

Newsletter "The Indian Connection"

India On the Move

13 COP to the convention on Migratory Species held in India India assumes Presidency for 3 years

Thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS-COP) was held in Gandhinagar from 17-25 Feb 2020 and was attended by senior government officials, environment advocates, activists, researchers and biodiversity leaders from as many as 130 countries.



India has four biodiversity hotspots – Eastern Himalayas, Western Ghats, Indo Myanmar landscape and Andaman and Nicobar Islands and home to as many as 500 species of migratory birds and animals from across the globe and is one of the seven megadiverse countries in the world.

Also, during COP, India assumed COP Presidency for the next three years with a focus on Collaborative Approach to tackle Biodiversity Issues.

For more details visit the link <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603392>

India's maiden summit on AI "RAISE 2020" October 2020

Government of India in partnership with Industry & Academia announces Maiden Summit on Artificial Intelligence **RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020,'** to be held from Oct 4-6, 2020 in New Delhi to spearhead social empowerment, inclusion and transformation. The summit will be a global meeting of minds to exchange ideas and charter a course to use AI for social empowerment, inclusion and transformation in key areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility amongst other sectors. For more details visit the link <http://ai.gov.in/>



India's first "AI Skills Lab" has been established at Dr Rajendra Prasad Kendriya Vidyalaya (Central School), New Delhi. The lab has been established by Intel in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sanghathan in accordance with the AI curriculum specified by CBSE and will provide access to AI tools and technologies to encourage and accelerate innovation among students from AI learning to AI model training and inferencing. In India importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being recognised by the Govt of India for its future opportunities and solutions.

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.

Every person in a well-ordered state is full conscious of both his responsibility and his rights.

MAHATAMA GANDHI

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India first inter-city electric bus service between Mumbai and Pune

On 14 Feb 2020, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched **India's first inter-city electric bus service** between Mumbai and Pune. Manufactured by Mitra Mobility Solution, the bus will be operated by Prasanna Purple Mobility Solutions and there are plans to extend these services in the near future. Mr Gadkari told in his remarks that in India, various State govt public transport corporations and private operators might order some 10,000 electric buses this year and the govt was planning to build e-(electric) highways to facilitate the smooth operation of these electric buses. For details visit link <https://www.urbantransportnews.com/gadkari-launches-first-intercity-electric-bus-service-between-mumbai-and-pune/>



INVEST INDIA
ATMA NISHTHA KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA

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ELECTRIC BUSES SANCTIONED

UNDER FAME INDIA SCHEME

PHASE-II

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Union Cabinet approves the Constitution of an empowered "Technology Group"

Union Cabinet has approved constitution of a 12-Member Technology Group with the Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt of India as its Chair. This Group is mandated to render timely policy advice on latest technologies; mapping of technology & technology products; commercialization of dual use technologies developed in national laboratories and govt R&D organizations; developing an indigenization road map for selected key technologies; and selection of appropriate R&D programs leading to technology development. For more details visit the link <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603643>

INCOIS launches three new advance warning systems

On 25 Feb 2020, Hyderabad-based Ministry of Earth Sciences institute "Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS; <https://www.incois.gov.in/portal/index.jsp>)" launched 03 new technological support and alert systems which aims to significantly reduce damage and losses to fishermen, off-shore oil exploration industries and coastal population during extreme weather and oceanic events.

These 03 systems are 1) Swell Surge Forecast System which will provide forewarnings for the coastal population of India's vast shoreline that experiences a slew of damages caused by the swell waves; 2) Small Vessel Advisory and Forecast Services System (SVAS), an innovative impact-based advisory and forecast service system, for small vessels operating in Indian coastal waters and can detect the potential zones where vessel overturning can take place. It provides warning 10 days in advance & 3) Algal Bloom Information Service (ABIS) which will provide timely information on harmful algal blooms.

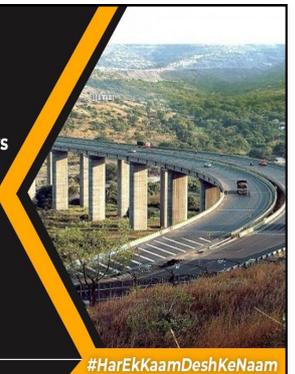


Objectives of the National Steel Policy-

- Build a globally competitive industry with a crude steel capacity of 300 MT by 2030-31
- Increase per Capita Steel Consumption to 160 Kgs.
- To domestically meet the entire demand of high-grade automotive steel, electrical steel, special steels and alloys for strategic applications.
- Increase domestic availability of washed coking coal to reduce import dependence on coking coal to 50%.
- To be a net exporter of steel.
- Encourage industry to be a world leader in energy and raw material-efficient steel production, safely and sustainably
- Develop and implement quality standards for domestic steel products

The Setu Bharatam programme aims at making all national highways Railway Level Crossing free.

208 new "road over bridges (RoB) / road under bridges (RuB)" are envisaged for construction, while 1500 bridges will be widened, rehabilitated or replaced.



#HarEkKaamDeshKeNaam

Environment friendly Production of Steel in India

As on February 2020, the total number of steel plants in the India is 977. Steel is a deregulated sector where market forces and commercial considerations decide construction of new steel plants. Also being a deregulated sector, the Government does not set any annual targets for steel production. Decision on quantity of steel production is taken by individual companies based on commercial considerations and market requirements.

Environment Friendly - The Indian steel industry has over the years, undertaken cost effective and environment friendly production of steel through adoption of state-of-the-art technologies and research. The Indian steel industry is addressing the energy & environment issues through the adoption of energy efficient & environment friendly technologies in the plants through technological up gradation / modernization / expansion. These measures undertaken by the Indian steel industry have also resulted in improvement in energy efficiency and reduction in Green House Gas (GHG) emission.

Ministry of Steel, Government of India has added 25 new standards into a single order, notified on 19th Feb 2020, namely ; Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2020 covering thereby 91 Steel and Steel products. Order may be seen at the link given below: <https://steel.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steel%20and%20steel%20products%20%28Quality%20Control%29%20Order%2C%202020.pdf>

Government of India committed to socially progressive legislations.

1. A step towards safety and well-being of the Women by **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020**. <https://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1600916>
2. Path breaking step to protect women's reproductive rights by **Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation Bill 2020 & Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2020** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603649>
3. Parliament of India passed **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019** to mitigate stigma, discrimination, abuse & to make them productive members of society. <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?reid=195089>
4. **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill 2019** to govern the welfare of Parents & Senior citizens. <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1592418>

MPEDA Programme to Certify Shrimp quality



Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA, <https://mpeda.gov.in/MPEDA/#>) India has launched a new certificate system for authenticating the quality of shrimp, to enhance exports in competitive global markets. Called, Shaphari, the 'Antibiotic-free Certification', is an end-to-end solution that enables MPEDA to audit the post larvae offered by hatcheries across the country. The entire certification process will be online in tune with the government e-governance programme and thus will make the certification scheme affordable to the small & marginal aqua farmers & help them export their product.

