



# Gateway

Volume 8 Issue 1

January - February 2022

## President's Message



Dear Friends,

India is fighting effectively with the third wave of covid and the country races to vaccinate its large population. In the last one year India has administered around 1.70 billion doses overall, including

first, second and precautionary doses of vaccines. Hope the covid battle would come to an end soon.

The year 2022 is a historic year - 70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations (28th April 1952) being celebrated in Japan and India. We at IJCCI are planning a number of events throughout the year, from 28th April 2022. I strongly believe that the prosperity and peace of Japan and India will reflect in the Indo-Pacific as well. Let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of further strengthening Japan-India relations and march ahead to the Centenary Celebration of our bilateral relations.

The Union Budget of the Government of India has been announced. The budget focuses on long-term growth and building a strong economy with a strong emphasis on domestic manufacturing, digitization, rural upliftment and planned urbanization. India is expected to play an increasingly important role as one of the major growth engines. India's GDP is expected to grow at 9.2% during 2021-2022 despite third wave of the pandemic. Foreign Exchange reserves are \$634 billion (Dec.2021), higher than India's external debt and with the highest ever annual FDI inflow of \$82 billion in 2020-2021. I take this opportunity to invite our Japanese counterparts to actively involve themselves with their Indian counterparts and explore the vast resources available in India. I appeal to our Japanese friends to feel free and approach us to connect with their Indian counterparts.

Let us look forward to a rewarding year of fruitful business cooperation. May the friendship between our two countries grow leaps and bounds.

Regards,  
**T.P. Imbichammad**

## India celebrates 73rd Republic Day on 26th January 2022



Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi in Rajpath, New Delhi.

**The Indo-Tibetan Border Police hoisting the national flag in Ladakh at an altitude of 18,000 feet above sea level, at a temperature of (-)30 degrees.**



**Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister, Government of India presented the Union Budget on February 01, 2022**



## Learn to connect with nature - Explore Japan's Forest Therapy

Forest therapy is a guided outdoor practice for relaxation, well-being and learning to coexist with nature, our place within nature. The tour guides after completing their training successfully from the Forest Therapy Society in Japan, help you to rediscover the wonders of nature by wandering in the forest. There are at least 200 nature guides on Yakushima island in Japan. Forest therapy programs in Japan are often developed by local governments and they are executed by the local tourism office together with various city hall departments. The aim is to add appeal to the area by setting up a designated forest therapy base and trails. There are currently over 50 such sites in Japan certified by the Japanese Forest Therapy Society. Slow walks of short distances that allow for a deeper contact with nature through sensory experiences and by staying in one place for hours. The business is booming with the participation of people from business, health industry and such other sectors besides tourists. "Many people lead a busy urban lifestyle now and hardly set foot into a forest. The natural environment feels alien to them and they are afraid to be alone in nature. A structured walk with a well-trained guide serves as a safety net, to make them feel secure, not just physically but also mentally and emotionally," according to guide Sugishita. "Some participants on my forest therapy walks reported that they cannot feel the here & now. They needed guidance for how to pay attention with their senses and how to connect to the natural world". "The secret of a forest therapy walk is to pause and really take in a place with all your senses, and delight in the moment. A trained guide wants to help you with that" says guide Kurokawa.



*Courtesy: Japan Today*

## SONY plans to launch Electric Cars

The new company, Sony Mobility Inc, is exploring commercial launch of electric vehicles. Sony is one of the world's biggest entertainment companies, home to prominent video game and movie franchises. Audio and entertainment systems are increasingly a focus for next-generation vehicles. Sony chairman and president Kenichiro Yoshida says "with our imaging and sensing, cloud, 5G and entertainment technologies combined with our contents mastery, we believe Sony is well positioned as a creative entertainment company to redefine mobility". Shares in Sony jumped 4.2% in Tokyo after the electric vehicle plans were announced, easily outpacing a flat Nikkei index. The company saw mobility as an "entertainment space" where passengers could choose individual entertainment options and use 5G internet connection. Wall Street is betting heavily on electric cars and the global auto industry has been upended by Tesla Inc, now the world's most valuable automaker. Many investors also expect Apple Inc to launch its own vehicle within the next few years. Japan's Toyota Motor Corp in December committed \$70 billion to electrify its automobiles by 2030.



*(Japan News)*

## 'Out of this World Beer' by Nagoya Firm

A Nagoya-based precision machinery maker is working on technology for brewing beer in space station or off-planet environments. Although the company has never produced beer, it has taken on the space-related challenge. Takasago Electric Inc. was in charge of developing devices related to a cell-cultivation experiment that astronaut Akihiko Hoshide carried out while aboard the ISS as part of a Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency project.

