



# Indian JSPS Alumni Club

**Concord** Vol.1 (1) Year -2007



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**Dr. Kailash Manda**

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## Message by Chairman



**Dr. D. Sakthi Kumar**

My dear Indian JSPS Alumni Members,

It is with great pleasure and proud, I am taking the opportunity to introduce our news letter "Concord" to you. Let us use this news letter to share our information, ideas and interesting anecdotes of our life as researcher and social animals. Of course modern civilized man cannot stay in a life of seclusion and isolation even after living standards improved in an unbelievable way. He needs social interaction. We being located in different places won't get the chance to interact so often. Let us take the "Concord" as one platform among many for our social interaction. Let us not stop at only scientific information to be published through our "Concord" but along with that it should contain the stories and experiences of our lives which can provide feeling of the joy of sharing. I do believe that Concord can act as an in- house magazine in all respect for our alumni club.

Our Chief Editor has done a fabulous job to publish the first issue of our news letter along with the help of sub editors. No words are enough to congratulate them for bringing our new letter having such a standard, even under their busy schedule. Many of our members also provided their active support to our editors. I wish them all the best to continue this trend all the way through out the publication of Concord. And along with this I would like to request all our members to provide their articles and suggestions and extend their help to our editors to produce our news letter in a meaning full way in the upcoming issues too.

Yours

Dr. D. Sakthi Kumar  
Chairman  
Indian JSPS Alumni Club

विद्याधनं सर्वधनं प्रधानम् ।

# Editorial

**M**ore than a thousand years ago, the peoples of India and Japan initiated a vibrant civilizational relationship, when Buddhism traveled to Japan. The gentle message that was brought from India to Japan was a message of love, compassion and universal brotherhood. India has inherited and of course maintained a unique history of peaceful relationship with Japan. It is something of a paradox that India's relation with Japan has been singularly free of any kind of dispute – ideological, cultural or territorial. Japan's image in India has historically been positive, going back to its 1905 victory over Russia which was interpreted by us as the beginning of Asian resurgence. In our reading of the events leading up to the Second World War, Japan's anti-colonial contribution overshadowed any reservations about its militarism. Japanese support and assistance to Netaji and the Indian National Army continue to shape popular thinking about Japan. The immediate post independence experience was no less positive, with the Tokyo tribunal, waiving of reparations, conclusion of a separate Peace Treaty, the Asian Games, extension of yen loans and shared commitment to nuclear disarmament. Recently, our Prime Minister Dr. Singh's visit to Japan has added the new flavor in our age old friendship. Dr. Singh on December 14, 2006, launched the India-Japan Friendship Year 2007. It's a matter of great pleasure that Indian JSPS alumni club is also launching its first official bulletin, the CONCORD, with the auspicious beginning of India-Japan Friendship Year 2007. I wish, the club will help strengthening the scientific, social and cultural relationship between India and Japan

Editor-in-Chief, CONCORD

# Message by Director, JSPS Fellows Plaza



Hiromichi MATSUO

Dear JSPS Alumni,

I am very pleased to know that the Indian Alumni Association has successfully issued its first newsletter. I believe this to mark a significant milestone in developing the program of your organization, and look forward to the information conveyed in this and future issues informing former Indian fellows while creating a sense of community among them.

The India's Department of Science and Technology is one of JSPS's most strategic partners. Under JSPS's bilateral programs with DST and our own unilateral programs, about 250 Indian researchers were invited to Japan in FY 2006.

As Indian researchers make dazzling advances in expanding the frontiers of science across a spectrum of disciplines, we anticipate ever closer scientific collaboration between India and Japan. I look forward to our Indian alumni working together with their Japanese colleagues in building those bridges into the future.

Sincerely yours,

Hiromichi MATSUO(Mr.)

Director

JSPS Fellows Plaza



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**Professor C.N.R. RAO, F.R.S**  
*National Research Professor  
and  
Honorary President*

27 February, 2007

**Message**

I am delighted that Indian JSPS Alumni Club is bringing out Newsletter 'Concord'. First of all, I am happy that JSPS fellows and Japanese host scientists can join as members. I am glad that the goal set by the Indian JSPS Alumni Club is remarkable as it plays the role of a catalyst of the Indo-Japanese relationship by pursuing the relationship with Japanese host scientists. It is heartening to note that the Club is aiming at an active participation of JSPS fellows for a fruitful collaborative work for enlarging their boundaries and also to bring the Indian JSPS scientists under one umbrella. The website of the Club is important as it provides information for aspirants for JSPS fellowships and general information for JSPS fellows.

