



Gateway

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President's Message



Dear Readers,

India continues to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world !

I am writing to share some insightful updates regarding the ongoing developments in

the India-Japan partnership, which continues to bolster mutual interests in various sectors, including science, technology and culture. As we embrace the potential of this collaboration, I would like to draw your attention to the India-Japan Cooperative Science Programme (IJCSP) which is currently open for proposals for joint research and workshops.

It is encouraging to see Japanese Prefectures evincing keen interest in the Indian market. The recent celebration of "Kochi Day" in Tokyo by our Indian Embassy underscores their intent to strengthen economic relations. Opportunities for cooperation include sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, shipping, heavy machinery, digital transformation, education, and human resource exchange. I received the Kochi Prefectural Delegation in Chennai on June 04, 2025. I assure my full support in enhancing relations with the Prefecture in the coming days.

On the political front, Japan approaches its Upper House elections on July 20, with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's Cabinet enjoying a rising approval rating. The goodwill between our two Prime Ministers is on the upscale, and it is of utmost importance to ensure that it scales greater heights in the coming days.

I express my deep concern regarding the current state of global conflicts. Recent events, including the Israel-Iran war and the attack on innocent pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistan, sadden me deeply and raise questions about the legacy we will leave for future generations. We must strive to prioritise human dignity and security in all international relations.

Regards,
T.P. Imbichammad

Kochi Prefecture - IJCCI Meet



Officials from the Kochi Prefectural Government, Japan interacting with IJCCI Governing Board.



Japan succeeds in improving Parkinson's symptoms with IPS cells

KYOTO - Researchers have safely transplanted nerve cells generated from induced pluripotent stem (IPS) cells into the brains of Parkinson's disease patients in a clinical trial, opening new treatment possibilities for the progressive neurological disorder. In Parkinson's disease, the loss of brain nerve cells that produce dopamine causes limb tremors and difficulty in movement. The researchers transformed human IPS cells into progenitor cells that will differentiate into dopamine-producing nerve cells. A total of 5 million to 10 million progenitor cells were transplanted into both sides of each patient's brain. The researchers then studied whether the transplanted cells would produce dopamine. The subjects were seven patients in their 50s to 60s whose Parkinson's symptoms were difficult to control as the efficacy of their medications had decreased. The clinical trial studied the safety of the treatment on all seven patients and tracked its effectiveness on six. The patients were monitored for two years after receiving the transplants. No serious adverse events, such as the transplanted cells turning cancerous, were observed. However, milder side effects, such as itching wounds and a temporary decline in kidney functions, were reported. The research team confirmed that the transplanted cells remained in the patients' brains and produced dopamine. The amount of the neurotransmitter also increased. Four of the six patients showed improvement in their Parkinson's symptoms based on a score that quantifies and evaluates motor functions when medications are not working. Sumitomo Pharma Co. plans to apply for approval to manufacture and sell a treatment based on the results of the clinical trial by the end of fiscal 2025.

SpaceX launches Ax-4 commercial crew to space station



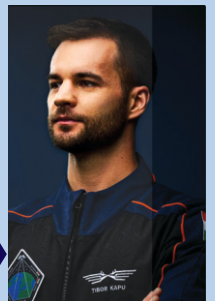
 **Peggy Whitson**
Commander,
United States



Shubhanshu
Pilot, India 



 **Sławosz Uznański - Wiśniewski**
Mission Specialist
Poland



Tibor Kapu
Mission Specialist
Hungary 

On 25th June at 2:31 a.m. EDT, the crew members of Axiom Mission 4 lifted off on the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon spacecraft from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida to the International Space Station. The Ax-4 research complement includes around 60 scientific studies and activities representing 31 countries, including the U.S., India, Poland, Hungary, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Nigeria, UAE, and nations across Europe. This will be the most research and science-related activities conducted on an Axiom Space mission aboard the International Space Station to date, underscoring the mission's global significance and collaborative nature to advance microgravity research in low-Earth orbit (LEO). The mission emphasizes scientific portfolios led by the U.S., India, Poland (in partnership with ESA), and Hungary. It aims to boost participation in these countries by involving diverse stakeholders, showcasing the value of microgravity research, and fostering international collaboration. The studies will enhance global knowledge in human research, earth observation, and life, biological, and material sciences, demonstrating the space research capabilities of the crew's home nations.

