



Gateway

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President's Message



Dear Friends,

I am happy to meet you again. I hope that it has been a promising start to 2025 for all of you.

The year has begun with a new President in the United States of America, Mr. Donald Trump. Indian Prime Minister

Mr. Narendra Modi and the American President Mr. Donald Trump had a successful meeting on 13th February 2025 in Washington. The United States of America is India's second-largest trading partner and the two countries aim to double trade to US\$500 billion by 2030. The leaders pledged to accelerate defence technology cooperation across space, air defence, missile, maritime and undersea technologies, with the U.S. announcing a review of its policy on releasing fifth generation fighters and undersea systems to India. The leaders of both countries committed to break new ground in supporting and sustaining the overseas deployments of the U.S. and Indian militaries in the Indo-Pacific, including enhanced logistics and intelligence sharing, as well as arrangements to improve force mobility for joint humanitarian and disaster relief operations, along with other exchanges and security cooperation engagements.

On the Indo-Japan front, earlier this year, Mr. IWAYA Takeshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, held a Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Mr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India and shared that Japan and India have a great responsibility toward promoting peace and prosperity in international society. The year 2025 marks the 40th anniversary of the signing of the agreement on cooperation in the field of Science and Technology, between Japan and India. Both countries have concurred to designate April 2025-March 2026 as the "Japan-India Science Technology and Innovation Exchange Year" to further advance cooperation by leveraging each other's strengths in the fields of science, technology, and innovation.

At IJCCI, we will be conducting a number of events to strengthen India-Japan relations in the arena of education, culture and commerce.

Regards,

T.P. Imbichammad

Mr. Narendra Modi and Mr. Donald Trump meeting on 13th February in the US



CNN praises Mr. Modi for negotiations with Mr. Trump as "masterclass for other world leaders"



Mr. Modi met Tesla Chief and Head of Dept. of Govt. Efficiency (DOGE) of the US, Mr. Elon Musk



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar (2nd left), with Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya (left), US Secretary of State Marco Rubio (2nd right), and Australia's Penny Wong during a Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting, in Washington DC.

Japanese Firms work hard to attract and retain foreign skilled workers

Japan plans to admit over 8.2 lakhs foreign nationals under skilled worker visa by 2029. Japan is facing acute labor shortages, a legislation was enacted in June 2024 to replace the controversial foreign trainee programme by 2027, and the new system explicitly aims to foster and secure foreign talent. Under the new foreign trainee program, the candidates are expected to acquire necessary skills within three years. They will also be allowed to transfer job after one or two years at their initial workplace. Many of the foreign workers criticized Japanese firms about harsh working conditions, poor attention on human relations aspects, wage dissatisfaction etc., in recent times. Now the Japanese firms are trying to do their best in keeping the foreign workers happy by offering furnished rental homes, Japanese language assistance etc. to ensure safe and comfortable staying on the job for as long as possible. Some companies offer generous financial allowances, including monthly stipends to encourage workers who pass Japanese language test.

Turning bagworm silk into fibre products - first of its kind in the world by a Japanese firm

Environmentally friendly and highly durable bagworm silk is set to be used in a commercial application for the first time, according to Kowa Company, a Nagoya-based firm. Bagworm moth larvae expel the versatile thread from their mouths to bind together leaves, twigs and other materials into nests to protect themselves. The biodegradable thread has proven to be tougher and more flexible than silk extracted from silkworms or spider web, according to Kowa Co. whose business fields range from textile trading to the manufacturing of medical products, has developed sheets from the thread that can be mixed with carbon fiber reinforced polymers used in applications such as golf clubs and other sporting equipment to create a light and strong material. To extract the thread, the firm has teamed up with the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization to develop ways to artificially raise the insects and extract the thread efficiently. The company is working with a sports goods maker to develop products and hopes to find applications in airplane parts and bulletproof vests. Kowa has developed the brand name "Minolon" for the new material, drawing on "minomushi," the Japanese name for bagworms. The company said it is planning investment of tens of billions of yen in a bid to boost manufacturing and develop products that take advantage of the silk's properties. Unlike sericulture in which cocoons are boiled with silkworms still inside, bagworms are not killed in the process of harvesting the thread, Kowa says.

