

# RISE

MONTHLY JOURNAL FROM JAPAN



## 70TH ANNIVERSARY JAPAN - INDIA FRIENDLY RELATIONS

EXCLUSIVE EDITION



Dear Reader,

The year 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of India-Japan diplomatic relations. I am pleased that it will be celebrated together with the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

Strengthened through 70 years of multi-layered interactions since 1952, the relationship between our countries has evolved into the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership." The foundation lies in the long history of cultural exchange between our countries, starting with the advent of Buddhism in Japan in the sixth century. I firmly believe that it is essential for the present generation to continue to make efforts for further nurturing the partnership between our two countries. The best way to do so is through people-to-people exchanges, to visit the places in person, experience the culture, and embrace the people, history and climate of the place.

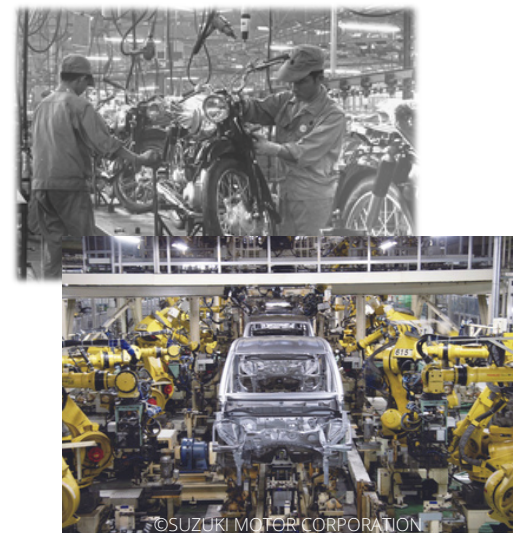
Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic is impeding traffic between our two countries. In such challenging times, RISE initiated its journey to counter this trend. I would like to express my heartfelt respect and gratitude to RISE for making the effort of introducing Japan's attractive destinations and culture, despite such adverse conditions. It is commendable. Following RISE's aspiration, I would like to promote the charms of Japan's beauty in preparation for the day when unrestricted travel is made possible again.

It is frequently heard that people from India often travel the "Golden Route," which covers Tokyo, Hakone, Mt. Fuji, Kyoto, Osaka and Hiroshima. Hamamatsu, my birthplace is located along this route. Hamamatsu is blessed with a mild climate and bountiful nature including Lake Hamana. There is an iconic fort where Shogun TOKUGAWA Ieyasu began his expedition, ending the Warring States period in the 16th Century and building the subsequent era of peace. However, I would like to tell you another story.

There is no doubt that you all know names of HONDA, SUZUKI, TOYOTA and YAMAHA as some of famous Japanese manufacturing companies, making significant contributions to "Make in India." How about HONDA Soichiro, SUZUKI Michio, TOYODA (TOYOTA) Sakichi, and YAMAHA Torakusu? As you might expect, they are the founders of the above-mentioned companies. Surprisingly, all of these founders were associated with Hamamatsu. The list also includes Dr. TAKAYANAGI Kenjiro, the first person in the world to conduct the successful experiment of practical electronic television with the electronic scanning method in 1926 and is also called the "Father of Television" in Japan. These stalwarts built the spirit of today's Japanese manufacturing industry with their enterprising spirit and perseverance, at a time when everything was in short supply, unlike today. Their spirit of ingenuity was same as that of "Jugaad" in India. In Hamamatsu, there are places where you can trace the journey and footsteps of these pioneers through valuable artefacts and materials. Hamamatsu also has the maintenance facility for the bullet trains. The technologies of such trains are to be used for MAHSR (Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail). In this year of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav," it may be a good idea to reflect upon the common spirit of India and Japan and navigate for a better tomorrow, inspired by Hamamatsu.

The 70th anniversary will be commemorated by several events. Through these opportunities, I would like as many Indians as possible to know more about and become familiar with Japan. I also hope that better circumstances will enable unrestricted travel and interaction between Japan and India in this special year of 2022.

SUZUKI Satoshi  
Ambassador of Japan to India



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MR. TOKIO HASEGAWA



# INDIA-JAPAN CONNECTION: MITHILA MUSEUM, TOKAMACHI, NIIGATA

BY MITHILA MUSEUM, JAPAN

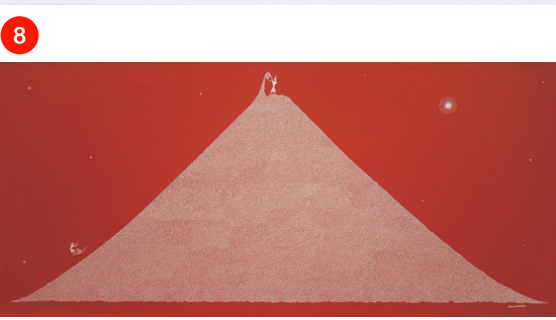
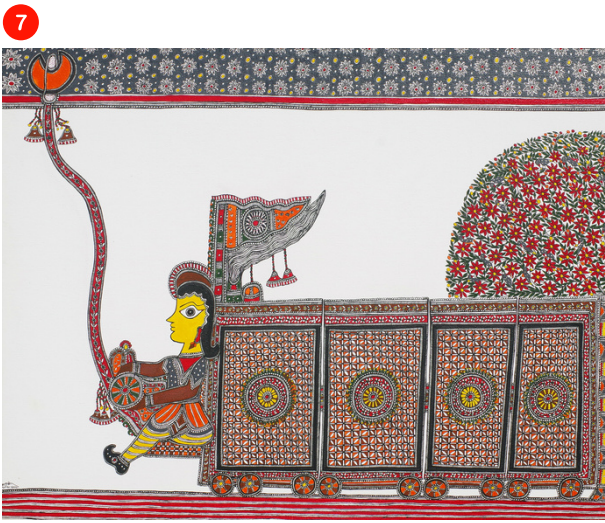
In the village of Oike, about a 15-minute drive from the city center of Tokamachi, Niigata Prefecture, there is an art museum that was built in an abandoned elementary school. The museum, which is housed in an atmospheric wooden school building and gymnasium of the time, is called "Mithila Museum". The museum has a collection of Indian folk art, including Mithila paintings, which are famous in the Indian state of Bihar, as well as Warli paintings, Gond paintings, and terra cotta, some of which are on permanent display. It is not unusual in today's Japan, where there are calls for regional revitalization, for art museums, exchange facilities, and town revitalization to utilize abandoned school buildings, but this museum opened in 1982. It is even more surprising that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the museum's opening in this region, where