Late last year, the company test-produced a palm-size automatic beer brewing machine, which can control the amount of discharged gases from the fermenting process. The company aims to further downsize its machine, and put one on a rocket to be launched in 2024 to conduct experimental brewing. Also, the company plans to bring back yeast grown in space to Earth and then produce a space-branded beer. The company aims to make it possible in 2030 for people in space to drink the beer brewed in space. *(The Yomiuri Shimbun)*



## Union Budget Presentation



IJCCI and Grant Thornton jointly organised Union Budget Presentation in Japanese language, well received by the Japanese business community on 7th February 2022.

Presentation - slides and video recording available on IJCCI website.

From left to right : Mr. Motoaki Arai, Mr. R. Sridhar, Mr. Rajeev Jain, Mr. S. Mallikarjuna and Ms. Suguna Ramamoorthy.

## Introducing IJCCI Member Company:

### Rolling out their Red Carpet to the Japanese Industries to their Industrial Park

Join Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Limited and explore Odisha (Orissa), an Eastern Indian Port State

#### Gopalpur Industrial Park

Born out of the Tata Group, Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Limited is developing 'Gopalpur Industrial Park' - a complete industrial city on a 'Walk to Work' concept in the Ganjam district of Odisha, India.

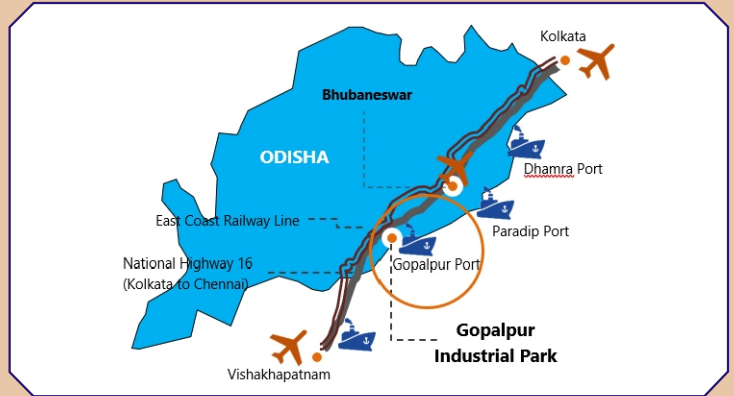
Spreading across a contiguous area of 2970 Acres, Gopalpur Industrial Park has a unique combination of areas earmarked for Special Economic Zone, Domestic Tariff Area and Social Infrastructure.

Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Limited offers industrial plots along with associated infrastructure facilities like common road access with streetlighting system, storm water drainage system, water & power supply at the doorstep for quick set up by a unit. Gopalpur Industrial Park has also obtained Environment Clearance for the entire area thereby exempting any unit setting up within the industrial park from Public Hearing, subject to qualifying guidelines of the statutory authorities, which saves 12 to 14 months of set up time.

Gopalpur Industrial Park is well-connected via all modes of transport thereby allowing quick access to not only the Indian market but also to the South-East Asian market.

- i. **Airways:** The Industrial Park is situated at 4 Kms from the nearest Airstrip - Rangeilunda with the nearest International Airport at 160 Kms - Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha.
- ii. **Waterways:** The Industrial Park is situated at 14 kms from Gopalpur Port. A dedicated utility corridor is being created to connect Gopalpur Industrial Park and Gopalpur Port which will reduce the distance to 4 Kms.
- iii. **Roadways:** Situated on NH-16 (Part of Golden Quadrilateral), Gopalpur Industrial Park is well connected to all the major cities of India.
- iv. **Railways:** The nearest railway siding - Jagannathpur is located at 6 kms from the park. The nearest major railway station - Berhampur is located at 14 Kms for the movement of men and material.

Gopalpur Industrial Park is proud to have reputed organisations like Tata Steel Mining Limited, Tata Consumer Products Limited, Smartchem Technologies Limited, GAIL Gas Limited as its member industries. Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Limited is committed to provide industrial plots with best-in-class infrastructure facilities at the most competitive prices in India and offer facilitation services to make a unit operational in record time.