Prime Minister Modi eyes visit to Japan in August for bullet train deal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Japan in late August for talks with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. The two leaders are expected to agree on India's adoption of a next-generation shinkansen bullet train being developed by East Japan Railway Co. for a high-speed rail project underway in western India. The high-speed rail line will connect the western Indian cities of Ahmedabad and Mumbai, covering about 500 kilo meters in roughly two hours. The project is considered a symbol of Japan-India cooperation, as it will use Japan's renowned shinkansen technology. They may also agree to revise the 2008 Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation to expand their security partnership amid China's increasing maritime prowess.

(Kyodo news)

With best compliments from



Avalon Technologies Ltd

India will become the world’s fourth largest economy

According to IMF India will become the 4th largest economy by end 2025. India is projected to remain the fastest-growing large economy for 2025 and 2026, reaffirming its dominance in the global economic landscape. The country’s economy is expected to expand by 6.2 per cent in 2025 and 6.3 per cent in 2026, outpacing many of its global counterparts. In contrast, the IMF projects global economic growth to be much lower, at 2.8 per cent in 2025 and 3.0 per cent in 2026, highlighting India’s exceptional outperformance. Despite global uncertainties and downward revisions in growth forecasts for other large economies, India is set to maintain its leadership in global economic growth. Supported by strong fundamentals and strategic government initiatives, the country is well-positioned to navigate the challenges ahead. With reforms in infrastructure, innovation, and financial inclusion, India continues to enhance its role as a key driver of global economic activity. The IMF’s projections reaffirm India’s resilience, further solidifying its importance in shaping the global economic future. From the table it is evident that after recovering from a negative economic growth rate during the pandemic, the country now has a good GDP growth rate of 8.2%. Despite its lower GDP per capita, India continues to climb up the list. Different sectors, including agriculture, business and others, contribute the most to employment in every term, making it one of the largest growing economies.

GDP growth rate over the last 10 years:		
Year	GDP Growth (%)	Annual Change (%)
2013	6.39	0.93
2014	7.41	1.02
2015	8.00	0.59
2016	8.26	0.26
2017	6.80	-1.46
2018	6.45	-0.34
2019	3.74	-2.72
2020	-6.60	-10.33
2021	8.68	15.28
2022	7	1.68
2023	8.2	1.2
2024	8.2	0

Intel-India Pact to boost Artificial Intelligence – education and innovation

American chipmaker Intel and the Ministry of Electronics & IT’s (MeitY) India have joined hands to launch an initiative focused on bolstering AI capabilities and skills nationwide. The partnership, formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aims to empower young individuals, professionals, startups, and public sector leaders, enabling them to leverage AI’s potential for societal advancement and effective governance. The agreement follows the Indian government’s March 2024 announcement of a Rs.10,000 crore (approximately \$1.24 billion) investment to accelerate the nation’s AI infrastructure and entrepreneurial ecosystem development. The India AI Mission will be carried out under a public-private partnership framework, emphasizing the creation of advanced computing facilities and improving access to capital for AI-focused startups. One of the mission’s key goals is to strengthen India’s position as a global leader in AI while promoting ethical and responsible AI use. A significant step toward this objective involves procuring over 10,000 graphics processing units (GPUs), which will enhance the country’s computational power and support the growth of a robust AI ecosystem. These initiatives are aligned with India’s broader digital ambitions. By fiscal 2027-2028, the country is projected to achieve a \$1 trillion digital economy.

India’s First Micro Substation with PVT Installed

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), in partnership with Japan-based Nissin Electric Co. Ltd., has commissioned the country’s first Micro Substation equipped with a Power Voltage Transformer (PVT). This innovative power solution has been installed in North Delhi. The Micro Substation is equipped with a specially designed Power Voltage Transformer, directly converts extra high voltage (EHV) electricity from overhead transmission lines to low voltage electricity suitable for home use. “To build a traditional power network in remote or challenging areas typically costs around Rs. 50 to 60 crore and requires a lot of land. But with this PVT-based Micro Substation, the same can be done in less than Rs. 2 crore and with minimal space. Additionally, the project can cater the power requirements of 50-60 families with one micro power substation best suited for areas with lesser density”. The PVT system promises lower operational costs, minimal maintenance and a major reduction in carbon footprint. As cities grow and space becomes a premium, building new power infrastructure is increasingly difficult. This compact substation model provides a reliable alternative. Tata Power-DDL, currently serves nearly 9 million consumers in North Delhi, has taken full control of the pilot project. The company along with Nissin Electric will monitor power quality, reliability, and operational efficiency over the coming months. If successful, the model is expected to be replicated in other parts of India.

