

Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India

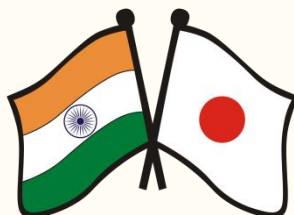


Country Report 2025



Address: SWYAA-India 13/88, Block C-4/B, Janakpuri, New Delhi -110058, India

Phone: +91-9810078620 swyindia@gmail.com www.swyaa-india.in



Ship for World Youth Alumni Association–India (SWYAA-India) completed nineteen years in 2025.

SWYAA-India actively promoted and participated in various initiatives of the Embassy of Japan in Delhi, highlighting Japan’s culture, heritage, travel, and cuisine.

The Embassy of Japan in India and the Japan Foundation acknowledged SWYAA-India for its effective role in fostering people-to-people contact, encouraging cross-cultural exchange, and nurturing the spirit of international cooperation, while also serving disadvantaged sections of society.

SWYAA-India extends heartfelt gratitude to the Embassy of Japan, for including five of our initiatives in Japan Month 2025. It is a privilege to have contributed to this meaningful celebration of Japanese culture, and we are honoured to be part of the collaborative spirit it represents.

Our social development activities, undertaken as part of post-program initiatives, have made a tangible impact by improving the lives of underprivileged communities through the SWYAA-Open Schools. This year, educational efforts remained focused on online teaching and digital learning.

SWYAA-India has continued to promote youth leadership for international peace, harmony, and nonviolence in Japanese universities by establishing collaborations between SWYAA-India and Japanese agencies in India during 2025.

We have also advanced innovative initiatives to create networking opportunities across India, focusing on education, environment, healthcare, and social justice.

Over the years, SWYAA-India has developed enduring bonds of friendship through cultural and educational initiatives, further strengthening India–Japan relations.

We envision SWYAA-India as an empowering institution for post-program activities in India, fostering networking opportunities with SWYAA-International countries to develop leadership with the capacity to serve humanity.

BASIC FACTS	
Basic facts about your country's Alumni Association:	
Country	INDIA
Name of the organization	SHIP FOR WORLD YOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION-INDIA (SWYAA-INDIA)
Organisational structure	Officially registered with the Government of India as an NPO
Board members (Name/batch)	President: Mr. Ravi Chopra Vice President: Ms. Samrita Gill Treasurer: Mr. Rupesh Gupta General Secretary: Dr. Hepesh Shepherd Joint Secretary: Mr. Pradip Somasundaran Chief Executive: Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna
Number of members	Total number of ex-PYs: 179 Active members: 72
Annual membership fee	Yes → Indian Rs.1000 or US\$ 10
Basic facts about your country's participation in SWY:	
Which batches has your country participated in?	17 Batches (SWY2, SWY4, SWY6, SWY8, SWY12, SWY14, SWY16, SWY18, SWY20, SWY22, SWY24, GLDP27, SWY28, SWY29, SWY30, & SWY34)
Which institution has conducted the selection process?	Government of India
Which institution has conducted the pre-departure training?	Government of India and SWYAA-India
How many days was the pre-departure training?	5 days
Communication:	
How does your AA communicate internally with members & externally with non-members?	Website → https://www.swyaa-india.in Facebook page → https://www.facebook.com/swyaa.india Twitter: https://twitter.com/SWYAA10GA Newsletter → Wave of Friendship (Yearly) E-mail: swyaa@india@gmail.com
NETWORKING AND COLLABORATIONS WITH JAPAN AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY	
Important associates and collaborators?	Embassy of Japan in India Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India in Tokyo Japan Foundation, India Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance, New Delhi Sophia University in Tokyo DISHA, New Delhi

	Discover Japan Club, India Municipal Corporation of Delhi
Do you organize events with the Japanese Embassy?	Yes → How often: Once yearly → What kind of events: seminar, lecture, meeting, and course
Do you organize events with the Japanese community?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes → How often: Once yearly → What kind of events: seminar, lecture, meeting, events, festival & voluntary work
ACTIVITIES IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR	
International reunions (Please write your AA has hosted an international reunion)	
Name of the event	No
Date of the event	
Hosting city	
How many participants? From which countries?	
Please write a summary of the event	
National reunions (Please write your AA has hosted a national reunion)	
Name of the event	Get together and meeting were organized by SWYAA-India
Date of the event	September 2025
Hosting city	Delhi
How many participants?	16
Please write a summary of the event	Ex-PYs shared their activities to promote the SWY program among youth. They also reported on various social development activities carried out over the year, including training, mentoring, and blood donation programs. It was decided to promote volunteerism in social development activities by engaging a cross-section of youth from universities, colleges, and schools in their respective areas. Ex-PYs exchanged information about their post-program experiences at the individual level regarding volunteerism. They agreed to conduct online activities in their respective states to promote the objectives of the SWY Program.
Receiving ex-SWY participants	
How many SWY visitors did you receive in your country?	2 Ex JPYs from Japan