For more details visit the link <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/mpeda-programme-to-certify-shrimp-quality/article30763343.ece>

As the **Indian Startup ecosystem** is growing steadily, their cumulative valuation has now crossed \$55 Bn, with Fintech, enterprise, and retail tech being the most mature sectors with strong metrics across dimensions. 27,916 startups recognized by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade as on 1 February, 2020. To boost Startup Ecosystem in India, Budget 2020 announced 100% profit deduction for 3 years out of 10 years for startups with turnover upto INR 100 cr beside deferring tax liability on grant of Employee Stock Option Plans (ESOPs) to the time of sale of shares.

INDIAN SEZs: Indian special economic zones (SEZ) continue to take lead in expanding the exports for the country. The number of operational SEZs has grown to 241 in 2019-20 & Exports from SEZs crossing \$100 billion mark in 2018-19 & 2019-20. In Dec 2019, GoI made a significant amendment in SEZ Act 2005 with which SEZs will now become multi-sector SEZs and the minimum land area required for setting up of SEZs has also been relaxed. For more details visit the link <http://sezindia.nic.in/upload/5dd4e2ab59d11Fact%20Sheet.pdf>; <http://sezindia.nic.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Rule%2053.pdf> & <http://www.uniindia.com/number-of-operational-sezs-grow-to-241/business-economy/news/1891780.html>.

Indian real estate market is expected to touch \$180 Billion by 2020 & \$350 Billion by 2027. Explore investment opportunities in this thriving sector on IIG (India Investment Grid). Visit <https://indiainvestment-grid.gov.in/sectors/real-estate>



Budget 2020 proposed policy for Private sector to build Data Centers in India

The **Union budget 2020 proposal to enable private firms to build data centre parks** is expected to incentivize setting up data centres in India and could help India become a major global data centre. The global data centre market is expected to grow by \$284.44 billion during 2019-23, according to market researcher Technavio. According to Research and Markets, US data centre market is expected to reach revenue of \$69 billion by 2024. Meanwhile, India data centre market is expected to reach values of approximately \$4 billion by 2024. Japan's NTT Ltd recently announced \$7 billion investments across four key data centre markets globally, one of which is India.

BUDGET 2020 announces Rs 8000 cr for National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Application

The Government of India in its budget 2020 has announced a **National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications** (NM-QTA) with a total budget outlay of Rs 8000 Crore for a period of five years to be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST). Mission will be able address the ever increasing technological requirements of the society, and take into account the international technology trends and road maps of leading countries for development of next generation technologies. For more details visit the link <https://dst.gov.in/budget-2020-announces-rs-8000-cr-national-mission-quantum-technologies-applications>

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF UNION BUDGET INDIA 2020-21

- India now the fifth largest economy of the world. 7.4% average growth clocked during 2014-19 with inflation averaging around 4.5%. 271 million people raised out of poverty during 2006-16. India's Foreign Direct Investment elevated to US\$ 284 billion during 2014-19 from US\$ 190 billion during 2009-14. Central Government debt reduced to 48.7% of GDP (March 2019) from 52.2% (March 2014). Two cross-cutting developments viz Proliferation of technologies (Analytics, Machine Learning, robotics, Bioinformatics and Artificial Intelligence) & Highest ever number of people in the productive age group (15-65 years) in India. GST removed many bottlenecks in the system.
- The Union Budget has been structured on the overall theme of "Ease of Living."
- The Union Budget Aims:
 - To achieve seamless delivery of services through Digital governance
 - To improve physical quality of life through National Infrastructure Pipeline
 - Risk mitigation through Disaster Resilience
 - Social security through Pension and Insurance penetration
- The Union Budget is woven around three prominent themes:
 - Aspirational India in which all sections of the society seek better standards of living, with access to health, education and better jobs.
 - Economic development for all
 - Caring Society that is both humane and compassionate
- Investment Clearance Cell proposed to be set up to provide "end to end" facilitation and support.
- Scheme to encourage manufacture of mobile phones, electronic equipment and semiconductor packaging proposed.
- Rs.100 lakh crore to be invested on infrastructure over the next 5 years.
- National Infrastructure Pipeline (launched Dec 2019): Under it Rs 103 lakh crore worth projects across sectors.
- A National Logistics Policy to be released soon to clarify roles of the Union Government, State Governments and key regulators. And a single window e-logistics market to be created
- Focus to be on generation of employment, skills and making MSMEs competitive.
- Boosting Foreign Investments
 - In order to incentivise the investment by the Sovereign Wealth Fund of foreign governments in the priority sectors, proposed to grant 100% tax exemption to their interest, dividend and capital gains income in respect of investment made in infrastructure and other notified sectors before 31st March 2024 and with a minimum lock-in period of 3 years.
 - In order to make available foreign funds at a lower cost, proposed to extend the period of concessional withholding rate of 5% under section 194LC for interest payment to nonresidents in respect of moneys borrowed and bonds issued up to 30th June, 2023.
 - Proposed to extend the period up to 30th June, 2023 for lower rate of withholding of 5% under section 194LD for interest payment to Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) and Qualified Foreign Investors (QFIs) in respect of bonds issued by Indian companies and government securities.
 - Proposed to extend the concessional rate of withholding of 5% under section 194LD to the interest payment made on the Municipal Bonds.
 - In order to incentivize listing of bonds at IFSC exchange, proposed to further reduce the withholding rate from 5% to 4% on interest payment on the bonds listed on its exchange.
- Boosting Railway Infrastructure
 - Large solar power capacity to be set up alongside rail tracks, on land owned by railways.
 - Four station re-development projects and operation of 150 passenger trains through PPP.
 - High speed train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to be actively pursued.
 - 148 km long Bengaluru Suburban transport project at a cost of Rs 18600 crore, to have fares on metro model.
- Education system needs greater inflow of finance to attract talented teachers, innovate and build better labs. Thus steps would be taken to enable sourcing External Commercial Borrowings and FDI so as to able to deliver higher quality education.
- Future Aim for sustaining India's unique global leadership, driven by Digital Revolution
 - Seamless delivery of services through Digital Governance.
 - Improvement in physical quality of life through National Infrastructure Pipeline.
 - Risk mitigation through Disaster Resilience.
 - Social security through Pension and Insurance penetration.

For more details visit the link <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/docpagebudget.aspx?docid=666>

The India & Japan Stories

Isuzu Motors India starts Phase-II operations at its plant in Sri City



On 10th Feb 2020, Japanese utility vehicle manufacturer Isuzu India commenced Phase-II operations at Sri City in Andhra Pradesh. The newly inaugurated press shop facility and engine assembly plant have been installed at an investment of INR 400 crores. The commencement of Phase-II operations marks a very important milestone in the journey of ISUZU in India. The Press Shop and the Engine Assembly will further strengthen the company's operations by bringing very important aspects of manufacturing, in-house. In the first phase, Isuzu had set up its manufacturing operations in India at Sri City, Andhra Pradesh and rolled out pick-ups and SUVs on the world-renowned D-MAX platform.

For more details visit the link http://www.sricity.in/en/news_events/isuzu-motors-india-starts-phase-ii-operations-at-its-plant-in-sri-city/

Yokowo to Start Local Manufacturing of Antennas for Vehicle Communication

On 10th Feb 2020, Tokyo-based Yokowa, the major manufacture of antennas for vehicle communication (www.yokowo.co.jp) announced establishing a 50:50 JV company in India to manufacture and sell their products with its Indian partner, Gurugram based Lumax Auto Technologies in Gurugram, near New Delhi by the end of March as "Lumax Yokowo Technologies Pvt Ltd". The starting capital of the JV company is about 200 million yen. Yokowo and Lumax plan to start manufacturing of antennas in India in November 2021. Yokowo may sell their products to Japanese auto makers in India and also to Indian customers through the network Lumax has developed besides other countries including Japan. This is first time Yokowo has entered the Indian Market.

