



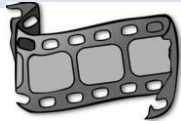
SAKURA

No. 93

September - October 2015



のう たか つめ かく
能ある鷹は爪を隠す A wise man keeps some of his talents in reserve



26th CINEMA NIPPON

Nihongo Kaiwa Kyokai Society had organized 26th Cinema Nippon in collaboration with The Consulate General of Japan, Kolkata. The film festival was screened at Nandan II from 31st July, - 2nd August, two films a day. All were of different flavours. From these films, we can learn about the society and lifestyle of Japanese people of different periods.

On 31st July, we saw "Rail Truck" directed by Hirofumi Kawaguchi and "The Chef of South Polar" directed by Shuichi Okita. "Rail Truck", a 2009 movie shows family values and bonding. "The Chef of south Polar", also a 2009 movie, based on the autobiography of Chef Jun Nishimura, shows how a team works in adverse conditions in the South Pole. How the Chef has to work hard to make mouth-watering dishes for the crew.



HAPPY FLIGHT
ハッピーフライト

On 1st August, we saw "Kodayu" directed by Junya Sato and "Happy Flight" directed by Shinobu Yaguchi." Kodayu" is a film of 1992 showing the struggle of some sailors, headed by Kodayu, who reached Russia after a shipwreck, to return to their homeland, Japan. It is a film of Edo period. "Happy Flight", a 2008 film, shows in detail how a team of professionals works to run a flight smoothly. On 2nd August, we saw "Sanjuro" directed by Akira Kurosawa and "My Sons" directed by Yoji Yamada. "Sanjuro" is a movie of 1962 where Sanjuro, a samurai, fights to overthrow the corrupt ruling elite. "My sons" is 1991 movie, also a family film where an old man after his wife's death lives alone at his own home, as his sons are busy in their own lives. Many, who are not Japanese language students or not related to any Japanese organization came to watch movies everyday and loved it. I cordially thank all the organizers for such a lovely film festival.

Sumana Bhattacharjee



FRESHERS' WELCOME

Ah! What an evening it was!! Full of new faces in our Japanese language world implies the impact of Japan and its culture in the young generations' mind. This year was something special. Not only for the energetic new Japanese language students but also that was the first time in Nihongo Kaiwa Kyokai Society's history, the Honorable Vice Consul-General of Japan, Kolkata Ms. Morita along with her colleague Mr. Ozawa enriched our event by coming physically to Sarat Samity.

That was the starting of excitement. Mr. Ozawa with traditional Japanese kimono with Katana Japanese sword and his entertaining nature just changed the environment of the place. That was not the end. Morita san brought 4 Yukatas for the new students and they just loved trying these out. Lots of photo sessions, selfies and group photos were captured with Yukata.

From the NKKS side two Japanese songs were sung by our teachers and other NKK members. Altogether I can say that this was the best Freshers' Welcome experience ever.

Anupam Das



Welcome experience ever.

AN INTERVIEW WITH BABLI CHOWDHURY

In our *In Nichi Bunkasai*, for several consecutive years, she has been performing the role of a prompter of the Japanese drama. She stood first in the Japan Foundation examination and went Japan for a month long study tour. Her son Aritra has also learnt Japanese language and visited Japan twice for Indo-Japan Student Conference and Kizuna project. During our conversation at her residence we talked on her starting of Japanese language learning, Japan visit, and experience of meeting with Japanese people, etc.



Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Why did you learn Japanese?

A: I enrolled for the Japanese language because my father's friend, Mr. Dasu Bhowmick, who was a very good interpreter of Japanese language, encouraged me to take up this course.

Q: Then you continued...

A: Yes, I started learning Japanese in 1984. My teacher was Mrs. Kazuko Nigam. As our classes continued, we got a feel of Japanese people, their culture, history and I was overawed by the presence of past students who would drop in to meet Nigam Sensei and share their experience of visiting Japan.

Q: And you also went Japan...

A: Yes- I was a student of the Japanese language 3 years diploma course at RKM. Gradually I got interested in everything that was Japanese. I was very lucky to have Mr. Kazuko Nigam as my teacher and she was the one who encouraged me to appear in the Japanese Foundation examination. I appeared in the Japan foundation examination and stood first. The prize was a study tour of Japan. So in October 1986 I visited Japan for a month.

