



# Gateway

Volume 10 Issue 6

November - December 2024

## President's Message



Dear Friends,

The year comes to a close with the dawn of a new one filled with expectation, optimism and apprehension. In the context of India-Japan relations, it has been only forward movement in the realms of strategic, economic and political dimensions. The

two countries have resolved to take bilateral ties to a new level keeping in mind the vision for a free and open Indo Pacific as the Two-plus-Two Ministerial Dialogue recently held in New Delhi emphasized. In fact what is being stressed is that the first of Japan's defence export to India under a 2015 agreement would be the transfer of battleship communication antennas and other related technologies. A signature development indeed.

As the world turns to 2025, the focus undoubtedly is on the incoming President elect Donald J Trump in the United States and what this could mean to the Indo Pacific and to Japan-United States relations which in turn could impact India and Australia. But if the first Trump administration between 2017 and 2021 is anything to go by, there is reason to breathe easy. Trump fine-tuned the operations of the QUAD which had already been given a fresh boost by the late Japanese leader Shinzo Abe. Still there is interest if Washington would carry forward the shared concerns underlined in President Joe Biden's farewell summit in Delaware this September, particularly relating to enhanced Coast Guard operations and providing enhanced technologies to Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The economic ties between India and Japan are on an upswing with bilateral trade between the world's third and fifth largest economies looking at US\$ 23 billions and growing. At the Indo Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry the accent has always been on ways to foster a comprehensive growth in bilateral interactions through programs that bring about interest in our members, their associates and families.

I am confident that we will be in the forefront of contributing to the all round development of India-Japan relations.

**Wishing all a successful and fulfilling year ahead!**

Regards,  
**T.P. Imbichammad**

## "Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger" Award



On 17th November Nigeria conferred the second-highest national award to Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, the second foreign dignitary to receive the distinction after Queen Elizabeth, in 1969.

## "The Order of Excellence" Award



On 21st November Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi received "The Order of Excellence" by Guyanese President Mr. Irfaan Ali.

## "Dominica Award of Honor"



On 20th November Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi also received Dominica's highest civilian award "Dominica Award of Honor" by President of Dominica Ms. Sylvanie Burton.

"Honoured to be conferred with the awards. I accept it with great humility and dedicate it to the people of India, we give high priority to our strategic ties" said Mr. Narendra Modi.

## Nigeria, Emerging Development Partner for India

Prime Minister Mr. Modi held talks with President Tinubu on 17 November, and said “India accords high priority to its strategic partnership with Nigeria and it will work towards boosting ties in a range of areas, including defence, energy and trade. Terrorism, separatism, piracy and drug trafficking are major challenges and the two countries have worked together to deal with them and will continue to do so”. President Tinubu appreciated the development cooperation partnership offered by India and its meaningful impact in creating local capacities, skills, and professional expertise. The two leaders also discussed enhancing defence and security cooperation. The African Union becoming a permanent member of the G20 at the India-hosted summit last year, is a significant outcome. “Nigeria has had a huge and positive role in Africa. And, close cooperation with Africa has been a high priority for India ‘ there is immense scope for ties to flourish even further in sectors like defence, energy, technology, trade, health, education and more”, according to Mr. Modi. Three MoUs - on Cultural Exchange Programme, Customs Cooperation and Survey Cooperation — were signed. There are more than 200 Indian companies who have invested about \$27 billion in all important manufacturing sectors and these companies are the second-largest employers after the federal government, according to Indian officials. Mr. Modi was welcomed by Minister for Federal Capital Territory NyesomEzenwo Wike, who presented him with the ‘Key to the City’ of Abuja. “The key symbolises the trust and honour bestowed on the Prime Minister by the people of Nigeria”.

### Ice fishing

For a winter recreation consider ice fishing in Japanese pond, in large shoals under frozen lakes, cut a hole in the ice, put your bait in and wait for these easy-to-catch fish to bite. This activity is fun for adults, children, first-timers and experienced fishers alike. The required gadgets are all available for rent in most fishing spots. There are plenty of places in Japan, you can try wakasagi fishing each winter. Visit Lake Yamanaka (Yamanashi) experience fishing under the backdrop of Mt. Fuji, Lake Abashiri (Hokkaido), Lake Akan (Hokkaido), Lake Gando (Iwate), Lake Hibara (Fukushima) and Lake Suwa (Nagano).



