

ESTABLISHED 1986



നിഹോൺകൈരളി

The Association of Keralites in Japan

Rooted in Keralam, Rising in Japan

IPPAN SHADAN HOJIN NIHON KAIRALI · REGISTERED NPO COMMUNITY EDITION

© 2025 - 2027 IPPAN SHADAN HOJIN NIHON KAIRALI ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

From a gathering of friends to a compassionate community.

Nihon Kairali was born in 1986 from a simple desire, to keep the culture of our *Janmabhoomi*, our motherland, alive in the soil of our *Karmabhoomi*, our land of action. What began as a small circle of Malayalees in the Tokyo–Yokohama area has grown, over nearly forty years, into a community that shelters every Keralite who reaches the Land of the Rising Sun.

Today we are a volunteer association of more than 1,500 members spread across Japan — from Hokkaido to Kyushu — as diverse as God's Own Country itself: engineers, scientists, artists, educators, farmers, business owners, construction workers, caretakers, families, students, and a spirited younger generation. In the pages that follow, we hope you'll feel the warmth of a community committed to making every Malayalee who arrives on these shores feel like they have never left home.



Forty years, one unbroken thread.

1986

The genesis

A handful of Malayalees in Tokyo and Yokohama began meeting to mark Kerala's festivals. Fewer than fifteen at the start and with them, the first Onam, Christmas and Hanami gatherings that we still keep today.

2002

A name to gather under

The community is formally named *Nihon Kairali*, joining NIHON (Japan) and KAIRALI (Kerala), as the group grows from around twenty members into the hundreds.

2019

The Keraleeyam Award

The Nihon Kairali Keraleeyam Award is instituted, honouring Japanese citizens devoted to promoting Kerala's culture and arts in Japan.

2021

A registered NPO

On 24 November 2021 the association is registered as Ippan Shadan Hojin Nihon Kairali formalizing decades of volunteer work.

Today

1,500+ members, all volunteers

A non-political forum across all of Japan, strengthening culture and tradition, fostering Indo-Japan goodwill, and giving back through charity.

A non-political forum to unite our community.

Our purpose is to strengthen the common bonds of culture, tradition and way of life thereby mitigating the cultural and social alienation that can come with living far from home.

Everything we do grows from three commitments.

Culture

Promote Kerala's culture and art forms, and keep them living in Japan.

Goodwill

Foster Indo-Japan friendship and closer integration between our peoples.

Charity

Give back to those in need, both here in Japan and home in Kerala.



1,500+

MEMBERS

1986

FOUNDED

2021

REGISTERED NPO

100%

VOLUNTEER-RUN

We keep the calendar of home.

Through the year we gather to celebrate the festivals that make us Malayalee and to welcome our Japanese friends into them.



Onam

Our biggest day of the year, a full-day celebration crowned by a traditional Sadhya served on banana leaves.



Hanami

Every April, hundreds of us gather beneath the cherry blossoms with food prepared by the members of the community. From the delicacies of Malabar to the mouth-watering dishes of Travancore



Christmas

A warm community Christmas, one of the gatherings that started it all back in 1986.



Iftar

Coming together to break the fast during Ramadan, in the spirit of one community.



Celebrity Event

Inviting celebrated names from the worlds of film and music to Japan. This is a treat for the eyes and ears, a day of unlimited fun where we immerse ourselves in the finest of performances.



Keraleeyam Award

Since 2019, honouring Japanese citizens devoted to Kerala's culture and arts.

Where talent finds a stage.



The Talent Show

A full day of continuous performance, from kindergarten children to veteran members — dance, music, skits, live karaoke, painting and literature. Our ambition is to grow it into a stage for the whole Indian diaspora in Japan.



Yavanika Theatres

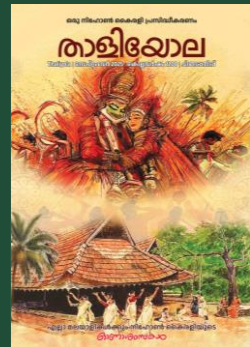
Our associated theatre club — a semi-professional group of community members who write, stage and score their own production. Their Malayalam and English plays connect Indian and Japanese cultures, staged at events like *Sangamam* (2022).

