

Japan Calling

🇯🇵 A quarterly newsletter from the Embassy of Japan in India 🇮🇳



On the occasion of the first **Japan-India 2+2 Ministerial Meeting** held in Delhi on 30th November, Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Foreign Minister, and Mr. KONO Taro, Defense Minister, with their Indian counterparts, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, and Mr. Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister.

(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)

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First Japan-India 2+2 Ministerial Meeting

On 30th November, the first Japan-India 2+2 Ministerial Meeting was held in Delhi. Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Foreign Minister, and Mr. KONO Taro, Defense Minister, attended from the Japanese side, and Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, and Mr. Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister, attended from the Indian side. They had a fruitful discussion on strategic and regional issues, and agreed to enhance security and defense cooperation towards a shared vision of a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo Pacific region. After the meeting, a Joint Statement (see page 3 and 4) was issued.

Apart from having a meeting with their respective counterparts, the two Ministers also paid a joint courtesy call upon Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India. In addition, Defense Minister Kono visited the Indian Air Force Station, where he received a situational briefing by the Indian Air Force and embarked the Su-30MKI fighter aircraft.



(Photos: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)



(Photos: Ministry of Defense, Japan)

Joint Statement

First Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting

30 November 2019

1. Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister of Defense of Japan, Mr. KONO Taro, External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, and Defence Minister of India, Mr. Rajnath Singh met on 30 November 2019 in New Delhi for the first Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting.
2. The Ministers affirmed that this dialogue will further enhance the strategic depth of bilateral security and defence cooperation. Acknowledging emerging security challenges, the Ministers reiterated their commitment to advancing bilateral security cooperation based on the 2008 Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation and the 2009 Action Plan to advance Security Cooperation. Recalling that the two sides had a shared vision of a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific region in which the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity are ensured, and all countries enjoy freedom of navigation and overflight, the Ministers emphasized that further strengthening of bilateral cooperation was in mutual interest of both countries and would also help in furthering the cause of the peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

(Bilateral Cooperation)

3. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in deepening bilateral defence cooperation last year. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that since last year India and Japan have initiated bilateral exercises between all three components of their defence forces. The Ministers shared the view to make continuous efforts for holding the bilateral exercises between the defence forces regularly and further expanding the same. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the recently conducted second "Dharma Guardian-2019" and the second "SHINYUU Maitri-2019". The Ministers also concurred to proceed with coordination for the first Japan-India joint fighter aircraft exercise in Japan.
4. The Ministers welcomed the significant progress made in the negotiations of Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) since the announcement to commence the negotiations in October 2018. The Ministers expressed their desire for early conclusion of the negotiations and were of the view that the agreement will further contribute to enhancing defence cooperation between the two sides.
5. Acknowledging the importance of ensuring maritime safety in achieving a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific, the Ministers expressed their intention to further promote cooperation in the field of capacity building in maritime security and Maritime Domain Awareness including through cooperation with other countries. In this context, the Ministers welcomed the setting up of Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) by India in December 2018. The Indian side looked forward to Japanese side dispatching a liaison officer at the IFC-IOR in the near future. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the commencement of exchange of information based on the Implementing Arrangement for Deeper Cooperation between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Indian Navy signed last year.
6. The Ministers emphasized the need to further strengthen the defence equipment and technology cooperation and looked forward to productive discussions in the fifth Joint Working Group on Defence Equipment and Technology Cooperation (JWG-DETC). In this context, the Ministers welcomed the progress on cooperative research in the area of Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV)/Robotics.
7. The Ministers appreciated the existing exchange programs between the defence educational and research institutions of the two countries and expressed their desire to continue and expand the exchange programmes.

(Multilateral Cooperation)

8. Recalling the Japan-India-US Summit Meetings in November 2018 and June 2019, the Ministers acknowledged the trilateral cooperation with the US. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at trilateral cooperation represented by the "MALABAR

2019" held from September-October 2019 off the coast of Japan, mine-countermeasures exercise (MINEX) held in Japan in July 2019 and "Cope India 2018" in which Japan participated as an observer in December 2018.

