


Japan Calling

☐ A quarterly newsletter from the Embassy of Japan in India 



A glimpse of beautiful Origami artworks displayed on 19th September at the Ambassador's residence, on the occasion of "An Evening of Origami" to celebrate the conferment of Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2019 upon *Origami Oritai*.

(Photo: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

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Ambassador Suzuki's Message



I arrived in India on 1 November to take up my assignment as new Ambassador of Japan to India. This is my first time to be posted in this region, and it is an honour to represent my country in India, especially at a time when both countries are aiming to elevate strong bilateral relations to a higher level. India is an important and special strategic partner of Japan, and I am determined to make every effort to enhance the increasingly firm and friendly ties between our two countries.

Japan and India share the vision of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”, and are working together to realize this vision and to pursue the peace and prosperity of the region. In addition to security and defence cooperation, including the holding of the upcoming first-ever Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue (2+2), Japan and India are enhancing collaboration in other areas such as manufacturing, infrastructure, food processing, healthcare, IT and Start-ups. It is my strong wish to devote myself to further bolstering the already firm Japan-India partnership.

Moreover, I believe that cultural and people-to-people exchanges constitute the basis of bilateral relations. Along with the traditional Japanese culture such as Ikebana and Origami, new Japanese cultures are attracting people's attentions, including the animation film “Weathering With You” which was recently released in India. It is my hope that more people in India will embrace the opportunity to enjoy new and traditional Japanese arts and cultures. I would also like to work with friends of India and Japan to introduce Japanese language education and to promote tourism for further exchanges of people.

As Japan-India bilateral relations are advancing on to the next stage, I wish to express my unwavering commitment to strengthening the strategic partnership and the friendship between the two countries.

मैं आप लोगों के साथ काम करने की आशा करता हूँ।

November, 2019

Satoshi Suzuki
Ambassador-Designate of Japan to India

The Imphal Peace Museum Inaugurated on the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Imphal

On 22nd June, the Commemoration of Platinum Jubilee (75th) Anniversary of the Battle of Imphal, and the inauguration of the Imphal Peace Museum, was held in Manipur. Ambassador Hiramatsu, Shri N. Biren Singh, Hon. Chief Minister of Manipur, British High Commissioner Sir and Mrs. Asquith, and Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, along with the Japanese delegations from Delhi and Tokyo, attended the functions as well. The day proved to be significant in terms of the reconciliation among the Japanese, Manipuri, and British people.

For more information on the two events, please check https://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/00_000906.html.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Japan Self-Defense Forces Day 2019 Celebrated

On 27th June, a reception to celebrate the Japan Self-Defense Forces Day was held at the Japanese Ambassador's residence. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Hiramatsu underscored the robust progress in bilateral security cooperation between Japan and India. He highlighted some of those major achievements that Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Modi made at their annual summit meetings, such as the Japan-India-US trilateral Malabar Naval Exercise and defense equipment technology cooperation.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Ambassador Shyam Saran Receives the Imperial Decoration

On 30th July, a ceremony to felicitate Ambassador Shyam Saran, Former Foreign Secretary of India, upon receiving the Decoration of the *Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star*, was held at the Japanese Ambassador's residence. Ambassador Saran received the *Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star* in recognition of his contributions in strengthening the strategic relations and enhancing mutual understanding between Japan and India. Ambassador Hiramatsu, in his congratulatory remarks, acknowledged Ambassador Saran's contributions towards establishing the foundation of wide-ranging cooperative relations which outline today's Japan-India relationship. Ambassador Saran, in his acceptance speech, expressed his sincere gratitude to all officials and friends of the Government of Japan and India for their support until today. He also expressed his desire and determination to continuously contribute to further developing the Japan-India relationship.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Ambassador Hiramatsu Visits Tamil Nadu

Ambassador and Mrs. Hiramatsu visited the State of Tamil Nadu from 1st-3rd August. They visited Japanese affiliated companies, MC Craftsman Machinery Pvt Ltd. (MCCM) and Hirotec India Private Limited in Coimbatore, and Chamraj Tea Center in Ooty (Udhagamandalam), besides meeting Mr. Arunachalam Muruganatham, whose inspirational story led to the production of Hindi film "Padman". During the visit, Ambassador also delivered a lecture on Japan-India relations, including cooperation in the field of defence and security, at the Defence Service Staff College in Wellington.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Business Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs & Professionals Explored

On 12th July, the FLO (FICCI Ladies Organization) Business Meeting with JETRO and JCCII was held at the Japanese Ambassador's residence. More than sixty FLO members led by FLO President, Ms. Harjinder Kaur Talwar, interacted with speakers from JETRO and JCCII member companies. In his speech, Ambassador Hiramatsu expressed his sincere hope that this meeting will prove to be a great opportunity for further increasing FLO members' interest in Japan, and will contribute to significant expansion of business with Japan.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Embassy of Japan Holds Dialogue with the State of Rajasthan

On 28th August, the 3rd "Dialogue with States" was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. "Dialogue with States" is a series of dialogues organized through the partnership of FICCI's Forum of Parliamentarians and Embassy of Japan, aimed at highlighting various aspects of cooperation between Indian states and Japan.

