

Japan Cultural Month 2008

New Delhi



Shichi-go-san

Shichi-go-san means seven, five, three and this festival is celebrated on 15 November. Parents take boys and girls aged three, boys aged five, and girls aged seven to a Shinto shrine and pray for their healthy growth.

Fukuoka Fair in Delhi

October 17	Japanese Ambassador's Residence	By invitation only
October 18	Oberoi Hotel	By invitation only

FUKUOKA FAIR IN DELHI

Fukuoka Prefecture of Japan and the National Capital Territory of Delhi entered into a friendship agreement on 5th March 2007 for promotion of relations in the field of culture, trade, environment, youth, education, etc.

Fukuoka Prefecture hosted an "India Fair" at Kyushu National Museum to commemorate the friendship tie-up with Delhi from 22-30 September 2007. The events organized during the Fair included traditional Indian dance performances, exhibitions and also sale of Indian handicrafts. The people of Fukuoka enjoyed the performances and appreciated the craftsmanship.

In October this year, a delegation from Fukuoka Prefecture will be visiting Delhi and hold an event "**FUKUOKA FAIR IN DELHI**" at Oberoi Hotel on 18th October. Fukuoka Prefecture will present industry, tourism, education and traditional products of Fukuoka. There will also be a performance by Kokura Gion Daiko Festival Drum Group.

The Drum Group will also give a performance at the Japanese Ambassador's residence on 17th October in commemoration of the opening of the Japan Cultural Month and Fukuoka Fair in Delhi.

Origins of the Gion Festival

The *Gion* festival started originally to worship the Hindu deity, with prayers to expel epidemics. *Gion* is the Chinese name of the Indian Jetavana Buddhist Monastery, which was built on the outskirts of Sravasti, the capital of ancient Kosala state, which is Saheth in U.P. State now. The Guardian Deity of Jetavana monastery is Gosheersh, who has the sacred power to expel epidemics. The legend of Gosheersh was introduced together with Buddhism into Japan. When epidemics raged throughout entire *Kyoto*, people prayed to Gosheersh, the Guardian Deity of *Gion*, for countering epidemics, by marching with 66 tall spears. This *Gion* Festival was introduced to Kokura City in 1617 by Tadaoki Hosokawa, the first lord of Kokura Castle, to wish for the good health and prosperity of his people. Since Taiko drumming was said to be included later on, it came to be known as Kokura Gion Daiko Festival. The festival was designated by Fukuoka Prefecture as Intangible Cultural Property in 1958 and is considered one of the three big *Gion* festivals in Fukuoka along with the Hakata and Tobata festivals.



Kokura Gion Daiko Festival



Fukuoka City seen from Momochihama

Facts on Fukuoka Prefecture

Fukuoka prefecture is located on Kyūshū Island, one of the four main islands of Japan. Its capital is the city of Fukuoka. Fukuoka Prefecture faces the sea on three sides, bordering on Saga, Ōita, and Kumamoto prefectures and facing Yamaguchi Prefecture across the Kanmon Straits. Fukuoka prefecture's main cities Fukuoka and Kitakyushu are among Japan's main industrial centers, accounting for nearly 40% of the economy of Kyūshū. Its major industries include automobiles, semiconductors, and steel. Notable musicians in J-pop include Ayumi Hamasaki, hugely popular singer/songwriter duo Chage & Aska, Misia and Yui come from this prefecture.

October 30 **New Delhi** - Sadbhavana Auditorium, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, Patel Chest Marg Open

November 1 **Pune**- Garware College, Karve Road Open

Japan Education Fair A Gateway for Study in Japan

JAPAN EDUCATION FAIR

MOSAI (Monbusho Scholars Association of India) and JASSO (Japan Student Services Organization) conduct Japan Educational Fair to disseminate information about the opportunities for higher studies in Japan, focusing on the courses available, scholarship schemes of Japanese government and other agencies for Indian students. Representatives from prominent Japanese Universities (9 universities and 1 Japanese Language Institute in Delhi and 13 universities and 1 Japanese Language Institute in Pune) will put up booths and answer all possible queries.

Universities namely Hokkaido, Yamagata, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Kyoto, Kyushu, Nagasaki, Teikyo Heisei, Nihon, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific and Bunka Institute of Language will be participating in Delhi.

Universities namely Hokkaido, Yamagata, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Nagoya Institute of Technology, Kyoto, Kobe, Teikyo Heisei, Keio, Nihon, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific, Waseda, Tama, International Christian, Nihon and Bunka Institute of Language will be participating in Pune.