SINCE 1995

Thaliyola — our annual magazine

From a dozen Malayalam pages to a 100+ page literary work in Malayalam and English, released each Onam in print and online. We welcome your poems, stories, articles, drawings and photographs.

thaliyola.committee@nihonkairali.com



Giving back — here, and home.

Launched in December 2023 and embraced wholeheartedly by our members, NK Care uses the collective power of the community to help the needy and the less privileged, both in Japan and back in Kerala.

● Kerala disaster relief

Emergency support when our home state is struck by floods and calamity.

● 2024 Wayanad support

Standing with families affected by the Wayanad landslides.

● Heart to Heart

Families in Japan sponsoring 50 underprivileged school students in Kerala.

● Snehapothi

Food donations to the homeless and needy here in Japan.

● Santhwanam

Medical support for those who need it most.

● Charity Walkathon & other Volunteer work

Walking together to raise funds and awareness for our cause. We also work with local communities and join them for doing volunteering work like cleaning, conducting local festivals among others.



Lend a hand.

Volunteer your time, or partner with us on a cause. Giving back is a core responsibility we carry with pride. Please connect via nkcare@nihonkairali.com for more details or if you wish to contribute.

No greater equalizer than a good game.

We believe sport builds a cohesive, inclusive community. Nihon Kairali collaborates with partner clubs to run events across Japan. Many of these are led by homegrown volunteer coaches who give their time to teach our kids the joy of the game.

Badminton

Associated clubs in Edogawa, Tokyo — with kids' academies too.

Cricket

Community clubs for both season-ball and tennis-ball cricket.

Futsal

Active groups practising every weekend, year-round.

Football

For enthusiasts and for kids' training alike.

Volleyball

Casual games whenever the community gathers.

Tennis

Small in number, strong in expertise.



Want to play? Reach us on the community WhatsApp group and we'll connect you to the right people.

Connected by design.

GOVERNMENT

Embassy of India

A registered Indian association under the Embassy — we can guide and support you for your needs in Japan.



Government of Kerala

Strong ties through charity initiatives, employment opportunities for Keralites, and bridging Kerala and Japan in business, education, culture and tourism.



COMMUNITY GROUPS

We take part in the **One India Festival** with the Bharath Cultural Society, and foster close collaboration with the Tokyo Tamil Sangam, Tokyo Kannada Balaga, Tokyo Marathi Mandal, Japan Telugu Samakhya, the All Japan Association of Indians, Indian Community Edogawa, and many more.

SKILL UP & GROW

Career Development

Our Career Development group brings together members committed to supporting one another's professional journey in Japan. Through regular online and in-person sessions, Nihon Kairali creates meaningful opportunities that make a real difference in members' lives and careers.



PAST SESSIONS

- Tax planning in Japan
- Cracking the job market in Japan

UPCOMING

- Re-entering the workforce after a career break
- Choosing the right course and university for high-school students, with guidance on admissions

Beyond structured sessions, members actively share job openings across industries and organizations — channelling the power of community to help every member move forward.

NORKA PARTNERSHIP

Care that reaches home.



We are active partners of NORKA — the worldwide body for Non-Resident Keralites. We recently ran a major drive to inform members about the benefits of NORKA Care and held a mass enrollment programme — helping members and their loved ones back home live with peace of mind, free from worry about the cost of healthcare needs and emergencies.

WITH GRATITUDE. OUR SPONSORS

The names that make it possible. Every gathering, every celebration and every act of care is powered by the generosity of our sponsors. To each of them — our heartfelt thanks.



● PLATINUM

House Plaza

● GOLD

Jay Enterprises · Speed Money Transfer

● SILVER

South Park · Venu's · Squas · SBI ·
Krishna Traders

● BRONZE

Nirvanam · Curry Leaves · Kerala Bhavan ·
Fidel Consulting · JS Traders

IN THEIR WORDS

Hear it from the community.

“

When we arrived in Japan, we faced many challenges as newcomers with no local support network. Nihon Kairali became our guiding hand — helping us settle, navigate unfamiliar systems, and feel at home. The warmth and friendship we received will always remain one of the most cherished parts of our Japan journey.

