



SAKURA

No. 113

January- February 2019



あそびじんひまなし Pleasure seekers have no leisure



明けましておめでとうございます

JAPAN UTSAV

was held on 11th November, 2018, Sunday, at Hotel Hindustan International. It was a very interesting and informative day for all Japan Loving People present over there. It was organized by Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata.



The Program was inaugurated by Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, Mr. Masayuki Taga, at 11 AM and was followed by Japanese melodies by Kolkata Symphony Orchestra, Ikebana, NHK Drama Screening named 'Home Sweet Tokyo', Karate demonstration by All India Seishinkai Shito-Ryu Karate-Do Federation and Japan Karate Association World Federation India Kolkata, Calligraphy demonstration, Origami, Sado (way of tea), Anime Movie screening 'The Garden of Words', Quiz on Japan and ended with Kolkata Cosplay Competition around 6 PM.

The Ikebana demonstration started at 11:30 AM and was shown by our Mrs. Kazuko Nigam Sensei, an expert of Ikebana at Wafu School, supported by her students. It was amazing and informative, as she explained about the history of Ikebana and arranged seven types of Ikebana such as Moribana, Nageire, etc. The NHK drama 'Home Sweet Tokyo' was screened around 12:30 PM which was very interesting. 'Karate' demonstration started from 2 PM, organized by two schools from Kolkata. It was very powerful and very important, particularly for all women to learn 'Karate' for self defense. Calligraphy or 'Shodo' demonstration was performed by Ms Hiroko Nagahama Sensei. Nagahama sensei is an efficient and experienced Calligraphy teacher in Japan. Many students were inspired by her demonstration and took part in the

Calligraphy workshop, which was held in a separate hall.

The Origami workshop was presented by Mrs. Junko Bhattacharya Sensei and Mr. Chiroranjana Bose. Junko Sensei is also an expert and a very good Origami teacher. The hall was nicely decorated with Origami and Calligraphy. Another hall at HHI was decorated with the Ikebanas, Japanese dolls and a wonderful Kimono called Uchikake, etc, to create a Japanese atmosphere.

The Tea Ceremony or 'Sado' was shown by Reiko Shimizu san which was also very wonderfully performed. This is a traditional thing for Japanese people. The screening of the Anime Movie 'The Garden of Words' started from 3 PM. It is a very popular Anime movie, directed by Makoto Shinkai, which was enjoyed by all. 'Quiz on Japan' was also quite interesting and conducted by Supratik Sil Roy san which spread knowledge about Japan. Last but not the least, Kolkata Cosplay Competition was performed around 5 PM. The Cosplay participants performed extremely well. They made their dresses, all weapons and props their own. All of them performed very popular Japanese characters like Sarada from Naruto, Box Man, Dante from Devil May Cry, Light Yagami from Death Note etc. which were especially enjoyed by the new generations.

It was a great experience for all the people present at this wonderful event. The program was a grand success.

Reema Basu

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AN INTERVIEW WITH MAHASHVETA BASU MUKHERJEE

Mahashveta san is a Japanese language teacher in IJWCA She is a regular performer in our Japanese drama in In Nichi Bunkasai . Once a student was not able to attend a rehearsal and later she could not continue due to some personal problem. We approached Mahashveta san and when she came for the first rehearsal she rehearsed the scene without looking at the script. What a dedication!



We had a chat about her passion for Japanese language, hobby, her various work experiences.

Excerpts from the interview:

Q We know you have written many excellent Haiku ---

A Yes, I learnt about Haiku from Kazuko Nigam Sensei. Sensei taught me the -5/7/5 pattern I love it very much. A picture created by using only 5/7/5 letters. Sensei always has inspired me writing Haiku My Haikus have been published in various magazines.

Q Yes. We have heard that your Haiku has been published in Japan. One was also published in Asahi Shinbun newspaper in Japan.

A Yes, that was the one of the most memorable moments of my life. Once I recited a Haiku on the stage. I met the renowned Haiku poet Emiko Miyashita.

Q You have also translated?

A Yes I have translated some short stories into Japanese language.

Q Your major was?

A I completed my M.A. degree in Political Science For unavoidable circumstances I could not continue my PhD .

Q You also worked in various fields.

A Yes I worked as a T V announcer. I worked in a Market Research Company and also as a translator --- to translate from Hindi & Bengali to English.

Q Besides Japanese you also know Hindi and Urdu .

A:: I did a Diploma course in Hindi and learned some Urdu language also.

Q:: Why have you learned Japanese?

A Actually when I started to learn Japanese I did not have any particular thought or passion. Then my mother advised me to be engaged with something like learning any foreign language. My mother is very fond of Japan so she suggested Japanese language. At that time my knowledge of Japan was Tagore's book - "*Japan Yatri*" and some Japanese words like Kimono , Ikebana , Bonsai , Sayoonara etc, and about some historical events.

Q Your first teacher was Kazuko Nigam Sensei?

A Yes I still remember the first day (6 th of July - my birthday also) of Japanese language class. Our teacher was Nigam Sensei. At first Sensei wrote her name on the black board and the first Japanese words -"Arigatoo Gozaimasu. On that very day I fell in love with Japanese language.

Q You are an executive member of NKKS – Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society?

