



SAKURA

No. 120

March - April 2020



はじめ だいじ
初めが大事 Well begun is half done

A Sakura Tribute:



We had
joy, we
had fun...

PICNIC Time



Dear Sensei,

Our heartiest CONGRATULATIONS to you, on receiving this historical award: “Order of the rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays”, a worthy recognition for your sincerity and dedication, conferred upon you by the Japanese Government, and in person by the Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, Mr Masayuki Taga. He did the honours of reading out a message with the Emperor’s insignia and signed by Mr Shinzo Abe, the Prime Minister himself, and pinning of the beautiful badge.

Your journey, as you said, begins with tying the knot with Mr Ravi Nigam and arrival to India. It has been forty five years of love, patience and toil, in the mission of disseminating the language and culture of Japan, which had been a land of imagination to most of us.

Thank you Sensei, for our invitation to this special event at the Consul General’s residence, for being able to enjoy the delicious banquet, and bask in the glory of your achievement. Of course, we the NKKS executive members, had to raise a special toast at the end, and dear Mr Ravi Nigam, was beaming with pride, his ‘cup runneth over’!



We boarded the bus at 7:35 am from Golpark and reached the picnic spot around 9.40 am. The Nihongo Kaiwa Kyokai Society’s annual picnic was held on 16th February at ‘Falta’ which is situated in the Diamond Harbour, South 24 Parganas District. The picnic spot was beautiful and pleasant. in the lap of nature on the bank of the Ganges. There were two rooms booked at the rest house for us but most of us enjoyed outdoors throughout the day. We had our breakfast around 10 o’ clock. We played various kinds of games – among the conventional games like musical chairs and badminton. We even practiced *Bon odori* dance and learned new steps. Students got a chance to learn and experience the beautiful Japanese traditional dance with the spice of Kolkata in it. There were two rounds of housie that were really interesting and all about luck. We had a delicious lunch and took a group picture, and also captured this lovely day in our cameras and phones. We experienced a beautiful sunset with a cup tea and then boarded the bus. We reached Golpark around 6.50 pm. It was a memorable and socially interactive day for all of us.

Shreyashi Saha

Nihongo Kaiwa Kyokai Society, 2B, Shivangan, 53/1/2, Hazra Road, Kolkata- 700 019

E-mail: write2nkks@gmail.com Visit us online: <http://www.nkks.org.in>

AN INTERVIEW WITH SUMANA BHATTACHARJEE



Sumana Bhattacharjee was Executive member of NKKS and is a part of it since 2003. She has acted in the Japanese dramas several times. She did her Master's Degree in Computer

Science and Applications from IGNOU.
Excerpts from the interview:

Q Where did you study Japanese language ?

A From Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata. I completed diploma in Japanese Language. Later I continued my studies in Japanese language for a few years in Indo-Japan Language Studies Society.

Q Why did you learn Japanese?

A I feel lucky that since childhood I got multilingual people of different religions as my neighbours. I think this has instigated my love to learn different languages. I used to try to learn their languages but it was not methodical. I can understand many languages but cannot speak. Understanding my love for learning languages my mother suggested to me to learn a language at the school of languages – Ramakrishna Mission, Golpark

Q But why Japanese language?

A I chose Japanese language as I was always fond of Japanese culture. To know a country or their people one must learn their language.

Q What is your hobby?

A From my school days I am very much into cultural activities. After joining Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society I took part in many In Nichi Bunkasai group songs and dramas. Once I danced also! I read a lot and listen to music. I have also learnt how to play the Mouth Organ

Q Recently you have started to learn Photography..

A Yes I have an interest in this field. As I have got some time I am learning Photography.

Q A memorable experience?

A I still remember my first day at the Japanese Language class which was fully packed and I got a seat in the last bench. There were about 80 students. I was sad as I worried as to how I would be able to listen to the teacher properly. Later I realized that – “where there is a will, there is a way” so in the next class I came early and sat on the first bench.

Participating in Japanese drama was also a memorable experience.

Q What do you suggest for Japanese language study?

A As now this language is not part of my daily life, I have forgotten it to some extent; but I would suggest to new students that passing out the JLPT exam is not very difficult. One just needs to practice a lot. Sometimes students find it difficult to remember the Kanjis but I would suggest learning by their radicals. Learning Kanjis by radicals makes it easier to remember.

Q About NKKS..

A I would suggest new students to join this organization as it not only helps you to explore your talents but also helps to shape your life. Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society has enriched me in many ways.

Aloke Basu

SONG COMPETITION



Another feather in the cap of NKKS! Yes, song competition. This event was a first for us.

This competition was held at Sarat Samity on 22nd December from 3.30 pm onwards. Members of NKKS participated enthusiastically and made it a great success. Each and every participant sang beautifully, making the task very difficult for the judges, to choose the winners from amongst them. The judges who graced the occasion were Shinnosuke Okayama and Supratik Silroy.

We, the audience, were regaled with beautifully rendered songs by the participating singers. Each of them sang with perfect pronunciation and rhythm. After much deliberation the judges finally declared the winners. The first prize went to Shruti Roy. Deepro Banerjee and Ratula Datta who sang together, were given the second prize. Aratrika Chatterjee was adjudged the third winner. All the participants were given small participation prizes. The wonderful evening came to an end with the participants raring to participate in the next one, whenever it is held. And surely it will be held, what with the enthusiastic participants, awaiting eagerly.

