



Gateway

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President's Message



Dear Friends,

Looking at the summer schedule and beyond, things could not be more hectic for India and Japan. The Summit of the Industrialised Nations at Hiroshima between May 19 and 21 that the host Japan has invited India to be a part of the

gathering of G-7; and from here it will be the Third in-person Leaders meet of the QUAD in Australia starting May 24 that will see President Joe Biden attending. In June it is expected that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a state visit to the United States; and in September as India hosts the G 20 Summit, several world leaders including the Prime Minister of Japan are likely to be in New Delhi.

Only this March Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was in India that saw the two countries evince keen interest in stepping up the dialogue in a multifaceted fashion; and the seventh Defence Policy Dialogue this April was primarily to keep the strategic perspectives of the two nations in line with regional and global imperatives. The January 2024 air exercises between the two countries will further give a lift to defence understanding. Stronger cooperation between India and Japan in a variety of fields goes to augment peace and stability in the Indo Pacific. At the Indo Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry we are quite aware of the global economic challenges and in the impact it could have on both India and Japan. In the Spring Meetings of April, both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have reminded us all of the tough times ahead, including perhaps of the world having to stare down on another recession.

On a personal note members of the IJCCI were deeply concerned at the recent bomb attack on Prime Minister Kishida at a political rally; and relieved to find out soon that the Japanese leader was safe and unhurt. The cowardly attack on Prime Minister Kishida came less than a year of the assassination of a great statesman and a dear friend of India, Mr. Shinzo Abe. The incident underscores the importance of security issues even in Japan, one of the safest countries of the world.

At the IJCCI we are looking forward to a fruitful summer and confident that leaders of India and Japan would work towards making the world a better place to live.

Regards,
T.P. Imbichammad

Meeting of Prime Ministers of India and Japan in New Delhi



Considered highly significant: Mr. Kishida's announcement of "New Plan for a 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'" in India and underscoring its importance. The use of Indo-Pacific was originally intended to replace "Asia-Pacific". 'Quad' - Global South is becoming increasingly powerful. While Japan is charing the G-7, India is presiding over the G-20 this year.

India tops Japan in new car sales amid high economic growth

New car sales in India in fiscal 2022 ended March jumped 28.2 percent from a year ago to 4.85 million units, surpassing annual sales in the Japanese market. The figure topped 4.39 million new vehicles sold in Japan, as the emerging market continues to expand on the back of high economic growth and an increasing population. The data came after India became the world's third largest auto market after China and the United States in 2022, overtaking Japan in new car sales on a calendar basis for the first time. Of the 4.85 million units sold in fiscal 2022, passenger cars accounted for a record 3.89 million, up 26.7 percent from the previous year. Commercial vehicle sales stood at 962,468 units, up 34.3 percent, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers. The sales were boosted as a drop in coronavirus infections lifted personal consumption to pre-pandemic levels. By passenger car brand, the country's top automaker, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., a subsidiary of Japanese automaker Suzuki Motor Corp., sold 1.61 million cars, accounting for 40 percent of the total. South Korea's Hyundai Motor Co. was second with 567,546 units, followed by India's Tata Motors Ltd. with 544,391 cars. Among other Japanese manufacturers, Toyota Motor Corp. delivered 173,245 units, while Honda Motor Co. and Nissan Motor Co. sold 91,418 and 33,611 cars, respectively. *(Kyodo News)*

Japanese animation film "Suzume" breaks China box office records

The Japanese animation film "Suzume" has set a new Chinese box office record in the category of Japanese cartoon works, raking in over 720 million yuan (\$105 million) three weeks after its release, according to local movie data app Maoyan Professional. The latest work of director Mr. Makoto Shinkai has captured the hearts of the Chinese youth. The fantasy film follows the adventures of a 17-year-old girl and a mysterious young man as they work together to prevent disasters across Japan. It has become the highest-grossing Japanese animation film ever released in China, surpassing the success of Shinkai's previous work "Your Name", released in 2016. Suzume saw widespread success after its release in Japan last year, becoming the first Japanese animated film in over 20 years to be nominated for the top award at the Berlin International Film Festival.