Record Number of Indian Tourists Visit Japan in April 2025

According to the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO), an estimated 37,300 Indian travellers visited Japan in April 2025, the highest ever recorded, also the highest in a single month for India-Japan tourism to date. The surge coincides not only with the peak Sakura season, which holds a magical allure for travellers across generations, but also with the spring holiday period in India, making April a sweet spot for travel from India to Japan. This significant milestone is also an indication of the deepening interest of Indians with Japan.

Japan eyes 17 eligible sectors under new foreign labour training plan

Japan's government has proposed 17 industries for inclusion in a new program to replace the foreign trainee scheme, such as agriculture, food services and construction, which are struggling with labour shortages amid a greying population. The government also recommended adding three more sectors to the separate Specified Skilled Worker visa framework as many shift from the technical trainee system, often criticized for labor rights violations including long hours and low wages. After discussions at an expert panel on the draft, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's Cabinet is expected to approve a plan by December in which industries will be covered in both schemes and how many foreign workers will be accepted at most. The new "Employment for Skill Development" program is scheduled to launch in 2027, aiming to grapple with a shrinking workforce as the productive-age population has been sharply decreasing against a backdrop of a declining birthrate. The new system will encourage workers to transition to the more permanent Specified Skilled Worker visa after three years, in principle - a landmark change in Japan's official stance on bringing in foreign employees. Holders of the Specified Skilled Worker visa, created in 2019, have been allowed to work in 16 sectors so far. The draft proposes to increase the number of eligible industries to 19, with warehouse management, waste disposal and linen supply to be newly added. The Specified Skilled Worker No. 1 visa enables holders to spend five years in Japan, while the No. 2 visa offers unlimited renewals, opening the path to permanent residency and permitting workers to bring their spouses and children to the country.

Tribute to Mr. S. Santhanam

It is with profound sadness and deep respect that the Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IJCCI) pays its rich tribute to the memory of Industrialist and Philanthropist, Mr. S. Santhanam who has left an indelible mark on the industrial landscape. As the Chairman of Sattva Group, encompassing Truckers, Forwarders, and Custom House Agents, Mr. Santhanam was instrumental in designing, building, and running comprehensive supply chain solutions. His vision and dedication were pivotal in shaping the efficiency and connectivity of trade and commerce for decades. The words, "Those we love and lose are always connected by heartstrings into infinity," echo the sentiment of loss felt by many on his passing. Mr. S. Santhanam was a true doyen in the field of transportation and logistics, boasting over five decades of invaluable experience. His leadership and



01.10.1935 - 20.06.2025

expertise were revered by one and all in the industrial arena. Mr. Santhanam's commitment extended beyond his immediate business. He travelled abroad extensively, diligently representing Indian organizations and fostering vital connections with shipping fraternities, importers, and exporters. His contributions to global trade were significant and far-reaching. Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Santhanam held several distinguished senior positions. He served with distinction as President of the Trailer Owners Association Madras, Vice President of the Madras Port Stevedores Association, Chairman of the Customs Sub Committee, President of the Tamil Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of the Consultative Committee of the City Chamber of Commerce, among others. These roles underscore his deep involvement and influence in shaping industry standards and advocating for the growth of the business community. As we reflect on his life and legacy, the sentiment, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again and again," resonates deeply. Mr. S. Santhanam's spirit of service, his unwavering dedication, and his philanthropic endeavours will continue to inspire and unite us. The Sattva Group has been associated closely with IJCCI for a long time. IJCCI extends its heartfelt condolences to Mr. Santhanam's family, friends, and the entire Sattva Group at this time of grief. His memory will be cherished, and his contributions will be remembered for generations to come.

TECHNO-FRONTIER 2025 : Future Battery Technologies for Carbon-Neutral Manufacturing

Date : July 23 to 25, 2025 / **Venue :** Tokyo Big Sight - West Exhibition Halls.

Items to be exhibited: Information collection technology (Sensing), Technology for utilizing graphics (Machine vision), Technology for utilizing data, Device control technology, Connecting technology (Network), Technology for smart factory.

Message from Organizer: This exhibition will showcase a wide range of products and technologies that respond to the challenges and expectations of users, including tools appropriate for different sizes and facilities, and solutions for optimization, all under the theme of "Connected Factories".

Industry : Industrial Machinery & Technology, Testing, Measuring & Analyzing, Precision Mechanics, Electric & Electronics (Products, Machinery), Other Industrial Machinery & Equipment, Advanced Technology / Materials, Composites, R & D, Information & Telecommunication, Data Processing, Computer, Transportation, Logistics, Packaging, Automobiles (incl. Parts, Machinery).

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