9. The Ministers welcomed the recent Japan-India-Australia-US Foreign Ministerial consultations in New York in September 2019.

(Regional and International Affairs)

10. The Ministers had a frank and fruitful exchange of views on the regional issues of mutual interests particularly on the security situation in the Indo-Pacific.
11. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of supporting ASEAN centrality and unity for promoting peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)" during the 34th ASEAN Summit in Thailand in June 2019. The Ministers expressed their commitment to working together with ASEAN for achieving their shared objectives. The Ministers also reiterated their support for ASEAN-led frameworks such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus).
12. The Japanese side appreciated India's announcement of "Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative" at the recent 14th EAS to create a safe, secure, stable, prosperous and sustainable maritime domain and confirmed their willingness to discuss concrete cooperation based on the Initiative. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that India and Japan's initiatives for realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific, including also the recent "Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative" and AOIP all strive for an Indo-Pacific region that is inclusive and open to all countries in the region. The Indian side welcomed Japan's "Vientiane Vision 2.0" in November 2019 as an updated initiative for defence cooperation between Japan and ASEAN.
13. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of realizing North Korea's complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) and expressed their commitment to the full implementation of the relevant UNSCRs. The Ministers condemned North Korea's recent launches of ballistic missiles which are clear violation of the relevant UNSCRs. The Ministers strongly urged North Korea to resolve the abductions issue at the earliest date.
14. The Ministers exchanged views on the recent developments in the South China Sea keeping in view also the Chairman's Statement of the 14th EAS. In this context, the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce and peaceful resolution of disputes with full respect for legal and diplomatic processes in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including those reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Ministers also took note of the negotiations of a Code of Conduct (COC) and urged that it should be effective, substantive, and consistent with international law, including the UNCLOS, ensure freedom of navigation and must not prejudice the rights and interests of the stakeholders using the South China Sea and freedoms of all states under international law.
15. The Ministers condemned in the strongest terms the growing threat of terrorism and acknowledged that it constituted a major threat to peace and security in the region. The Ministers called upon all countries take resolute action in rooting out terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, disrupting terrorist networks and eliminating financing channels and halting cross-border movement of terrorists. The Ministers underlined the need for all countries to ensure that all territory under their control is not used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries in any manner. They noted in this context the threat posed to regional security by terrorist networks operating out of Pakistan and called upon it to take resolute and irreversible action against them and fully comply with international commitments including to FATF. The Ministers emphasised the need for stronger international partnership in countering terrorism and violent extremism, including through increased sharing of information and intelligence.
16. The Ministers shared recognition on the importance of continuing exchange of opinions in light of the success of this 2+2 Ministerial Meeting, and decided to hold the next 2+2 Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo.

30 November 2019

New Delhi

Second JASDF-IAF Bilateral Exercise - SHINYUU MAITRI 19

Japan Air Self-Defense Force and Indian Air Force conducted the second bilateral exercise “SHINYUU-MAITRI 19” at Air Force Station Arjan Singh in West Bengal, from 17th to 23rd October.

JASDF C-130H transport aircraft joined the exercise with C-130J transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force. The two forces conducted formation training, drop training and assault landing training, so that they can improve their air transport capability as well as deepen mutual trust and understanding.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Second JGSDF-Indian Army Joint Exercise - DHARMA GUARDIAN 2019

On 31st October, the second joint exercise between Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) and Indian Army, which commenced from 19th October, was completed at the Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School (CIJW), Mizoram.

During the exercise, contingents of the two countries conducted various kinds of trainings, such as establishing mobile check post and searching and restraining terrorists.

General Yuasa, the Chief of Staff - JGSDF, observed the validation exercise, which was the last session of the exercise, and attended the closing ceremony.

Through this exercise, contingents of Japan and India enhanced mutual operability in counter terrorism operations.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Table Top Exercise on Quad Counter Terrorism TTX

On 21st and 22nd November, officials from the Quad countries, namely, Japan, Australia, India and the United States, had a two-day table top exercise on counter terrorism operations.

