



Gateway

Volume 7 Issue 6
November-December 2021

President's Message



Dear Friends,

We are slowly winding down this calendar year in the hope that the New Year will bring us a lot of things to cheer and look forward to. In a sense we are seeing some light at the end of the *Covid* tunnel and yet at the same time we are being warned of another variant that has started doing the rounds and

literally forcing many countries including India and Japan to take stringent preventive measures only for the collective good of the world at large. While panic is not the buzzword, caution certainly is; and this is yet another opportunity for the countries sitting on surplus vaccines to send them across to their brethren in the African continent where the new variant, *Omicron*, is said to have surfaced. Now is not the time to be looking at the fine letters of Intellectual Property Rights and the like.

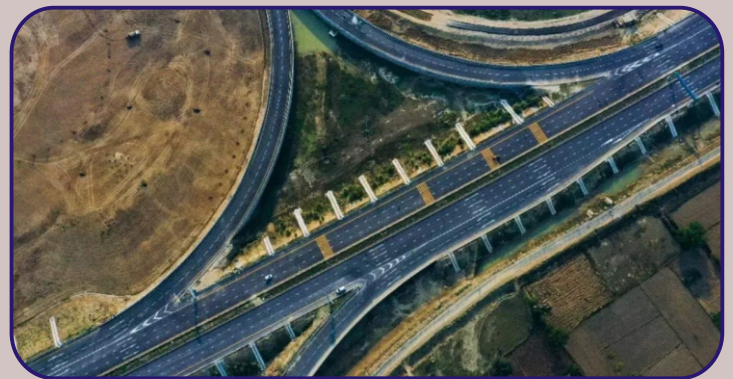
The New Year 2022 has a special meaning to India and Japan - the two countries will observe and celebrate seven decades of diplomatic relations and in the absence of any ill will and acrimony. The people of Japan and India have fond memories of the personal distance that has been travelled while the leadership of the two critical nations in Asia have bonded a political and strategic relationship that goes far beyond narrow and selfish interests to make it meaningful in a global context. India and Japan have rightfully found a place in the Indo Pacific and beyond. And from a bilateral perspective both New Delhi and Tokyo are looking at ways to fine tune in any number of areas that would include high tech, information technology, strategic cooperation, just to mention three crucial areas. The dawn of a New Year in many ways is a new beginning at the Indo Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, an organization that has strived for decades to bring together the all round potential of India and Japan. In spite of the *Covid* the Chamber was able to put together some activities with the help and support of well wishers from the two countries. And the Chamber will be starting the New Year with a major International Symposium on March 2 and 3 featuring prominent personalities from both Japan and India; and all of this possible through generous assistance from the Consulate General of Japan in Chennai led by Consul General Mr. Taga Masayuki. We are looking forward to more such events in the following months.

Thanking you all for the support and good wishes.

***Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and
a safe Holiday Season !!!!!***

Regards,
T.P. Imbichammad

Purvanchal Expressway (Uttar Pradesh) inaugurated by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi



The Purvanchal Expressway, the longest expressway in India, 341-kilometer-long was inaugurated by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, constructed at an estimated cost of about Rs 22,500 crore, a six-lane wide highway and can be expanded to eight-lane in the future, will reduce the travel time between Lucknow and Bihar from seven hours to nearly four hours. Travel time from Lucknow to Ghazipur will be reduced from 6 hours to 3.5 hours. It establishes a direct link between the NCR and eastern Uttar Pradesh till almost the Bihar border. The Uttar Pradesh government has developed land banks along the expressway and the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority has been authorised to develop industrial hubs along the highway, would give a boost to the economic development of eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh.

East Japan Railway eyes to introduce autonomously operated bullet train

East Japan Railway Co. desirous of introducing trains without drivers in the future amid a labor shortage. During the test conducted on November 17, the 12-car bullet train ran without any manual intervention after a driver switched it to automatic mode. The E7-series train was piloted remotely from a control center. It was the first test in Japan of the autonomous operation of a bullet train already in commercial service. After running about five kilometers from Niigata Station and nearing the targeted highest speed of 110 km per hour, the train stopped at the Niigata shinkansen depot, missed its intended stopping point by only 8 cms., considered within the allowable margin of 50 cm. According to the company sources the autonomous train stoppage technique was “almost equal” to operation by a driver, and JR East hopes to improve it further. JR East is testing use of local 5G high speed communication network in order send high quality video to control center about inside the trains and tracks. Similar test has been conducted on Tokyo's busy Yamanote loop line as well as the so-called Alfa-X prototype new shinkansen train. Other major railway companies conducting tests for autonomous driving are West Japan Railway Co. and Kyushu Railway Co. which have held tests on the Osaka Loop Line and Kashii Line local services respectively. In Japan, automatic railroad operation systems have already been introduced on some monorail services which have no ground-level tracks or crossings.