I wish the members of the club success in all their efforts.

(C.N.R. Rao)

National Research Professor  
&  
Linus Pauling Research Professor



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1 March 2007

### Message

I am very pleased to know that the Indian JSPS Alumni Club is going to publish its first issue of the newsletter - CONCORD. I am happy that this is going to coincide with the year 2007 when we are celebrating India- Japan friendship year.

Today, science & technology penetrates into every aspect of society and it is no exaggeration to say that our daily life cannot be accomplished without science & technology. Japanese Government is very sensitive to the roles to which science & technology should correspond from the perspective of the problems that confront our society and mankind as a whole. India considers Japan as an important country for scientific & technological cooperation. The role of JSPS has been very significant in enhancing the close scientific & technological cooperation between the two countries in frontier areas through its different bilateral programmes.

The recent visit of our Honourable Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in December 2006 has further strengthened our relationship and it has been realized that cooperation in science & technology constitutes a key element of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

I sincerely believe and hope that members of Indian JSPS Alumni club will strive hard and play a major role in bringing the scientific communities of the two countries closer. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Indian JSPS Alumni Club on bringing out the first issue of the newsletter 'CONCORD' and wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

V Shanker

[Virendra Shanker]  
Counsellor(S & T)

# Message by Gen. Secretary



**Dr. Pravin D. Kunte**

Dear JSPS Alumni and family members,

We wish you a very Happy New Year 2007. May you have a joyous and success filled year ahead. This year indeed has started on a good note for all of us, keeping in mind the establishment of the Indian JSPS Alumni Club. Dr. Sakthi Kumar and his colleagues in co-ordination with personnel from the JSPS have put in a lot of effort and time into starting this club. So, kudos to them for doing an excellent job of it. By organizing first meeting of Indian JSPS Alumni club member on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Dr. Sakthi Kumar, in true sense, activated registration process of the Club and then formation of executive committee is the next step ahead. On behalf of everyone at this club, we congratulate Dr. Sakthi Kumar and extend our gratitude to him.

The main objective of the club is to foster a close relationship between the alumni and the JSPS, and provide a platform for all alumni and their family members to socialize and associate with one another.

Having said that, we fervently hope every alumnus participates in the club's activities. Our news letter, CONCORD is here to help you with just that. I feel it shall provide an excellent platform for all to participate and keep track of all the club's activities. For a start you could help us by sending in the names and e-mail addresses of other Indian JSPS Alumni you know of so we can increase the number of members in our club. You could also send in your suggestions or send in some feedback. Your response is important to us as it will help us improvise on our e-newsletter. Please do write in to us about any important events, achievements, contributions, or any information you feel would be useful to share with our members. So go ahead and start typing. We would like to make this e-newsletter interesting and informative so we look forward to hearing your comments, suggestions and information.

With assistance from Sub Editors and other members, our Chief Editor, Dr. Kailash Manda has brought out this very first issue of our e-news letter "CONCORD". We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

On a concluding note, my best wishes to everyone at the Indian JSPS Alumni Club and good luck to CONCORD and its editorial board.

Warm Regards,  
Dr. Pravin D. Kunte  
General Secretary,  
Indian JSPS Alumni Club

# Indian JSPS Alumni Club

## Milestones of our Club

EVENTS	ACTIVITIES
In the early weeks of March, 2006	Sprouted the idea of starting the Indian JSPS Alumni Club.
By mid April, 2006	Started discussion with likeminded JSPS Alumni's and started the discussion about designing the web site.
28. April. 2006	First meeting with JSPS office bearers in JSPS head office, Ichibancho, Chiyoda Ku, Japan. Received overwhelming support from JSPS Fellows Plaza office bearers.
19. May. 2006	Launched our club's web site.
June, 2006	Information about our club came in JSPS Quarterly. Members started joining in the club.
4. October. 2006	Started indianjpsalumni Yahoo group.
28. October. 2006	Members first get together in Toyo University Campus, Kawagoe. (Persons living near to Tokyo), (Discussion about the bylaw and future actions)
18. December. 2006	Accepted the bylaw for our club after discussion through yahoo group.
1. January. 2007	New office bearers of our club assumed the charges.
20. January. 2007	Accepted the name "CONCORD" as our News Letter's name after discussion and voting through yahoo group
March. 2007	Launched the first issue of "CONCORD"

Now our club is having around 100 members living in India, Japan, UK, USA, Singapore, Germany, Sweden, Ireland, Australia & Taiwan. With our website, yahoo group, news letter and very active members, we are proving that we are well knitted together. We, members of Indian JSPS Alumni Club, wholeheartedly welcome new members to our club.

