



Gateway

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President's Message



Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to communicate with you again.

The recent developments in India-Japan relations have shown significant promise for collaboration between our two countries. Efforts to

strengthen economic ties have intensified, leading to numerous initiatives aimed at fostering trade, investment and technological exchange. Key agreements have been established in various sectors, including infrastructure, renewable energy and digital technology. These initiatives not only enhance bilateral co-operation but also create opportunities for bureaucrats and industrialists in both countries to engage in fruitful partnerships.

As I approach the conclusion of my tenure as President of the Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IJCCI) this September, I recall with pleasure that over the past six years, thanks to the unwavering support of distinguished diplomats, bureaucrats, industrialists of Japan and India, and my colleagues at IJCCI, the Chamber has continued to grow steadily in its activities. It has been an honour to work alongside such remarkable individuals. I extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for your efforts in building a robust foundation for India-Japan relations. I wholeheartedly request the continued goodwill, cooperation and support of all the well-wishers of India-Japan relations, both organisations and individuals for the Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

I thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve IJCCI for two terms as President, contributing to the strengthening of India-Japan activities in the educational, cultural and economic spheres. I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt gratitude to the IJCCI Governing Board and all the members. My sincerest wishes go to all the well-wishers of India-Japan relations for success in your endeavours and may the relationship between Japan and India continue to flourish.

Regards,
T.P. Imbichammad

Japan, US, Australia, India coast guards hold 1st joint drill on same vessel



Coast guard personnel from Japan, the United States, Australia and India have carried out a joint mission aboard a US patrol ship in the Pacific in July 2025. This is the first time members of the four-nation Quad framework have conducted a drill on the same vessel.



Bullet Train Project in India

Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project is gaining momentum as authorities aim for full operational readiness by December 2029. This ambitious infrastructure spans a distance of 508 kilometres, designed to bridge two of India's major commercial cities with rapid rail connectivity. The estimated budget is Rs 1.08 trillion and the project has already seen an expenditure of Rs 78.8 billion as of 30 June 2025. The Ministry of Railways is accelerating construction activity, particularly in the Gujarat stretch between Vapi and Sabarmati, which is slated for completion by December 2027. This segment will encompass eight critical stations, including Surat, Vadodara, and Ahmedabad. The Maharashtra stretch which includes



Mumbai, Thane, Virar, and Boisar, will see full commissioning two years later. A significant engineering feat was recently achieved in Maharashtra, where a tunnel breakthrough occurred along the 21-kilometre underground stretch between Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) and Shilphata. Of this, a 7-kilometre portion passes beneath Thane Creek, incorporating one of India's first undersea rail tunnels. The tunnel construction combines Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) for 16 kilometres and the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM) for the remaining 5 kilometres. Railway officials emphasise that the high-speed rail line will not only revolutionise passenger mobility but also serve as a catalyst for green and sustainable transport infrastructure. The electric-powered trains are expected to drastically reduce intercity travel time, offering a cleaner and faster alternative to both aviation and road transport. The corridor is being designed with advanced safety features, modern passenger amenities, and universal accessibility, aligning with India's broader sustainability goals. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project upon completion will symbolise a new chapter in fast, safe, and environmentally conscious travel for the country.

Tesla enters Indian car market with Mumbai showroom

US electric vehicle giant Tesla has launched its first showroom, in India's largest commercial city of Mumbai. It represents the company's opening move into the huge Indian car market. Elon Musk's firm used a media event to showcase its model Y cars, with prices starting at a relatively expensive 6 million rupees, or 70,000 dollars. Another showroom is expected to open in New Delhi very soon. India is the world's third-largest car market, after China and the US, but electric vehicles account for only a small fraction. According to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers electric vehicle sales in fiscal 2024 were around 100,000 units.



Japanese scientists develop plastic that dissolves in seawater within hours

Researchers in Japan have developed a plastic that dissolves in seawater within hours. RIKEN Center for Emergent Matter Science and the University of Tokyo say their new material breaks down much more quickly and leaves no residual trace. At a lab in Wako city near Tokyo, the team demonstrated a small piece of plastic vanishing in a container of salt water after it was stirred up for about an hour. While the team has not yet detailed any plans for commercialization, project lead Takuzo Aida said their research has attracted significant interest, including from those in the packaging sector. According to Aida the new material is as strong as petroleum-based plastics but breaks down into its original components when exposed to salt. Those components can then be further processed by naturally occurring bacteria, thereby avoiding generating microplastics that can harm aquatic life and enter the food chain. As salt is also present in soil, a piece about 5 cms. in size disintegrates on land after over 200 hours. The material can be used like regular plastic when coated, and the team is focusing their current research on the best coating methods. The plastic is non-toxic, non-flammable and does not emit carbon dioxide.

