



SAKURA

No. 97

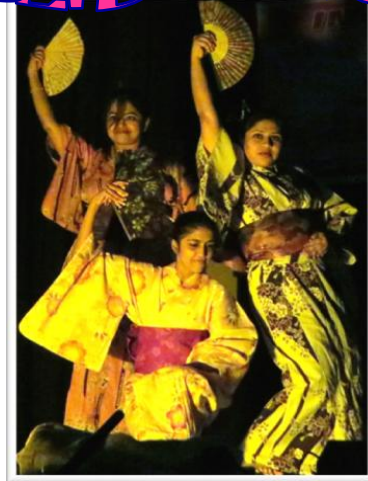
May - June 2016



つめ ひろ み こぼす
爪で拾って箕で零す Penny wise pound foolish

In Nichi Bunkasai 2016

KALEIDOSCOPE



At Shantiniketan



See "The Telegraph Calcutta" T2
Friday 8th April '16 for more...

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Lecture:** 14th May 2016
On "The Tale of Genji"
At Sarat Samity 6:30pm
- ◆ **Annual General Meeting:** 25th June 2016
At Sarat Samity 6:30pm

On the occasion of the centenary of Rabindranath Tagore's first visit to Japan (May, 1916), Japanese department of Bishwa Bharati University along with Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society presented a memorable evening performing various songs, recitations, dramas etc..on 12th of March, 2016 at Nippon Bhavan, Shantiniketan. The programme started at 4:30 pm and continued up to 6:30pm. The head of the department Mrs. Gita Keeni and her other faculty members including Mr. Mitsuo Kawaguchi ex- Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, Mrs. Kazuko Nigam, the chief patron, NKKS, Mr. P.S. Mitra, past President, NKKS and other members of NKKS were also present. Mr. Kawaguchi sang *chalte chalte* in Hindi and NKKS members sang it in Japanese. Mrs. Poonam Nand De, the vice president of NKK gave the introductory speech and Mrs. Ruma Chatterjee, the ex- president of NKKS gave the vote of thanks.

Sumana Dey

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E-mail: nihongokaiwakyookai@hotmail.com Visit us online: <http://www.nkks.org.in/>



Return to NARA

The image of Nara in my mind has always been limited to Tōdai-ji and the great bronze Buddha statue. Going back in time, I first came to Nara in 2011, on a one day field trip. We were taken to the

most apparent and the must see temple in Nara, the Tōdai-ji. I must admit the peaceful atmosphere and the presence of the world's largest bronze statue of Buddha evoke a feeling of serenity. Bodhisena, an Indian Buddhist monk conducted the eye-opening ceremony at Tōdai-ji. He is said to be the first Indian to come to Japan. There is also an Ashoka pillar in the temple ground which was built in April 1988 to commemorate "Flower Festival, Buddhist memorial service". I was glad to see this deep connection between India and Japan.

This year I considered studying in Japan so that I could experience Japanese culture and society. I could opt for a university of my choice and after considering many well reputed and popular universities I decided to come back to Nara. I finally entered Nara Women's University. As it was once Japan's capital, Nara is filled with temples and shrines. I was attracted to this city which holds such rich heritage.

Nara Women's University was started in 1908 as a female teacher's training institute. Today it tutors various subjects and is one of the best universities for girls. Apart from studying Japanese language I have also selected optional subjects like "Japanese history" or "Nara theory". Japanese language classes are held for foreign students but the optional subjects are open to all including full time Japanese students. Unlike Indian college lessons, here each lesson period is of one and a half hours and a year's course is divided into two semesters. A final test or report at the end of each semester decides a student's promotion.

Studying in Japan gave me the opportunity to meet many people from different parts of the world. Our language or culture might differ but we all are bound by a common thing and that is Japanese. These students have different reasons for learning Japanese, but some of them just like me have started learning Japanese because they fell in love with Japanese animation. I am overjoyed to treat myself everyday with delicious Japanese food like ramen, oden or dango. I could say that I have adjusted myself well with Japanese lifestyle. However I should admit that there are still many things that surprise me. For example, on which side should a person stand while

using the escalator is different in different cities. I still get confused most of the time.

