



Gateway

Volume 9 Issue 1

January - February 2023

President's Message



Greetings!

The India Budget 2023 presented by the Finance Minister in New Delhi on 1st February has been received well by several national and international economic organisations. Increased government's capital investment in infrastructure, promoting

digitization, encouraging the aviation sector by constructing additional airports and aerodromes, establishing centres of excellence in artificial intelligence, allocation of funds for green growth, encouraging and supporting skills development and inclusive development, modernising the agricultural sector are some of the key indicators to unleash a fresh wave of investment and spur a new era of growth and prosperity.

The Japan-India relations is steadily growing. The maiden joint air exercise in January at the Hyakuri airbase, stands testimony to the deepening and widening of bilateral ties especially in the realm of defence and strategic spheres. The environments of East and South Asia may seem different but both New Delhi and Tokyo have to address common issues such as challenges to international laws pertaining to navigation, manoeuvring the complex landscape of the Indo Pacific that has both nuclear and non-nuclear states and the ever growing threat of terrorism including the state sponsored variety. India and Japan have together addressed many topics that are relevant bilaterally and internationally and will have many more opportunities to exchange notes at high levels as India gets ready to host the G 20 Summit in New Delhi at the beginning of September this year.

My deep and heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Turkey who have had to suffer massively as a result of an earthquake that has claimed over 25,000 lives. The fact that the international community has risen to the occasion immediately is a testament to the spirit of humanism that is still the bedrock of international relations. I have no doubt that the resilient people of Turkey will tide over the difficult times in record time.

I assure you, friends, that we at IJCCI will do our best to bring our countries closer in every possible manner so as to make the world a better place to live.

Regards,
T.P. Imbichammad

India-Japan maiden joint air exercise January 12-26, 2023



Delhi-Mumbai Expressway's first phase inaugurated

Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of the highly-anticipated Delhi-Mumbai expressway on February 12, 2023. The 1380 km eight-lane expressway passes through Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. The expressway promises to revolutionise travel between the two cities, cutting down travel time by half, from over 24 hours to just around 12 hours. The 246-km Delhi-Dausa-Lalsot section will be open to the public, reducing the travel time from the national capital to Jaipur from five hours to about three hours. Depending on the volume of traffic there are plans in place to expand it to a 12-lane expressway in the future. The reduction in distance and travel time is set to result in annual fuel savings of more than 320 million litres and reduce CO2 emissions by 850 million kg. Over two million trees and shrubs are also planned to be planted along the highway. Two iconic 8-lane tunnels will also be



built, one through Mukundra sanctuary without disturbing the endangered fauna in the region and the second through the Matheran eco-sensitive zone. More than 160 km stretch of the expressway which passes through Haryana is being built at a cost of Rs 10,400 crore. This corridor will improve connectivity in Nuh and Palwal through multiple interchanges to connect the expressway with major highways like KMP and DND Sohna. To address the serious problem of air pollution and traffic congestion in Delhi-NCR, the ministry is undertaking 15 projects worth Rs 53,000 crore, of which 14 projects have been initiated. It is believed that this expressway will lead to a reduction of 27 per cent in vehicular pollution in Delhi.

Japan's First Large-Scale Offshore Wind Farm Swings into Service in Akita

Japan marked progress toward its green energy transition with the start of a new offshore wind farm at Noshiro Port in Akita Prefecture. The 20 turbines went online on December 22, 2022, making it the first such large-scale facility in the country to begin producing electricity commercially. The farm, operated by the Akita Offshore Wind Corporation with backing by major Japanese trading house Marubeni and others, is part of a larger project that includes another 13 turbines at Akita Port that are slated to begin operation in January 2023. The start is the culmination of a 7-year effort that got underway with a feasibility survey in 2015 and brings Japan



one step closer to making wind power a key component in its shift to renewable energy sources. The large, bottom-fixed turbines are made by Danish manufacturer *Vestas* and are capable of providing stable power generation in differing weather conditions. Located 1-3 kilometers off the coast, the turbines boast a rotor diameter of 117 meters, with the blades at their apex reaching a height of 150 meters above the sea surface, equivalent to a 40-story building. Each unit can produce 4,200 kilowatts of power, and together they will generate up to 140 megawatts, enough to power roughly 130,000 Japanese households.

With best compliments from



Avalon Technologies Ltd

Officials from Industry Promotion Division, Kochi Prefectural Government visited IJCCI in January 2023 and had discussions on economic cooperation between the two organisations



Origami Workshop at IJCCI by Ms. Matengi Suresh on 08-01-23

Chief Guest - **Mr. Kenji Miyata**, Acting Consul General, Consulate General of Japan, Chennai, **Madame Miyata** and President IJCCI **Mr. T.P. Imbichammad** actively participated and encouraged students.



Toyota Motor's hybrid car Launch

Toyota Motor Corp has commenced sales of all-new Prius Series Parallel Hybrid (HEV) models in Japan. It will also launch Plug-in Hybrid (PHEV) models in March. Launched in 1997 as the world's first mass-produced hybrid car, the Prius has driven uptake of HEVs as a new-generation eco-car with outstanding fuel efficiency with a range of powertrain options to promote carbon neutrality.



