



SAKURA

No. 94

November - December 2015



ふこうちゅう さいわ
不幸中の幸い A blessing in disguise

19th Indo-Japan Students' Conference



The 18th Nihongo Quiz Contest



The 18th Nihongo Quiz Contest, among the Japanese language students of different language institutions, under the patronage of The Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata and Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society was held on 26th

Some Memories



September, 2015 at

Shivananda Hall of Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata. In the final round of the contest for the junior group, after three consecutive semi-final rounds, Aparna and Suparna became joint winners, Sohini and Utpal came second and Pubali and Sriparna held third position. The contest of Junior group was conducted by Mrs. Poonam Nand De. After a short but interesting documentary film show arranged by The Consulate General of Japan, Kolkata, the Senior group contest began, conducted by Mrs. Ruma Chatterjee. In the final round after two consecutive rounds, Suparna was declared as the winner and Arnab and Pratistha held the second and third positions respectively. After Mr. Kazumi Endo, the Hon'ble Consul General of Japan's inspiring speech he handed over prizes to winners. Vice Consul, Cultural Section, Miss Maiko Morita's presence also contributed specially for the success of the entire programme.

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Academic Session:** 21st Nov 2015
At Sarat Samity 6:30pm
- ◆ **Annual Picnic:** 17th Jan 2016
At Rammandir Garden, Howrah
- ◆ **In Nichi Bunkasai Practice:** Dec 2015
Register with Nigam Sensei or Ruma Sensei

Junior Group Winners:

- 1st: Aparna Bhaumik (IILC)
Suparna Chowdhury (RMIC)
- 2nd: Sohini Biswas (Okakura)
Utpal Dutta (Okakura)
- 3rd: Pubali Das (RMIC)
Sriparna Samajdar (IILC)

Senior Group Winners:

- 1st: Suparna Mondal (RMIC)
- 2nd: Arnab Bhowmik (RMIC)
- 3rd: Pratishtha Chanda (RMIC)

Heartiest Congratulations to all the Winners!

Sumana Dey

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AN INTERVIEW WITH MALYESHWARI BHADURI



Malyashree Bhaduri has been working in Bangalore. Now she is going to Japan (Tokyo) to work in ISFnet as a Bilingual Network Engineer.

Through our conversation I asked her if she wanted to give any advice to the students of Japanese language. With a soft smile she says "Never give up"! I realized that this is also her motto in life. If you want to prove your mettle in life you have to be good at that. Obviously you have to motivate yourself all the time!

Q: You went to Japan once. As far as I remember you stood first in the Nihongo Quiz Contest organized by NKKS.

A: (Beaming) Yes- On account of that I got an opportunity to visit Japan for ten days in the JENESYS programme.

Then she started to reminisce about her Japan tour. She had a memorable experience there and wrote an article in "Sakura" about it. She broke out into a little laugh.

Q: Anything amusing?

A: Before that I had never cooked at home. But in Japan I learned how to cook *yakisoba*.

She also narrated her experience of attending a camp, a home-stay and visiting Sapporo, the capital of Hokkaido. She also mentioned Otaru a famous tourist spot of Hokkaido.

Malyashree participated twice in the Indo-Japanese Students' Conference (14th and 16th) here in Kolkata.

Q: But Malyashree san, why Japanese?

A: Actually from childhood I had been very fond of *animes* and by watching *animes* and reading *mangas*, my interest in Japanese language and culture grew. I graduated from St. John's Diocesan Girls' Higher Secondary School and we had a group where *animes* and *mangas* were the topics of discussion! I learnt Japanese at IJLSS while pursuing my B. Tech in Computer Science & Engineering. Engineering and Japanese is a very good combination. After my graduation I got a job in Bangalore. There I cleared my N2 examination (JLPT). I did a lot of freelancing also. My interpretation assignments with JETRO,

Toshiba etc. helped me to improve my Japanese language skills. I was involved in various Japanese events like Japan Habba (regarding cultural exchange between Japan and India), Jinsei Dojo Toastmasters Club (lots of scope for speaking Japanese here) which deepened my desire to stay and work in Japan.

