureau under the Ministry of Economy Trade & Industry (METI) to promote cooperation on EV between the two countries. During the meeting with METI, both sides discussed about setting up of a new policy dialogue on cooperation in the automotive sector which included Joint collaboration for promotion of low emission vehicle, cultivation of specialized human resource personnel in the automobile industry and enhancing small and medium sized supply chains of automotive components in India.



Visit of Chief Minister Kerala to Japan 27-30 Nov 2019 - focus on Invest Kerala

A 12 member delegation led by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan visited Tokyo from November 27-30, 2019. Hon'ble CM interacted with **Indian Malayali Community** on the evening of November 27 at the Auditorium of Indian Embassy. On November 28, 2019 an **Invest Kerala Seminar** was organized by Indian Embassy, Tokyo in association with JETRO to showcase the potential sectors of the government of Kerala seeking Japanese investment. Ambassador of India to Japan H.E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma delivered the opening remarks at the Investment Seminar which was attended by about 150 participants mostly representatives of Japanese companies. In his key note speech, Kerala Chief Minister highlighted the State's achievement in the human development index including quality of life, environmental standards, improved health care system and ease of doing business in the State which already housed 140 Japanese companies namely Maruti Suzuki, Yamaha Motors, Bridgestone, Mitsubishi Electric, Nippon Paint, Yokohama Tyres, Fuji Tech and Terumo Penpol etc. While addressing the seminar, Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary of Industries of Kerala government invited Japanese companies to invest in focus sectors especially in food processing, marine products, shipbuilding, manufacturing solid waste management, disaster management, Ayurveda and tourism.

During their 4 days visit to Tokyo, the delegation led by Chief Minister also held meetings with Japan's State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Hideki Makihara, Minister of State for Regional Revitalization Mr. Seigo Kitamura and Senior Vice President of JICA Mr. Junichi Yamada. From Embassy of India, Minister (Eco) Ms. Mona Khandhar and First Secretary (Eco) Mr. Bhagirathi Behera attended the meetings. Apart from the meeting with Japanese dignitaries, the delegation also visited Industrial sites such as Toshiba LOT Battery plant in Kashiwazaki, Toyota factory in Nagoya, Terumo Penpol Headquarters in Kanagawa, Nissan Factory in Yokohama, Solid waste management plant in Nerima-ku, as well as Toyosu Fish market in Tokyo. Earlier during the first leg of their visit to Japan on November 25, the delegation organized an Investment roadshow in Osaka and visited Kyoto, Hiroshima and Shimane prefecture where they held meetings with the five governors of the San'in region.



"India-Japan Business Forum for Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Renewable Energy 2019" organized on 7th Nov 2019 at New Delhi by Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power GoI and GoJ's METI and Japanese Business Alliance for Smart Energy Worldwide (JASE). Various sessions were held including 'Demand-side Perspective: Energy Management Systems and Solutions for industries', '**Supply-side Perspective - Energy Saving Service and Material**', etc. The Forum aim is to enhance the cooperative relationship between India and Japan and to strengthen the business relationships by introducing Japanese energy efficient and low carbon technologies.



Mr Takakazu Ishii, Governor of Toyama Prefecture, Japan was felicitated by Mr Nitesh Mishra, Joint DDG, FIEO (Federation of Indian Export Organisations) during interaction of representatives of Indian companies after the inaugural of Toyama General Manufacturing Industry Trade Fair on 31st Oct 2019 Toyama, Japan.

Recently on 18th Oct'19, FIEO during a interactive session on "Trade & Business Opportunities between India and Japan" in New Delhi launched India-Japan Business Group, an online platform, to promote interaction between business communities of India and Japan for promoting exports, imports and investment between the two countries. FIEO also signed an MoU with Japan-India Industry Promotion Association (JIIPA), a Tokyo based NPO affiliated to Tokyo Metropolitan Govt, to promote trade between India & Japan. The MoU shall pave the way for greater cooperation and interaction between the two premier institutions.

FIEO (<https://www.fieo.org/>) is the apex body of export promotion councils, commodity boards and export development authorities in India and Provides the crucial interface between international trading community of India & the Central and State Govts, financial institutions, ports, railways, surface transport and all engaged in export trade facilitation. FIEO's direct members contribute more than 70% of India's exports.



A workshop on "Energy Efficiency in Refinery Sector" was organised by PCRA New Delhi on 8th Nov 2019 at IIC, New Delhi. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri R.K Ahuja, ED (Designate), PCRA. From Japan Mr. Masahide Shima of **Energy Conservation Centre -Japan (ECCJ)** led delegation participated in the event.

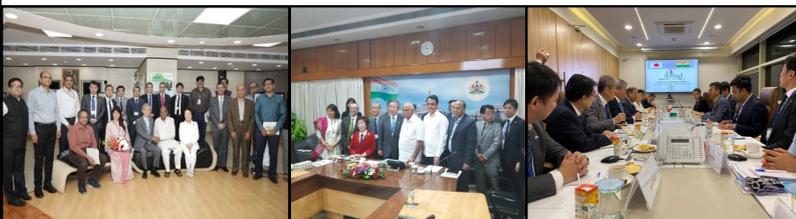
PCRA (Petroleum Conservation Research Association) India is a registered society under Ministry of Petroleum and has been working diligently for efficient utilization of fuel, energy & natural resources



The International Friendship Exchange Council (FEC), Japan led by Mr. Kenichi Watanabe (Vice Chairman) & H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Hirabayashi (Advisor-FEC, Representative Director & President of The Japan-India Association & Former Ambassador to India) visited India from 5-10 November 2019.

