IJCCI Gateway
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President's Message

Dear Friends,

My warm greetings to you.

At the outset I would like to thank the Governing Board of IJCCI for nominating me as the President. I have been with IJCCI for over 10 years. Though on the Board for 6 years as Vice-President, I was not aspiring to become President of IJCCI, but when my colleagues on the Board and the members at the AGM on 23rd August 2019 unanimously elected me to be the President for a three-year term, I was happy and I pray and hope I will really be able to carry out the tasks assigned to me as how my predecessors had done, of course, with all your guidance, support and cooperation. Let me also take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to everyone for the confidence reposed in me and assure all of you that I will do my best to deepen our bilateral bonds further.

I have always enjoyed working with Japan. I have participated in the IJCCI industrial delegation on two occasions, and had once led the delegation also. The relationship between Japan and India is extremely cordial and highly productive. It is our utmost responsibility to make the businesses between our two countries to flourish further. The SMEs of both our countries should come closer, tap the unexplored areas and exploit it fully. Though the global slowdown is an impediment, I am sure the preparatory work of initiating dialogues to understand each other's potentials can take off now and be ready to strike the relationship sooner, when the economy improves.

We will be chalking out various programmes and I seek the goodwill, cooperation and support of all of you.

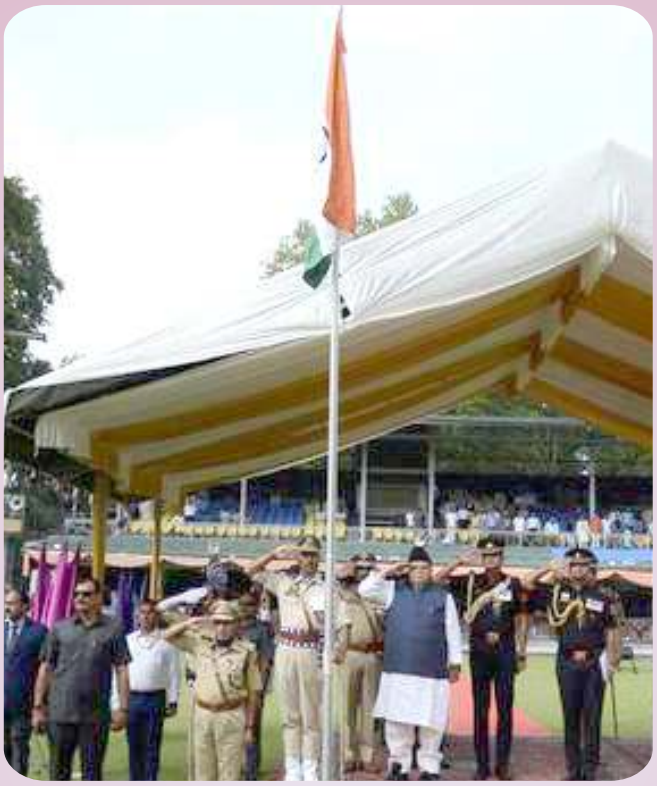
I request our Japanese and Indian friends to feel free to write to me their ideas and suggestions for strengthening the activities of our Chamber further.

With best regards,

T.P. Imbichammad

73rd India Independence Day Celebrated with a difference

Ending special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and splitting it into two union territories is among the biggest decisions taken by Prime Minister **Hon'ble Mr. Narendra Modi** in his second term.



On 15th August 2019 Indian flag was hoisted in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time by Governor **Hon'ble Mr. Satya Pal Malik.**

Union Territory of Ladakh celebrates its first Independence Day.

Japan Olympic Museum

The Japan Olympic Museum will open in Tokyo on September 14. The museum, operated by the Japanese Olympic Committee, is located near the main stadium for next year's Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo.The exhibits include Olympic torches used in previous Games, as well as posters for the "1940 Tokyo Olympics" that were cancelled after war broke out between Japan and China.

Visitors can watch videos that show memorable scenes from previous Olympics.The museum also has a section where visitors can experience shooting and ski jumping using the latest digital technology.Part of the museum ceiling is made from trees, the seeds of which were brought by athletes from overseas for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. The trees were grown over five decades in Engaru Town in the northern prefecture of Hokkaido. The admission fee is 500 yen for adult, free for children.