### Japan's economy grows for the 2nd quarter

The world's fourth-largest economy grew 0.2% in the fiscal second quarter, marking the second straight quarter of expansion, following 0.5% growth in April-June. Japan's economy eked out an annual rate of 0.9% growth in the July-September period as consumer spending held up, according to a recent government data. Domestic demand grew at an annualized rate of 2.5%. Private consumption, which makes up more than half of Japan's GDP, grew 3.6% on the back of healthy household consumption, according to preliminary Cabinet Office data. Wages and employment are improving, spending was lower than the previous quarter, partly because of severe weather that crimped spending and shut down of some factories. Recent income tax reductions helped boost spending. Exports grew 1.5%. The weakening yen is a plus for exports, tending to make Japanese products cheaper overseas. But the impact was relatively limited in the latest quarter. The Japanese yen was trading at 160-yen levels earlier this year. It's now trading at 150-yen levels. Prior to the last two quarters, the economy contracted 0.6% in the January-March quarter after recording a 0.1% growth in October-December in 2023, highlighting how Japan's economy recently slipped into periods of contraction in between weak expansion. Winter bonuses many Japanese get in the coming months should also help strengthen domestic demand. Market watchers are also focused on when the central bank might move next on interest rates. The Bank of Japan kept interest rates at zero or below zero for years to wrest the economy out of deflation but is gradually raising them.



**Avalon Technologies Ltd**

*Wishes you a Happy and Prosperous 2025*

アヴァロンテクノロジーズ株式会社は、皆さまに  
幸せと繁栄に満ちた2025年をお祈り申し上げます。



## IJCCI Congratulates H.E. Mr. ONO Keiichi, New Japanese Ambassador to India

H.E. Mr. ONO Keiichi has been appointed as Japan's Ambassador to India and Bhutan. He has a bachelors degree in Law from Tokyo University, and a postgraduate in law from the University of Cambridge. Mr. ONO carries with him over 35 years of diplomatic experience. He has held key positions within Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), including Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, where he contributed to the G7 Hiroshima and G20 New Delhi Summits in 2023. Ambassador ONO has held key roles, including Deputy Chief of Mission in Jakarta and Director of the Northeast Asia Division, managing Japan's relations with Korea and North Korea. His international postings span



London, Washington, D.C. and Southeast Asia. As Assistant Minister/Director-General for Economic Affairs, he led Japan's participation in global forums such as the WTO and OECD, focusing on economic and trade negotiations; represented Japan on climate change, global health, and SDGs, including leading Japan's delegation at COP 26 in Glasgow. Ambassador ONO now aims to strengthen Japan's ties with India and Bhutan, fostering greater cooperation and mutual growth. IJCCI wishes Ambassador ONO a highly successful tenure.

## IJCCI hosts Seminar on “Re-Imagining Growth - IT, ITeS & Emerging Technologies”

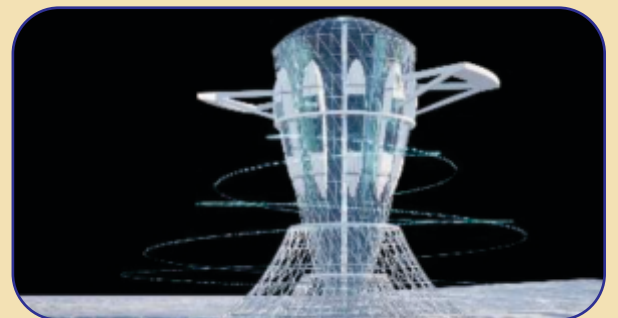
The Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with NASSCOM Center of Excellence - IoT & AI, conducted a seminar on December 21, 2024. Mr. Lokesh Venkataswamy, CEO of Innomantra Consulting, Keynote speaker made a presentation on the transformative role of emerging technologies and India's leadership in driving innovation in the global tech landscape. With his extensive experience in innovation, digital transformation, and design thinking, he provided valuable insights into the future of IT and strategies for



unlocking startup potential beyond traditional IT/ITeS domains. His engaging session emphasized the critical importance of fostering collaboration and leveraging emerging technologies to drive sustainable growth. The event was well received by the audience, which included professionals, entrepreneurs, and students. This seminar reinforced India's position as a global leader in technology and innovation, inspiring attendees to embrace emerging trends and entrepreneurial opportunities to contribute to the growth and transformation of the industry.