Fugaku retains title as world's fastest supercomputer for 4th consecutive term

The supercomputer Fugaku, jointly developed by RIKEN and Fujitsu has successfully retained the top spot for four consecutive terms in all four of the major high-performance computer rankings. This includes the TOP 500 list as well as the HPCG, a performance ranking for computing methods often used for real-world applications, HPL-AI, which ranks supercomputers based on their performance on single- and half-precision computing typically used in artificial intelligence applications, and the Graph 500 ranking, which ranks systems based on graph analytic performance, an important element in data-intensive workloads. The results of the rankings were announced on November 15 at the SC21 High-Performance Computing Conference. The results this time were made with Fugaku's full complement of 158,976 nodes fit into 432 racks. On the Top500, it achieved a LINPACK score of 442.01 petaflops. On HPCG, it scored 16.00 petaflops, and on HPL-AI it gained a score of 2.004 exaflops. The top ranking on Graph 500 was won by a collaboration involving RIKEN, Kyushu University, Fixstars Corporation, and Fujitsu. It earned a score of 102,955 gigaTEPS. For the fourth time in its history, Fugaku not only became the overwhelming world leader in key benchmarks for simulation, big data and AI, but has made great contributions to the formulation of infection guidelines for the government and companies to combat COVID-19. It has helped produce results that are useful in the real world, bringing about a so-called DX through its high performance in various fields. RIKEN will continue to advance the capability of Fugaku and utilize its power through the newly established “Office of Fugaku Society 5.0 Initiative” to achieve Japan's Society 5.0/SDGs and a decarbonized society. Fujitsu, the University of Tokyo, and Tohoku University have jointly developed an AI model, which can be performed on a regular PC in seconds, with the ability to predict tsunami flooding in coastal areas in near real-time with the computational power of Fugaku.

(Source: Japan Today)

Kyoto company creates one of world's biggest 3-D printers

A startup company in Kyoto developed a 3-D printer that can create chairs, benches and other items measuring up to 3 meters by 3 meters by 3 meters.

Slab Inc.'s printer is called ‘Chashitsu’, which means “traditional tea house” in Japanese, and it is among the world's largest. The device forms a shape by piling layers of plastic melted at 200 degrees or higher at the print head. Various plastic materials can be applied. Although it can print out small boats and doors for automobiles, extra reinforcement and treatment processes will be required for their practical use. Slab is looking to further improve ‘Chashitsu’ so that it can place concrete or spray non-combustible materials at construction sites. Slab, which manufactures machine tools, plastic moulding systems and standard 3-D printers, decided to develop Chashitsu because its president, Seiichi Yuyama, 49, wanted to see “how large we can make one.” The name was picked because Slab is based in the ancient capital of Kyoto. The printer is expected to become commercially available for around 40 million yen (\$350,000).



(Source: Asahi Shimbun)

Mercedes-AMG A 45 S 4MATIC+ Hot Hatchback Launched In India

Mercedes-Benz India has introduced the new AMG A 45 S 4MATIC+ in India priced at Rs. 79.50 lakh (ex-showroom). This is the hottest hatchback on sale right now in the country and packs a whopping 415 bhp and 500 Nm of peak torque from its 2.0-litre four-cylinder, turbocharged engine. 0-100 kmph comes in 3.9 seconds and the car has a top speed of 270 kmph. In fact, the AMG mill is the world's most powerful four-cylinder engine in series production and follows AMG's one engine, one mechanic philosophy. The model is made in Affalterbach in Germany and comes to India as a completely built unit.



According to Managing Director & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India, "We are strengthening our A-Class portfolio with the launch of the new Mercedes-AMG A 45 S 4MATIC+ which is the fastest hatchback in the country. With the launch of the most powerful and most dynamic new generation sports car in our portfolio, we are strongly reinforcing the importance of this segment in our overall growth strategy. India's fastest hatchback is a thoroughbred performance machine eagerly awaited by our AMG customers and performance purists. The introduction of the A 45 S 4MATIC+ underscores our commitment towards introducing the most desirable products from our global portfolio for our discerning customers in India."

The first-ever alcohol museum in India

The museum 'All About Alcohol' is set up by local businessman, Mr. Nandan Kudchadkar, in Candolim village of North Goa. It houses hundreds of artefacts linked to 'feni', including large, traditional glass vats in which the local cashew-based alcohol was stored centuries ago. Kudchadkar, a collector of antiques, says the idea behind the museum was to make the world aware of Goa's rich heritage, especially the story of 'feni', the strong local drink.