9th IMTOS-India Machine Tools Show 2023 in New Delhi

The most popular show of North India - 9th IMTOS-India Machine Tools Show 2023 is scheduled from 18-21 May 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India, showcasing robotics & automation, energy conservation, air compressor, automation, chemical & pharma machinery and many more. At IMTOS 2023, meet and network with key decision makers and industry influences to cater to the machine tool needs of production and consumption hotspots. Profile of exhibit includes Robotics & Automation, Energy Conservation, Air Compressor, Automation, Chemical & Pharma Machinery, Hydraulic & Pneumatics, Welding & Welding Consumables, Machine Tools, Testing & Measuring Equipment, Gears, Motors & Drive, Cutting Tools, Hydraulic Press Brakes, Water Treatment & Specialty Chemicals, Power Tools, Cnc&Spm, Wires & Cables, Die & Mould, Hand Tools, Material Handling, Newly Launched & Specialized Industrial Products, Electrical, Electronics, Instrumentation, Metal Forming M/c., Casting & Forging, Cad/cam, Wood Working Machinery and Software Technology.

WIND EXPO in Chiba Prefecture

An international wind energy expo being scheduled between September 13 and 15, 2023 in Chiba (40 kms from Tokyo). Wind Power Generation System Component Device / Service, Analysis / Measurement Service, Onshore / Offshore Wind Power Generation System, Maintenance Service, Large / Small Wind Turbine, etc. will find its place in the expo in Makuhari Mess venue. Active business meetings will be conducted among exhibitors and visitors from around the world, according to the organizer, RX Japan Ltd.

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Japan-India Partnership on Climate Management

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has partnered with Government of Japan, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Climate Change. They have launched an initiative to hasten climate action across 10 States and Union Territories in India. A few important facts :

- This initiative will extend support to Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs), in a bid to achieve net-zero emissions. It will also ensure climate-resilient development.
- Initiative will be launched in association with IMD at the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- Its launch is followed by cabinet approval of India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs), that will be forwarded to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- As a part of the initiative, UNDP will work in collaboration with IMD to promote climate resilience and MNRE for promoting climate mitigation.
- They will promote climate mitigation by placing clean energy infrastructure and low-emission technologies in important sectors like Health; Transport; Micro, Small, & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and Agriculture.
- Initiative will also manifest resilient climate planning at grassroot level via climate information flow systems across 30 Gram Panchayats. It is aimed at promoting green jobs and green entrepreneurship in sectors such as Renewable Energy by providing skilling and training to over 2000 people. For this project, Japan has provided USD 5.16 million climate grant to UNDP India.

Nipponzan Myohoji : Peace Pagoda – first of its kind in South India

For the first time in South India, the construction of a tower with a height of 100 feet for world peace has been successfully completed. The Peace Pagoda was dedicated on March 04, 2023 with the sacred relics of Lord Buddha in the stupa. H.E. Mr. Ganching Ganbold, the Ambassador of Mongolia, and Madame Ganbold were the Chief guests. The Enshrinement ceremony was performed ritually with the beat of drums with the presence of over hundreds of Buddhist monks and devotees from Japan, Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan, Nepal and Tibet gathered from March 2nd to 5th for a succession of events culminating in the dedication of the South Indian Peace Pagoda at Veeriruppu Village, Sankarankovil, Tamil Nadu. "There is no justification for a war or a homicide. All religions must honor and respect each other. The teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha and prayer of the Mantra "Na-Mu-Myo-Ho-Ren-Ge-Kyo" honours and respects all religions and brings peace within" said Bhikku Ishitani.



Bhikku Ishitani and his disciple Ms. Kimura Chigusa's visit to Chennai



Meeting with Consul-General of Japan in Chennai Mr. Masayuki Taga and IJCCI member Mr. Somasankar of Nippon Ganesan



Meeting with IJCCI Language School faculty Sensei Kanthimathi Balasubramanian.

Mr. Dominique Ravichandran
Academic Consultant, Tamilnadu Open University
&

Mr. Anandhanarayanan, Media Consultant
visited IJCCI for a discussion with
Ms. Suguna Ramamoorthy, Secretary General,
honoured by
Mr. A. Saravanan, Senior Executive of IJCCI.



