

## Inauguration of the Japanese Language Teachers' Training Centre Held

July 23, 2018

On July 23, the inauguration ceremony of the Japanese Language Teachers' Training Centre was held at Jawaharlal Nehru University, which was attended by Ambassador Kenji Hiramatsu, Mr. Tomoyuki Sakurai, Executive Vice President of Japan Foundation, from the Japanese side, and Honorable General V. K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor of JNU, from the Indian side, among others.

At the Japan-India summit meeting held in September 2017, Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Modi decided to train 1,000 teachers and launch Japanese language certificate courses at 100 higher educational institutions in India, in the next five years. The establishment of the Japanese Language Teachers' Training Centre is the first major outcome of our bilateral collaboration to achieve the target set by the two Prime Ministers.

Activities at the Japanese Language Teachers' Training Centre will be steered jointly by MEA and Embassy of Japan with the support of the Japan Foundation. The Centre started its first training course on the same day. The first batch of students also attended the inauguration. They will be taking a 3 month course till October. Also, other courses will be starting soon as well.

At the ceremony, Ambassador Hiramatsu expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by all the authorities concerned, both in India and Japan, and mentioned the importance of Japanese language promotion for Japan towards supporting India's "Make in India" initiative. Mr. Sakurai said that he is expecting excellent Japanese language teachers are trained through this project, and many Japanese language course will start at higher institutes in India and gave words of encouragement to the about 30 students who attended the ceremony. From the Indian side, Honorable General V. K. Singh said that Japan is an important partner of India. Development of Japanese language in India enhances people to people contacts and helps significantly the many ventures that will come up in India.