nearly 4 meters of snow falls each winter. It is even more surprising that most of the large works in the museum's collection were not created in India, but by local artists who came to Japan. The collection includes works by Ganga Devi and Godawari Dutta, both masters of Mithila painting, Jivya Soma Mashe of Warli painting, and Jangarh Shingh Shyam of Gond painting. In 2018, Bihar (population 130 million) Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said, "An oasis of traditional Bihar painting, a treasure house, is located in Tokamachi city, Japan." In addition, the book "Naaz-E-Mithila Painting" published in Bihar in 2021, Tokio Hasegawa, the director of the museum, was mentioned under the title "Hero of Madhubani Painting".

As mentioned earlier that many artists

have produced excellent works, but I can say that they are not the result of artist-in-residence programs in Japan, but are largely due to the influence of the museum's director, Mr. Hasegawa. He was born in downtown Tokyo and is a fourteenth generation Edo (present-day Tokyo) native. He is an avant-garde musician and worked with Takehisa Kosugi and others in the Taj Mahal Travelers. He worked in an attempt to create new music, freely, without being bound by existing music. He performed daily for three months at the "Paris Commune Centennial, Utopia & Visions" exhibition at the Stockholm Museum of Modern Art. After performing in Europe, he moved to Tokamachi city, Niigata Prefecture at the age of 24. Sharpening his sensibility in response to the great outdoors, he set out to create a world-standard art and culture,

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while keeping the Japanese view of the universe as the basis of his work. In the course of maintaining the Mithila Museum of Art and his efforts in cultural activities for Japan-India exchange, he has expressed to society the importance of deep communication with nature and the cosmos.

He was the assistant director general of "The Festival of India in 1988", he has held exhibitions introducing Mithila paintings not only in major metropolitan areas, but also throughout the country. At these venues, local artists were invited to create public works and interact with local residents. Since then, many artists have visited Japan. The artists who have come to Japan have responded to the director's view of the universe and lifestyle, and many wonderful works of art have been created. It is because of the encounter

with the Mithila Museum and its director that the wonderful and highest quality works have been created and protected at the Mithila Museum.

In addition to his museum activities, Mr. Hasegawa is one of the leading figures in Japan in the field of Japan-India cultural exchange. In 1993, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized "Namaste India," an event to learn about India in its entirety, believing that knowing and liking the culture of the other country is important for economic exchange. Mr. Hasegawa was involved from that first event. In 2005, the NPO Society to Promote India-Japan Cultural Relations, of which Mr. Hasegawa is a director, took over the event and has grown the festival over the past quarter century to become one of the largest Indian festival outside of India, attracting

200,000 participants over two days. He also coordinates the dance and music troupes sent to Japan by ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) during their stay in Japan, introducing Indian culture to every corner of the country. In the 2007 Japan-India Year of Exchange, 25 dance and music groups, mainly groups dispatched by the ICCR, gave 162 performances throughout Japan, and were awarded the Japan-India Year of Exchange Prize by the Government of India. Bodhisena succession programs at Todaiji and Daianji temples have been held 10 times so far.

We should not forget that Mr. Hasegawa has been living a vegetarian lifestyle for more than 50 years. Tokamachi city has wonderful hot spring facilities, as well as inns and restaurants that can accommodate vegans with advance notice.

Photo Captions

1. Title: Tree of Surya Mukhi  
Author: Ganga Devi  
1990 / Concrete pseudo-wall/ 281 x 190.5cm
2. Title: Trishula  
Author: Godawari Dutta  
1994 /Concrete pseudo-wall/ 356.0cm×117.4cm
3. Title: Plane  
Author: Jangarh Shingh Shyam  
1999 /Concrete pseudo-wall/ 99.0cm×170.0cm
4. Title: Chakra  
Author: Godawari Dutta  
1990/Concrete pseudo-wall/190 x 190cm
5. Title: Marriage Ceremony in Village  
Author: Jivya Soma Mashe  
1994 / Veneer pseudo-wall / 179×284 cm
6. Title: Lion Eating a Young Moon  
Author: Ganga Devi  
1990 / Paper / 26 x 32cm
7. Title: Train being pulled by the moon  
Author: Bauwa Devi  
2008 / Canvas / 73cm×91cm
8. Title: Kansari Devi  
Author: Shantaram Ghorkhana  
2004 / Canvas / 140 x 305cm



**Photo credit: Mithila Museum**





## JAPAN-INDIA DIPLOMATIC TIES AND BEYOND

BY SHARAD SHARMA - NIPPON TAIYO HOSPITALITY

The year 2022 is being observed as the 70th Year of Japan - India Diplomatic Relations, but the relationship between both nations goes beyond diplomacy. Both countries have a long history of spiritual and cultural/civilization ties. The earliest documented direct contact with Japan was with the Todaiji Temple in Nara, where the blessing of the statue of Lord Buddha was performed by an Indian monk, Bodhisena, in 752 AD. It has now been over 1400 years of India-Japan relations. Different incidents have been recorded in history; the two countries have never been adversaries.

