

When 黒(黑) is not Just Black



On 21st December 2022, NKKS and Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata in collaboration with Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark organized a session with famed Japanese calligraphy expert Ms. Hiroko Nagahama to familiarize students of Japanese language and culture in the style of Shodō. The event was also graced by the acting Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, Mr. Yamasaki Matsutaro, the Principal of School of Languages, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Dr. Sabujkoli Sen and Chief Patron, NKKS, Mrs. Kazuko Nigam.

The evening started with Nagahama Sensei dipping her brush in the ink called sumi (墨) and drawing out the words "日本インド国交樹立70周年" to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. She was kind enough to show us what Freestyle Calligraphy is by drawing Sakura (桜) and Sekai (世界), enthralling the audience. Gradually, characters for Dream (夢) and Love (愛) materialized on the paper (画仙紙) from the tip of the brush as students and teachers alike felt that their long cherished dream of a tryst with Shodō became reality.

Thus, in sheer excitement, many amongst the learners dived into their imagination to bring their most profound ideas on the sheet of paper and won Sensei's admiration. The evening came to an end much with our works immortalized by the lens of the camera, capturing moments of our togetherness at the end of the session.

~ Biswatomak Banerjee

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2023



Meet ANNA NITTA



ANNA NITTA participated in the 20th Japan-India Students' Conference, held in India. She was Vice-President and Chief of public relations. Recently, she came to Kolkata for the third time and we had an informal chat in Nigam Sensei's place.

Academic Background: After graduating from the Faculty of Law, Aoyama Gakuin University, I completed a master's course in Japanese language and literature at the same university's Graduate School of Letters, and am currently enrolled in a doctoral course at the same graduate school. Specifically, I am mainly doing graduate school research on the history of translation of Tagore's works in Japan.

Reason for taking interest in India and Buddhism: After the death of my junior high school friend, I became deeply interested in Buddhism and Indian philosophy.

Thoughts on Rabindranath Tagore: Although Rabindranath Tagore is deeply rooted in the land of Bengal, he possesses a universal philosophy that encompasses all humankind, and I consider him to be a rare literary figure who can be considered within the framework of world literature.

Experiences in India and with Indians: This is my third visit to India. For the first time, I visited big cities such as Kolkata, Delhi, and Chennai. The second time I visited the four major Buddhist sites including Lumbini in nearby Nepal, and the third time I visited Mumbai, Kolkata, Goa and Kerala. It's difficult to talk about my experience in terms of India and Indians, but in my experience, Indians value their family and friends very much, and I think they build closer human relationships than Japanese people. In Japan, the number of nuclear families is increasing, especially in urban areas, and I fear that the bonds between people are becoming weaker than they used to be.

Hobby: I enjoy water coloring.

Experience of Japan-India Students' Conference: In 2016, I participated in the 20th Japan-India Students' Conference. This was my first crossing with India, and I had many valuable experiences such as discussions among students, company visits, and homestays.

Memorable experience : The Ganges river I saw when I first came to Kolkata is most memorable.

Future plans: In the future, I would like to obtain a PhD and introduce Japanese literature to Bengali people and Bengali literature to Japanese people. In particular, I would like to realize a <co-translation project> by a Japanese researcher and a Bengali researcher.

~ Alope Basu

うおごころ みずごころ
魚心あれば水心 | If you do a favor for somebody, you will get a return favor

UPCOMING
EVENTS

15 January 2023 (Sun)
7.30 AM: depart RMC Golpark

NKKS Picnic
@Bandana Picnic Spot
(contact Mr. PS Mitra to pre-pay
and book your seat)

25 February 2023 (Sat)

Opening Ceremony
26th India Japan Students'
Conference
(details on NKKS website soon)

38th
In-Nichi
Bunkasai

Rabindra
Okakura
Bhavan

12 March 2023
(tentative)

Contact Nigam sensei or
Ruma sensei to participate !

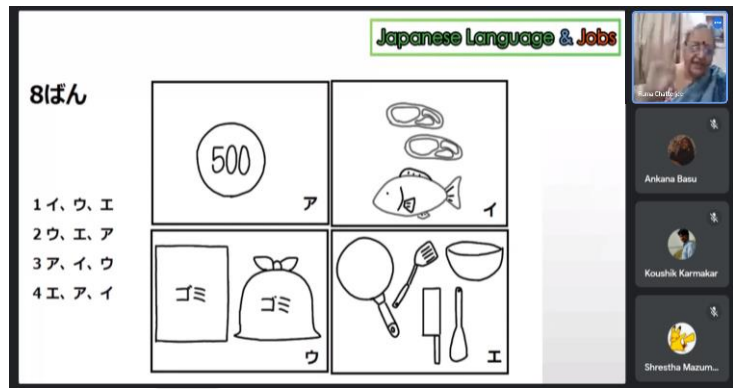
International Evening



On the 1st of November 2022, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, for the first time held an International Evening in which the students from various language departments performed. Our Principal Ma'am welcomed all the dignitaries and the grand evening began. The evening included drama, song, poetry, dance recital, etc. Various departments participated enthusiastically such as Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, French, German, Sanskrit, Urdu, etc. The students of Japanese department performed two songs and Haiku. The songs BARA GA SAITA and SHIKI NO UTA were performed by Ruma san, Gargi san, Drishti san, Bitrisha san, Soham san, Kaushik san and myself while the Haiku "The Ancient Pond" was performed by Susmita san and Sohini san. This grand evening was appreciated by one and all and we all are looking forward for more such events in future.

