



SAKURA

No. 114

March – April 2019



あるはなきに勝る まさ Something is better than nothing

Fun @NKKS ANNUAL PICNIC 2019



← **GRAB!**
Karuta

**JUST SIT
ANYHOW!**
Musical
Chairs



A HAPPY JOLLY GROUP

The Nihongo Kaiwa Kyokai Annual Picnic was held on February 3 at “Garchumuk” in Howrah District. The bus departed from Golpark around 7:30 AM. The picnic spot was a beautiful and tranquil place located at the confluence of the Hooghly and Damodar rivers. Four rooms were booked at the rest house, but most of us spent the day outdoors in the sun. A high bamboo structure in a corner of the compound offered a breath taking view of the waters, and the boats that ply on the river.

After a sumptuous breakfast, we played many interesting and immensely enjoyable games, including *Karuta* (a traditional Japanese card game) and Chinese Whisper. The latter was a hilarious game that afforded everyone a good laugh. Also, conventional games like badminton and Musical Chairs were played by both teachers and students. There were even two rounds of “Housie”. No loud music was played this time, which only added to the charm of the outing.

Post lunch, a group photograph was taken. After lunch, we whiled away the time talking or playing badminton until we boarded the bus around 5 PM after a cup of coffee. It took us about two hours to reach Golpark.

Aratrika Chatterjee

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **34th In Nichi Bunkasai:** 16th Mar 2019
@Jadavpur University – Dr. Triguna Sen Hall
5:30 pm
- ◆ **Academic Session:** 27th April 2019
By Pampa Saha Roy
@ Sarat Samity 6 pm

**Tokyo – the next destination for
the 23rd IJSC**



A lifetime opportunity of direct
interaction with the Japanese students

If you are 18 ~ 23 years of age
please contact:

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AN INTERVIEW WITH ANUPAM DAS



Anupam Das, an executive committee member of NKKS, is a very good actor. He has enthralled us many times on stage. Nowadays, due to his busy schedule, he cannot participate in the Japanese drama. He is also a good organizer. He studied B.Sc. (Physics) and completed Master's in Electronics from Calcutta University.

Q Why Japanese?

A The Japanese connection was just an accident. After completing my 2nd year of graduation, me and some of my friends decided to go to RKM for studying a foreign language. My plan was to study Electronics at Calcutta University for my Master's degree. I saw that all superior quality electronic items were made in Japan, and so I decided to take admission in the Japanese language at RKM. That was the starting point for entering into the Japanese world!

Q Have you ever been to Japan?

A I have travelled to 7 other countries but never been to Japan. It is my dream to go there at least once.

Q Did you have any exposure in their language and culture?

A I had a wonderful exposure in the language and culture of Japanese people when I participated in 13th IJSC as Vice President – Event management and in 14th IJSC as President.

Q Which countries have you travelled to?

A Dubai, Qatar, Iran, Sharjah, Istanbul, Georgia, Bhutan - though we do not consider Bhutan a foreign country located so near to Kolkata. Earlier I went for my office projects. Now I travel for my business. I have customers in these countries.

Q Your hobby?

A It is extremely difficult to maintain a particular hobby in my busy schedule – but I would say it is collecting musical instruments. Up to now, I have more than 16 types of musical instruments in my room.

Q Can you tell us a few interesting occasions when you enjoyed your hobby?

A I have forgotten the year but in one of our In NichiBunkasai we have done a “total hands” performance using instruments like the keyboard, guitar, percussions and drums. I was with percussion and drums. I think that performance was one of the most entertaining performances as group until now.

In one In NichiBunkasai I played the mouth-organ accompanying the group songs.

In the 14th IJSC Opening Ceremony we performed a “Devi DurgaVandana” (Salutation to Goddess Durga) and I remember playing the authentic “Dhaak” over there.

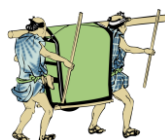
Q Memorable experience ?

A For me, the entire journey of my first participation in the IJSC is still a very memorable experience, which has turned my life around. I had never been comfortable in interacting with strangers especially using English. But IJSC taught me how to lead a team, manage team work, and many other areas where I was not strong enough.

Q Your observations?

A Maybe, I have almost forgotten the Japanese language as I don't use it in any part of my profession and daily life, but NKKS is a huge part of my life. I would suggest new Japanese language students to join this organization, so that you and explore your talents, your activities and your life.

Aloke Basu



Kataboo O Katsugu

In feudal times, palanquin and coffin carriers worked in pairs. The responsibility for lifting and transporting was equally divided. To shoulder one's end of the pole means to hold up one's end of the operation, taking full responsibility for being an equal partner.

Sample text:

A: ああ、いやあ、あの事件はじんじかの山田さんがかたぼうをかついだらしいよ。(Well, it appears that Mr. Yamada from the personnel department had a hand in that affair.

