



SAKURA

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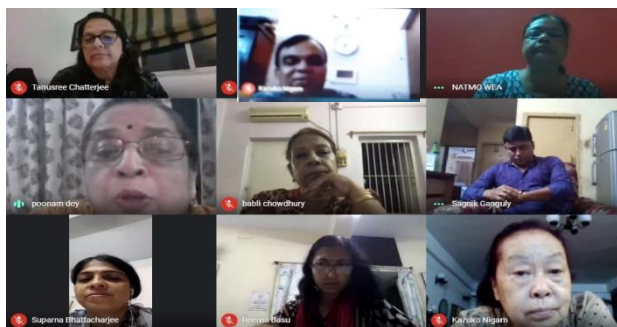


あきかぜ た 秋風が立つ The autumn breeze cools love



Welcome!
The new Premier
Of Japan
Mr
Yoshihide
Suga

The 35th AGM



The 35th Annual General Meeting of Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society was held on the 26th of September, 2020. The meeting which is usually held in Sarat Samity every year, was held on an online platform (Google Meet) for the first time, owing to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The meeting began with a note of gratitude from our President, Mrs. Poonam Nand Dey, - that in spite of the ongoing pandemic, the AGM could be conducted, and everyone could meet, albeit virtually. Moreover, it was a pleasure to see a greater number of NKK members in the meeting who could join because of the ease of connectivity.

General Secretary Mr. Sanjoy Ganguly, presented his report of the year 2019-20. The previous year passed smoothly, and some key highlights from this session were the 30th Cinema Nippon, held in Nazrul Tirtha, Newtown, supported by the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata, and HIDCO; the 23rd India Japan Student Conference (IJSC) held in Tokyo, Japan; and, 35th In-nichi Bunkasai, held in Triguna Sen Auditorium, Jadavpur University, a calligraphy workshop by Ms. Hiroko Nagahama, and an interaction with the students of Momoyama

University.

After this, the treasurer of NKK, Ms. Reema Basu, presented the audit and financial report of the last financial year 2019-20, following which the existing committee members were dissolved, and a new committee was nominated. A virtual round of applause later, we discussed suggestions for virtual events which could be held online from the safety of our homes. The members came up with some interesting ideas! "COVID-19 cannot stop NKKs", was the inspiration! Finally, the vote of thanks was delivered by Ms. Anjana Banerjee, Vice President. With the meeting conducted successfully and safely, the only things which we missed were the post-meeting Samosas, and the physical company of each other. The 35th AGM ended on an optimistic note with three cheers for NKK, and all the growth which awaits us.

Anusha Banerjee

FROM THE TEACHER'S DESK

Dear Japanese language students,

In these troubled times of the pandemic, I think it is rather difficult to continue studying Japanese language online, at the same time when you are also studying at your own university or working.

I think that many of you are studying with the JLPT in mind, but nevertheless, when doing something, a goal is important. Instead of just studying sluggishly, on and on, have a clear goal from one year in advance, such as being able to take the JLPT N4 successfully or learn 300 kanji, at the end of it. If you learn one new kanji a day, you should be able to learn more than 300 in a year. Those who are not taking the JLPT should set goals such as being able to read a simple children's book written in Japanese at the end of a year. When writing kanji, it is very important to write it over and over again. It is also a good practice to write sentences using the kanji.

Another important thing is that you should be interested not only in Japanese language but also in Japan, its culture, geography, history, and economy.

"The journey of a thousand miles begins from the first step". Everyone, please do your best!

Kazuko Nigam Sensei

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INTERVIEW WITH ALOKE BASU



Almost for 18 long years (since July - August 2003 issue) Alope Basu, co-editor of our Sakura newsletter has been taking interviews of various people. But now he is giving interview for it. Since 2001 he has been also acting in Japanese

drama every year. He is often called now as Mungeri San according to the name of his character in NKKS' yearly Japanese skit - Mind Your Japanese Language. He is a prolific writer in Bengali language with six publications (novel, short stories, comic stories and some translations from Japanese language) to his credit. He has got Moul Sahitya Samman (literary award) for the year 2018. He has translated Japanese fairy tales and Kichhomu (Japanese funny character) stories into Bengali. His story written in Japanese has been published in the Japanese magazine "Champa no Hana Excerpts from the interview with our dear "Kotowaza San"

Q:: It's a role reversal! But now you are giving interview.

