



सहयोग

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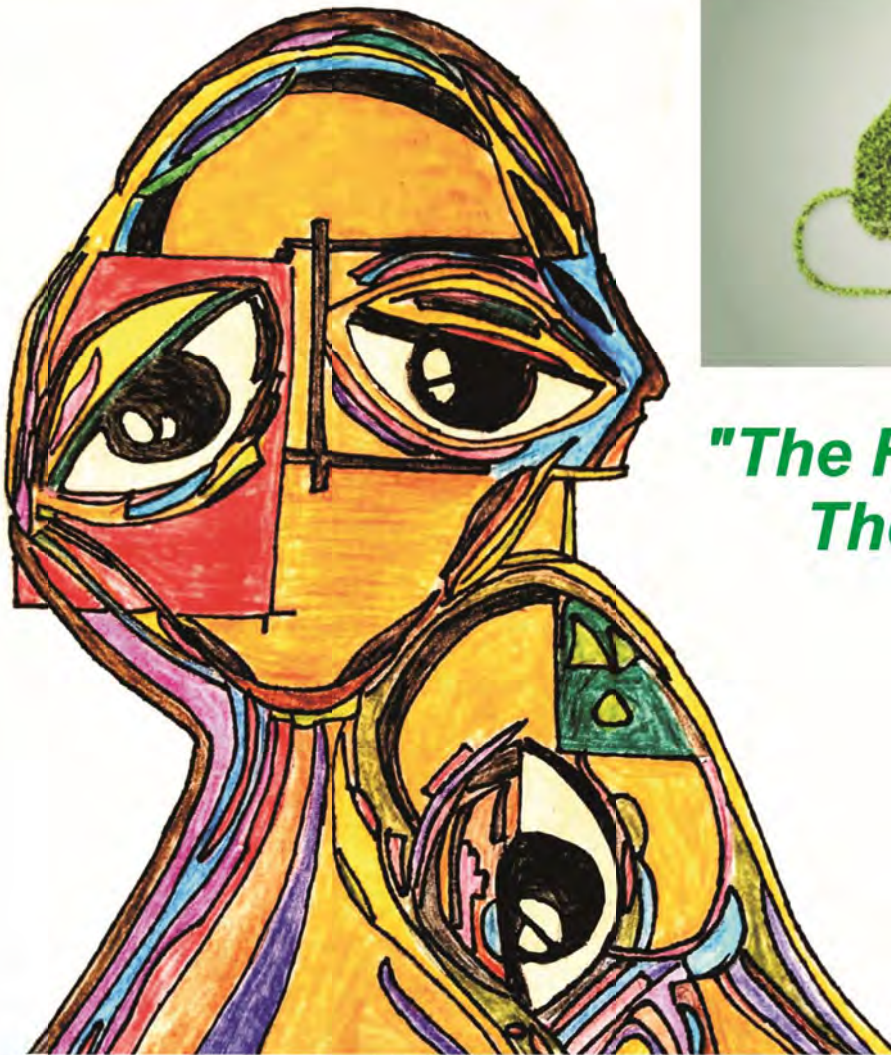


SAHYOG

JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

27th ANNUAL ISSUE

2026



*"The Future is Electric,
The Future is Now."*

*Her voice,
her power,
her rights*



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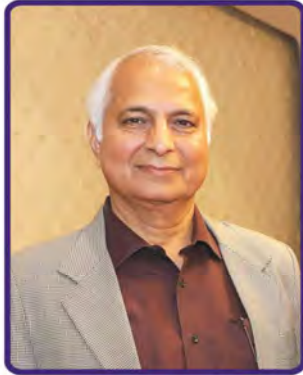
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**JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (JAAI)
EXECUTIVE BODY : 2024-26**



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Message from HE Ambassador of Japan to India



I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the dear readers of Sahyog.

Since its establishment in 1968, the Japan Alumni Association of India (JAAI) has played an important role in connecting graduates of JICA's training programs and in fostering friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and India. I would like to express my sincere respect and appreciation to the dedicated members who, drawing upon their experiences in Japan, have made significant contributions to India's development while serving as bridges of friendship between our two countries.

The year 2025 has been exceptionally fruitful for both Japan and India. Last August, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Japan, during which the Japan–India Joint Vision was announced. This Vision will serve as a guiding framework for Japan–India cooperation over the next ten years. Prime Minister Modi described this new phase as a “new golden chapter,” clearly demonstrating both domestically and internationally that Japan–India relations have entered a stage of further growth and development. Subsequently, in November, on the occasion of the G20 Leaders' Summit held in the Republic of South Africa, a leaders' meeting was held between Prime Minister Takaichi and Prime Minister Modi. The two leaders reaffirmed the Joint Vision and agreed to steadily translate it into concrete outcomes under their renewed leadership. Furthermore, during the visit of Foreign Minister Motegi to India in January this year, he held candid and wide-ranging discussions with External Affairs Minister Jaishankar, confirming their shared recognition of the need to elevate Japan–India relations to an even higher level with the Joint Vision firmly in mind.

Japan has a long history of cooperation with India, and Official Development Assistance (ODA) stands as one of its most important pillars. India is the largest recipient of Japanese yen loans, and through support in a wide range of areas—including energy, transportation, social services, and human resource development—Japan has contributed to India's inclusive and sustainable growth.

In fiscal year 2024, a total of 222 trainees from India participated in JICA training programs in Japan. In fiscal year 2025, as of the end of January 2026, more than 140 trainees have



already taken part. The most vital pillar of Japan–India relations lies in people-to-people exchanges and the deepening of mutual understanding between our citizens. JAAI strives to create opportunities for networking and engagement among its members through annual general meetings, seminars, and cultural exchange programs. These activities play an indispensable role in advancing the mutually beneficial partnership between Japan and India.

Next year will mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India, a truly significant milestone. To further strengthen the bonds between our peoples, a variety of human and cultural exchange programs are being planned. As we approach this commemorative year, I sincerely hope that JAAI members will continue to serve as flagbearers of friendship and cooperation between Japan and India, and that together we will build this “new and golden chapter,” elevating our bilateral relations to new heights.

In conclusion, I wish all JAAI members continued good health, happiness, and every success in their future endeavours.

February 2026
Ambassador of Japan to India
ONO Keiichi



Message from Chief Representative, JICA India Office



Dear Readers,

It is my great honour to extend my warm greetings to all esteemed members of the JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI). As we reflect on another successful year of cooperation between India and Japan, I am deeply encouraged by the growing partnership and the remarkable achievements made across a wide range of sectors.

Since JAAI's establishment in 1968, it has played a vital role in strengthening the bond between our two nations. The network and goodwill fostered through JAAI continue to support the long-standing friendship shared by India and Japan. That friendship is the very foundation to which we will jointly pursue our development initiatives towards the realization of *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

Over the past year, Japan and India's close partnership was reaffirmed during Honourable Prime Minister Modi's visit to Japan, where the leaders of both nations highlighted the continued importance of collaboration in strategic sectors and celebrated the progress of joint initiatives.

Japan's cooperation with India continues to evolve in many meaningful ways. For example, the long-term training program for Indian high-speed rail operators in Japan is particularly noteworthy. The dedication and achievements of the participating operators were even featured in Japanese media as a model example of capacity building and bilateral collaboration. This success demonstrates the transformative potential of people-to-people cooperation in advancing India's landmark projects.

Looking ahead, JICA is preparing new initiatives to further expand our collaboration in advanced technology fields. For example, we are planning human resource exchange and training programs in the semiconductor sector—an area of growing strategic importance for both our countries. Through these programs, we expect to strengthen the technical foundations that support industrial development and foster a new generation of experts who will play a central role in the future of Japan-India cooperation. The importance of skill development and technical exchange is increasing more than ever, and we believe training-based collaboration will continue to be a key driver of innovation.



Our efforts in infrastructure development, health, forestry, agriculture, education, industry collaboration, and people-to-people exchange have only deepened over the past year. As a development partner, JICA remains committed to supporting evidence-based policy dialogue, sustainable growth, and the co-creation of solutions that address emerging challenges across India.

I sincerely appreciate the dedication and continued engagement of JAAI members, whose experience and expertise remain an indispensable bridge between our nations. With your strong support, I am confident that Japan and India will further expand their partnership in ways that benefit both our societies.

Wishing all JAAI members continued success, good health, and prosperity.

Warm regards,

TAKEUCHI Takuro
Chief Representative
JICA India Office
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



Message from President, JAAI



Dear Alumni,

Greetings from the Executive Committee !!

I am delighted to present to you, the 27th edition of JICA Alumni Association's annual magazine 'Sahyog'.

'Sahyog' carries glimpses of all our initiatives and activities. It's a medium of interaction and communication among the alumni wherein they share valuable information through their articles, spruced up with experiences and interesting anecdotes. We also showcase our activities and events of past one year through this magazine.

As you are aware that the main objective of the JICA Alumni Association of India is to maintain foster and develop friendship and better understanding among its members. All the activities of this association are geared towards better understanding of Japan in general and JICA in particular. We always strive to promote Indo-Japanese technical and cultural co-operation at all levels.

This year most of our programs were conducted in physical mode. We hosted an International Seminar on 31st January. The theme of the Seminar was "**Electric Vehicles: Adoption and Challenges in India**". I am also proud to highlight the leading role of JAAI in all the activities of JAAFSC, where India was in the Advisory role from 2024 to 2026 and now, we are holding the post of Vice President in the next Executive.

We heartily welcome the initiatives of Ambassador **H. E. Mr. ONO Keiichi**, for taking India Japan friendship to new heights and we are grateful to him for taking keen interest in the activities of JAAI right from the beginning of his tenure. In the same manner, we are also thankful to the Chief Representative of JICA India office, **Mr. TAKEUCHI Takuro**, for his helping hand towards general betterment of our Association. Our heartfelt thanks are also due to the entire team of JICA India for supporting and encouraging JAAI activities all along.

While heartily congratulating the new Executive of JAAI, I wish to reiterate that People may come and go but the spirit of friendship and cooperation should continue forever. I implore you to provide strength to JAAI by your active participation in all spheres of activities and strengthen India-Japan friendship and collaboration. I thank all the members for their continued support to the association and request to continue the same spirit in future.

Dr. O. P. Dewal
President,
JICA Alumni Association of India



GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT :

Dear JAAI member,

During the fiscal year 2025-26, JAAI planned for various events in physical mode. These events keep JAAI members active and alive through networking with each other. All the JAAI Executive Body meetings were also conducted physically.