<p>Did you organize a “Homestay + 1” project for the visitors? If yes, please write in detail.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>OTHERS</p>	
<p>Mr Sajeew Joseph SWY24 got elected as Member of Legislative Assembly, from Irikkur constituency in Kerala, in May 2021.</p>	
<p>Mr. Ravi Chopra, SWY6 President of SWYAA-India, continued as the President of the Discover Japan Club, India.</p>	
<p>Mr. Atulya Misra, IAS, SWY4 Members SWYAA-India became the Additional Chief Secretary in Government of Tamil Naidu (Sr. Bureaucratic posting in Indian Government).</p>	
<p>Ms. Samrita Kaur Gill, SWY6 Vice President of SWYAA-India, promoted to Aadditional commissioner in the Government of India.</p>	
<p>Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive of SWYAA India, took on the responsibility as the Chief Functionary of the Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance for Public Sector Enterprises and as the Advisor to Gandhipedia, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.</p>	
<p>Mr. Satya Ranjan Swain, SWY29 was appointed as the senior panel counsel to represent the Government of India in Delhi High Court.</p>	

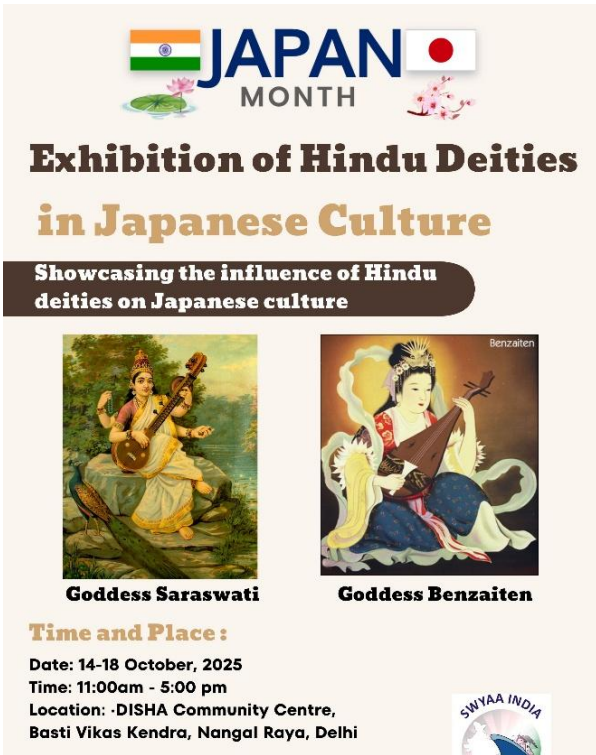
POST-PROGRAM SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY SWYAA-INDIA DURING 2025

1. SWYAA Open School Program: SWYAA-India worked with 68 students, providing education through Open Schools in the slums of Delhi. The primary aim was inclusion and improvement of quality education in line with the goals of SDG4. Subjects taught included language and arithmetic. In addition, students were engaged in various activities, including an introduction to Japanese culture, language, and customs, facilitated by SWYers from other countries.
2. Facilitators conducted educational classes for students at SWYAA Open Schools throughout the year and promoted Japanese art, culture, and language.
3. Volunteering in Open Schools:
 - Katsuta T, Advisor from the Japan India Association visited the Open Schools and volunteered in the educational program.
 - Two Ex JPYs - Yuka Ando and Aio Nakase visited Open Schools during the year
 - Two Ex JPYs - Tomoko Okawara and Ayaka Sekimoto volunteer online
4. Distribution of Educational Materials for Open Schools: Ex-PYs and SWYAA-India contributed stationery items and other gifts for the students, which were distributed by SWYAA-India.
5. Representatives of SWYAA-India participated in the Opening Reception of Japan Month 2025 in September 2025, held at the Ambassador's Residence, upon the invitation of H.E. Mr. Keiichi Ono, Ambassador of Japan to India. They were also invited to the reception celebrating the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on 14 February 2025, extended by H.E. Mr. Keiichi Ono, Ambassador of Japan to India.
6. This September and October, India celebrates Japan Month 2025 with a rich series of events showcasing Japan's vibrant culture, technology, and bilateral ties, promoted by the Embassy of Japan. The Embassy included five events organised by SWYAA-India in their official Japan Month celebrations and listed them on their official website. The events were:
 - Event 1: Hindu Deities' Representations in Japanese Culture
 - Event 2: Workshop on Sashiko - Traditional Japanese Embroidery
 - Event 3: Hope for Peace - 1,000 Orizuru Crafted by Students in Memory of Sadako Sasaki
 - Event 4: Cultural Echoes-Enhancing Understanding of Japanese Cultural Traditions through Music, Dance, Art, and Heritage
 - Event 5: Exhibition-cum-Workshop on Japanese Ink Painting with Renowned Artist Seigo Tabata
7. SWYAA-India participated in the online briefing session for SWY 2026, held in June 2025 by the Ship for World Youth Program Unit, Office for International Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan.
8. The digital education and computer training program continued in collaboration with SWYAA-Norway.