(Asahi Shimbun)

With best compliments from



Avalon Technologies Ltd

BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile: Indian Megastar



The recent 7-9 May 2025 skirmish between India and Pakistan has brought forth in limelight the efficacy and lethality of the BrahMos missile system of India. The BrahMos missiles fired by India were chiefly instrumental in successfully simultaneously targeting 11 major Pakistan airbases as well as terror sites causing massive destruction without any collateral damage, a testimony to the precise engineering, technology, accuracy and lethality of this missile system which sent shockwaves through the entire world military circles. The missile system is exclusively being used by the Indian Armed Forces. Three batteries have been exported to the Philippines while there have been serious potential queries from Vietnam, Armenia and Russia. The missiles are manufactured exclusively in India only. The first production centre came up at Hyderabad and later at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. On 11 May 2025, the BrahMos Aerospace Integration and Testing Facility in Lucknow as a part of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor was

opened and this state of art facility will produce the existing BrahMos variants as well as the future BrahMos-NG with a planned annual production rate of 80-100 missiles from 2026 onwards and later enhanced to 100-150. It also includes a Titanium and Super Alloys Materials Plant and Defence Testing Infrastructure System. The future variants planned are the much lighter and compact BrahMos-NG which will be entering production shortly, and the hypersonic BrahMos II which is about 7-8 years away. The current versions are being constantly modified and improved.

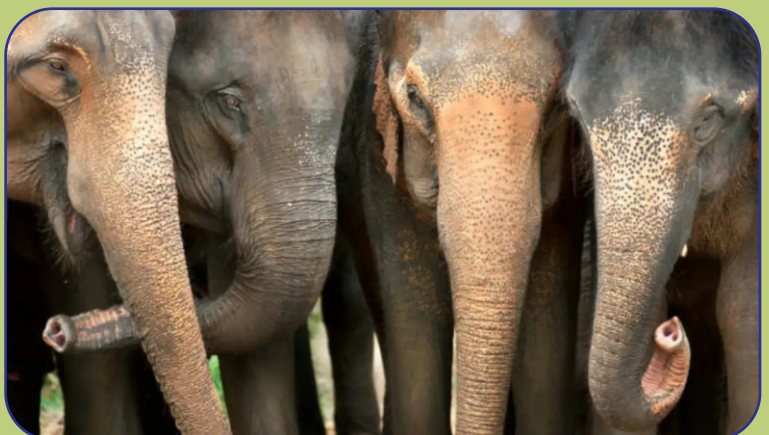


Vietnam automaker Vinfast to build factory in India, eyeing growth in Asia

Thoothukudi, Tamilnadu, India--Vietnam's Vinfast is due to break ground on a \$500 million electric vehicle plant in southern India's Tamil Nadu state, part of a planned \$2 billion investment in India and a broader expansion across Asia. The factory in Thoothukudi will initially make 50,000 electric vehicles annually, with room to triple output to 150,000 cars. Given its proximity to a major port in one of India's most industrialized states, Vinfast hopes it will be a hub for future exports to the region. It says the factory will create more than 3,000 local jobs. it hopes the factory in India will be a base for exports to South Asian countries like Nepal and Sri Lanka and also to countries in the Middle East and Africa. It plans to set up showrooms and service centres across India, working with local companies for charging and repairs, and cutting costs by recycling batteries and making key parts like powertrains and battery packs in the country. VinFast has signed agreements to establish 32 dealerships across 27 Indian cities.