A:: Yes, I feel very honoured to have got the opportunity to express my feelings in the pages of "Sakura".

Q:: You went with me New Delhi to participate in The All India Japanese Speech Contest –your subject was Japanese proverbs (Kotowaza). Everyone began to call you "Kotowaza San!"

A:: Oh! That was a great feeling. The honorable Japanese Ambassador had also addressed me as Kotowaza San.

Q :: You participated so many times in The All India Japanese Speech Contest and your subject was more or less on some comical Japanese proverb.

A :: Actually Nirmal Kumar Das Sensei inspired me for my speech on Kotawaza. In 2nd year I was a proud student of his first Japanese language batch. The subject of my speech was a bit unconventional. Nihongo To Koibito." (Japanese language and sweetheart) Then I learnt almost 300 Japanese proverbs and it became my passion.

Q:: You started to learn Japanese in the Japanese Consulate Kolkata?

A: Yes .Two or three years back I suddenly met one of my Sensei of first year who taught me there but Sensei recognized me with great difficulty. I felt so hurt.

Q:: Your experience as a co-editor of Sakura?

A:: When I was offered this opportunity I could not believe my ears. Though in school and college days I edited wall magazines and Bengali little magazines and was not confident at all at first

Q :: You started so many new things in Sakura.....

A :: From the 15th issue (September -October 2002

when I took the charge with Sumita san) I started to publish a Kotowaza in every issue. The very first kotowaza was “急がば回れ : A short cut is often a wrong cut.”

From the 20th issue of SAKURA we started to publish with 4 pages instead of 2. I also started to publish some articles on a regular basis which would be helpful for the study of the Japanese language .Though my predecessors Arunava Roy and BathinSaha did a fabulous job I wanted to start in a new way based on my experience as editor of Bengali Magazines. Now as co-editor I do the interviews only.

Q: Why did you start to learn Japanese language ?

A:: That I narrated in my debut-making Bengali novel which has an autobiographical touch. From my childhood I wanted to go to Paris so I wanted to learn French. But one of my friends exhorted me to learn Japanese because it would be helpful for making money. Then I was already a government employee and I never wanted to worship Mammon.

Q: Your hobbies?

A:: I read a lot and sometimes I draw pictures. In school life I had an exhibition of my drawings! I am an film buff and used to write a weekly column on films in an English daily.

Q: You wanted to enter JNU?

A:: Yes I prepared a lot for the entrance exam of Japanese language MA course,. Probably my secure government job or my casual (may be callous) nature was responsible for not appearing in it. In Delhi I got admission in Business Japanese class when I used to go there for interpretation work.

Q: Your experience as NKK Japanese drama director?

A ::. When Partha da' (our NKK stalwart Partha Sarathi Mitra) asked me to participate in NKK Japanese drama in 2001, my joy knew no bounds. From then on I became a regular in it. After 3/4 years I started to write and direct Japanese drama with Nigam Sensei's help. Partha da' always helps me with his valuable experience. As a director and actor I always try to give my level best. Though I get all the cooperation from my fellow actors I sometimes I feel hurt for the lack of discipline of some participants. But this is life!

Q: As a translator what you want to translate?

A: I want to translate the Japanese works of great Indian revolutionary Rash Behari Basu.

Q: your experience as a teacher of Japanese language?

A: I have coached many students, teach Japanese language, taught Japanese for 4 months in Jadavpur University. I really enjoyed that and I believe there is no short cut for learning .Gakumon ni odo nashi ---there is no royal road to learning.

Before ending, I want to convey my heartfelt thanks and respect to Nigam Sensei, Nirmal Sensei, Vijaya Das Sensei, Nandini Sensei, Geeta Kini and Gargi Kini Sensei, Junko Sensei, KawauraSensei, Purabi Sensei, late Dr. Bakshi ,Mrs. Bakshi ,and others who have always encouraged me .