At the 3rd dialogue, which was titled "Japan's Rendezvous with Rajasthan", Ambassador Hiramatsu gave a special address on the areas for extending cooperation between Japan and Rajasthan, to over a 100 distinguished guests including Mr. Sachin Pilot, Hon. Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

On the same day, Ambassador Hiramatsu called on Mr. Ashok Gehlot, Hon. Chief Minister of Rajasthan too, along with the representatives of Japanese companies from Neemrana.

For further information, please check

https://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/Japan-India-Relations/20190828_Ambassador's_Speech-Japan_Rajasthan_Cooperation.pdf.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

An Evening with Sake Returns in 2019

"An Evening with Japanese Sake 2019", a Japanese sake promotion event, was held at the Japanese Ambassador's residence, on 4th September. Nine sake brewers participated in the event from Japan and served a variety of sake including sparkling sake, plum sake, and shochu. Ms. Sae Haruta, who is Miss Sake 2019, also spread the charm of this drink, and many dignitaries enjoyed an evening of Japanese sake paired with Indian traditional cuisine.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Japan Working on Forest Conservation in India

On 9th September, Mr Ando, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan, attended the tree-planting event in Varanasi, conducted by OISCA. OISCA, an international NGO based in Japan, has been actively contributing to agricultural development and tree planting in India since the 1960s. As part of 'Clean Ganga' activities, OISCA planted trees at IWAI terminal in Varanasi, together with about 200 local citizens including students. Forests and trees are an indispensable part of our lives. Japan has been working on forest conservation activities in India as the largest donor in this important field.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Japan Commits to India's Water Challenges

Ambassador Hiramatsu joined the Plenary Session of 6th India Water Week (IWW). This year, Japan is the Partner Country of IWW. Ambassador Hiramatsu, in his remarks, mentioned that “water” lies at the base of the achievement of SDGs, linking solutions to sanitation, education, gender equity, food production, energy and disaster risk reduction, and expressed his sincere respect to Hon. Prime Minister Modi for being at the forefront of resolving difficulties in the water sector in India. Ambassador Hiramatsu also reiterated his personal commitment in tackling water-related issues, as one of the most important issues at hand.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Judo Mats (Tatami) Donated to Judo Federation of India

With a view to promoting Judo in India, the Japan Judo Federation contributed 196 tatami mats to the Judo Federation of India, under the 'Sport for Tomorrow' initiative. On 9th June, the handing-over ceremony was held at Baba Gang Nath Judo Academy in New Delhi, one of the seven recipients across India, and Embassy of Japan attended the ceremony on behalf of the Japan Judo Federation.

Japan, who will host Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, started the 'Sport for Tomorrow' initiative aimed at promoting sport to 10 million people in 100 countries, by 2020.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Rugby Balls Donated to Rugby India

Embassy of Japan, together with High Commissions/Embassies of Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Argentine, Georgia, and South Africa, donated rugby balls to Rugby India. On 14th June, the handing-over ceremony was held at the High Commission of the Republic of Fiji.

Minister Kenko Sone, who joined the ceremony, handed over the balls from Fushimi Club in Kyoto under the 'Sport for Tomorrow' initiative of Japan with the cooperation of JICA. He expressed his wish that, while promoting rugby in India, we will all keep in mind the spirit of 'No-Side' for developing friendship. Minister Sone also mentioned that Japan will host the Rugby World Cup later this year.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Sogetsu Ikebana Demonstration Appreciated

On 30th August, the Embassy of Japan and Sogetsu New Delhi Branch co-hosted the demonstration of Ikebana (Japanese traditional art of flower arrangement), conducted by Ms. Misei Ishikawa, Master Instructor of Sogetsu School, who came all the way from Japan. About 100 guests, who practise Ikebana or are keen to see the arrangement, gathered at the Ambassador's residence and admired the artworks of Ms. Ishikawa.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

An Evening of Origami Held to Felicitate Origami Oritai

On 19th September, “An Evening of Origami (Japanese traditional art of paper folding)” was held to celebrate the conferment of Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2019 upon *Origami Oritai*. Since its inception in 2009, *Origami Oritai* has been promoting Origami in India by teaching its members the Japanese art, as well as how to teach Origami to others, also by visiting many schools to teach Origami. All the guests appreciated *Oritai's* outstanding achievements, enjoyed the beautiful display of Origami presented by *Oritai* members, and experiencing the thrill of paper folding by themselves.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

The 3rd Japanese Film Festival (JFF) in India Starts

On 27th September, the 3rd JFF India started with the premier screening of “Weathering With You”. Ambassador and Mrs. Hiramatsu attended the opening ceremony and the screening, together with a full audience and Mr. Makoto Shinkai, Director of the film.