Q: Before going to Bangalore you also did a job related to Japanese language and did some interpretation work here. But now tell us about your experience in Bangalore

A: Yes. I had worked for Tokyo Boeki and also interpreted for Job Tessio here. I must say that staying in Bangalore was an enriching experience. My Japanese skills improved thanks to the various interpretation assignments and the favorable atmosphere for development. A lot of Japanese companies- close to 78 are there in Bangalore. Companies like Toshiba, Nichi-In, Toyota, San-Yu-Rec etc. provide ample job opportunities. Then there are events like the Japan Habba, which is a day-long cultural exchange programme between India and Japan.

Q: Any memorable experience?

A: Once I was the coordinator for a traditional Japanese dance group called "Hayachine Kagura". Just before the day of their performance I was asked to be the Master of Ceremonies. It was my first time as Master of Ceremonies for a big event like this! So I was really nervous. Many people from JETRO and other important persons were there. But the members of Hayachine Kagura were really nice and friendly. So I could do it successfully!

Malyashree san is an avid watcher of Japanese television dramas and movies. She also listens to NHK radio, also watches NHK TV. All these have enhanced her skills in Japanese language. I asked her about her hobby and her answer was all those above-mentioned activities. Naturally her activities resulted in the enhancement of proficiency in Japanese Language!

Now I remembered her first participation in East India Japanese Language speech contest, Kolkata. Later in the 16th Indo Japanese Students Conference she was assigned the role of Communicator. She also participated in group dance and songs. From there being the MC of a traditional Japanese dance group the journey has matured her and enhanced her skills. Now, no doubt, she exudes confidence – she speaks about positivity. She believes in proving one's self or to attain the goal one has to overcome the mental

.....contd.on page 3

....contd. from page 2

block. Any negative attitude must be converted into the essential enthusiasm "I CAN"

Q: Your wish for you fellow students in Kolkata?

A: I wish that activities like those in Bangalore would be organized here in Kolkata so that the ambience of Japanese learning and knowing the culture of Japan could be congenially efficacious. Like Shodoo classes, Japanese tea- ceremony, conversation classes etc.

She thinks that going to Bangalore was a giant leap in her career. From her smiling yet determined face I could read the message to the aspiring students of Japanese language..... NEVER GIVE UP!

Aloke Basu

UNIQUE JAPAN -3



Hirosan was dumbfounded, when he came to know that we would go to Takayama instead of going back to Tokyo by the tour bus – Takayama is too far from Hakone-en and it was almost 4.30 p.m. Moreover it will take five hours to reach Takayama by shinkansen followed by express train. The Japanese do not have the word inconvenience in their dictionary. Hirosan asked us to wait near the bus and accompanied the tourist team towards aquarium. We told the bus driver that we needed to take our luggage out as we were going to Takayama right now. He was also speechless with amazement and expressed his serious concern about the distance from Hakone-en to Takayama. To speak the truth I too was a little bit nervous about our next journey. Hirosan ran towards us and took us to the bus ticket counter, helped to buy tickets up to Odawara Station. He explained the route of our onward journey. Meanwhile, I managed to gain an extraordinary energy and pulled up the luggage into the bus alone. While the bus was going towards Odawara, our stress was reduced for the time being due to the picturesque surroundings all along the journey. We were mesmerized by the beauty of the small hill towns. It took fifty minutes to reach Odawara Station and the bus stopped just in front of the entrance of the station. We bought tickets up to Nagoya (Shinkansen Hikari 529), and Nagoya to Takayama (Express train Hide-19). We were really excited as it was the first ride in a shinkansen, which is a well talked issue all the world over. Just at 5.36 p.m. the shinkansen came and we two boarded on the train with the heavy luggage. When we approached our seat no. 15A & 15B, we were bewildered seeing a gentleman and a lady sitting in those two seats. As we stood in front of them, they wanted to see our tickets. They pointed out that our