Nevertheless, there is a lot to discover in Nara. This city has its own pace and it still lives up to its characteristic of being a 'Mahoroba' (land of bliss and peace).

Ranita Saha

MITSUO KAWAGUCHI SENSEI'S MESSAGE



Nigam sensei and all the members of NKKS,

I hope that all of you have reached Kolkata safely. All of you had taken the trouble to come here to Shantiniketan and spent a night, leaving behind your families, your work among other things. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you.

Your performance on the 12th, comprising of poetry, song, comic drama was enjoyed by the students of the Japanese Dept. For me too, it brought back nostalgic memories of the time when I was the Consul General, and watched your performances. I was gratified to think how much time each of you spent, out of your busy schedules, and practised to put this performance.

I was very happy to meet you all again, all my known faces although for a short time. For example, during The In- Nichi Bunka Sai I had watched the comic drama with great interest, and it was very nostalgic and interesting to watch the actors perform at Shantiniketan with their individual characteristics. From now on it is going to get hot, so please do take care of yourselves.

On the occasion of the centenary Tagore's first visit to Japan, I thank you all once more for creating good memories of this event. Please convey my regards to other members of your association also.

Mitsuo Kawaguchi (Shantiniketan)

Ex-Consul General

Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata



UNIQUE JAPAN -6

Next day on Bengali New Year day we had breakfast with cheese bread, sweet coated bread, ice-cream and proceeded to our last destination in this trip - Tokyo. We boarded the bus from the Peace Memorial Park stop with a heavy heart. Besides being historic, we found Hiroshima the best place.

By Sakura 546 (Shinkansen) from Hiroshima to Shin-Osaka and Hikari 470 from Shin-Osaka to Tokyo -it was the last ride in *shinkansen* in our Japan trip – a memorable experience. We checked into Tokyo Grand hotel at 5.30p.m. As the dusk came down, Tokyo Tower was illuminated and we had a clear view from our room at the 14th floor of the hotel. We met Chie san at our hotel lobby at 8 p.m. Chiesan was the President of Japanese Students’ team of IJSC (India Japan Students’ Conference)-2012 held at Kolkata. She did her home-stay at our house. She gave us a big treat in ‘Sumi Rich’- an Italian restaurant, at Hamamatsucho. We had a fabulous menu- Fried octopus, Italian vegetables, baked avocado with cheese, jumbo prawns (in true sense), rice with tomato and crab coating. Dessert was Cornetto. We saw her off at Shiba-Koen station and walked around Tokyo tower, Roppongi area, took some snaps too.

April 16th was the last day in Japan (for this trip). We went to see the Great Buddha at Kamakura. I learnt about the Great Buddha during my Japanese language studies. From Hamamatsucho we went Shinagawa, from Shinagawa took train of Zushi and got down at Kamakura. At Shinagawa station, we were guided by a middle aged gentleman to the Zushi train but missed his scheduled train for us. We got down at Kamakura station, availed a small non-AC train and went up to Hase. Hase station was very small – people (including us) crossed the tracks and came out from the station.

First we went to Hasedara Temple – this was also a Buddha temple, Buddha was made of wood. There were different images made of stone fixed in the courtyard of this temple. Apart from igniting incense in front of the image in Amida-do-Hall, we went to Benten-do Hall, Daikoku-do-Hall. Different models/images were arranged in Daikoku-do-Hall – most of them were in the attire of a warrior. We went to Benten Kutsu cave. We had to crawl inside the cave in the candlelight and saw many images of Gods and Goddesses. While went up to a little high place, from where we saw sea was just outside the temple boundary and it had a nice beach too.

After this we went to see Kamakura Great Buddha (Kamakura Daibutsu). The huge image of Buddha, made of Bronze –is the second highest Buddha in Japan, after Nara Great Buddha. Initially, Buddha



was inside the Kootakuin temple, afterwards due to typhoon many times and tidal

wave, the temple was destroyed and the image of Great Buddha was lying in the open air since then. First we walked around the Great Buddha, and then climbed staircases inside Buddha image – which was a totally different experience. There were two big windows too at the back of Great Buddha.

