



# Gateway

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## President's Message



Dear Friends,

Since the time of my last message a lot of things have taken place globally and in the region of the Indo Pacific. In spite of the fact that the Covid is continuing to take its toll on the rich and the poor, the developed and the under developed, optimists will say that

there is finally light at the end of the tunnel. Armed with vaccines and a new found determination to abide by established protocols, the world may finally be turning a page in a sordid chapter that has gone on for so many months, close to two years now. The International Monetary Fund and The World Bank point to the economic challenges ahead for all nations but are confident that with the right choices of policy makers, the worst of the crisis could be overcome.

It has been transformation time in Japan; the political leadership has passed on from Mr. Yoshihide Suga to Mr. Fumio Kishida and without much difficulty at all. Mr. Kishida has without a doubt several things on his mind starting with a more robust policy response to the Covid pandemic, the economic challenges and security challenges. With the Lower House of Parliament in Japan dissolved, all eyes are now on the general elections in the country set for the end of October. The political and legislative transitions will once again reaffirm the democratic resilience of Japan and its people who have demonstrated a determination to stay on a path that has made their country an example for Asia and the world.

India and Japan share common values and ideals and above all have shown the spirit of carrying forward a bilateral relationship that is not without its share of issues and concerns. The leaderships in New Delhi and Tokyo are determined more than ever to jointly strive for a stronger bilateral relationship. April 28, 2022 marks the 70th year of Japan-India Diplomatic Relations and we at IJCCI look forward to closer interactions between our two countries in the years ahead.

In India this is the Festival Season when all people cutting across cultures get together to celebrate in a truly joyous fashion a variety of festivals and occasions. The bottom line is not only giving a thanks giving for the present but also in the hope that brighter times are ahead for all of us. On behalf of the Indo Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, let me extend my Hearty Seasons Greetings to all friends in India, Japan and well wishers the world over!

Regards,

**T.P. Imbichammad**

## Welcome to Mr. Fumio Kishida



Mr. Fumio Kishida takes in the applause from Lower House lawmakers in the Diet after being elected Prime Minister on October 04, 2021.



Japan's Ruling Liberal Democrat Party Votes For New Leader. Former Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Fumio Kishida (R) celebrates with outgoing Prime Minister Mr. Yoshihide Suga after being announced the winner of the Liberal Democrat Party leadership election on September 29, 2021 in Tokyo, Japan.

*(write up inside)*

**Newly elected 64 year-old Prime Ministerial candidate Mr. Fumio Kishida** announced his Cabinet lineup Oct. 4 after pledging that “careful and tolerant” politics would be a hallmark of his administration. By and large, the Cabinet lineup strikes a good balance among young, middle-ranking and elderly party members in the formation of his team and kept his promise to promote young and mid-level lawmakers to important posts. During his presidential campaign, Mr. Kishida, who himself served as the LDP’s policy chief in the Abe administration, argued that the balance of power between the government and the party, two policymaking organizations that are inseparable from each other and should be on an equal footing, described as “seiko toko” (a powerful government and a powerful party). The government needs to make meticulous preparations for dealing with a possible “sixth wave” of infections this winter and it is also believed that Mr. Kishida will concentrate on getting the country's economy back on track.

### **Dixon Tech plans to export 5G mm phone to the United States**

Dixon Technologies (India) Limited, Noida, a leading manufacturer in consumer durables, home appliances, lighting, mobile phones, LED TV panels and security devices in India has expanded its operations to various sub-segments of electronics. Dixon Technologies has started manufacturing 5G millimetre waves smartphones, the first set of devices in the segment to be exported from India. The company has set up a manufacturing unit with an annual capacity of 7 million 5G millimetre (mm) phones and is setting up another factory with annual capacity of 30 million smartphones.

The ‘Orbic Myra’ 5G UW smartphone, which can operate in high frequency bands is also the first smartphone that has been partly designed in India. The company has bagged a contract from US-based Orbic which sells smart devices for US-based telecom operators. Electronic chip company Qualcomm and a couple of other companies have contributed to the designing of Orbic Myra 5G UW smartphones in India. The 5G millimetre phone can theoretically provide speed of up to 5 gigabit per second (gbps) on a phone which is over 250 times faster compared to top speed of 4G mobile connection recorded in India. According to Orbic North America CEO Mike Narula “this is a golden era for India for its manufacturing ecosystem and to bring its entire portfolio of products for manufacturing at Dixon, including wearables, laptops, mobile hotspots and chromebooks” This will accelerate the ‘Made in India’ agenda and the company plans to export these products to the US, Europe, Australia and Japan in 2022.

### **Toyota launches 3-wheel electric scooter C+walk T**

Toyota Motor Corp. launched a three-wheel stand-up electric scooter called the C+walk T in early October. It is a one person vehicle, measuring 70 cms. Long and 45 cms wide and 121 cms. in height. It is believed that this vehicle will be useful for elders in places such as airports, shopping malls and work places especially for those who have difficulty in walking a long distance in their daily lives. The rider operates the steering wheel while standing to move the scooter, with the maximum speed switchable in five stages between 2 kph and 6 kph, and can be raised to 10 kph. The standard model costs ¥341,000. An advanced model equipped with a safety system that alerts the rider when it detects objects or people ahead is priced at ¥354,200.



### **India to be part of 4-country forum on economic cooperation**

India, United States, Israel and the UAE have decided to form a forum for future economic cooperation and to explore possibilities of joint infrastructure projects in the fields of transportation, technology, maritime security, and economics and trade. External Affairs Minister, Government of India, Mr.S Jaishankar, on a five-day visit to Israel (between October 17 and 21), accompanied his Israeli counterpart Mr.Yair Lapid in a virtual meeting with US Secretary of State Mr. Antony Blinken and United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Mr. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed



*The Indian Express*

Al Nahyan, in which the four leaders also exchanged views on shared issues of concern in the region, Mr.Jaishankar described the meeting as 'fruitful' and said they discussed working together more closely on economic growth and global issues.