## Feeling at home away from home: The case of Indians in Japan



Dr. SVRK Prabhakar

Japan is one among those countries that provides uniqueness in uniformity and cultural preservation in modernity. Indians who visit this land are often immensely struck by how things are designed and run with ultimate precision and uniformity, whether it comes to design of roads or running of public transport systems such as buses and railways. They also wonder how Japan celebrates its festivals and rituals with most fervor, which are fast disappearing elsewhere. Japanese are polite, even by Indian standards, and this characteristic seems to persist in years to come. My Indian friend often expresses his surprise for the silence that prevails everywhere. For him, the contrast appears bigger than a difference between a mouse and elephant. From a place where blowing horn (one could see the caution behind every transport vehicle saying 'Blow Horn Please') or yelling loudly on a road is a common sight, things such as being silent and watching highest of civic sense on the roads is a different experience altogether for Indians. The cleanliness of the surroundings, the plenty of automation and pollution free environment certainly add to their pleasures.

Or there is more than that meets the eye? Life for Indians in Japan can be daunting. There are challenges related to the language and understanding the people's etiquettes. Living up to the high standards of civic sense is a big cultural shock for Indians, says a Kyoto University scholar. According to him, finding a suitable apartment, which is a universal problem in Japan, and Indian food outlets are the problems of different kind. He explains his bad time in differentiating salt and sugar in a 99 Yen shop. Indians are also amazed by looking at the prices of tomatoes and watermelons here, which at times touch the gold prices in India!

Does it seem like a list of never ending ordeals? Well, not really. One could see various forms of 'adaptation' that Indians devised to 'live in Japan and yet feel at home.' Number of online stores sells Indian groceries such as spicy mixtures, tea, rice, and even frozen chillies (chillies in Japan are no hot by Indian taste and mind you, Indians love rice that is friable and non-sticky). Many of these stores even offer free home delivery if the order exceeds certain amount. Some such stores are [indojin.com](http://indojin.com) and [ambikajapan.com](http://ambikajapan.com).

After the food, the most important thing Indians would miss is a group with whom they could share their thoughts and spend time with. Remember communication is important in this whole sharing and feeling and learning Japanese language (*nihongo*) is one of the toughest propositions even for Indians who are used to listening number of languages in India. Many Indians in Japan have devised way for breaking the monotony and loneliness. They formed local groups for the purpose of 'feeling at home away from home'. One such group formed in Kyoto is KyotoIndians which is basically created by a group of Indian students using YahooGroups email service. One of the group members says that the formation of such local groups is providing lot of comfort. He says that the group was initiated with a small idea of celebrating Indian festivals and it slowly grew into other activities as well. The group members meet on important Indian festivals and enjoy the Indian food in a potluck lunch or dinner. These groups are helping the members in many aspects of life in Japan starting from finding the cheapest convenience stores in the town to the ways of sending money to the parents back home. The motto with which these groups work is quite interesting. One of the group members said "the group is a universal set under which the members are subset and no member could ever hijack the common interest of the group." This member says how members openly discuss on matters that are plaguing their home country. Recently, this group discussed at length on the issue of reservations in India, whether it is a problem or not, and how to support those who are fighting for the cause in India. Similar discussions were also initiated when a member saw a report in one of the vernacular newspapers of India that a brilliant student may not be able to join the top educational institution because he cannot afford to pay the tuition fees. The members discussed on ways of pooling the money and sending it to the needy in India. The group could ultimately pledge support for the social causes.

continue.....

## Continue...

One of the members says “these activities help us understand how to respond to the situation, it is a great learning experience for all of us.” According to the other member, “some other benefits that the members are getting are information about job opportunities in Japan, fairs, and even in finding places for cheaper haircut.” “The marvel of information age is rightly displayed here,” the member admired.

