



# SAKURA

No. 102

March - April 2017



しずせ 沈む瀬あれば浮かぶ瀬あり Life has its ups and downs



**NKKS MEMBERS WITH NATURE**



**BREAKING THE POT BLINDFOLDED**

The 15<sup>th</sup> of January is another memorable day for us who had joined the picnic held at Badu at Madhyamgram organised by NKKS. Early in the morning we reached Tenri Mission where Kawaura Sensei delivered a short speech about the mission. We all prayed there. After taking tea, biscuits and candies we went to the picnic spot.

It was a big garden with a pond and many mango trees. We played many games like badminton, musical chair, housie, breaking the pot blindfolded, etc. All participants received many cute gifts from Nigam Sensei. Around four o'clock we had finished lunch and by five o'clock we had left the place after a group photograph. We enjoyed a lot and shall await the NKKS picnic next year.

*Snigdha Bhadra*

## MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **32<sup>nd</sup> In Nichi Bunkasai:**  
11<sup>th</sup> Mar 2017  
At Triguna Sen Auditorium Jadavpur  
University  
Curtains up at 5:30 pm
- ◆ **Academic Session:**  
22<sup>nd</sup> Apr 2017  
Lecture on Kotowaza  
At Sarat Samity 6:00pm

# Holi Holi



## AN INTERVIEW WITH SUMANA DEY

Ms. Sumana Dey has been teaching Japanese Language at Atulya Ghosh Institute of Language, Ultodanga Kolkata for nearly four years. She likes Japanese folk tales and mythology. She also likes Japanese cuisine and tried successfully the famous ebi tempura at home, which she learnt from Nigam Sensei. While we had an informal chat in her South Calcutta residence I came to know that she completed her post-graduation with history from Jadavpur University. She also completed successfully 3 years certificate course in French language from Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark and a short course in Museology from the Indian Museum, Kolkata.

Excerpts from the interview:



Q: Why did you choose to learn Japanese Language? You said you completed French also?

A: Actually while studying world history at the university I developed a deep interest in Japanese history and culture and received encouragement from my parents to learn the language of the rising sun.

Q: You started to teach in Patha Bhavan, Dankuni?

A: Yes but due to my mother's illness, being the only child I had to leave that job and while resigning from the school took the quick decision to learn the language which I had been nurturing in mind for quite some years

Q: So you started to learn .....

A: I still remember the first day in the class at Ramkrishna Mission, when Ruma Sensei entered into the class with a pleasant smile and the very first word she wrote on the board was Sensei and said "I am your Sensei" and the feeling I had was that the word Sensei has a deeper meaning as a "guru" than mere subject teacher! The feeling went on increasing gradually as I came closer to both Nigam Sensei and Ruma Sensei. The first three years in Ruma Sensei's class was full of excitement to learn an unusually interesting language. In the fourth year we entered Nigam Sensei's class. Her calm and pleasant personality with lots of pampering and encouragement we ventured to speak and use the language not only in the class but even outside, whenever we got a chance. They are still my

mentors in various matters

Q: You were selected the best student of the year in the fifth year at Ramkrishna Mission.

A: Yes for that I received the Haribhusan and Maya Shome Memorial Medal offered by the Principal Madam Chandana Guha Sircar. I remain grateful to her for allowing me to teach at her esteemed institution for some time. I really enjoyed it.

Q: You also participated in Nihongo Quiz Contest ....

A: Yes I stood first in the Nihongo Quiz Contest. I also got prize for prose reading competition. I also attend the teacher's workshop held in every year in Kolkata.

Q: You are a member of NKKS .....

A: Yes I always take part in various programmes of NKKS. Last year I went to Shantiniketon Nippon Bhavan with NKKS members to perform.

Q: Your hobby.....

A: Reading Japanese History, especially of Samurai Period, also a great fan of Origami and some Japanese Film Directors like Akira Kurosawa, Takashi Yamazaki, whose creations like the film "Always" "Shall We Dance" directed by Masayuki Sudo, "Poppya" directed by Yasuo Furuhashi are my all-time favourites. I am also a great fan of Japanese Animation Manga.

Q: You are also a good writer.

A: I love writing travelogues in Bengali, some of which have already published in renowned magazines.

Q: You have some Japanese friends .....

A: Nobuo Sumita and Shoko Sumita are not only amongst my closest friends they are like my family members. With this sitarist couple we travelled to Bangladesh for a holiday trip.

Q: Have you ever been in Japan?

A: No though I had many invitations to go to Japan but due to certain personal commitments I could not yet make it happen. But I always look forward to visit my dreamland and see Fujisan and bow before the Buddha of Kamakura.

Q: You are a teacher. What is your opinion about kanji?