On 5th Nov., delegation meet Mr Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for HRD, Communications, Electronics & IT and discussed greater opportunities across sectors like education, IT-ITES & startup incubation. On November 8, 2019, the delegation met Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Dr Ashwathnarayan C.N. and discussed various industry relationships and collaboration.

On November 9, 2019, the delegation visited Delhi - Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and discussed the progress of the Industrial Corridors project along with various opportunities for Japanese Companies looking for investment in DMIC. DMIC is India's most ambitious infrastructure programme aiming to develop new industrial cities as "Smart Cities". With Ease of Doing Business as a priority, DMIC offers large land parcels, plot-level utilities, excellent connectivity, hassle-free processing, Single Window Clearance and transparency across all interactions including land allotments.



1st India-Japan Joint Working Group meeting on Foodprocessing held in MOFPI, GOI in New Delhi. Discussions held on investment promotions & business opportunities in the food processing sector. The objective of India-Japan joint working group is to promote vibrant B2B cooperation between the two countries in the food processing sector, including cold chain and capacity building.



India in Japan

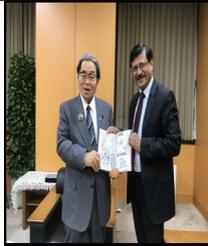
On 7 Nov'19, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma paid a courtesy call on HE Mr Kazuyoshi Akaba, Minister for Land, Infrastructure & Transport (MLIT), Japan. They discussed High Speed Railway, Flood Control, Smart city, promotion of Tourism.



On 1 Nov'19, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma paid a courtesy call on HE Mr Yoshihiro Kawano, Japan's Parliamentary Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (MAFF JAPAN). They discussed bilateral cooperation in food processing, agricultural technologies & promotion of trade.



On 6 Nov'19, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma paid a courtesy call on HE Mr Seigo Kitamura MoS for Regional Revitalization, Regulatory Reform & Minister I/C of Regional Revitalization, Japan. They discussed Utilization of IT for regional revitalization & startup ecosystem.



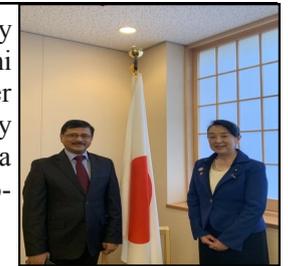
On 25 Nov'19, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma paid a courtesy call on HE Mr KONO Taro, Minister of Defence. They discussed 2+2 Ministerial, ongoing & future defence cooperation and cooperation in the Indo Pacific region.



On 6 Nov'19, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma paid a courtesy call on HE Ms Hashimoto Seiko, Minister for Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic Games, Minister I/C Women Empowerment, MoS for Gender Equality. They discussed Integrated Medicine incl Ayurveda, cyber security & Tokyo



On 19 Nov'19, HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met with HE Ms Omi Asako, Parliamentary Vice Minister Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed a range of topics incl India Japan Science and Technology cooperation.



On 5 Nov'19, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma paid a courtesy call on HE Mr Naokazu Takemoto Japan's Min I/C of Science & Technology Policy & MoS Information Technology, Space Policy, IP & Cool Japan Strategy. Both discussed bilateral S&T coop including IOT, 5G, AI, Joint Advanced Research on Neutri-



On 18 Nov'19, HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma paid a courtesy call on HE Ms Takaichi Sanae, Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, JAPAN. They discussed bilateral ICT cooperation and importance of cybersecurity measures for 5G networks.



On 7 Nov'19, HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma paid a courtesy call on HE Mr Tanaka Kazunori, Min for Reconstruction. Minister explained progress in reconstruction efforts in Fukushima & Tohoku region hit by Great East Japan Earthquake. They discussed promotion of agriculture, seafood trade & tourism



On 14 Nov 2019, IDSA hosted a delegation from Joint Staff College of Japan, led by Captain Katsuya Yamamoto. The discussion was on regional security, environment, terrorism, maritime and cyber security. The delegation also visited Gandhi Smriti, an autonomous body under Ministry of Culture in New Delhi on 13 Nov 2019.

On 27th Nov'19, HE Amb Mr Sanjay Verma addressed Kobe City Assembly on Constitution of India, India- Japan relations and answering questions relating to Mahatma Gandhi, Economy, Society Culture of India.



IDSA (Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis) is India's premier non-partisan think-tank promoting research/debate on defence, security and foreign policy since 1965.



G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting

External Affairs Minister of India Dr S Jaishankar attended the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting from 22-23 November 2019.

On Sidelines, EAM had bilateral meeting with Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr MOTEGI Toshimitsu.

EAM also interacted with the other G20 Foreign Ministers incl of China, Singapore, Australia, Indonesia and New Zealand.



On 19th Nov., Indian Coast Guard Director General (DGICG) K Natarajan called on HE Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan at Tokyo today. DGICG was on an official visit to Japan for 2nd Coast Guard Global Summit.

