



# SAKURA

No. 118

November – December 2019



ふる古きを訪ねて たずねて あたらしくを知る There is nothing new under the sun

## JAPAN, OUR DREAM



On the 11th of August 2019, 8 of us set off for Tokyo as participants of 23rd India Japan Students' Conference. After a long layover at Singapore, we reached Tokyo on 13<sup>th</sup>, overjoyed to be in Tokyo. The participants from the Japan side welcomed us warmly and arranged for things in such a beautiful manner that all of us were enjoying every second of the stay.

This year, the topic of Table Discussion was "Education" where members discussed their views on the Education system and correct ways to educate young minds. We had a lot of attractions planned like going to an Edo Period themed Sento in Odaiba, going to Shinjuku, Harajuku, Shibuya Scramble, Asakusa; wearing yukata, watching Kabuki and so much more. The Indian members were very excited to experience all the things they have been watching all this time in videos and films. We were fortunate enough to visit The Tokyo University and see around the campus, guided by Mr. Hiroshi Yoshino, the Ex-Chairperson of the Office of Tokyo University in India. It was a great experience and learning opportunity for participants willing to pursue higher education in Japan. We were also fortunate enough to visit the Embassy of India in Tokyo and have a dialogue and discussion with the Deputy High Commissioner, H.E Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, which helped us connect and know more

about the beautiful bond of friendship that India and Japan share. After ten days filled with joy and excitement, on 22nd August, we boarded our flight to return to India from Haneda Airport.

During those ten days, all of us learned and experienced things that we will never forget in our lives. We are grateful to NKKS for giving us this opportunity to visit the country we have been looking forward to visiting one day.

*Deepro Banerjee*

## NIHONGO QUIZ

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Nihongo Quiz contest was organized by Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society and The Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata in collaboration with The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture at Shivananda Hall of RMIC on September 14, 2019. Deputy Consul General of The Consulate General of Japan, Mr. Ken Nakamura and Ms. Risa Tamura Vice consul graced the occasion.

On the whole 70 students from International Institute of Language & Culture (IILC), The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture (RMIC), Japanese Language Academy, Rabindra Okakura Bhaban, Indo-Japan Language Studies Society (IJLSS), Atulya Ghosh Institute participated in the Quiz contest. 57 students participated in the Junior Group and 13 students participated in the Senior group.



Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society, 2B, Shivangan, 53/1/2, Hazra Road, Kolkata- 700 019  
E-mail: [write2nkks@gmail.com](mailto:write2nkks@gmail.com) Visit us online: <http://www.nkks.org.in>

(Nihongo Quiz contd....)

Junior group contest consisted of vocabulary, grammar, kanji and GK round. The most interesting round was Kanji round as the participants had to say "On yomi" (Chinese version) of the Kanji. In the Final there was a round of 'Katakana'. One English word was displayed on the screen and the participants had to write its Katakana version on the white board.

The preliminary round of the Senior group was similar to that Junior group. Only for Kanji a part of a compound kanji was displayed and the contestant had to fill up the other part from the three options given to them. Almost all the students were able to answer the questions correctly in the audio round.

The Quiz Contest was followed by a short tea break, a small documentary on Japan and an inspiring speech by Mr. Nakamura who distributed prizes to the winners.

**Winners of the Junior Group:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Sandhya Basu (Rabindra Okakura Bhaban), Sougata Mondal (JLA).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Abhrajit Banerjee (RMIC), Deepro Banerjee(RMIC).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Aditya Raj (RMIC), Snehashish Mukherjee (RMIC).

**Winners of the Senior Group:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Paramita Jana (RMIC).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Adrija Nath (IILC).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Agniswar Choudhury (IILC).

Debi Das

## CALLIGRAPHY

Like every year a calligraphy (Shodou) workshop was held in Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, GolPark on 31-Aug-2019 organized by NihongoKaiwaKyookai Society in collaboration with consulate General of Japan, Kolkata. Nagahama Hiroko sensei, famous calligrapher of Japan conducted the Workshop. She conducts such workshop in various parts of India and other foreign countries. Program started with a welcome speech by NKK president MrsPoonamNandDey. Our new vice consul (culture) Risa Tamura san was the chief guest. She delivered a very encouraging speech and greeted every participant. She was happy to be in this workshop.