A Yes through the learning of Japanese Language I came to know NKKS and I began to take part in its various activities like quiz , song and drama. I have participated Japanese drama many times. I never imagined that I could perform on the stage but with the inspiration of Nigam Sensei I started to act.

Q You also participated in Japanese language speech contest?

A Yes but I never got any rank.

Q Your teaching experience

A Now I teach Japanese language in Indo Japan Welfare and Cultural Association - basic Japanese and JLPT oriented crash course I am very grateful to Dr D N Bakshi –he was the person who gave me this opportunity. Whatever reputation and respect I have as a Japanese language teacher is due to his kindness. I also feel very lucky that I have learnt Japanese language and I have found a teacher like Nigam Sensei. I am also very much proud of my institution IJWCA .

Q Your hobby?

A I like to watch all kinds of movies and listening to music I also love to read books --- doing sketch and painting.

....Contd on page 3

Contd from page 2...

Q Your advice to students?

A Enjoy the study –read again and again, study regularly, practice by writing is also very necessary . I think when you learn a lot then you wish to learn more and more.

Aloke Basu

My Experience in Japanese Language Teachers Training



I have recently completed Japanese Language Teachers Training Course A (360 Hrs) conducted by The Ministry of External Affairs of India and Embassy of Japan in India under India-Japan Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of Japanese Language Education in India with the support of The Japan Foundation, MHRD, MSDE, UGC from 23rd July 2018 to 12th October 2018 at UGC - Human Resource Development Centre Jawaharlal Nehru University.

While applying I knew if got selected I have to stay at JNU hostel for entire duration of the course. Staying away from my family for 12 weeks was really tough decision to make. I did not have any experience of hostel life. I faced difficulty to adjust initially but my classmates helped me a lot in the new environment. We used to go for a walk in the evening during weekends to explore JNU campus.

As I don't have any teaching experience, our faculties put extra effort on me to make me efficient in teaching methodology which put emphasis on interesting activities i.e poster making, kamishibai etc and verbal communication. We got opportunity to observe Japanese classes in JNU, DU and The Japan Foundation. We took couple of mock classes for students of JNU and The Japan Foundation. As a language teacher not only teaching Japanese language but also teaching culture of Japan is essential for the students. We have learned how to wear yukata by our self within a time limit which would help me while teaching Japanese culture. In Japanese culture, office manners are very important. We have learned how to teach students Japanese office manners.

I am sincerely obliged to The Ministry of External Affairs of India and Embassy of Japan in India for selecting me for this course which will enable me to pursue my career as Japanese language teacher.

Pampa Saha Roy

Tadoku



On the 18th of November, a special reading session was held at the Sarat Samiti. In this Tadoku (多読) session, participants who were divided into the Senior and the Junior groups, not only got to read Japanese stories but also got the opportunity to narrate them in Japanese.

To be able to recite a Japanese story, it takes a lot of effort and practice. Thus, the first attempts were a series of trial and error. Both the groups helped each other out while the teachers present guided them, encouraging them to try their best while lending a hand with the vocabulary.

Since a story could be narrated in different ways, the participants got to learn from each other's mistakes as they willfully attempted to recount the story in their own words. Also, an interesting stock of fables were presented which did not only make for a good read but also for a good reaction. For instance, the story of the origin of the mosquito 「蚊はどうして人の血をすうの」 and that of the country mouse and the town mouse 「田舎のネズミと町のネズミ」.

Even though the speakers fumbled with words, each of them gave their all to make the listeners understand the jist of their assigned stories. All in all, it was a learning experience which was mutually beneficial for both the groups. It further motivated the participants to read more Japanese stories and find newer ways to retell them.

Farhin Khan

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Annual Picnic:** 3rd Feb 2019
At Garchumuk Forest Resort)
(Charges: members: Rs 500 Guests: Rs 600)
Departure RKM 7:30 am sharp!
- ◆ **Interaction with Japanese Students:** 24th Feb 2019
At Sarat Samity 3 pm
- ◆ **In Nichi Bunkasai:** 16th Mar 2019
At Jadavpur University 5:30 pm

JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(January - February)

1	2	3			4
5				6	
		7			
8	9			10	
			11		12
13				14	

ACROSS

- 1) Closet
- 5) Orange
- 6) Fishing
- 7) Experience
- 8) Drainage
- 11) To float
- 13) Sweets
- 14) Waterfall

DOWN

- 1) Gift
- 2) Deer
- 3) Retire
- 4) Sweet sake
- 6) Way to use
- 9) Watermelon
- 12) Weapon

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(November - December)

1 う	2 ち	3 あ	わ	4 せ	
5 ち	い	き		6 い	7 け
8 あ	さ		9 し	じ	ん
10 い	い	11 し	き		ち
る		12 し	ん	13 が	く
	14 あ	ん		15 か	し

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WORD JUMBLE - 57

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



1. うぼんあか (Baby)

○				○
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2. きんあ (Memorization)

	○	
--	---	--

3. ゆしのこ (leaving water in the bathtub)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

4. しゅううきゅ (absorption)

○	○	○		
---	---	---	--	--

Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE - 56

- 1. くちべに
- 2. はくぶつかん
- 3. わざわざ
- 4. いのしし
- 5. もとしゅしょう

く	ち	は	わ	ざ	わ	い	の	も	と
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Events and Photographs from
our website*