The last century played an essential role

in shaping modern-day relations between Japan and India. Legends from India, Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, JRD Tata, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, and Judge Radha Binod Pal, held a special place in Japanese people's thoughts and were responsible for laying a solid foundation. In 1903, the Japan-India Association was set up and was the oldest international friendly association in Japan.

Japan and India have built upon a unique relationship by harnessing values and principles. India is the largest democracy in Asia, and Japan is

a leader in the technology space. Over the years, Japan has created global brands that have worked to improve lives.

After diplomatic ties were established between Japan and India, several high-level exchanges took place, including Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi's visit to India in 1957 and Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru's return visit to Tokyo the same year. He gifted two elephants as a mark of friendship.

On the economic front, Suzuki Motors' investment in India in 1980 led to the

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automotive revolution in India. It brought along advanced technology and Japanese management skills. The Five S management style has been well received in Indian manufacturing. 5S stands for Seiri, Seiton, Seiso, Seiketsu, and Shitsuke, meaning organize, orderliness, cleanliness, standardization, and discipline, respectively.

The 21st century witnessed a new era of diplomatic ties that started under Prime Minister Mr. Mori in 2000 and later took it to the next level under Mr. Abe and Dr. Manmohan Singh. Mr. Abe was also the chief guest during Republic Day celebrations in 2014. Post-2014, under the leadership of Mr. Narendra Modi and Mr. Abe, India and Japan have signed many new bilateral agreements. The announcement of E-Visa on Arrival for Japanese nationals, and Varanasi and

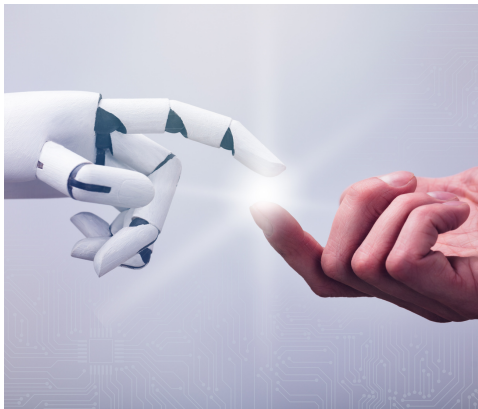
Kyoto signed the partnership agreement. A "Japan-India Make in India Special Finance Facility" was also established under this leadership.

The Indian community in Japan has also played an important role in weaving the economic or diplomatic fabric. They are the flag bearers and have preserved Indian traditions, values, and culture in a faraway land. In 1870, Japan witnessed the arrival of Indians at two major ports, Yokohama and Kobe. During World Wars I and II, more Indians arrived in Japan. They started trading textiles, commodities, gems, and jewellery, and electronics. In recent years, Indians have been migrating to Japan for jobs in information and technology, finance, education, the food industry, and research. The solid Indian community has established a Gurudwara in Kobe

and an ISKON temple in Tokyo. They also opened the first Indian sweet shop in Tokyo. Many Indian restaurants in Japan have given Indian flavors a new recognition.

While here in India, we have witnessed substantial growth in the Japanese community. With the arrival of Japanese companies in India, many Japanese expats have joined the workforce. Over the years, Japanese-style hotels have opened in Gurugram and Ahmedabad to serve Japanese nationals living in India. And Japanese cuisine has found a special place in the Indian palate. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, and Ahmedabad have witnessed the opening of authentic Japanese restaurants.

We hope that this relationship will become more assertive in years to come. Arigato.



## JAPAN-INDIA TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE

BY SANDIP P. DHURAT - FOUNDER, SPD INNOVATIVE

Japan has remained a frontrunner in high technology and innovation. Japan has mainstreamed Society 5.0 in its political agenda with a focus on digital technologies including big data analytics, AI, internet of things (IoT), and robotics. To this end, Tokyo has elevated its science and technology budget to \$38 billion in 2019.

Global Partnership of Artificial Intelligence backs cutting-edge research on artificial intelligence (AI); and a Quad Tech Network facilitates research on emerging tech challenges beyond the government to government (G2G) level. This coalition and cooperation are of higher importance during today's times.

Maintaining an edge in innovation, augmenting research and development (R&D) into emerging technologies, moderating technology transfer, and protecting intellectual property are

vitaly important. Japan's National Security Council has instituted an economic team to deal with these tech challenges. A recent survey conducted by Kyodo suggested that over 40 percent of Japanese technology firms believed to possess sensitive technology related to security are considering diversifying from China to Southeast Asia and India.

Countries often realise the imperative of collaboration, recognising strengths and weaknesses in different areas of innovation. This is pertinent in the opportunities for cooperation presented between Japan's Rakuten and India's Jio on 5G and designing a telecom supply chain. For example, Rakuten's 5G network, which is based on Open Radio Access Network (O-RAN) technology, has enlisted the help of Indian tech companies and is collaborating with Sterlite Technologies

for hardware and with HCL, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra for software.

The global conversation today is about the imperative of building coalitions of like-minded countries, aimed at promoting and regulating advanced technologies. As such, the strategic vulnerabilities in critical technologies and related supply chains are shaping global initiatives and creating opportunities for like-minded democracies like India and Japan to join forces in the search for solutions and practical cooperation in high technology.

