



SAKURA

No. 121

May - June 2020



明日のことを言うと天井のネズミが笑う No one knows what tomorrow will bring

IN-NICHI BUNKASAI 35



IRASSHAIMASE!

In-Nichi Bunkasai, the cultural program of the two countries becoming one soul! In-Nichi Bunkasai was presented by the Nihongo Kaiwa

everyone's faces. A Hindi group song was performed by NKKS members, with their own Japanese translation, which was mesmerizing. Then, the graceful Indian Dance performed by Khushboo Agarwal and Anunita Banerjee made the audience happy. The lively enchanting song performed by the Students of Japanese Universities, Momoyama Gakuin Daigaku and Jouchi Daigaku made everyone happy. For the first time in In-Nichi Bunkasai energetic Hip-Hop dance performance of Aditya Raj & Awesome Rap Song of Aditya Adhikari made everyone cheerful. The drama, 'Uso No Hanashi' a great comedy drama directed by Alope Basu, brought smiles on everyone's faces. The performance of the band 'Yume' overwhelmed all. 'Kolkata Ondo', a dance in which everyone participated from their hearts.

Kyookai Society, with the support of the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata. This year, 2020, on 22nd February, Saturday, the 35th In-Nichi Bunkasai was held at Dr. Triguna Sen Auditorium in the Jadavpur University, in the City of Joy 'Kolkata'.

Many people were gathered there, and the cultural program started from 5:30 PM onwards, hosted by Sohini Chakraborty, Aditya Raj and Neha Halder. The program started with a beautiful dance, with the fragrance of spring, by Kasturi Adhikary and Ranjini Nath. Then, respected President of NKKS Madam Poonam Nand Dey, Chief Guest Mr Pradip Kumar Ghosh, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Jadavpur University, Mr. Suranjan Das and Honourable Consul-General of Japan in Kolkata, Mr. Taga Masayuki delivered their speech & encouraged all the participants to perform well. The drama 'Neko No Sara' directed by Ms. Kripa Lakhani and performed by Rumani Sengupta, Rohan Bhattacharya, Oishika Chatterjee and Dolan Sinha caught everyone's attention. It was about how the antique dealer got caught in his own game at last. Then the sweet melody of musical performance by the Japanese Supplementary School brought a smile on



Flowers of the World

The programme ended with the NKKS song & a vote of thanks by Anjana Banerjee, Vice President of NKKS. We hope, this program keeps bringing smiles on everyone's face, for now & for forever.

Dolan Sinha

In view of the present unimaginable circumstances, readers of our Newsletter "Sakura" are requested to refer to the website for details of the monthly programme.

AN INTERVIEW WITH NILOTPAL MANDAL



Nilotpall Mandal, Japanese language centre in my country I would call it -“Fujiyama”

language teacher, And in 2009 your dream was realized and lives in Bongaon, Fujiyama Japanese Language Academy started its in North 24 glorious journey.

Parganas, a Nilotpall reminisced about his dream academy. In distance of two 2017 his students passed JLPT exams with almost hours by train cent percent success. He was so happy for his from Kolkata, in students!

an exotic and Nilotpall spoke about the glorious visit of the serene locality honourable members of the Japan Foundation.

called Kalupur. There he has established his dream school -Fujiyama Japanese Language Academy.

But why has he named his Japanese Language Academy -“Fujiyama”? I was curious. Nilotpall san smiled with his dreamy eyes. He started to reminisce his first Japan visit in 2004. He studied Japanese language there for 2 years. Though after that he frequently visits Japan, but his first sight of the mesmerizing Fujiyama from his school building was indelible experience.

In his Bongaon residence, in an idyllic and convivial atmosphere, the warm hospitality coupled with bonhomie we had a chat about his childhood - school and college life his dream etc.

Before that I was introduced to his lively students. They greeted me with Japanese *aisatsu*. I interacted with them about Japanese language and their dreams with this language.

I asked Nilotpall san -You, a B.SC from Dinabondhu Mahavidyalaya under the University of Calcutta, how did you start to learn Japanese language?

Nilotpall san answered - I was a resident of Sundarban, Hingalgunge. I studied there -then I came to Bongaon for studying in college. Here I came across a relative of mine who lived in Japan. I had heard so much from him about Japan. Gradually I became interested in Japan - its culture, language, history. That person also inspired me to learn Japanese language.

--You went Japan in 2004 for learning the Japanese language?

--Yes with the inspiration of my relative I decided to go Japan and learn Japanese language. I studied the language in Japan till 2006.

I asked - Your language institute was “Japanese Language School of the Tokyo Foreign Language Academy”. You said that you were very much mesmerized with the enigmatic beauty of Fujiyama that ...