For more details visit the link https://www.yokowo.co.jp/upload/news/28EDX1Z-news_file_0c628f6cbd1fbc5f.pdf & <https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGKKZO55490980Q0A210C2TJ1000/>



Impact Holdings to Expand the Number of Convenience Stores in India to 425 by the end of This Year with IT

The Nikkei (16 January 2020)

Japan's **Impact Holdings**, which specializes in consultancy services in retail, plans to expand the number of convenience stores in India. The company established a venture company with Indian partner, **Coffee Day Enterprises**, an operator of Café Coffee Day in April 2019 (https://impact-h.co.jp/news/news-detail/?post_id=987) with capital contribution of the Impact Holdings at 49%.

The market scale of India's food retail sector is estimated to be around 30 trillion yen, but many of them are small-and-mid-sized retailers. The number of convenience stores remains small. The Impact Holdings may explore the market by adopting IT technology which may enhance the convenience of their convenience stores in India. Together with Coffee Day Enterprises, the Impact Holdings has started opening 25 convenience stores in Indian cities, such as Delhi and Bangalore, since August 2019. They envisage expanding the sphere of their business to other Indian cities, such as Mumbai, and increasing the number of convenience stores to 425 by the end of 2020, by modifying the existing stores of Café Coffee Day. Their stores in India may sell so-called "counter foods", such as deep-fried snacks cooked inside stores, often done so by convenience stores in Japan. They plan to launch a pre-order app this spring which may enable consumers to order "counter foods" before they come to a nearby convenience store. They also may consider cooperating with local partner in developing delivery service for convenience store users.

For more details visit the link <https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGKKZO54439380V10C20A1TJ1000/>



Japanese rice-cracker snack taking Indian market by storm

February 23, 2020 (Mainichi Japan)

Popular Japanese snack of rice crackers and peanuts is making inroads into the massive Indian market by adding more spicy flavors to better meet local preferences. Niigata based Kameda Seika Co., which released its Kakinotane snack in Japan more than 50 years ago, set up a joint venture in 2017 with LT Foods Ltd. and started production at its plant in the state of Haryana from November 2019. Named Kari Kari in India, the snack is available in four seasonings -- wasabi, chili garlic, salt pepper and a combination of Indian spices. The Indian lineup uses long-grain Indica rice that dries when cooked, instead of conventional round-grain Japonica rice that remains sticky after boiling. Kameda is now seeking to expand its distribution channels across India and make it available at small shops as well. India is the sixth overseas base for the company, which already has offices in Cambodia, China, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

For more details visit link <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20200223/p2g/00m/0bu/025000c>



Shuttl raises Rs 24 Cr more in Series C round led by Japan's Sojitz Corp

Gurugram-based Daily office commute transportation startup "Shuttl" (<https://ride.shuttl.com/>) has secured Rs 23.87 crore as part of Series-C funding round led by Japan-based **Sojitz Corporation** in which Compound Partners LLC also participated. Sojitz invested Rs 21.45 crore for a 1.41% stake. Following the transaction, the company is now valued at about Rs 1523.2 crore or nearly \$215 million. Shuttl, which is about to complete five years of operations, has raised close to \$90 million across equity and debt rounds from the likes of Sequoia Capital, Lightspeed Ventures, Amazon, and **Dentsu**. Shuttl is likely to deploy the fresh proceeds in enabling more services, including increasing its fleet size. With over 1,800 buses & 350 routes, Shuttl claims to have more than 100,000 daily ridership across six cities – Delhi-NCR, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai. Clocking a 123% year-on-year growth, Shuttl reportedly crossed the Rs 100 crore revenue mark for the financial year ending March 31, 2019.



For more details visit the link <https://entrackr.com/2020/02/shuttl-secures-rs-23-87-cr-funding-round/>

India-Bound Syndicate Loan by Japanese Banks is on the Rise

Japanese lenders extended \$1.53 billion in syndicated loans to Indian companies in 2019, up a fifth on the year, as yield-starved banks captured booming demand for low-cost financing.

India is now the second-biggest home to so-called samurai and ninja loans, trailing only the U.S. figure of \$3.47 billion, figures from Refinitiv show. The Indian scale has increased by more than 10 times since 2017. Low interest rates back home have led Japanese regional banks to increasingly invest in Indian syndicated loans to improve portfolio returns. Solid Indian credit ratings have bolstered the trend.

For more details visit the link <https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Finance/Japan-s-syndicated-loans-to-India-climb-20>

NTPC raises Asia's largest Japanese yen loan worth USD 750 Million

India's largest power generator NTPC Limited has raised syndicated Japanese yen loan worth \$ 750 million. This is the largest ever syndicated JPY loan raised by any Asian Corporate from offshore Samurai loan market. It is also the highest ever single foreign currency loan raised by NTPC. Raised under automatic route of RBI ECB regulations, the loan has been fully underwritten by **State Bank of India, Tokyo, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Singapore and Bank of India, Tokyo**. The facility has a door to door maturity of 11 years under two tranches. In an endeavour towards sustainable and cleaner environment, NTPC would utilize these loan proceeds to fund capex for installation of Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) system that helps in substantial reduction of SOx emission, new hydro projects and projects using ultra supercritical technology with low carbon emission.



For more details visit the link <https://www.ntpc.co.in/en/media/press-releases/details/ntpc-raises-asias-largest-japanese-yen-loan-worth-usd-750-million>

On 15 Feb 2020, Invest India organised the **India-Japan Golf Meet 2020**—organised in collaboration with the Govt. of Haryana to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries as well as to highlight Japan's role in strengthening the industrial ecosystem of Haryana. Hon'ble CM Haryana gave the winning trophy to Mr Azaad Sandhu from Invest India. Mr Kenji Sugino, Secretary General, JCCII (<https://jccii.in/english>) giving a token of appreciation to Hon'ble CM Haryana and Invest India for successfully hosting the Meet which brought together 35 Japanese companies across 7 sectors.



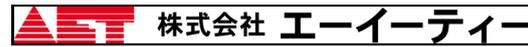
From 4-5 Feb 2020, Experts from India and Japan from the industry, research institutes, government and other stake holders shared standardization experiences and recent developments in the area of E-mobility in a **joint workshop organized by BIS in association with Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC)**, the national standards body of Japan, at New Delhi. The exchanges covered a wide range of topics such as charging infrastructure, cells and batteries, safety requirements, etc. A **Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)** between Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC) and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) was signed in 2014 in order to facilitate trade and to harmonize activities within international standardization and conformity assessment.



Indian Edtech startup Doubtnut raised \$ 15 Million by investors incl AET Fund Japan

Edtech startup "Doubtnut" has raised \$15 million in a **Series-A** funding round led by Chinese investor Tencent. Existing investors including **AET Japan** participated in this round. Doubtnut had raised its **Pre-Series A** in March 2019, in a round led by investors including **AET Japan**. The company will use the funds to widen its pan-India distribution, build on its content repository, invest in strengthening its technology stack and scaling.