In his remarks, Ambassador Hiramatsu expressed that JFF India has great potential to grow into a platform to introduce diverse aspects of Japan, through the medium of Japanese films, to a much larger range of Indian audience.

JFF India is showing 25 of the most popular Japanese films in 7 cities across India until February 16, 2020. For more information, please check <https://www.facebook.com/JapaneseFilmFestivalIndia/>.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

KIZUNA 2019 Held

On 27th and 28th September, KIZUNA 2019, Jawaharlal Nehru University's annual Japanese cultural festival, was held and Ambassador Hiramatsu attended its inauguration. He appreciated the efforts made by the faculties and students of JNU in holding KIZUNA continuously since 2007. He also handed over gold medals to the two toppers, Mr. Arpit Shrivastava, BA in Japanese, and Ms. Shruti Thilakan, MA in Japanese.

After the inauguration, students from not only JNU but also other universities and institutions performed on stage by themselves, and enjoyed the Japanese drum performance by Delhi Wadaiko Group, Japanese food stalls (Yatai), among others.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Ambassador Hiramatsu Bids Farewell

On 22nd October, Ambassador and Mrs. Hiramatsu hosted a farewell reception at their residence on the completion of his mission in India. Dignitaries including Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon. Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, as well as those who helped Ambassador in expanding Japan-India relations during his tenure, gathered for this memorable night. Ambassador Hiramatsu expressed sincere gratitude for all the warm supports and special friendships extended to him during his term of almost 4 years, and articulated his wish for the further development of India.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Updates from Consulates

KOLKATA



On 15th July, Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, Mr. Masayuki Taga, hosted the **Conferment Ceremony for Prof. Pabitra Sarkar**, who is among the 2019 Spring Imperial Decorations recipients. He received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays in recognition of his contribution to promoting friendship, goodwill and mutual understanding between Japan and India.

(Photo: Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata)



Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India, addressing the audience on **'Japan-India: Areas of Cooperation with Special Focus on West Bengal'** at The Bengal Lounge, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) in Kolkata, on 10th August, while Mr. Masayuki Taga, Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, Mr. Indrajit Sen, the then President, BCC&I, Mr. Deb A. Mukherjee, the then Senior Vice President, BCC&I, with around 80 members of The Chamber, interacted in the session.

(Photo: Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry)



Inauguration Ceremony of a 3 Storied Vocational Training Centre was held in Hill Social Welfare Society (HSWS) by Deputy Consul General of the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata, Mr. Ken Nakamura, in the presence of Ms. Shova Chhetri, Secretary of HSWS, and Dr. Viswanath, District Magistrate, Kalimpong District, Government of West Bengal, on 30th July.

(Photo: Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata)



Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata and Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society (NKKS), in collaboration with Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, organized a **Calligraphy Workshop** on 31st August, at Ramakrishnananda Hall, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata. Calligraphy expert from Japan, Ms. Hiroko Nagahama, conducted the workshop.

(Photo: Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata)

CHENNAI



On 26th July, the Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, awarded **Consul General Award** to **Ms. Vimala Solomon, Director of Surya Nihongo Gakko** (second right), in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.



On 11th September, Children from Japanese School Educational Trust of Chennai visited **Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's Vessel, Asagiri**, at Port of Chennai.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Chennai)



On 29th September, Consulate-General of Japan in Chennai organized a **Japanese Language Speech and Haiku Contest** at ABK-AOTS Dosokai Tamilnadu Center.



On 11th October, Consulate-General of Japan in Chennai, along with ABK-AOTS Dosokai Tamil Nadu, organized the opening ceremony of **The Japan Foundation Traveling Exhibition – Contemporary Wood-Carved Netsuke**, at Lalit Kala Akademi Chennai. (Left: Mr. Sovan Kumar, Regional Director of Lalit Kala Akademi Chennai, Center: Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Consul-General of Japan in Chennai, Right: Mr. M.R. Ranganathan, Chairman of ABK-AOTS Dosokai, Tamilnadu Center)

(Photos: ABK-AOTS Dosokai Tamilnadu Center)

MUMBAI



In July, Mr. Michio Harada, Consul General, hosted a reception for commemorating the Imperial Succession in Japan at his residence. Among the approximately 150 guests were His Highness Samarjeetsinh Gaekwad, Maharaja of Vadodara, Mr. Parveen Pardeshi, Municipal Commissioner of BMC, Mrs. Mukta Tilak, Mayor of Pune, Mr. Raghu Mody, Chairman of Rasoi Group, various state government officials, business leaders, consular corps, and representatives from the Japanese community.