➤ **Collaboration with Embassy of Japan in India -Participation In ‘Japan Month’**

JAPAN MONTH 2025


It was a two-month cultural and diplomatic program organized by the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi, celebrated across India every September and October 2025. It highlighted Japan–India friendship through exhibitions, seminars, symposia, and cultural showcases, with events nationwide.




JAPAN MONTH

Exhibition of Hindu Deities in Japanese Culture

Showcasing the influence of Hindu deities on Japanese culture

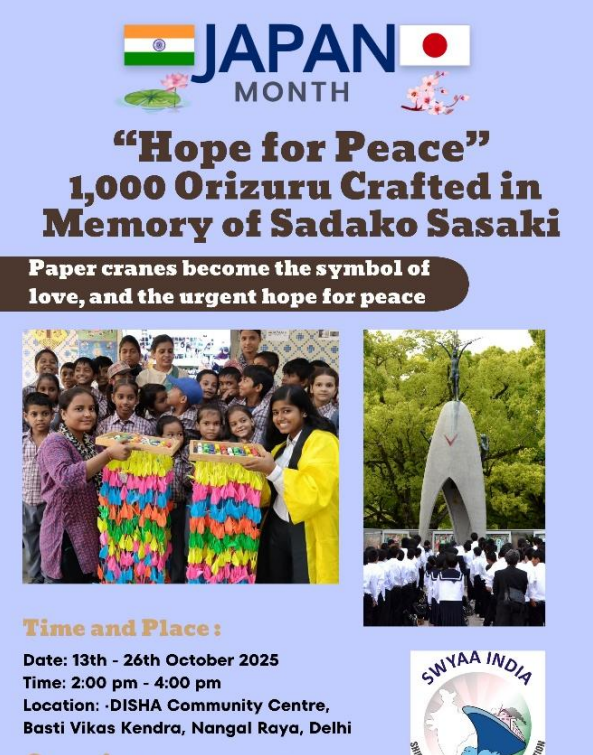


Goddess Saraswati



Goddess Benzaiten



Time and Place :
Date: 14-18 October, 2025
Time: 11:00am - 5:00 pm
Location: ·DISHA Community Centre, Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya, Delhi



JAPAN MONTH

**“Hope for Peace”
1,000 Orizuru Crafted in Memory of Sadako Sasaki**

Paper cranes become the symbol of love, and the urgent hope for peace

Time and Place :
Date: 13th - 26th October 2025
Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Location: ·DISHA Community Centre, Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya, Delhi

Ship for World Youth Alumni Association India (SWYAA-India) conducted the highest number of events during Japan Month 2025. SWYAA-India organized multiple exhibitions, workshops, and cultural programs across schools and community centers in New Delhi, making it the most active contributor.

Breakdown of SWYAA-India's Contributions

- Cultural Echoes – Music, dance, art, and heritage programs across schools.
- Exhibition on Hindu Deities in Japanese Culture – Held in Delhi.
- Sashiko Workshop – Traditional Japanese embroidery exhibition and workshop in Delhi.
- Hope for Peace – 1,000 Orizuru – Origami cranes crafted in memory of Sadako Sasaki, across schools in Delhi.
- Japanese Ink Painting Workshop with artist Seigo Tabata, in Delhi.

With at least 5 major multi-day events spread across different venues and audiences, SWYAA-India proved to be the most prolific organizer. SWYAA-India clearly emerged as the organization with the highest number of events during Japan Month, reflecting its strong commitment to promoting Japan–India cultural exchange at the grassroots level.