B: やっぱりそうなんですか。まあ、かわいさん一人であんなだいそれたことを計画するはずはないと思ってましたがね。(Just as I guessed! Mr Kawai couldn't possibly have come up with such an ingenious plan all by himself.

AKI - A SEASON OF COLOURS in JAPAN



From early days Japan has been celebrating each season by incorporating them not only into its culture but also into the daily lives of its people. I feel the four seasons in Japan – Haru, Natsu, Aki and Fuyu are deeply rooted in

Japanese tradition and culture.

Say for instance, when spring sets in the image of beautiful pink cherry blossoms set against the azure blue sky breaks the monotony of cold winter days. The celebration of ‘hanami’ (Cherry Blossom festival) is the celebration of spring.

The influence of seasons in Japanese lifestyle is quite evident. During summer season bright colored cotton ‘yukata’ replace the traditional ‘kimono’. Men and women clad in pretty yukata assemble to enjoy ‘hanabi’ during the ‘Obon’ festival in summer. This feels like a perfect event for a breezy summer night.

Even in terms of cuisine, seasonal Japanese food like ‘oden’ in winter or ‘sakura mochi’ during spring add special flavours to that particular time of the year. Each season has its own charm on Japan and its people.

During my recent trip to Japan I planned to experience the mesmerizing autumn season in Japan. September, October and November are primarily considered as autumn months in Japan. Most of the autumn festivals in Japan are related to harvest and fall foliage.

The main attraction of this season is the fall leaves (momiji). I found many street stalls selling ‘kur’i (chestnut) and some stores were decorated with artificial momiji. This thoughtful gesture makes everyone realise that ‘autumn is here’!

Bright red, orange and yellow maple leaves brighten up the whole country during this time. Autumn leaves viewing is called ‘Momijigari’ in Japanese. Popular tourist destinations during autumn are momiji gardens, mountains and valleys where the leaves change color. Apart from momiji, ‘ginkgo’ tree leaves which turn yellow are also popular during autumn.

Since I was visiting Yamagata, I decided to hike

up the Yamadera mountain temple to experience fall. Yamadera temple is an important cultural asset of Japan. This temple is also known as Risshakuji and was found in 860 AD. Famous Japanese haiku poet Matsuo Basho wrote some of his popular poems like "ah this silence / sinking into the rocks / voice of cicada" while he was here.

Along the hike I found various temple buildings and towers. There is also a shrine called the Hie



shrine. Upon reaching the top of the mountain I entered the ‘godai do’ podium. From here view of the mountains covered in colorful momiji leaves was just breathtaking.

There are uncountable places in Japan to enjoy fall leaves. Yamadera has been the best autumn experience for me so far. Japan never stops amazing me.

Ranita Saha

TOKYO OLYMPICS - AT OUR DOORSTEPS



Mascot (yet to be named) selected by Elementary School children across Japan

While the entire world is toiling hard to excel and break records in their various events, people in Japan are breaking their own record in technological excellence. Their hospitality is taken for granted. Their organizing capabilities are perfect to the “T” But how many of us have ever dreamed about these simple innovations that change our lifestyles?

I have been floored by these:

1. Driverless buses will ferry visitors to the Olympic village
2. Robots will guide one around town.
3. All events will be displayed on virtual reality – large 3D projections floating in mid-air.
4. Recycling of old mobile phones and old devices, recovering gold, silver and bronze to make medals for winners at the Games.
5. Aluminium recovered from the temporary housing made at Fukushima prefecture stricken by earthquake, will be recycled to make torches for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics

Anyone with more inputs about these wonders? Please share with us, onegaishimasu!



JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(March - April)

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

ACROSS

- 1) Thursday
- 5) Map
- 6) New regulations
- 8) Lake water
- 10) Mother and child
- 11) Manufacturing
- 13) Mirror
- 15) Lower lip

DOWN

- 1) Take into
- 2) To destroy
- 3) Cow
- 4) Poor
- 7) River bank
- 9) Medical science
- 12) Path/lane
- 13) Shoulder
- 14) Spring (season)

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(January - February)

1 お	2 し	3 い	れ		4 み
5 み	か	ん		6 つ	り
や		7 た	い	か	ん
8 げ	9 す	い		10 い	
	い		11 う	か	12 ぶ
13 お	か	し		14 た	き

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WORD JUMBLE - 58

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



What is the proverb?

1. こうくう (Airport)

○			
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2. てつかち (Subway)

○			
---	--	--	--

3. くしゃかが (Scientist)

	○			
--	---	--	--	--

4. やすすべりい (Slippery)

○	○				
---	---	--	--	--	--

5. どしるき (Year of the monkey)

	○		
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Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE - 57

- 1. あかんぼう
- 2. あんき
- 3. のこしゆ
- 4. きゅうしゅう

あ	う	ん	の	こ	き	ゆ	う
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