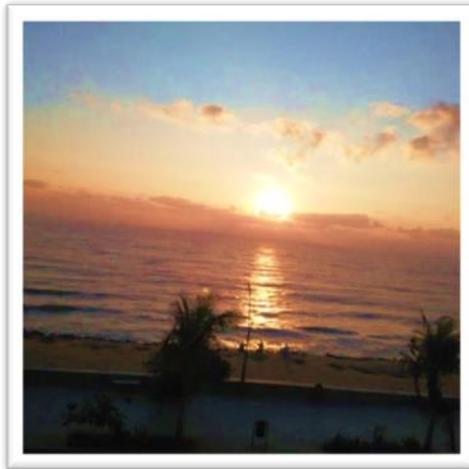
A: Regarding use of kanji the most difficult part of the Japanese Language its existence has made the script special. In fact kanji is the ornament of Japanese Language. Without kanji I feel the writing loses its shine and glory to a large extent.

*Aloke Basu*

# Far Away From The Madding Crowd

## INDIA JAPAN STUDENTS' INTERACTION

Most of you must have heard the name of Pondicherry or Puducherry as it is presently called. If you look up the Google you will know that Pondicherry



was a French settlement in South India until 1954. It says that the French legacy is still preserved in this present Union Territory, in its French Quarter, with tree lined streets, mustard colored villas, all the street names in French, and a beautiful seaside promenade. It is indeed like a slice of France in India.

I keep on visiting this place every year, much to the surprise of many. As to why I do so, I think the heading of my article tells all. The weather is comfortable in January and what with the sea, the calmness of the place, the serenity offered by Sri Aurobindo Ashram, it is truly a place, where one can unwind and get rejuvenated. The place where we stay is right in front of the sea and the changing colors of the sea, from morning till night, is beautiful. From 6 o'clock in the evening, the promenade bars all vehicles and the beautiful, clean roads are for pedestrians only. We see children, men and women, taking walks here almost till midnight, which says a lot about the safety of the place. For me, my annual visit to Pondicherry is like a pilgrimage, which helps to relax both physically and mentally. Why listen to me? What about trying to visit that place and have the vicarious experience of visiting France in a mini scale!

*Ruma Chatterjee*

**Welcome to our  
IN NICHĪ BUNKASAI  
(On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March)**

Being somebody who really likes Japanese culture and language, the students of Japanese language were given the golden opportunity to communicate with Japanese Students of Momoyama University, Osaka, at Sarat Samity. At first I thought there would be awkwardness between us but just the opposite happened. Anime was the ice breaker for most of us and being an ardent watcher of Japanese dramas I took the opportunity to talk about my favourite ones as well as my favourite Japanese actors. Discussion was never-ending.

We talked about Indian and Japanese foods and compared the taste of our curries and rice. We suggested sweets and it was really fun to watch the Japanese students relish sandesh and samosa, but their favourite was 'chai'. There was a small quiz contest about the cultures of India and Japan, where the Japanese students would answer questions related to India and vice versa.



'Social networking sites' was also a topic we discussed as in how they send text messages to each other and what social media they use. Fun Fact: some of them have seen



latest Bollywood movies even I have yet not seen and enjoyed them. I even heard a group singing a Japanese

anime song that made me feel so happy. I think after this interaction I want to study the Japanese language even more earnestly and my love for Japanese language and culture has increased even more.

I wish I could talk to every Japanese student present there and had a little more time with each and every one of them. But this will be one of my most cherished memories.

I would like to thank you NKKS for organizing this event that has helped students from Japan to become our friends.

*Priyaly Chakraborty*

**JAPANESE CROSSWORD  
(March - April)**

1	2	3	4	5
6			7	
	8		9	
10			11	12
13		14		15
16				

**ACROSS**

- 1) To handle
- 6) Earthworm
- 7) Oak
- 8) Bamboo paper
- 10) Umbrella
- 11) Vegetable
- 13) To invite
- 15) Circle
- 16) Noisy

**DOWN**

- 1) Net
- 2) Piled up
- 3) Vine
- 5) Will
- 7) God
- 9) Mosquito net
- 10) To care about
- 12) Dolphin
- 14) Grass

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

**Answers to  
JAPANESE CROSSWORD  
(January- February)**

1. ぎ	2. も	3. ん	4. し	5. た	6. く
7. ぞ	8. う	9. ま	10. や	11. く	12. けん
13. う	14. し	15. ぐ	16. る	17. ま	18. か
19. じ	20. こ	21. い	22. あ	23. え	24. ん
25. か	26. み	27. の	28. あ	29. い	30. む
31. し	32. た	33. に	34. み	35. ず	36. す
37. り	38. 20. ほ	39. ん	40. 21. か	41. 22. せ	42. 23. き
43. し	44. う	45. あ	46. る	47. き	48. ま
49. わ	50. る				

**WORD JUMBLE – 48**

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



1. しょくいつ (One colour)

○	○			
---	---	--	--	--

2. せいか (Mars)

	○	
--	---	--

3. しないきにて (Don't worry about it)

○	○				
---	---	--	--	--	--

4. きんちよ (Saving)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

5. じょうちょう (Peak)

		○			
--	--	---	--	--	--

Sontu Debnath

**ANSWERS TO  
WORD JUMBLE – 47**

1. あいじょう
2. あいかわらず
3. まあたらしい
4. にいまくら
5. がんこ
6. うつくしき

あ	い	あ	い	が	さ
---	---	---	---	---	---

*EDITORS: Tanusree Chatterjee & Alok Basu*

**BOOK POST**

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

--