



SAKURA

No. 109

May - June 2018



泣かぬ猫はねずみを取る The cat that does not cry catches mice



Proud & Happy moments of IN NICHIBUNKASAI 2018

L~R: Consul General M Taga, the Bihu Dance, the Anime bride, Sensei with her past students

Thank You "Times of India" (Calcutta Times) 5th April, for giving NKKS a fantastic coverage!

To

ALL JAPANESE LEARNERS

Times have changed, the world is no longer a vast ocean with distantly placed islands. We now live in a generation where the whole world is interconnected and united. Thanks to globalisation and internationalisation. What might have seemed overwhelming for our past generations is easily available to us today.

I have been associated with Japanese language and culture for almost ten years and I have seen how fast the language industry has grown. One good thing about Japanese language learners is that there are various opportunities in different fields be it work or education. With many Japanese companies coming to India and setting up their businesses, the demand for Japanese translators and interpreters is growing.

It is indeed a great news for all those who started learning Japanese as a hobby or because they love Japanese animation. Many of us did not know that we could build a career after learning Japanese language, but now that is possible.

In the recent years industries like IT, medical and education are seeking bilingual professionals who

can cater to Japanese customers and corporate clients. In order to produce more bilinguals in the future the Japanese embassy and consulates in India have taken many positive steps to promote Japan and Japanese language learning.

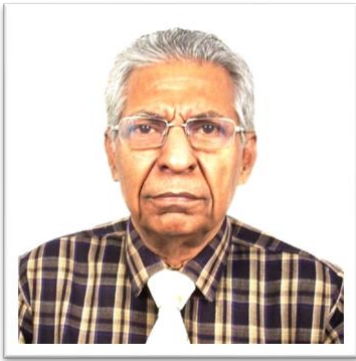
Even in Bangalore where I currently live, many people are taking interest in Japanese language. The Consulate General of Japan in Bangalore is making efforts to boost Japanese anime and manga enthusiasts by conducting and supporting cosplay events. Another huge platform for cultural exchange is the annual Indo-Japan cultural event called Japan Habba. Here we get to witness performances by Japanese as well as Indian artists every year. There are also stalls selling Japanese items like manga goods, books and there is also an authentic spread of Japanese cuisine.

I believe if you want to learn a language you need to have interest in the country where it is spoken and interact with the natives whenever possible. Learn about Japan and its festivals, know about its culture and traditions. Only then you can truly expertise in Japanese language. Because language is not a formula you can learn it is a knowledge that you gain over time.

Ranita Saha

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AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. PRABHAT KUMAR MITRA



Septuagenarian Prabhata Kumar Mitra still runs an Engineering Consultancy firm – Development Engineering Services, with various works: consulting engineers,

architects, planners, approved valuers. At 78, still vibrant and active, this Chartered Engineer M.L. Struct E (London) F.I.V. (India) with a variegated career, started to learn Japanese language in 1983. A life-member of Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society, he was President of Rotary Club of New Ballygunge and also associated with Rotary International. During his checkered career he went to many countries including Europe, U.S.A., Japan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Zambia, in connection with his projects. He was associated with 3 projects in Bangladesh and spent a long time in North East England too. In India, he designed in Punjab, South India, Gujarat, Assam, etc. As an Engineer, he is empanelled in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Kolkata High Court, Income Tax Department, National Insurance, World Bank, to name a few.

We had an informal chat in his South Kolkata residence. He told me about his experiences in Delhi Doordarshan Janabani talk show with Mrs Mohsina Kidwai, the then Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.

He still remembers some Japanese words, though he studied the language for only one and a half years. He found Kanji very difficult!

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: You started to learn Japanese language...

A: In 1983, the President of Shin Mikuni Kikai Manufacturing Company Ltd of Japan came to India. Vice President Mr. Matsubara was also with him. I had to communicate with them in connection with my work, and, only then did I start taking an interest in the language. Dr. Sudhamoy Biswas, ex- President of NKKS was my classmate, and Mrs. Kazuko Nigam was our Japanese language teacher in the Ram Krishna Mission. I also joined NKK.

Q: You started your own consultancy firm...

A: Yes, in 1968. I was very active then but now I have slowed down due to old age.

Q: You showed me your artwork....Is it your hobby?

A: Not really. Actually, my hobby is travelling around the world. Writing is also another pastime – I have written some short stories and published them in magazines too.

Q: Sugoi ne! Have you published any book?

A: No. But my late wife, who was double Ph.D, UNO Fellow in Europe, and WHU Fellow in U.S., had published her poetry book which was much appreciated worldwide.

Q: Sadly, you lost your wife in 1995?

A: I had been to Osaka with her once for a week on our way while returning from U.S.A. for seven days. We were welcomed by the Japanese family (of Sakamoto san) and were charmed by their hospitality.

Q: You went to Japan 4 times?

A: Yes. The first time in 1984 for 7 days, second time to study and observe the process of Reverse osmosis/ultra-filtration of water, LPG system used in Electro-painting, drying, etc. at the invitation of Mr Akira Sakamoto, in Osaka. In 1985 I went to Japan again for a month long training of industry design of the processes. I was invited again in 1995, when I went for work and tourism. Actually, this invitation was more to console me and boost my mental energy after the death of my wife that year. After that, I went to Japan again on an official trip in 1997.