IIT-Delhi alumni Tanushree Nagori and Aditya Shankar launched Doubtnut (October, 2017) is a multi-lingual online learning platform using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies for image recognition, natural language processing and proprietary machine learning algorithms to provide video-based solutions in response to students' queries & presently Catering to K12, IIT JEE and NEET students. The platform has over 13 million monthly active users across web, app, Youtube and WhatsApp.



For more details visit the link <https://www.livemint.com/companies/start-ups/tencent-leads-15-mn-series-a-funding-in-education-platform-doubtnut-11580468618651.html>

Why this Japanese fund is 'very bullish' on the Indian startup ecosystem

Japan's Akatsuki Entertainment Technology (AET; <https://aet.fund/>) Fund is "very bullish" on India and sees enormous potential in the country. It has already made investments in 13 early-stage startups since its launch in March. The fund's India portfolio includes the likes of edtech startup Doubtnut, superhero merchandise startup Planet Superheroes, media startup LBB, mobile gaming company Mech Mocha, and B2B ecommerce startup ShopKirana.

For more details visit the link <https://yourstory.com/2020/01/aet-fund-yuki-kawamura-bullish-indian-startups>

IIT incubated start-up "Carbon Clean Solutions" raised \$16 Mn incl from Marubeni Corp

On 17th Feb 2020, IIT Kharagpur-incubated and London-HQ cleantech startup "Carbon Clean Solutions" announced that it has raised \$16 Million in a fresh round of funding from WAVE Equity Partners, Chevron Technology Ventures, and **Japan's Marubeni Corporation**. Carbon Clean Solutions provides a low-cost carbon dioxide (CO₂) separation technology by its patented APBS Technology. The company began its journey as an IIT Kharagpur campus startup and had raised funds from Blume Ventures in 2011. Its technology has been proven at demonstration scale in over 10 locations, including the UK, USA, Germany, India, Norway and the Netherlands, and is currently in use at Tuticorin, India.



For more details visit the link <https://inc42.com/buzz/blume-ventures-backed-carbon-clean-solutions-raises-16-mn-funding/>

Japanese firms line up to invest in exclusive Japanese Industrial Township (JIT) in Karnataka

Many Japanese companies have shown interest to invest in the Japanese Industrial Township (JIT) at Vasanthanasapura (Tumakuru District), about 90 km from Bengaluru which is being developed along the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC). The state government has allotted 519.55 acres land for the township. The key sectors in focus at the JIT will be heavy engineering, machine tools, automotive and aerospace components among others. The township will be a gated community with modern infrastructure. There will be common facilities for packaging and other assorted activities.

For more details visit the link <https://www.deccanherald.com/business/business-news/japanese-firms-line-up-to-invest-in-exclusive-township-791631.html> & about other JIT visit the link <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2018/11/20181102003/20181102003-4.pdf>

University students seek to spread rugby in India

08 members of Doshisha University's rugby club in Kyotanabe, Kyoto Prefecture went to Odisha, India to participate in volunteer activities for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) [JICA Kansai and Doshisha University had MoU in March 2019 to cooperate in the dispatch of overseas volunteers] with aim to increase the popularity of rugby and through various activities encourage the healthy development of the youth in India.

For more details visit the link <https://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0006373252>

On 7th Feb 2020, National Productivity Council (NPC), RD Gandhinagar successfully conducted Energy Auditors/Managers meet at Surat, Gujrat. 120 Participants attended the meet. IGES, TLV, KOBELCO from Japan discussed on Japanese Technology for India. Program was highly appreciated.



India's Wipro Wins Multi-Year Strategic IT Deal From Japan's Marelli

On 6th Feb 2020, Wipro Limited, a leading global information technology, consulting and business process services company, announced that Japanese leading automotive part makers Marelli (www.marelli-corporation.com) has awarded it a multi-year, global, strategic IT deal. This partnership will help Marelli to standardize, simplify and further enhance their IT services at a global level and consolidate several current vendors across applications management services & workplace end user services. Marelli is a leading global Tier-1 automotive technology supplier. As part of this partnership, Wipro will help Marelli by leveraging its global service delivery model and automotive domain expertise and hyper-automation powered by the Wipro HOLMES™ platform.



For details visit link <https://www.businesswireindia.com/wipro-wins-multi-year-strategic-it-deal-from-marelli-66883.html>

Nasscom, Japan join hands to match startups and tech firms with VCs

NASSCOM®

Industry body National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) and the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) have teamed up to bring more startups and technology firms in contact with venture capitalists and strategic partners from Japan. Nasscom, in line with its effort to cover more markets, has taken the first steps towards facilitating contact between Indian and Japanese firms, and three startups have already received funding as part of the first round of interactions held in September 2019.

JETRO
Japan External Trade Organization

In India, roadshow in Delhi and Mumbai in Feb 2020, JETRO is aiming to identify and create more business opportunities for Japan in India, as part of the Japanese government's initiative to bring more investments into the country.

For more details visit the link https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/nasscom-japan-join-hands-to-match-startups-and-tech-firms-with-vcs-120012901797_1.html

Indian Real Estate Company RMZ Corp inks 50:50 JV of \$1 billion with Mitsui Fudosan of Japan

RMZ Corp, Bengaluru-based privately-owned real estate company, has entered into a strategic, equal partnership with Mitsui Fudosan (Asia) Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of Mitsui Fudosan Co Ltd, a global real estate developer headquartered in Tokyo. This 50:50 joint venture of up to \$1 billion, has been forged to augment RMZ Corps' Future of Space landscape, in India. The association will be Mitsui Fudosan's maiden investment in India.



For more details visit the link <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/rmz-corp-inks-5050-jv-of-up-to-1-billion-with-mitsui-fudosan-of-japan/article30690751.ece>

Column "Working in Asia": "Ken NAGATA of Japan, SAgri India: "After Three Job Changes, Found Myself in #India, Helping Farmers Getting Funds to Expand Their Operation. Nikkei 19 Feb 2020



30-year-old Ken NAGATA found himself in India working with Shunsuke TSUBOI, the founder of SAgri India (www.sagri.tokyo) after changing jobs three times. SAgri is a Japanese agri-startup which helps farmers to gain access to financial services by utilizing satellite images. SAgri has developed a technology which can analyze the fertility level of farming lands and expected amount of harvests. Based on such data, the company enables farmers to borrow funds from financial institutions, thus supporting their farming activities in the fields and in terms of finance.

Shunsuke Nagata was born and raised in Shizuoka Prefecture. His career was full of failure. After graduating from university, Nagata joined an insurance company. It was his first job. He was highly motivated and was eager to work hard. He was assigned to work in a branch office in Funabashi, Chiba. He was given a challenge of increasing the number of their agencies in the area. However, all of his attempts did not work out well that he decided to leave the insurance company after three years.

He went home to Shizuoka to take over his father's business. Before joining his father, he worked at a consulting company to learn about company management. One year later, he joined his father's company, but the business stagnated after the collaborative plan with a partner company failed. He was 27 years old.

