

NEWSLETTER

VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE
EMBASSY OF INDIA, TOKYO



VCC Newsletter

India-Japan Sakura Connect-

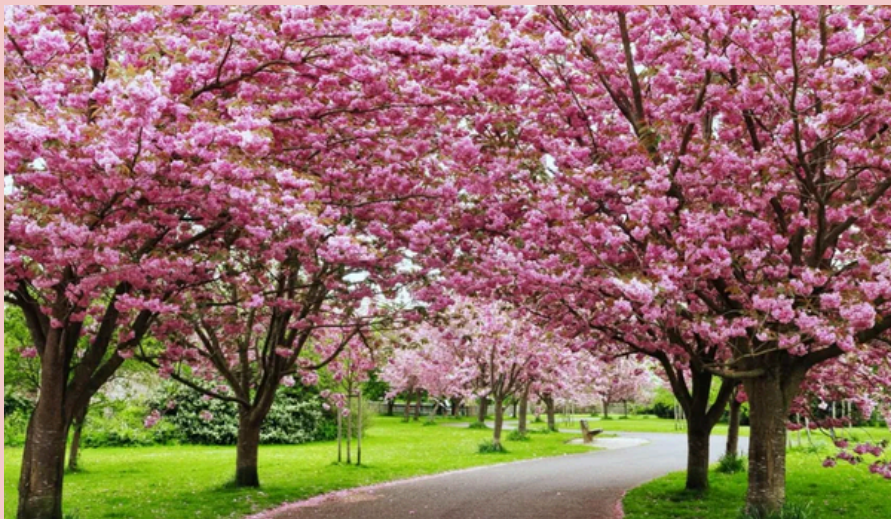
While the world famously turns its gaze toward Japan every spring, the ethereal beauty of Sakura is not exclusive to the Land of the Rising Sun, it also finds a vibrant, wild home in the heart of India. From the mist-covered Khasi Hills of Meghalaya to the snow-dusted valleys of the Himalayas, India hosts its own breathtaking cherry blossom seasons that rival the iconic Japanese vistas.

1. A Tale of Two Seasons

The most striking parallel and contrast is the timing.

Japan: The bloom is a synchronized Spring awakening (March–April), moving as a "cherry blossom front" from south to north.

India: It is a split story. In the Northeast (Shillong and Sikkim), the blossoms remarkably peak in November (Autumn). Meanwhile, in the North (Kashmir and Himachal), they follow the traditional Spring cycle (March–April).



Cherry Blossoms in India

2. Wild vs. Cultivated Beauty

Japan's Somei Yoshino: These are the superstars of Japan-pale, fluffy, and meticulously manicured in city parks and temple grounds. They represent a sense of composed, poetic elegance.

India's Prunus cerasoides: Known as the Himalayan Wild Cherry, these trees are hardier with deeper pink centers. They aren't just in parks; they grow along rugged mountain roads and inside high-altitude tea estates, offering a wild, soulful charm.

3. Cultural Celebrations

Hanami (Japan): A centuries-old tradition of quiet reflection and picnicking under the petals. It is a national period of "mono no aware"- an appreciation for the fleeting nature of life.

The Shillong Festival (India): India's answer is high-energy. The Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival in November is a fusion of nature and pop culture, featuring rock concerts, local Khasi food stalls, and fashion shows.

4. The "Urban" Parallel

Just as Tokyo turns pink in April, Indian cities like Bangalore and Mumbai experience a "pink takeover" from January to March. While these are actually Pink Trumpet trees (*Tabebuia rosea*) and not true cherries, they provide a strikingly similar visual spectacle that mimics the Japanese urban spring.

If Japan is a delicate haiku, India's cherry blossom season is a vibrant folk song. Both offer that same magical, fleeting window where the world turns pink, reminding us of the beauty in transition.



Cherry Blossoms in Tokyo

VCC, Tokyo Activities in March 2026

1. Saree Draping Workshop (March 6, 2026)



Fig.1 Saree Draping Workshop at VCC, Tokyo

The Vivekananda Cultural Centre (VCC), Tokyo organised a Saree Draping Workshop on the occasion of International Women's Day, showcasing the elegance and cultural significance of this timeless Indian attire. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from Japanese attendees, who gained hands-on experience in the art of saree draping and an appreciation of its aesthetic and traditional value.



Fig.2. Saree Draping Workshop at VCC, Tokyo

2. Indian Film Festival (March 10-19, 2026)



Fig 1. Indian Film Festival organized by VCC, Tokyo

VCC, Embassy of India Tokyo, organized the Indian Film Festival from 10-19 March including 7 screenings at Embassy's auditorium (178 seating Capacity) and 3 screenings at Humax Cinemas, Ikebukuro (306 seating capacity). The event was aimed at showcasing the rich film culture of India including the regional films and to further strengthen the cultural connect with the Japanese audience.