November 3 – 15 Japan Foundation Gallery Open

Photo Exhibition of the World Heritages in Japan

PHOTO EXHIBITION OF THE WORLD HERITAGES IN JAPAN

UNESCO adopted “The World Heritage Convention” in 1972 which aims to preserve cultural and natural legacies with conspicuous and universal value for future generations. In 1993, the Shirakami-Sanchi Mountain Range, Yakushima Island, Himeji-jo Castle, and the Buddhist monuments of the Horyu-ji Temple Areas were registered as Japan’s first World Heritage sites. In the years since, Genbaku Dome in Hiroshima, Itsukushima-jinja Shrine, the historic monuments of Ancient Nara and Kyoto, the “Gassho-zukuri” villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama, the Shrines Temples of Nikko, and the Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu have been added to the list. The exhibition displays the photographs of the World Heritages of Japan captured by ace photographer, Kazuyoshi Miyoshi. Miyoshi received the prestigious Kimura Ihee award at the young age of 27 years. His book of photographs, “The World Heritage in Japan” was published in 1998. His works are included in the permanent collection of the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film in the USA.



Kiyomizudera in spring



Himeji Castle



Seigantoji Temple & Nachi waterfalls

Himalaya Ki Godh Mein Japan-India Poetry Recital

November 3

India International Centre
Terrace Pargola, 2nd Floor

By invitation

HIMALAYA KI GODH MEIN In the lap of the Himalayas

Indian Council for Japanese Culture will be conducting poetry recital session on Mt. Fuji and the Mt. Everest by Japanese and Indian poets. There are many legends associated with these peaks. Artists, writers, poets inspired by these peaks wrote/drawn many masterpieces. The event tries to identify the similarities in the poetry on these famous peaks and deepen the understanding of the people of both the countries.

The following two books will also be released on the occasion:

Japan aur Bharat ki Lorigeet (Lullabies of Japan and India) by Dr. Raj K. Buddhiraja and Yoshio Takakura

Japan ki Chuninda Kahaniyan (Selected stories of Japan) Translated by Dr. Raj K. Buddhiraja



Mt. Fuji in spring

© Shizuoka Prefectural Government



Mt. Everest

The Zenko-ji Shonin in India The Exhibition of Buddhist Treasures from Japan

November 11 – National Museum
December 10

Open



Zenko-ji Temple in Nagano City

THE ZENKO-JI SHONIN IN INDIA THE EXHIBITION OF BUDDHIST TREASURES FROM JAPAN

Zenkō-ji is one of the oldest Buddhist temples, located in Nagano, Chūbu region of Honshū, Japan. The temple was built in the 7th century. The principal statue of the temple Amitabha Buddha is believed to be made in India and brought to Japan in the year 552 AD during the introduction of Buddhism. The temple is revered by many as they believe Nyorai, the Goddess of Mercy in the temple, gives them peace of mind and the temple is a gate to the paradise. The people also believe that having faith in Zenko-ji is equal in value to going to India where Buddha was born. The “Zenko-ji Shonin Exhibition” will be first exhibition in India of treasures from a Japanese temple.

The exhibits include the Amitabha Buddha statues, embroidered Kimono, Priests’ robes, Mandala, Japanese traditional screen, calligraphy, etc. A delegation of the Zenko-ji Temple led by its Chief Priest will be present at the Inauguration of the Exhibition.

November 7 Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi Open

5th Japan Quiz Contest

5th JAPAN QUIZ CONTEST

The inter-school quiz contest on Japan organized by the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi is becoming popular year-by-year, and the participation of over 150 teams in the 4th Japan Quiz Contest is testimony to the growing popularity. The teams came from not only NCR of Delhi but also far away places like Dehradun, Mussoorie, Jaipur, Sikar, Moradabad, etc. The questions will be on landmarks in the history, geographical features, prominent personalities of art, culture and sports, heritage monuments, and also about contemporary Japan. Teams from about 150 schools will participate in a written test, and the top teams with highest scores will participate in the Finals. There are prizes for the audience, too!!!



November 8 Carmel School A 21, Anand Niketan, New Delhi Open

Japanese Language Speech Contest

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST

The Japanese Language Speech Contests conducted on regional basis are becoming more and more competitive and are becoming major force for popularizing and encouraging the study of Japanese language.

