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

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.

Facts on Fukuoka Prefecture
Fukuoka prefecture is located on Kyûshû 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 Kyûshû. 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.
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.

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.

Photo Exhibition of the World Heritages in Japan

Japan Foundation Gallery

November 3 – 15

Open
Himalaya Ki Godh Mein
Japan-India Poetry Recital

November 3
India International Centre
Terace Pargola, 2nd Floor
By invitation

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

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

November 11 – December 10
National Museum
Open

Zenko-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.
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!!!

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.

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 BY MRS. VEENA DASS
Arranging Leaves
November 12 Japan Foundation By invitation

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

IKEBANA DEMONSTRATION BY MRS. JOBST-OMATA (YURIKO)
November 21 Japan Foundation Open

IKEBANA EXHIBITION
Line and Colour
December 18 Japan Foundation Open

ORIGAMI CONTEST
November 14 Tagore International School By invitation

ORIGAMI EXHIBITION
November 19-25 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.

ORIGAMI CONTEST
November 14 Tagore International School By invitation

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.

ORIGAMI EXHIBITION
November 19-25 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.

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JAPANESE FILM FESTIVALS
During the summit meeting held between the then Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Shinzo 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 Osono 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.

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.×5)
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.×5)
Transport Network II (Rail, Air); Education; Police and Firefighters; Physical Distribution; and Energy.
**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 in 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.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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