On 20th Nov, on sidelines of the summit, Director General Natarajan had bilateral meeting with Admiral Shuichi Iwanami, Commandant, Japan Coast Guard and discussed issues to further enhance Maritime Cooperation between two agencies.

On 21st Nov, Director General Natarajan interacted with Hon'ble PM of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe during 2nd Coast Guard Global Summit at Tokyo.



On 21st Nov.'19, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay K. Verma gave talk on India's National AI strategy, Data Strategy, Digital India initiative and India Japan collaborative in digital space at Japan-India Symposium on Personal Data, AI & Smart City organised by JEITA and supported by METI & JETRO.



On 21st Nov'19, Ambassador HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met CEO Prasar Bharati Mr Shashi Shekhar Vempati. They discussed about outcomes of 56th ABU Tokyo 2019 and future potential of collaboration between India's largest Broadcaster Prasar Bharati and Japanese Broadcasters. Prasar Bharati submitted a report on ABU International Dance festival conducted by Doordarshan in March 2019 in Delhi, showcased flagship programmes of AIR & DD, and steps taken towards gender equality in programming at 56th ABU General Assembly.



On 25 NOV, Japan's JMSDF ships JS BUNGO and JS TAKASHIMA conducted the bilateral mine sweeping exercise with INS SUJATA around Cochi. Through the exercise, JS BUNGO and JS TAKASHIMA improved tactical capability, strengthened relationship and deepened mutual understanding with Indian Navy.



6th Parliamentary Speakers' Summit of G20 countries (P20) at Tokyo

Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha (Lower House of Indian Parliament) Mr Om Birla led delegation participated in the 6th Parliamentary Speakers' Summit of G20 countries (P20) at Tokyo from 3-5 November 2019.

On 3rd November, Hon'ble Speaker visited the Tsukiji Honganji Temple, one of Tokyo's Buddhist temple, inspired by Indian Buddhist architecture.

On 4th November, in plenary session, Hon'ble Speaker shared his views on the theme 'Global challenges and achievement of SDGs'. He also emphasized upon terrorism being among the biggest challenges facing the world, mankind and the global economy. While speaking upon the Climate Change, he mentioned it as an another challenge altering the character of our planet and creating critical risks and instability for future generations. It must be considered holistically, keeping in mind the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. 2030 Agenda and its SDGs mirror India's own development priorities. There is a convergence of India's national development goals and agenda of, 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' or 'Collective efforts, Inclusive growth,' with the SDGs. In India to accelerate the pace of realization of the Development agenda, the Government of India has unfurled the, 'strategy for New India at 75', that is aligned to SDGs. It aims to propel India towards a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024. Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), is the largest government health protection scheme in the world, providing 500 million Indians with an annual medical coverage of US \$ 7,100. At the Session on 'Utilization of Innovative Technology towards a Human-Centered Society' Hon'ble Speaker mentioned that Innovation driven by technologies like Internet of Things, AI and robotics, Block chain, machine learning are gathering traction and meet growth aspirations of developing countries. For India, digitalization provides an unprecedented opportunity to meet the aspirations of 1320 million citizens in a transparent, inclusive, sustainable and cost effective manner. More than 2300 services are already available on digital platform. Digital transformation in India has successfully bridged the gender divide too. The Information Technology Enabled Services Industry in India employs around 4.14 million workers of which 30 percent are women. The working of Indian Parliament has undergone a sea change with the use of ICT in its functioning. It is not only by making Parliament's working more transparent and efficient but also strengthening the ways to allow Members to discharge their functions effectively.

On the sidelines, Hon'ble Speaker also had bilateral meetings with Mexico, Indonesia, Russia & Netherland.

Hon'ble Speaker also attended the reception hosted by Speaker of House of Representatives, DIET HE Mr. Oshima Tadamori. HE Mr. Oshima Tadamori, during interactions recalled fond memories of his visit to India 30 years ago and the great liking he had for the Indian food. At the reception, Hon'ble Speaker also met and exchange pleasantries with HE Ms. Santo Akiko and HE Mr. Ogawa Toshio, President and Vice-President of House of Councillors, National Diet of Japan.

On 5th Nov., Hon'ble Speaker also interacted with the members of the Indian Community at Embassy of India, Tokyo and highlighted strong bonding between India and Japan and lauded the contribution of Indians in strengthening these ties.



Speech by Dr. S. Jaishankar External Affairs Minister, Govt of India, at the 4th Ramnath Goenka Lecture, 2019 at New Delhi 04.11.2019 - "**Japan has become an important factor in our calculations**".

For details visit the link https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dt1/32038/External_Affairs_Ministers_speech_at_the_4th_Ramnath_Goenka_Lecture_2019

Mr V. Murleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs met HE Nakatania Shinichi, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan on the sidelines of IORA in Abu Dhabi today. They discussed recent bilateral, regional developments and the upcoming visit of Japanese PM to India.



PM Narendra Modi met with Japanese PM Shinzo Abe - 4 Nov.'2019

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met the Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe on the margins of India-ASEAN and East Asia Summit 2019 at Bangkok on 04 November 2019. The two leaders have met with each other thrice in the last about four months, and their previous meeting was in Vladivostok in September 2019.