*Exhibition-cum-Workshop on SASHIKO:
Traditional Japanese Embroidery*

Place:
DISHA, Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya, New Delhi

Dates:
6th - 7th October 2025

Organizer:
Ship for World Youth Alumni Association India




How SWYAA-India Stood Out:

- **Breadth of Activities:** Covered visual arts, performing arts, heritage, peace education, and hands-on workshops.
- **Audience Reach:** Events were held in schools, municipal centers, and cultural venues, ensuring grassroots participation.
- **Cultural Depth:** Focused on both traditional Japanese practices (tea ceremony, embroidery, and ink painting) and universal themes (peace and cultural exchange).
- **Continuity:** Programming extended across nearly two months, aligning perfectly with the Japan Month calendar.




*Exhibition-cum-Workshop on SUIBOKU-GA:
The Art of Japanese Ink Painting Style by
Renowned Artist Seigo Tabata*

Place:
DISHA, Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya, New Delhi

Dates: 15-17 October 2025

Organizer:
Ship for World Youth Alumni Association India




EVENT 1: HINDU DEITIES REPRESENTATIONS IN JAPANESE CULTURE



Overview

- Organised by: Ship for World Youth Alumni Association India (SWYAA-India)
- Event: Exhibition on representations of Hindu deities in Japanese culture
- Dates: Monday, 13 October 2025 – Friday, 17 October 2025
- Venues: DISHA Community Centre, Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya, New Delhi and Municipal Primary School, Nangal Raya, Delhi
- Attendance: 260 Students attended along with teachers, and parents.

Purpose and objectives

- To highlight historical and living links between Indian and Japanese religious and cultural traditions by showcasing how Hindu deities appear in Japanese Buddhism and Shinto.
- To introduce school children and local community members to cross-cultural influences (e.g., Benzaiten–Saraswati, Kangiten–Ganesha, Kichijoten–Lakshmi, Bonten–Brahma, Taishakuten–Indra, Daijizaiten–Shiva).
- To foster appreciation for shared heritage, including the role of Sanskrit script (Siddham) preservation in Japan.
- To support Embassy of Japan’s Japan Month objective of deepening Indo-Japanese people-to-people connections.



Exhibition content and format

- A curated series of high-quality photographic panels documenting: Japanese temples and shrines, iconography of the listed deities, ritual contexts, and instances of Siddham script in Japanese religious settings.
- Informational panels explaining historical adoption of Hindu deities into Japanese Buddhist pantheons, with a focus on Vajrayana links and syncretic practices.
- Short descriptive captions and age-appropriate explanations for school audiences; teacher notes to facilitate classroom follow-up.
- Interactive elements: guided walks through panels, question prompts for students, and a short teacher-led discussion on cultural continuity and adaptation.

Audience and participation

- Primary audience: students (Municipal primary school, Nangal Raya) and teachers.
- Secondary audience: local community members and visitors at DISHA Community Centre.

Activities were scheduled across five days to allow multiple class groups and community time slots, maximising exposure and discussion.



Outcomes and impact

- Educational: Students gained visible, contextual understanding of how Indian deities appear and function in Japanese religious life; teachers received materials to incorporate the topic into social science and art lessons.

- **Cultural awareness:** The exhibition created tangible curiosity about Indo-Japanese historical ties and encouraged cross-cultural respect among young learners.
- **Community engagement:** The DISHA Community Centre sessions attracted parents and neighbourhood residents, expanding the conversation beyond the school and strengthening community ties with SWYAA-India initiatives.
- **Preservation awareness:** Visitors learned about Siddham script's conservation in Japan, prompting interest in linguistic & manuscript preservation among older students & teachers.



Observations and feedback

- Strong interest from students in iconographic similarities and differences; lively classroom discussions followed guided sessions.
- Teachers valued the bilingual, image-rich panels and requested follow-up resource packs (suggested lesson plans and reading lists).
- Community attendees appreciated the focus on shared heritage and requested future programmes on comparative festivals and rituals.

Conclusion

The SWYAA-India exhibition successfully translated a complex cultural theme into accessible learning experiences for schoolchildren and the local community during Japan Month 2025. By visually and contextually linking Hindu deities and Japanese religious practice, the event reinforced Indo-Japanese cultural continuity and offered a sustainable model for school-based cultural diplomacy and curriculum enrichment.

EVENT 2: WORKSHOP ON SASHIKO: TRADITIONAL JAPANESE EMBROIDERY



As part of Japan Month 2025 celebrations, SWYAA-India conducted a four-day workshop on **Sashiko**, the heritage folk embroidery of Japanese rural women. The initiative aimed to introduce Indian participants to the meditative art of Sashiko, its cultural symbolism, and its sustainable textile traditions.