Ruma Chatterjee



LOCKDOWN Diaries-3



DOLON SINHA SAID:

When this pandemic of Corona Virus started, I used to feel as if I was locked up in my room, my room used to feel like a cage. Then I started finding happiness by doing the things which I like. I love to play the guitar, and being a fan of 'The Ventures' & 'The Shadows' I play many of these musical pieces on my guitar. Also 'The diamond head', 'Walk don't run 64', 'The lonely Sea', 'Spring Love', 'Come September' etc. When I become depressed I sing Japanese songs or try to calm myself down by doing calligraphy. I have completed my paintings which I had left unfinished. I always use watercolours and oil colours. And I write poems too.

Oh, dear flowers,
You're like shooting stars,
Falling from the branches!
Showing your love and
grace.
Your heavenly scent,
In the air is blended!
You were here in Spring,
Or, it was just a dream?
Your memories still
remain,
Cherry Blossoms, hope we
meet again!

MY CREATIONS



Dear Readers,

It was Sumana Bhattacharjee san's idea actually. As a response to her enthusiastic support, we have been able to reach out to our young brigade of "Sakura" readers. The overwhelming number of articles for the "Lockdown Diaries" keeps me utterly confused - which one should I publish first? Among the myriad talents possessed by these members, which one deserves special mention? We shall do justice to all. I sincerely thank all of you, not forgetting Sumana san!



ANUNITA BANERJEE SAID:

Prior to February or March 2020, we had no idea that our lives would change so drastically. Masks will be a part of regular clothes; alcohol sprays and sanitizers will be a must in households and washing hands will almost be equivalent to blinking our eyes. We will have to be well-prepared before going out. Travelling will not require planning as the first question that will come to our mind is, 'Should we?'.

Covid-19 came as a mixed bag. When on one hand, migrant workers faced issues, individuals were stressed with the health of their near and dear ones, people not only lost jobs but, family members, friends and relatives; on the other hand, people finally found time to spend with family. When most of the time of the week used to be spent working and the weekends to prepare for the coming week, we finally took a break and indulged in ourselves.

Being a teacher, the whole working process changed for me. We learnt phrases like, 'Mute yourself' 'Please switch on/off your video', 'I hope you all are able to download the Google form, please start filling it up' and so on. Moreover, we even did small skits over video. Whenever, I missed eating out, I tried the same at home with family. In addition to that, my new venture, 'Yashita' came up and opened another world for me. Till now, I used to just 'buy

clothes', but now I am learning the use of power loom and handloom, difference between cotton and mercerized cotton, difference between different types of linen, learning about Indigo dye and block prints and so on. I have connected to people from

various fields who helped me grow altogether. We must say, Covid-19 is not the end of everything, it can also help us channelize our time towards something positive.



OMEDTOU KAZUKO NIGAM SENSEI!

Check this out in NKKS Facebook

<http://nkks.org.in/chief-patron.php>

an article, in "ASAHI SHIMBUN"....



**JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(November- December)**

1	2	3		4	5
6				7	
8			9		
10		11		12	
	13		14		
15			16		

ACROSS

- 1) Year ending party
- 6) Reflection
- 7) Waterfall
- 8) Needle
- 9) Hope/wish
- 10) Grip
- 12) Plum
- 13) Rational
- 15) Mist
- 16) Snow viewing

DOWN

- 1) Accident gun discharge
- 2) Transformation/transition
- 3) To sleep
- 4) One way business
- 5) Buried alive
- 11) Tree trunk
- 14) Cocoon

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

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

1 こ	2 う	3 こ	う	4 せ	5 い
6 や	ま	じ		7 わ	ら
8 か	や		9 か		か
ま		10 あ	さ	11 ひ	
12 し	13 し	つ		14 が	15 か
16 い	ま	い	ま	し	い

WORD JUMBLE – 68

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



1. きびね (Price reduction)

○			
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2. てんこうさ (Crossing)

○				
---	--	--	--	--

3. さいあじ (Big leaf hydrangea hydrangea macrophylla)

	○		
--	---	--	--

4. まえたあり (Natural, reasonable)

	○			
--	---	--	--	--

Sontu Debnath

**ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE – 67**

1. けんきゅうしつ
2. えんぴつ
3. のうぎょう
4. なかよし

け	ん	え	ん	の	な	か
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