Dr. Pradeep Gupta

Awareness Lecture on Environmental Safety :

On 24th Oct., 2025 a lecture on "Environmental Safety" was organized at Conference Hall of JICA India Office, New Delhi. Mr. G.P. Kumawat, former Executive Director and Safety Expert delivered the lecture which was appreciated a lot by the participants. Mr. Pradeep Gupta, General Secretary JAAI introduced the speaker. Sh. TPS Oberoi, Vice President JAAI welcomed the speaker and all the participants. Mr. Kumawat delivered a very useful and informative presentation. During the Q&A session, queries of participants were answered excellently by the speaker. Sh. Kuldeep Tyagi, Treasurer, JAAI expressed vote of thanks and gratitude to Speaker, Officials from JICA India Office, JAAI members and all the other participants.

Indo Japan Cultural Exchange Program :

An Indo Japan Cultural Exchange program was organized at Guru Harkishan Public School, Fateh Nagar, Delhi on 27th Jan, 2026. School students performed various formats of Indian and Japanese folk dances and songs very well and beautifully which were enjoyed by JAAI members along with their families and school teachers and students. School students also organized an exhibition of posters indicating Indo Japan relationship. Ms. Ito Fumi, Representative and Ms. Hema Bapala, Addl. Lead Project Officer, JICA India Office also attended the event and addressed the audience.



Glimpses of Indo Japan Cultural Exchange Program at GHP School

International Technical Seminar and AGM :

International Technical Seminar on “Electric Vehicles: Adoption & Challenges” was organized on 31st Jan, 2026 at Hotel ‘The Metropolitan’, New Delhi in association with JICA India Office. There were 2 speakers whose presentations were very informative and insightful. Seminar was attended by JAAI members and JICA India officers.



AGM of JAAI was also conducted same day along with election of JAAI Executive body for the year 2026-28. Elected Executive Body for 2026-28 is as below –

President : Dr. Pradeep Gupta

Immediate past President / Advisor : Dr. O. P. Dewal

Vice President : Mr. TPS Oberoi

General Secretary : Mr. Kuldeep Kumar

Joint Secretary : Mr. Kuldip Singh

Treasurer : Mr. S.K. Bhandoria

Executive Members :

1. Ms Manorma Kumari
2. Ms Anjali Pancholy
3. Dr. Pawan Kumar
4. Ms Shikha
5. Mr. K. Sitaraman
6. Mr. Atar Singh



New Elected JAAI Executive Body for 2026-28

Technical Seminar by JAAI Eastern Region (Kolkata) Chapter :

JAAI Eastern Region (Kolkata) Chapter organized a Technical Seminar on 14th Dec., 2025 at Kolkata. Detailed report is available on page- 46.

Activities by JAAI Western Region (Ahmedabad) Chapter :

JAAI Western Region (Ahmedabad) Chapter organized various activities in Ahmedabad on 10th Feb., 2026. Detailed report is available on page- 47.

International Conference and 14th Annual Meeting of the JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC) :

JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC) and JICA Alumni Association of Sri Lanka organized an International Conference at the Colombo on 5th February 2026. The theme of the conference was "Japan's contribution for Regional Socio Economic Growth in South Asia". There were 7 presentations with international speakers from Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka etc.



The 14th Annual Meeting of the JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC) was held on 6th Feb. 2026. The meeting was chaired by Dr. O.P. Dewal, immediate past President / Advisor of JAAFSC and the President of the JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI). The meeting was attended by the Vice-president, Secretary General and Executive Committee Members of JAAFSC representing respective member JICA Alumni Associations of India, Nepal, Maldives & Bhutan. During the inaugural session, Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka, Chief Representative of JICA Sri Lanka Office along with other officers from JICA Sri Lanka office were also present.



Secretary General Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal briefed the meeting about the present situation of the funding from JICA for JAAFSC activities. Reviewing the International Seminar Organized by JAA Sri Lanka and JAAFSC, appreciated the arrangement of the seminar and extended thanks and gratitude to all concerned for their continued efforts to making the seminar grand success. At the end of the meeting the Chairperson Dr. O. P. Dewal thanked all the delegates for their valuable deliberation and cooperation in conducting the meeting successful.

Annual Convention-2025 :

Annual Convention for the year 2025 was held on 23rd Feb, 2025 in New Delhi at Hotel 'The Park'. Chief Guest of the event was Mr. Takashi ARIYOSHI, Minister & Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in India. Convention was attended by large number of JAAI members along with their spouse and JICA India Officers. 26th edition of JAAI magazine



"Sahyog-2025" was released on this occasion. Kampai was offered by Mr. TAKEUCHI Takuro, Chief Representative of JICA India Office.



Release of 26th issue of "Sahyog" by the dignitaries on the dais



Kampai by Mr. TAKEUCHI Takuro, Chief Representative of JICA India Office



Rhythms and Reverence: Experiencing Japan

With profound joy, I set pen to paper to recount a tale woven from some of the most unforgettable moments of my life, not from the distant past, but from a few short years ago. My earliest encounter with Japan came not through books or travel, but through a Bollywood melody that lingered in my mind: “*Sayonara, Sayonara, kal phir aaungi Sayonara.*” The image of an actress draped in a traditional Japanese kimono awakened a quiet longing within me, a desire that returned time and again to see Japan with my own eyes. After all, how can one ever reach a destination without first daring to dream of it?

In 2018, destiny offered me a golden opportunity to transform that dream into reality. Under the technical cooperation program of JICA, I was invited to participate in a sponsored program in Hokkaido. What followed was a cascade of experiences and memories so many that capturing them all in words feels almost impossible. Through these pages, I attempt to preserve a few cherished fragments before they gently fade into the recesses of memory.

Learning the Japanese Language

It was during this journey that I discovered one of the most meaningful bridges between cultures the language itself. Among the many lessons Japan offered me, learning its language stands out as one of the most intimate and transformative. Under the patient and gracious guidance of my language teacher, **Ms. Hashizume San**, I began learning phrases drawn from everyday life, simple expressions that carried within them the values of politeness, humility, and respect so deeply embedded in Japanese culture. Gradually, the language ceased to feel foreign; instead, it became a companion, guiding me through daily interactions and quiet moments alike.



As my time in Japan neared its end, I found the courage to express my gratitude in the language I had come to admire. At my farewell, I delivered my vote of thanks in Japanese, a moment that was recorded and warmly appreciated by the Japanese officials. For me, it was far more than a speech; it was a gesture of respect, a heartfelt acknowledgment of the kindness I had received.

Some excerpts from that farewell address are shared below:



*“...Kono puroguramu ni sanko dekite, ureshii des. Taisetsu, Funano, Kagawa Yousei, Shibetsu de o sewa ni natta katagata ni, kokoro kara kansha itashimas. Watanabe san, Ibayashi san, Jim san, Hiro san, Kata san, iroiro junbi shite kudasari, arigatoo gozaimashita.
Kosu riidaa no Fukushima san, subarashii goshidoo,*



arigatoo gozaimashita. Koodineetaa no Fujita san, okaasan no yooni, yasashiku osewa shite kudasari, arigatoo gozaimashita. Saigoni, Hashizume san, nihongo o oshiete kudasari, supiiichi o honyaku shite kudasatte, arigatoo gozaimashita...”.

As I reflect upon those days, I realize that Japan revealed itself to me not in grand monuments alone, but in quiet gestures and unspoken courtesies. There was a certain grace in everyday life, in the punctual arrival of trains, in the respectful bow exchanged between strangers, and in the mindful way even the simplest tasks were performed. Each day unfolded like a lesson in discipline and harmony, teaching me that progress and tradition need not stand apart, but can coexist with effortless elegance. These subtle experiences, woven into my daily routine, left an imprint far deeper than any itinerary could capture, reminding me that true travel is not merely about seeing a place, but about allowing it to reshape the way one sees the world.

Yosakoi Soran Festival

Among the many vivid experiences that enriched my stay in Japan, the **Yosakoi Soran Festival** remains one of the most exhilarating. Held each year in early June in Sapporo, Hokkaido, this five-day celebration transforms the city, especially Odori Park into a living stage of rhythm, colour, and movement. Thousands of dancers move as one, their steps echoing the ancient rhythms of *Soran Bushi*, while the sharp, percussive click of *naruko* clappers cuts through the air like a joyful call to celebration. Tradition and modernity meet here, not in quiet reverence, but in vibrant, fearless expression.

For two to three unforgettable days, I surrendered myself to the festival's pulse. The streets shimmered with color, flowing costumes, flashing smiles, and banners rippling in the summer breeze. Music rose and fell like ocean waves, carrying with it the energy of the dancers and the cheers of the crowd. Between performances, the scent of food from across Japan drifted through the park, smoky grills, sweet confections, and unfamiliar spices mingling into a fragrance as diverse as the nation itself.



What made the experience truly memorable was not just watching, but becoming part of it. Young dancers, brimming with enthusiasm, taught me their steps with laughter and



patience, and soon I found myself joining a group dance, my movements imperfect yet heartfelt. In those fleeting moments, surrounded by strangers who felt like companions, I understood the true spirit of the festival, not merely a performance, but a shared celebration of life, community, and joy that lingered long after the final beat faded into silence.

The Unmatched Honesty of the Japanese People

Japan has left me with countless memories, so many that if my heart could speak, each beat would carry their reflection. Yet, beyond the festivals, landscapes, and lessons, there exists a memory so profound that forgetting it seems impossible. It deserves to be written down.

It happened one morning around eight o'clock, as we stood at the bus stop in **Asahikawa**, waiting for our usual ride to the LID office. The air was crisp, and our group was engaged in light conversation, laughter floating between us. The bus arrived, and we boarded, chatting as it moved along its route. At our designated stop, we disembarked and began walking toward the office. A few steps in, I reached into my pocket to take out my mobile and my heart sank. It wasn't there. I realized, with mounting dread, that I had left it on the bus.

It wasn't just a phone. It held my banking apps, important contacts, and essential information. Losing it could make the following days in Japan very difficult. I explained the situation to our coordinator, **Fujita San**, who remained calm and reassuring. *"Do not worry,"* she said softly. *"We will locate your phone once we reach the office."* I thought to myself: *Once we reach the office? By then it will surely be gone.* But I had no other choice.

Arriving at the office, I found it difficult to concentrate. My mind raced with thoughts of the lost device and the important data it contained. Time passed slowly, until **Fujita San** returned with a smile. *"I spoke to the bus operator,"* she said. *A message has been sent to the driver. Your phone was left on your seat and has been secured by him. The bus will return shortly, and I will bring it to you."* Hearing her words, relief coursed through me like a flood. Within an hour, my mobile was back in my hands, intact, untouched, unrecovered by force. In a world where we often expect the worst, this act of honesty was both simple and extraordinary.

The integrity of the Japanese people left an indelible mark on my heart. To the people of Japan, I can only bow in respect: *you have stolen my heart, not my possessions.*





The Unique Paddy Art of Japan

Among the many ways Japan celebrates both nature and creativity, the **Paddy Art** stands out as a spectacle of living artistry. During my stay, I had the rare opportunity to participate in **rice transplanting** for this unique tradition. It was not merely farming, it was painting with life itself.