Overview

- Organised by: Ship for World Youth Alumni Association India (SWYAA-India)
- Venue: DISHA Community Centre, Nangal Raya, New Delhi-110048
- Dates: 2nd, 3rd, 15th, and 16th October 2025
- Participants: 24 women from the Nangal Raya area, Delhi



Workshop Highlights

- Introduction to Sashiko: Originating in the Edo period, Sashiko began as a method to reinforce garments and evolved into a decorative folk art.

- **Cultural Significance:**
 - Participants explored motifs symbolizing resilience (waves), longevity (pine), and mindfulness, reflecting Japanese aesthetics.
- **Hands-on Activities:**
 - History and symbolism sessions
 - Pattern selection and guided stitching using authentic tools
 - Completion of individual projects such as coasters or wall hangings

Learning Outcomes

- Acquisition of basic Sashiko stitching techniques
- Appreciation of its meditative and sustainable qualities
- Creation of handcrafted items as cultural keepsakes



Impact

The workshop fostered cross-cultural understanding and skill-building among local women, offering a meaningful platform for artistic exchange and heritage appreciation. Participants expressed enthusiasm for continuing textile-based learning and requested future sessions on Japanese crafts.

EVENT 3: HOPE FOR PEACE" – 1000 ORIZURU TO BE CRAFTED BY STUDENTS IN MEMORY OF SADAKO SASAKI



As part of the Japan Month 2025 celebrations hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Delhi, SWYAA-India organised a heartfelt tribute to **Sadako Sasaki**, the young Hiroshima victim who became a global symbol of peace through her folding of paper cranes (Orizuru). The initiative engaged primary school students and community members in West Delhi in crafting 1000 cranes as a collective message of peace, resilience, and hope.

Overview

- **Organised by:** Ship for World Youth Alumni Association India (SWYAA-India)
- **Dates:** 4th to 17th October 2025
- **Venues:** Municipal Primary School, Nangal Raya & DISHA Community Centre, Basti Vikas Kendra, New Delhi



Objectives

- To introduce children to the Japanese legend of the Orizuru, symbolising longevity and the fulfilment of wishes.
- To honour Sadako Sasaki’s legacy and promote peace education through creative expression.
- To foster cross-cultural understanding and strengthen Indo-Japanese people-to-people ties.

Activities

- **Origami Workshops:** Hands-on sessions where students learned to fold paper cranes, guided by SWYAA-India volunteers.
- **Cultural Education:** Storytelling sessions on Sadako Sasaki’s life and the symbolism of the Orizuru in Japanese culture.
- **Peace Message Sharing:** Students reflected on the meaning of peace and unity, contributing messages to accompany the cranes.



Impact

- Over the course of two weeks, **hundreds of students** participated in the workshops, contributing to the collective goal of 1000 cranes.
- The activity created a **deep emotional connection** with the story of Sadako Sasaki, inspiring empathy and awareness of global peace efforts.
- Teachers and community members praised the initiative for its **educational value and emotional resonance**, requesting similar future engagements.

Conclusion

The “Hope for Peace” Orizuru tribute was a moving and meaningful component of Japan Month 2025. It successfully combined cultural education, creative expression, and peace-building values, leaving a lasting impression on young minds and reinforcing the shared commitment of India and Japan to a peaceful future.

EVENT 4: CULTURAL ECHOES: ENHANCED UNDERSTANDING OF JAPANESE CULTURAL TRADITIONS THROUGH MUSIC, DANCE, ART, AND HERITAGE



As part of Japan Month 2025, SWYAA–India organised an online cultural exchange programme titled *Cultural Echoes* from 20th to 26th October, engaging 270 students and teachers through interactive sessions on Japanese music, dance, Ikebana, heritage, and gender equality. Led by Japanese experts, the programme featured live performances, a cultural quiz, and discussions that deepened cross-cultural understanding and strengthened Indo–Japanese ties.



Overview

- **Organised by:** Ship for World Youth Alumni Association India (SWYAA–India)
- **Dates:** 20th to 26th October 2025 **Format:** Online sessions
- **Venue:** DISHA Community Centre, Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya, New Delhi
- **Participants:** 270 students and teachers

Objective

To promote cultural exchange and mutual understanding between India and Japan through a series of interactive online sessions featuring Japanese music, dance, heritage, and social perspectives.

