



Japan Calling

 A quarterly newsletter from the Embassy of Japan in India 



Honourable External Affairs Minister of India, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Taro Kono, at the 9th Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue, held in Tokyo, on March 29.

(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)

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Official Working Visit of External Affairs Minister Swaraj to Japan

The External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, made an official working visit to Japan from March 28 to 30.

On the 29th, Foreign Minister Kono held the 9th Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with EAM Swaraj. Following the Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue, Ambassador Hiramatsu and Ambassador Chinoy signed and exchanged notes concerning the provision of four yen loan projects, in the presence of Foreign Minister Kono and EAM Swaraj. On the 30th, EAM Swaraj made a call on Prime Minister Abe.

For more information, please see: https://www.mofa.go.jp/s_sa/sw/in/page4e_000793.html

http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001978.html



(Photos: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)

Ambassador delivers a lecture at National Defence College

On April 25, Ambassador Hiramatsu gave a lecture titled "Development in East Asia and Indo-Pacific: Japan's Perspective" at the National Defence College of India. Around 100 officers, including 25 foreign students from Japan, US and UK, attended the event.

Before the lecture, Ambassador met Colonel Takao Sugimoto, Japan Air Self- Defense Force, who is studying at NDC, and gave words of encouragement for his studies.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Interaction with FICCI's Forum of Parliamentarians

Ambassador Hiramatsu gave a speech titled “Road Ahead: Frontier of Japan-India Relationship” at a special interaction organized by FICCI's Forum of Parliamentarians on April 4. Ten Members of Parliament including Shri Bhupender Yadav (Chair of the Forum) and Smt. Poonam Mahajan (Co-Chair) attended the event, along with other distinguished guests. The MPs and Ambassador had active interactions, highlighting the vast opportunities for cooperation between Japan and India.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Delhi Metro Extends

On March 14, Ambassador Hiramatsu attended the commencement ceremony for the 21.5 km stretch and 12 stations of the Pink Line of Delhi Metro. Also, on May 28, Ambassador Hiramatsu took a ride on the brand-new Magenta Line at its launch. All sections comprising 159 km of Magenta Line, out of which 116 km worth INR 17,000 crores was covered by Japan's ODA loan, became operational.

Ambassador Hiramatsu explained at the ceremonies that, effective operation of Delhi Metro through Japan's technical and financial support is a shining example of the long-lasting and cooperative relationship between Japan and India. The Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, and the Chief Minister of Delhi, Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, also attended the ceremonies.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

MOFA Vice Minister Visits India for Trade Negotiations

On March 19-20, the Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mitsunari Okamoto, visited India, heading the Japanese delegation at the WTO Informal Ministerial in Delhi, and met with the Commerce Minister, Hon. Suresh Prabhu, WTO Director-General, Mr. Roberto Azevêdo, as well as representatives from two Indian economic organizations, to discuss India's trade policy.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Cabinet Vice Minister Visits India for Disaster Management

On March 18, Mr. Mamoru Maekawa, Vice Minister of Cabinet Office, and Ambassador Hiramatsu, called on the Minister of State for Home Affairs of India, Hon. Kiren Rijiju, on the occasion of the very first Japan-India Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2018, and discussed further cooperation on disaster risk reduction between Japan and India, including implementation of various pilot projects proposed by Japanese private companies. There are various cooperation projects in the field of DRR.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

2nd High Speed Railway Joint Working Group Meeting Convenes

On March 21, Ambassador Hiramatsu and Mr. Ashwani Lohani, Chairman of the Indian Railway Board, co-chaired the 2nd Joint Working Group on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway (MAHSR) project to monitor the progress of the project and discuss issues yet to be solved. Following the meeting, the two co-chairs held a meeting on the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) project.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Ambassador Hiramatsu Meets Food Processing Industries Minister

On March 22, Ambassador Hiramatsu called on the Minister of Food Processing Industries, Hon. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, along with leading Japanese food and cold-chain companies. The participants discussed Japan's investment in the food processing industries and agreed on holding regular dialogues with interested Japanese companies to collaborate on reducing food waste and doubling farmers' income by 2022, by way of introducing Japanese technologies.