India's growth continues to be resilient

India's growth continues to be resilient despite some signs of moderation in growth, says the World Bank in its latest India Development Update. Although significant challenges remain in the global environment, India was one of the fastest growing economies in the world. The overall growth remains robust and is estimated to be 6.9 percent for the full year with real GDP growing 7.7 percent year-on-year during the first three quarters of fiscal year 2022/23. There were some signs of moderation in the second half of FY 22/23. Growth was underpinned by strong investment activity bolstered by the government's capex push and buoyant private consumption, particularly among higher income earners. Inflation remained high, averaging around 6.7 percent in FY22/23 but the current-account deficit narrowed in Q3 on the back of strong growth in service exports and easing global commodity prices. The World Bank has revised its FY23/24 GDP forecast to 6.3 percent from 6.6 percent (December 2022). Growth is expected to be constrained by slower consumption growth and challenging external conditions. Rising borrowing costs and slower income growth will weigh on private consumption growth, and government consumption is projected to grow at a slower pace due to the withdrawal of pandemic-related fiscal support measures. "The Indian economy continues to show strong resilience to external shocks, notwithstanding external pressures, India's service exports have continued to increase, and the current-account deficit is narrowing", observed Mr. Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank's Country Director in India.

Japan might consider expanding scope of skilled worker visa with no stay limit

Japan's immigration authorities are working on expanding the scope of a blue-collar skilled workers visa that effectively allows holders to stay in the country indefinitely is a possible major shift in its foreign labor policy. The move comes in response to calls from the business community seeking to secure human resources amid an ongoing labor shortage and will increase the number of sectors that can be upgraded to the Specified Skilled Worker No. 2 status from two to 11. If the proposal at a meeting with the Liberal Democratic Party is approved by the ruling coalition, the cabinet could give the green light as early as June. The No. 2 status allows holders to bring in family members and has no limit on how many times the visa can be renewed. Japan has traditionally taken a cautious stance toward foreign labor resulting in strict immigration policies. But a turning point could be on the horizon as the government is also considering overhauling the country's controversial trainee program. The current system was introduced in April 2019 to attract foreign workers and address the country's severe labor shortage. It allows foreigners with certain Japanese language and vocational skills to apply for a resident status called Specified Skilled Worker No. 1, which grants working rights in 12 sectors, including construction, farming and nursing, for up to five years. Currently, proficient laborers in construction and shipbuilding can extend their stays by earning the No. 2 status, but the government is considering expanding it to nine more sectors.

(Kyodo News)

Japanese biomass venture using microorganisms to tackle waste disposal

A Japanese startup Komham Inc., Hokkaido, has developed a new method of decomposing organic waste using microorganisms, enabling ordinary citizens to contribute to environmental protection and help mitigate global warming. The technology drastically reduces organic refuse, including livestock manure and sewage sludge, cutting greenhouse gas emissions produced by the transportation and incineration of waste necessary in conventional disposal methods. The company supplies bacteria that can process 98 percent of organic waste into water and carbon dioxide in just 24 hours, eliminating the need to turn it into compost, which is often not put to use. Fresh bacteria are added every three months for quality control. The founder, Ms. Nishiyama managed to secure an investment of 50 million yen (\$371,000) from a fund established by Ritsumeikan University, her alma mater, and opened an experimental laboratory in Sapporo to develop and produce the bacteria culture and the Sapporo municipal government has also given the financial support, helping them with their opening and assisting with labor costs. The venture plans to sell stand-alone "smartcompost" boxes containing the bacteria, next year. The boxes will be powered by solar energy and will not require water treatment. Waste deposited in the boxes will decompose in a day meaning that, unlike regular compost, they will not produce any unpleasant odors. The smartcompost system measures the amount of food waste disposed of and provides residual battery information, allowing the owner to monitor the waste decomposition process. Nishiyama intends to expand the distribution of its compost boxes and make them as ubiquitous as "post boxes or vending machines" are in Japan by having them placed around cities, as well as in campsites, schools, and even high-rise condominiums.

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