At the age of 27, Nagata already experienced working at three different companies. He decided to leave the country for another challenge and he chose India. This decision changed his career dramatically.

He was hired by a Japanese logistic company operating in India. Though he did not have any experience in logistics, he and his only one colleague struggle to enhance company's presence in Indian market. During his time in India, he gradually increased the number of business partners and valuable friends. Shunsuke TSUBOI was one of them.

When Nagata met Tsuboi and learned about farmers' condition in India about one year ago, Tsuboi immediately decided to go India. Tsuboi asked Nagata to join him in SAgri's quest into India as company's CSO. Nagata now markets SAgri's services to financial institutions, farmers and to government officials.

On 24th Feb 2020, Manohar Parrikar IDSA DG Ambassador Mr Sujan Chinooy accompanied by Jagannath Panda and Dr Titli Basu of the East Asia Center, IDSA met HE Ambassador of Japan to India Mr Satoshi Suzuki to discuss deepening of India Japan relations and strengthening of exchanges with institutions and experts in Japan.



On 20th Feb 2020, Manohar Parrikar IDSA organised a talk by Ms. Yuka Uchida Ando, Senior Policy Advisor for Fleishman-Hilliard, on Japan's foreign policy and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision of Japan. DG Amb Sujan Chinooy chaired the event attended by IDSA scholars.



On 17 Feb 2020, Invest India (<https://www.investindia.gov.in/>) hosted Kyoto CCI (<https://www.kyo.or.jp/kyoto/e/>) business delegation comprising companies across sectors, including publishing, electronics & medical devices. We look forward to collaborating with them and further strengthening the India-Japan relationship. Invest India Japan Desk team presented the India opportunity to the delegation and answered questions regarding Indian policies, sector opportunities and state benefits.



Tokyo metropolitan Government runs Accelerator Program - BCT Tokyo in collaboration with Accenture Japan with goal of inviting foreign startups with cutting-edge technologies & business models. For FY 2019 finalists among 13 startups, **2 startups are from India:** Veda Labs Inc & Quantumzyme.

- Vedalabs (<https://www.vedalabs.in/>) is an AI platform that allows Retail Chains to move more inventory and make informed decisions through real time store level consumer insights.
- Quantumzyme (<https://www.quantumzyme.com/>) is a Biotransformation company for Green Clean Chemistry. Cutting-edge solutions for Biocatalysis, Enzyme Engineering, Activity, Selectivity and Specificity

Column "Global Eye": "Indian Startups Drawing Global Attention"

Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun 20 Feb 2020

In recent years, India has emerged as a leading player in the global tech trend. We cannot take our eyes off from the country in understanding the global tech trend. In fact, many of global tech giants, including Google, are led by Indian CEOs or senior managers and many of their talented engineers are often from India. Now the practice of appointing Indian senior managers or employing Indian engineers is spreading outside the Silicon Valley, to US and to the world.

The same trend is seen in the startup sector. India ranks in the third following US and China in terms of the number of unlisted unicorn companies which market value is more than one billion US dollars. According to the study done by Tracxn, a research company, the amount of funds that Indian tech-startups procured in 2019 was 14.5 billion dollars whereas it was 10.6 billion US dollars in the previous year. In 2019, 128 startups were acquired and four got themselves listed on the stock market. And nine startups evolved into unicorns, increasing the number of unicorns spurred from India to 24.

NASSCOM predicts that 95 to 105 unicorns may be born in India by 2025. NASSCOM attributes its forecast to two factors. One is that 21% of Indian startups are focusing their business on the global market. Second is that foreign companies and investors are actively supporting them by increasing the amount of investment and by boosting the number of business collaborations with Indian startups.

As you can see, Indian startups are under the passionate gaze of investors around the world. Now, how can Japanese companies invest or cooperate with Indian startups?

An Indian consultant who works for Deloitte Tohmatsu Venture Support says "Japan has a chance to collaborate with India". According to him, Japan is called "a patient investor" among Indian startups. He said Japan is regarded as an investor who does not seek for short-term monetary profit or return from companies they invest in, but rather who values strategic investment which may produce synergy through business collaboration.

For Japan, India is very attractive investment destination as it has the largest youth population in the world and its middle class, rapidly growing.

Last September, NASSCOM co-organized an event titled "NASSCOM Japan VC Connect" with the Embassy of India, Tokyo and Deloitte Tohmatsu Venture Support. 26 Indian startups came to Japan to participate in the event. In the two-day event, a matching event to connect Indian startups and venture capitalists, who are based in Japan was, held. During the event, some Indian startups successfully procured funds from Japanese venture capitals.

The same kind of event being planned in 2020 too where about 25 leading startups from India are expected to visit Japan to participate in the event.

India And Japan

Round Table Conference – 'Budget 2020- Investment & Business Opportunities in India'

On 27th Jan 2020, 6th Japan-India Road Exchange Conference - Exchange of Opinions on Deepening of Japan India Cooperation on Roads held in Tokyo. There was exchange of views (challenges and experiences) for deepening cooperation between India and Japan in the field of roads (construction & maintenance) and road traffic.

For more details visit the link <http://www.mlit.go.jp/report/press/content/001327233.pdf>



On 14th Feb 2020, a Round Table Conference – 'Budget 2020- Investment & Business Opportunities in India' was held at Embassy of India, Tokyo. The basic objective of the event was to initiate discussion on the main features of the Indian budget 2020 so as to get feedback from the Japanese stakeholders.

The opening remarks were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma. Following this, there was a presentation on Indian Budget 2020 by Mrs. Mona Khandhar, Minister (Economic & Commerce). Esteemed participants from various Japanese Government Ministries, organizations and private companies including METI, MoFA, JCCI, JBIC, JICA, JETRO, MoF, Toyota, Sanyo, Toyota Tsusho, Rakuten, NEC, etc. shared their views during the conference. Closing remarks during the event were delivered by Dr. Satya Pal Kumar, First Secretary (Trade).



On 10 Feb 2020, Hon'ble Minister Mr Pradhan met with a delegation from Marubeni Corporation Japan led by their CEO Mr. Atsushi Suzuki and CMD Mr. Masumi Kakinoki. Marubeni has had a long and active association with the Indian E&P in Ravva O&G fields and are further keen to participate in India's growth story.



On 12th Feb 2020, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma inaugurated 6th INDIA TREND FAIR 2020 showcasing India Textiles and Accessories at TOC Gotanad Messe Tokyo JAPAN from 12-14 Feb. 51 participants supported by Wool & Woollens Export Promotion Council (WWEPC) [wwepcindia.com] Ministry of Textiles, GoI participated in the Fair.



On 4th Feb 2020, **Task Force on the "India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership"** was co-chaired by the Secretary of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and the Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy Trade & Industry, in Delhi. The Task-force meeting saw a detailed deliberation between India and Japan on creating a beneficial partnership to strengthen industrial growth. The Task-force also deliberated on eight champion sectors of **Make In India 2.0.**

The Partnership has the potential to deliver on a globally competitive manufacturing ecosystem in India.



4th India-Japan Medical Products Regulatory Symposium

On 5th Feb 2020, Minister (E&C) Mrs Mona Khandhar gave opening remarks at the "4th India-Japan Medical Products Regulatory Symposium" co-organized in Tokyo by PMDA & MHLW, Japan and Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) & MoHFW, India. The symposium covered the topic of regulatory system of Pharmaceutical, Medical Devices, Generic drugs and new drugs/ innovative products in India and Japan.