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## Importance of filing Trademark for Japanese Businesses

In today's world where the business is very competitive, the need of every company to distinguish its goods or services from those of others is utterly necessary. The entities do this by adopting a trademark which is essentially a distinctive mark or a word, figure or logo and may comprise of any other distinct indication, which apparently distinguishes a product or a service provided by the business entity in a specified geographical jurisdiction. Business relations between India and Japan have conventionally been very strong for centuries with cultural and business exchanges. The need of the hour is the further strengthening of the Indo-Japan partnership. The proclivity towards investment in business as a result of a strong regime of Intellectual Property Rights has been well documented. There has been impressive bilateral co-operation between both the countries so far. The rights and duties of a registered trademark and their impact may vary across jurisdictions, but there is no doubt that obtaining of trademarks is utterly necessary for the safeguarding and development of one's business especially after making huge investments both financially and otherwise. The enforcement of one's trademark rights is equally essential in protecting one's goodwill gathered by their business. To this effect, it is pertinent to note that obtaining trademark protection in India is comparatively easy and immensely beneficial.

Being a huge market possessing an enormous consumer base, it has become very consequential for businesses to trademark their brand name in order to enjoy their goodwill and prevent the dilution of their popularity in the Indian market. Further, the overall cost of obtaining trademark protection is far lower when compared to countries like the US and Europe. The basic government fee for a trademark application is only USD 120 approximately, and with India being a very competitive market, the professional fee for trademark services is also reasonable. Another bonus is that the Indian Intellectual Property Office (IPO) accepts the English language, meaning there is no requirement of translation in native languages for filing and prosecuting trademark applications in India. This steers to a significant reduction of the overall cost of trademark filing compared to countries like China, Brazil and South Korea, which all require native-language translations.

### Global protection of Trademark

In order to have a global presence and extend your business, proper registration of trademarks under relevant jurisdiction, under one or more international treaties are required. The treaties which help in the protection of trademark internationally are:

1. The TRIPS Agreement (Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) – INDIA & JAPAN are both parties to this agreement which came into force in 1995 and is efficiently and prudently administered by the World Trade Organization and has over 150 member countries.
2. Berne or Paris Convention – Being the oldest convention which came into force in 1971 and has 170 members across the world including INDIA & JAPAN.
3. Madrid Protocol– This is a highly significant system in connection with international business by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. This protocol came into force in 1995 and INDIA & JAPAN are members.

The Indian Intellectual Property Office (IPO) has taken various initiatives to enhance the Indian trademark ecosystem. One of the most significant improvements is the digitalization of the entire application process and the reduction of time taken by the IPO for examining a trademark application under the normal route. A trademark application can be filed and registered within 8 months on an average provided the applicant does not receive any objection/ oppositions and trademarks are generally granted within a year of filing, as against the long time frame it used to take not so long ago. Under the provision for Expedited Procedure the grant time can be further reduced by filing a request. With the issuance of examination guidelines specific to the field of trademark, the IPO is also trying to improve the quality of trademark examinations. Spirited and farsighted initiatives have been undertaken by the Trademark Registry, the Government of India and other authorities to ensure and enable the smooth and effective functioning of the Intellectual Property Office even during the pandemic. The filing of Trademarks and other IP were not interrupted despite the repetitive lockdowns and all IP applications were and continue to be filed electronically and the Registration Certificates are also available online. With the outbreak of the pandemic, it is pertinent to note that Trademark hearings are being conducted online through videoconferencing. All timelines under the IP laws in India have been extended from 15 March 2020 and the extensions are ongoing. These extensions of timelines were announced by the Supreme Court of India on 23rd March 2020, having effect from 15th March 2020, due to the pandemic. These extensions by the Supreme Court have been left open ended to be decided based on the egress and control of the pandemic. The Apex Court had reviewed its decision and declared on 5th March 2021 that the extension had served its purpose and should come to an end and by an order dated 8th March 2021 gave effect to the termination of the extension period.

After the culmination of the first lockdown in April 2020, the Apex Court and most of the High Courts began holding hearings via videoconferencing. The courts even included in the list of urgent hearings, IP cases where interim or preliminary injunctions were sought. The courts have renewed and updated their infrastructure in the information technology front to be upbreast with the need of the hour. Pleadings and documents are being allowed to be filed and submitted electronically and communication via emails is being preferred. Judges and advocates are now operating from their home offices and the option of attending physical hearings are also being provided. Some of the prominent developments in the recent years include, complete online end to end filing of trademarks, faster processing and examination, quicker disposal of trademark applications and a steady escalation in the number of trademarks being filed, continual and progressive legislative reforms, and an increase in the number of trademark litigations for either enforcement or invalidation. All these trends denote the advancement of a propitious IP system in India, to give impetus to transfer of technology, goods and service and to promote Foreign Direct Investment.

*Ms. Bhavna Shruthi Anand, A.K. Mylsamy & Associates*

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Publisher : IJCCI; Designing & Printing : J.G.S. Johnson - 93845 93262

**For Private Circulation only.**

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