Mitsubishi Motors' all-new eK X EV wins 2022-2023 Japan Car of the Year and K Car of the Year

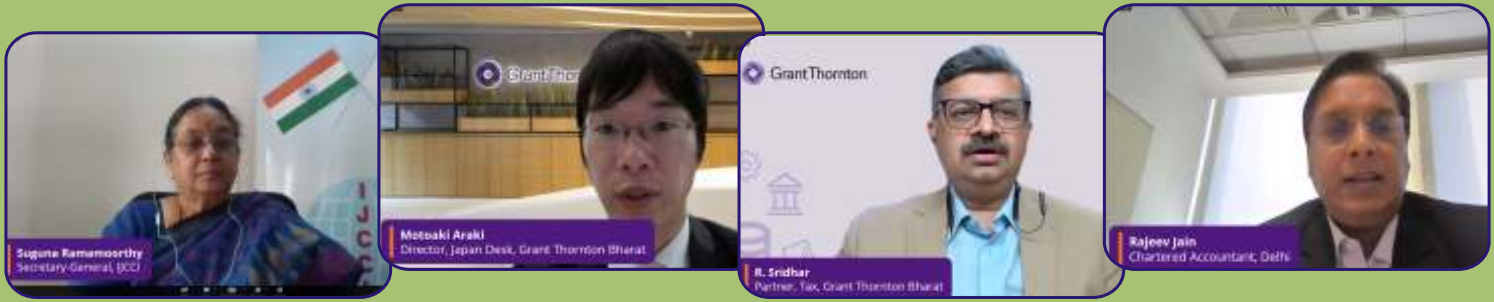


Mitsubishi Motors Corp has announced that its all-new eK X EV, an all-electric kei-car, has won the 2022-2023 Japan Car of the Year and the K Car of the Year. This is the fifth time that Mitsubishi Motors has won the Japan Car of the Year. In awarding the K Car of the Year, the organizing committee acclaimed the eK X EV as good value for money as an entry-level battery EV even within the category of kei-cars. It was also highly recognized for its driving range of 120 to 150 km in real terms.

Honda to begin sales of all-new ZR-V SUV in April 2023

Honda Motor Co. Ltd. will begin sales of the all-new SUV, the ZR-V, on April 21, 2023, at dealerships across Japan. The driver can choose from four drive modes according to the driving situation: SPORT mode, NORMAL mode, ECON mode and SNOW mode. The ZR-V will be the first Honda SUV in Japan to feature SNOW mode, which suppresses the amount of driving force transmitted in response to depressing the accelerator pedal and supports the driver to achieve a smooth start and acceleration even on slippery road surfaces such as snowy roads.





India-Japan defense ties enter new phase with first joint fighter drills

The inaugural edition of the bilateral air exercise ‘Veer Guardian 2023’ between the Indian Air Force and Japan Air Self Defence Force concluded in Japan on 26th January 2023. Japan Air Self Defence Force participated in the exercise with its F-2 and F-15 aircraft, while the IAF contingent participated with the Su-30 MKI aircraft. The IAF fighter contingent was complemented by one IL-78 Flight Refueling Aircraft and two C-17 Globemaster strategic airlift transport aircraft. The two Air Forces engaged in complex and comprehensive aerial manoeuvres in multiple simulated operational scenarios. Indian Air Force and Japan Air Self Defence Force engaged in air combat manoeuvring, interception and air defence missions, both in Visual and Beyond Visual Range settings. It is to be noted that during the second 2+2 foreign and defence-ministerial meeting held in Tokyo on September 8, 2022, India and Japan agreed to step up bilateral defence cooperation and engage in more military exercises, including holding the first joint warplane drills, reflecting the growing security cooperation between the two sides. This exercise will be another step in deepening strategic ties and closer defence cooperation between the two countries.

Sakura’ musician Masa Takumi wins Grammy for best global music album



Musician and composer Masa Takumi won the Grammy Award for best global music album at the 65th annual instalment of the event in Los Angeles on 5th February. The 44-year-old Masanori Takumi, won for “Sakura,” his fifth full-length solo album released in September 2022. The eight-song collection showcases Takumi using traditional instruments such as koto, shamisen and bansuri (Indian flute), along with touches of modern bass and percussion. Takumi says “Each spring the presence of cherry blossoms gives us a moment of utmost elegance. With the fleeting nature of this beauty in mind, its blossoming essence is cherished. Through the creation of this album I have given cherry blossoms the ability to bloom not only in the spring but year round in each and every moment of our lives.”

Space burial service by Japanese company

A start-up in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, has launched a new funeral business: Space burial. In early April 2022, Space NTK Co. successfully sent into space some of the cremated remains of 10 people and pets mounted on a rocket of the U.S. space company SpaceX. “I want to make my daughter’s dream of flying in the sky come true.” Teruaki Nagakura, a 54-year-old company employee in Nabari, Mie Prefecture, had this wish after his 7-year-old daughter died of a brain tumor in 2009. So he entrusted some of his daughter’s ashes, which he had kept at home, to the company. The remains were stored in a special container, which in turn was placed into a metal box. The box was loaded into the upper part of the rocket, which was launched from Florida on April 1, 2022. The upper part was detached from the main body of the rocket. According to the company, the detached section with the metal box will orbit at an altitude of about 500 to 600 kilometers for several years and then burn up when it re-enters the Earth’s atmosphere. The cost of a space burial is ¥550,000, including tax, for a partial burial of up to 50 grams of remains.