Ruma Chatterjee

OUR JAPAN EXPERIENCE



Japan is a country where tradition and modern development both are nurtured with great care and respect. On 25th February 2019, me and my husband had the opportunity to visit the land of the rising sun, upon being invited by one of our friends, Shoko Sumita.

Japanese people carry a strong civic sense and follow extreme discipline at all places. We noticed that the streets, stations, markets and other public places are spotlessly clean and even seen people picking up trash to put into the garbage cans. At stations or bus stops they wait patiently in queues and give priority to passengers getting down from bus or train. Inside public vehicles even if it is crowded they stand or sit quietly without speaking in mobile phones or amongst themselves. Public places are quiet, people speak in low voices, follow all traffic disciplines and even cars do not honk. People who have caught a cold wear masks to avoid the chance of spreading infection. At the escalators they stand on one side and leave the other side for people to move faster, if they in a hurry. People are very helpful and assist whenever needed and we even saw people eagerly helping others when someone has fallen sick in the train. All these demonstrate their unique characteristics of showing respect, care and concern for others, which is continuing through generations. Certainly we should learn from them. During our tour we were very lucky to see the famous *sakura* flowering in various colours in Shizuoka prefecture, the home of Shoko Sumita. We were very happy to meet our other friends Nobou Sumita and also Kenta with his little daughter.

Sumana Dey

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Let's Read Japanese:** 22nd Mar 2020
Sarat Samity 3:30pm
- ◆ **Role play:** 25th Apr 2020
Sarat Samity 6pm

HOLI Hai!



With the cold weather slowly subsiding, the beginning of spring in Bengal is marked by the lingering scent of the blooming “*Lebu Phool*” (lemon flowers), “*Aamer Mukul*” (mango blossom) and the sky looks as if set on fire by the bold orange yet beautiful flowers of “*Polash*”. People of Bengal eagerly wait for this time of the year; the time of Doljatra. Doljatra or Dol Purnima is a festival which has its roots in the Hindu mythology and is a festival dedicated to the Lord Krishna celebrated on or just the day before Holi. The auspicious day starts with the mesmerizing tunes of spring songs by Rabindranath Tagore at the gatherings where people meet and greet others by compassionately besmearing each other with coloured powder called “*Abir*”. Little kids dressed up in traditional clothes and adorned with garlands of *Polash* and Marigold dance to Tagore’s “*Orey Grihobashi*” and other such songs. Shantiniketan in Bolpur, West Bengal is well known for the beauty of Doljatra. Doljatra also marks the transition of spring to summer, ending the spring time with colourful and happy spirits, spreading love and colour in the air.

Deepro Banerjee



Kichchomu
Aloke Basu's
latest release of the
Japanese book from
the folktales of
Japan, translated
into Bengali.

24th INDIA JAPAN STUDENTS' CONFERENCE (August 2020)

Interested students, 18 ~ 23 years
of age, may contact Ruma Sensei/Mr.
P.S.Mitra

JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(March - April)

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

ACROSS

- 1) Hamster wheel
- 6) Japanese pear
- 7) Interval
- 8) VIBGYOR
- 11) Humid, sultry
- 13) Future
- 14) News Material (Information)

DOWN

- 1) Chopping board
- 2) Japanese style
- 3) Health condition
- 4) Kind
- 5) Step children
- 9) Delicious
- 10) Fox
- 11) Village
- 12) Plank

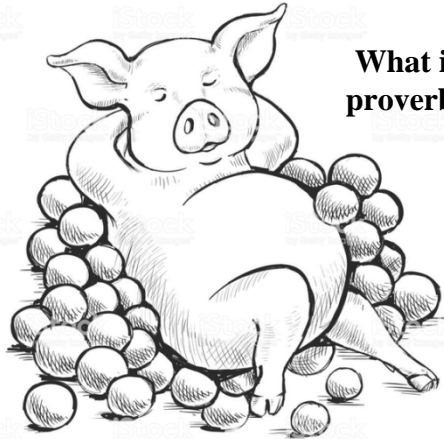
Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(January - February)

1 は	2 く	ぶ	3 つ	4 か	ん
5 な	つ		6 り	し	
7 し	し	8 つ		9 わ	10 し
	11 た	い	12 こ		め
13 は		14 た	け	15 が	き
16 は	た	ち		17 か	り

WORD JUMBLE – 64

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



What is the proverb?

1. ぶきか (Japanese classical drama)

	○	
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2. みずたに (Valley water)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

3. らんしい (Trust; faith)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

4. ぎょうじゅ (lesson; class work; teaching)

○	○			
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Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO
ANAGRAM – 63

- 1. かでんせいひん
- 2. るすばんでんわ
- 3. たべにくい
- 4. はいざら
- 5. うたがう
- 6. はれる

で	る	く	い	は	う	た	れ	る
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Get your

JLPT FORMS FOR JULY 2020

available from

12th March to 2nd April

EDITORS: TAIMSREE CHATTERJEE & ALOKE BASU

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NIHONGO KAIWA KYOOKAI SOCIETY
2 B, SHIVANGAN
53/1/2, HAZRA ROAD
KOLKATA – 700 019

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