Different varieties of rice, each with shoots of varying colours from deep greens to subtle purples were carefully planted according to precise designs. Step by step, row by row, the field transformed into a canvas, and the young shoots began to reveal patterns and images that seemed almost magical. What struck me most was how patience, precision, and nature's palette came together to create a fleeting masterpiece that would grow and shift with the seasons.



As I bent over the wet earth, planting each tiny seedling, I felt a profound connection to the land, the culture, and the centuries of practice that had refined this art. In Japan, even the simplest act; planting rice, is infused with beauty, care, and imagination, turning a humble field into a celebration of life itself.

Reflections on the Journey

As the days in Japan slipped by, I realized that Japan had revealed itself not just through sights and sounds, but through experiences that stirred the heart. From the quiet discipline of daily life, to the unrestrained joy of festivals, to the profound honesty of its people, to the artistry found in its fields, every moment offered a lesson in mindfulness, harmony, and human connection. The laughter of children, the bow of a passer-by, the fragrant trails of street food, the rhythm of countless dancing feet, and the creativity of human hands, all these small, fleeting details coalesced into a mosaic of memories that felt timeless.

I left Japan carrying more than souvenirs; I carried a new lens through which to see the world, one attuned to subtle beauty, shared joy, and the magic that emerges when tradition, nature, and humanity meet with grace.

Arigato Gozaimas Nihon!!

*** Dr. Dushyent Gehlot**
Assistant Commissioner
Government of India

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(All views expressed in the article are personal)



A PEEK-A-BOO INTO CHILD REARING PRACTICES IN INDIA AND JAPAN



In 1865, William Ross Wallace penned a poem titled, “*The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world*”. It emphasises the importance of mothers (or primary caregivers), who hold immense power in shaping future generations and society, by instilling ethics, values, morals and character in children, at an early stage in life, so that they grow up to lead the world in a righteous manner. It highlights the seemingly simple act of nurturing a child appropriately, by every mother, which is the foundation and bedrock of a nation's future, influencing everything from compassion to leadership. This act of love, duty and responsibility by the parent, moulds the child into a responsible individual, and is an influence that extends beyond the home, to schools, communities and the world at large.

The raising of children is very different in various families, communities, races and countries. There is no clear right or wrong way of parenting. The only given is that children require a lot of love, care, patience and attention, in order to grow up to be responsible, self-reliant and emotionally stable individuals.

I have attempted to delve into the child rearing practices in India and Japan, just to draw a comparison and see how children are groomed in these two countries, and what one can learn from both ways of grooming.

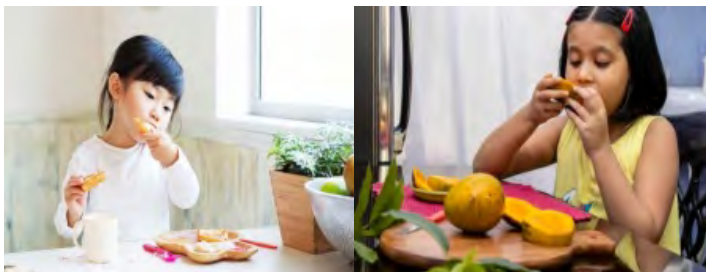
In essence, in Japanese childhood, the stress is more on communal responsibility and early independence, while Indian childhood, more often than not, focuses on family-centric care and respect for elders, though both cultures are evolving and share strong educational values. In India, there is a lot of emphasis on tradition, spiritualism and respect, while Japan lays more stress on discipline and harmony, with both highlighting community living and connections.

There are also surprising similarities between Japanese and Indian cultures, probably due to the influence of Buddhism, which has a definite bearing on child-rearing practices in both nations. In both cultures, there is a deep respect for tradition, family and aesthetics, although they are approached and manifest in distinct ways. Both nations have rich traditions and place a lot of importance on art forms, such as music, dance, drama and painting, from a very young age. A deep reverence for nature is also embedded deeply in both India and Japan. Concepts like India's *Atithi Devo Bhava* (guest is God) and Japan's *Omotenashi* (hospitality) show shared emphasis on societal behaviour. And children imbibe these qualities quite early in life.



In Japan, group harmony and social roles are taken very seriously. The disciplining of children in Japan focuses on **Shitsuke** (training and habit formation). In this, the children are groomed with consistent routines and gentle persistence, such that they absorb the good behaviour and internalise them. They are also taught to be independent at an early stage. They are often sent to school alone by bus, even as early as age six. Japanese children are taught at a very young age to take on responsibilities and perform routine chores like making beds, cleaning, and taking care of their belongings. Self-discipline is also emphasised at a very young age, where they focus on teaching their children to manage tasks without constant reminders. Misbehaviour in children, in Japan, is often handled discreetly, and the child is addressed away from public view, to avoid shaming. Another very important characteristic of grooming in Japan, is that children are taught to be sensitive to others' needs, fostering a feeling of consideration, leading to less public outbursts.

In India, there is a deeply ingrained respect for elders and the family plays a central role, with parental care often more hands-on. Children in India are known to receive significant love, care and attention from not only parents, but the extended family as well. Even when not living in joint families, there is a lot of interaction between families and relatives, so much so that the child pretty much grows up in a community of cousins, aunts and uncles. These interactions play a dominant role in shaping the child's psychology, beliefs, attitudes and habits. Traditional values emphasize strong family bonds and community support. So, you see, in both Japan and India, there are several noteworthy aspects to child-rearing that can enrich parents, from either country, to adopt and accept, so that, what we get as future adults are well-rounded personalities, who can contribute much to the well-being of their nations. .



A child is a beam of sunlight from the Infinite and Eternal, with possibilities of virtue and vice- but as yet unstained. – Lyman Abbott.

A Japanese song sung by the author –

<https://youtu.be/rdm-JNWNd54?si=SCsJ9HLnyJfiPKA7>

use earphones for best effect.

*** Dr. Sumathi Muralidhar**
Professor & Consultant Microbiologist
VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi



Kyoto City in Japan: A City enjoyed by Walking*

1. Introduction

Kyoto, known as the cultural heart of Japan due to temples, shrines, traditional wooden houses, historic streets, etc. is located in the central part of the Japanese Archipelago. As per Wikipedia, the Japanese archipelago is a chain of 14,125 islands that form the country of Japan. The city of Kyoto has a glorious past as it served as the 'Imperial Capital for over a Millennium' (794–1868) and therefore known as the 'Thousand-Year Capital'. It has superb present as it has Buddhist temples (1600+), Shinto shrines (400+) and hence nicknamed as a "City of Ten Thousand Shrines". It has 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites blending ancient traditions with modern city life and is also known as one of the World Heritage Cities. The image of Kyoto is "international culture tourism city" that represents Japan and continues to flourish and bloom.



Temple of the Golden Pavilion in Kyoto

This 'Kyoto City' is also associated with 'Kyoto Protocol' which is an international treaty adopted on December 11, 1997, in Kyoto (Japan), designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to combat global warming. It legally assured developed nations to emission reduction targets, with a first commitment period (2008–2012). The treaty was adopted during the third Conference of the Parties (COP3) in Kyoto (Japan) which gave the agreement its name. Further, on 8 December 2012, the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Doha (Qatar) for a second commitment period (2013-2020). Currently, the Kyoto Protocol is a concluded international treaty, with its second commitment period (the Doha Amendment) ended on December 31, 2020. The 'Kyoto Protocol' has been largely superseded by the Paris Agreement which now guides international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 195 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12th December 2015. Currently, as on 27th January 2026, there are 194 Parties to the Paris Agreement.

2.0 Cleanness and Walkability in Kyoto City

The city of Kyoto is a birthplace of 'Kyoto Protocol' and an international cultural sightseeing city, visited by more than 50 million tourists per year. The bird eye's view of city is also seen from Kyoto Tower which is a prominent and modern landmark of the city. Figure 2 describes salient features of Kyoto Tower.

The city of Kyoto follows clean-up activities locally to maintain cleanness and beauty of the city through traditions of "sweeping at the entrance" and "watering on the passageways" which promotes walkability among the residents and the tourists. A term "walkability" is



defined as the degree of safe, accessible, neat, clean and user-friendly of an area for movements of pedestrians and to encourage walking over driving. In fact, the city of Kyoto has adopted practices of local clean-up activities to maintain city beauty as well as easy & comfort for movements such as:

- i. Entrance Sweeping: The regular ritual of residents and shopkeepers sweeping the area directly in front of their entrances is a part of clean-up and beautification activities.
- ii. Sprinkling Water: It is an ancient tradition to sprinkling water on roads, gardens, and walkways to cool the surrounding air during hot summer days. Further, it is a step forward for hospitality and purification which reflects the value of keeping common spaces neat, clean and friendly.
- iii. Community Awareness and Participation: Both Resident Welfare Associations and Local Government Agencies shared responsibility.
- iv. Use of Recycled Water: A campaign known as 'Mission Uchimizu' encourages the use of recycled water i.e. rainwater, bathwater, etc. for these traditional tasks.

Cleanliness and walkability are interconnected components of sustainable urban planning and livable communities. In cities, walkability is measured as the extent to which the built environment encourages pedestrian activity whereas cleanliness in terms of clean streets, well-maintained sidewalks, safe environment, etc. acts as an inducement for walking. The city of Kyoto has advantages of cleanness and walkability. Therefore, the message is communicated to the world that "Kyoto enjoyed by Walking" putting 'people' at the center of the traffic movements. It is also foreseen that sightseeing in Kyoto by walking is a part of the circular economy.

3.0 City of Kyoto enjoyed by Walking

It is said that by walking, tourists participate in a "circular way of living" which avoids resource-intensive modes of transport, promotes visualization and enjoy the city's old heritages. In most of the cases, walking allows for tourism revenue to circulate locally without the environmental burden of motorized transport. In the long run, safe and comfortable walking is an approach to preserve the historic streetscape. The walking on such streets may have multiple purposes such as to see arts, enjoy architecture, sense the sensitivity of religious/spirituality, etc. It stimulates commercial vitality in local shopping streets, ensuring economic benefits within the communities just based on a circular business model. The city of Kyoto has been maintained to enjoy by walking through following ways:

3.1 "Kyoto, enjoyed by walking" Charter

It was established on 23rd January 2010, to clarify issues for the promotion of "development of an attractive city with people at the center", together with the citizens, tourists, business operators and the administrative body. The charter was established after repeated discussions with the citizens through an advisory panel/study group participated by the citizen commissioners, university professionals, intellectuals, business operators and the administrative body. In other words: *The "Kyoto, Enjoyed by Walking" Charter*



was enacted to clarify the concept of citizens, tourists, business operators, and administrative authorities uniting to promote “attractive, people-centered town planning.”

“Kyoto, enjoyed by walking” Charter

Each and every citizen in our city Kyoto:

- Cherishes the life enjoyed by walking, which is good for health, as well as human/environment-friendly.