"There is absolutely no place where you can see the kind of stuff pertaining to alcohol anywhere in the world", says Mr. Nandan

Kudchadkar. Centuries-old alcohol bottles, glasses and manufacturing equipment curated from all over the country and the world. It spreads across a gorgeous expanse of 13,000 square feet and also has a Goan-style tavern with antique storage vessels from Portugal. The tavern also has a 'feni' cellar with bottles of cashew and coconut 'feni' as old as 1946. Guests visiting the museum can also take part in 'feni' tasting and pairing sessions. A walk-through with the curators of the museum not only reveal the entire process of making 'feni', but is accompanied by magnificent displays of historical equipment, vessels, urns, glassware and a plethora of alcohol related paraphernalia that has been painstaking collected over the decades.

Chief Minister Mr. MK Stalin unveils plan to make Tamil Nadu "Data Capital of India"

Chief Minister Mr. M K Stalin unveiled a policy aimed at making Tamil Nadu the 'Data Centre Capital of India'. The State would provide power, land, and connectivity infrastructure for data centres, and fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to encourage global and Indian investors to invest in data centres and data parks in Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister promised all help to the IT industry to turn the state into a hub for emerging technologies. "Thanks to the multiple initiatives by the government and the industry's focus on skill development and human resources, Tamil Nadu could emerge as a leading IT player in the globe" said Mr. M.K. Stalin.

Tamil Nadu is implementing a scheme (BharatNet) of the Government of India under which all 12,525 villages in Tamilnadu will get 1GBPS broadband connectivity. By doing this the CM plans to take the digital services to the door steps of people of Tamilnadu. He plans to make Tamilnadu a \$1 trillion economy in terms of gross state domestic product by 2030. The present GSDP levels according to 2020-2021 figures, is pegged at \$300 billion, the current GSDP level of Tamil Nadu is not far from Hong Kong (\$365 billion) and Singapore (\$372 billion).



Top consulting companies attract more business as economy recovers

The Big three in global strategy consulting, McKinsey, BCG NSE 4.95 % and Bain, are witnessing a sharp uptick in demand for their services - so much so that adding assignments is a challenge - as companies grapple with sudden market shifts, multiplying digitisation needs, and replacement of cost with growth as priority.

As economic activity picked up after the second Covid wave, top consulting firms witnessed record growth in client engagements..“Our best year ever! We have tripled our business in the last five years despite the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Mr. Karan Singh, MD, Bain & Co. "And we have been sold out since September last year."

Industry leaders say that given the demand, the top three firms might close FY22 with combined gross revenues between Rs 5,500 crore and Rs 5,800 crore and 225-235 partners despite the Covid impact. Client briefs now revolve around digitisation, technology disruption, rethinking supply chains, restructuring costs, profitability, M&A and PE transactions, and adapting to new ways of working.

“The briefs are all about ‘winning the discontinuity’. Every market is seeing a polarisation - the difference between leaders and laggards is becoming larger. We are helping a lot of companies embrace the change - be it by restructuring, streamlining cash flows, embedding technology or creating the next leg of growth,” says Mr. GautamKumra, Chairman (Asia), McKinsey & Co. Right now, the consulting firms are witnessing two-speed demand from India Inc. There’s heavy demand from IT services, tech companies, financial services, healthcare, government and public service companies and moderate to high demand from industrials, hospitality, auto, energy and steel.

“Last year, there was a slowdown in demand during one quarter, but the need for consulting multiplied manifold during the pandemic,” says Mr. Alpesh Shah, Managing Director & Senior Partner, BCG India “Almost 70–80 per cent of assignments in the last few months have been long-term assignments.” As clients are demanding more tech-led, data-driven solutions, the white-shoe firms have had to invest aggressively in IP, new technology, hiring new experts, and building new products.

(Source The Economic Times)

L&T Infotech, IBM set up Innovation & Experience Centre in Bengaluru

L&T Infotech, part of the Larsen & Toubro Group, has opened an Innovation & Experience Centre at LTI Whitefield campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka focusing on IBM technologies. The Centre will assist enterprises in modernising their operations and accelerating digital transformation journeys.

This Innovation & Experience Centre will showcase LTI solutions that have been co-created using IBM technologies such as IBM Cloud and Cloud Parks. It will also allow customers to engage with LTI and IBM technical resources for in-depth technology briefings, solution demos, software, tool access and solution workshops. Through this facility, IBM and LTI will collaborate and invest in creating joint solutions and develop industry viewpoints around digital transformation, hybrid cloud, data & AI, and security services. Both LTI and IBM teams will work with customers to address their requirements around driving digital transformation and managing multiple clouds.



Avalon Technologies Pvt Ltd

***Wishes all members A very
Happy & Prosperous New Year***

2022



Editors : Dr. Sridhar Krishnaswami, Member, IJCCI Governing Council & Ms. Suguna Ramamoorthy, Secretary-General;

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

For Private Circulation only.

Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IJCCI), No. 21, Kavignar Barathidasan Road, Teynempet, Chennai - 600 018, Tamilnadu, India.

Phone : 044 - 2435 4779 / 4855 6140 Email : indo-japan@ijcci.com Web :www. ijcci.com