train was Hikari 529 which was scheduled at 6.19 p.m. and we had wrongly boarded on this train called Kodama. We got down from the train in a hurry and I was gasping terribly. Both of us went through the tickets properly and found that everything was written on the ticket. Afterwards, the journey in Hikari 529 was very smooth and we enjoyed it very much. At Nagoya, we changed the track to catch Hida 19 and bought our dinner from the convenient store at the station. We boarded on Hida 19 and had a sleep for some time. Most of the passengers were having their dinner with *obento* in the train itself. Around 10 p.m. we asked one of our co-passengers how far Washington Hotel Plaza was from Takayama station. We were really delighted when the gentleman said that it would be visible from the station itself. We got down from the train and checked into the Washington Hotel Plaza 10.20 p.m. After taking a hot bath the fatigue of the day vanished in a jiffy. We had dinner with sweet bun etc. and went to sleep.

The next day was Sunday- the day of seeing the city of Takayama. We had morning tea leisurely and breakfast at McDonalds with potato cutlet, salad and coffee. We met an old lady and a girl at coffee counter who were very happy talking to me in Nihongo. Hereafter, we boarded the Machidani 19 (Bus) from Nohi bus terminal, got down at Higashiyama Teramachi. We kept on walking, saw the Eikyoin temple, Unryuji temple, Daioji temple one by one. While passing through all these places, we clearly understood that Takayama was an old city-old fashioned single storied/ double storied houses and latest cars were parked in front of the houses - beautiful indeed. In this way, we reached Shorenji temple but we had bad luck- the temple was under renovation, we could not enter the temple. We crossed Shiromaya Park and reached San machi street, had lunch with mochi stick, flat mochi and tutti fruiti. Post lunch we had a walk through San machi Suji and did window shopping as well. All traditional items were available in those shops. Various types of chocolates and cookies were available of which we tasted a few. We were very much tempted to buy some but restrained ourselves as it might get spoiled during our journey. We bought a few token gifts.

...to be contd.
Debi Das



**DEBI SAN'S
COFFEE SHOP
FRIENDS**

**JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(November- December)**

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

ACROSS

- 1) Appearance
- 4) Memento
- 7) Ache
- 8) Nook/corner
- 9) Remark
- 12) Mosquito net
- 13) Waterfall
- 14) Error
- 16) Deer
- 17) Every place
- 19) Fire wood
- 20) Soil
- 21) Shine
- 23) Sweet tasting
- 24) Comfortable

DOWN

- 1) Stop
- 2) Board
- 3) Cold
- 4) Hardness
- 5) Add
- 6) Ear-pick
- 8) Furniture shop
- 10) Anger
- 11) Fast talking
- 13) High pillow
- 14) Dawn
- 15) Town
- 18) Extra/outside
- 21) Iron pot

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

**Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(September- October)**

1. う	2. つ	3. く	4. し	い	5. き	6. し
7. た	い	し	つ		8. こ	う
9. が	か		10. ど	11. く	し	ん
い		12. ぎ		13. ち	か	14. た
	15. る	い	16. ご		17. け	18. は
19. い	い	ん	か	20. い		21. は
22. か	さ		23. く	24. ち	く	か
25. り	ん	ご		26. ご	く	い

WORD JUMBLE - 40

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



1. もんだいじじ(Current affairs)

○					
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2. りょうびきゅう(Payday)

	○	○				
--	---	---	--	--	--	--

3. しきになん(Awareness)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

4. ししやとう(Investor)

○				
---	--	--	--	--

5. むりいね(Snooze)

○			
---	--	--	--

6. かうろし(Death from overwork)

	○		
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Sontu Debnath

**ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE - 39**

1. おおさじ
2. なんみん
3. なんとか
4. じじつ
5. しゃみせん

お	さ	な	な	じ	み
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BOOK POST

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