



## International Conference Announcement: Call for abstracts\*

on

**India and Japan: Lived Seasons and Intercultural Human Encounters****March 6 & 7/8, 2026, New Delhi, India.****Deadline for the submission of Abstracts: 16th August, 2025.****Please send your abstracts to <[kizunaindia@mosai.org.in](mailto:kizunaindia@mosai.org.in)>****Selected abstracts will be notified by 31st August, 2025.****ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**ABOUT THE CONFERENCE**

We invite proposals for papers for an interdisciplinary conference exploring the lesser-studied dimensions of India-Japan cultural encounters in 19th and early 20th centuries, shaped by lived experiences, shared aspirations, and cross-cultural engagements.

The commencement of regular Japanese shipping lines: Yokohama-Bombay (1885), followed by Kobe-Bombay (1892), and Kobe-Calcutta (1911), opened up new avenues for travels and people-to-people interactions between pre-independent India and Japan. These exchanges—varied in duration, context, and intensity—nucleated new areas and facets of mutual interest and collaborations. While some aspects of these people-mediated encounters have received scholarly attention, many remain underrepresented in academic discourse.

This conference seeks to revisit and illuminate these overlooked narratives, through multiple disciplinary lenses. Rooted in a period marked by transformative aspirations—India's evolving vision of post-colonial nationhood and Japan's rapid rise as an industrialized Asian power—these exchanges offer a rich field of inquiry into how people imagined, experienced, and enacted cultural dialogue.

This conference aims to delve into the multi-layered nature of these encounters—imagined and lived, structured and spontaneous—through the study of travelogues, memoirs, personal diaries, letters, and a range of visual and textual sources.

**FORMAT**

The two-day conference will feature keynote lectures, thematic sessions for paper presentations, discussions and informal dialogues over tea, dinner etc. A Round Table on future research and publication plans will be an important part of the programme.

**POTENTIAL THEMATIC SESSIONS**

- **From an Artist's Iris: Heritage, aesthetics, and visual culture.**
- **Travel Narratives: Memoirs, diaries, and letters.**
- **Facets of Community: Diaspora, society, and trade networks.**
- **Cultural Dialogues: Educational, artistic and intellectual exchanges**

**\*Guidelines for the abstract**

1. Indicate theme under which your presentation should be considered: (select one from the above 4 themes).
2. Abstract of the proposed presentation: (should be a self-contained, citation-free statement in 225-300 words)
  - Please email your abstract as an attachment in Word format to: <[kizunaindia@mosai.org.in](mailto:kizunaindia@mosai.org.in)>
  - Email Subject: e.g., Abstract\_De Silva\_Ajith.doc (Abstract\_Surname\_Given name)
  - Email Signature: Your full name with title (Dr./Prof./Ms./Mr.), and name of affiliating Institution if any.