Also, the citizen and the administrative body work together to:

- Create a vibrant city by developing road space and public transport that tempt people to go out and walk on their foot, and
- Make sure that all the people coming to visit Kyoto can fully enjoy the attractiveness of walking.

“Kyoto, enjoyed by walking” Charter was established on 23rd January 2010, to clarify issues for the promotion of “development of an attractive city with people at the center”, together with the citizen, tourists, business operators and the administrative body.
The charter was established after repeated discussions with the citizen through advisory panel/study group participated by the citizen commissioners, university professionals, intellectuals, business operators and the administrative body, a symposium joined by 400 people, and questionnaires targeted 14,700 people.

Planning Section for the Promotion of Kyoto, enjoyed by walking, Urban Development Bureau, Kyoto City, Kyoto City No. 212223



Kyoto Walking Charter

3.2 Components of Kyoto Walking Charter

i. The ‘Kyoto Walking Charter’ known as ‘Kyoto Walking City Charter’ which is based on making Kyoto a pedestrian-friendly city that prioritizes people over automobiles. This charter is accepted by the Kyoto City Government to establish walking as the primary and most enjoyable mode of transport in the city through following provisions:

- Prioritizing walking paths and public transit over private car usage to preserve and maintain the city’s historic atmosphere.
- Reducing CO2 emissions by encouraging walking and cycling.
- Provide safe accessibility to narrow & traditional streets for residents, tourists, visitors, etc.

ii. The ‘Kyoto Walking Charter’ also known as ‘Chartered Private Walking Tours’ which offers personalized and expert-led explorations of the city’s historic areas. It also includes Kyoto Guided Walks, Kyoto Slow-Charter Walks, etc.



iii. It also includes visits to neighbourhoods such as Gion (for traditional atmosphere and geisha), Higashiyama (for preserved historic streets and temples), and Arashiyama (for its bamboo grove). In fact, Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, or Sagano Bamboo Forest is a natural bamboo forest in Arashiyama, Kyoto, Japan. It consists mostly of mōsō bamboo and has riverside walking paths near Togetsukyo Bridge for tourists and visitors.

3.3 Comprehensive Traffic Strategies

To maintain the City of Kyoto enjoyed by walking, the following traffic strategies have been adopted:

- Approach to Existing Public Transport: It includes reorganization of the existing public transport and enhances the convenience and comfortableness of public transport for all users.
- Approach to City Development: It is to develop a city in which the attractiveness of walking can be enjoyed by all city residents and tourists. It is important to secure comfortable road space that prioritizes “pedestrians” for them to fully enjoy the attractiveness of Kyoto.



Walkable Street Space for Residents and Tourists in Kyoto City (Japan)

- Approach to Lifestyle: It requires changing the lifestyle to cherish life enjoyed by walking. It is important to consider and implement measures to realize park-and-ride throughout the year.



4.0 Concluding Remarks

- i. Kyoto, being a million plus city has amalgamated modern city with modern downtown (core city) by maintaining low rise and high cultural characteristics of the areas. An integration of the old city with the new city through walking and cycling retained a functional modern downtown which is required for a circular economy and keeping resources within the local communities. Further, the city has replaced asphalt with stone pavements in historic areas that visually signal "pedestrian priority". It is also one of the traffic calming measures to create more space for walking than driving on the road.
- ii. Kyoto has followed the Japanese "4-Metre Rule" (i.e. roads to be at least 4 metres wide) with setbacks to preserve its historic, narrow alleyways. Alleyways refer to narrow, usually paved, pedestrian paths, often between the walls of buildings in towns and cities. Since, 4-metre wide road often leaves no space for sidewalks. Therefore, white lines or distinct paving are used to demarcate pedestrian zones within these narrow corridors.
- iii. The residential areas in Kyoto particularly in city and fringe areas are designed in such a manner so that residents are always within a few minutes' walk of small restaurants, shops, shrines, etc. which provide strong, safe and resilient community outlooks among elderly citizens.
- iv. The city of Kyoto has maintained "Walking as a Culture" which kept both the new town and downtown liveable and humane. Further, the city of Kyoto recognized cultural values of "Slow Mobility" particularly for tourists who come to visit UNESCO sites, temples and shrines in large numbers. Further, the city has invested in reducing traffic, aiming to create a more sustainable environment through the "Walkable Kyoto" initiative.

(Acknowledgement: Author is thankful to Ms Preeyal Jyotika, Data Science Professional for providing ideas and experiences for exploring the city's walkable charm in Kyoto, Japan) (*Views expressed are personal)

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Reminiscences of My First Visit to Japan in 1990

As the title clearly suggests, my first visit to Japan took place in 1990—nearly thirty-six years ago. In last year's issue of Sahyog, I attempted to recollect my actual experiences during that maiden visit. In this article, I turn the clock further back to recall the events that unfolded before my journey to Japan finally materialised.

The period around 1990 was very different from today. Overseas training opportunities, especially for officers at a junior level or at the early stages of their careers, were rare. Going abroad on official training was considered a matter of great prestige—not just for the officer concerned, but for the entire family.

About a year before 1990, I was nominated for a training programme in Rome. The news was thrilling—for me, for my family, and particularly for my in-laws. Their excitement knew no bounds. They proudly announced within their social circle that their son-in-law was going to Rome (Italy) for training. Soon, congratulatory messages and good wishes began pouring in from relatives and well-wishers.

Unfortunately, things did not progress as expected. Due to certain organisational issues, the programme was delayed—once, then again, and yet again. My curious relatives continued to enquire about my departure plans. I found myself increasingly embarrassed, as I had no clear answers. The entire situation was beyond my control.

I often felt that I had made a mistake by sharing the news too early. That thought kept bothering me. In my anxiety, I began pursuing the matter vigorously and informally with the Embassy of Italy, which was coordinating the programme. This went on for several months, until I finally received a formal communication stating that the training programme had been cancelled for reasons best known to the concerned agencies. What had begun as excitement now ended in deep disappointment.

However, fate had other plans.

Soon thereafter, while I was sitting with the officer in the Department responsible for foreign training programmes, luck turned in my favour once again. She was urgently looking for a suitable officer to nominate for a Group Training Course on Energy Conservation under the Colombo Plan, to be conducted by JICA in Tokyo from October to December 1990. Upon learning that my earlier nomination for Rome had fallen through, she readily nominated my name.

Thus began a fresh cycle of nominations, approvals, and formalities. This time, I decided to remain completely tight-lipped. I shared the development only with my wife, who also firmly resolved not to disclose it to anyone else until everything was finalised.



I vividly remember that several officers in the Department were unhappy with my nomination. Some of them made earnest attempts to have it cancelled so that their own names could be considered instead. They went to considerable lengths, but fortunately for me, none of their efforts succeeded.

The process of seeking approvals from various competent authorities moved steadily forward. Everything fell into place. I continued to maintain silence, not revealing even the smallest detail of the ongoing procedures.


Eventually, all hurdles were crossed. No one could stop it this time.

I finally attended the seven-week Group Training Course on Energy Conservation in Tokyo, Japan. That visit proved to be a truly enriching and unforgettable experience—one that I described in detail in my article published last year in Sahyog, titled “Reminiscences of My First Visit to Japan in 1990.”


Looking back today, I realise that this journey taught me much more than professional lessons. It taught me patience, discretion, and faith in destiny—qualities that continued to guide me throughout my career.

*** S. M. Mahajan, ISS**




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CONDOLENCE !!



All JAAI members express heartfelt sorrow and pay tribute on untimely demise of Mr. M. A. Khan. He was quite active member of JAAI, kind hearted and soft spoken person. May God give courage to his family to bear this loss.





Learning from the Land of Earthquakes: My Journey in Seismology from Japan to India

Japan: A Living Laboratory for Seismology and Disaster Preparedness



Earthquakes have always fascinated me not only as natural phenomena governed by complex geophysical processes, but also as events that test the resilience of societies. Working in the field of seismology has given me the opportunity to understand both aspects: the science behind earthquakes and the systems designed to live safely with them. A defining phase of my professional journey came when I received the opportunity to undergo advanced training in disaster management with IISEE (Tsukuba) affiliated to GRIPS in Japan from October 2016 to September 2017 through JICA (Japan India cooperation Agency). This exposure profoundly shaped my approach to seismological research and its applications in India.

Japan is often described as a natural laboratory for earthquake science located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, the country experiences frequent and sometimes devastating earthquakes. What impressed me most during my stay in Japan was not just the advanced technology, but the deeply ingrained culture of disaster preparedness. Earthquake risk in Japan is not treated as an abstract scientific concept; it is a lived reality addressed through meticulous planning, continuous learning, and community participation. Japan's historic temples and ultra-modern infrastructure stand as powerful testaments to the country's long history of learning from earthquakes and strengthening building safety. Over centuries, repeated seismic events in Japan have driven continuous innovation in architectural design and engineering practices.



Asakusa Temple, Tokyo



Kinkaku-ji Temple, Kyoto

Traditional wooden temples, with their flexible structures and interlocking joinery, were built to sway rather than collapse. Today, cutting-edge skyscrapers use advanced technologies such as base isolation systems and shock absorbers to withstand powerful tremors.



Together, these structures reflect Japan's ability to blend tradition with modern science, turning lessons from past disasters into resilient and forward-thinking design.



Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, Kobe



Sky Tree, Tokyo

During the disaster management course, I was exposed to state-of-the-art seismic monitoring systems, dense observation networks, earthquake early warning mechanisms, and strong-motion instrumentation. Japanese institutions seamlessly integrate research, operations, and public communication. Scientists, policymakers, emergency managers, and citizens operate as parts of a single ecosystem focused on risk reduction. This holistic approach left a lasting impression on me. Equally important were the field visits and interactions with experts who had firsthand experience of managing major earthquakes such as the 1995 Kobe earthquake, the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake. Their insights highlighted how scientific data when translated effectively can save lives and infrastructure. I learned that seismology does not end with recording ground motion; it begins there.

Bridging Science and Society

One of the most valuable lessons from Japan was the importance of translating complex scientific information into actionable knowledge. Public awareness programs, school drills, hazard maps, and real-time alerts ensure that people know how to respond when the ground starts shaking. I also observed how long-term investments in research infrastructure pay dividends over time. Continuous upgradation of seismic networks, routine maintenance, and open data sharing are treated as necessities, not luxuries. This mindset reinforced my belief that sustained scientific capacity building is essential for a country like India, which faces diverse and significant seismic hazards.



Applying the Experience at the National Centre for Seismology

After returning to India, I continued my work in seismology at the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The experience gained in Japan helped me view my work through a broader lens one that connects seismic observations to disaster risk reduction and public safety. At NCS, my work has been closely linked with monitoring earthquake activity across the country, strengthening seismic networks, and contributing to data analysis that supports hazard assessment through Seismic Micro zonation. India's seismotectonic setting is complex, ranging from the highly active Himalayan region to stable continental areas that occasionally experience damaging earthquakes. Understanding this diversity requires both robust data and informed interpretation.