The 21st Northern Region Japanese Language Speech Contest conducted by Mombusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI) will be held at two levels, i.e., Seniors and Juniors. Students from Japanese language institutions in Delhi and other

cities in the region will participate. The speeches are interesting not only for the language learners but also for the judges and the Japanese expatriates living here, as the students speak on variety of topics like their dreams, their experiences, what influenced them to take up Japanese language, Indian society, Indian culture, comparisons of Japanese and Indian lifestyles and culture. The winners of this contest will meet the winners of the Southern, Eastern and Western Region Contests at an All India Japanese Language Speech Contest to be held in February/March next year.



November 15 & 16 Bonsai Park, Lodi Garden Gate No. 1, Jor Bagh Road Open

Bonsai Exhibition/ Demonstration

Bonsai Exhibition/Demonstration Nature in Miniature

Indian Bonsai Association was established in 1981. It has over 100 members and the members meet every month and take steps to promote the Bonsai. They hold Demonstrations/ Workshops and also Annual Exhibition. They also invite Bonsai Masters from overseas to learn the advance techniques.



Ikebana Workshop/ Demonstration/Exhibition

IKEBANA WORKSHOP BY MRS. VEENA DASS

Arranging Leaves

November 12 Japan Foundation By invitation

Ikebana arrangement follows a rigidly fixed pattern – a triangle of three points representing Heaven, Earth and Man. Emphasis is placed on linear perfection, colour harmony, space and form.



Mrs. Veena Dass's tryst with Ikebana began in 1960 when she was in Japan. She studied Sogetsu Ikebana under the tutelage of its founder Mr Sofu Teshigahara and got a Riji Degree. Mrs. Dass is a founder member of New Delhi Branch of Sogetsu School and has been its Director for over 30 years. Mrs. Dass has been demonstrating in India and abroad. She has been awarded the 'Eiyo Sho Award' twice by the Sogetsu School, Tokyo, first time in 1997 and second time in 2007, for her "creative and distinctive approach to Sogetsu Style of Ikebana".

IKEBANA EXHIBITION

Vasudaiva Kutumbkam

Nov 14 (13:00–17:00) Godrej Auditorium, WWF India Open
15 (11:00–17:00) 172 B Lodi Estate

Ohara School of Ikebana's Delhi Chapter was established in 1990. It presently has about 70 members. Its members meet regularly and hold demonstrations/workshops, etc. It will be holding its annual exhibition by displaying about 50 arrangements created by its members.

IKEBANA DEMONSTRATION BY MRS. JOBST-OMATA (YURIKO)

November 21 Japan Foundation Open

Mrs. Jobst was born in Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan in 1938 and graduated in 1959. She learnt Ikenobo style of Ikebana in Kyoto and Tokyo. She had also learnt the Way of Tea in Tokyo. She has been teaching Ikebana at the German East Asiatic

Nov 12 (10:30–12:00) Japan Foundation By invitation
Nov 14 (13:00–17:00) Godrej Auditorium, WWF India Open
15 (11:00–17:00) 172 B Lodi Estate
Nov 21 (10:30–12:00) Japan Foundation Open
Dec 18 (11:00–16:00) Japan Foundation Open

Society, Tokyo and other clubs since 1973. She is the Vice-President of Tokyo Tachibana Ikenobo Chapter since 2004. She held exhibitions, demonstrations in Switzerland, Germany and India.

IKEBANA EXHIBITION

Line and Colour

December 18 Japan Foundation Open

The Sogetsu School, New Delhi branch was established in 1966 with the aim to stimulate and cultivate the study and to spread the art of Sogetsu Style of Ikebana. There will be 80 arrangements on display done by the members and students of the School. The arrangements may be done with or without flowers & may use any form of plant life, living or dead in any conceivable form – whole tree trunks, stems, roots, etc. These may be used alone or in conjunction with non-floral objects like metal, plastic feathers, glass, stones, etc.



© Yomuri Shimbun

Origami Contest/ Exhibition

ORIGAMI CONTEST

November 14 Tagore International School By invitation

Tagore International School in cooperation with Japan Information Centre organizes the Origami Contest 2008 in November. It is the fourth edition of contest which began in 2004. The participating school students and teachers will compete imaginatively and creatively and display their skills in folding paper in categories of solo/group and teachers. Prizes will be awarded to the best creations from each category. For further details, please contact the Tagore International School (Tel: 2614-2270/2614-9008) or JIC (Tel: 2412-2970~3).