Participants shared their best practices so that the four countries can work closely together during crisis situations. This was the first instance of concrete cooperation of the Quad framework.



(Photo: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Ambassador Suzuki's Interaction with FICCI's Forum of Parliamentarians

On 4th December, Ambassador SUZUKI Satoshi joined a breakfast interaction, titled “India and Japan: Vision for Enhancing Strategic Partnership”, organized by FICCI's Forum of Parliamentarians. Thirteen Members of Parliament, including Mr. Bhupender Yadav (Chair of the Forum) and Ms. Poonam Mahajan (Co-Chair), attended the event along with other distinguished guests. The MPs and Ambassador had lively discussions, highlighting vast opportunities for cooperation between Japan and India.

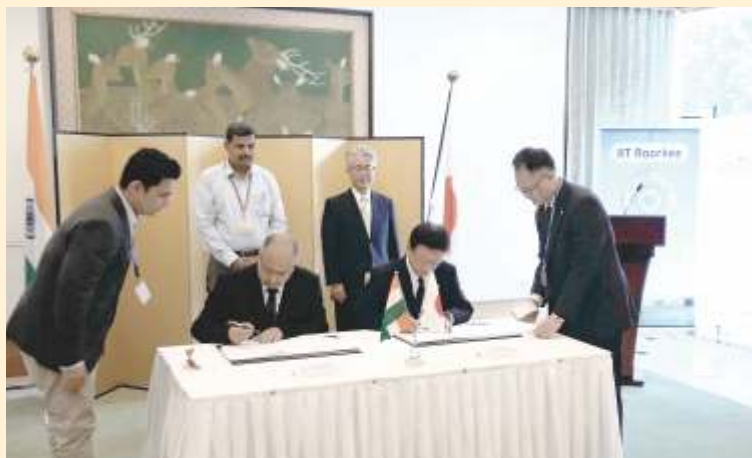


(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Joint Research in the Field of Earthquake Disaster Prevention

On 7th November, Ambassador Suzuki hosted the Signing Ceremony for the Agreement on Joint Research in the field of Earthquake Disaster Prevention between Fujita Corporation, a Japanese construction company, and Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT-R), at his residence.

In the ceremony, the agreement was signed by Mr. KUMITA Yoshinori, Executive Director of Fujita Technology Center, and Dr. Pankaj Agarwal, the Head of Department of Earthquake Engineering of IIT-R. Ambassador Suzuki witnessed the ceremony, together with Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Additional Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority, India. In his congratulatory remarks, he reiterated that this joint research is definitely a valuable step forward in realizing a concrete achievement in the cooperation on disaster risk reduction between Japan and India.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Launch Event of Japanese Whiskey

On 17th December, Mr. ANDO Toshihide, Deputy Chief of Mission, participated in and celebrated the launch event of Japanese Whiskey by Suntory, a comprehensive liquor, beverage and food brand having a history of over 100 years, and one of the top selling food companies in Japan.

India is the world's largest whiskey consumer with a high potential. The presence of Japanese companies like Suntory can communicate the richness of Japanese food culture, and the Embassy of Japan is making efforts to popularize them, including Japanese food and sake, in India, cementing our friendship even further.

The Embassy of Japan will continue to support Japanese companies in this important sector.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Ambassador Suzuki's Visit to the State of Punjab

On 5th December, Ambassador Suzuki participated in the Progressive Punjab Investors Summit 2019, in Chandigarh, organized by the State Government of Punjab. In his keynote speech, he introduced Japanese companies playing a big role in the State, and expressed his expectations for further cooperation between the State and Japan.

After his session in the Investors' Summit, Ambassador Suzuki called on H.E. Captain Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab. They had a fruitful discussion on how to promote Japanese companies' business in Punjab.

The Embassy of Japan supports Japanese companies' activities in Punjab.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

18th Annual Inter-School Origami Competition

On 1st November, Tagore International School and Embassy of Japan held the prize distribution ceremony for the winners of the 18th Annual Inter-School Origami Competition.

This year, about 360 school children/teachers from 36 schools in Delhi/NCR area took part in the competition. They gathered at Tagore International School on 15th October and created their original artworks under the given theme.

