



SAKURA

No. 84

March – April 2014



あは別かれの始まり All things are transient

PICNIC at NATURE PARK



This year, we went to Nature Park near Taratala for NKK's annual picnic on January 26th. It was nearby and we reached within half-an-hour. It's a beautiful place with plenty of flora and fauna. In the middle of the park there was a large lake, surrounded by trees. We entered inside a ship-like building that seemed floating on the lake. After having breakfast, we started exploring the place. There was a small zoo with many deer and birds, there were swings, arrangement for boating, and plenty of couples 'in love'. We could not help making some comments, but they were under a much stronger spell of love to hear us!

All in a relaxed mood, we just went on pulling each other's legs and a refreshing 'adda'. And of course, posing for snaps....which were 'as soon as possible to be uploaded in Facebook'!! Though some of the seniors took a little dig at our Facebook addiction, but then, that only made us more enthusiastic. (some started uploading it then and there!) After a while we returned back to our 'jahaj-bari' and started playing games. There was a senior vs. junior 'ball on spoon' race that provided much fun. Next was our favourite paper-dance. Sanjay san and Gauri san's 10yr old Fevicol-like jodi gave tough competition, but ended up as runners-up this time. The winners were a real time couple and the lady is a great dancer who

won our hearts with her lovely smile. Lunch was over by 4 o' clock and it was time for planning for our next programme – Happyookai. We returned home with lungs full of fresh air.

Ishani Chakraborty

Join us for
**IN NICHI
BUNKASAI!**

IKEBANA DISPLAY



Please read more about the flower show in "The Statesman" 8th February, 2014

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ 29th In Nichi Bunkasai: 8th Mar 2014
At Dr. Triguna Sen Auditorium, Jadavpur University
- ◆ Japanese Fairytales: 5th Apr 2014
By Alope Basu
At Sarat Samity



NKKS has a NEW e-mail address:

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AN INTERVIEW WITH MR ARJUN GUPTA



I asked Mr. Arjun Gupta: "What is your hobby?" He answered humbly: "Helping people" Probably this answer reveals his character. Arjun Gupta, is a sexagenarian with a charming personality. This composure has enabled him to face

the challenges in his life.

Born in Baidyabati, West Bengal, his forefathers hailed from Gosaibigha, a small village in Bihar, about 20 km from Rajgir. He later moved to Kolkata. He runs an NGO named "Himawari Seva Sangsthan in his ancestral village in Bihar. His wife Kiran Gupta is a Japanese language student in RKM, and through her we came to meet him.

Extracts of his interview:

Q: Your education:

A: My school education was in Bihar; graduated with Economics honours from Magadh University; and later got my M.A. Degree in Economics from Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata.

Q: Then ...

A: I started to work in an export company, but due to the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the company closed down, and I was suddenly without work.

Q: That period must have been troublesome for you...

A: Yes, it was. But fortune smiled on me. I had once befriended some Japanese tourists who stayed at my residence while in Kolkata. One of them asked "What's the matter? Why don't you go out to work?" I told him everything. He took copies of my academic qualifications, and due to his kindness I managed to get a job in a small company in Japan. I was associated with water treatment and sewerage connections - the only foreigner in the company with enormous responsibilities. I received a good remuneration, various facilities, worked for ten long years and applied for my permanent residency.

Then I wanted to do something different. I wanted to negotiate for the first phase testing of new medicines with Indian companies on behalf of Japanese companies. After a few negotiations this failed, I had no job, and I was in grave danger.

Q: Yes, the cruel question of survival....

A: That period was quite difficult. My family moved to our house I had bought in Kolkata, and I was almost finished financially.

Q: I think that was the time you started thinking about Yoga.

A: Actually I used to practise Yoga to keep fit. So I consulted with my family and went to Mumbai and then to Bangalore and acquired training in the Vivekananda Yoga University. I did a course on Ayurveda in Trivandrum. Then I went back to Japan.

Q: How did you manage to be associated with teaching Yoga in Japan?

A: I had to survive somehow. It wasn't easy. There had to be some connection, some promotion. Luckily I got a job as a welding mechanic till noon, after which I taught Yoga. It was exhausting! But I had to struggle. Now I have left the job and only teach Yoga in many places in Japan, in schools, colleges, clubs, gyms.... I teach even ladies 90 years old!

Q: Your NGO?

A: My NGO has separate representative for each village. A meeting and camp is held on the last Sunday of every month - the Secretary of Red Cross goes there on that day along with a general physician, gynaecologist and eye specialist to attend to the poor patients from those villages, and we try to provide medicines too though the NGO cannot give all the required medicines.

Q: You have lived in Japan so long, speak Japanese so well!

A: I have had no formal training in the language - I have learnt it through daily communication with the Japanese people.

Q: Your inspiration for starting this NGO?