(Photo: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

MOFA & METI State Ministers Visit India for Energy Forum

Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane, and State Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Mr. Kosaburo Nishime, visited India in early April to attend the 16th International Energy Forum (IEF 16), hosted by the Government of India. Prime Minister Modi graced the inauguration of IEF 16. Mr. Nakane and Mr. Nishime actively took part and discussed Japan's policy for the future of global energy supply. Mr. Nakane met with India's Commerce Minister to exchange views on bilateral economic relations. Mr. Nishime, too, held meetings with representatives of the US, Qatar, UAE, and International Energy Agency.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Leprosy-Free Campaign Photo Exhibit Held

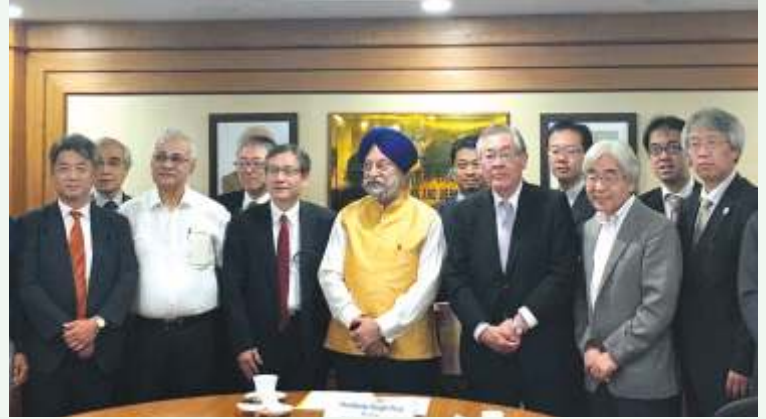
On April 19, Ambassador Hiramatsu attended the opening reception for a photo exhibition, "Our Lives", co-organized by The Nippon Foundation, Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation, India International Centre (IIC), and the Embassy of Japan. The photographs were taken by Ms. Natsuko Tominaga, who accompanied The Nippon Foundation Chairperson, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, on his visits to leprosy patients' communities in India as well as in many other countries.



(Photo: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Japan-India Environment Cooperation Discussed

The State Minister of the Environment, Mr. Tadahiko Ito, visited India to attend the 8th Regional Forum on "3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)" Promotion, co-hosted by India, Japan, and UNCRD in Indore. Several Japanese companies showcased their technologies and products at the exhibition on the sidelines. On this occasion, a delegation consisting of Japan Environmental Facilities Manufacturers' Association (JEFMA) and Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC), led by the Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, called on India's Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs. The delegation presented state-of-the-art clean waste incineration technology. Also, Japan and India held the 1st Senior Official Meeting on Environmental Cooperation to discuss such topics as waste management, climate change, and air pollution with India's Secretary of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

METI Minister Visits India

On April 30, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Mr. Hiroshige Seko, visited Bengaluru to establish the Japan-India Startup Hub in Bengaluru, with the support of JETRO, NASSCOM, Invest India, and IIM-Bengaluru. Minister Seko met with venture capitalists, IT industrialists, and startup entrepreneurs based in Bengaluru and made a visit to IIM-Bengaluru.

On the following day, Minister Seko visited Delhi and co-chaired the 9th meeting of the Japan-India Energy Dialogue with India's Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Mr. R. K. Singh, and launched the Japan-India Energy Transition Cooperation Plan. Minister Seko also took part in the India-Japan Industry & Energy Seminar, co-hosted by JETRO, NEDO, TERI, and CII. On this occasion, Minister Seko announced Japan-India Business Cooperation in Asia-Africa Region with India's Minister of Commerce & Industry. Minister Seko also met with several other ministers.



Minister Seko at IIM-Bengaluru



Minister Seko with Minister Singh at Japan-India Energy Dialogue

(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Ambassador Hiramatsu Visits Meghalaya

In early May, Ambassador Hiramatsu visited the State of Meghalaya in the North East. On his visit, Ambassador Hiramatsu called on the Governor of Meghalaya, H.E. Ganga Prasad, and the Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Hon. Conrad Sangma. They discussed ongoing and future cooperation in many fields for the development of the region. Ambassador Hiramatsu attended the seminar organized by Asian Confluence, titled "Emerging Contours in India Japan Friendship: Reflecting in the "Third Space" from India's North East" and made a key note speech. Ambassador Hiramatsu and Meghalaya's Governor planted a seedling of a cherry tree in the premises of the Official Residence of the Governor to commemorate friendship.