As a response to Japan's technological prowess, Indian policy elites are seeking to deepen strategic technology cooperation with Japan in key areas like AI, fintech, space, rare earths and advanced material, critical cyber infrastructure, and advancing resilient

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supply chain for information and communications technology (ICT) products. As Special Strategic and Global Partners, India and Japan have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in ICT advancing cooperation in 5G technologies, telecom security, spectrum management, and construction of the new submarine optical fibre cable.

Japan's global competitiveness in optical submarine cable infrastructure has led India to partner with Japanese companies for advancing the Digital India programme. NEC played an instrumental role in connecting the strategic Andaman and Nicobar Islands with Chennai. India is pursuing other submarine optical fibre cable projects connecting Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands, where it may seek to enlist the support of Japan once again. Japanese companies are also participating in the Singapore-Myanmar-India Submarine Cable, aimed at advancing communications networks from Asia.

Companies like NTT and NEC are working together on a made in Japan 5G alliance.

Besides 5G, AI, and fintech, India and Japan are also deepening cooperation in space and defence sectors. The India-Japan Space Dialogue culminated from the strategic alignment in shaping space security and space-related norms. Tech collaboration towards the Joint Lunar Polar Exploration Mission demonstrates the depth of this strategic partnership. In the defence sector, Japan's Strategy on Defence Production and Technological Bases urges participation in joint development projects and

encourages building collaboration with the U.S., European partners, Australia, Southeast Asia, and India. India and Japan are pursuing cooperative research in the area of unmanned ground vehicle (UGV)/robotics. Besides, dual-use technologies hold enormous potential.

Advancing smart islands and smart city projects in India with clean and energy efficient technologies also features as a top priority in India-Japan relations due to their capacity to address challenges pertaining to energy security, the economy, and the environment. In the shift from fossil fuel toward cleaner and renewable energy, having the technological know-how, financing, and infrastructure is expected to realign international power dynamics and energy geopolitics.

In addition to telecommunications technologies, AI is embedded in Tokyo's growth strategy. The Strategic Council for AI Technology formulated Japan's Artificial Intelligence Technology Strategy, clearly outlining Japan's AI R&D and industrialisation plan to develop an AI ecosystem by 2030. Technological breakthroughs in AI and robot sensors are key to leading the future revolution in productivity. Japan expanded the R&D tax exemption to include AI and big data and subsidies for building new robots with integrated AI.

While AI is harnessed by major powers since it is poised to revolutionise manufacturing, labour markets, trade, and defence, discussion concerning its impact on geopolitics is equally important. Countries that are currently

invested in taking a lead in AI innovation will not only have an edge in global competitiveness but also geopolitical power balance. Thus, building an ecosystem furthering R&D in AI start-ups as well as advancing human capital is indispensable.

Recognising this geopolitical significance, India's NITI Aayog has identified Japan as a potential partner to create AI solutions alongside a few others including the US, the UK, Germany, and Singapore. Advancing cooperation on AI, a MOU was signed between the AI Research Centre (AIRC) at the National Institute of Advance Science and Technology (AIST) in Japan and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Hyderabad.

The Japan-India Digital Partnership also taps opportunities in the start-up ecosystem. NASSCOM and JETRO are deepening cooperation and putting the start-ups and tech firms in touch with Japanese venture capitalists and strategic partners. Advancing cooperation in fintech, there are MOUs between the Fintech Association of Japan (FAJ) and FICCI, and between FINOLAB and Mumbai Fintech Hub.

Geopolitics and technology are deeply intertwined in the digital age, where technology contributes to national power. As the race for tech dominance intensifies in the Sino-US systemic competition, stakes are high for other major powers. Managing tech dependence amid trends of techno-nationalism is testing major powers. It demands effective cooperation while navigating export controls, investment constraints, and information security and creative collaboration in high technology.

# JNTO-BRIDGING GAP BETWEEN JAPAN & INDIA

BY YUSUKE YAMAMOTO - JAPAN NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION DELHI OFFICE

Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) promotes tourism to Japan from India as a national tourism board. We are delighted to celebrate 70th year anniversary for the friendship between India and Japan in this year.

To commemorate this special occasion, we launched a special page in our website "Visit Japan from India" and you can download virtual background with beautiful landscape in Japan.

We prepared six kind of backgrounds in the website and I would like to pick up two destinations from them for the readers of RISE Magazine which you can visit in spring season.

## 1. Kintaikyo Bridge (Yamaguchi Prefecture)

The heavy boulders that comprise the foundation of Kintaikyo Bridge over Nishiki river contrast with the structure's arching elegance. With Iwakuni castle at its doorstep, Kintaikyo Bridge is a fine example of Japanese engineering, and visually appealing in any season.

If you are there during early spring, Kintaikyo will draw you in when many cherry trees along its banks come into bloom in April, bringing the bridge to life. The soft pink petals against the dark structure of the bridge make Kintaikyo looks like something out of a woodblock print.



## 2. Snow wall in the Tateyama-Kurobe Alpine Route (Toyama Prefecture)

Tateyama-Kurobe Alpine Route rises through rugged terrain to the heart of Japan's Northern Alps. Opening in mid-April and closing at the end of November, the Alpine Route offers seasonal highlights such as the Murodo Snow Corridor known as "Snow Wall". Despite being open only a few months a year, the corridor supplies one of the Toyama's premier photo ops. Take a bus through the snow corridor with its 18-meter-high walls to experience an one-of-a-kind drive through immense snowpack.



Not only on JNTO website, we post beautiful pictures and useful information in our Facebook account "Visit Japan from India" almost everyday.

We will be very happy if you enjoy these virtual background at online meetings and visit Japan in the near future! We are looking for seeing you in Japan!





## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IN JAPAN

BY AASHLESHA MARATHE -PHD (MEXT) SCHOLAR, TSUKUBA UNIVERSITY, JAPAN

I am a MEXT scholar in Japan, i.e. I am fully funded by the government for my research. I came here in October 2020 and took an entrance examination to become a Ph.D. student from April 2021.

I did my Masters' in Psychology from Pune. Like many, I dreamt of pursuing my higher education in the USA. In my first year of BA, I started studying Japanese as an extra-curricular interest. I did not think of it as a serious career option to pursue. However, the more I studied Japanese, the more I was drawn towards Japan.

I became equally passionate about the Japanese language and Psychology, so I always hoped that whatever I pursued should allow me to combine these two interests. It seemed like a long shot, but I am happy to say that that's exactly what I am doing right now. I am pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Tsukuba at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

A lot of my friends from Japanese class in India eventually started working in

Japanese companies as engineers, or translators. As a humanities student, I was never really drawn towards the corporate sector and I worried whether Japan would have something to offer me. The opportunity came in the form of MEXT. The idea is to write a research proposal for the research you want to pursue, and find a professor in Japan who would be willing to guide this research under their university program. I applied to the embassy of Japan in India for my first screening, and after clearing this step, I got approved by a professor at the University of Tsukuba to pursue my research.

The most amazing thing about Japanese universities is their focus on research and the development of research competency. We always get to listen to what research our seniors are working on. We learn a lot from their presentations. We can comment on their research, seek guidance from them, and also guide our juniors with our own experience. The professors watch over all of their students and comment on their

presentations as and when necessary.

My Japanese language certifications allowed me to be a part of many other projects apart from my own curriculum. I am engaged in volunteer work, teaching Japanese to foreign students, projects in the university, etc. It also helps me travel in Japan, and explore more opportunities.

That being said, the good news is that surviving in Japan without knowing Japanese is becoming easier by the day. Most of my foreign friends in Japan do not speak Japanese and are studying in disciplines of their choice - right from art, designing, social sciences, to food technology, robotics, etc. They enjoy their life in Japan just as much as I do while knowing Japanese. The more you live in Japan, the deeper you fall in love with everything about it. If you know about the technology that Japanese toilets use, that's only the beginning of it. The discipline, the systems never cease to amaze you. I strongly feel that more Indian students should start considering Japan as an option for higher education.



## THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN: NEW DESTINATION FOR HIGHER STUDIES AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT

BY DR MANASI SHIRGURKAR,  
EDUCATIONIST AND CAREER COUNSELLOR,  
FOUNDER, THE JAPANESE HUB

The year 2022 marks the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. Various government agencies and non-governmental organisations, business communities have come together to celebrate this occasion. Japan considers India as a strategic partner and a friend. India has been one of the topmost recipients of Overseas Development Assistance from Japan, that supports India's efforts for economic development through projects like power generation, public transportation, and promoting a green environment. Currently, the shrinking young population in Japan is causing a severe shortage in workforce, which is posing as a potential threat to the economic sustainability of the nation. Given this situation, Japan is welcoming foreign nationals with open arms to bridge the gap between resource demand and availability.

However, when it comes to the academia, where do we stand? If the two nations intend to come together, the strongest ties will be forged only through the youth of both the nations. It is the dynamics of young population that exchanges thoughts and knowledge, and grows together to help enhance the bilateral relations between the two nations.

There are 5 paths for higher education in Japan

- 1) College of Technology
- 2) Professional Training Colleges (post-secondary course of specialized training colleges)
- 3) Universities
- 4) Graduate Schools
- 5) Junior colleges

As per the available data of the year 2020, there were approximately 220,000 international students from more than 170 countries studying at higher educational institutions in Japan. For them, it is not only an opportunity to broaden their vision through exposure to Japanese culture but also to diverse cultures of the world.



Surprisingly, though our relations are friendly and cooperative, the number of Indian students studying in Japan is remarkably low. The information below makes this point clear.

<b>China</b>	<b>121,845</b>
<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>62,233</b>
<b>Nepal</b>	<b>24,002</b>
<b>Republic of Korea</b>	<b>15,785</b>
<b>Taiwan</b>	<b>7,088</b>

(Source: <https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/statistics/zaiseki/data/2020.html>)



India ranks **15th** in the total foreigner student population in Japan, comprising only **1,675 students (0.6%)**.

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This is mainly because of the lack of awareness amongst Indians about the opportunities of higher education in Japan. When it comes to studying in Japan, many think that language will be a potential barrier. If you are aspiring for an undergraduate course, then it is certainly desirable to be proficient in Japanese language. However, many post-graduation and doctoral/post-doc programs don't have language as a prerequisite for admission. The universities are interested in knowing your potential to conduct your own research. In such cases, it is sufficient to be able to converse in basic Japanese.

Currently there are 782 universities in Japan (93 National, 86 Local Public Universities, and 603 Private Universities) whereas 17 public and 306 private junior colleges. As the popular image goes, Japan is certainly the best place to study and research in the field of science and technology. With the goal of "Society 5.0", the nation has been promoting and making technology-oriented policies, which has given further impetus to advanced technologies like Robotics, AI, IOT and so on. You can very well dive into the subject of your choice with English. Having said that, let's not limit ourselves with Science and Technology alone. The humanities and social sciences have attracted thousands of foreigner students to Japan. The following data will throw some light on the facts.