Embassy of Japan would like to congratulate all the winners, and looks forward to seeing more artworks next year.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

32nd North Zone Japanese Language Speech Contest

On 19th October, the 32nd North Zone Japanese Language Speech Contest was held by MOSAI (Mombusho Scholars Association of India), at JNU. The Embassy of Japan supported the event.

In his remarks as the chief guest, Mr. Ando, Deputy Chief of Mission, appreciated the efforts made by all the contestants to participate in the event and encouraged them to further continue to learn Japanese language and culture, in order to become a bridge between India and Japan.

Among 22 contestants from universities and Language institutions, three winners in the Junior and Senior categories will proceed to the final contest, to be held in March 2020.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Friendship between the People of Meghalaya and Japan

On 20th November, Mr. Ando, Deputy Chief of Mission, attended the Sakura (Japanese cherry) tree-planting ceremony in Shillong, the State of Meghalaya, which is famous for its local cherry blossoms blooming in November. The event was conducted by Asian Confluence, a Shillong-based think tank, and Ikuokai, a NPO based in Japan, which has planted Japanese cherry trees around the world since 2002. Joining about 200 local people at the ceremony, Mr. Ando expressed the hope that Sakura trees planted today would eventually grow up to bloom as a beautiful symbol of the friendship between the two people.

Mr. Ando also visited the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) on 21st November to meet the students and faculties, to talk about Japan-India Relations in the Indo-Pacific and Beyond.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Indian Youths' Visit to Japan under JENESYS 2019

From 19th to 26th November, the Government of Japan, in cooperation with AFS India, invited 76 Indian students and youths to Japan, under the JENESYS short-term invitation programme.

The 76 students and youths, split in four groups, i.e., Sports Exchange (Rugby), Environmental Technology Exchange, Japanese Communication and Cultural Exchange (A) and (B), visited Tokyo and local cities to experience Japanese Culture and Technology through exchange programs and home stays.

Please see some glimpses of their experiences in Japan. We look forward to seeing more Indian students and youths experiencing Japan under this program in future.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Rugby Clinic and Donation Ceremony of Rugby Balls

On 23rd November, the Rugby Clinic and Donation ceremony of Rugby balls were held by the Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU), at Netaji Subhash Sports Complex, Jasola Vihar, New Delhi. With a view to promoting Rugby in India, Mr. MUKOYAMA Masatoshi, the Japan Rugby Football Union, Prof. KAWAI Keiji, Doshisha University, Mr. SOGABE Yoshinori, Yamaha Motor Co. Ltd., several members of Delhi Rugby Boys, and 4 Indian rugby teams in Delhi, joined this event. In addition, NPO Fushimi club has contributed 84 Rugby balls to the four rugby teams in Delhi, under the 'Sport for Tomorrow' initiative of Japan. Many of the participants expressed their great thanks to Japanese instructors for teaching Rugby. On this occasion, we hope to achieve a better understanding of each other's culture through Rugby. We also express our thanks to Mr. UEMACHI Toru from JICA, who organized this event.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Study in Japan Seminar

On 3rd December, Ambassador Suzuki and Japan Airlines co-hosted the 'Study in Japan Seminar' at Ambassador's residence, inviting about 80 teachers from middle schools, high schools and universities in Delhi/NCR area. The purpose of the seminar was to facilitate understanding of the teachers, who are in a position to give advice to their students on what is expected from the experience of studying in Japan.

In his remarks, Ambassador Suzuki emphasized the importance of further expanding people-to-people exchanges in areas including education, which will further consolidate the partnership between India and Japan.