Call on Meghalaya's Chief Minister



Asian Confluence Seminar

(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Ambassador Hiramatsu Visits Tamil Nadu

In late May, Ambassador Hiramatsu visited Tamil Nadu. On May 25, Ambassador Hiramatsu attended the inauguration of underground sections of Chennai Metro. The Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Hon. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, too, enjoyed the train ride. Japan has provided 183.5 billion yen (INR 110 billion) for Chennai Metro's construction. With the Chief Minister, Ambassador Hiramatsu discussed a wide range of topics including Smart City Initiatives, CBIC development, business environment improvement, and Japanese language education. During the visit, Ambassador Hiramatsu also visited Nihon Technology that is providing pre-dispatch training to the first batch of 15 technical intern trainees, to be sent to Japan under the TITP (Technical Intern Training Program) scheme, as well as toured two Japan Industrial Townships of Sri City Industrial Park and Mahindra Industrial Park Chennai.



Ambassador Hiramatsu joins Indian dignitaries on the train ride



Ambassador Hiramatsu meets the first batch of TITP trainees

(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Imperial Decoration Conferred on Mr. Tarun Das

On June 15, Ambassador Hiramatsu and Mrs. Hiramatsu hosted a reception to confer upon Mr. Tarun Das, Chairperson of Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation, the Imperial Decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon. The reception enjoyed the eminent presence of the former Prime Minister, Hon. Manmohan Singh, the Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Hon. Suresh Prabhu, among other dignitaries representing the Indian public and private sectors.

Ambassador Hiramatsu commended the ingenuity of Mr. Das to nurture Japan-India relations through multiple initiatives such as the Parliamentary Visitation Programme, the Leprosy-Free Campaign, and the non-governmental Strategic Dialogue, and placed him among those who have helped scale the current heights of Japan-India relations.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

30th All India Japanese Language Speech Contest

On March 17, Ambassador Hiramatsu attended the 30th All India Japanese Language Speech Contest organized by Mombusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI), in collaboration with the Centre for Japanese Studies of JNU, supported by the Embassy of Japan and Japanese Association -Delhi.

Congratulating all contestants on clearing the preliminaries held all over India, the Ambassador expressed his wish that all contestants will continue to learn Japanese and eventually contribute to strengthening of the bilateral relationship between Japan and India, which has been flourishing greatly in recent years.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

JENESYS 2017 Reunions

From April 2017 to March 2018, Indian young generations visited Japan as JENESYS 2017 participants for 9 days. After their visits were successfully completed, the Embassy of Japan organized their reunions at the Ambassadors' residence. Here are the reports on these reunions:

The JENESYS 2017 Reunion - Connectivity Batch

On March 23, the JENESYS 2017 reunion for the participants of Connectivity Batch was held. The participants of Connectivity Batch, who visited Japan in January 2018 for 9 days, were young working people engaged in sectors such as Infrastructure, Energy, and Smart-City related matters. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Kenji Hiramatsu emphasized that “Connectivity” is a very important theme in terms of economic cooperation between Japan and India. Presentations on their experiences in Japan and their future visions were made by two participants, followed by interactions with guests.

JENESYS 2017 Reunion - Students

The JENESYS 2017 reunion for student batches was held on June 8. The 43 attendees in the reunion included students of higher secondary schools and universities, who visited Japan under the themes of Economic Cooperation, Japanese Language, Peace Building, Science and Technology, and Japanese Culture, as well as representatives of relevant organizations. Ambassador Kenji Hiramatsu delivered his opening remarks, in which he emphasized the importance of giving an impetus to people-to-people exchanges between Japan and India. Five participants made presentations on their experiences in Japan, their efforts to promote people-to-people exchanges after returning from Japan, etc.

The event concluded with warm comments by Mr. Hiroshi Yoshino, Director, the University of Tokyo India Office, and Dr. Ashok Jain, Chairperson, MOSAI, on behalf of the guests.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Congratulating Professor Mizokami on being conferred Padma Shri

On April 3, Ambassador and Mrs. Hiramatsu invited Professor Tomio Mizokami, Professor Emeritus, Osaka University, and Mrs. Mizokami, to their residence. Professor Mizokami was conferred Padma Shri, one of the highest civilian awards of India, in the field of literature and education, by the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, on the previous day.

Professor Mizokami is a specialist in Hindi language and has been giving lectures at numerous universities for over three decades. He is also President of the Kansai Japan India Cultural Society in Kobe.



(Photo: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Updates from Consulates

KOLKATA



Anime enthusiasts of Kolkata, dressed up as Japanese Anime characters for a Cosplay Demonstration at the **33RD IN-NICHI BUNKASAI**, organised by Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society in collaboration with the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata, held at Dr. Triguna Sen Auditorium, Jadavpur University, on March 24. The costumes, preparation of which required considerable time, effort and diligence, were highly appreciated for their intricate and fine detailing.