Programme Highlights

- **Performing Arts Showcase:** Japanese songs, traditional music, dance, and Ikebana were presented virtually by Japanese artists, offering students a vibrant introduction to Japan’s expressive traditions.
- **Heritage & Culture Quiz:** An engaging online quiz tested participants’ knowledge of Japanese customs, history, and values.
- **Gender Equality Dialogue:** Japanese experts shared perspectives on gender roles and equality, encouraging thoughtful reflection and discussion.



Resource Persons

Sessions were led by distinguished Japanese cultural ambassadors: **Ayaka Sekimoto, Aio Nakase, Yuka Ando, Tomoko Okawara, and Katsuta Tomoharu**, who interacted live with students and teachers.

Impact

- Students gained exposure to Japanese cultural practices, enhancing global awareness and appreciation.
- Teachers praised the programme’s educational value and requested future collaborations.
- The online format enabled real-time cultural exchange, strengthening Indo–Japanese people-to-people ties.

EVENT 5: EXHIBITION CUM WORKSHOP ON JAPANESE INK PAINTING WITH RENOWNED ARTIST SEIGO TABATA

- Organised by: Ship for World Youth Alumni Association India (SWYAA-India)
- Dates: 13th – 16th October 2025 Participants: 122 youth and children



Venues

- Municipal Corporation Primary School, Nangal Raya, New Delhi
- DISHA Community Centre, Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya, New Delhi

Objective

To foster Indo-Japanese cultural exchange by introducing students and community members to *Suiboku-ga* (Japanese ink painting) through an exhibition and hands-on workshop led by renowned Japanese artist Mr. Seigo Tabata, alumnus of the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP) and former Secretary General of the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan.

Activities Conducted

- **Exhibition of Ink Paintings:** Display of original artworks by Mr. Tabata, showcasing traditional Japanese brush techniques and themes.
- **Interactive Demonstrations:** Introduction to the philosophy and aesthetics of *Suiboku-ga*, including brush handling, ink preparation, and composition.
- **Hands-on Workshop:** Students practiced basic strokes and created their own ink paintings under Mr. Tabata's guidance.
- **Cultural Dialogue:** Informal discussions on Japanese art traditions and their relevance to mindfulness, nature appreciation, and simplicity.



Outcomes & Impact

- **Artistic Exposure:** Participants gained first-hand experience in a unique Japanese art form, enhancing their creative confidence.
- **Cultural Understanding:** The event deepened appreciation for Japanese aesthetics and values among Indian youth.
- **People-to-People Ties:** Strengthened Indo–Japanese friendship through meaningful artistic exchange and shared learning.



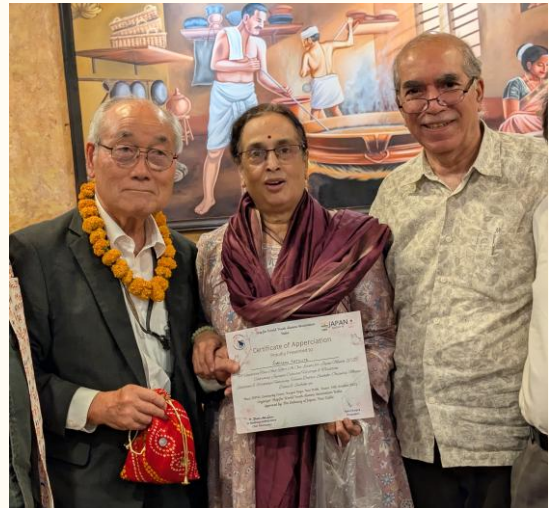
Conclusion

The Workshop on Japanese Ink Painting was a resounding success, blending artistic skill-building with cultural diplomacy. It offered a memorable platform for young learners to engage with Japan’s heritage and contributed meaningfully to the spirit of Japan Month 2025.



➤ **Visit of volunteers and Ex-PYs of SWY and Homestay + 1 project**

➤ **Katsuta Tomoharu**, Advisor from the Japan–India Association, Tokyo visited the Open Schools and volunteered in the educational program conducted in the slums of Delhi by SWYAA-India. He introduced the children to the study methods followed in Japanese primary and middle schools. His interaction inspired the students to broaden their horizons and appreciate global learning practices. The visit strengthened the bonds of friendship between India & Japan through shared educational values. It also highlighted the importance of volunteer-driven initiatives in nurturing young minds.



➤ **Ex JPYs - Yuka Ando and Aio Nakase**



Both Yuka Ando and Aio Nakase, former Japan participants (JPYs) of SWY programs, visited Open Schools during the celebration of Japan Month 2025.