The Prime Minister congratulated Prime Minister Abe on the recent coronation of the Emperor of Japan. Prime Minister Abe recalled warmly the participation of the President of India in the ceremony. Prime Minister Modi said that he eagerly looked forward to welcoming Prime Minister Abe in India next month for India-Japan Annual Summit. He also said that he was convinced of the success of the forthcoming Annual Summit in further deepening the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

The leaders welcomed the increasing economic engagement between the two countries, propelled by high-level exchanges. The leaders also reviewed the progress on Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project and reaffirmed their commitment to advance mutual efforts to facilitate the smooth implementation of the project. The leaders welcomed that the inaugural 2+2 Foreign & Defence Ministerial Dialogue will take place later Nov in India.

They agreed that the Dialogue will help provide impetus to the bilateral security & defence cooperation between the two sides. The two Prime Ministers also reaffirmed their commitment towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region based on a rules-based order. They agreed to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation, including in third countries, for achieving the shared objective of peace, prosperity and progress of the Indo-Pacific region.



India's decided not to join the RCEP Agreement

PM Narendra Modi participated at the 3rd RCEP Summit in Bangkok. He conveyed India's decision not to join the RCEP Agreement based on the current global economic situation as well as on the grounds of fairness and balance. India had significant issues of core interest that remained unresolved. PM highlighted that he was guided by the adverse impact it would have on the lives of all Indians, specially the vulnerable sections of the society. India participated in discussions in good faith & negotiated hard, with a clear-eyed view of our interests. In given circumstances, we believe that not joining is right decision. India would continue to strengthen our trade, investment & people-to-people ties with this region.



On 17th Nov.'19, on sidelines of ADMM in Bangkok Defence Mantri Mr Rajnath Singh had a bilateral meeting with Japan's Minister of Defence, Mr. Taro Kono to discuss ways to add further momentum to India-Japan defence co-operation.

Inaugural India Japan 2+2 Foreign & Defence Ministerial Meeting

Defence Minister of India Mr. Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister of India Dr S Jaishankar met Foreign Affairs Minister of Japan Mr MOTEGI Toshimitsu and Minister of Defense of Japan Mr KONO Taro, on 30 Nov 2019 in New Delhi for the 1st India-Japan 2+2 Foreign & Defence Ministerial Meeting. The leaders discussed strengthening of the India - Japan bilateral strategic and defence cooperation enhancing peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific region. A joint statement was issued after the meeting and can be read at next page of this newsletter or at link <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=195235>.

Both the Japanese leaders also called on PM Narendra Modi. PM Modi welcomed the visiting Ministers and expressed his satisfaction at the two sides being able to accomplish this goal set by him and PM Abe during the 13th India-Japan Annual Summit held in Japan in Oct 2018. PM mentioned that the meeting will further deepen bilateral strategic, security & defence cooperation between India and Japan. He also stressed the importance of all-round development in India-Japan relations for the benefit of the two peoples, as well as the region and the world & mentioned that regular high-level exchanges between the two countries are testimony to the depth and strength of the relationship.



Joint Statement: First India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting

2. The Ministers affirmed that this dialogue will further enhance the strategic depth of bilateral security and defence cooperation. Acknowledging emerging security challenges, the Ministers reiterated their commitment to advancing bilateral security cooperation based on the 2008 Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation and the 2009 Action Plan to advance Security Cooperation. Recalling that the two sides had a shared vision of a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific region in which the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity are ensured, and all countries enjoy freedom of navigation and overflight, the Ministers emphasized that further strengthening of bilateral cooperation was in mutual interest of both countries and would also help in furthering the cause of the peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Bilateral Cooperation

3. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in deepening bilateral defence cooperation last year. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that since last year India and Japan have initiated bilateral exercises between all 03 components of their defence forces. The Ministers shared the view to make continuous efforts for holding the bilateral exercises between the defence forces regularly and further expanding the same. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the recently conducted 2nd “Dharma Guardian-2019” and the 2nd “SHINYUU Maitri-2019”. The Ministers also concurred to proceed with coordination for the 1st India-Japan joint fighter aircraft exercise in Japan.

4. The Ministers welcomed the significant progress made in the negotiations of Acquisition & Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) since the announcement to commence the negotiations in Oct 2018. The Ministers expressed their desire for early conclusion of the negotiations and were of the view that the agreement will further contribute to enhancing defence cooperation between the two sides.

5. Acknowledging the importance of ensuring maritime safety in achieving a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific, the Ministers expressed their intention to further promote cooperation in the field of capacity building in maritime security and Maritime Domain Awareness including through cooperation with other countries. In this context, the Ministers welcomed the setting up of Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) by India in Dec 2018. The Indian side looked forward to Japanese side dispatching a liaison officer at the IFC-IOR in the near future. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the commencement of exchange of information based on the Implementing Arrangement for Deeper Cooperation between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Indian Navy signed last year.

6. The Ministers emphasized the need to further strengthen the defence equipment and technology cooperation and looked forward to productive discussions in the fifth Joint Working Group on Defence Equipment and Technology Cooperation (JWG-DETC). In this context, the Ministers welcomed the progress on cooperative research in the area of Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV)/ Robotics.