Toyota to build prototype city of the future near Mount Fuji

Toyota unveiled the audacious plan for what it will call "Woven City" in 71 hectares. The development, to be built on the site of a car factory that is planned to be closed by the end of 2020, will begin with 2,000 residents in coming years, and also serve as a home to researchers. It will have police, fire and ambulance services, schools and could be home to a mix of Toyota employees, retirees and others, It plans to move in the first 100 residents of a futuristic city as soon as this fall. The city will feature hydrogen power, autonomous mobility, artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies. Five companies, including air conditioner manufacturer Daikin Industries Ltd. and beverage maker Dydo Drinco Inc., have announced their participation in the project.



Seminar on "Doing Business with Japan : Exploring Business Opportunities with Select Potential Prefectures of Japan"



A seminar on "Doing Business with Japan : Exploring Business Opportunities with Select Potential Prefectures of Japan" was conducted on 15th February 2025 at IJCCI premises. Mr. Kaoru Shiraishi, Director General JETRO, Chennai made a presentation and interacted with the participants. Mr. T.P. Imbichammad, President, IJCCI welcomed the gathering and honoured Mr. Kaoru Shiraishi.

SpaDex Docking – India’s success resonates in Japan

“Exploration is in our nature. We began as wanderers and we are wanderers still.

We have lingered long enough on the shores of cosmic ocean. We are ready to last to set sail for the stars.”



Illustration of the two SpaDex Satellites just before and after docking. Image credit – Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched the SpaDex mission on 30th December 2024. The PSLV launch vehicle contained two small 220 kg satellites called a Chaser and a Target that was placed in space as two separate units. This mission was designed to demonstrate the ‘docking’ mechanism in the Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which has only been achieved by three countries so far, namely the USA, China and Europe. Docking technology means two different satellites coming into close proximity with controlled velocities and mechanically fastening on to each other with precise maneuvers. Mastering this technology is essential to launch multiple rockets for a unified mission objective. For instance: building a space station where multiple modules are launched separately and docked in space; refueling a satellite; launching humans to a space station; sample return missions from Moon, Mars, Asteroids, etc. So, this mission opens a number of possibilities for ISRO to grow as a space superpower!

On January 16th 2025, the docking of Chaser and the Target was successfully performed placing India among the global leaders in Space Technology. ISRO declared that the automated docking of these two small satellites into one unit was achieved. Moreover, the accuracy of the docking is being analyzed by the scientists for improving the success of the future missions. In addition, the docking and undocking of the Chaser and the Target is planned to be performed multiple times in different configurations to master this technology. The successful demonstration of docking technology is critical for ISRO’s ambitious future mission like: the sample return mission from the Moon (Chandrayaan 4 or LUPEX); manned missions to space; building and operating Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), etc.

As the Lunar exploration has gained momentum among the global space agencies, it is time for the space agencies with similar scientific objectives to join hands. The forthcoming LUPEX (Lunar Polar Exploration Mission) mission is a joint mission between ISRO and Japan’s JAXA which is planned to be launched in 2028. In the case of LUPEX mission which is a sample return mission from the Lunar South Pole, the two modules to be docked will be of different weights and sizes which is an interesting problem to be addressed by the scientists. ISRO has demonstrated the most challenging landing in the Lunar South Pole using the Chandrayaan 3 mission. JAXA has already demonstrated its sample return capability from asteroid Itokawa with the Hayabusa 2 mission. ISRO and JAXA collaborating for the LUPEX mission paves way for a state-of-the-art technology sharing, as ISRO plans build the Lunar Lander, JAXA plans to provide the rover, NASA and ESA will build the payload instruments to be mounted on the rover.