The University of Tokyo, Ritsumeikan University, Japan Foundation, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Japanese Language Teachers' Association (JALSTA), and Japan Airlines, also explained about their schemes and other efforts in order for more students to become interested in studying in Japan.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Updates from Consulates

KOLKATA



A group of four young and talented drummers opened the **Japan Utsav** on 3rd November. The one-day event was organised by Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata, and supported by The Japanese Association of Commerce and Industry in Kolkata and Japan National Tourism Organisation (JNTO). The audience got a good opportunity to experience an array of Japanese culture - ranging from Taiko & Koto, Ikebana, Martial Arts and Cosplay to Screening of Video Clips on Japan, Japan Tourism Presentation by JNTO, J-Pop Performance, Calligraphy, Origami and Way of Tea. The event was concluded with "Kolkata Ondo" dancing led by Japanese residents of Kolkata.



Consul General of Japan in Kolkata Mr. TAGA Masayuki on the dais at the inaugural session of **Bengal Business Conclave**, along with Chief Minister of West Bengal, other distinguished Ministers of the State, participants from 20 countries, and prominent business captains. The mega business convention was held on 11th and 12th December, at the New Convention Centre, New Digha beach town of West Bengal.



Consul General Taga with Mr. Suresh Kumar Panda, Director of Arun Institute of Rural Affairs (AIRA), signed the Grant Contract at the Residence of Consul General of Japan, on 6th November. The grant amount of US\$ 99,640 disbursed under the Government of Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP) Scheme, will be utilized by the organisation to implement **"The Project for the Residential Facility for Tribal Girl Students of Prabasini Educational Complex of AIRA in Kankadahad, Dhenkanal, Odisha"**, where a hostel building for around 180 tribal girl students of the school will be constructed.



Japan Cultural Envoy Prof. Jun Mitani teaching Origami, the Japanese art of paper folding, at an interactive session held on 23rd November, at Kolkata Centre for Creativity. The event titled **Computational Origami**, organised by Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata and Kolkata Centre for Creativity, in collaboration with Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan, witnessed the unique design methods underlying 3D creations, which are derived from computation. Two separate sessions were organised - one for engineering students and the other for art lovers.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata)

CHENNAI



On 3rd November, Consul General of Japan in Chennai Mr. UCHIYAMA Kojiro presented the **Consul General Commendation** to **Dr. Syed Mohammed Siddig Mahmoodi**, Founder of Golden Dragons School of Martial Arts in Hyderabad.



Consul General Uchiyama with the participants of **OISCA Global Youth Forum 2019**, at Guru Nanak College in Chennai, on 5th December.



Consul General Uchiyama presenting the grant cheque to Mr. M. Thippeswamy, Chairperson of Rural Development Trust (RDT), under the **Japanese Grant for Grassroots Projects** for “the Project for Installation of Medical Equipment for the Hospitals in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh”, held at the Consulate General of Japan in Chennai, on 11th December.



On 12th December, Consul General Mr. Uchiyama made a speech at the celebration event for the **inauguration of the All Nippon Airways (ANA) direct flight between Chennai and Tokyo**, at Taj Coromandel Hotel, Chennai.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Chennai)

MUMBAI



Consul General of Japan in Mumbai Mr. HARADA Michio has been **meeting eminent Indian business leaders**. On 18th December, he hosted lunch for Mr. Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Group, at his residence. They discussed the economic relations between India and Japan. On 24th October, Mr. Praveen Pardeshi, Municipal Commissioner, together with Mr. R.A. Rajeev, MMRDA Commissioner, joined him for dinner at his residence.



Consul General Harada hosted a **Garden Reception** at his residence on 10th November, to promote business, economic and cultural exchanges between Japan and India, and tourism to Japan. Around 130 guests, including Indian VIP business and financial leaders and Bollywood stars enjoyed delicious Japanese food, sake and barbeque. On the special occasion of the parade of the New Emperor and Empress that was held on the same day in Japan, he encouraged promotion of tourism for Tokyo Olympics 2020 and the strengthening of bilateral ties between India and Japan.



On 11th December, Consul General Harada hosted the **Japan-India IT and Ventures Dialogue dinner** at his residence for the leaders of various IT and Venture Companies, like Mr. Vineet Patni, Charter Member, Chair - TiECON and Futuretech, Mr. Abhishek Krishna, Joint CEO – IT, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), Mr. Kiran Deshpande, Outgoing President – TiE Pune, and Mr. Funatsumaru, President of Japanese Association, the Chief of Mumbai Bureau of Nikkei, and the Director-General of JETRO. This was the first dialogue event, with various Japanese and Indian IT and venture companies participating.