7. The Ministers appreciated the existing exchange programs between the defence educational and research institutions of the two countries and expressed their desire to continue and expand the exchange programmes.

Multilateral Cooperation

8. Recalling the Japan-India-US Summit Meetings in November 2018 and June 2019, the Ministers acknowledged the trilateral cooperation with the US. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at trilateral cooperation represented by the “MALABAR 2019” held from September-October 2019 off the coast of Japan, mine-countermeasures exercise (MINEX) held in Japan in July 2019 and “Cope India 2018” in which Japan participated as an observer in December 2018.

9. The Ministers welcomed the recent Japan-India-Australia-US Foreign Ministerial consultations in New York in Sept 2019.

Regional and International Affairs

10. The Ministers had a frank and fruitful exchange of views on the regional issues of mutual interests particularly on the security situation in the Indo-Pacific.

11. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of supporting ASEAN centrality and unity for promoting peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)” during the 34th ASEAN Summit in Thailand in June 2019. The Ministers expressed their commitment to working together with ASEAN for achieving their shared objectives. The Ministers also reiterated their support for ASEAN-led frameworks such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus).

12. The Japanese side appreciated India’s announcement of “Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative” at the recent 14th EAS to create a safe, secure, stable, prosperous and sustainable maritime domain and confirmed their willingness to discuss concrete cooperation based on the Initiative. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that India and Japan’s initiatives for realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific, including also the recent “Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative” and AOIP all strive for an Indo-Pacific region that is inclusive and open to all countries in the region. The Indian side welcomed Japan’s “Vientiane Vision 2.0” in November 2019 as an updated initiative for defence cooperation between Japan and ASEAN.

13. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of realizing North Korea’s complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) and expressed their commitment to the full implementation of the relevant UNSCRs. The Ministers condemned North Korea’s recent launches of ballistic missiles which are clear violation of the relevant UNSCRs. The Ministers strongly urged North Korea to resolve the abductions issue at the earliest date.

14. The Ministers exchanged views on the recent developments in the South China Sea keeping in view also the Chairman's Statement of the 14th EAS. In this context, the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce and peaceful resolution of disputes with full respect for legal and diplomatic processes in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including those reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Ministers also took note of the negotiations of a Code of Conduct (COC) and urged that it should be effective, substantive, and consistent with international law, including the UNCLOS, ensure freedom of navigation and must not prejudice the rights and interests of the stakeholders using the South China Sea and freedoms of all states under international law.

15. The Ministers condemned in the strongest terms the growing threat of terrorism and acknowledged that it constituted a major threat to peace and security in the region. The Ministers called upon all countries take resolute action in rooting out terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, disrupting terrorist networks and eliminating financing channels and halting cross-border movement of terrorists. The Ministers underlined the need for all countries to ensure that all territory under their control is not used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries in any manner. They noted in this context the threat posed to regional security by terrorist networks operating out of **Pakistan** and called upon it to take resolute and irreversible action against them and fully comply with international commitments including to FATF. The Ministers emphasised the need for stronger international partnership in countering terrorism and violent extremism, including through increased sharing of information and intelligence.

16. The Ministers shared recognition on the importance of continuing exchange of opinions in light of the success of this 2+2 Ministerial Meeting, and decided to hold the next 2+2 Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo.

Science & Technology / Sports / Education

SAKURA SCIENCE

On 29th November 2019, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma gave congratulatory remarks at closing ceremony of SAKURA SCIENCE High School Exchange Programme by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST; <https://ssp.jst.go.jp/EN/>) and MEXT Japan. In his remarks he emphasised on "Science for Society" & "Innovation". A group of ~24 Indian Students (9th group from India under programme) also participated in the programme.



ICMR-DST-AMED workshop for India-Japan Col-

On 27th Nov 2019, ICMR-DST-AMED workshop for India-Japan Collaboration organised at New Delhi. Dr. S K Varshney Adviser & Head International Bilateral Cooperation, DST India mentioned in his remarks that IoT, BigData & Artificial Intelligence are the areas in which joint programs already exist between India & Japan & these need to be leveraged for healthcare. In workshop, Ageing, Cancer, emerging infections, non communicable diseases, collaboration on high end medical devices, effect of Climate Change on public health etc are the major areas identified for cooperation between DST, ICMR and AMED.



TCS Japan with Nara Women's University visited Indian Schools from 10-17 Nov'19 as part of EDU-PORT as project of Japan's MEXT Ministry. Team visited Kendriya Vidyalaya Powai and Singhania School in Mumbai and used TCS iON PAPER appliance to consume the content and provided encouraging feedback.



Japan-India Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program started

The Union Cabinet of India on 20th Nov'19 approved proposal for Japan-India Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program between The Japan Patent Office (JPO) and Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) Govt. of India with patent offices of various other interested countries/regions. The said programme will initially commence between Japan Patent Office (JPO) and Indian Patent Office on pilot basis for a period of three years only. Under this Pilot program, Indian Patent Office may receive patent applications in certain specified technical fields only. Japan is India's first PPH partner. PPH would lead to reduction in disposal time & pendency of patent applications & an opportunity for Indian inventors to get accelerated examination of their patent applications in Japan.



