



# SAKURA

No. 90

March - April 2015



うり かずら なす  
瓜の蔓に茄子はならぬ Like father, like son ...



NKKS  
PICNIC  
2015

Like previous years, this year too we, NKKS Members, along with our friends and families went for a picnic to Neeldeep Garden, Baruipur. It was a beautiful village atmosphere engulfed with greenery. With full enthusiasm and energy we gathered at the main gate of the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark at around 8.15 a.m. and enjoyed the journey to Neeldeep Garden till we reached there at 10.00 a.m. Many young boys and girls joined this coveted picnic and most importantly we all were overwhelmed to receive Mr. Nigam, our respected Nigam Sensei's husband, among us.

The picnic spot is very beautiful indeed, with a kitchen garden, vast open lawn, a pair of swings and what not. On reaching there we had a delicious breakfast with "Garamagaram luchi, phulkopi alur tarkari and the famous Joy nagarer moa" followed by hot coffee. A group photo was taken by Anjana san, who features on Page 3. Most of us eagerly jumped over immediately to see how the snap looked like as it would be published in the Sakura. All the picnickers were divided into groups and started activities of their own choice. Boys and girls became busy with games like frisby, badminton, inflate the balloons, pair walk with an inflated balloon etc. Last but not the least interesting game was to hit the basket with eyes shut. It was so exciting that all the members started encouraging the participants loudly. Even the inhabitants residing nearby peeped over the boundary wall and enjoyed the game. A pure Bengali hot lunch

had added to the flavour of the picnic when served just on time.

The 'Housie' was another interesting game in the post lunch session. Most of the members joined in the 'housie' under the leadership of Nigam Sensei and it became more enjoyable with hot tea. Some of us were so excited and involved with the game that by the time we could take a sip the tea had become cold. It was Anjana San and Sati San's day, as they both won full house in the game. We suggested they try their luck in some other way on that particularly lucky day



## Games in the Sunshine

for them. While all were engrossed in fun and enjoyment, the setting sun eventually made us turn back and within ten minutes the members boarded the bus with a great hope to meet in the next year NKKS picnic, which is expected to be held at Ramchandrapur in Hooghly district, West Bengal. The Count Down starts now.....

Debi Das

# INTERACTION WITH A JISC STUDENT



**SMARAN BASU (Ishan)**, now 2nd year student in South City College, Kolkata pursuing English Honours course recently returned from a Japan tour. He was a member of the Indian students group that went to Japan for participating in the 18th Japan-India Students' Conference. Smaran san is the son of Reema Basu who has been teaching Japanese Language for a long time. Naturally Smaran san has an ambience of Japanese Language Learning at home though he is not a regular student of Japanese Language but has interest in it. So when he got the chance to visit Japan as a student he was very elated and excited. Here we have an interaction with him about his recent experience.



*An excellent platform for Indian students to interact with the Japanese people. Builds confidence and, more importantly, Career OPPORTUNITIES!*

Q: You went to Japan...

A: Yes, I wanted to experience the culture and values of Japan as well as participating in the 18th Japan-India Student Conference.

Q: Your experience.....

A: I was simply excited to visit Japan and enjoyed each and every moment of it. My view point was that of a tourist, but after landing and experiencing Japan first hand I understood the true spirit of Japan.

Q: You seem very excited.....

A: Yes after returning to India I was almost shell-shocked by everything. I had got used to the soft-spoken and good-natured Japanese people. I had forgotten how to cross the roads here in Kolkata by waving to and fro in between the traffic. Crossing roads in Japan was as easy as crossing can be. People wait for the signal to turn on and as by some magic all cars stop so that people can cross the road.

Q: So you think Indian habits differ.....