ORIGAMI EXHIBITION

November 19-25 Japan Foundation Open

Delhi Origami Club conducts Origami classes every Wednesday at the Japan Foundation. The members of the Club are from India, Japan and other countries. The Club is headed by Ms. Hitomi Ashta, an expert of Origami. The masterpieces created by the members of the Club will be on display during the Exhibition.

November 14 Tagore International School By invitation
November 19-25 Japan Foundation Open



Nov 7, 14, 19, 26	Japan Foundation	Open
Nov 15-21	Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Chandigarh	Open
Nov 16	NDRI Auditorium, Karnal	Open
Nov 17	St. Theresa's Convent School, Karnal	By invitation

Japanese Film Festivals

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVALS

During the summit meeting held between the then Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Shinjo Abe and Indian Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi in August 2007, both the Prime Ministers had agreed to hold Japanese film festivals/shows in India, and Indian film festivals/shows in Japan in the year 2008.

As part of this initiative, NHK International held "Amazing Japan" a documentary film festival in New Delhi and Mumbai in January, the Embassy held a Japanese Film Festival showcasing classics and contemporary feature films at India International Centre in March 2008 and the Japan Foundation participated in the Osian's Cinefan in July 2008.

Nov 15-21 Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Chandigarh Open

Embassy of Japan and Japan Foundation in collaboration with Chandigarh Film Society will be holding a **Retrospective of Keisuke Kinoshita**, a well-known Japanese Director. His highly acclaimed works namely, 'The Morning of the Osone Family', 'Woman', 'A Record of Youth', 'Carmen's Pure Love', 'Twenty-four Eyes', 'Spring Dreams' and 'The Scent of Incense' will be screened. Director Kinoshita (1912-1998) was skilled in various genres such as comedies, romantic melodramas and straightforward social criticism. When the film industry lost its charm, Kinoshita also worked on TV and entertained the audience for a long time. His films won many awards. He was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun in 1984.

The other highlight of the Festival will be award winning animation film 'Doraemon and the Little Dinosaur' (Dir: Ayumu

Watanabe). **Doraemon** is a Japanese manga series created in 1969 by Fujiko F. Fujio, which later became anime series. Doraemon, a 22nd century robotic cat, travels back in time, to help a schoolboy, **Nobita**. Doraemon has a magical pouch, from which he pulls out numerous futuristic gadgets to help Nobita, like time machines, bamboo helicopters, etc. The series are comedies with moral values such as honesty, and perseverance, etc. The series have been quite popular not only in Japan but also in many parts of the world. Doraemon was awarded the first Shogakukan Manga Award in 1982, and the first Osamu Tezuka Culture Award in 1997. In March 2008, Japan's Foreign Ministry appointed **Doraemon** as the nation's first "anime ambassador," in an attempt to help people in other countries to understand Japanese anime better and to deepen their interest in Japanese culture.

Other films scheduled to be screened during the Festival are: World renowned Akira Kurosawa's classic - **Sanjuro**, animation film 'The Girl Who Leapt Through Time' (Dir: Mamoru Hosoda) and 'Always – Sunset on Third Street' (Dir: Takashi Yamazaki).

Nov 16	NDRI Auditorium, Karnal	Open
Nov 17	St. Theresa's Convent School, Karnal	By invitation

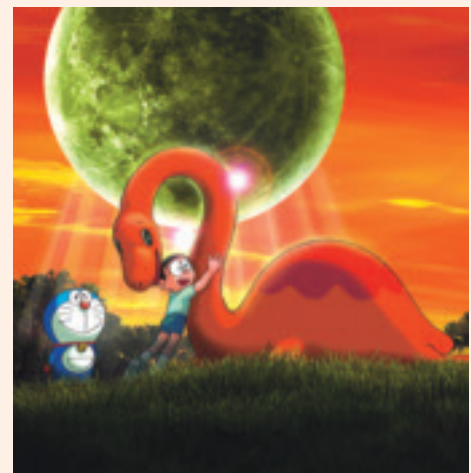
The Embassy of Japan in collaboration with National Intergrated Forum of Artists and Activists (NIFAA) will also be holding Japanese Film Festival at Karnal. Akira Kurosawa's classic 'Rashomon' and animation film 'Tombstone of Fireflies' (Dir: Isao Takahata) will be screened.



Always – Sunset on Third Street



The Girl Who Leapt Through Time



Doraemon

DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

The Japan Foundation will be holding a Documentary Film Festival, "Exploring Japan". The films introduce Japanese culture, society, and also Japan's advanced technological innovations. The films have been produced by NHK International.

