4th India-Japan Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum

Co-Creating Future Societies through Cultural Value and Innovation

Organized by
Keio University and Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

Date: 14-15 December 2026
Venue: North Building Hall, Keio University, Mita Campus

Context

India and Japan have emerged as important strategic partners in science, technology, innovation, and higher education collaboration. Both countries share complementary strengths: Japan's advanced technological ecosystems, industrial innovation, and aging-society solutions; and India's rapidly growing digital economy, startup ecosystem, young scientific talent, and scalable innovation models. Increasing geopolitical uncertainties, climate risks, demographic transitions, and technological disruptions further underline the importance of deeper bilateral STI partnerships. Universities are playing a central role in shaping this partnership. Keio University has actively promoted interdisciplinary research, global innovation initiatives, entrepreneurship, and industry-academia collaboration. Meanwhile, the Indian Institute of Science continues to lead India's scientific research ecosystem through frontier research, translational innovation, and collaborations with industry, government, and international institutions.

This conference is the 4th in the series of the Science-Technology Innovation Forum, which is jointly organized by India Japan Laboraotry of Keio University of Indian Institute of Science (IISc), with alternate venues in India and Japan.

Recent developments in India-Japan scientific cooperation, including mobility programs for young researchers, innovation incubators, digital transformation partnerships, XR and AI collaborations, and sustainability-focused research demonstrate growing momentum for long-term collaboration. The two countries are also increasingly collaborating in areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, healthcare technologies, climate resilience, quantum technologies, startup ecosystems, and science-policy interfaces.

Against this backdrop, the India-Japan Science, Technology and Innovation Forum will have two components. Day 1 (14th December) and half of Day 2 (15th December) will be an **academic conference** involving researchers from both countries. The second half of Day 2 (15th of December) aims to provide an **open forum and dialogue** for researchers, innovators, policymakers, industry leaders, and students from both countries.

With a specific focus on cultural connection and cultural value innovation, the conference will facilitate exchange of ideas, identify emerging collaborative opportunities, promote joint research and innovation ecosystems, and strengthen institutional partnerships between universities, industries, and research organizations. The event is expected to contribute toward a long-term India-Japan STI collaboration framework supporting inclusive, sustainable, and human-centered innovation in Asia and beyond.

Academic Conference Program

DAY 1: 14th of December 2026

9:00 Registration

9:30 Opening Session

Welcome remarks: Rajib Shaw, Keio University
Opening remarks: Anjula Gurtoo, Indian Institute of Science

9:40 - 11:00 Theme 1: Geopolitics and International Relations

7 presentations X 10 minutes = 70 minutes + 10 minutes Q/A (80 minutes)
Session Chair:
Mausumi Bhattacharyya, Visva-Bharati, India and
Hiromi Hosoya, Keio University
Session Focal Person: Tejaswini Nayak, Keio University

In-person

T1.1: India-Japan Cooperation in the Realm of Infrastructure Development in Northeast India: Rupakjyoti Borah, NMIMS, India
T1.5: Geoeconomics and Indo-Japan Cooperation in India's Northeast: Ashish Shashi Khanna, Thakur Ramnarayan College of Law, University of Mumbai, India
T1.6: Normative Imaginaries of AI Governance: China, Taiwan, and the Making of an AI Order in East Asia: Akhilesh Kumar, Academia Sinica, Taipei; Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Online

T1.2: Convergent Interests, Divergent Histories: Japan-India Strategic Alignment in an Era of Chinese Assertiveness: Jaimine Vaishnav, ATLAS SkillTech University, India
T1.3: India-Japan Defence Technology Cooperation: Does Strategic Convergence Have the Industrial Endurance to Build Value Chains?: Titli Basu, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
T1.4: Study of Global Trade Network and Economies: Reetendra Singh: Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam, India.
T1.7: From Confluence to Cooperation: India–Japan Relations and the Evolution of Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific, 2014–2024. Samal Hritipragyan, Kobe University, Japan

11:00 - 12:45 Theme 3: Technology for Innovative Learning

9 presentations X 10 minutes = 90 minutes + 15 minutes Q/A (105 minutes)
Session Chair:
Takashi Soma, Pacific Padeco International, Japan and
G. Raghuram, Indian Institute of Science
Session Focal Person: Sachiko Takane, Keio University

In-person

T3.3: Ten Innovations of Digitally Driven Primary Care Psychiatry in India: Manjunatha Narayana Naik, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, India

T3.9: Do Inequalities in Access to Smartphones and Internet Lead to Differential Learning Outcomes? Evidence from Rural India: Pradeep KumarChoudhury, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
T3.27: Collaborative Implementation of School-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Education Using XR: Sachiko Takane, Keio University, Japan
T3.29: Technology for Innovative Learning Through Research-Based Advanced Materials and Manufacturing: Ajay Kumar, Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati, India