People from different profession and age group along with Japanese language students from various institutes of the city participated in the event. Nagahama sensei started the session explaining the term Reiwa (令和), the new era that started from 1st May 2019 and Gannen (元年).

Sensei explained how each calligraphy tool like ink stone (Suzuri), brush (fude), ink (Sumi) are made of and their importance. She demonstrated how to hold the brush in vertical position. She emphasized that calligraphy helps to attain spirituality through perfect coordination between heart, mind and brush with deep feeling of what one is writing.

The main attraction of this year's calligraphy workshop was how to write OM in Kanji and also Bengali.

Participants wrote various words like Indo, Nihon, Ki, Heiwa, Ai, Sakura, Hana etc. Honourable Consulate General of Japan Masayuki Taga san dropped by and actively participated in the workshop. He promised to organize more such cultural events like this in future. Ruma sensei interpreted conversation of Nagahama sensei with her usual charm.

The workshop concluded with vote of thanks by Anjana san, vice president of NKK with a hope that sensei will come back again next year.

The main attraction of this year's calligraphy workshop was how to write OM in Kanji and also Bengali.



### MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Academic Session:** 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2019  
**JLPT Practice**  
Sarat Samity 6 pm
- ◆ **Japanese Singing Contest:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2019  
Sarat Samity 3 pm
- ◆ **In Nichi Bunkasai** 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2020  
At Jadavpur University 5:30pm
- Rehearsals: From December 2019**  
(Interested members to contact  
Nigam Sensei/Ruma Sensei)



**PICNIC 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

@FALTA

Departure: 7:30am

## INTERVIEW WITH DEBI DAS



An executive member of Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai, she acts in the Japanese drama with elan almost every year. Before learning Japanese language she had also

completed a two year certificate course of Russian language at Gorky Sadan from 1988 to 1990. Her subjects in the undergraduate course were Economics and Mathematics from the University of Calcutta. She is now working in 'NSHM Knowledge Campus', Kolkata as Manager-Finance, Accounts & Audit.

We had an informal chat at her Behala residence in South Kolkata.

Here are excerpts of our interview:

Q You had first participated in our In Nichi Bunkasai, probably in 2006, in the Japanese drama and you acted very well. From then on you are almost a regular in the casting of our plays.

A Yes actually from that very year I started to learn Japanese language. I studied in 'The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture' from 2006 to 2011 - 5 Years certificate course of Japanese language.

Q But why Japanese language? A Actually I used to work in an International Bank for around 14 years. I left my banking job in the year of 2002 and joined an Academic Institute which I finally left in April, 2006. At that time I decided to spend quality time with an inclination to enrich myself.

Q As you had already learned Russian language, you wanted to start learning Japanese language during that period

A Yes with this background I preferred to learn one more interesting language. I find in Japanese language, a style assimilating tradition and modernity –most intriguing, and as a result, I was lured into learning the Japanese language.

Q Your experience in learning the language

A While learning Japanese language under the guidance of our beloved Sensei Mrs Kazuko Nigam, I came to know many things about Japan and its people. I also got opportunities to interact with Japanese students. These experiences encouraged me to visit Japan once.

Q Yes your article on your Japan tour was published in "Sakura"

A Eventually, in the year 2015, I, with my husband, decided to go to Japan for a trip. We were planning to go in the second half in the month of April. Prior to scheduling our trip, we did consult with Nigam Sensei, who suggested the first week of April, as it was the time of the Sakura blossoms. Sakura blooms for a short period --from the last week of March till the first week of April. We reached in Japan on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and stayed till 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. As a result we could see the Sakura in full bloom and its withering as well.