Earlier, the same day JPO and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of India held the 3rd JPO-DPIIT Review Meeting in Delhi. The JPO and the Office of the CGPDTM of India signed an Action Plan that added new cooperation items regarding Intellectual Properties and adopted a Joint Statement for the 3rd JPO-DPIIT Review Meeting to continue and strengthen the cooperative relationship in the future. The Offices also signed a Joint Statement of Intent on a Japan-India PPH Pilot Program and agreed to start accepting PPH requests in early December, 2019.

Background Information: JPO signed a MoC in the Field of Industrial Property in June 2015 with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). Since then, the JPO has been developing an environment where Japanese applicants can promptly acquire IP rights in India by cooperating in training 400 new Indian patent examiners as well as inviting trainees to training programs in Japan. Furthermore, in May 2017, the JPO signed a new Action Plan with the Office of the CGPDTM of India that included additional cooperation items such as dispatch of experts, in order to advance discussions on the early start of a PPH Program between Japan and India. In accordance with the above, the JPO and the DPIIT held JPO-DPIIT Review Meetings for purpose of maintaining and strengthening their cooperative relationship in Delhi (2017) and in Tokyo (2018).

Science & Technology / Sports / Education

On 3rd November 2019, NCPOR presented its National Report on the polar programme followed by talks on Initial footprints of Collaboration, utilizing AFOPS banner and a talk on Recent declining in Arctic sea ice cover at NIPR, Tokyo. Under AFOPS, NCPOR and NIPR collaborating on SONIC-Schirmacher Oasis Nippon (Japan) India Coring Expedition whose objective is to reconstruct past climate-Relative sea level-ice sheet dynamics from lake sediments of Schirmacher Oasis (SO).

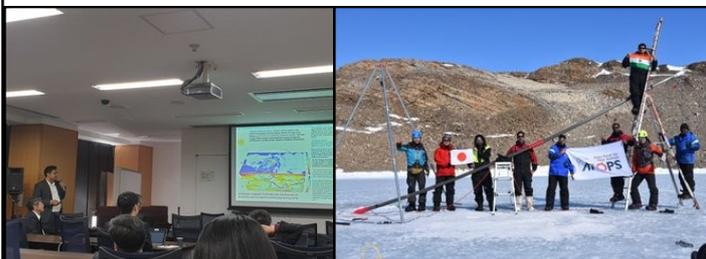
An MoC between India's National Centre for Polar and Ocean research (NCPOR) and Japan's The National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) was signed in October 2018 to strengthen cooperation in the study of Polar Sciences and related logistics.

**Call for FY2020 STSI Program application:**

STSI Program is the co-educational program by Hokkaido University and three prestigious IITs (Hyderabad, Bombay and Madras). IIT participants will take STSI Basic Courses (STSI Fundamentals, STSI Basic Course on Language and Culture), and learn teamwork research ability through internship at Hokkaido University. After completing the course with the approval from both Japan & India, students will receive "Certification of Completion of STSI Program".



There are two types of program depending on length of internship and roles expected during internship. The last date of application is December 23, 2019. For more details visit the link <http://labs.eng.hokudai.ac.jp/office/iao/stsi-en/recruitment/>

**Tokyo2020 Ready Steady Tokyo Boxing Test event**

In last week of Oct 2019, Indian Boxing Team participated in the Ready Steady Tokyo Test Event organised by Tokyo2020. On Oct 30, 2019, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met the Team



at Ryogoku Kokugikan Arena Tokyo and asked about their comfortable stay as well watched a bout. On Oct 31, 2019, Ambassador met Indian Boxing Team at Embassy of India & congratulated them for their steller performance in Test Event with 03 medals, incl 2 Gold and 1 Silver by Shiva Thapa 63kg Gold, Pooja Rani 75kg Gold, Ashish Kulheria 69kg Silver.

Tokyo2020 ParaBadminton Test event

Indian Para-Badminton Team India Won 7 Medals Including 2 Golds 1 Silver & 4 Bronze in 2020 Tokyo Olympic Test Event Japan Para Badminton International Held at Tokyo from 11-17 Nov.' 2019.

**Tokyo International University Students Visit to Embassy of India - 30th October 2019**

HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma addressed a group of 55 students (representing >20 countries) from Tokyo International University (<https://www.tiu.ac.jp/>) at Embassy of India Tokyo.

In his remark, Ambassador mentioned about India's neighbourhood and extended neighbourhood foreign policy and historical connections. He also mentioned the important of rule-bound and law abiding international order as well as role of Science & Technology and Entrepreneurship to overcome global challenges. Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava spoke on india's growth story, Economic development and Social Transformation, India's entrepreneurship and India's foreign policy and International relationship. The interaction was followed by very interesting Q&A session with Ambassador & DCM. There were questions on India diplomatic relations with immediate neighbors including developmental aid to them, Kashmir issue, RCEP, Role of Indian Diaspora & ways of engaging them, Skill India, India's role in environmental responsible nation, etc. Students conveyed their deep appreciation for organizing such a fruitful session as session helped them getting new and fresh perspectives on various issues.