Consul General Harada attended the **signing ceremony of a project in Nagpur** in November, as well as an **inauguration ceremony of another Grant for Grassroots Project in Mumbai** in October last year. On 4th November, Consul General Harada, with Mr. Dilip Gupta, Chairman of Swami Vivekanand Medical Mission, and the attendance of around 70 board of directors and staff from the organization, signed a Grant Contract for the “Project for the Provision of Neurosurgery Microscope in Nagpur District”. On 31st October, he inaugurated the “Project for the Provision of Medical Equipment for Retinopathy of Prematurity in Mumbai City” at the Free Ophthalmic Hospitals Society's K.B. Haji Bachooali Charitable Ophthalmic and E.N.T. Hospital, in the presence of Mr. Dilip Vora, trustee, and 50 attendees.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai)

BENGALURU



The **7th Japanese Speaking Event** took place on 17th November, at the Consul General's residence, in which nearly 180 Japanese nationals and students in Bengaluru participated. A highlight of the event was that, it marked the 20th anniversary of the Japanese choir "Royal Echo", whose performance of classical Japanese pop songs kept the crowd enthralled. In her speech, Ms. Srividhya, Chairman of BNK (Bangalore Nihongo Kyooshi-kai) encouraged the Japanese learners in the gathering, and Mr. Hiroyuki Tamaki, Managing Director of Sony India Software Centre, spoke of the importance of knowing Japanese in the workspace.



Consul General of Japan in Bengaluru Mr. KITAGAWA Takayuki, Mr. WATANABE Kenichi of Nomura Holdings, Mr. HIRABAYASHI Hiroshi of FEC, along with other Japanese delegates, **had a meeting with the Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr. B.S. Yediyurappa** and other important Karnataka State delegates, on 8th November. Discussions were held regarding the Japanese Industrial Township in Tumkur and the solutions that the State Government could implement for investor companies in general.



The **3rd Japanese Food Festival** was held on 24th November, at the Shangri-La Hotel. The highlight of the event was that, the Honourable French Consul-General Dr. Marjorie Vanbaelinghem was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Vanbaelinghem graced the gathering with a wonderful speech addressing a strong crowd of 3000 participants. It was a huge success, featuring 30 participating stalls, with a sashimi demonstration by the Head Chef of Yatai, the Japanese restaurant at the Hotel.



The **Japanese Film Festival in Bengaluru** was held for 10 days, from 6th to 15th December, in association with the Japan Foundation and PVR Cinemas, with the support of the Consulate General of Japan in Bengaluru. Consul General Kitagawa attended the screening of the first movie, "Kimi No Na Wa (Your Name)", which alone garnered 600 viewers. The event was an overall success with 6104 viewers, and 11 screens registering a full-house.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Bengaluru)

Exploring Japan: Experience the Magic of Sakura

Cherry blossoms, known in Japan as sakura, are well known around the world for their radiant, delicate, and transient beauty. Adding to their magic and mystique, the sakura are usually only in full bloom for around one week. This magical moment can occur between March to early May, and the Japanese love to celebrate and cherish the cherry blossoms by holding 'flower watching' parties known as hanami. You simply cannot travel to Japan in spring without appreciating the beauty of the sakura and experiencing a hanami party for yourself!

We are sharing with you a few photos depicting sakura, chosen from among the entries to THE CLICK! JAPAN PHOTO CONTEST 2019 held last year. (Please see November 2019 issue of Japan Calling.)



When spring blossoms

Abhiraj Singh (Contest Participant)



Majestic Mount Fuji

Monika Mehta (Contest Participant)



Beautiful colours of Sakura at Himeji Castle

Nandita Kapasi (Contest Participant)



Hanami

Rashmi Menon (Contest Participant)



A breath-taking reflection

S. Santosh Jeevan (Contest Participant)



Sakura, Tokyo

Sateesh Dingankar (Contest Participant)

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