From Kamakura we went to a visit the Imperial Palace of Japan with a break journey at Shibuya. Imperial Palace is very close to Tokyo station -ten minutes walking distance only. As there was no public access inside the Imperial Palace, we roamed in the East garden of the Palace, took snaps and came out. We reached the electric city Akihabara, travelled here and there, had coffee, bought some gift items, bought a cute white torch light for my mother. Next we waited for Bodhaditya at Showadori gate no.3. Bodhaditya was doing his Masters’ in Tokyo University. We met him over there, went to Tokyo, took snaps in front of the KITTE shopping mall. We had dinner together in a restaurant on the 6th floor of the mall. Had salmon sushi, tuna shashimi, baked potato, grilled salmon etc. While having food, we had a long talk. Post dinner we bid adieu to Bodhaditya and went to catch the train in Yamanote line. It was our last ride by JR pass. While arranging all the belongings, at the hotel room, we reminisced about the joyful experiences of the last fourteen days. We were obsessed with coming back again to Japan again. Bye bye JAPAN!

END

Debi Das

A unique opportunity

The 20th

INDIA JAPAN STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

At Kolkata (in August 2016)

Interested students 18~23 years of age may contact Mr.P.S. Mitra

NKKS members convey our heartfelt condolences to our Assistant Secretary, Gouri Shankar Pal on the sad demise of the father. May his soul rest in peace!

JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(May - June)

1.	2.		3.		4.	5.	
6.			7.	8.			
9.		10.		11.			12.
		13.					
	14.					15.	
16.			17.		18.		
19.		20.		21.			
22.				23.			

ACROSS

- 1) Enjoyable
- 4) Heel
- 6) Kite
- 7) Dentist
- 9) Mist
- 11) Frostbite
- 13) Stairs
- 14) Wooden sandal
- 15) Wild duck
- 16) Roll of cloth
- 18) To care about
- 19) Mix
- 22) Revenue stamp
- 23) Concealment

DOWN

- 1) Fight
- 2) Leave
- 3) Intention
- 4) Opening of gate
- 5) Rent house
- 8) Lending
- 10) View point
- 12) Enlightenment
- 14) Cash
- 15) Potter
- 16) Expensive
- 17) Wind
- 20) Increase
- 21) A kind

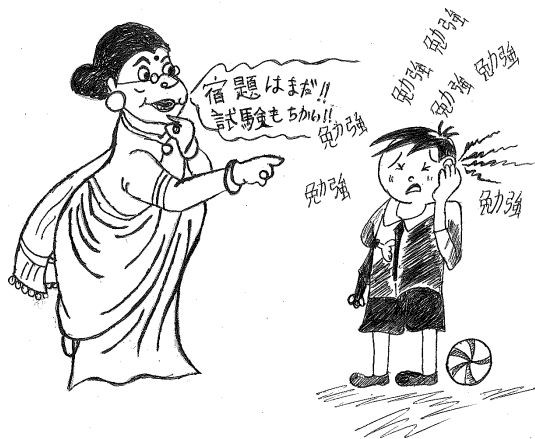
Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(March - April)

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.
め	い	さ	く	し	ば	る																
6.	い	し	ば	い	ば	い																
8.	か	き	と	る	く	う	き															
	く		ま	か	さ	か																
		13.	か	り	と	る			15.	た	く											
16.	は	し		い		も	の															
18.	た	だ	い		20.	や	さ	し	21.	い												
22.	け	し	い	ん		く	い	き														

WORD JUMBLE - 43

Unscramble the following words, and join the circled letters to find out the answer:



このこと
わざは何
ですか?

1. じうみよ (Surname)

○ □ □ □ □

2. みよりく (Charm)

○ □ □ □ □

3. いがつしゆ (Going out)

○ □ □ □ □ □

4. らずたい (Mischief)

○ □ □ □ □

5. くりよんい (Gravity)

○ □ □ □ □ □ □

Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE - 42

- 1. きぎょう
- 2. うでどけい
- 3. くびになる
- 4. あまざけ
- 5. ままちち

き よ う い く マ マ

EDITORS: Tanusree Chatterjee & Alope Basu

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