Drawing from Japan's example, I have come to appreciate the importance of reliable, real-time seismic data and the need for continuous improvement of monitoring systems. Expansion and modernization of networks, integration of strong-motion data, and improved communication of earthquake information are areas where lessons from Japan are particularly relevant.

Towards a More Resilient Future

India is steadily progressing in the field of seismology and disaster management, and institutions like NCS play a critical role in this journey. However, earthquakes remain unpredictable, and risk reduction is an ongoing process as preparedness is not a one-time effort but a continuous cycle of learning, upgrading, and engaging with society.

As a seismologist, I see my role not only as a scientist but also as a bridge between data and decision-making. The ultimate goal of our work is to reduce loss of life and property by improving understanding, preparedness, and response. NCS continuously work for augmenting and upgrading the seismic network along with upgraded data archival systems. Looking back, the year spent in Japan was more than a training program as it was a transformative experience. It sharpened my scientific outlook, deepened my appreciation of applied seismology, and reinforced my commitment to disaster risk reduction in India. Working at the NCS, I strive to incorporate these lessons into my official work and contribute meaningfully to national efforts in earthquake monitoring and awareness.

Earthquakes may be inevitable, but disasters are not. With science, preparedness, and collective responsibility, societies can learn to live more safely with seismic hazards. My journey from Japan's advanced disaster management systems to India's evolving seismological landscape continually reaffirms the significance of this work in safeguarding lives and strengthening public safety, as we progress toward the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

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Air Pollution Monitoring in Japan

Air pollution in Delhi has become a severe concern to health of the people and a challenge for the leaders to control it. Air pollution monitoring is vital for any control action. I got an opportunity to visit Japan in July 2025. I was curious to know about advancements taken place in Air Pollution Monitoring in Japan, from where I received my first air pollution monitoring equipment for the study of transport pollution in urban areas of Delhi, way back in the 1990s. I was keen to refresh my memories of participation in JICA's 'Coping with Global Warming' training programme held in 1992. A meeting with Prof. Hirohisa Tanaka, KWANSEI GAKUIN UNIVERSITY, took place on July 18, 2025, in Kyoto, at the advice of Ms Yuko from the JICA India office.

I made a technical tour to HORIBA Industrial Corporation near Kyoto. Horiba specializes in the development and manufacturing of advanced air pollution monitoring systems and is recognized globally for its precision instruments and innovative environmental monitoring solutions. Their latest system, A380, developed for gaseous emissions and particle monitoring, enhanced real-time data analysis capabilities and improved sensor accuracy across a wide range of pollutants, including heavy metal particles like mercury and copper. Such systems provide a tool to monitor environment when importing metal products.



This visit offered a close look at Horiba's advanced manufacturing systems and their innovations. This provided us with a practical demonstration of Horiba's commitment to environmental monitoring. What impressed me most were Japanese people's dedication, discipline, commitment, and cleanliness. The Horiba, which has 9000 people, has a motto 'JOY and FUN'. Through this exposure to international best practices, we acquired insights into advanced monitoring technologies that can be adapted to meet local needs.

***At the Horiba Pollution Monitoring Lab,
Dr. (Mrs) Malti Goel, Mr. Fujii, and
Prof. Hirohisa Tanaka***

*** Dr (Mrs) Malti Goel
Ex- President JAAI**



Japan's Contribution to Regional Socio-Economic Growth in South Asia: The Indian Perspective



Japan has long been a steadfast partner in promoting socio-economic development and regional stability in South Asia. Among all its partnerships in the region, **India-Japan relations** have emerged as the cornerstone of Tokyo's engagement strategy, reflecting shared democratic values, mutual economic interests, and a joint vision for a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. Japan's contribution to India's growth story has been multidimensional—spanning infrastructure development, industrial growth, capacity building, and regional connectivity—thus fostering not only India's progress but also the broader socio-economic advancement of South Asia.

1. Historical Foundations of Japan-India Cooperation

Formal diplomatic relations between India and Japan were established in 1952, marking one of Japan's earliest post-war international partnerships. India's gesture of friendship during Japan's reconstruction period—exemplified by its early trade relations and support for Japan's re-entry into the global community—set a positive tone for future collaboration. Japan began extending ODA to India in 1958, making India the first recipient of Japanese aid. Over the years, this assistance has expanded both in scale and scope, focusing on long-term development priorities such as infrastructure, energy, transport, water supply, and environmental conservation. This seven-decade partnership has matured into one of the most comprehensive developmental cooperation frameworks in Asia.

2. Infrastructure Development and Connectivity

Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) has been pivotal in shaping India's infrastructure landscape. Major flagship projects such as the **Delhi Metro**, **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (Bullet Train) Project**, **Dedicated Freight Corridors**, and **Ganga Action Plan** are testimony to Japan's sustained commitment to India's modernization. Through the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**, Japan has extended concessional loans and technical expertise, facilitating sustainable infrastructure growth while promoting technology transfer and skill enhancement. Further, Japan's involvement in **Northeast India's development**—through projects on roads, bridges, and water supply—aligns with its goal of enhancing regional connectivity between India and its South Asian and ASEAN neighbours. The **India-Japan Act East Forum** plays a crucial role in synchronizing these efforts to integrate South Asia with East Asia's economic dynamism.

3. Industrial and Technological Collaboration

Japan has significantly contributed to India's industrial growth through initiatives like the **Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)** and **Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC)**. These projects aim to develop smart industrial cities, modern logistics hubs, and high-quality infrastructure to boost manufacturing and exports. Japanese investments in the automobile, electronics, and renewable energy sectors have strengthened India's industrial



base. Companies such as Toyota, Honda, Suzuki, and Panasonic have created vast employment opportunities and fostered innovation and skill development, contributing to inclusive socio-economic progress.

4. Human Resource Development and Capacity Building

Beyond financial and infrastructural support, Japan has placed strong emphasis on human capital development. Programs under ‘**Japan-India Skill Transfer**’ and the ‘**Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)**’ have enabled Indian youth to gain advanced technical skills and exposure to Japanese work culture. Academic and cultural exchanges, including the establishment of **Japan-India Institutes for Manufacturing (JIMs)** and Japanese language training centers, are nurturing a new generation of globally competent professionals capable of supporting bilateral and regional development.

5. Regional and Strategic Cooperation

Japan’s engagement with India extends beyond bilateral boundaries—it contributes to **regional socio-economic stability** across South Asia. Collaborative initiatives like the **Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)**, co-led by India and Japan, aim to promote sustainable and inclusive development through improved connectivity, digital innovation, and human resource cooperation. These initiatives reflect Japan’s approach of promoting “quality infrastructure” and “human-centric development” that respects local needs and environmental sustainability—principles that resonate deeply with India’s development agenda.

6. Disaster Management and Environmental Sustainability

Japan’s expertise in disaster risk reduction and environmental management has been shared extensively with India. JICA-supported projects in river basin management, climate resilience, and waste management have strengthened India’s capacity to address urbanization and climate challenges. Collaborations in renewable energy—especially solar and wind power—are also helping India transition towards a greener economy while ensuring energy security for the region.

Conclusion

Japan’s contribution to regional socio-economic growth in South Asia, particularly through its partnership with India, stands as a model of mutually beneficial cooperation rooted in trust, transparency, and shared prosperity. As India aspires to become a global economic powerhouse, Japan remains a crucial partner in driving sustainable development, technological innovation, and regional integration.

Together, India and Japan are not only strengthening their bilateral relationship but also shaping the broader trajectory of peace, stability, and growth across South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region.

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Jawai – Land of Leopards



India has a number of diverse eco-systems, offering immense bio-diversity in varied habitats. The State of Rajasthan, known for its desert, also has the famous Aravalli Range of old fold mountains, but also the old formations of the Malani Group, to the west of the Aravalli. One off-beat destination in this area is Jawai, in Pali District of Rajasthan. Jawai has been called “the leopard capital on India”, because it houses about 50-60 leopards in their natural habitat. I had a unique chance to visit Jawai Bandh in February 2025, and am sharing my travel diary here.

The Malani Group of Mountains refers to a significant Neo-Proterozoic (approximately 750 million years old) geological formation, also known as the Malani Igneous Suite (MIS), located in western Rajasthan. Spanning over 44,500 to 51,000 square kilometers, it is considered one of the largest felsic (acidic) igneous provinces in the world, consisting of volcanic rocks (rhyolites, tuffs, welded tuffs) and plutonic rocks (granites). A prominent example is Malani group of rock formations is 120-meter hill on which the Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur is built.

Jawai Bandh, the popular leopard-sighting destination in Pali District, refers of a group of villages including Bisalpur, Jiwda, and Bera. It is not a government recognized national park or protected area. What is unique is that the community maintains the leopard population, which is relatively high for this small area with meagre prey base. The leopard is considered as sacred and symbology can be seen on the many Devi temples dotting the granite hills. The leopards prey on sheep and goats of the Rabari community and still live in their goodwill. Thus Jawai offers a shining example of peaceful co-existence of the human community with the leopards.

The amazing landscape and unique landforms created by erosion of the granite topography provide stunning views besides providing plenty of shelters and caves. And are also great fun for off-roading in the Maruti Gypsy safari jeeps that take tourists into leopard land.

The Jawai River, a tributary of the Luni, has been dammed (infact Bandh means Dam in Hindi) to create a large reservoir of water, which has inundated surrounding fields and hills, and attracts crocodiles and a variety of waterbirds. Canals carry water for irrigation and drinking water to Pali and Jalore districts. As I came to know later, the Jawai Bandh Project was conceived as far back as 1903, but construction finally commenced in 1946, and today it is the largest dam in Western Rajasthan. Some farmland has been submerged in the reservoir, which as now become an opportunity to spot crocodiles and migratory water birds.

Farmlands are few, producing mustard, millets and wheat. The Rabaris are primarily nomadic community of herdsmen who rear primarily sheep and goats, and have adopted a settled lifestyle while maintaining their ancestral, harmonious relationship with the surrounding wildlife. Rabari embroidered pieces are famous for their intricate mirror-work patterns. Rabaris can be seen in their traditional white attire, red turbans, and deep



connection to their livestock. The Rajput community has deep historic links with the Rabaris who worship Devi, the Mother Goddess, to whom leopards are sacred.

The community does not view the high density of leopards as a threat. They believe in a respectful, non-conflict relationship, with the perspective that if a leopard kills their livestock, it is a natural occurrence that should not lead to retaliation.