Ms. Manami Kato, Vice Consul, interacting with the students of Indus Valley World School, Kolkata, during the **SCHOOL VISIT PROGRAMME** on May 3. The event was aimed to generate some basic awareness about Japan and her culture. Around 250 students from Standard VIII and IX, who were present, also enjoyed the Videos and Fun Quiz on Japan that were a part of the Session.



Mr. Yasuhiko Tanaka, Deputy Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, inaugurating a **SHELTER HOME FOR STREET CHILDREN AND SCHEDULED CASTE CHILDREN AT PARBAKSHI VILLAGE IN HOWRAH**, on May 30. Under Japanese Government's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects Scheme (GGP), the NGO 'Chiranabin' received a Grant of USD \$67,345 for the project of construction of a single storey Shelter Home for Street Children and Scheduled Caste Children, in Parbakshi Village, West Bengal. The project is expected to directly benefit Scheduled Caste Children and Street Children with proper care, protection, treatment, nutritional service, education, social motivation and rehabilitation, in the supported building. Among other dignitaries, Ms. Jui Dutta, Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board, Howrah, and Mr. Sukumar Sau, General Secretary of Chiranabin, were present.



Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, Mr. Masayuki Taga, explaining about the different kinds of Rice Wine at the **JAPANESE RICE WINE TASTING**, held at the Official Residence of Consul General of Japan, in the evening of May 16. Dozens of guests enjoyed the different tastes and characteristics of 6 kinds of Japanese rice wine paired with a variety of delicious Japanese finger-food. A documentary video on Japanese Rice Wine variety and culture was presented during the event.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata)

CHENNAI



On April 26, Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama (center in the front row), made a visit to **ABK-AOTS Dosokai Tamilnadu Center** and interacted with Mr. M.R. Ranganathan, Chairman of ABK-AOTS Dosokai Tamilnadu Center (left in the front row), board members, Japanese language teachers and staffs of ABK-AOTS Dosokai Tamilnadu Center.



On May 2, Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, and Mrs. Uchiyama, attended a **Welcome Reception hosted by the Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IJCCI)**. In the photo are Ms. Suguna Ramamoorthy, Secretary-General of IJCCI, Mr. N. Murali, Chairman of IJCCI, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama and Mrs. Uchiyama, Mr. N. Kumar, President of IJCCI, and Mr. T.P. Imbichammad, Vice-President of IJCCI (from the left).



On May 3, Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, attended the **First Year Anniversary of JICA OPD Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children**. In the photo are Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, Principal Secretary to the Government, Health and Family Welfare, Tamil Nadu Govt., Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Dr. C. Vijayabaskar, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Tamil Nadu Govt., Mr. Toru Uemachi, Senior Representative of JICA INDIA, and Ms. Uma Maheswari, Project Director, Tamil Nadu Urban Health Project (from the left).



On May 24, Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, visited and had an **interaction with the personnel of KOBELCO and ISUZU plant** in Sri City, Integrated Business City.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Chennai)

MUMBAI



Mr. Ryoji Noda, Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, with **Mr. Ajoy Mehta, the BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) Commissioner**. The Consul General met with Mr. Mehta on March 6 for an exchange of ideas about various subjects, including the MTHL (Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link), and the deepening of relations between the sister cities of Mumbai and Yokohama.



Mr. Ryoji Noda, Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, welcomed the company Fujirebio to Mumbai on April 22, at a reception held at a hotel in Mumbai to celebrate the **opening of Fujirebio Inc.'s branch in Mumbai**. Fujirebio Inc. is a Japanese company that deals with the manufacturing and selling of clinical and pharmaceutical products. Around 60 representatives from various medical fields and hospitals attended this reception.



Mr. Ryoji Noda, Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, gave a speech at the **Tourism Seminar held on March 26, at the Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai**. Representatives from JNTO, ANA, JAL, JETRO, Yokohama - Mumbai office, Wakayama - Mumbai office and MTDC (Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation) also spoke about the different tourist trends at this seminar. Many members of the tourism and hotel industry were present at the seminar along with several members of the media.



Mr. Ryoji Noda, Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, with Mr. Mukesh Patel, President of Indo-Japan Friendship Association (IJFA), Gujarat, and Mr. Kenichi Takano, Director of JNTO - Delhi Office. The Consul General was the chief guest at **'Japan Calling', a tourism seminar** organized jointly by Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA), IJFA and JNTO. The seminar was held on April 30, at AMA complex in Ahmedabad.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai)

BENGALURU



Cosplay Walk 2018, held on March 18, was a huge success, with 60 cosplayers witnessed by over 400 spectators. People warmly welcomed the walk. Mr. Kitagawa, Consul General of Japan in Bengaluru, dressed as “Momotaro”, walked as the head of cosplayers.