Online

T3.28: Do Targeted Policy Incentives Influence Electric Vehicle Adoption in India? Chandra Sekhar Bahinipati, Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati, India
T3.7: Innovation with Empathy: Reimagining Future Education through Psychological and Sociocultural Perspectives: V.Sasikala, H. N. Deepakumari Regional Institute of Education (NCERT), Bhubaneswar, India
T3.12: Faculty of the Future: STARA Competency and the reinvention of Management Education: Vijayshree Dwivedi, Japyee Institute of Information Technology, Noida, India
T3.18: XR and AI Applications in Adaptive Physical Education and Para-Sport Training Systems: Bridging Japan's Assistive Technology Ecosystem with India's Scalable Digital Models: Ketul Kumar, Manipal University Jaipur, India
T3.26: From cognitive offloading to cognitive atrophy: A metacognitive framework for safeguarding human cognition in AI-integrated education: Kanak Sharma,Shubham Kumar, Central University of Rajasthan, India

12:45 - 13:00 Photo Session

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 16:00 Theme 4: Culture, Value, Innovation

10 presentations X 10 minutes = 100 minutes + 20 minutes Q/A (120 minutes)
Session Chair:
Yukio Takeyari, India Japan Lab, Keio University, Japan
Mukta Joshi, India Japan Lab, Keio University, Japan
Session Focal Person: Sichun Wang, Keio University

In-person

T4.1:"The X-factor?": A case for insights from cultural psychology to explore the experience of developmental issues: Ishita Ray, Kyorin University, Japan
T4.6: Framing Indigenous Identity: Material Culture, Social Innovation, and the Global Transition of Tribal and Folk Art: Uttama Dixit, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India
T4.8: The Agariya of Sonbhadra: Culture, Ecological Resilience, and the Framework of Indigenous Innovation: Anuradha Singh, Harsh Vikram Singh and Shashwat Dixit: Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India
T4.14: Emotional Faces, Attention, and Self-Control: A Window into Response Inhibition in Adolescents with Conduct Disorder: Payal Sipani, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, India

T4.17: Heritage as Soft Infrastructure: Kabuki and Kutiyattam as Models for Cultural Value Innovation in India-Japan Co-creation: Neha Thakur, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
T4.19: Karnabhedana (Ear Piercing) as an Indian Knowledge System: Co-Creating Value through Biomechanical and Anatomical Inquiry: Sakshi Chauhan: Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, India

Online

T4.7: Co-Creating Inclusive Healthcare: Integrating the Ethnomedical Heritage of the Oraon Tribe of Jharkhand into Contemporary Innovation: Shashwat Dixit, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India
T4.20: Culture as a Catalyst for Value Innovation: An India–Japan Framework for Co-Creating Sustainable Future Societies: Amit Yadav, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, India
T4.33: Learning Beyond the Classroom for Empowerment: Comparative Insights from India and Japan: Saigita Chitturu, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India
T4.35: Factors affecting cross-border technology collaborations: Abhishek Choudhury, Keio University, Japan

16:00-16:15 Break

16:15 - 17:10 Theme 4: Culture, Value, Innovation (Continued)

4 presentations X 10 minutes = 40 minutes + 10 minutes Q/A (50 minutes)
Session Chair:
Yukio Takeyari, India Japan Lab, Keio University, Japan
Mukta Joshi, India Japan Lab, Keio University, Japan
Session Focal Person: Sichun Wang, Keio University

In-person

T4.21: Adverse Childhood Experiences and School-Based Psychosocial Interventions in India: An Integrative Review: D. Asha; G. Padmaja, GITAM Deemed to be University; University of Hyderabad, India
T4.24: Motivated Values and Behavioral Actions using the Dharma-Wellbeing-Sustainability Framework for Sustainable Development: The case of access to clean and safe drinking water: Sumitava Mukherjee, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, India
T4.25: The Japanese Encounters at Santiniketan: Rabindranath Tagore, Rooted Cosmopolitanism, and the Value of Humanistic Learning for our Universities: Payel C. Mukherjee, South Asian University, India
T4.36: Cultural Values and Psychological Pathways to Innovation: A Comparative Perspective on India and Japan: Ankita Sharma, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, India

17:10 - 17:30 Session synthesis

Anjula Gurtoo, Indian Institute of Science, India

17:30 Adjourn Day 1

DAY 2: 15th of December 2026

9:30 - 11:45 Theme 2: Development, Environment, and Disasters

11 presentations X 10 minutes = 110 minutes + 25 minutes Q/A (135 minutes)
Session Chair:
Sakiko Kanbara, Kobe City College of Nursing, Japan
Kishalay Mitra, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad
Session Focal Person: Sangita Das, India Japan Lab, Keio University