Consul General Harada had a courtesy meeting with Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Devendra Fadnavis, and Hon. Tourism Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Jayakumar Rawal, on 26th June. Consul General also had an opportunity to see the proceedings of the Assembly during the session period.



Consul General Harada joined the “India-Japan Business and Tourism Conclave” together with Mr. Nitinbhai Patel, Hon. Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Sujun Chinoy, Former Indian Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Mukesh Patel, President of Indo-Japan Friendship Association, Gujarat, and Prof. Ashok Kumar Chawla, Advisor (Japan) of Ministry of External Affairs, India, and other top Japanese business leaders. He also participated in the ceremony to provide “Nipponica”. A sakura tree was planted by distinguished Indians and Japanese businessmen.



Consul General Harada hosted “The First Sake Tasting Event” at his residence. Mr. Subhash Desai, Hon. Minister of Industry and Mines, Maharashtra State, Indian wine makers, restaurant owners and sommeliers, along with 150 guests, enjoyed more than 40 different kinds of Japanese Sake and delicious Japanese food. Several Japanese Sake breweries, including famous Sake maker Mr. Kato of “Born Sake”, 'Miss SAKE 2019' Ms. Sae Haruta, and Japan Sake and Shochu Makers Association from Japan, All Nippon Airways, JNTO, JETRO, Wakayama Prefecture and Yokohama City, participated in this Sake promotion event.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai)

BENGALURU



The Japanese Movie Month (June) was held from 4th to 28th June at the office of the Consulate General of Japan, Bengaluru, in collaboration with The Japan Foundation and Wasabi (an Indo-Japanese Volunteer Group). IQ1, an Asian fusion restaurant, catered to the event with the Banga Roll (Vegetarian sushi roll), which the viewers eagerly savored along with the movie. Gift bags containing bottles of Yakult, Luvlt chocolates and Japan Airlines fans were distributed as well.



Consul General of Japan in Bengaluru Mr. Takayuki Kitagawa attended the **Asia Leaders' Summit 2019**, which was held in Bengaluru on 1st July. The summit was a conference program where some of the most brilliant minds in start-up companies, entrepreneurs, and investors from around the world gathered for networking purposes.



A Japanese Movie Screening took place on 21st July at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. The Bangalore Nihongo Kyoushikai (BNK) helped facilitate the event. A speech from BNK's President Mrs. Srividhya Ananthapadmanabhan and the Deputy Consul General Mr. Katsumasa Maruo, respectively, kicked-off the event to an exciting start.



The 6th Japanese Speaking Event took place on 15th September at the Consul General's residence. A highlight of the occasion was that, the Hon. French Consul General Dr. Marjorie Vanbaelinghem (bottom left) was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Vanbaelinghem has achieved a JLPT N3 and graced the event with a wonderful Japanese speech to the eighty or so guests who participated. This marks a milestone in deepening diplomatic relations between France and Japan, and in continuing to encourage Japanese language learners in Bengaluru.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Bengaluru)

Exploring Japan: Click! Japan Photo Contest 2019

This year again, the Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation, New Delhi, co-organized The 'Click! Japan Photo Contest' supported by Canon India and Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) Delhi Office. On 6th September, the Prize Ceremony was held at the Ambassador's residence, Embassy of Japan. The top 10 contestants, whose entries were selected as the best ones among 505 photos, were invited to attend the ceremony.

As a special edition of 'Exploring Japan', we are showing you some photos of the prize ceremony as well as the top 10 winners' entries. Please enjoy!



Bond of Love

Saurabh Chaudhry (1st Prize Winner)



Tokyo's Neon City - Shinjuku

Rishabh Kandari (2nd Prize Winner)



Stunning Colours of Nature in Sakura

Ajay Kumar Airan (3rd Prize Winner)



Walk with Dignity

Alistair D'souza (Among Top 10 Winners)



Aozora: Where tradition blends with modernity

Mayur Shah (Among Top 10 Winners)



The five storied Pagoda

Aishwariya Rathod (Among Top 10 Winners)



Fujisawa Station

Satyam Mohla (Among Top 10 Winners)



Layer and Flavour of Japan

Mayur Panchamia (Among Top 10 Winners)



Osaka Night - Sakura

Pradeep V Gandhi (Among Top 10 Winners)



Autumn Festival Marvel

Imsurenla Longkumer (Among Top 10 Winners)

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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)

15th Floor, Hindustan Times House
18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught Place
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

For Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chhattisgarh and M.P.: The Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai

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For remaining states and territories: Japan Information Centre, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

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