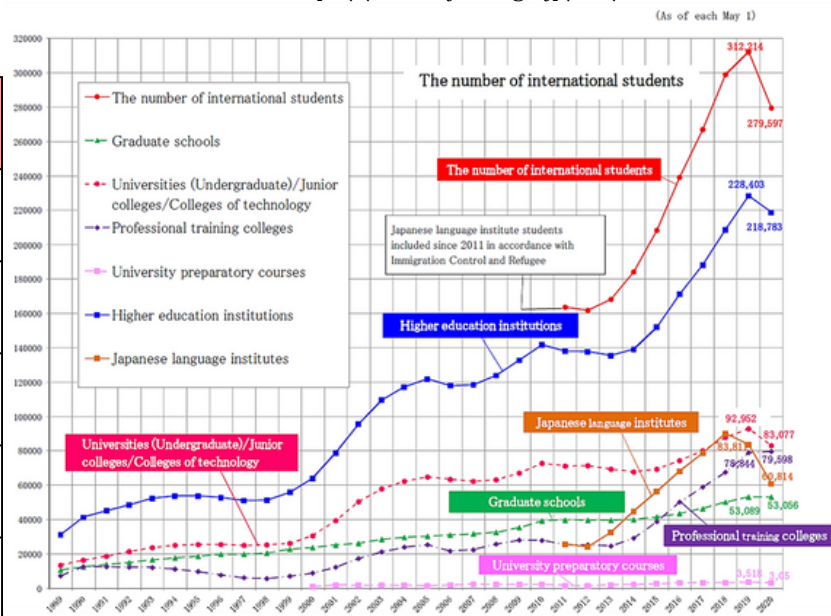
Major Field	No. of students	% of total
Humanities	100,887	36.1%
Social Sciences	81,975	29.3%
Engineering	41,780	14.9%
Arts	13,089	4.7%
Health Care	5,869	2.1%
Home Economics	5,874	2.1%
Science	4,255	1.5%
Agriculture	4,075	1.5%
Education	4,157	1.1%

(Source: 'Result of an annual survey of International Students Survey in Japan, 2020', March 2021)



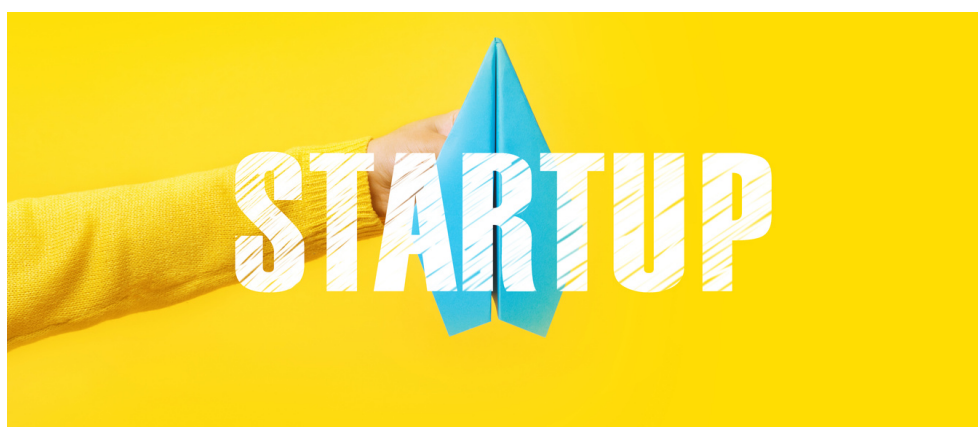
From the perspective of living in Japan, the country has a conducive living environment. People find Japan to be a very safe country, naturally so being a country with one of the lowest crime rate in the world. The utmost importance given to time, care for others in one's social behaviour have reflected in the daily lives of Japanese people. Be it the attention to minute details, aesthetic sense evident in daily life or the super refined services offered by the service industry, everything leaves a strongly positive impact on us.

Japan extends support to foreigner students through various channels. There are government scholarships which are funded by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (MEXT), local governments, private foundations, International Associations and even corporate groups. Information on study in Japan, students' life and students' support programs etc. can be found on : <https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/>



Apart from various scholarship programs, Japan also has good internship programs such as METI (Ministry of Trade, Economy and Industry) Japan Internship Program. Details are available on: <https://internshipprogram.go.jp/english/> . After the higher studies in Japan, there are excellent employment opportunities. In fact, as stated in the beginning, Japanese companies are welcoming foreigners for various job profiles, which are not limited to IT and computers.

So, what are we waiting for? Let's find more about the area of our interest and grab an opportunity. Japan is certainly an excellent destination for higher studies!



## EMERGING AREAS FOR INDIA–JAPAN COOPERATION: I.T., NEW-AGE STARTUPS

BY ATUL RANJAN – NNA ASIA (KYODO NEWS GROUP)

Japanese Investors are making a beeline for tech startups in India, which has the third-largest technology start-up ecosystem in the world, behind the US and China with over 12,500 tech startups.

This ecosystem is attracting investment from multiple Japanese investors mainly in fintech, healthcare and mobility sector startups.

The Japanese investments in the tech startup ecosystem, according to a recent report by NASSCOM and Nomura Research Institute (NRI), have seen a four-fold jump to around \$12 billion in the last five years.

After exploring the Indian startups for almost a decade, Japanese investors started focusing on early stage investments since 2016. While their cumulative investment in the India tech start-ups which stood at around \$1.3 billion till 2016 grew to \$9.2 billion until May 2021, their investment into the country's IT sector increased from \$1.6 billion to \$2.6 billion during the five-year.

In fact, some of the leading Japanese corporates or non-venture capital investors such as Toyota Tsusho, Denso, Mitsui, Dentsu, Murata and Mitshui Corp. have also been investing in Indian technology startups.