Amazingly beautiful semi-arid flora thrives in the area, and I was lucky enough to photograph some specimens during my visit. A beautiful native tree called Kankera was fruiting at the time of my visit and full of tiny dark red berry-like fruit which provides sustenance for myriads of small birds. The Rohida tree was flowering with yellow and orange blossoms. I must mention the Thor bush (*Eurphobia Caducifolia*) – a native that looks like cactus, and provides many ecosystem services, flowering with tiny red bud like structures attached to the main stem. I saw some submerged farmland with underwater grasses too near the reservoir created by the Jawai Bandh. The sacred Khejri tree (*Prosopis cineraria*) is held in high regard by the locals for good reason - it offers immense benefits, acting as a lifeline in arid regions by improving soil fertility (nitrogen-fixing), providing nutritious fodder and edible vegetables (sangri) for humans, serving as firewood, and offering medicinal uses for ailments, while its deep roots find water and its shade protects crops, making it crucial for desert ecosystems. I saw beautiful wall panels depicting Khejri tree in the sanctum sanctorum of a local temple I visited in Jawai.

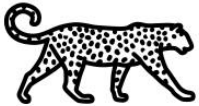
The catalogue list of wildlife in the area is quite long with leopards (*Panthera pardus*) being the apex predator. The area also has striped hyena, Indian wolf, Nilgai (a large antelope belonging to the species *Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Indian fox & desert fox, jungle cat & desert cat, Indian crested porcupine and wild boar & mongoose, langur, peafowl and over a hundred species of birds.

I had my first glimpse of a leopard in the late afternoon sun, lounging at the entrance of a cave, with golden grasses framing it. We stopped there for quite a while, attempting to capture on film its yawns and rolls, and left only when it leapt and disappeared on the hill with stunning agility. The second leopard sighting was somewhat of a bonus, when one appeared in the nearby agricultural field in the failing late evening light and crossed the road in front of the jeeps. Nothing can be as thrilling as spotting a leopard on the amazing ancient rocks of Jawai amidst the golden grasses!

Besides two leopards, I saw lots of other wildlife - an entire army of langurs sunning themselves in the early morning sun on a bare rock outcrop, a herd of nilgai startled by the Maruti Gypsy dashing across an acacia forest, a multi-generational mongoose family sprawling on a granite rock, wild boar in the scrub vegetation. We saw huge bee-hives hanging from an overhanging rock ledge high above a Mataji (Mother Goddess) Temple, crocodiles lazily basking in the waters of the Jawai reservoir, and a variety of water and terrestrial birds. We also saw picturesque herds of sheep and goat accompanied by red-turbaned Rabari shepherds with long curly moustaches, and were lucky to take some pictures with them.



We also passed by a few high-end resort properties with tented accommodation, promising unique views and fancy prices, which I am told are frequented by Bollywood actors, foreign photographers and celebrity types! Jawai has no regular hotels and is not a mass tourist destination. It is for those who have a deep love for nature and respect for how a community works with nature. I highly recommend the lovely map with artwork by Sudarshan Shaw on Jawai to those interested in the ecosystem beyond tourism. All in all, this beautiful unique location offered an unforgettable experience.



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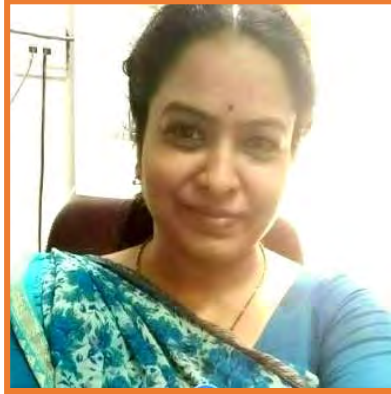
CONGRATULATIONS !!!



Ms. Dimple Arora, Life member of JAAI, received the “National Florence Nightingale Award”, presented by Hon'ble President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan in May 2025. Ms. Dimple has rendered her 27 years of dedicated and hard working service in nursing and emergency care. In 2004, she was deployed to Port Blair after the Indian Ocean tsunami. It was very difficult time, but she did her best to provide first aid, support trauma care and help injured people, and their families. She also served during the Leh- Ladakh cloudburst and floods, where she helped and managed emergency medical camps and worked closely with rescue team. After the Delhi bomb blast, she was on emergency duty, helping injured patient and supporting medical team. During the Swine flu pandemic, she was posted at IGI Airport to screen travelers while continuing patients care at hospital. During Covid-19, she served on the front line along with her other colleagues. It was one of the toughest times, but they stayed strong and continued to care of patients with courage and compassion. Ms. Dimple says, this award is not just her, it belongs to every nurse who works selflessly every day.



Japan and India: Oceans Apart, Spirits Alike



Japan is a country that feels like a festival in motion—quiet yet dazzling, disciplined yet full of joy. When I first visited during the cherry blossom season, the entire nation seemed to be celebrating. Streets were drenched in pink petals, families gathered under blooming trees, and the air carried a sense of renewal. It was as if nature itself had orchestrated a grand festivity.

Yet beneath this beauty lies a society of contrasts. Japanese society is often seen as reserved and understated, where warmth is expressed through quiet gestures rather than loud words. This introverted grace contrasts beautifully with India's vibrant, expressive culture, yet both reflect deep respect for community and tradition. In Japan, silence is not emptiness—it is dignity. People bow instead of embrace, speak softly instead of loudly, but their actions reveal a deep strength. Their hardworking spirit is legendary, and their resilience shines even in the face of calamities like tsunamis and earthquakes.

India, on the other hand, thrives on exuberance—festivals filled with colour, music, and laughter, where emotions are worn openly on the sleeve. Yet at the heart of both nations lies the same value: resilience born of history, and a commitment to community. Japan has taught the world that silence can be powerful, while India shows that celebration can be a form of love. Together, they remind us that strength wears many faces, and dignity can be expressed in both quiet discipline and joyful festivity.

India, too, is a land of contrasts. Our festivals burst with colour and sound—Diwali lights, Holi splashes, Durga Puja drums. Where Japan celebrates with subtle grace, India celebrates with exuberant energy. Yet at the heart of both cultures lies the same truth: community, respect, and the joy of togetherness. Culturally, the similarities are striking. Japan's honorifics—'san', 'sama', 'sensei'—mirror India's 'ji', 'Shri', and 'Guru'. Both societies value respect, humility, and the wisdom of elders. Festivals in Japan, from Hanami to Obon, resonate with the same joy and community spirit found in India's Diwali or Holi. In both lands, tradition and modernity coexist—temples and shrines stand beside skyscrapers, ancient rituals thrive alongside cutting-edge technology. Whether it is the Japanese Hanami or India's Holi, both nations remind us that life is meant to be shared.

Scenery binds us as well. Japan's Mount Fuji rises like a poem, while India's Himalayas stand as timeless guardians. The Sea of Japan whispers calm, while the Ganga flows with devotion. Both lands are shaped by water, mountains, and the rhythm of nature. And both teach us reverence for the world we inhabit.

Politically and historically, India and Japan have walked parallel paths of resilience. India's freedom struggle and Japan's post-war reconstruction are stories of courage and



determination. Today, both nations are partners in progress, collaborating in technology, trade, and cultural exchange. This friendship is not just diplomatic—it is deeply human.




My own journey through Japan was filled with small wonders: tasting sushi prepared like art, riding the Shinkansen that glides like a dream, and learning honorifics that mirror our own Indian respect for elders and teachers. I saw how Japan balances tradition and modernity, just as India does—temples beside skyscrapers, rituals beside innovation.

In the end, Japan felt like a mirror reflecting India's soul in a different light. One nation celebrates with quiet blossoms, the other with vibrant colours. One bows, the other embraces. Yet both believe in respect, resilience, and the beauty of community. Together, they show that friendship across oceans is possible when hearts beat in harmony.

If I ever return to Japan, I will go not just as a traveller, but as someone carrying India within me—ready to celebrate the shared spirit of two nations that, though oceans apart, are united in humanity.

*** Poonam Rani**
Research Officer
Department of Fisheries,
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

CONGRATULATIONS !!!



Dr. Pradeep Gupta, Life member and General Secretary of JAAI and Director of A B Corp was awarded “Asia Subcontinent Region Energy Manager of the Year- 2025” by Association of Energy Engineers, Atlanta, USA for his Outstanding accomplishments in promoting the Practices, Principles, and Procedures of Energy Management. Dr. Gupta is an Electrical Engineer and Certified Energy Auditor. He has rendered 42 years of dedicated and hard working service in various Power Plants in the country. Dr. Pradeep Gupta continues to make significant contributions to the nation’s energy security, ensuring stability in a growing economy.



Green House Gases

Climate change is caused by an increase in greenhouse gasses in the Earth's Atmosphere. These gasses absorb heat leaving the earth and return some of it, making the earth warmer overall.

Some Important activities which are cause of Greenhouse Gases

- An average household using electricity for water heating generates about 4 tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) each year while using natural gas generates about 1.5 tons. Every 15 litres of hot water from an electric heater generates about 1 kg of greenhouse gas.
- Locate refrigerators and freezers in cool spots' out of the sun: save up to 100 kg of greenhouse gas each year
- When appliances are switched off at the device, but left on at the wall switch, they may use some energy for standby power. Typically this is between 1 and 20 watts, with most appliances using less than 5 watts. This amount converts to about 45 kg of greenhouse gas each year for each item.
- A laptop computer used 5 hours each day generates around 40 kg of greenhouse gas in one year. A desktop computer uses more power and can generate between 200 and 400 kg of GHG in a year. More than half of this is from the Monitor.
- Switch computers and equipment off when they're not in use: This cuts greenhouse gasses, extend product life and reduces fire hazards
- Use car air conditioner appropriately as it can increase fuel consumption and GHG emissions, as well.
- Every Liter of fuel saved cuts GHG emissions by 2.8 kg.



*** Dr. P.P. Mittal**
Accredited Energy Auditor
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Electric Vehicles in India: Adoption & Challenges

Introduction

India's journey towards electric mobility has transitioned from policy intent to on-ground implementation. Electric Vehicles (EVs) are now a visible and growing part of India's transport ecosystem, driven by environmental concerns, energy security objectives, and strong government intervention. While adoption has increased steadily, challenges related to infrastructure, cost, and system readiness remain critical to address.

EV Adoption: Where India Stands Today

As per official data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), India had 56.75 lakh registered electric vehicles as of 8 February 2025. This remains the latest consolidated national EV registration figure officially published by the Government of India, and continues to be referenced as of January 2026.

The EV market is currently dominated by electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers, which together account for the majority of registered EVs due to their affordability and suitability for urban and last-mile mobility. Adoption of electric four-wheelers and commercial EVs is gradually increasing, supported by policy incentives and improving product offerings.

Under the FAME India Phase-II scheme, the Government of India has provided demand incentives for 16,15,080 electric vehicles, comprising:

- 14,28,009 electric two-wheelers
- 1,64,523 electric three-wheelers
- 22,548 electric four-wheelers

This demonstrates the pivotal role of targeted government support in enabling early-stage market growth.

