



# SAKURA

No. 111

September – October 2018



はじめは大事 Well begun is half done

## AGM

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018 the AGM of Nihongo Kaiwa Kyokai Society was held at the Antelope Hotel, 3 Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata. After the customary lecture of the on-going President of NKKS, Mr Jayanta Saha, and other members, the names proposed for the new Executive Committee was read out by Babli Choudhury, a member. Retaining the previous committee, 3 new names have been included – Khushboo Agarwal, Sumana Bhattacharya and Debi Das. The office bearers remain unchanged from last year.

- Chief Patron: Mrs. Kazuko Nigam
- President: Mr. Jayanta Saha
- Secretary: Mr. Sanjay Ganguly
- Asst Secretary: Mr. Gouri Sankar Pal
- Treasurer: Ms. Reema Basu

The well attended AGM session ended with a sumptuous tea as usual.

*Aloke Basu*

## REPORT ON FRESHERS' WELCOME : 2018

A programme was organised by Nihongo Kaiwa Kyokai Society (NKKS) for welcoming the freshers at Sarat Samity on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2018. The programme started at 6.30 p.m. with the welcome address by Vice-President, NKKS, Ms Poonam Nand Dey to the new students. Around 33 students were present on that day inspite of the rain. Ms Kazuko Nigam, some Executive Members and teachers like Ms Ruma Chatterjee, graced the occasion. Mr. Jayanta Saha, President of NKKS, also gave an inspiring speech to the students. Three of the students sang songs while Executive Members and teachers sang two Japanese songs. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

*Sumana Dey*



Happy **September 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Teachers' Day

## 22nd India Japan Students Conference



## NKKS 34th FOUNDER'S DAY



**THE 34<sup>TH</sup> FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATED AT "THE COMMUNE" KOLKATA ON 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST WITH MEMBERS OF NIHONGO KAIWA KYOOKAI SOCIETY AND THE JAPANESE STUDENTS OF THE INDIA JAPAN STUDENTS' CONFERENCE.**

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## AN INTERVIEW WITH MANAMI KATO



Ms Manami Kato is in charge of Public Relations and Culture, at the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata. She is from Uji city in Kyoto Prefecture. She came to Kolkata for the first time at the end of April 2016 and more two years have flown by in the wink of an eye.

Q What is your impression about Indians, particularly people of Kolkata?

A Once you get acquainted with people of Kolkata they become very friendly, and love talking. I have had the opportunity of coming into contact with various kinds of people in connection with my work, all of whom were bright and fun people.

Q What do you think are the similarities and differences between the Japanese culture and the Indian culture?

A As the Japanese culture has historically been influenced by India, there are many similarities. I could feel the cultural connection between the two countries when, during the concert of Ms Sumie Kaneko last year, I came to know that musical instruments - *shamisen* of Japan and *sitar* of India are like relatives.

Where I do not think they are similar or that they are different, is that whereas animation is popular regardless of age in Japan, in India it seems that animation is more for children.

Q What do you like best in India/Kolkata?

A I cannot describe it very well, is it "diversity" in a word? Although it may be commonplace, there are really many people in Kolkata - each one being completely different from the other, and when I look at it, I have the feeling like "I should also be myself and do in my way".

Other than that, there are many restaurants serving delicious food. I am very fond of meat and fish, and in Kolkata there are many restaurants to enjoy these, so I often eat out.

Q Your hobby?

A Movie appreciation. Although it does not mean that I have seen that many movies. The most impressive movie that I have seen in India is

"Dangal". I have also seen "Bahubali", but the plot being complicated, and in my desperation to read through the English subtitles quickly, I lost track of the identity of characters in the movie somewhere in the middle of it. (Lol)

Q Have you visited other countries as well? What is your experience in these countries?

A When I was a university student I went to Canada for a short term study abroad. It is still one of my favourite countries. In January this year I travelled with my colleagues to Sri Lanka. I went around Colombo, Negombo, Candy and Sigiriya by long-distance bus, but it was impressive that people there were gentle and everywhere it was beautiful.

Q What is your most memorable experience in Kolkata?

A Each of my assignments in Kolkata has been a memorable experience.

In my personal life, my parents had come to visit me last year. They are not used to traveling abroad, but they came all the way from Japan with a lot of Japanese food. While they were here my father repaired my flat, and my mother prepared vegetable-centred meals which I normally do not eat. They went out for dinner with me and my colleague, and both of them enjoyed their stay in India very much.

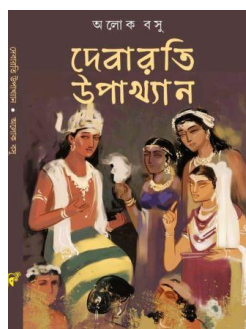
Q What would you like to convey to the members of NKKS?

A Until now we have carried out various programmes connecting the cultures of Japan and India along with NKKS members. My best wishes to you all!