International Gold Fish Scooping Contest in Japan

The 25th National Championship of Goldfish Scooping was held on Aug. 18 in Nara Prefecture, one of the top goldfish-producing cities in the nation, boasting annual shipments of about 60 million.

Goldfish scooping, a popular feature at summer festivals, has become a competition. The event began in 1995, organized by the national goldfish scooping federation and the city government.

Goldfish scooping is Japan's unique culture and sport. It's also a means to interact with an increasing number of foreign visitors and it is desired to make the event popular world wide. This year, there were 500 seats available in the individual division for elementary and junior high school students, 800 in the general division and 350 teams in the three-person team division. A total of 1,850 participated in the competition, with 41 of them being foreigners. To qualify, Nara prefectural residents had to survive a prefectural elimination round, while Yamatokoriyama residents needed to win a prefectural or city elimination round. Participants from outside the prefecture were required to either qualify in trials held in the other prefectures or be selected by draw. This year, all foreigners who wished to participate were accepted.

There were 25 fish tanks containing about 1,000 goldfish at the venue called the Goldfish Square, or the city's multipurpose gymnasium. In the first and second rounds, four people sat around each tank — 100 participants per round - to compete in the individual division. In the finals, two people sat around a tank to scoop as many goldfish as possible within three minutes using a scooper called "poi" whose net is made of washi paper. In the team division, two teams shared one tank, while in the finals, a single tank was set for each team to scoop as many as possible within the three minutes. The team that scooped the most goldfish won. Ryuta Shimomaki, 17, the winner of the individual general division, scooped 70 goldfish in the final.

India's GDP growth declines

The next two months are crucial for the Indian economy that's facing its worst slowdown in six years. "Growth has now slipped below the long term trend of 6.6% for two consecutive quarters, which implies that India is effectively in a quasi-recession," according to Teresa John, an economist at Nirmal Bang Equities Pvt. in Mumbai. India's longest growth slump since 2012 is heightening concern that it may be tough for policy makers to reverse the slowdown.

Mr. T.P. Imbichammad, President IJCCI - (August 2019-August 2022)

Mr. T.P. Imbichammad, is a Mechanical Engineering Graduate with Management and Technical training in India, USA, (then) Czechoslovakia and Germany. He is the Chairman and Managing Director of Avalon Group of Companies in Chennai and the Sienna Group of Companies in Bangalore & Fremont, USA. The company has large business interests with leading Japanese industries and other business houses. Mr. Imbichammad has held several senior positions in various trade bodies in the Southern States and in various government companies also. Passionate about educational causes, he has been associated with many universities and educational institutions of repute in various capacities. A committed social worker and a philanthropist, he heads a number of educational, social and charitable institutions.

IJCCI congratulates Mr. T.P. Imbichammad and wishes him a successful tenure of office.

41-Year-Old Man from Pune becomes first Indian to contest and win election in Japan

Punanic Yogendra 'Yogi' has become the first ethnic Indian to contest and win an election in Japan in the Tokyo's Edogawa Ward assembly. "I want to be a bridge between Japanese and forengners", Puranik Yogendra, who was backed by the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, was quoted as saying. Edogawa Ward has the highest number of Indian residents among Tokyo's 23 wards with 4,500 or so Indian nationals registered, accounting for more than 10 percent of Indians living in Japan. Over 34,000 Indians live in Japan. This is the first-ever victory of a naturalized Japanese of Indian origin in elections in Japan.

Osaka University team conducts world's first iPS transplant for corneal disease

A research team from Osaka University had conducted the world's first transplant of corneal tissues using artificially derived stem cells in July 2019. The university's team, led by Koji Nishida, may have created a new treatment for those suffering from corneal disease, as current treatment procedures involve waiting for corneal donations from deceased donors. A total of around 1,600 patients in the country are waiting for corneal donations, according to an estimate by the health ministry. The patient in the July surgery, a woman in her 40s who suffered from corneal epithelial stem cell deficiency, was discharged from the hospital Aug. 23 after receiving the operation on her left eye on July 25. Her eyesight has improved considerably and there have been no problems detected so far, the team said.

