

**SLIDE 1**

A very good (afternoon, morning) to all of you.

Respected dignitaries, honorable guests, and my fellow students. I am indeed feeling honoured to speak before you.

I am Antara Puranik, and I am here to talk about my experience of the visit to Japan under the Sakura Science Exchange program.

**SLIDE 2**

I had taken part in a science project competition conducted by my school Kendriya Vidyalaya Jalgaon under Jawaharlal Nehru National Science, Mathematics and Environment Exhibition (JNNSMEE) for Children now renamed as Rashtriya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani” (RBVP).

The selection levels included school level, regional level, state level and national.

I represented KV at the national level.

**SLIDE 3**

Now coming back to my visit, As the result of my success at National Science exhibition I have been selected from Kendriya Vidyalaya to participate in Sakura Science program.

I was a member of Group 4 of 2018 year’s team.

Visiting Japan was an unforgettable experience. This visit gave me a vision to look beyond the comforts of my school, city, and home.

It introduced me to great friends and great people.

**SLIDE 4**

We were fortunate to see, meet and conduct some hands-on experiments under the guidance of Nobel prize winner Prof. Hideki Shirakawa.

A visit to JAXA, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency was an unforgettable moment for me.

**SLIDE 5**

We have visited the historical Rikkyo University and Tokyo University.

I met with my age Japanese friends at Namiki Secondary School. We shared many stories and ideas with them.

**SLIDE 6**

These are some other highlights of the visit.

## **SLIDE 7**

The Japanese food especially breakfast was delicious. We have seen malls, shops, other public places. It was different experience to talk to Japanese people.

The week of our Japan tour was most memorable period in our life. This trip has given us new perspectives on education, culture, social behavior, and inspiration to do lots in future.

As a school student who visited Japan, I want to convey my feelings that,

As I grew up, it was accepted that I was an average student. So, taking part in the Science Exhibition and slowly rising to be the sole nationalist of Kendriya Vidyalaya was an unbelievable series of events. The topmost step of the ladder was my selection for prestigious Sakura Science High School Program, and it made me realize my own hidden potential.

## **SLIDE 8**

Now I would like to share some of the activities that India Sakura Science Club has conducted till now.

We have organized 4 Alumni meetings, Two offline at venue, One online and one in Hybrid mode.

India Sakura Science Club Alumni Association was formed in 2018 and 4 coordinators from India side were selected. The selected club members delivered their presentations.

The meeting commenced with a congratulatory speech by The Ambassador of Japan to India, H. E. Kenji Hiramatsu, followed by a welcome speech by Mr. Kazuki Okimura (JST Principal Fellow)

and other dignitaries such as Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan (Principal Scientific Adviser), Dr. Sanjay Mishra (Advisor to the Department of Science and Technology), and Prof. D.S. Mehta (IIT Delhi).

Mr. Kiyoshi Kurihara (First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in India) and Ms. Priyanka Parashar. (The University of Tokyo, India Liaison Office) gave some introductory remarks about studying in Japan.

The meeting was well-attended by 83 club members who were able to reunite or newly connect with peers residing throughout India.

#### **SLIDE 10**

The 2nd Alumni Meeting in India was held on 15 February in New Delhi at IIT Delhi.

About 100 alumni attended the meeting.

During the meeting, new SSC coordinators also introduced themselves on stage.

#### **SLIDE 11**

Various dignitaries graced the occasion with their encouraging talks.

## **SLIDE 12**

A poster competition was held for the alumni members.

The dignitaries included Founder of Sakura Science Plan (SSP), Mr. Okimura Kazuki (Japan Science and Technology Agency-JST Principal Fellow), Ambassador of Japan to India H.E. Mr. Suzuki Satoshi, and Dr. Sanjay Mishra, Adviser to the Department of Science and Technology congratulated the alumni and encouraged continuous cooperation between India and Japan.

## **SLIDE 13**

The 3rd meeting was held online on May 29, 2021, with 105 participants across the globe.

The honourable speakers included Dr. Kishi Teruo (Director General, Sakura Science Program HQs),

Mr. Hosoda Hiroyuki (Member, House of Representatives, Japan; President of the Japan India Parliamentarians' Friendship League),

Ambassador H. E. Suzuki Satoshi (Embassy of Japan in India),

Ambassador H. E. Sanjay Kumar Verma (Embassy of India in Japan),

Mr. Matsuo Hiroki (Deputy Minister, MEXT, Japan) and

Dr. Sanjay Mishra (Head & Adviser, Kiran & INSPIRE, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India).

**SLIDE 14**

This meeting featured a poster-session Science Contest for high school students-the first of its kind held in conjunction with an alumni meeting. Some high school students received awards of excellence for their works.

**SLIDE 15**

The fourth meeting was held in hybrid mode at JST India office, New Delhi [Offline] and Zoom Platform (online).

The honourable guests who graced the occasion included Mr. Hosoda Hiroyuki, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League, H.E. Ambassador Suzuki Satoshi, H.E. Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, and Dr. D. Sakthi Kumar, President of the Indian chapter of JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) Alumni Association.

**SLIDE 16**

We have set some future goals for our alumni association that will develop us, and we hope to complete them successfully this year.

**SLIDE 17**

I specially want to thank Yuji Nishikawa Sir, Kazuhiko Aoki Sir, Hong Kean Ooi Sir, Kazuyuki Hoshino Sir, Kanako San, Erika San and all the team also all my colleague coordinators for showing confidence in me during the last four years.

**THANK YOU**