Aloke Basu

### MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Nihongo Quiz:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2018  
RMIC Shivananda Hall 2pm
- ◆ **Bijoya Sammilani:** 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018  
Sarat Samity 6 pm



Check out Alok Basu san's latest book to be launched in September this year

# Cinema Nippon 29

The rainy afternoons of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August found a large number of Japanese language movie lovers at Nandan II. Never was the response so overwhelming. The small auditorium was filled to capacity, with many disappointments as entry was limited to only 'first come first served' basis.



save themselves in that era. "Seven Samurai" hardly needs introduction. Even in monochrome, Kurosawa gives a clear depiction of the setting of details of the 16<sup>th</sup> century life of poor farmers. Their constant fear of the gods and bandits are unforgotten tales.

Enjoying all the movies to the brim, as a member of NKKS, it was rather satisfying to hear praises from the audience regarding the organizing of the shows, and their eagerness for more.

The first and last shows (with screening of two shows a day) were animations by Makoto Shinkai – "5 Centimeters per Second" and "Garden of Words". Both delved into the heartbeats of the young school going teenagers, their trials, tribulations and



and hopes, a far cry from expectations of science fiction in Anime. Shinkai

excels in the realistic details of sceneries and one is reminded that these movies are 'Anime' only by the characters.

"Shodo Girls" screened on the first day (2<sup>nd</sup> show) came as another surprise. Ryuichi Inomata gives an example of his intense analysis of the characters, a handful of high school girls who place the values of preservation of the traditional art of calligraphy and paper making above their own sense of pride and success. Calligraphy transcends time and style, bringing in a refreshing rebirth of the same.



Akira Kurosawa, the film director of the sixties needs no introduction. One can easily relate to his bold depiction of conditions in 19<sup>th</sup> century Japan and the two doctors - the tyrannical/compassionate "Red Beard", Kyoujo Niide and the young and arrogant, Noboru Yasumoto. The lesson by



Kurosawa about poverty and illiteracy, the two social evils that can destroy the finer qualities of love and compassion, may be examples applicable

even today, even in our country.

Hideyuki Hirayama's "Teresuko - Three for the Road" was a comedy in keeping with the life in the Edo period in Japan. The plot is intertwined with a *rakugo* of sorts about the story of 'Teresuko', the unknown fish. One gets an impression of the weakness of women and their ingenious tricks to

## Shodou 2018



"Calligraphy is an art form that uses ink and a brush to express the very souls of words on paper" - Kaoru Akagawa

A calligraphy workshop had been organized by NKKS in the collaboration with Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata and, Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, on 10<sup>th</sup> August at Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark. Ms Hiroko Nagahama, calligraphy expert from Japan conducted this workshop. A retired calligraphy teacher from High School attached to Tokyo Kasei University for women, she has conducted calligraphy workshops in Kolkata several times, and visited India more than 35 times. Around 70 registered participants, mainly the students of Japanese language, reached there by 4:30 pm. After the inauguration speeches by Ms. Poonam Dey, vice president of NKKS followed by Mr. Masayuki Taga, Consul General of Japan in Kolkata and Ms Nagahama about the importance and history of calligraphy, Ms Nagahama showcased her calligraphy art. She introduced the participants with the calligraphy tools necessary for *shodou* like: *Fude* -the brush, *Sumi*-ink used, *Hanshi*- paper, *Suzuri*-ink stone where ink sticks are ground and mixed with water, *Bunchi*--special paperweight to keep the paper in place, *Shitajiki* - felt cloth kept under the paper.

All the participants received hands on experience and Ms Nagahama provided different calligraphies on kanji like *Ai*(Love), *Yume*( dream), *Ki*( tree) etc as a reference to all the participants. A group photo with all participants, teachers, NKKS members with Ms. Nagahama and Ms Manami Koto Ms Nagahama gifted a post card with her calligraphy art to all participants. This event was a memorable, and a good exposure to Japanese culture and history.

**JAPANESE CROSSWORD**  
(September- October)

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

**ACROSS**

- 1) Slightly bright
- 2) Form
- 7) Hawk
- 8) Formal marriage interview
- 10) Caption
- 11) Frame
- 13) Famous sport in Japan
- 15) Synonym
- 16) Wealth

**DOWN**

- 1) To undertake
- 2) Watermelon
- 3) Leg
- 4) Disturb/stir up
- 5) Celebration
- 9) Footsteps
- 12) Repentance
- 14) Ocean

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

**Answers to**  
**JAPANESE CROSSWORD**  
(July - August)

1 た	2 た	3 く		4 か	5 じ
6 か	い	も	7 の		び
8 い	け		9 ぞ	10 う	き
	11 つ	12 か	ま	る	
13 し		14 す	し		15 た
16 か	い	か	い	し	き

**WORD JUMBLE – 56**

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

What is the proverb?



1. こねきねま (Figure of a cat with one paw raised)

			○	○
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2. いんにゅう (Hospitalization)

○				
---	--	--	--	--

3. んてさこう (Crossing)

○				
---	--	--	--	--

4. んだばく (Bomb)

○				○
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Sontu Debnath

**ANSWERS TO**  
**WORD JUMBLE – 55**

1. きさい
2. かしながら
3. いさましい
4. せいねん

き	し	か	い	せ	い
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**EDITORS:** Tanusree Chatterjee & Alope Basu

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