The film Festival opened with a screening of the renowned animated film "The Legend of Prince Rama - Ramayana." On the occasion Ambassador Ms. Nagma M Mallick addressed the gathering highlighting films as cultural connect between India and Japan. Mr Atsushi Matsuo, Executive Producer, Mr Kenji Yoshii, Assistant Producer of screened film "Ramayana" and Mr Hirobumi Niki, Vice Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare were also present at the occasion.

3. Hanami Reception (March 26-31)



Fig1. Live music and Kathak Performance

The cherry blossom festival (Hanami) was celebrated at the Embassy of India, Tokyo. The highlight of the festival were cultural performances, especially Kathak Dances. Guests witnessed a captivating cultural performance featuring live music and classical dance. The performance included tabla by Mr. Moriyama Shigeru and sitar by Mr. Muto Keisuke, accompanied by a Kathak presentation led by Ms. Atsuko Maeda, set to Raag Desh and Teentaal.



Fig 2-Kathak Performance

Another Kathak performance was presented by Miyabi Kathak Dance Academy, led by Ms. Masako Sato and her group. The performance commenced with Saraswati Vandana, a devotional offering to Goddess Saraswati, followed by Tarana, a dynamic composition by the late Pandit Birju Maharaj, one of the foremost exponents of Kathak.

4. Bihar Divas (March 28, 2026)



Fig 1- Bihar Divas

Bihar Divas celebrations were organised by the Embassy of India, Tokyo in association with the Bihar diaspora. Ambassador Ms. Nagma M. Mallick addressed the gathering and conveyed her warm wishes on the occasion. Renowned actor Mr. Pankaj Tripathi was present and engaged in an interactive session with the audience. The event featured video messages from Mr. Arun Shankar Prasad, Minister of Tourism and Art & Culture, and Mr. Pratyaya Amrit, Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar. Cultural performances by members of the diaspora highlighted the rich heritage and traditions of Bihar.

5. Sufi Electronic Music (March 31, 2026)



Fig 1- Ms Kavita Seth



Fig 2- Kanishk Seth

The week-long Hanami Reception hosted by the Embassy of India, Tokyo concluded on a high note with a Sufi electronic musical evening by Filmfare Award-winning singer Ms. Kavita Seth and composer-singer Mr. Kanishk Seth. The performance featured a rich blend of soulful ghazals, stirring qawwalis, and contemporary fusion, captivating the audience and creating a memorable and immersive musical experience.



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2026

VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE
EMBASSY OF INDIA, TOKYO

Wednesday, 01 April _____

**Curtain raiser event for 12th International Day of Yoga,
Venue: Embassy of India, Tokyo**

Thursday, 09 April _____

**Celebration of ICCR Day
Venue: Embassy of India, Tokyo**

Saturday, 11 April _____

**Cultural performances and Tabla workshop
at Hanamatsuri Festival
Venue: Tsukiji Hongwanji**

Wednesday, 29 April _____

**Hindi Literary Event
Venue: Embassy of India, Tokyo**



ICCRinJapan



ICCR_Japan



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WEEKLY CLASS SHEDULE

VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE
EMBASSY OF INDIA, TOKYO



YOGA
YOGA THERAPY
SANSKRIT
HINDI

Time	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
08:00-09:00						YOGA K CLASS
09:00-10:00		YOGA G CLASS	YOGA A CLASS	YOGA G CLASS	YOGA A CLASS	
09:15-10:15						YOGA L CLASS
10:30- 11:30-						YOGA O CLASS
11:00-12:00		YOGA B CLASS	YOGA H CLASS	YOGA B CLASS	YOGA H CLASS	
15:30-16:30		SANSKRIT LANGUAGE	YOGA N CLASS	YOGA M CLASS	YOGA N CLASS	
17:00-18:00	HINDI LANGUAGE	YOGA I CLASS	YOGA C CLASS	YOGA I CLASS	YOGA THERAPY	
18:30-19:30	YOGA D CLASS	YOGA E CLASS	YOGA F CLASS	YOGA D CLASS		



ICCRinJapan



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WEEKLY CLASS SHEDULE

VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE

EMBASSY OF INDIA, TOKYO



TABLA KATAHK ODISSI

Time	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
10:15-11:15						TABLA BEGINNER
10:30-11:30	KATHAK BASIC					
11:00-12:00			TABLA ONLINE			
11:45-12:45	KATHAK ADVANCE					
11:30-12:30						TABLA Intermediate
14:30-15:30						Kathak for kids
15:45-16:45						Kathak Basic
18:30-19:30	Odissi	TABLA Beginner			TABLA Intermediate	
19:00-20:00			TABLA Intermediate			
19:30-20:30	Odissi			Odissi Online		
19:45-20:45		TABLA Intermediate			TABLA BEGINNER	



6. Memories of the month



Fig 1. Sufi Electronic Music (Hanami Reception)



Fig 2. Indian Film Festival, Humax Cinemas Ikebukuro