A: I had seen many people wading through a river to go to work, some of whom stayed back at our house. My grandmother gave them bread and shelter for the night. This social service had an indelible impact on my mind. From my childhood I nurtured a dream of setting up a charitable institution in future.

Q: Japanese people in your eyes...

A: Very polite, honest, sincere and soft spoken. I like their humble behaviour and culture.

Q: Have you ever written anything?

A: Yes some articles on Yoga that have been published in magazines in Japan.

Aloke Basu

EXPLORING THE MAGICAL WORLD OF MARTIAL ARTS OF JAPAN

The Consulate-General of Japan at Kolkata in collaboration with Indian Council of Cultural Relations in Kolkata organised an unique two-week exhibition for the first time in Kolkata titled “The Spirit of Budo - The History of Japan's Martial Arts” at Rabindranath Tagore Centre, I.C.C.R. This exhibition took us on a tour of the history of the martial arts in Japan from battlefield technique to international sport. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Mitsuo Kawaguchi, Consul General of Japan at Kolkata and Mrs. Rajashree Behera, Regional Director, I.C.C.R, Kolkata on 6th January, 2014. The President of I.C.C.R at New Delhi, Dr. Karan Singh also paid a kind visit to this exhibition.

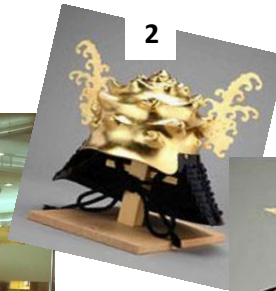
The first half of the exhibition was a display of reproductions of historical weapons and implements, such as sword mountings, bows, arrows, helmets, and suits of armour. The warriors of this period endured strenuous physical training with special emphasis on spiritual growth which transcended the narrow confines of warfare to the realm of discipline and service for others. Special attraction of this series was eight superbly designed helmets, the originals of which were actually worn in battle by renowned warlords such as Nagamasa Kuroda (1568-1623) and Yukimura Sanada (1567-1615).

The second half of the exhibition focuses on the contemporary practice of the martial arts. Away from the war zone, the equipment and clothing were developed to prevent injury during training. Bamboo swords, protectors, gloves, and Hakama pants are on display, along with descriptive panels and a DVD presentation of practice scenes. Kids could also wear Karate-do costumes and really enjoyed it! The overwhelming response from the people of Kolkata especially martial artists, students and artists of Kolkata made it a resounding success for which Consulate is really thankful.

*Compiled by Cultural Section,
Consulate-General of Japan at Kolkata*

Photographs:

1. Inauguration
2. Kawari kabuto -Turbo shell
3. Suji kabuto type
4. Trying out Karate



"JAPANER ROOPKATHA"

(Fairytale of Japan)

Translated by Aloke Basu



Publisher: Paraspalthar Prakasani

Get your copy NOW!

ARUNAVA san & SOURAV san

**NKKS members convey our heartfelt
condolences on the sad demise of your
respective fathers**

JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(March - April)

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
7.			8.		
9.			10.		11.
		12.			13.
	14.		15.	16.	
17.			18.	19.	20.
21.			22.		
23.					

ACROSS

- 1) Fight
- 5) Fireproof
- 7) Painful
- 9) To kick
- 10) Pass around (cup of tea)
- 12) Sea cucumber
- 13) Volume (book)
- 14) Hair
- 15) Old time
- 17) Agreement
- 19) Dark
- 21) Rainy season
- 22) Pleased
- 23) Pumice stone

DOWN

- 1) Figure
- 2) To curse
- 3) Meeting
- 4) Wooden floor
- 5) Hemp
- 6) Reformation
- 8) Penetrate
- 11) Premature gray hair
- 12) Rows of trees
- 14) Hire all
- 16) Formality
- 17) Lamplight
- 18) Cow
- 20) Dolphin

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(January - February)

1.	2.	3.	4.	ら	5.	6.
ひ	と	り	ぐ	し		と
7.				8.	9.	
ど	く	し	ん	た	た	み
10.			11.	12.		
い	し		た	の	し	み
	13.	14.	い	こ	む	15.
	つ	か				う
16.				し		17.
か		ら				こ
						け
18.	19.	20.		21.		
た	い	し	つ	か	い	わ
22.			23.			
か	し		か	が	い	た
24.				25.		
け	ん	こ	う	こ	う	し

WORD JUMBLE - 30

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

皆様、このプロ
セスはなんと言
いますか？



1. うじよきし(Common sense)

○				
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2. きよくなん(South Pole)

			○	
--	--	--	---	--

3. ちゅううひこうし (Astronaut)

○	○		
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4. いはしや(Dentist)

○			
---	--	--	--

5. きりつめ(Nail clipper)

○		
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Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO WORD JUMBLE - 29

- 1. ばんざい
- 2. りくぐん
- 3. のちぞい
- 4. ひょうじゆん
- 5. しじよ
- 6. うすあじ

ば	ん	り	の	ち	よ	う	じ	よ	う
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BOOK POST

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