(Photo: Manish Sinha [Manish Lenswork])



On April 21, **Karnataka Chamber of Commerce & Industry launched a Japanese language training course**, due to the rising demand of around 3,000 member companies. Mr. Kitagawa, Consul General of Japan in Bengaluru, delivered a speech at its opening ceremony.

(Photo: Consulate General of Japan in Bengaluru)



On April 30, **Cabinet Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, Mr. Seko, visited Bengaluru**. He met with business executives, visited NASCCOM and IIMB, and announced that the India-Japan Start up Centre will be established at JETRO office in Bengaluru with an additional Start up expert from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.



On May 10, **Nagarjuna Degree College launched a Japanese language training course** with support from Sakura India Foundation. Mr. Kitagawa, Consul General of Japan in Bengaluru, delivered a speech at its opening ceremony.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Bengaluru)

Exploring Japan: World Heritage

There are currently 21 world heritage sites in Japan, 17 cultural ones and 4 natural ones. The main characteristic of the world heritage sites in Japan is that many of them are supported by the country's diverse natural environment and its climate with four seasons, for which there are few equals in the world. There are also sites such as the Atomic Bomb Dome (Hiroshima Peace Memorial), which remind us of the history that should never be repeated.

To see more pictures or find information about travelling in Japan, visit the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) website <http://www.jnto.go.jp/>.



Nikko Toshogu Shrine [Tochigi Prefecture]

©JNTO



Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park [Yamanashi Prefecture]

©MOEJ (Ministry of the Environment, Japan)



Himeji Castle [Hyogo Prefecture]

©Himeji Convention & Visitors Bureau/©JNTO



Atomic Bomb Dome [Hiroshima]

©Hiroshima Convention & Visitors Bureau



Minamizaki (Ogasawara Islands) [Tokyo]

©Ogasawara Village Tourism Bureau/©JNTO



Shurijo Castle Park [Okinawa]

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CLICK ! JAPAN

PHOTO CONTEST EXHIBITION 2018

1st~30th August, 2018

at The Gallery, Japan Foundation, New Delhi
5A, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar-IV, Near Moolchand Metro Station
(Closed on Sundays & Public Holidays)



ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

16th Floor, Hindustan Times House
18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi 110 001
Tel: 4909-7000 Fax: 4909-7001 ~ 04
<http://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/>

Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

306, 3rd Floor, World Mark 2, Asset No. 8
Hospitality District, Aerocity
New Delhi 110 037
Tel: 4352-2900 Fax: 4352-2950
<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/about/new-delhi.html>

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

4th Floor, Eros Corporate Tower
Nehru Place,
New Delhi 110 019
Tel: 4168-3006 Fax: 4168-3003
<http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/jetro/worldwide/asia/>

The Japan Foundation New Delhi

5A, Ring Road,
Lajpat Nagar 4
Near Moolchand Metro Station
New Delhi 110 024
Tel: 2644-2968/69/71/72 Fax: 4172-9128
<http://www.jfindia.org.in/>

New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)

9th Floor,
Hotel Le Meridien Commercial Tower,
Raisina Road, New Delhi 110 001
Tel: 4351-0101 Fax: 4351-0102
http://www.nedo.go.jp/english/india_office_index.html

Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)

Tel: 011-4905 7650
Fax: 011-4905 7696
E-mail: info_del@jnto.go.jp
<http://www.jnto.go.jp/>

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Issued by:

- **Japan Information Centre, Embassy of Japan**, 50-G, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, **New Delhi-110021**, Ph: 24122970~73 Fax: 24106976.
- **Consulate General of Japan**, 55, M.N. Sen Lane, Tollygunge, **Kolkata-700040**, Tel: 24211970 Fax: 24211971.
- **Consulate General of Japan**, No. 12/1 Cenetoph Road, 1st Street, Teynampet, **Chennai-600018**, Tel: 24323860-3 Fax: 24323859.
- **Consulate General of Japan**, 1, M.L. Dahanukar Marg, Cumbala Hill, **Mumbai-400026**, Tel: 23517101 Fax: 23517120.
- **Consulate General of Japan**, 1st Floor, 'Prestige Nebula', 8-14, Cubbon Road, **Bengaluru-560001**, Tel: 40649999 Fax: 41660114.

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FOR SUBSCRIPTION OR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

For West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha: The Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata

For Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana: The Consulate General of Japan in Chennai

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