Charging Infrastructure: Progress and Gaps

A reliable charging network is essential for large-scale EV adoption. As per official replies by the Government of India in Parliament, 29,277 public EV charging stations are operational across the country.

While the expansion of charging infrastructure has been significant, deployment remains concentrated in metropolitan regions. Further scaling of fast chargers, depot-based charging for buses, and highway corridor charging is essential to support inter-city travel and commercial EV operations.

Electrification of Public Transport

Public transport electrification is a cornerstone of India's EV strategy:

- Under FAME-II, the Government sanctioned 6,862 electric buses for deployment by State Transport Undertakings and urban local bodies.



- The PM-eBus Sewa scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet, aims to deploy 10,000 electric buses under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- As per parliamentary disclosures, 7,293 electric buses have already been sanctioned under this scheme.

Electric buses are expected to significantly reduce urban emissions, lower fuel expenditure for transport agencies, and improve the overall quality of public transport.

Commercial EVs and Heavy Vehicles

While electric buses and light commercial vehicles are gaining traction, electric trucks and heavy-duty EVs are still at an early stage of adoption. Wider deployment will depend on the availability of high-capacity charging infrastructure, cost-competitive vehicle platforms, and grid readiness at logistics hubs.

Key Drivers of EV Growth

India's EV momentum is driven by:

- Strong government policy support through FAME-II, PM-eBus Sewa, and Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes.
- Lower operating costs compared to conventional vehicles.
- National priorities related to energy security and emission reduction.
- Focus on domestic manufacturing of EVs and advanced batteries.

Challenges Ahead

Despite visible progress, several challenges persist:

- **Infrastructure gaps**, especially fast charging for commercial vehicles.
- **Grid integration and power quality** issues in high-load charging clusters.
- **Higher upfront costs** of EVs in certain segments.
- Dependence on **imported battery raw materials**, requiring domestic value-chain development.

Conclusion

India's electric mobility journey is well underway. With **over 56 lakh registered EVs**, nearly **30,000 public charging stations**, and **thousands of electric buses sanctioned**, the foundation for a cleaner transport future has been laid. Sustained policy support, infrastructure expansion, and technological innovation will be key to achieving India's long-term mobility and climate objectives. Electric vehicles are no longer a future concept they are becoming a defining element of India's sustainable transport transformation.



*** Neeraj Dhingra**
Accredited Energy Auditor
ISO 14064 Lead Verifier



Memories of Japan : Way back to 1994

My first visit to Japan during 1994 for a JICA training programme on Environmental Monitoring (Water Quality) felt like stepping into a world where the past and future live side by side. From the moment I landed in Tokyo, the city's energy swept me away. Trains moved with perfect precision, and towering buildings stood next to quiet shrines. Tokyo International Centre (TIC) was the first destination for orientation programme and from Tokyo, I travelled to Tokorozawa, a quieter city referred as the birthplace of Japanese aviation. Tokorozawa offered a contrast to the capital's rush. National Environment Training Institute provided insights to the advancements in the monitoring of environmental pollutants by the faculty are memorable.

My journey across Japan began at Tokyo Station, where I boarded the Shinkansen, the famous bullet train, for Hiroshima. As the train glided out of the station, the cityscape of Tokyo slowly faded into views of the countryside. The ride was smooth and quiet, and the speed of the Shinkansen was incredible. Rice fields, mountains, and small towns rushed past the window like scenes from a moving painting. Inside the train, everything felt calm and orderly, making the long journey both comfortable and relaxing. After couple of hours, I arrived in Hiroshima. The experience of traveling such a long distance in such a short time amazed me. The Shinkansen was not just a means of transport, but a symbol of Japan's advanced technology and efficiency.

As a part of study visited Kyoto from Hiroshima, the heart of traditional Japan. Walking through ancient temples and wooden streets felt like traveling back in time in Kyoto. During the visit to golden Kinkaku-ji, watched monks pray in silence, and strolled through bamboo groves that whispered with the wind. In the evening, lanterns lit the narrow lanes, and I caught a glimpse of a geisha moving gracefully through the crowd.

The most emotional part of my trip was Hiroshima. Visiting the Peace Memorial Park and the Atomic Bomb Dome was a deeply moving experience. The city, once destroyed by tragedy, now stands as a powerful symbol of peace and hope. I listened to stories of resilience and left with a heavy heart but a renewed appreciation for life and humanity.

During the concluding period visited Tsukuba Science City that is unlike busy regions of Japan. Tsukuba felt modern and known for its research institutes, universities, and scientific innovation. The blend of nature and technology made Tsukuba feel like a city of the future where researchers worked on environmental science. Walking through Tsukuba, I felt inspired by Japan's dedication to knowledge and progress. From the high-speed Shinkansen connecting distant cities to the cutting-edge research in Tsukuba Science City, my experience showed me how Japan perfectly balances tradition, technology, and vision for the future.

Before leaving back to India wandered through TIC. In Tokyo, Akihabara, Shinjuku and Shibuya besides many places and was amazed by the sea of people moving in harmony.



As my journey ended, I realized that Japan is more than just a destination. Each city—Tokyo, Tokorozawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Sukuba taught me something different about culture, history, and harmony. The memories of this trip will stay with me forever, like a beautiful story written across time.



Group Photograph of 1994 JICA Group Training

*** Rajendra Mohan Bhardwaj**
Former Additional Director,
Central Pollution Control Board





An incredible reflection of Satoyama approach in the promotion of harmonious co-existence between people and nature in Meghalaya

As a JICA alumnus engaged in forestry and environmental governance, my field interactions in Meghalaya reaffirm the enduring relevance of Japanese development philosophy, what stands out is not only the technical quality of interventions, but the patience with which institutions and communities are supported to grow together. The MegLIFE experience reflects Satoyama in practice — where forests are conserved not by distancing people, but by enabling them to live sustainably with nature. For alumni, such projects are a reminder that development cooperation achieves its greatest impact when humility, local wisdom, and long-term relationships guide action.

The majestic dense forested landscapes and rolling meadows of Meghalaya reflects a powerful reminder that forests are not just invaluable ecological assets but are also thriving socio cultural systems shaped by centuries. These sub-tropical forests; abode of high rainfall, unique sacred groves, towering trees, roaming wildlife have been traditionally protected and conserved by the local communities. Incidentally, much of the forest land in Meghalaya and the resources it supports have been governed by the traditional community based institutions. The State thus presents a perfect case, where the Japanese philosophy of Satoyama- harmonious way of co-existence between the communities and nature, can find its natural resonance.

These characteristic and vital aspects of natural resource management, its governance and utilization in Meghalaya has been given a further solidification through the lens of sustainability by the ongoing JICA supported on *Community-based Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement in Meghalaya* (MegLIFE). This flagship project of the JICA in the State has a landscape based and community driven, strategy to engage with the development challenges such as forest degradation, livelihood insecurity and vulnerabilities due to climate change.

MegLIFE is at the heart of the JICAs forestry support in Meghalaya. It has a diverse portfolio of activities covering sustainable forest management, spring rejuvenation, restoration of degraded lands, improving livelihood bases and rural house hold incomes, promotion of nature based entrepreneurship besides infrastructure development and targeted capacity enhancement interventions for the communities.



At the core of the strategy delivering these development interventions is the strong resonance with the Satoyama philosophy preserving the harmonious foundation between community ownership, customary rights and the resource development and utilization.

A remarkable institutional engagement under the project has been the establishment of community centres. These centres act as the shared space for collective decision making, micro planning and training regarding the development locally desired interventions for forestry development and utilization- yet another key reflection of the Satoyama.

Needless to mention, in Meghalaya, forests are the natural infrastructure for climate resilience. The rich forests provide indeed a critical protective armour for the high rainfall and fragile hill ecosystems supporting the local habitations and their livelihoods. The MegLIFE incredibly harnesses this natural infrastructure into their project interventions.

By strengthening the forest-water-livelihood axis, the project has not only been endeavouring to meet the requirement of local adaptation needs but also the larger climate change mitigation goals including carbon sequestration. A perfect mirroring with Japan's long and deep rooted emphasis on working with nature to address environmental risks.



A field visit to the MegLIFE project areas in Meghalaya, India in January, 2025.

Equally significant has been the JICA's strong focus on building institutions and people to people ties. The forestry professionals, community institutions in Meghalaya have been benefited from several structured training, knowledge exchange programmes, national level workshops hosted in Shillong.

Needless to say, these transformative platforms have been providing incredible platforms for dialogues between forest management authorities, communities, government



institutions and development partners - vulcanising trust and share responsibility in sustainable resource governance. Such engagements further validates the people to people cooperation -a corner stone of Japan- India development partnership.

To conclude, the MegLIFE experience has not just been a rolling out of a package of technical interventions, but has demonstrated how community stewardship, livelihood security and requirements of long term ecological security can be fostered and advanced together. Such invaluable evidence of co- existence with nature offers valuable lessons for sustainable forest management in Global South and beyond.

*** Rajesh S.**
Member, Indian Forest Service(IFS)
JICA Alumnus(2024 Cohort), JICA Obihiro

(The views expressed are personal in nature and are based on the professional experience of the author. They may not in any way considered/construed/ endorsed as the policy positions of the organization/s in which the author has been employed)

CONGRATULATIONS !!!



On the occasion of National Energy Day, Dr. P.P. Mittal, Life member of JAAI and Director of A-Z Energy Engineers Pvt. Ltd., was awarded First Prize by the Hon'ble President of India at "Vigyan Bhawan" on 14th December 2025. This prestigious award recognizes his outstanding contributions and dedication in the field of Energy Efficiency. Under his leadership, the firm has successfully completed 2000+ Energy projects across India, impacting various energy-intensive sectors

through technical solutions. The company's consistent track record of excellence has garnered significant National and International recognition, cementing its reputation as a leader in sustainability. By driving large-scale improvements in energy management, Dr. P. P. Mittal continues to play a pivotal role in shaping a more energy-secure future for the country.



Activities by JAAI Eastern Region Chapter (Kolkata)



JICA Alumni Association of India- Eastern Region Chapter (Kolkata) observed “**National Energy Conservation Day**” and organized a seminar on “**Innovate, Conserve, Thrive : Energy Solution for the Future**” on 14th Dec., 2025 at IISWBM Kolkata.

In the Inaugural session Shri K M Agrawal, Director IISWBM, Shri Promod Grover, Director, Science City Kolkata, Prof. Ashoke K Dutta, Former Director, IISWBM Kolkata, Shri Gautam Ray, Past President, BCC&I, Shri P K Chakrabarty, President, Energy Club, Shri P K Raychaudhuri, Chair, JAAI, ER, addressed the participants and thrust the need for innovation and mass awareness for energy conservation. Dr. B K Choudhury of JAAI read out the message of Shri Ishikawa Yoshihisa, Hon’ble Consul General of Japan in Kolkata.