They actively participated in the various activities planned across different events and explained to attendees the cultural significance of these activities in Japanese tradition. Their personal insights and firsthand experiences added great depth and authenticity to the celebrations, making the interactions more meaningful for the participants. They also distributed certificates to the girls who had successfully completed skill training in computers, encouraging them to continue their learning journey. Their presence and enthusiasm were warmly appreciated by students, teachers, and organizers alike, and they served as inspiring ambassadors of Japan–India friendship at the grassroots level.

- **Seigo Tabata**, alumnus of the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP) and former Secretary General of the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan:

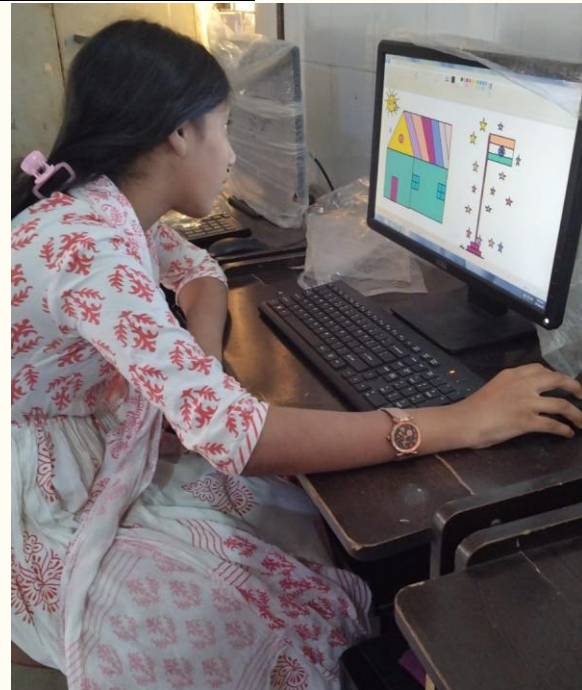


To foster Indo–Japanese cultural exchange, he introduced online session for Open School students and community members to Suiboku-ga (Japanese ink painting) through a captivating exhibition and hands-on workshop. He generously sent painting materials in advance and explained in detail the history, philosophy, and techniques of Suiboku-ga, giving participants a thorough understanding of this traditional Japanese art form. His clear and engaging guidance made the session both educational and enjoyable, inspiring students to explore the meditative qualities of ink painting. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and expressed heartfelt gratitude to Seigo Tabata for this enriching opportunity, which brought them closer to Japanese artistic traditions.

- **Ayaka Sekimoto**, a former Japan (JPY) participant of SWY program, volunteered online and gave a delightful demonstration of traditional Japanese musical instruments to students of SWYAA Open School. She also taught the students a Japanese song, patiently guiding them through the lyrics and melody. The students were thoroughly engaged throughout the session, picking up the nuances of the song with great enthusiasm. They enjoyed learning about the different types of Japanese musical instruments and took great delight in singing along together. The session was a wonderful blend of music and cultural learning, leaving the students with a deeper appreciation of Japan's rich musical heritage.



➤ Joint Programs Between SWYAA-India and other SWY Alumni Associations SWYAA-NORWAY –DIGITAL EDUCATION AND COMPUTER SKILLS



In collaboration with Silje Solli from SWYAA-Norway, the digital education and computer skills program continued for students at the Open School. This year, 18 students learned digital skills. The parents of the students highly valued the computer class expressed their satisfaction with the progress of their wards. In addition, we gave them the certificates of completion. Most of the students expressed their desire to continue to learn more next year.

➤ SWYAA India Open School

SWYAA-India implemented an interactive educational project benefiting 68 children enrolled in Municipal Corporation primary schools across Delhi during the academic year. From January to December 2025, SWYAA-India provided comprehensive digital education and academic support in Hindi and Mathematics to girl children studying in Classes 1 to 5. The academic support was delivered both in Open School classrooms and digital resource centers, with the aim of enhancing the overall quality of education and bridging learning gaps among underprivileged students.



In addition to core academic subjects, students were engaged in a wide variety of enriching activities, including an introduction to Japanese culture, language, and customs, facilitated by SWYers from various countries. These cross-cultural interactions not only broadened the students' worldview but also instilled in them a sense of global citizenship and mutual respect. The sessions were thoughtfully designed to make learning interactive, joyful, and meaningful, ensuring that every child felt included and valued.





Facilitators conducted regular educational classes for students at SWYAA Open Schools throughout the year and actively promoted Japanese art, culture, and language as part of the curriculum. SWYAA-India also engaged class teachers by sharing information on the outcomes of the innovative pedagogy employed by school facilitators, successfully integrating these approaches into the school curriculum through structured Open School interventions. This collaborative model between facilitators and teachers ensured a consistent and holistic learning experience for all students.