A: I love my country very much. But we must change some habits. Here I miss the clean roads, trains, buses, sometimes we spit on the road, throw garbage and travelling in buses or trains compared with Japan haunts me in my sleep because in Japan the passengers care to follow the rules and are so cordial even in the rush hours. But here we often experience differently. I am not criticizing my country but we should learn cleanliness, caring for others and punctuality from the Japanese people, Both India and Japan are great countries and both have a great heritage and culture. We can exchange so many good things. Through this short tour sometimes I was amazed by their discipline, dedication and sweet behaviour. If I ever get a chance to go to Japan again I will readily grab it.

*Aloke Basu*

## We value our Readers

「SAKURA」送っていただき、どうもありがとうございました。うございました。

Madhupur への旅行の写真、拝見しました。

ニガム先生、お元気そうで何よりです。

また、Piali Bose さんの話もおもしろいですね。

子どもの文化吸収力というのはすごいものです。

*Hiraga Sensei*

Thanks so much for publishing the article. It's a nostalgic ride every time I recollect those days. Shall, some day write my own experience teaching in Japan and otherwise. For today and the time being, Thanks again for editing so beautifully and giving it a space in Sakura.

*Piali Bose*

## Aloke Basu's Latest Publication!







## SPEECH CONTEST

(An Experience)

It was the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 when the 27<sup>th</sup> Eastern India Japanese Language Speech Contest was held at IJWCA in Kolkata. 3 students each were selected from the junior and senior category for the 27<sup>th</sup> All India Japanese Language Speech Contest to be held at New Delhi on January 17, 2015. I was lucky to be named one among the three in the junior category.

We, the chosen participants from eastern India, enthusiastically began our journey to Delhi on January 15, 2015 by train. However, our train from Kolkata departed 7 hours late and on the way it was further delayed to a total of 19 hours due to fog. We reached Old Delhi station after the speech contest had begun in the Jawaharlal Nehru University Campus. We had to rush and fortunately, we were able to reach the venue before the contest ended. We ran inside the auditorium and I continued my run onto the stage as at that very moment my name was announced. My companions also followed with their speeches but all of us felt we could not do our best given the difficulty of the journey, the anxiety and the stress that we had been through in the last 24 hours.

The participants from north and south zone seemed the best with their speeches. The performances were followed by a small tea and snack session during which we interacted with the Japanese Language students from other parts of India. Thereafter, results were announced and students from the south zone and north zone secured the first place in senior and junior category respectively.

*Lesson: If you are serious, make your own arrangements. A child went through a near similar experience in a National Swimming Competition when Team West Bengal reached the venue so late that they found an empty pool!*

Supratik Sil Roy



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Khushboo Agarwal has won the first prize in the Senior Category of the Japanese language essay contest (JALTAI) 2014.

## Whispering Flowers

Like every year this year also Mrs. Kazuko Nigam (our respected Sensei) had organized an 'Ikebana' exhibition (with the title 'Whispering Flowers') along with her students at the Agri-Horticulture Garden, Alipore. The 4-day show (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015) gave us the opportunity to watch various kinds of flower arrangements in the Japanese way. Fresh white and pink Lilies, Heliconias, large green Chrysanthemums, etc. were used with fresh leaves which made each piece unique in its own way. Besides those some cut branches, dried leaves and a few pieces of wood were also used efficiently to create each item. I felt that all the items were whispering the arrival of spring.

Uttara Sarkar

(1)



(2)



(1) Sensei seems totally relaxed with her Ikebana creations. I wonder how she does that!

(2) With Anjana san - without whose co-operation "Sakura" would never be so colourful!  
Doumo Arigatou!

### MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ Meet the students of Momoyama Gakuin University & Jouchi University: 8<sup>th</sup> Mar 2015  
At Sarat Samity 6 pm
- ◆ 30<sup>th</sup>In Nichi Bunkasai: 14<sup>th</sup> Mar 2015  
At Birla academy of Art & Culture 5:30 pm
- ◆ Academic Session: 29<sup>th</sup> Apr 2015  
At Sarat Samity 6:30pm