The first Technical Session was on “**Innovate, Conserve, Thrive: Energy Solutions for the Future**” was chaired by **Mr. Kaushik Dutta**, ED WBPDC, Chaired the Session. Four Technical papers were presented in the session.

During Lunch time AGM of JAAI ER was held and Dr. B K Choudhury was elected as Chair for the year 2025- 26.

After Lunch, the 2nd Technical Session on “**Energy Conservation Technologies & Practices Adopted by Industries**”, was Chaired by **Dr. Tapan Saha**, Technical Officer, JJM, SPM NIWAS. During the session Dr. B K Choudhury and three other eminent speakers spoke in the session.

More than 130 participants from Industries, Academic and Research Institutions, Professional Bodies, Students, NGO's were actively participated in the program and made it very lively.



Activities by JAAI Western Region Chapter (Ahmedabad)

Japan is widely admired for its artistic language, rich traditions, and core values. To foster deeper cultural exchange between India and Japan, the **JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI), Western Chapter**—in association with Yuva Disha Kendra Gujarat and Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Vishwavidya Pratishthanam (SGVP)—jointly organized a unique program titled “**Japanese Cultural Experiences**” on February 10, 2026, at the SGVP campus.



The event featured immersive demonstrations of Japan’s traditional arts and crafts, specifically curated for students and teachers. Participants explored the art of paper folding (Origami) and Japanese Calligraphy, learning about their evolution and the message of global peace they represent. The primary objective of this initiative was to strengthen the bonds of mutual understanding and cooperation between Gujarat and Japan.

Mrs. Padma Kumar, Principal, welcomed and felicitated the distinguished guests, including Mr. Sanjeev Mehta, President, JAAI (Western Chapter), Dr. Mukund Patel, Japan Centres AMA; Ms. Atsuko Yamamoto, Native Japanese Language Teacher (JOCV); Mr. Narendra Pandya, Japanese Origami Expert; Ms. Tomoko Tsuruta, Japanese Culture Volunteer. Following the inaugural talk by Mr. Sanjeev Mehta and a brief talk on traditional Japanese crafts by Dr. Mukund Patel, Ms. Yamamoto, Mr. Pandya, and Ms. Tsuruta led the hands-on sessions.



Mr. Sanjeev Mehta, President, JAAI (Western Chapter) said, today I Feel proud to speak about the beautiful friendship between India and Japan. Even through our countries are far away in distance, our hearts and culture are very close. Borth nation believe in : Respect, Discipline, Spirituality, Nature, Peace. India give the world yoga and meditation. Japan gave the world Zen philosophy and harmony. This shows - our thoughts are similar even if our languages are different. Cultural Values - Both countries teach : Respect elders, love nature, live simple, Think Deep. In Japan people bow. In India people say Namaste. Different gestures - same respect.

This cultural awareness program engaged approximately 80 students and teachers, inspiring them to adopt Japanese values such as concentration and self-discipline through the practice of Origami and Calligraphy. Furthermore, the Chairman of JAAI (Western Chapter) encouraged participants to explore Japanese language studies and management practices.



CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Dr. Binoy Krishna Choudhury



Dr. Binoy Krishna Choudhury, Life member of JAAI was honored with the “Certified Energy Manager Hall of Fame” award in September 2025. This prestigious award was given by the ‘Association of Energy Engineers’ (AEE) Atlanta, USA, the world’s largest body for energy professionals, for Lifetime Achievement for service to the society in energy management.

Dr. Choudhury is a distinguished academic, sustainability leader, and energy expert with over three decades of impactful work in energy management, renewable energy systems, energy efficiency, and sustainable development. He currently serves as Professor in the Department of Energy Management at the Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (IISWBM), Kolkata.

Inspired by Swami Vivekananda and the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, Dr. Choudhury champions people-first leadership, advancing innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth through AEE and beyond.

CONGRATULATIONS !!!



The Indian Buildings Congress (IBC) has honored Dr. Pawan Kumar, Life Member of JAAI by presenting “Award for Best Paper IBC Medal 2024-25” for the paper titled “Public Transport during Health Crisis : Challenges and Innovations” during 28th Annual Convention of IBC on September 14th, 2025 at Nagpur. Dr. Pawan Kumar has

been working as Associate TCP at Town and Country Planning Organization, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi



Glimpses of Annual Convention – 2025



Chief Guest-Mr. Takashi Ariyoshi, Guest of Honour-Mr. B. Shadrach, Special Guest-Mr. TAKEUCHI Takuro



Dr. O.P. Dewal, President, Mr. TPS Oberoi, Vice President, Dr. Pradeep Gupta, General Secretary



Kampa by Mr. TAKEUCHI Takuro, Special Guest & Chief Representative, JICA India Office





EDITORIAL

The partnership between **India** and **Japan** has always been based on trust, shared values and a common vision for development. Today, this relationship is becoming even more important as India is moving towards cleaner and greener transportation through electric vehicles. Electric vehicles are becoming highly relevant in the Indian scenario. India faces serious challenges such as air pollution, rising fuel prices, and heavy dependence on imported oil. EVs offer a practical solution because they run on electricity, reduce emissions, and can help India shift towards renewable energy sources.

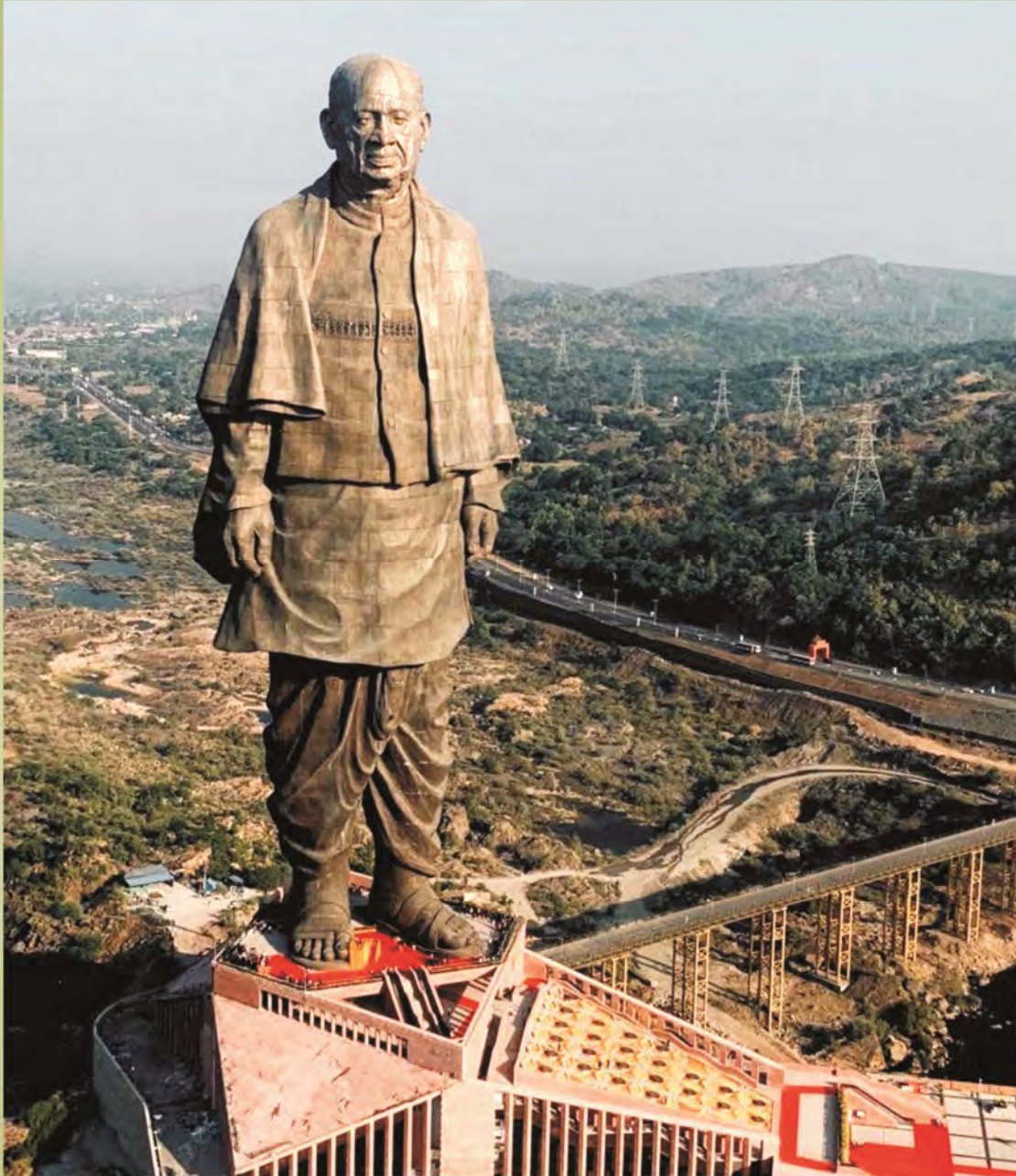
Here we see that the Japan's role is extremely valuable. Japanese companies are global leaders in electric vehicles, efficient batteries and hybrid technology. Collaborations between Indian and Japanese manufacturers can lead to the production of reliable and affordable EVs in India. Joint research projects, technology sharing, and investments in charging networks can help India overcome its current challenges.

The Indian government is taking many important steps to encourage the use of electric vehicles. One major effort is the rapid expansion of EV charging stations across the country. Today, India has more than 29,000 public charging stations. This makes it easier for people to charge their vehicles whenever needed, which increases confidence in using EVs for daily travel. With more charging spots available, switching from petrol or diesel vehicles to electric ones becomes much more practical and convenient.

In recent years, India and Japan have also strengthened their cooperation in the electric mobility sector. A significant example of this partnership is the India-Japan Fund investing ₹500 crore in EKA Mobility, an Indian company that manufactures electric buses and commercial vehicles. This investment will help the company improve its production capacity, develop better technologies, and build a stronger supply chain for clean transport. It also shows Japan's trust in India's growing EV industry and its potential to become a major global player.

Beyond individual investments, both governments are working together through long-term plans. In 2025, leaders from India and Japan created a shared vision for the next ten years. This vision includes closer cooperation in clean technologies, stronger and more reliable battery supply chains, and greater investment in sustainable mobility solutions. The goal is to support each other in developing environment friendly transport systems that reduce pollution and depend less on fossil fuels.

Overall, these efforts show that India is moving steadily towards a greener future. With strong government support, growing international partnerships especially with Japan and increasing awareness among people, electric vehicles are becoming a key part of India's sustainable development journey. It shows how two friendly nations can work together to solve global problems like climate change and energy security. By focusing on electric mobility, India and Japan are not just building vehicles—they are shaping a greener future for the next generation.



**World's tallest statue - Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel -Statue of Unity
182 meters, located at Kevadiya, Gujarat, India**