In-person

T2.6: Environmental Neuroscience for Child-Centred Urban Resilience: An India-Japan Framework Linking Environmental Exposures, Cognitive Development and Climate-Resilient Planning: Sathana Nagarajan, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), India
T2.12: Heatwave Early Warning and School Response in Delhi: To analyze gaps in why heatwaves remain the least institutionalized School Hazard in India through an Empirical Study of Institutional Gaps in West Delhi Government Schools: Hitesh, Kobe University, Japan
T2.26: Designing a Stakeholder-Informed Disaster Risk Financing Framework for India: Nandini Suresh, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, India
T2.29: Challenges of Disaster Response in Peninsulas: Lessons from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake: Sangita Das, Keio University, Japan
T2.30: From Heat Warning to Public Action: Heat-Risk Governance and Communication in the Sister Cities of Mumbai and Yokohama: Tejaswini Nayak, Keio University, Japan

Online

T2.5: Ecological Risk and the Political Aesthetic of Infrastructure in Southern Sunderbans, India: Vibha Arora, Sohini Chakraborty, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India
T2.11: India–Japan Cooperation on Afforestation and Climate Resilience: A Case Study of Udaipur District, Rajasthan: Jai Shri Prajapat, Maharaja Surajmal Brij University Bharatpur, Rajasthan, India
T2.19: Assessing the Long-Term Influence of Climatic and Meteorological Variables on Forest Degradation Using Multi-Temporal Remote Sensing: Komal Rai, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, India
T2.24: Reimagining Sustainable Future: Cultural Value Innovation through Indigenous Knowledge, Cosmopolitanism and Degrowth: Sumiti Kataria, Jilin University
T2.27: Geospatial Modelling for Cyclonic Risk Assessment and Disaster Resilience in Coastal West Bengal, India: Indrajit Chowdhuri, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India
T2.28: Disaster Risk Governance and Legislation: Collaborative Learning between India and Japan: Satish Kumar, India

11:45 - 13:00 Lunch

Open Forum Program

Opening Session (13:00 - 14:00)

13:00 **Welcome remarks:** Kohei Itoh, President, Keio University

13:15 **Opening remarks:** Yasutoshi Nishimura
Chief Secretary, Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship Association

13:30 **Keynote address:** HE Nagma Mohamed Mallick, Ambassador of India to Japan

13:45 **Special address:** Jun Murai, Professor, Keio University

Session 1: Culture, Value, Innovation (14:15-15:45)

The panel will explore how cultural values, societal priorities, and shared traditions shape the innovation ecosystem in both countries. It will examine how India and Japan can integrate technological advancement with human-centered development, sustainability, and social well-being. The discussion will focus on cross-cultural collaboration, societal values, ethical innovation, entrepreneurship, and industry-academic partnerships. The panel will identify opportunities to leverage complementary strengths, foster mutual learning, and develop inclusive, value-driven STI (science, technology, and innovation) cooperation to address shared societal challenges and create sustainable futures.

Chair: Anjula Gurtoo, Indian Institute of Science

Panel Members:

Junichi Yamada, Pacific Padeco International
Kinji Saito, Next Bharat
Kobayashi Hiroto, Keio University
Mausumi Bhattacharyya, Visva-Bharati
Deepa Nagraj, Mphasis
Siddharth Deshmukh, India Japan Business Council

15:45-16:00 Break

Session 2: Technology, Development, Innovation (16:00-17:30)

The panel will explore how emerging technologies and collaborative innovation can accelerate sustainable and inclusive development in both countries. The discussion will highlight opportunities in artificial intelligence, digital transformation, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, community healthcare, public health, and smart communities. The panel will examine how research institutions, industries, and startups can strengthen technology transfer, commercialization, and joint innovation. It will identify priorities for India-Japan cooperation,

fostering innovation-driven growth, addressing societal challenges, and building resilient, sustainable, and future-ready societies.

Chair: Rajib Shaw, Keio University

Panel Members:

Karen Makishima, Member, House of Representatives of Japan
Yutaka Kikuchi, Mayor of Izu City
Sakiko Kanbara, Kobe City College of Nursing
G. Raghuram, Indian Institute of Science
Kishalay Mitra, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad
Ruby Pawankar, Nippon Medical School
Hiromi Hosoya, Keio University

Session 3: Closing Session (17:30-17:45)

Closing remarks: Motohiro Tsuchiya, Vice President, Keio University