Q: Tell us about your experience there.

A: From the time I got to know the results of the Japan Foundation examination my excitement knew no bounds. I was travelling all alone from Kolkata and was really looking forward eagerly for the programme to begin.

When I reached Japan there were 78 other students from all over the world who had come for that study tour. So it was like the world had gathered! These 15 days spent together was like a dream come true for me. At every step I was mesmerized by the way the Japanese people behaved, talked, their culture, food habits, history, cleanliness, punctuality and so on.

Q: Any memorable experience in Japan?

A: The whole trip to The Land of the Rising Sun was a memorable experience for me. My home-stay family was so good and humble that I will never forget, during my extended stay I visited a family home in Yokohama. There Mr. Wasio, who is no more, introduced me to his family as their "Indian daughter" which will be etched in my memory for ever. The Japan tour was such an amazing experience which I still cherish.

Q: Any advice you want to share...

A: It is a very interesting language and has similarities with the Bengali language. There are a lot of opportunities too nowadays, which were not there when I was a student, except for the speech contest and yearly Japan Foundation Examination. But now if we can learn this language from our heart there are a lot of ways to put it to proper use too.

Q: Your hobby.....

A: Cooking, reading, listening to music- I love to cook special type of dishes.

Q: Once you told you wanted to become a teacher.

A: Yes, I wanted to teach children but I was engaged in Japanese language learning, interpretation etc. I was occupied with all these and then I had to manage my family to bring up my child. Then I got a chance to go Japan again for some interpretation work, but due to my responsibility towards my family I had to forego that opportunity.

Aloke Basu

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

AGM 2014-15 was held at Sarat Samity. First our present Secretary delivered his speech with the Annual Report of various programs. Jayanta Saha, President of NKKS also gave a speech highlighting the main activities of our organization.

The same office bearers and executive committee of the previous year was retained with the addition of Anupam Das as new EC member.

Chief Patron: Mrs. Kazuko Nigam

President: Mr. Jayanta Saha

Secretary: Mr. Sanjay Ganguly

Asst Secretary: Mr. Gouri Sankar Pal

Treasurer: Mr. Arunava Roy





UNIQUE JAPAN -2

On the second day I was very much excited as it was the day for our 'Fuji-Hakone' trip. In Japan boarding a taxi a little bit expensive but still we availed the same as per the instruction received from the hotel reception and reached Tamachi station. As we had JR pass we boarded the train without buying tickets anymore for Shinjuku. I was totally lost in thought – read about Shinjuku so many times in the text and other books too. The same thing happened like last night - we asked one gentleman about Hotel Keio Plaza from where our Fuji-Hakone trip was supposed to start. He not only showed us the way but also handed us over to the hotel staff and left.



At Mt. Fuji with Hiro san

We were in group 2. Our guide was Hiro san. He gave a vivid description of almost all the places we passed through. A little before the destination of Mt. Fuji we got down

at a place where we enjoyed a documentary on Mt. Fuji. As the available time was only 20 minutes, we approached the bus hurriedly, and Hiro san started to call the members and checked lunch options (Veg/Non-veg) for each member. My excitement was so high that as soon as we reached Mt. Fuji, I just jumped from the bus. Alas! Where is Fujisan? Mt. Fuji was totally covered with snow and fog causing utter disappointment to hundreds of people gathered from across the world to enjoy the scenic beauty of Mt. Fuji. Still we had been there for half an hour with a thought we would come again in the month of August-September just to have a clear look of Fujisan.

As we started early in the morning we could not have breakfast. So when Hiro san announced that next we would be served pure Japanese lunch our appetite arose with a longing for the new taste of Japanese food. As we entered the dining hall, we were flabbergasted. All the food items were arranged in a decorative way and in a manner of Pure Veg, Japanese dish, shrimp, Chicken etc. Soba boiling on a lamp was also served on each table. It was looking so beautiful that everybody started taking pictures instead of eating food. We had Veg dish consisting of rice, hot soba, tempura platter, fruit platter, salad, Tofu etc. We relished the food and jumped to click snaps at the Kawaguchi Lake.