Toyota Tsusho has invested in automobile marketplace and services startup Droom. Dentsu has invested in online car platform and marketplace Car Dekho. Denso has funded an AI hardware start-up Thinci (now named Blaize) which is developing computing platforms.

Mitsui has invested in omni-channel shopping platform Naaptol. Murata has invested in healthcare start-up Niramai that provides screening solutions to detect breast cancer and Mitshui Corp has invested in robotics startup GreyOrange.

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Japanese firms are collaborating with the Indian companies including startups.

One of the Japanese companies Nichireai Corp. which has taken a stake in one of the Indian unicorns Licious, a meat and seafood start-up, is carrying out a social experiment of delivering fresh foods to regions of India which is far away from the Ocean by combining Japan's poultry management by combining frozen food technologies and India's local ecommerce delivery strengths.

In the Healthcare field, Fujifilm in Japan and Dr. Kutty's Healthcare (DKH) in India have been collaborating to establish a health check-up center in India that utilizes AI technology.

Japan is looking to boost partnership with India's IT sector.

Recently, Hirose Naoshi, vice-minister, international affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), said that one of the priority areas of

Japan-India cooperation is human capital.

"We believe, we can use maximum use of Indian's talented human capital in the IT area is of utmost importance. The need for excellent IT personal is basically increasing worldwide due to global digitalization. The IT industry in Japan recognizes that there is a significant shortage of IT personal at home--both in terms of quality and quantity," he said.

He said that while currently many graduates from Indian engineering colleges work for companies around the globe, especially in the US, Japan will soon become one of their favorite destinations to work as well.

According to Naoshi, METI and the Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) are collaborating to establish a platform to promote the use of online internships by the Japanese companies.

"In the first half of this year (2021), we conducted a demonstration test and received applications from over 1000 students from IITs, some of them did internships and they can be hired later by the Japanese companies. Through such activities, more Japanese companies will be interested in hiring Indian IT professionals and more Indian people will get interested in employment in Japan," he said.

Interestingly, the NASSCOM-Nomura Research Institute report also found that Indian tech firms operating in Japan have currently created 30,000 jobs in the island country.

"Not only in India, but Indian tech companies operating in Japan are also employing ~30,000 human resources for their Japan operation," it said.





## NIPPON ODYSSEY

BY NIMISHA UPADHYAY - THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Vishesh is a bubbly young Indian student excitedly telling me everything about his trip to Japan. "It was the best thing ever!" he gushes.

He is one of the many Indians looking away from the popular European travel destinations to the east and the beautifully scenic country of Japan. Why so, you may ask?

It is because Japan offers the perfect blend of the traditional and the modern. It has one of the oldest civilizations and a rich, diverse cultural history while at the same time also being one of the biggest technological hubs in the world and a pioneer in fields like robotics. There is something to interest every kind of traveller.

For the outdoor enthusiasts, the natural beauty of Japan has no parallels. The long list of attractions includes the wilderness in Hokkaido, the bamboo forests of Arashiyama, the white beaches of Okinawa and of course, the famous mountains (Fuji-san, Koya-san) among others. If you touch down in Japan in the spring, you will be greeted with a riot of gorgeous pink and white Sakura cherry blossoms, identifiable worldwide for their breathtaking beauty. If you are the adventurous sort, trekking, cycling, skiing, snowboarding and extreme sports are all available for you to experience if you are up for it. If your main aim is relaxation and healing, you can visit the Onsen, the mineral-rich hot springs that refresh the body like no other.

If your taste skews more towards the art and culture side, Japan will welcome you with open arms. There is everything an art connoisseur could possibly wish for.

Traditional architecture shows its presence in the form of castles (Himeji, Kumamoto) and shrines (Fushimi Inari, Katayama). For the more modern, the bustling metropolises of Tokyo and Osaka boast being home to marvels of engineering like the Tokyo Tower or the Umeda Sky building. For history buffs, a tour of the museums around Japan would not let you down. Once you are done, you can go watch a traditional Kabuki theatre or a Noh dance, attend a Japanese Matsuri festival, do a class in

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Shodo calligraphy, learn Ikebana (flower arrangement), indulge in a tea ceremony or buy yourself a Ukiyo-e (woodblock) print or Shikki (lacquerware) as a souvenir. If you are an Otaku through and through, what better place to unleash your inner weeb than in the very birthplace of anime, manga, and Studio Ghibli? If need be, bring out your inner child at the amusement parks, ranging from Disney World to Nagoya's Lego Land and the Yokohama Sea Paradise. Ultimately, dress up in a kimono or a yukata and go view a sumo-wrestling match for those aesthetic Instagram photographs.

As any Indian would agree, food is one of the most important things in the world to us, and Japan is a gastronomy lover's delight. Traditional Japanese Kaiseki cuisine is rich and flavourful while Japanese street food like Takoyaki or Yakitori remind you of Indian chaat

and kebabs. Try the authentic versions of sushi, sashimi, tempura, ramen and mochi and wash it down with glasses of sake. For the tea-obsessed Indian, the Japanese love for Matcha, Sencha and Genmaicha would be very familiar, and the tea-flavoured desserts a lovely treat for our sweet teeth.

Looking at all these escapades (and many, many more), is it any wonder that more and more Indians are now choosing Japan as their next travel destination? You can go by yourself, as a family or even take a group of friends along on a budget-friendly trip – there is something for everyone. The safety afforded to people all around the clock, the cleanliness and the kindness, hospitality and decorum of the Japanese people only adds to the charm of the country. Japan promises the experience of a lifetime, and I, for one, cannot wait to take up the offer. Kanpai!