~ Tamalika Nag

JLPT Listening Practice Session



The JLPT N4 Listening Practise session was conducted online on 13th November by Mrs. Ruma Chatterjee, from 5:30 pm for around 20 participants. The very enthusiastic Namrota Mandal assisted Sensei in presenting the audio and video. The session commenced with a warm welcome from Ruma Sensei and a brief greeting from Namrota Mandal. The attendees were instructed to answer the questions within a 12 seconds time limit. Our initial apprehension gradually eased down to a simmering confidence as a lot more participants started actively raising their hands. Furthermore, Ruma Sensei's patient and thorough explanation of questions that imposed difficulty, refined our understanding of the problem. Additionally, Namrota San's occasional warm remarks served as a quick morale booster. The session came to an end with everyone, indebtedly, expressing thanks to our most adored Ruma Sensei for her insight into the many usages of the Japanese Language. The listening section is, undoubtedly, the most dreaded section by many given the fact that it demands our utmost attention and focus. It is this value that the session immensely stressed upon.

~ Poulomi Saha

3rd Japanese Language Singing Contest

Finally after two years of anticipation we had the in-person Japanese Language Singing Contest held on 17th December 2022, at Sarat Samity, organized by NKKS and sponsored by Tesla Power USA. The singers gave us all a great musical experience. The winners were selected by the honourable judges, Mr. Hideki Kawaura and Mr. Taisei Kishikawa. The top three positions were secured by Poulomi Saha (song: Kakurenbo by Yuuri), Avanti Acharya (song: Yoru ga akeru by Centimillimental) and Ritwika Biswas (song: Dry flower by Yuuri). As per the audience watching live on YouTube, Ritwika Biswas topped the chart. All participants were provided with certificates and gifts. This wonderful success could not be achieved without the collective effort contributed by the team of young NKKS members. We will absolutely be looking forward to the next edition!

~ Koushik Karmakar



Word Grid

~ Soham Pal

ら	る	こ	ん	よ	ぼ	の	ち	だ	と	つ	ぷ
つ	ち	と	る	ふ	あ	だ	は	け	つ	い	ぬ
け	あ	わ	ぎ	き	ゆ	ち	り	び	ん	せ	ん
あ	す	ぎ	ぷ	さ	ら	た	げ	づ	き	す	お
ひ	き	お	し	ふ	こ	き	び	ぷ	び	つ	ね
そ	と	れ	ほ	か	や	う	ら	ら	き	ぢ	が
の	ら	ま	る	し	な	も	さ	あ	ぎ	そ	い
ま	べ	く	え	い	い	く	う	い	な	む	つ
ま	せ	て	な	さ	ち	け	な	ず	も	よ	た
ふ	せ	い	い	ぜ	だ	ぼ	む	る	ろ	ゆ	ば
さ	も	せ	げ	け	る	こ	ん	し	ぶ	な	こ
た	い	え	さん	や	い	い	ぎ	じ	う	や	

Find out at least ten **4 letter** Japanese words present in the above grid. You can go vertically, diagonally and horizontally.

Word Grid Solution

(Nov – Dec 2022)

ち	ほ	の	ど	で	も	な	れ	し	ぢ	が	ぢ
ね	へ	ん	けん	い	ど	た	か	ぞ	ぶ	か	
え	ぼ	び	を	か	よ	ま	が	は	き	ば	い
び	ひ	り	く	あ	ち	を	の	び	づ	か	け
ね	つ	る	れ	る	び	し	ぬ	づ	た	ぼ	い
ご	て	き	そ	げ	ふ	こ	よ	よ	ぞ	お	さ
ち	よ	ろ	しく	こ	の	る	ぼ	せ	ば	て	
た	ぶ	よ	ぜ	つ	ゆ	ぼ	り	い	づ	い	ぷ
と	ま	つ	け	じ	ち	み	ぼ	こ	で	が	せ
て	ま	た	か	づ	む	が	け	ん	す	ど	ら
の	す	ろ	ま	る	ず	い	ぼ	ら	せ	ぶ	へ
じ	ふ	つ	と	め	る	む	ん	ほ	ほ	く	は

Jumbled Words

~ Sontu Debnath

1. たいぐん (armed forces; military)

○			
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2. かつがり (to be disappointed)

	○		
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3. りすく (medicine)

	○	○	
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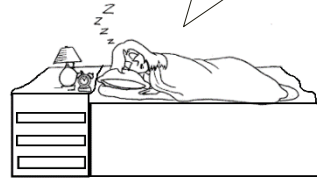
4. ぐりすりむね (sleeping drug)

○	○				
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5. ばんするわんで (answering machine)

○							
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このことばは何ですか？



KOTOBA:



Jumbled Words Solution

(Nov – Dec 2022)

1. おくりもの
3. かきかた

2. あつりよく
4. みつもり

Matsuri: おつきみ

Meaning: "Moon Viewing"

Scan the QR codes to watch the videos !

Meet Japanese Painter
Ms. Shine Misako



<https://rb.gy/jsboah>

Make Japanese Prawn
Salad at Home



<https://rb.gy/r5spds>

BOOK POST

If undelivered please return to:
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2B, SHIVANGAN 53/1/2, HAZRA ROAD
KOLKATA – 700 019