I also came to know the exchange of lot of fun material by the members. Some members send jokes while others send lot of personality building information such as Yoga. Yet times, one can even see the information being exchanged on sayonara sale or free exchange of materials that are in excess with some of the members. Some kind Indians let others know of their plans of visiting India and help by bringing essentials that either are not available or pricy in Japan on the request of the fellow members. One member says “it hardly costs us helping others when we have sufficient baggage allowance. Some times the airport authorities overlook the excess baggage and it is only helping other needy Indians in Japan.” Pickles, rice cookers, medicines, and masalas (spicy mixtures) are popular items often requested by the members. Another member also explained me how a homesick new comer was comforted by the fellow members and made him feel at home in Japan! No doubts, these online groups are reducing the time in making a community.

Not only this, the group members also visit historical places in Japan while enjoying the Indian togetherness. For example, the group members of KyotoIndians visited Daimonji hills in Kyoto and the giant Buddha in Nara. During such occasions, one of the member volunteers to plan and coordinate trip. He prepares the itinerary of the trip and circulates to all the members, updates the itinerary based on members convenience and implements the trip. The detailing often includes amount of food to be carried, expenses for the travel, availability of a free guide in the visited location etc. Usually expenses are equally shared.

There is another superset emerging these days in Japan i.e. group of groups. This group of groups is nothing but a super entity that tries to enhance the coherence of small Indian groups in Japan. Some such examples are Japanindians.com and IndiansinJapan on Geocities. While IndiansinJapan provides host of information on India, Japan and the cultural relations between both of them with a facility of online forum, the Japanindians.com brings together the groups such as KyotoIndians, promotes dialogue between the groups and help support each other in various ways. This website created innovative prefecture level forums for the Indians living in different prefectures of Japan. Any Indian living in a prefecture can join the forum of that prefecture and start communicating with other fellow Indians near to him, almost instantly. There are ideas to promote cross-visits of these groups so that they can enjoy the beautiful country of Japan with ease. Reflecting India's uniqueness in diversity, one even can find language level super groups emerging. There is one such superset in Tokyo with the name of Japan Telugu Samakhya (JTS) which specifically caters to the people coming from Andhra Pradesh prefecture in India. JTS possesses similarities with the KyotoIndians and other groups except that it operates at the nation level.

The options for ‘feeling at home’ are endless in Japan despite of the communication problems. Indians are devising various means of overcoming the communication barriers and are trying to ‘feel at home away from home’. There is a message too to the local level administrators in Japan. Though the Japan government is slowly introducing various policies such as ‘Job Café’ at the prefectural offices and message boards at the international houses, the administration should start identifying such gaijin groups and assign them with more participatory and proactive roles that could make the life in Japan even more enjoyable.

**Dr. SVRK Prabhakar**

**Postdoctoral Fellow, Kyoto University, Japan**

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## Ph. D. in Bio-Nanotechnology



Graduate School of Interdisciplinary New Science, Bio Nano Science Fusion Course,  
Bio Nano Electronics Research Center, Toyo University, Japan.

**JOIN US !**

**Together we will change the world !!!**

**(Highlight of this course: You can pursue your Ph. D. in English)**

### Why this course?

Bio Nanotechnology is changing the face of science and technology and this new field is considered as the wonderful offspring of the fusion of different disciplines namely, physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics and materials science. This field is going to push the frontiers of science and technology in the 21 st century. Bio Nanotechnology (BNT) could well be the next industrial revolution on which our industrial market, businesses and even economy of countries may depend in the coming decades. This course will produce new generation of scientists who can work like amphibians in any environment related to physics, chemistry, biology, materials science and electronics to name a few.

### About Bio Nano Electronics Research Center

Our center started in 1996 to augment the research in the field of Bio Nanotechnology. We aim to develop our center as world leader in the Bio Nano research field. To help us to reach our goal, world renowned scientists **Prof. Kroto (Nobel Laureate 1996)** and **Prof. John Walker (Nobel Laureate 1997)** joined our center as visiting scientists. Short duration of our work in Bio Nano field itself was enough to receive the designation as the **Center of Excellence** under 21 st century's center of excellence program in the field of inter disciplinary new science by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan. As a mission to expand our research center, we have acquired the latest equipment which will help to lead the bio nano related research and have collaborated with several leading research centers located in UK, USA, France, Australia, India, Hungary, China and Japan.

In that mission, as the next step we would like to start a **Ph. D. program in Bio Nano technology**. **This program will be entirely in English. Students will be able to conduct the research and submit the thesis in English.** This course is a signature of our dedication to bring our center to the world class level. Your unique advantage by joining in this course is that you will be exposed to latest and fast growing research field. Undoubtedly this will enable you to become a leader in the Bio Nano research field.