## AUTHENTIC INDIAN CUISINE IN JAPAN

BY IRAJ, JAPAN

Bhojana in Sanskrit or Khana in Hindi are food words, something that touches the soul. Food has been an essential part of Indian culture, as it is not just to quench one own hunger but also part of religious rituals. In India, food has evolved over the years, and it varies from North to South, East to West.

Harvard Anthropologist Professor Theodore Bestor once said, "The culinary imagination is how a culture conceptualizes and imagines food."

Indian food is a luxury while touring Japan. When an Indian tourist or traveler plans to visit Japan, which is the gastronomic destination in itself, the fear of not getting authentic Indian food, one may end up packing instant foods like MTR food packets or ready-

to-cook noodles to survive, thinking they may not get vegetarian food as Japan is known to have limited vegan options. Purchasing local Japanese food without knowing how it would taste. What it may contain, and so on, carries the risk of disliking the food and wasting money.

Indian Chef Vikas Khanna quoted, "The Power of Food is spiritual. It brings the whole family together on the same table and the whole world together."

As it may sound easy, with the availability of Indian cuisine in Japan, the Indian restaurant industry had its share of challenges in making dreams possible. The biggest challenge in the early days was getting space, as Japan was a very conservative approach and for

foreigners to set up business in Japan was not easy. Even if someone could manage space, it was one cook, one restaurant concept, amid language barriers and socio-economic barriers. One of the first Indian restaurants to open in Tokyo was Nairs in 1949; with India & Japan diplomatic ties have evolved over the last 70 years, so has the ease of doing business, which has now led to the opening and successfully serving Indian cuisines to Japanese and global travelers arriving in Japan. A few of the restaurants that are pioneers in serving Indian cuisine are Ajanta, Maharaja, and Moti, to name a few.

The most popular dishes outside of India, according to many foreigners, are Naan, butter chicken, tandoori chicken, dal makhani, and seekh kebab, to name

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has been challenging, but they have ensured that they will make Indian cuisine international. They wish to establish Indian cuisine as a respected brand in Japan on par with other international cuisines.



a few. They fail to understand that Indian food culture changes with gastronomic calendars, rituals, and seasonality. Indian cuisine should not be customized to any nationality's palate and should taste the same, as one would have it in Indian homes.

Many travel companies who handle Indian travelers to Japan have understood the importance of Indian food and are now advertising that they can arrange Indian food during their stay in Japan, wherever possible.

It was during the pandemic that a group of Indian restaurants in Japan decided to form an association, the Indian Restaurant Association Japan (IRAJ), in 2020 in Tokyo, Japan.

Their objective was to create awareness and popularize authentic Indian cuisine and culture in Japan and to differentiate every curry from being an Indian curry. This non-profit organization is working towards earning a reputation as the most trusted section of the food industry in Japan by soliciting feedback from partners and customers through

PR exercises and reaching out to people in every possible city in Japan. IRAJ has 34 participating members who run approximately 130 restaurants across Japan. Chairperson - Mr. Satbhag Singh Warraich, Co-Chairperson - Mr. Anil Raj & Mr. Raji Sandhar, Secretary-General Mr. Amitabh Singh & Mr. Chander Mehra, Treasurer - Mr. Hemanth Kasana & Mr. Gregory Azavedo, and Researchers - Mr. Prashant Bangera & Mr. Jayanta Chatterjee, are on board.

The Indian restaurants in Japan have been catering to not only Indian travelers, but also other nationalities. In the past, some of these restaurants have also handled Indian delegates like ex-Prime Minister Mr. Manmohan Singh, Mr. HKL Bhagat, and Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, to name a few.

These restaurants also work closely with the Indian Embassy in Japan. They also promote Indian culture through participation in regional clubs or associations to preserve the Indian culinary culture in Japan. The journey for many Indian restaurants in Japan

For authentic Indian cuisine in Japan lookout for IRAJ sticker on the restaurant door. Few of the restaurants that have received the certificate of authentication are Aaryas, Ahilya Group, Ajanta, Amudhasurabhi, Andhra Group, Bangera's Kitchen, Bombay Atsugi, Dakshin, Delhi Dhaba, Devi Group, Govindas Pure Veg Restaurant, Kerala Bhavan, Maharaja, Samrat, Mantra, Masala Kitchen, Delhi Heights, Ghungroo, Moti Group, Mumbai Group, Nirvana Group, Royal India Dining, Saffron Ikebukuro, Satyam, Shagun, South Park, Spice Magic Calcutta, Sri Balaji, Swagat Indian Restaurants & Bar, Tandoor, Viva Goa Indian Café, Bombay Sizzlers and Luxury India Rubina.

IRAJ, is continuously updating its certified restaurant list and assisting travelers/locals to enjoy the real taste of India.



Useful phrases  
to use in  
restaurants

Let us  
learn  
Japanese



**MENU O KUDASAI – PLEASE GIVE ME A MENU**

**CHUMON O ONEGASHIMASU – I'M READY TO ORDER**

**O-SUSUME NO MENU WA DORE DESU KA? – WHAT MENU  
ITEM DO YOU RECOMMEND?**

**KORE WA NAN DESU KA? – WHAT IS THIS?**

**KORE O ONEGAISHIMASU – I'D LIKE TO ORDER THIS,  
PLEASE**

**MIZU O ONEGAISHIMASU – PLEASE GIVE ME SOME WATER**

**TOIRE WA DOKO DESU KA? – WHERE IS THE RESTROOM**

**ITADAKIMASU – PHRASE SAID BEFORE EATING FOOD**

**GOCHISOSAMA DESHITA – PHRASE SAID AFTER EATING;**

**ALSO MEANS “THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.”**

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