"We have only conducted the first operation and we are continuing to monitor the patient carefully," Nishida said at a news conference, adding that the team hopes to make the treatment practical in about five years.

Corneal disease is caused by losing cells in the eye that produce the cornea due to illness or injury, leading to worsening eyesight and loss of vision. The team transplanted extremely thin sheet-like corneal tissues produced from another individual's induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPS cells, that had been stored at Kyoto University. The team believes that one transplant should remain effective throughout a patient's life. The researchers will continue to monitor the patient to observe the transplant's effectiveness and safety and will look for any signs of a tumor.

Conventional corneal transplant operations are prone to rejection because immune cells get implanted along with the rest of the cornea.The sheets of corneal cells used by the team do not contain immune cells, so the team believes that they are unlikely to be rejected. IPS cells, which can grow into any type of body tissue, were identified by Kyoto University's Shinya Yamanaka, who won the 2012 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for his work. The world's first clinical study using iPS cells was conducted in 2014 by the government-backed Riken institute, transplanting retina cells into a woman with age-related macular degeneration.

Chandrayaan - 2 India's historical journey to the Moon's South Pole

(Image Courtesy: Indian Space Research Organisation)

India's curiosity to explore our nearest celestial neighbor - Moon, started in 2008. The Chandrayaan-1 mission (Chandrayaan, meaning Moon vehicle)launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) which included a lunar orbiter and an impactor made the remarkable discovery of the presence of water ice in the lunar south pole. ISRO's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 will shed light on a completely unexplored region of the Moon where no country has ever gone before - Moon's south pole. This is also the most complex mission ever attempted by ISRO.

Chandrayaan-2 is targeted to explore the South Pole mainly because this part of the Moon's surface harbors large and deep craters (surface depressions caused by meteorite impacts) that remains in shadow much greater than its North Pole (i.e.) there are regions in the craters of Moon's south pole that has never seen sunlight for billions of years! These are called Permanently Shadowed Regions (PSR). The temperature inside these craters are very low and hence there is a greater possibility of the presence of water ice in these permanently shadowed regions.This mission will not only help us to gain more knowledge about the water on Moon but also give a better understand of the mineralogy of the lunar surface using which the origin and evolution of the Moon can be studied; and the lander will also measure Moonquakes.

The Chandrayaan-2 comprises three distinct parts: (1) an orbiter that orbits the moon; (2) a lander named 'Vikram' (named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, Father of Indian Space Science) that lands on the Moon's surface; and (3) a rover named 'Pragyan' (meaning 'wisdom' in Sanskrit) which has six wheels to move on the surface of the moon and carries out scientific tasks.

ISRO's GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) Mk-III, which is a home-grown technology, successfully launched Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft at 2:43 p.m. IST on July 22nd, 2019 from Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota. After a series of maneuvers to rise its orbit and the trans-lunar injection, Chandrayaan-2 is now orbiting the Moon. On 2nd September 2019, the Vikram-lander was successfully dispersed from the orbiter and after a series of several complex maneuvers, the lander would image the surface to spot a safe landing site and finally land on Moon's South Pole on 7th September, 2019. The rover-Pragyan, which is solar powered will subsequently roll out of the lander and carry out experiments for 1 lunar day which is equal to 14 Earth days, traversing 500 meters on the surface.

After the historic landing on 7th September, India will be the fourth country in the world to soft-land on the Moon after Soviet Union, US and China. India will also be the first country to land on Moon's South Pole. In addition, the fact that this mission is 'fully indigenous' grabs the attention of the world! For the first time in Indian space history, an inter-planetary mission is being led by two women – MuthataVanita, Project Director and RituKaridhal, Mission Director. No wonder this extraordinary mission will continue to inspire students to pursue space science.

- Pavithraa Sundararajan

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Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IJCCI), No. 21, Kavignar Barathidasan Road, Teynampet, Chennai - 600 018, Tamilnadu, India.
Phone : 044-2435 2010 / 2435 4779 / 4855 6140 Email : indo-Japan@ijcci.com Web :www. ijcci.com