On 6th Feb, India-Japan G2G Medical Regulatory Meeting was held which was led by Dr VG Somani, DCGI CDSCO INDIA and Ms YAMAMOTO Fumi, Councilor, MHLW Japan. Both sides discussed regulatory cooperation & harmonization process between for Pharma, Medical devices & emerging areas.



India-Japan Workshops "Enabling Procedures for Increase of Steel usage for Growth of Economy"

Ministry of Steel, GoI in association with METI Japan organised 03 Workshops on 'Enabling Procedures for Increase of Steel usage for the Growth of Economy' on 24th Feb 2020 in New Delhi, 26th Feb 2020 in Mumbai and 28 Feb, 2020 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. In New Delhi workshop, Hon'ble Minister Mr Pradhan focused on collaborations of India and Japan to increase steel usage. In Bhubaneswar workshop, Hon'ble Minister remarked that "We are organizing series of workshops to deliberate on how to increase steel usage in India. We have rightly chosen Japan as our partner country who will guide us for making Indian steel ecosystem bigger both in qualitative and quantitative terms." There were remarks by Minister of State for Steel Mr F S Kulaste, HE Ambassador of Japan to India Mr Suzuki among others.



Uttarakhand State Investment Promotion Seminar & Tourism Roadshow

On 3rd Feb 2020, Uttarakhand State Investment Promotion Seminar (<http://investuttarakhand.com>) was organised at the Embassy of India Tokyo on the occasion of visit of a delegation led by H'ble Minister of Agriculture, Govt of Uttarakhand Mr Subodh Uniyal & was attended by more than 110 Japanese Investors. In the afternoon, Uttarakhand State Tourism Roadshow was organized at the Embassy of India which was followed by B2G meetings with local travel agencies of Japan. The Roadshow was attended by both Japanese and Indian Tour and Travel Agencies in Japan. In the evening, Uttarakhand State Community event was held at Embassy of India and the event was attended by a large number of Uttarakhand State community members in Japan.



India in Japan

On 20th Feb, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma met Faculty of Design from Kyushu University and associated members. They discussed initiatives on 'Swachhata Abhiyan' (Cleanliness Mission) in Mumbai suburb, design perspectives for public transport spaces & academic collaboration with related Institutes in India.



On 26 Feb 2020, HE Amb Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma led "Business Opportunities in India" outreach event with JETRO Japan at Yamagata Prefecture and met Governor HE Ms Meiko Yoshimura besides having one-to-one meeting with diff companies highlighting business opportunities in India. During the outreach event Minister (Economic & Commerce) Mrs Mona Khandhar made a presentation on overview of Indian Economy, Business Environment and Opportunities in India to different companies present in Yamagata Prefecture.



On 27 Feb 2020, Deputy Chief of Mission Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava met a group of Farmers & Farming Educators from India at Embassy of India and discussed potential collaboration between India and Japan in Smart Agriculture, Integrated farming and Organic Agriculture. Farmers participated in Organic Eco Festival 23-25 Feb at Tokushima Prefecture, Japan too. They also visited Toyosu Agriculture Products Markets in Tokyo.



On 19th Feb 2020, the Embassy hosted a familiarisation visit by members of Nikko City International Association. H.E. Ambassador of India to Japan Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma interacted with the visitors, answering questions about various facets of Indian culture, from Indian languages to India's worldwide contributions to IT sector. To mark the visit, Ambassador gifted a selection of books, including a Japanese language manga depicting the life of Mahatma Gandhi, to the visitors. The visitors also enjoyed a yoga session with Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture, in which they learned basic yogic asanas, breathing exercises and meditation. Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, Vivekananda Cultural Centre gave a talk on India-Japan relations in which he spoke on the many cultural & spiritual commonalities between the two cultures.



On 14 Feb 2020, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma delivered a talk on India Japan Special Strategic Global Partnership (SSGP) to the students of University of Tokyo Executive Management Programme (EMP) which was followed by interesting Q&A session.



On 5th Feb 2020, **Japan's Ground Self Defense Forces delegation** interacted with Indian Army's Operations Logistics Directorate at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi. Delegation discussed and shared information of mutual concern and also visited **Defense Expo India 2020**.



From 9-13 Feb 2020, Admiral YAMAMURA Hiroshi, **Chief of Staff, JMSDF visited India on official invitation by Indian Navy**. He discussed with Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff issues related to India-Japan Defense cooperation. On arrival, Admiral Hiroshi Yamamura was accorded the ceremonial Guard of Honour.



05th JWG Meeting on Defence Equipment and Technology Cooperation

organised in **Tokyo, Japan on 18th Feb'2020**

Ministry of Defence | Department of Defence Production

@DefProdIndia | ddpmo.gov.in

5th India Japan Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on Defence Equipment and Technology Cooperation was organized in Tokyo, Japan on 18th February 2020. A 5-member delegation led by Joint Secretary, Department of Defense Production, Ministry of Defence, Govt of India from India attended the meeting.

Defense Expo India 2020 5-9 Feb 2020 which showcased India's defense production capabilities to the world and witnessed participation of 1000+ companies, 172 foreign defense manufacturers, and 38 countries with signing of over 200 agreements/MoU/ToT.

Defense Production in India: India plans to spend \$130 billion on military modernization in the next 5 years, as achieving self-reliance in defense production is a key target for the GoIndia. To provide impetus to Make in India initiative & attract foreign players, GoI has opened the defense sector for private sector participation. There are 2 Defense Corridors in India, many existing and under development aerospace and defense parks. Sector has robust, well-developed Public Sector Undertakings, Ordnance Factories as well as Private Sector Undertaking network. Annual Turnover by Private sector in Defense & Aerospace sector in 2018-19 is \$2.4 bn. With 100% FDI is allowed in Defense industry; wherein 49% is allowed under automatic route and beyond 49% through Government route, there cannot be a better time to Invest in India. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/II-Defence>

42 FDI proposals/Joint Ventures approved for manufacturing of various defence equipment in India

INDIA
The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub

Up to 100% FDI allowed under Government route

Defense Exports from India: Various reforms/steps have been taken to enhance Defense exports. These reforms have provided a big boost to defense exports in the recent times. The authorization for defense exports in the country have grown seven folds in the last two years from Rs.1521.91 crore in 2016-17 to Rs.10745.77 crore in 2018-19 (Rs. 5883 crore in 2019-20 till Dec 2019). India now exports defense products to 42 countries and targets to export of \$5 billion worth of military hardware in next 5 years. For more details visit <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602614>

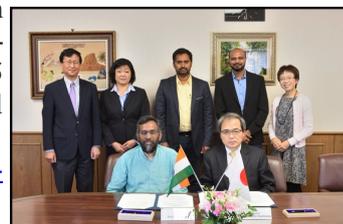
Science & Technology / Sports / Education

IIT Hyderabad has proposed a major boost to the 'FRIENDSHIP' Project with JICA Japan

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad has proposed a major boost to the 'FRIENDSHIP' Project with JICA Japan in Phase II with aim to increase collaboration with the Japanese Industry and Academia besides research laboratories as well as exchange of Ph.D. students, Joint Master's and Ph.D. programs.