Nilotpall san smiled as if he saw Fujiyama still, before his eyes.

He said -Yes then I decided if I could establish a

They lauded his institute and his students. It was an extremely memorable moment of his life which he would cherish lifelong.

He advises his students to follow the traditional method in learning. Memorize first. Then you will understand. And then you have to be punctual, dedicated and disciplined. In all respects you have to be positive.

I asked him - You frequently visit Japan - you have connections with many Japanese language schools there -

He said -- Yes as founder of my Fujiyama Japanese Language Academy I have contacts with many Japanese language schools such as Japanese Language School of the Tokyo Foreign Language Academy, Toyo Academy, Kokusho Foreign Language School, Kyoshin Language Academy, Hotsuma International School, Sakura Japanese Language Academy, Hiroshima Human Welfare College, Kyushu Foreign Language Academy etc.

His students also want to go to Japan for studying the language and culture. He always inspires them and prepares them for that. He always inspires them by telling them his experiences of his Japan visits.

Nilotpall san has a hobby of watching cricket. But he says that teaching Japanese language and culture is also his hobby! I told him that he could rather call it a passion. He readily agreed and narrated to me about his travel experience of Japan.

You should visit Japan when the Sakura blooms - Hanami

He described his visit in the Sakura season. The last time he went there was in 2018 .He enjoys this unique Japanese custom. He also talked his experience about how a Japanese person helped him when he was shifting house in Japan on bicycle. He had lost his way and a Japanese person helped him to find his new abode.

He is so much impressed with the characteristics of the Japanese - punctual, polite helpful. The traffic signal system of Japan is so good so scientific that he wonders if we could follow that.

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I asked him – How do you motivate your students to pursue this difficult language?

Nilotpal san said -- In our institution the method of teaching is adopted in such a way that at the end of the course they can appear in JLPT (N - 4 & N 5)

-- And the success rate is very good

-- Yes, Nilotpal san said. But that doesn't mean that here only exam-oriented course is followed. We teach in a way so that students can learn basic Japanese with great interest and pleasure. With that we try to imbibe a spirit of passion that can be turned into a healthy competition without any animosity, I think for that our students do so well in JLPT !

Nilotpal Sensei's benign smile expressed his love for his students!

Aloke Basu

STUDENTS-JAPAN AND INDIA



Friends forever

NKKS, once again had organized a students' interactive session of students of Momoyama and Sophia Universities of Japan and many Japanese Language students of Kolkata and members of NKKS at Sarat Samiti, on the 23rd of February 2020.

At 2:45pm, the Japanese Language students of Kolkata along with their Senseis, had assembled at the venue, waiting for their guests. For the students who had got the chance to be there for the first time, it was something ecstatic. Not just that, many of us who had been there for the second or maybe the third time could feel their heartbeat rising as the fated hour approached ever so slowly.

Our Japanese guests arrived at approximately 3:30pm. We hastily assembled the chairs in circles, as instructed by our Sensei while shouting 'Irasshai!' (Welcome), inviting them in. As hard as many of us had imagined the scenario to be, it was quite pleasing to be having a conversation with them after an awkward self-introduction from both

sides. Soon, the tension had all but disappeared amidst the echoes of laughter and happy conversations.

Both the sides were urged to stand up and sing for one another. The Japanese sang to us an adorable rendition of the song 'Paprika'. A few of the Japanese Language students from Kolkata, went ahead and performed songs like 'Sun', 'Ashita Ga Aru Sa' and 'Sukiyaki'. Our conversations continued as both the sides were offered light refreshments and tea to go along with it.

We knew so little about one another, and yet we shared a lifetime of memories in a mere 2 hours. We had gathered around for a group photograph, and then to each other; taking selfies, as a reminder of this day and wishing to see each other again in a distant future. It was finally the time for us to say our goodbyes.

Rohan Battacharya



KOI NOBORI

Koi Nobori - the climbing carp. Streamers (made of paper or cloth) depicting the 'koi' or carp, are seen fluttering in the skies above, on the fifth of May, observing *Tango no sekku* or Boys' Day. It is now celebrated as Children's day.

Yes, it is in Japan, the land of exquisite beauty and creativity. Why carp? And what is the connection with boys? Well, the carp swims upstream relentlessly – with courage and determination - qualities so desirable in boys! When it finally swims through the dragon gate, it becomes a dragon.



When did this custom start, and for what reason is this celebrated in Japan at the onset of summer, is explained variously. Nature however, will tell us that like the salmon, they swim upstream to reach the shallow areas in order to spawn safely.