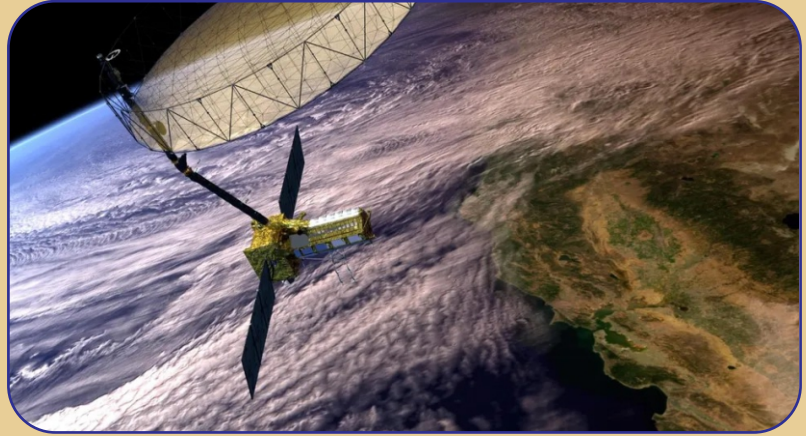
Indian Elephants in Japan

Four Asiatic Elephants (between 5 years and 9 years, 3 females and 1 male) from Bannerghatta Biological Park in Bengaluru have successfully arrived at the famous Himeji Central Park in Osaka after extensive training. Two veterinarians from Himeji Safari Park, two veterinary officers from Bannerghatta, four animal caretakers, one supervisor and a zoologist accompanied the Elephants safely to Osaka. Cheetahs, four Jaguars, four Pumas, three Chimpanzees and eight Capuchin monkeys will soon arrive from Japan at the Bannerghatta Park in Bangalore soon. This is the first of its kind international animal exchange programme between India and Japan.



NASA and India's NISAR satellite could revolutionize disaster prediction

The United States and India are teaming up on a new satellite mission designed to monitor changes to Earth's surface and atmosphere. The July 30 launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, a collaboration between NASA and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), on July 30 from India, is on its way to revolutionize the study of change on Earth. Equipped with two synthetic aperture radars (SAR), an L-Band SAR and an S-Band SAR, NISAR will scan nearly every land and ice surface twice every



12 days. The data collected will empower researchers and data users across the globe to measure land surface movement with incredible precision, in some instances down to 1 cm. This remote-sensing data can help farmers determine which plots need irrigation, volcanologists identify early signs of eruption and post-storm response teams assess the location and extent of floods, all without the need for in situ instruments that can be costly to procure and dangerous to install.

Toyota to build 4th plant in India for robust middle class segment

Toyota Motor Corp. will construct its fourth plant in India as the company accelerates its investment in the world's third-largest automobile market where a rapidly growing middle class is spurring vehicle sales. According to sources, the new plant is planned for the western state of Maharashtra. Its initial production capacity is expected to be around 100,000 vehicles annually, with plans to scale up over time.

Toyota signed a memorandum with the state government last year and is currently finalizing details that include the construction timeline and the vehicle models it plans to manufacture. This new facility will follow Toyota's ongoing construction of a third plant near Bengaluru in the southern state of Karnataka, which is set to begin operations in 2026. The company is investing 33 billion rupees (56 billion yen, or \$376 million) in its third facility. Once operational, Toyota's three existing plants in India should have a combined production capacity exceeding 400,000 units annually. Data from automotive research firm Marklines Co. shows that India's new vehicle sales reached 5.23 million units in 2024, including 4.27 million passenger vehicles. Toyota saw its own vehicle sales in the country jump 35.2 percent from 2023 to 300,000 units last year.

Japan research team discovers new gut bacterium that boosts cancer immunotherapy

A Japanese research team led by the National Cancer Center, Japan announced in the British journal, Nature recently that it has discovered a new type of gut bacterium that enhances the effectiveness of cancer immunotherapy drugs, raising hopes for the development of new treatments that further strengthen the immune response against cancer.

The research team found that patients who responded well to immunotherapy had high levels of a type of gut bacterium from the Ruminococcaceae family. These patients experienced longer-lasting treatment effects and had more T cells -- immune cells that attack cancer present within their tumours.

The team identified this bacterium as a new strain, named YB328. In mouse experiments, administering both checkpoint inhibitors and YB328 led to tumor shrinkage, and even when YB328 was given together with stool transplanted from non-responders, the drug's effectiveness improved. Further investigation revealed that YB328 activates dendritic cells -- immune system "commanders" that orchestrate immune responses in the gut. These dendritic cells then travel from the intestines to distant tumour sites where they activate nearby T cells and enhance the immune attack on cancer.

Hiroyoshi Nishikawa, head of the Cancer Immunology division at the National Cancer Center Research Institute, commented, "Not only could administering this bacterium to (drug) non-responders improve outcomes, but adding it to responders' treatment regimens may further boost effectiveness."

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