

From the President's Desk,

Dear Members,

I hope this communiqué finds you in great health and high spirits. As we recently celebrated International Yoga Day, it is a timely reminder of the profound impact yoga has on fostering physical health, mental resilience, and overall well-being. Yoga, a practice deeply rooted in our heritage, serves as a gateway to a hale and hearty life, empowering individuals to tackle challenges with a balanced mind and body.

While we continue to champion wellness, AAWI remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting cultural exchange and education. One of our core initiatives is focused on providing cost-effective Japanese language and cultural training for Indian students and communities. With Japan's robust economy and growing demand for skilled professionals, this endeavor offers a valuable pathway for enhancing career prospects in Japan.

Let us collectively embrace wellness and learning as fundamental aspects of growth, enhancing our lives and the communities we serve. I encourage all members to take advantage of these opportunities, as they are crucial for both personal and professional development.

Warm regards,

Pravin Purav

SAFAAS Convention AGM 2025

Five Indian delegates attended the convention in Kathmandu, Nepal, on April 4-5, 2025. Mr. Purav was elected Vice President of the SAFAAS Committee, now aligned with Sri Lanka.

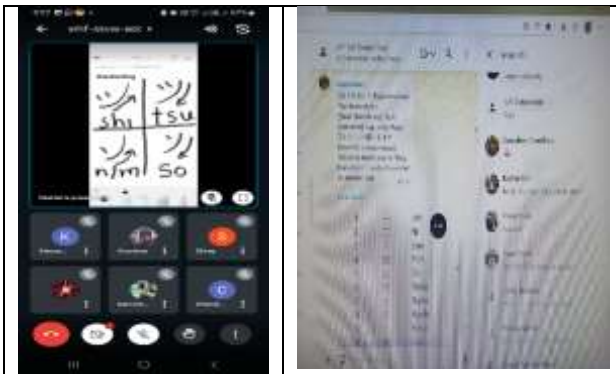


Visit to Surya Valley School:

AAAWI President Mr. Purav visited Surya Valley School, Palghar, 100 Km away from Mumbai, to promote Japanese language learning. The school uses a unique play-way method for teaching. AAWI plans to launch a low costing pilot project for the students coming from marginalized communities.



Japanese Language Class: AAWI initiated a new online training for a JLPT N5-batch of 10 participants. We deployed a highly seasoned faculty for this batch comprised of students and professionals.



Jetro invited President, AAWI for SUWA Exhibition in Nagano, Japan:

<https://news.ntv.co.jp/category/society/ts52eef902f0944c73b1a41989cdd531fd#>, covers the Expo.

It is an industrial exhibition, starting on June 26, 2025, and showcasing the latest technologies and products. In Okaya City, the Suwa Industrial Messe, now in its 24th year, features 340 companies and organizations, including those specializing in precision equipment and robots.

Modern innovations in water purification have revolutionized how we access safe drinking water, particularly in remote areas or during emergencies. By employing advanced filtration technology, such

systems provide a simple yet effective solution to ensure the removal of harmful substances from water sources. **“Each thread of the portable water purifier acts as a filter, and the side of the straw is a membrane where bacteria and other contaminants adhere to it.”**

Expo attendees may learn about new technologies and products and engage in business negotiations at the EXPO itself.



Participation in a Seminar on Food Processing and Challenges in Bihar:

Dr. Nirmal Kumar, former Principal of Bihar College of Engineering, Bhagalpur, delivered a lecture on "Life Skills" at AAWI during the WNF Face-to-Face Program in February 2025. During his seminar held at BIA hall, Patna, on April 19, 2025, he invited AAWI to consider collaboration, noting India's expertise in agriculture and Japan's renowned food processing capabilities. Motivated by an agricultural study-tour to Japan, Dr. Kumar proposed the initiation of a short program, which was subsequently announced by AAWI's Secretary, Mr. Shashi Kant Sharma.



Exploring Bihar for Japanese Language

Bihar boasts numerous Buddhist shrines, with Bodhi Gaya, Rajgir, and Vaishali showing high potential for Japanese language training. Dr. Nirmal Kumar assisted AAWI in visiting various institutions including IIT Patna, NIELIT, a deemed university, and a CBSE school in the Patna area, in April 2025.



Right: 1. Shashi Kant Sharma, Secretary, AAWI 2. Sri Arun Kumar, former Deputy Comptroller Auditor General of India, 3. Dr. Nirmal Kumar and others.

Regarding the TITP scheme, Sri Arun Kumar suggested focusing on developing manpower exclusively for Japanese industries and society. Relying on AAWI for Japanese Language and Culture, he established the KAIKAKU Foundation in Uttar Pradesh, a rapidly developing state in India. The founding Director of KAIKAKU and the Secretary of AAWI met with the Hon. Secretary of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship at Kaushal Bhawan. There, they also had a further meeting with the Deputy Director of ISDS and the Japanese language process owner, DS/IC.



(DS/IC, with Shashi and Arun at Kaushal Bhawan)

It was noted that only the German language is promoted in central government-funded pan-India Navodaya Schools. Consequently, a meeting was held with the Commissioner of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti in his Noida office.

A report on the Manpower Development Institute for Japanese Industries and Society (MDI-JIS) is being prepared. It will be submitted to relevant authorities, including the Embassy of Japan.

Meeting an Indian Nationalist born in Japan

-Sanjay & Shashi

Bharati ASHA SAHAY Choudhry was born to Anand Mohan Sahay and Sati Devi, on 2nd February 1928 in Kobe. She completed her schooling there, till secondary level, in the Japanese language. Later her family moved to Tokyo, where she graduated from Showa Women's University. She joined the Rani Jhansi Regiment of INA in early 1945 in Bangkok. She

comes from a family of nationalists.

Asha's father, Anand Mohan Sahay, abandoned his medical studies to join the freedom movement led by Gandhiji and Rajendra Prasad. Following the unsuccessful conclusion of the Non-Cooperation movement in 1921, he relocated to Japan in 1923. He worked with Rash Behari Bose and Raja Mahendra Pratap to promote Indian independence in the Far East and Southeast Asia. He founded the Indian National Association of Japan, published 'Voice of India,' and was the Founding Secretary of the Indian Independence League in Japan. He set up the IIL in several Southeast Asian countries, laying the foundation for the INA. He also secured support from Japan and advised Netaji politically.

Bharati's mother, Sati Sen Sahay, was a freedom fighter and the grandniece of Desh Bandhu C.R. Das. Sati, a student of Tagore's Shanti Niketan University and a freedom struggle participant, later worked with her husband Anand Mohan in Japan.

Bharati Asha, raised in Japan amid her parents' revolutionary spirit, met Netaji joined, at the age of 17, the Rani of Jhansi Regiment as a Lieutenant in May 1945. She participated in the March to Burma and returned to Bangkok with retreating INA forces. In 1946, she came to India with her father Anand Mohan and uncle Satyadev (INA Intelligence Wing head) after their release from Singapore's Pearl Hill Prison.

She married Dr. L.P. Choudhry and had two sons, Capt. Dr. Praveer Choudhry and Sanjay Choudhry. Her published diary, "War Diary of Asha San", documents her wartime experiences in Hindi and English. A book on her is published in Japanese too.



Recognized by both the President and Prime Minister of India, she contributed significantly to India's independence. At 96 years old, she lives in Patna with her son Sanjay.



(Mother Asha with Shashi & Alok)

Sanjay ji