Q So the trip was very enjoyable

A Those days, apart from Sakura we had experienced many things like their protective nature, helping attitude, polite behaviour, cleanliness, etc. in different ways. Here I should mention only one incident. In a station called 'Awaza' in Osaka, we had to buy a ticket for commuting to one station only, costing 120 Yen. I had pressed the 180 Yen button instead of 120 Yen of the ticket vending machine as I was without my spectacles. As soon as I got the ticket, I realised my mistake and exclaiming in surprise, I told this to my husband in Bengali. The Japanese boy standing next to me just snatched the change and the ticket from me and ran to the other side of that place. After three or four minutes he came back and returned the full amount that I had before buying the ticket! The most astonishing part was that, he could not understand my language but helped me in such a way which was beyond my imagination!

Q Your hobby?

A Watching movies, reading books and magazines, listening to music and of course, travelling.

Q You participated in various programs of Japanese language

A Yes apart from Japanese drama I participated also in quiz contest, speech contest & prose reading contest too. But unfortunately I never got any position in any of them.

Q You have also qualified in JLPT level 4 and 3

A Yes in the year 2007 and 2008 respectively

Q Any memorable experiences?

A Yes there are so many memorable experiences. The first day of my Japanese language class - July 11, 2006. I was much excited about learning Japanese and also learning from a Japanese lady - our Nigam Sensei – I became very emotional and the picture is still alive in my mind. Also participating in Japanese drama for the first time was a memorable experience.

*Aloke Basu*



**JAPANESE CROSSWORD  
(November- December)**

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

**ACROSS**

- 1) Fringe
- 5) Pumice stone
- 7) Coal
- 9) Naked eye
- 11) Shoulder
- 12) Acid
- 13) Section staff
- 14) Geometry

**DOWN**

- 1) Deep purple
- 2) Monkey
- 3) Naval battle
- 4) Formal Japanese room (mat)
- 6) Simple/easy
- 8) Expensive
- 10) Ophthalmology
- 13) To scratch

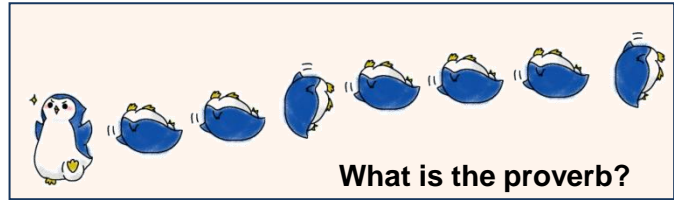
*Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee*

**Answers to  
JAPANESE CROSSWORD  
(September - October)**

1 あ	2 さ	3 ね	4 ぼ	5 う	
6 さ	い	こ	う	さ	7 い
8 い	ろ		9 せ	ぎ	ん
	10 く	11 う	き		さ
12 か		み		13 か	つ
14 き	ぬ		15 む	し	き

**WORD JUMBLE – 62**

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



1. ふなしぎな(Seven wonders)

○	○				
---	---	--	--	--	--

2. しやころ(Professional killer)

○	○			
---	---	--	--	--

3. やかすおび(To threaten - eg. peace)

	○	○			
--	---	---	--	--	--

4. ものおくり(Present, gift)

○					
---	--	--	--	--	--

5. かたきか(Way of writing)

	○			
--	---	--	--	--

*Sontu Debnath*

**ANSWERS TO  
WORD JUMBLE – 61**

- 1. じゅうよう
- 2. じゅうみん
- 3. にんぎょう
- 4. といあわせ
- 5. いろいろ

じ	ゅ	う	に	ん	と	い	ろ
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

**IJSC 23**

**A Comprehensive Report**

A "must read" report on the recent India Japan Students' Conference held in Japan – posted on our NKKS website – An eye-opener to modern Japan and its culture.

<http://www.nkks.org.in>

**EDITORS: TANUSREE CHATTERJEE & ALOKE BASU**

If undelivered please return to:  
NIHONGO KAIWA KYOOKAI SOCIETY  
2 B, SHIVANGAN  
53/1/2, HAZRA ROAD

KOLKATA – 700 019