The collaboration between IIT Hyderabad and Japan started in August 2007 based on the commitment between the Prime Ministers of India & Japan. A Project for "Future Researchers at IIT Hyderabad to Enhance Network Development with Scholarship of Japan" (FRIENDSHIP; <http://friendship.iith.ac.in/>) was initiated by JICA in July 2010 & involved JICA support for student and faculty exchanges and collaborative projects between IIT-H and Japanese universities and industry. JICA had dispatched a total of 5 long-term experts to coordinate the Project. Under Phase I many significant achievements incl 51 patent applications, 56 MOUs with Japanese universities, research labs & industries, etc.

For more details visit the link <https://indiaeducationdiary.in/iit-hyderabad-proposes-a-major-boost-to-friendship-project-with-jica-in-phase-ii/>



SAI & Tsukuba Univ held Omotenashi" – Japanese Cultural Sensitization Program for Tokyo 2020

On 27th Feb 2020, "Omotenashi" – the Japanese Cultural Sensitization Program was held for the athletes & officials going to Tokyo2020 Olympic and Paralympic with the help of Tsukuba University, Japan. The Japanese delegation was headed by Prof. Hisashi Sanada Chairman of the Tsukuba International Academy for Sports Studies, Tsukuba University who with Ms Izumi Egami give out wonderful instructions on kimono wearing to chopstick techniques to basic manners of greetings in Japan. Shri Kiren Rijiju, MoYA&S encouraged the athletes in his address & asked them to prepare well for the games. In October 2018, an MoU between Sports Authority of India (SAI), India and University of Tsukuba, Japan for academic exchanges and sports cooperation was signed.



On 5th Feb 2020, CSSP JNU organized a special Lecture on "Science Policy in Japan" by Ms Miyabi Hayama of Yokohama National University, Japan. CSSP is among the Top S&T Think Tanks in TTCSP 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report.



On 3rd Feb 2020, the 13th edition of Honda India Young Engineer & Scientist (YES) Award 2019-20 awarded to 14 students from IITs with Aim to nurture young students who have excelled in S&T as well focus on academic exchange between Japanese & Indian youth.

For more details visit link <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/13th-honda-young-engineer-and-scientist-s-award-14-iitians-awarded-with-rs-2-lakh-each-1643211-2020-02-04> & <https://yes.honda.co.in/index.aspx>



On 3rd Feb 2020, HE Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma met Prof L S Murty Director Indian Institute of Management Nagpur (IIM Nagpur; <https://www.iimnagpur.ac.in/>). They discussed about potential of increased collaborations between IIM Nagpur and Japan's Mgt Institutions through Academic Exchanges to develop managerial skills for mgt of emerging technologies suited to contemporary market conditions.

IIM Nagpur has recently started an "Indo-Japan Research Center" with aim to form strong research collaborations with Japanese universities and promoting other academic activities of significance and common interest to IIM Nagpur and partner institutions in Japan.



NTPC-Ramagundam to enrich environment with Miyawaki method

- On 23rd Jan 2020, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has launched an initiative to develop dense native forest in an urban area using the Japanese 'Miyawaki' technique. The NTPC-Ramagundam unit launched the Miyawaki project on pilot basis at its Oxidation Pond on Thursday. Around 2,900 trees with 53 varieties of species were planted in 1400 sq mt area. For more details visit the link <https://telanganatoday.com/ntpc-ramagundam-to-enrich-environment-with-miyawaki-method>

MoAYUSH & WHO signed MoU to develop 2nd Module of TM chapter for ICD11

On 11 Feb 2020, the Ministry of AYUSH, GoI (<http://ayush.gov.in/>) and WHO signed an MoU to develop the second module of the Traditional Medicine chapter including the diagnostic terms of Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha systems of medicine. The MoU was signed at WHO HQs by DG WHO and Ambassador & Permanent Representative of India to the UN. This USD 3.5 million second module project shall develop & include the diagnostic terminologies of Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha systems of medicine in the ICD-11 platform of WHO, in the next four years. This will serve as an invaluable tool for counting, analysing, coding, & understanding the above systems in terms of their use in the society, providing internationally measurable criteria for assessing the effectiveness & efficiency for these Traditional Medicine systems, in the treatment and management of various diagnostic conditions they attend to in the community.



MoAYUSH & WHO organized ICoSDiTAUS 2020

The Ministry of AYUSH, GoI in collaboration with WHO organised a International ministerial Conference on Standardisation of Diagnosis and Terminologies in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Systems of Medicine (ICoSDiTAUS) -2020 from 25-26 February 2020 at New Delhi. The conference aim was to mobilize commitment and ownership among senior policy makers for ICD-11 implementation and the further development of the supplementary chapter on traditional medicine diagnoses in ICD-11. The Conference focused on topics like relevance and regulation of Traditional Medicine in Health Systems as well as status and challenges for collection and classification of clinical data in traditional medicine. There were sessions like "Counting traditional medicine encounters: status and challenges for collection and classification of clinical data in traditional medicine", "WHO session on ICD". There were participants from 16 countries including Bhutan, Myanmar, Ghana, Qatar, Jamaica, Iran, Mauritius and discussed about TM in their respective countries. The conference concluded with adopting the "New Delhi Declaration on Collection and Classification of Traditional Medicine (TM) Diagnostic Data" which emphasized the commitment of the countries to Traditional Medicine as a significant area of health care. For more details visit the link <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=199587>

NEW DELHI DECLARATION
International Conference on Standardisation of Diagnosis and Terminologies in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Systems of Medicine (ICoSDiTAUS-2020)
Ministerial Level Meeting
Organized by Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)
25- 26 February 2020, New Delhi, India

New Delhi declaration on Collection and Classification of Traditional Medicine Diagnostic data

We, Ministers of Health and senior health policy makers gathered in New Delhi, India from 25 to 26 February 2020, for the first ever ministerial conference organized on the collection and classification of Traditional Medicine Data in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Systems of Medicine.

Recalling resolution of the Seventy-second World Health Assembly on 28 May 2019 (WHA72.15) adopting the eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) with effect of 1 January 2022.

Recalling the declarations on Primary Health Care made in Alma Ata (1978) and Astana in 2018

1. Note that Traditional medicine is an area of health care in our countries.
2. Note that efforts to effectively regulate Traditional Medicine as an integral part of the health system requires standardized and evidence-based information.
3. Acknowledge the importance of ICD as the international standard for systematic recording, reporting, analysis, interpretation and comparison of mortality and morbidity data at individual and population level.
4. Welcome the improvements made in the ICD-11 in terms of having an up-to-date and clinically relevant classification system which is digital health ready for use in electronic environments.
5. Recognize the importance of including and further developing the supplementary chapter on traditional medicine diagnoses in ICD-11 which enable the counting of traditional medicine services and encounters; the measurement of their form, frequency, effectiveness, safety, quality, outcomes, cost comparison with mainstream medicine; and research, due to standardized categories, terms and definitions, nationally and internationally.
6. Seek the opportunity to collaborate with WHO in the further development of the supplementary chapter on traditional medicine diagnoses in ICD-11.
7. Affirm our commitment to take appropriate policy measures to facilitate the implementation of ICD-11 in our health information system.