## Smart robots do all the work at Nissan's 'intelligent' plant

KAMINOKAWA, Tochigi Prefecture - Nissan's "intelligent factory" hardly has any human workers. The robots do the work, including welding and mounting. They do the paint jobs and inspect their own paint jobs. "Up to now, people had to make production adjustments through experience, but now robots with artificial intelligence, analyzing collected data, are able to do it. The technology has developed to that level," says Nissan Executive Vice President.

The factory, on the outskirts of Tokyo, is set to be up and running sometime before April, according to Nissan Motor Co. Its assembly line is designed so that all three



*(Asahi Shimbun)*

types of models - electric; e-Power, which have both a motor and an engine, and those powered by regular combustion engine - can be built on the same line. Each vehicle is equipped with the right powertrain as it moves along the line. The workers at the factory can focus on more skilled work such as analyzing data collected by the robots, and on maintaining the equipment. All automakers are working on robotic technology that can increase adaptability and enable them to respond quickly to market demand. By 2050 Nissan hopes to achieve carbon neutrality across its operations and the life cycle of its products, which includes raw material extraction, manufacturing, use and recycling. A new kind of paint that enables vehicles' bodies and bumpers to be simultaneously painted and baked reduces energy consumption by 25%, says the company.

## Honda plans to make rockets

Honda Motor Co. will build small reusable rockets that carry satellites to an altitude of up to 2,000 kms. The test vehicle launch is planned for 2030. Honda will use the technological know-how it acquired through the development of self-driving cars. By applying the control and guidance technology of self-driving cars, the company hopes to retrieve some parts of the rocket it launches and reuse them, thereby reducing costs. Honda plans to promote research on robots that can be operated by remote control on the moon. In February, the company launched joint research with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, JAXA, on the robots. Honda plans to use the avatar robot technology it is developing, aiming to enable people to work on the moon from Earth.

## Tsukimi

The autumn season brings with it the brown hues and calm winds. To the Japanese, autumn is the season for harvest moon. The mid-autumn harvest moon festival is celebrated throughout Asia under different names. In Japan, this festival is called Otsukimi meaning 'looking at the moon'. It is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th lunar moon hence its popular name 'Jugouya' (fifteenth night). Under the full moon people would gather and play music, recite poetry and enjoy seasonal dishes. There is in fact a famous



folklore which is connected to the moon in Japanese culture. The Tsuki no usagi (Rabbit on the moon) is a famous tale with many of its adaptation seen throughout Japan. In Japanese mythology, it is said that a tribe of spiritual human-like beings live on the moon. One day, the man from the moon decided to visit earth disguised as a beggar. He happened to meet three animals: a fox, monkey and a rabbit. The beggar asks the three animals for help in finding food. The fox fetched fish from the river and the monkey gathering fruits from trees. But, the rabbit was only able to offer grass. Rabbit realising his paltry offer asks the beggar to build a fire. Once the fire was built, he jumps into it offering himself as the food for the man. Moved by the rabbit's selflessness, the man transforms into his true form and saves the rabbit. Honouring the rabbit's kindness, the man takes the rabbit to live with him in the moon. Since then it is said that you can see the shape of a rabbit pounding Mochi on a full moon. The place of viewing is decorated with Japanese pampas grass and special items such as white rice dumplings (Tsukimi Dango), taro, edamame, sweet potatoes and other season foods. All these foods are offered to the moon to be blessed with a good harvest.

*(Anussha Hariprassad)*

## Indian Economy - a brief recent update

- Indian economy is now US\$ 2.90 trillion and to reach \$5 trillion by 2025. 56% of Indian GDP is service sector, majority being IT, Software and BPO.
- Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) extended to March 31, 2022. The Foreign trade policy is issued for a period of 5 years. The current term expired by 31st March 2020 and had been extended since then because of the pandemic.
- Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme that came in to real effect from August 17, 2021 excluded SEZ from its ambit. But now the same will be extended to SEZ units. The scheme along with Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL) meant for made up garments is the alternative to export promotion scheme, Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS). The present export regime consisting of MEIS is considered to be non-complaint with the WTO norms.
- Indian exports are expected to cross \$400 billion USD. The aim is to cross 450 bn. USD by next year.
- GST collection continues to be buoyant, each onth crossing Rs. 1 lakh crore from April 2021 with the lone exception of June 2021 at Rs. 92849 crore. The highest was in the month of April 2021 at a staggering Rs. 141,384 crore.
- Agriculture exports (including marine and plantation products) have beaten the pandemic, registering a growth of 17.34 per cent to \$ 41.25 billion in 2020-21. The rice exports recorded high growth and is nearly half of world demand. Similarly, wheat exports in 2021 could quadruple from a year ago to the highest level in the last eight years as a rally in global prices and higher freight costs, make Indian wheat lucrative for Asian buyers.
- Tatas, the original founder of the Air India are back again with the Government having agreed to sell 100 percent of its stake in the state-owned national airline, including Air India's 100 per cent shareholding in AI Express and 50 per cent in Air India SATS Airport Services. The effective management control is set to be in January 2022 by the new owners.
- India is on the way to 1 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines and will now focus on the second jab intensely.
- The looming power crisis in India due to coal shortage may trigger deeper and it is time for India to look at the technology to enhance storage capability of renewable energy sources.

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