REJIN & RESHMA · KANAGAWA, JAPAN

“

We are immensely happy that Nihon Kairali provided educational financial assistance to 10 students of our school. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the officials for selecting our children for such support, and look forward to similar assistance in the coming years.

HEADMASTER · GOVT. LP SCHOOL, CHERUTHURUTHY, KERALA

“

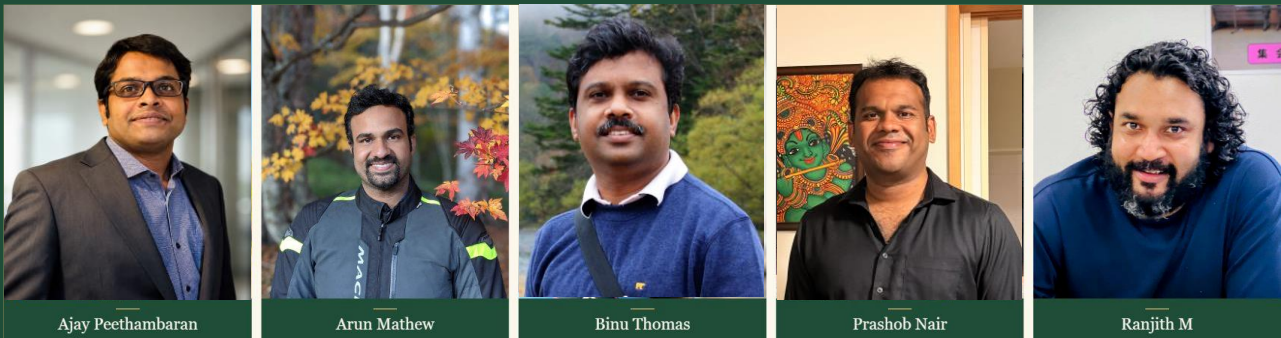
We acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the scholarship provided by the Nihon Kairali Charity Trust as educational support for our students. Rather than express our feelings through words alone, we hold this thoughtful gesture close to our hearts. Beyond the miles, our love and prayers are always with you.

ALP SCHOOL ANAMANGAD, KERALA

The people behind Nihon Kairali.

An all-volunteer Board and Overall Operating Team lead the association. This team is elected at the annual AGM for a period of 2 years. The term of the current team extends upto October 2027.

BOARD MEMBERS



OVERALL OPERATING TEAM (OOT)



CONNECT WITH US

WEB nihonkairali.com
GENERAL [info@nihonkairali.com]
NK CARE nkcare@nihonkairali.com
THALIYOLA thaliyola.committee@nihonkairali.com



WHATSAPP GROUP



Settle in. Get involved.

New to Japan, or new to Nihon Kairali? Start here — a few essentials to find your feet, and the one step that helps our community do more.

EMERGENCY

110

Police

119

Fire / Ambulance

0570-000-911

Japan Helpline · 24/7
English

YOUR FIRST WEEKS

- Register your address at the ward / city office
- Carry your Residence Card; get your My Number
- Enrol in health insurance & pension
- Open a bank account (Japan Post is newcomer-friendly)
- Get a phone SIM and a transport IC card (Suica / Pasma)

JAPAN, QUICKLY

- Keep it quiet on trains — phones on silent ("manner mode")
- Shoes off indoors — homes, some clinics and restaurants
- Sort your trash — burnable vs non-burnable, by local schedule
- Carry some cash — many small shops are cash-only
- A small bow and a "sumimasen" go a long way

JOIN US — AND HELP US GROW

Two steps to belong.

1 · Become a member

Free to join. Scan the code to register and step into the community.

2 · Become an NPO member

A small annual subscription that formally strengthens our registered NPO.



SCAN TO REGISTER

[nihonkairali.com/en/
member/register](https://nihonkairali.com/en/member/register)

Most members haven't yet taken step two. If Nihon Kairali means something to you, paid NPO membership — for a small yearly fee — is the single biggest way you can help us do bigger and better things for the community in the years ahead.