SWYAA-India is committed to providing inclusive and equitable quality education to disadvantaged girl children, with the goal of promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. One of its primary focus areas is fostering inclusive education through innovative and child-friendly approaches for underprivileged children, while actively advocating for making quality education a reality for every child by 2030. SWYAA-India firmly believes that education is the most powerful tool for social transformation and is dedicated to nurturing young minds with knowledge, confidence, and compassion. Through its sustained efforts, SWYAA-India aims to play a transformative role in shaping the character, values, and aspirations of the next generation. By empowering girls through education today, SWYAA-India envisions a future where every child, regardless of her background, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive with dignity and purpose.

➤ Participations in the events organized by the Embassy of Japan in India

➤ Birthday celebrations of Emperor of Japan:

The Ambassador of Japan to India, H.E. Mr. Ono Keiichi, hosted a grand gala reception on 14th February 2025 at the official residence of the Embassy of Japan to celebrate the 65th birthday of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, which also marks Japan's National Day. Japan's National Day is observed on 23rd February each year to commemorate the birthday of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, the 126th Emperor of Japan according to the country's traditional order of imperial succession. The President and Chief Functionary of SWYAA-India were graciously invited by the Embassy of Japan to participate in this prestigious reception.



The distinguished gathering on this occasion brought together top diplomats from various countries, along with prominent personalities from the fields of industry, trade, commerce, government, defense forces, hospitality, travel, education, and media. The Indian Cabinet Minister for Education, graced the event as the Guest of Honour, adding great prestige and warmth to the celebration.

➤ Opening of Japan Month 2025:

H.E. Mr. Ono Keiichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, graciously invited the President and Chief Functionary of SWYAA-India to a curtain-raiser event held on 10th September 2025 at the Ambassador's official residence, to mark the opening of Japan Month 2025.

Japan Month is a two-month cultural and diplomatic programme organised by the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi, celebrated across India every September and October. It highlights the enduring Japan–India friendship through a diverse range of exhibitions, seminars, symposia, and cultural showcases, with events held at various venues nationwide. In 2025, the programme was celebrated with exceptional enthusiasm, bringing together diplomats, cultural organisations, educational institutions, and civil society under one vibrant platform.

The President and Chief Functionary of SWYAA-India actively engaged with the invited guests at the event, sharing insights about the Ship for World Youth (SWY) programme and its significance in fostering youth exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and India. Their participation at this prestigious curtain-raiser reflected SWYAA-India's strong and enduring association with the Embassy of Japan and its continued commitment to promoting Japan–India people-to-people ties.

➤ Participation in the CAO meeting for SWY FY2026

The President of SWYAA-India, along with the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India, participated in the Meeting for Representatives of Participating Countries of Ship for World Youth 2026, hosted online by the Office for International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, in June 2025.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and exchange opinions on the implementation of the SWY 2026 programme. The main agenda of the meeting included an explanation of the future schedule and key milestones of the programme, as well as deliberations on ensuring its smooth and effective execution. SWYAA-India actively contributed to the discussions by sharing valuable suggestions for the implementation of the SWY 36 programme, which were warmly appreciated and well-received by the participating delegations. The meeting proved to be a productive platform for strengthening international cooperation.

❖ Orientation Meeting with Officials of Japanese Agencies

Mr. Ravi Chopra and Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna held meeting with Mr. Koji Sato, Director General of the Japan Foundation, New Delhi and orient him about the programs of SWYAA-India and the future collaborative programs.

❖ Networking and Linkages

SWYAA-India strengthened the linkages with the Embassy of Japan in India. We forged a strong relationship with the Japan Foundation and Sophia University. We held meetings with the officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for the International cultural exchange program.

❖ Profile Of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India (SWYAA-INDIA)

Head office	:	13/88, Block C-4/B, Janakpuri, New Delhi -110058, India
Telephone	:	+91-11-41570597 (M) +91-9810078620
Email	:	swyindia@gmail.com
Website	:	www.swyaa-india.in
Legal Status	:	Registered under societies registration act XXI of Government of India <i>Registration No.:</i> S/58262 <i>Registration date:</i> 02/04/2007 Registered under section 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961, Government of India
Geographical coverage	:	All India
Executive committee	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ President : Mr. Ravi Chopra ▪ Vice President : Ms. Samrita Kaur Gill, C.C.S ▪ Treasurer : Mr. Rupesh Gupta, C.A. ▪ Joint Secretary : Mr. Pradip Somasundaran ▪ Chief Executive : Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”- Mahatma Gandhi