**Ph. D. course:** (3 years) Consists for research work with submission of thesis and seminar presentations.

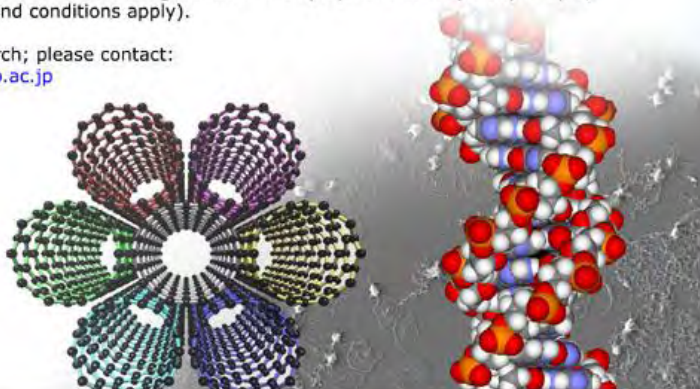
**Eligible candidates:** Students with Masters in any of the disciplines such as physics, chemistry, materials science, biotechnology or engineering degrees in electronics, chemistry etc.

**Possible fellowships:** Monbusho scholarships (Notification will come in leading dailies and Employment News (India) in April/ May), Fellowships from Bio Nano research center (Limited and conditions apply).

To find out your opportunity in this wonderful field of research; please contact:  
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<http://nls.cse.eng.toyo.ac.jp/nls/bionano/COEtop.htm>

<http://www.toyo.ac.jp/english/index.html>

*Site seeing..*

## Golden pavilion, Kyoto, Japan



Photo: by Dr. Rajeev

**Kinkakuji** (Golden Pavilion) is a Zen temple formally known as Rokuonji.

In 1397 construction started on the Golden Pavilion as part of a new residence for the retired shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu. Kinkakuji was converted into a Zen temple after Yoshimitsu's death in 1408.

The Golden Pavilion functions as shariden, housing sacred relics of the Buddha and is covered in gold leaf. The present building dates from 1955 as the pavilion was burnt by a fanatic monk in 1950.

Kinkakuji can be accessed by direct bus number 101 or 205 from Kyoto Station. A faster variant is taking the Karasuma Subway Line to Kitaoji Station from where the temple can be reached in a short bus or taxi ride.

### Greeting

Master **Yash Kunte**, son of Dr. Pravin D. Kunte, had appeared for Japan Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) – level III exam. He passed examination securing 90% marks.



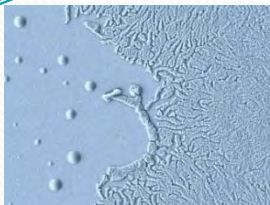
*Site seeing..*

## Golden temple, Amritsar, India



Photo source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Golden\\_temple.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Golden_temple.jpg)

**Harimandir Sahib** or Darbar Sahib is the most sacred shrine in Sikhism, located in Amritsar, Punjab, India. It is widely known as the **Golden Temple**. Literally, Harimandir means "the Temple of God", 'Hari' being a term for God and 'Mandir' meaning Temple. Sikh devotees, for whom the Temple is a symbol of freedom and spiritual independence, come to the Temple from all over the world to enjoy its environs and offer their prayers. In addition, the shrine is increasingly becoming a tourist attraction for visitors from all over the world. The Temple is located in India at 31°37'12"N, 74°52'37"E.



**Cover photo:**

'Presenting our News Letter to this universe'. SEM image, taken by Dr. Sakthi Kumar.

## **CONCORD**

An online bulletin of Indian JSPS alumni club.

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## **Request for comments and articles**

**Dear Members,**

**We have taken enough efforts to design our inaugural issue. Nevertheless, we will be continue improving the design and contents. Therefore, your suggestions, comments and article are always welcomed for our future issues. I specially request for the design of a logo for our newsletter as well as club that should be small and attractive.**

**Please email your articles to one of editors.**

**For further information and updates, please visit our website-**

**<http://www.indianjpsalumni.org>**

Concord, Indian JSPS Alumni Club publication.  
All rights are reserved. Edited by Dr. Kailash Manda (Editor-in-Chief) and published by Dr. Praveen D. Kunte, Gen. Secretary