We thank the Government of India for hosting and organizing this successful Conference. We especially thank the Honourable Minister of AYUSH, His Excellency Mr Shripad Yesso Naik for his leadership in this endeavour to improve collection and classification of TM diagnostic Data.

Ambassador visit to KEK Beamline Facility Japan

On 5th Feb 2020, HE Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma visited the high-end KEK Beamline facility at Tsukuba, Japan. He interacted with Director General Dr M Yamauchi & his team including Indian scientists and reviewed current bilateral collaboration and the way forward. Scientists from more than 20 countries are participating in this project.

India-Japan Collaboration: The Indian Beam Line project was initiated at the Photon Factory at KEK (The High Energy Accelerator Research Organization), Tsukuba, Japan to develop science collaboration in the area of advanced materials research. The first Indian Beamline was established by the DST, India in 2010. The project was completed in March 2015. MEXT and DST agreed to support the second phase of the Beamline for a further 5 years. Accordingly, an MoU between KEK and DST was extended in June 2015 to continue the second phase of Indian beam line at Photon Factory, KEK, Tsukuba for R&D in the area of advanced materials research. For more details: <http://www.saha.ac.in/web/photon-factory-home> . Similarly, an MoU was signed, in Feb 2012, between the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and KEK to establish collaborative activities, and to focus on developments in the field of particle physics through KEK's Belle-II experiment, detector research and development projects, synchrotron science, and accelerator science. The MoU facilitates collaboration for R&D with DAE institutions viz. Rajaramanna Center for Advanced Technology, Indore, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata and Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC), Mumbai on various aspects of accelerator research.



Cultural

Familiarization visit of Elementary School students to Embassy

On 5th Feb 2020, 4th grade students from Taimei Elementary School, Tokyo visited the Embassy to learn about India. Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, Vivekananda Cultural Centre (VCC) welcomed the students. The students then enjoyed a yoga session with Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture. Mr Taichi Watanabe, Programme Officer, gave a multimedia presentation introducing India. During Q&A session, Mr Karan Yadav, Second Secretary (IEC) interacted with the students who asked many interesting questions about India and its diversity. Selected students who are learning Bharatanatyam performed on the stage for Embassy officials. A comic book depicting the life of Mahatma Gandhi, textbooks for learning Hindi and a DVD on IDY Common Yoga Protocol were gifted by Mrs. Gunjan Verma, Spouse of Ambassador to Vice-Principal Yamamoto of Taimei Elementary School.



Visit of MOFA Japan's IRIS Programme participants from North East India to Embassy

On 7th Feb 2020, the Embassy of India, Tokyo, hosted a familiarization visit by a group of students and research scholars from North East India under IRIS programme with cooperation from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan (Programme started in 2017). DCM Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava welcomed participants and in his remarks mentioned that future of India Japan relation also depends on the way youth of both nations connects with each other and thus IRIS programme which brings youth from North Eastern part of India is important in this regard. DCM also quoted Swami Vivekananda who wished that every one of India's young men could visit Japan once at least in his lifetime. Following this was a yoga session conducted by Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture. There was also a Q& A session led by DCM Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava and joined by Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, Vivekananda Cultural Centre; and Mr Karan Yadav, Second Secretary (Information, Education and Culture). During Q&A session participants asked interesting questions ranging from Indo-pacific, Japan' Development cooperation with India, Daily activities of Embassy of India, Cultural outreach, India Japan Education & Cultural relations, etc. Later participants enjoyed Japanese snacks along with interaction and group photos.



On 2nd Feb 2020, HE Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma and his spouse Smt. Gunjan Verma attended the 40th Saraswati Puja celebration organized by Bengali Association Tokyo, Japan (BATJ). Ambassador underscored the message of Goddess Saraswati in life, who is worshipped as "Benzaiten" in Japan too. Several dance and musical performances were presented in programme. The event was attended by friends from Indian community as well as by many Japanese people.

On 2nd Feb 2020, HE Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma and his spouse Smt Gunjan Verma attended the 14th Saraswati Puja celebration organized by India Bengal Cultural Association of Japan (IBCAJ) in Tokyo. Ambassador in his remarks encouraged further cooperation between the Indian community and Japanese people, and asked Indians to further participate in the development of a strong bond between the two nations. Several dance and musical performances were presented in programme. The event was attended by friends from Indian community as well as by Japanese people.



Toyo University Delegation visited Banaras Hindu University

On 24th Feb 2020, a meeting between Prof. Taigen Hashimoto and Prof. Ichiro Numata, Department of Eastern Philosophy and Culture, Toyo University, Tokyo and Prof. Anand Mishra, Prof. Sachchidananda Mishra and other members of the Department of Philosophy and Religion, Banaras Hindu University (B.H.U.), Varanasi took place at B.H.U. to explore the possibilities of future cooperation and academic exchanges between both the Universities. Both the Professors also had interaction with Prof. Yamini Bhushan Tripathi, Dean, Faculty of Ayurveda, Dr. Neeru Nathani Head, Department of Sawasthavritta and Yoga and other faculty members in a formal meeting. Toyo University has planned to send a group of its students to B.H.U. in September 2020 to experience the various dimensions of Indian culture and philosophy like Yoga, Ayurveda and spirituality.



Uchisaiwaicho India Festival

On 8th Feb 2020, "Uchisaiwaicho India Festival" was held at Uchisaiwaicho Hall of Chiyoda City, Tokyo. The event was inaugurated by H.E. Ambassador Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma. Addressing the audience, Ambassador expressed hope for even better future harmony between India and Japan in the new Reiwa era. The programme featured a variety of performances, lectures and demonstrations. Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture (VCC) conducted a facial Yoga session and lecture on Ayurveda for the visitors. Cultural Performances included Odissi, Indian folk dances, Kathak, North Indian classical music, Carnatic music, Bharatanatyam and Indian movie (Bollywood) dance. The event was jointly organised by Embassy of India, Uchisaiwaicho Hall, Chiyoda City and Contemporary Natyam Company (CNC) Tokyo. Over 500 members of the public attended the event.



"The place to go in 2020" selected by travel enthusiasts - Top 15 choices for Ryman Traveler" - Hirofumi Tomatsu (<http://www.ryman-traveler.com/>) - Tokyo Keizei Online 2019/12/30

India – Kochi (Kerala State) : Kochi is an old port city located in the southern Indian state of Kerala. Represented by India's oldest Christian church, St. Francis Church, the city is known for having strong influence of European culture. This year the City of Kochi will be hosting Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2020, the largest art even in South Asia. Kochi-Muziris Biennale has been organized biennial basis since 2012. It is an international art exhibition with artists from various countries exhibiting their works at exhibition venues, such as exhibition halls and art galleries, in the city. The fifth biennale will be held from 12th December 2020 to 10th April 2021. Just for your information, Southern Indian states have become more accessible in last one year. In October 2019, ANA launched Narita-Chennai service and JAL will start a service connecting Narita and Bengaluru (Bangalore) in March 2020.



Recommending Point: Kochi-Muziris Biennale will be held in December, 2020. ANA and JAL are operating direct flight service to Southern India.

More details at link https://toyokeizai.net/articles/-/321533?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=



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