November 7 IMAGES OF JAPAN (20min.x5)

Housing Situation; Working Women; Wholesale Markets and Retail Stores; Annual Events and Customs; and Transport Network I (Road, Sea).

November 14 IMAGES OF JAPAN (20min.x5)

Transport Network II (Rail, Air); Education; Police and Firefighters; Physical Distribution; and Energy.

November 19 STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY IN JAPAN (15min.x5)

Micro-Machines; Excavation and Bridge Building Technology; Optical Fibre & Information Technology-2007 edition; Technical Innovation In Household Appliances-2007edition; and The 600-Meter-High Dream: Building Technology For Super- Skyscrapers.

November 26 STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY IN JAPAN (15min.x5)

Robots Declare Independence; Eco-Friendly Cars: The Latest Developments In Engines; Ultra-Precision Micro-technology; Japanese Lenses See The Future: World-Class Polishing Technology; and New Industrial Materials That Wow The World.

November 28-29 Tagore Hall, Japan Foundation By invitation

Indo-Japan Meet on Ishikawa Takuboku

INDO-JAPAN MEET ON ISHIKAWA TAKUBOKU

Scholars, poets and literary critics from Japan and India will discuss various aspects of Takuboku's poetic aestheticism in comparative perspective over two days and also explore possibilities of translating Takuboku's Tanka in different Indian languages. The conference will also showcase cultural performances and poetry recitation based on Takuboku's Tanka and Indian poetry. The meet is organized by Akogare no Kai and Indo-Japan Association for Literature & Culture.



Ishikawa Takuboku



Takuboku monument at Shibutami Park

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date/Day	Event	Venue	Organizers	Entry
Oct 17 Oct 18	Fukuoka Fair in Delhi	Ambassador's Residence Oberoi Hotel	Embassy of Japan Fukuoka Prefecture Government	By invitation By invitation
Oct 30 Nov 1	Japan Education Fair	Sadbhavana Auditorium, Daulat Ram College, DU Garware College, Pune	MOSAI, JASSO	Open
Nov 3-15	Photo Exhibition of the World Heritages in Japan	Japan Foundation 5A, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar IV	Japan Foundation	Open
Nov 3	Himalaya ki Godh Mein Japan-India Poetry Recital	India International Centre Terrace Pergola, 2 nd Floor	Indian Council for Japanese Culture	By invitation
Nov 7	5th Japan Quiz Contest	Kamani Auditorium Copernicus Marg	Embassy of Japan	Open
Nov 7, 14, 19, 26	Documentary Film Festival EXPLORING JAPAN	Japan Foundation	Japan Foundation	Open
Nov 8	21st Northern Region Japanese Language Speech Contest	Carmel School A 21, Anand Niketan	MOSAI	Open
Nov 11 – Dec 10	The Zenko-Ji Shonin In India The Exhibition of Buddhist Treasures from Japan	National Museum	National Museum Zenko-ji Temple	Open
Nov 12	Ikebana Workshop by Mrs. Veena Dass	Japan Foundation	Sogetsu School New Delhi Branch	By invitation
Nov 14	4th Origami Contest	Tagore International School Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar	Tagore International School	By invitation
Nov 14 Nov 15	Ikebana Exhibition	Godrej Auditorium, WWF India 172 B Lodi Estate	Ohara School of Ikebana's Delhi Chapter	Open
Nov 15-16	Bonsai Exhibition/ Demonstration	Bonsai Park, Lodhi Garden Gate No. 1, Jor Bagh Road	Indian Bonsai Association	Open
Nov 15-21	Japanese Film Festival	Govt Polytechnic for Women, Chandigarh	Chandigarh Film Society, FFSI, Embassy of Japan, Japan Foundation	Open
Nov 16 Nov 17	Japanese Film Festival	NDRI Auditorium, Karnal St. Theresa's Convent School, Karnal	NIFAA, Karnal, Embassy of Japan	Open By invitation
Nov 19-25	Origami Exhibition	Japan Foundation	Delhi Origami Club	Open
Nov 21	Ikebana Demonstration by Mrs. Omata Jobst (Yuriko)	Japan Foundation	Sogetsu School New Delhi Branch	Open
Nov 28-29	Indo-Japan Meet on Ishikawa Takuboku	Japan Foundation	Indo-Japan Association for Literature & Culture	By invitation
Dec 18	Ikebana Exhibition	Japan Foundation	Sogetsu School New Delhi Branch	Open

Please browse the website of the Embassy: www.in.emb-japan.go.jp for latest information.