On 20th Nov'19, Amb HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma gave congratulatory remarks to the audience and artists of Hindi drama "Gandhi Ji Ki Mahanata"(गाँधीजी की महानता) presented by the Japanese students of the Hindi Department, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.



Forum - Kosetsu Nosu & Sarnath Mural Paintings of Buddha's

On 31st Oct'19, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma, gave opening remarks at the Forum on Kosetsu Nosu and the Mural Paintings of Buddha's Life in Sarnath held at Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India. The forum was held to promote of the preservation project for the Mural of the Buddha's Life painted by the Japanese master painter Nosu Kosetsu 83 years ago in Sarnath. This was followed by dignitaries and academics talks viz Dr Sengaku Mayeda, Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University and President of Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute; Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director (VCC), Embassy of India; Ms Reiko Ohki, Curator, Sakura City Museum; Dr. Takayasu Kijima, Professor Emeritus, Tokyo University of the Arts; and; Mr Yosuke Ikuta and Mr Shigeki Mizobuchi of the Society for Honoring the Master Artist Kosetsu Nosu.



550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji celebrations in Japan

An event celebrating the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of the Sikh religion, was held at the Embassy of India's Vivekananda Culture Centre (VCC) in association with the Sikh community in Japan. A congratulatory message from H.E. Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan, was read out to inaugurate the event. The programme included a lecture on Sikhism by Padma Shri Dr Tomio Mizokami, Professor Emeritus of Osaka University of Foreign Studies, A talk by Shri Manmohan Singh Sahni on the life of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, performances of Shabad by school children and a performance of Gurbani Kirtan by Smt. Gursharan Kaur and Mr. Gurpreet Singh. The evening concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director (VCC); and Guru ka Langar, a serving of food by community kitchen to attendants, by the Sikh community. The programme was well attended by members of the Indian community, Japanese friends and Embassy officials.

Embassy also participated in an event celebrating 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji by Sikh Community in Japan on 24 November 2019 at IISJ Tokyo. Event had Shabad Kirtan including by School Kids followed by Ardas and Hukumnama. The event ends with Guruk a Langar to members of Indian community and Japanese friends. Also gifted books on Sikhism and Guru Nanak Devji to Gurudwara & IISJ School to enable young minds read about Sikh history and culture.



On 27 Nov'19, Amb HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma inaugurated in presence of Kobe City Mayor Mr Kizo Hisamoto a photo exhibition "Making of the Constitution of India" at Kobe City Assembly Hall, Kobe City.



Know the City - Amritsar अतुल्य भारत
Incredible India



For details visit the link <https://www.incredibleindia.org/content/incredible-india-v2/en/destinations/amritsar.html>

On 8th November 2019, HE Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan, gave congratulatory remarks at an event celebrating the 100th Birth Anniversary of Master Masa-hiro Oki. Master Oki travelled to India for the first time in 1938 and immersed himself in yoga, stayed in Gandhiji's Ashram and experienced practice of prayer and service. He founded Oki Yoga Association in the 1950s which initiated the popularisation of Yoga in Japan. He is known to have taught approximately 50 students every week for 50 years, and had taught a total of over 300,000 people in Japan and around the world. Ambassador awarded Mr Osamu Tatumura of Oki Yoga Association in appreciation for carrying on the legacy of Master Oki and his contribution to the promotion of yoga in Japan. Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, Vivekananda Cultural Centre, gave thanks to the organisers on behalf of the Embassy of India.



On 2nd Nov 2019, as part of community outreach, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma addressed Indian Community at the Diwali event organised by Ojima Indians Association at Kasai Kumin Kan, Tokyo. Event had various cultural performances including electrifying performance by Japanese performers. Ambassador in his address mentioned about the Chath Pooja performed in UP, Bihar, West Bengal. Ambassador was pleased with the gathering and mentioned it looks like India away from India. Ambassador also encouraged the community to organize more such events.



Congratulations to The Hockey India women team for making it to their third Olympic games Tokyo2020!



Congratulations to the eight-time Olympic Champions the Hockey India Men team for making it to Tokyo2020!



On 5th November 2019, Ambassador H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma gave opening remarks at a lecture by renowned Indian dancer and actress Smt. Mamata Shankar on Indian Dance and Cinema. She was born in 1955 in Kolkata to dancers Shri Uday Shankar and Smt. Amala Shankar. She has acted in films by directors including Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, Rituparno Ghosh, Buddhadeb Dasgupta, and Gautam Ghosh. The programme was well attended by VCC students, the Indian community and members of the public.



The Embassy of India, Tokyo, hosted the 2019 ALFS (<https://www.alfs.or.jp/activities.html>) Cultural Event "Utsav, a Cultural Journey of India" at the VCC Auditorium. Opening remarks were given by H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan and Madam Gunjan Verma, spouse of Ambassador. The programme featured a variety of dance performances including movie dances by the ladies of Indian Embassy, Mayukas group and Kathak dance by Atsuko Maeda, representative of Kadamb Japan. There was also a fashion show by the spouses of officials of the Indian Embassy, which showcased women's clothing from across India. Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture (VCC) conducted a workshop on cosmetic yoga. The dignitaries like Mrs. Motegi, Spouse of Foreign Minister of Japan, Mrs. Komura, President and Mrs. Nakasone and Mrs. Urakami, Vice Presidents of Asia Pacific Ladies Friendship Society and representatives from various Embassies graced the occasion.