## Japan launches research to make living on the Moon a reality

Japan is initiating a research project aimed at establishing a sustainable human presence on the Moon. Led by Kyoto University in collaboration with construction company Kajima Corporation, the project, named "Neo Lunar Glass", a paraboloid structure that generates artificial gravity through rotation. This habitat is designed to be 200 meters in diameter and 400 meters high, with a capacity to accommodate 10,000 residents. It can create artificial gravity, making it possible for humans to live on the moon under conditions similar to those on Earth. This innovative design is intended to mimic Earth-like conditions, which is crucial for mitigating the negative impacts of prolonged microgravity on human health such as bone and muscle loss. A 1:2000 scale model of the proposed habitat has been unveiled



An artist's rendition of Neo Lunar Glass Image: Kajima Corp.

as part of the initial research phase. The research will focus on identifying challenges through advanced models and computer simulations. This ground-based prototype is expected to be completed by the 2030s. This initiative reflects Japan's ongoing interest in space exploration and the potential for future lunar habitation.

## Murugappa Group to acquire Germany's Hubergroup

The Murugappa Group has entered into an agreement to acquire the German specialty chemicals company Hubergroup for an enterprise value of \$310 million. The Murugappa Group, a diversified Indian conglomerate, with interests spanning agriculture, engineering, and financial services. Its portfolio includes listed entities such as CG Power & Industrial Solutions, Cholamandalam Financial Holdings, and Tube Investments of India. Murugappa Group aims to strengthen its global operations, particularly in the high-growth print and packaging segment. The company plans to leverage Hubergroup's established market presence and production capabilities. Hubergroup India dominates the Indian printing industry, holding a 30% market share and catering to leading print media houses, packaging firms, and FMCG clients, manufactures essential ink components such as adhesives, resins, and pigments. Around half of its products serve the Indian market and the rest exported globally to regions including the US, Australia, and Thailand.

## IIT Kanpur Unveils Indigenous Stealth Technology to Revolutionize Military Defense

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has unveiled the 'Anālakṣhya' Metamaterial Surface Cloaking System (MSCS), a breakthrough in stealth technology designed to enhance the invisibility of military assets like aircraft and armored vehicles to advanced radar systems. The Anālakṣhya MSCS employs advanced metamaterials engineered to manipulate electromagnetic waves, effectively absorbing radar signals, including those from Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR). This reduces radar signatures, improving operational security and minimizing detection risks. Developed by a multidisciplinary team at IIT-K since 2019, the project reflects a commitment to indigenous manufacturing, with over 90% of materials sourced from India. After rigorous testing, the technology is set to bolster key defense projects like the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), strengthening India's strategic posture amid regional challenges. IIT-K has licensed the technology to Meta Tattva Systems Pvt. Ltd. to streamline production and supply to the Indian Armed Forces. Esteemed defense officials, including Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, have lauded this innovation as a critical advancement in countering modern surveillance threats and advancing self-reliance in defense technology. This achievement solidifies IIT-K's role in revolutionizing defense technology, offering India a strategic edge in an evolving security landscape.

## Dynamic role of Global Capability Centres (GCC) in India

Global Capability Centre, is a fully owned offshore or nearshore arrangement established by a multinational corporation to provide services to its group companies. It helps in offering skilled manpower access, reduce cost, improve operational efficiency, facilitate competitive advantage in the market, help align the corporate objectives efficiently. The range of services include R&D, IT, outsourcing services, engineering services, market survey, financial consultancy services etc. In recent years India has become a preferred destination for global companies. The GCCs in India at present is 1,700, and the export value currently is at \$64.6 billion, with an employment figure of 1.9 million. Tamilnadu state is estimated to have over 350 GCCs, over 300 housed in Chennai and the rest spread II tier cities in Tamilnadu.



## Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**Webinar on Exploring Japan-India Cooperation in Defence, Aerospace, Space and Homeland - DASH**

ウェビナーのご案内 DASH(防衛、航空宇宙、宇宙、国内安全保障)分野における日印協力の探求

**India has an immense potential to exponentially grow in this sector and Japan can be a major partner and both countries can together explore and collaborate actively**

インドはこの分野で指数関数的な成長を遂げる巨大な潜在力を有しており、日本はその重要なパートナーとなり得ます。両国が共に積極的に探求し、協力することで、多くの可能性が広がるでしょう。

**No Admission Fee, Prior Registration Mandatory**

入場料は発生しませんが、事前のご登録をお願いいたします。

**1st March 2025**  
**11 00 to 13 00 (IST) 14 30 to 4.30 (JST)**

**contact: +91 98843 94717**

**indo-japan@ijcci.com**

**www.ijcci.com**

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 - 4855 6140 Email : indo-japan@ijcci.com Web : www.ijcci.com