After a refreshing halt we boarded the bus for Hakone. There we came to know about Japanese cold physically. It was so windy, seemed to be piercing our hands and legs. Hiro san announced that

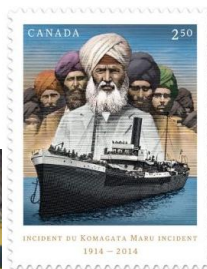
due to such windy weather he had to cancel Hakone (Ropeway) Cable Car program, instead he would take us to aquarium in Hakone-en. We boarded a cruise in Ashi Lake and after sometime reached Hakone-en. When everybody moved towards aquarium, we went forward to our next destination Takayama.

..to be contd.
Debi Das

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Nihongo Quiz:** 26th Sep 2015
At RKM 2pm
- ◆ **Bijoya Sammilani:** 31st Oct 2015
At Sarat Samity 6:30pm

KOMAGATA MARU - Budge Budge



When Sensei, having been informed by Sayantan Bhattacharya san, inquired about "Komagata Maru" we had no answer. Imagine, it's the prefix of the Budge Budge railway station in Kolkata named after the ship with the hapless Indians who were refused entry to Canada and returned to reach the port of Calcutta. A train awaited in Budge Budge for their transit to Punjab, but upon their refusal to go, were gunned down by the British rulers. A Martyrs Column, shaped like a *kripan* stands witness at the station today.

The cargo steamship, Komagata Maru, made in Germany 1890 and later acquired by a Japanese, was chartered by Gurdeet Singh, a well to do fishing businessman in Singapore, who wanted to circumvent Canadian immigration laws when Canadian immigration policy was marred with racist laws to prevent the coming of Asians to British Columbia. This ship, later called Heian Maru, was ship wrecked in Hokkaido in 1926

Deepa Mehta's movie "Exclusion" is based on this incident, as were a number of plays before.

We constantly draw attention to the Japanese connection with illustrious personalities, but little did we know about this important connection - right at our doorsteps.

Thank you Sayantan san, for this eye-opener!



JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(September- October)

1.	2.	3.	4.		5.	6.
7.				8.		
9.			10.	11.		
		12.		13.		14.
	15.		16.		17.	18.
19.				20.		21.
22.			23.		24.	
25.				26.		

ACROSS

- 1) Beautiful
- 5) Shore
- 7) Constitution (health)
- 8) Lecturer
- 9) Painter
- 10) Bachelor
- 13) Underground
- 15) Synonym
- 17) Hint/sign
- 19) Committee
- 21) Bridge
- 22) Umbrella
- 23) Wipe out (enemy)
- 25) Apple
- 26) Hallmark

DOWN

- 1) Doubt
- 2) Addition
- 3) Comb
- 4) Humidity
- 5) Opportunity
- 6) Lion
- 8) Bench/seat
- 11) Mouth
- 12) Member (Diet)
- 14) Embassy
- 15) Total
- 16) Pentagon
- 18) Mother
- 19) Anger
- 20) Strawberry
- 24) Multiplication Table

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(July - August)

1.	2.	3.		4.	5.	6.
し	か	く		さ	ん	け
7.			8.			9.
ち	ん	し	ご	と		い
10.					11.	
が	か		く		か	え
12.		13.		14.		
つ	く	り	つ	け	い	
	15.			16.		17.
	き	ん	ぶ	ち	め	が
18.		19.		20.		21.
ば		し	し	か	く	さ
21.	22.			23.		
り	り	つ		さ	く	が
24.			25.			
き	か		ひ	さ	し	ぶ

WORD JUMBLE - 39

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



子供の頃の友達は日本語で何と言いますか？

1. さおおじ (Table spoon)

○		○	
---	--	---	--

2. みんなん (Refugee)

○			
---	--	--	--

= 3. とうんな (South East)

○			
---	--	--	--

4. つじじ (Reality)

	○	
--	---	--

5. みしゃせん (Japanese banjo)

		○		
--	--	---	--	--

Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE - 38

- 1. ぼうえき
- 2. ほつきよく
- 3. たっぷり
- 4. くわしい
- 5. しりあい
- 6. だいさいがい

ぼ っ た く り だ



Happy Durga Puja!



EDITORS: *Tanusree Chatterjee & Alope Basu*

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