Incredible India

www.incredibleindia.org

The 1st Electric tram in Asia ran in Kolkata in 1902, between Esplanade and Kidderpore. Kolkata still has an operational tram network. Visit the tram museum too while in Bengal.



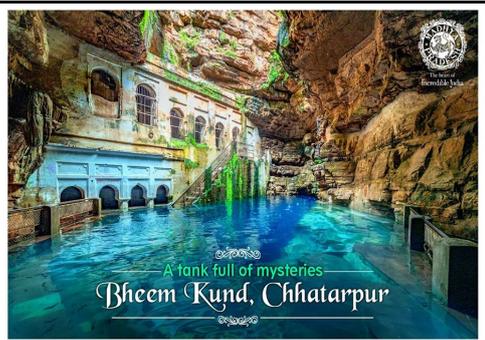
Tram Tales of Kolkata
THE ONLY PLACE IN INDIA, TO RIDE ONE



Get a glimpse of Mulagandha Kuti Vihar Temple in Sarnath, a rich repository of Buddhist literature, adorned with beautiful frescoes made by Kosetsu Nosu, Japan's foremost painter.



Mulagandha Kuti Vihar
SARNATH



A tank full of mysteries
Bheem Kund, Chhatarpur

Mumbai & Hyderabad join the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities

On the occasion of World Cities Day 2019, celebrated on 31 October, UNESCO announced that the cities of Mumbai (for more details <http://bit.ly/33FucpR>) and Hyderabad are joining the UNESCO network of Creative Cities. Mumbai has been designated a Creative city of film and Hyderabad a Creative city of gastronomy. In India, they join Chennai and Varanasi, UNESCO Cities of music, and Jaipur, UNESCO City of crafts and folk arts. There are now 246 cities worldwide committing with UNESCO to place culture and creativity at the centre of their development strategies and to share their best practices.

By joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), cities commit to sharing their best practices and developing partnerships involving the public and private sectors as well as civil society in order to strengthen the creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services. They also pledge to develop hubs of creativity and innovation and broaden opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector. The network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.



Madhya Pradesh declared as one of the Best Value destinations across the world by Lonely Planet

Madhya Pradesh being one of the most diverse tourist destinations has been ranked under Top three 'Best Value Destination' of the world in 2020 by Lonely Planet.

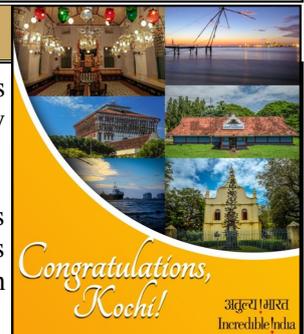
Each year, Lonely Planet's best in Travel lists start with nominations from Lonely Planet's vast community of editors, researchers, locals and influencers, and decided and ranked by a panel of judges. The outcome is an eclectic list of destinations with unique, compelling and topical reasons to visit in the year ahead – as well as underlying travel trends to look for.

Lonely Planet is a leading travel media company and the world's number one travel guidebook brand, providing both inspiring and trustworthy information for every kind of traveller since 1973.

Kochi seventh in top 10 cities to visit in 2020: Lonely Planet

Kochi, the south Indian city known for its coastal beauty, multiculturalism and an ethos that blends modernity with tradition, while harkening back to an old-world colonial spirit, has been chosen by international travel guide Lonely Planet as one of the top 10 destinations for 2020.

Situated on the south-western coast of India, Kochi is a major port city and for centuries, it was once a key strategic point in the spice trade. Called the "Queen of the Arabian Sea," the city is made of up several regions, which includes Fort Kochi, known for St. Francis Church, the Jewish synagogues and the massive cantilevered Chinese fishing nets that dot the coast.



Congratulations, Kochi!

For more details visit link <https://www.incredibleindia.org/content/incredible-india-v2/en/destinations/kochi.html/>

PRESS RELEASE

Liberalization of India e-Visa regime

The Embassy of India in Tokyo is pleased to convey the following changes in India's e-Visa regime:

- (i) A short duration e-visa for tourists, with one-month validity with visa fee of US Dollar 25 has been introduced.
- (ii) To encourage off-season (April-June) tourism, visa fee of USD 25 would be reduced to USD 10 during this period.
- (iii) Validity of the regular e-visa with fee of USD 80 has been increased from current permissible 1 year to 5 years with multiple entries.
- (iv) Fee for one year e-Tourist visa has been reduced from USD 80 to USD 40.

For more information please visit <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

NOTICE ON OCI CARD

There have been instances of difficulties faced by OCI Card holders at airline counters due to mismatch of passport number mentioned in the OCI card with the current passport of OCI card holder. The OCI card holders may please ensure the following criteria of validity of their OCI Cards before planning their visit to India.

*The Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder registration is required to be got re-issued each time a new passport is issued up to the age of 20 years and once after completing 50 years of age in view of biological changes in the face of the applicant. **Re-issuance of the OCI Cardholder registration is not mandatory each time a new passport is issued between 21 and 50 years of age. However, if the applicant wishes to avail this service, he/she can apply for the same online under OCI Miscellaneous Services.***