- Dr. Pavithraa Sundararajan, Leiden University

QUAD Foreign Ministers meet in Washington

Japan, Australia, India and the United States looked to dispel fears of a more isolationist Washington under new President Donald Trump, with the top diplomats of the “Quad” grouping reaffirming a commitment to work together. In a joint statement released after the talks, which were hosted by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Washington. The four nations pledged to meet regularly to prepare for a leaders' summit in India that is expected later this year. The joint statement also pledged that the partners would work to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific where the rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are upheld and defended.” “We also strongly oppose any actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion,” the joint statement added, with the Japanese Foreign Ministry saying that this included discussion of the situations in the East China Sea, home to the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands, and the disputed South China Sea.

Japan Intends to Boost Defense Capabilities on Yonaguni Island; Area Set to Deploy Ballistic Missile Countermeasures

“The Japan government intends to develop facilities to deploy surface-to-air guided missile units on Yonaguni Island in Okinawa Prefecture”, Defense Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters. “Strengthening the defense system in the Nansei area is an urgent issue,” Nakatani said during a visit to the Ground Self Defense Force Camp Yonaguni, located on the island. Yonaguni Island is located at Japan’s westernmost point and is close to Taiwan, about 110 kilometers away, and island residents fear a Taiwan contingency. The Self-Defense Forces opened the camp in 2016, but only a coastal surveillance team is deployed to monitor naval vessels and aircraft. The Defense Ministry said that an unmanned aircraft believed to belong to the Chinese military passed between Taiwan and Yonaguni Island. Air Self-Defense Force fighter jets were scrambled in response. The ministry is currently trying to acquire land adjacent to the camp for the deployment of the GSDF’s Type 03 medium-range surface-to-air guided missiles which are capable of countering ballistic missiles. The government has been preparing temporary shelters where residents can take refuge for a certain period of time. The Defense Ministry has allocated funds in its fiscal 2025 budget proposal to subsidize the construction of these facilities in Yonaguni Town, and cities of Ishigaki and Miyakojima. Nakatani also visited Taketomi and Hateruma islands for the first time as defense minister and inspected ports and airports that will serve as evacuation bases. (Japan News)



INDO-JAPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

A Webinar on “Exploring Japan-India Cooperation in DASH” (Defence, Aerospace, Space and Homeland)
Date : March 01, 2025 | Time : 11.00 am to 1.00 pm (IST) | 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm (JST)

Eminent Speakers : Stalwarts from Japan and India



Keynote Address : Dr. P. Veeramuthuvel
Scientist & Project Director, Chandrayaan-3 & Group Director, SSEG, URSC (ISRO)



Felicitations Address : Mr. Kenji Miyata
Acting Consul-General, Consulate-General of Japan, Chennai



Opening Remarks : Ms. Suguna Ramamoorthy
Secretary-General, Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. Hiroaki Miyoshi
Fellow, Aerospace and National Security Business Unit, NEC Corporation



Mr. Arunakar Mishra
Managing Director & CEO, Genser Aerospace; Member of the Governing Board, MISSION Aerospace Foundation of India.



Mr. Julius Amrit
COO, New Space Research and Technologies Ltd.



Mr. Eddie Kato
President and MD, Astroscale Japan



Lt Gen A K Bhatt Retd.
Director General, Indian Space Association



Mr. Anuj Rikhye
Partner, Accuracy



Mr. Minoru Hanakata
General Manager, International Affairs Division, The Society of Japanese Aerospace Companies (SJAC)



Mr. R. Sridhar
Grant Thornton Bharat LLP



Moderator : Col. Vibhu Vaibhav
Veteran Domain expert in DASH

Weblink to participate : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82920760593?pwd=H5nhtrDrnY666pl4WKkGsUM0q8sPsi.1>

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