Q: Your impression about Japan....

A: A beautiful and clean country – disciplined, and very advanced. I met a scientist in Osaka who told me that ‘We have taken philosophy from India and technology from U.S.A. We do not go into the basics, but start our own research from where they have reached this state, and then enhance it.’

That is Japan!

Q: Any memorable experience?

A: I remember so many! I still cherish the moving moment when the Akira Sakamoto family bade us goodbye. He, with his daughters, wife and mother had treated us with great cordiality and were present then. When our car started and we moved ahead, I looked back to find Sakamoto san’s mother running after the car, waving at us.

What an unforgettable moment!

Aloke Basu

In Conversation With MOMOYAMA GAKUIN STUDENTS



25TH February proved to be a very interesting and enriching evening for Japanese students in Kolkata. An interactive meet organised by the Nihongo Kaiwa Kiyokai Society with a number of students from Osaka and Tokyo, at Sarat Samity, was indeed a learning opportunity for students here. We assembled at the venue by 6pm and greeted our friends from Japan. They formed groups and spoke to us when we got into small clusters like them. The session was made interesting as we had to change our Japanese groups after about half an hour to talk and know yet another bunch of students. My friends from Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Okakura Bhavan, Indo-Japan Welfare and Cultural Association (IJCA) and others came for this meet and undoubtedly bagged a lot of information and made new friends from another country about which we are all so curious. Getting to know about their lifestyle, interests, future plans and also opportunities about going there, working there formed the most important subjects of discussion of the evening. Some of us, including myself got excited as we shared our interests and love for anime and also literature and art. As, they say, every time and everyone has got to teach us something; the session also saw some of the eager Indian Japanese language students getting to know a few new kanjis as well as certain words. When the “bharer chai” made its round, we got too excited to explain our new friends what it is

and didn't shy away from describing at length about “singara” and “sandesh”. They relished and also asked us about our interests and curiosity in learning the language. Exchange of email addresses, following each other on instagram and capturing these fond memories in our cameras was also something which did not escape neither our minds.

I thank the organisers and our all our Sensei for organising such an interactive meet and greet session for it not only enriched our minds and gave us a chance to make new friendships but also instilled a new zest to learn this - 3 - uage and keep ourselves curious about this country. Thank you for such a wonderful evening of not only of fun and hay times but also learning and information.

Trinetra Paul

*Sontu
Debnath
& Pinki
tied the
knot on
March 1st
2018
Omedeton
Sontu san!*



MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Lecture:** 12th May 2018
By Khushboo San
Nigam Sensei's Residence
- ◆ **Annual General Meeting:** 23rd June 2018
Sarat Samity 6 pm

*Put on your thinking hats!
Get ready for the Nihongo Quiz!
Get to know Japan, its country &
people! Be a participant of the
22nd India Japan Students
Conference
Contact: Nigam Sensei/Ruma Sensei
Jayanta san*

JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(May - Jun)

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

ACROSS

- 1) Impudent
- 7) Bullet train
- 8) Toxicity
- 9) To boil
- 10) Opportunity
- 13) Moon
- 14) Flower arrangement

DOWN

- 1) Legs
- 2) Buying books not reading them
- 3) Price
- 4) Fully occupied
- 5) Private life
- 6) Rhyme
- 9) Expensive
- 11) To live

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

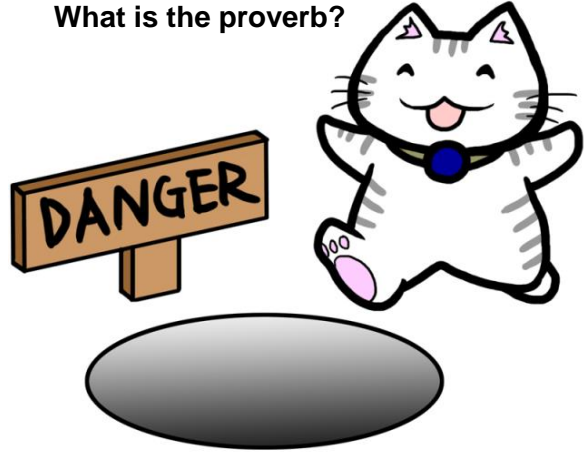
Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(March - April)

1	2	3	ま	4	5
う	ら	や		し	い
6	く	る		7	く
つ				は	
8	だ		9	ん	じ
く			く		
10	い	11	さ	き	
し		れ			
い		12	か		13
		き			と
	14	し	り	さ	る
	は				

WORD JUMBLE - 54

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

What is the proverb?



1. しょっい (Together)

○	○		
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2. うどいす (Water supply)

○			
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3. つさかん (Observation)

	○	○	
--	---	---	--

4. かたきか (Way of writing)

	○		
--	---	--	--

5. ばとちやくは (Tongue twister)

○	○					
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6. じょうみ (Family name)

○			
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Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE - 53

- 1. かいえん
- 2. るすばんでんわ
- 3. のこったぶん
- 4. はかせ
- 5. えんぜつ
- 6. るすのあいだ

か	え	る	の	こ	は	か	え	る
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