

Freshers' Welcome 2021



Dear Readers,

This is to inform that Tanusree Chatterjee, co-editor of *Sakura* newsletter until now, has decided to leave NKKS due to personal reasons. We respect her wishes and are grateful to her for her continuous hard work. Under the circumstances, it was decided to create a new editorial team, comprising myself along with Khushboo Agarwal and Supratik Sil Roy.

~ Alope Basu

On 16 May 2021 (Sun), NKKS organised a virtual freshers' welcome party, to greet new Japanese language learners from all over Kolkata. The show included a rendition of 'Uchiage Hanabi' by Yume, Kolkata's only J-pop band, and a brilliant cartoon skit called 'Nihonjin no San-Nin Musume,' compiled and directed by Smritiman Barua, alongside other members of NKKS. Aratrika Chatterjee also performed a Japanese folk song. A Japan-Culture quiz was conducted by Deepto Banerjee and myself. The questions were made especially to entice the freshers into participation. Finally, freshers were invited to perform their graceful show of sheer talent left most of us in awe. In the end, members and freshers alike left with the desire to see each other in real life, and celebrate the events physically.

~ Rohan Bhattacharya

ま たね は 蒔かぬ種は生えぬ | Nothing comes of nothing

Learning Japanese Online Using Apps



On 13 June 2021 (Sun), our tech-savvy member Soham Pal, made an online presentation showing us ways of Technology-assisted language learning. He introduced an application called 'ANKI' and focussed on its feature which allows you to drop any new word you come across into its virtual dropbox, and ANKI will flash it back to you as per its algorithm. So you can type a new Japanese word into

ANKI's flashcard or simply copy the word from somewhere and put it in the dropbox. Soham-san then showed us interesting ways to increase our exposure to new Japanese words. For example, if you use the app 'Language Learning for Netflix' while enjoying a Japanese anime or movie, along with English subtitles you will be able to generate Japanese subtitles having furigana, and learn the meaning and usage of unknown words simply by clicking on them. Conversation apps like 'HelloTalk' and 'Discord' are particularly useful as you can connect with native Japanese speakers, and exchange language knowledge by texting each other like pen pals and also developing friendship. All the participants, very intrigued by the new information, appreciated and thanked Soham-san and requested more such fruitful sessions.

INTERVIEW

SUPRATIK SIL ROY, an enthusiastic member of NKKS has interest in various fields. He did his Engineering in Electronics and Communication and has a passion for designing and building radio controlled miniature aeroplanes. He also has good histrionics talent which we have seen in the Japanese drama during our annual cultural program, In-Nichi Bunkasai. Here we had a chat with our very dear SUPRATIK san.



● Self introduction:

Hello! Thank you for allowing me to share a bit about myself through this newsletter. My name is Supratik Sil Roy. I grew up in the city of Asansol, West Bengal and now working at the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata. Being a 90's kid, I am somewhat able to appreciate the art of living before and after the advent of technology into our daily lives. So I feel happy to be associated with Japan, where the charms of both the old and new are also equally valued.

● Why did you start to learn Japanese?

In my second year of university, I decided to learn a foreign language as I wanted to learn something outside my graduation curriculum. At that time, I only had a very basic idea about Japan but I chose Japanese because most of the innovative technology I saw around me was of Japanese origin. Another reason was I wanted to challenge myself, as people were of the opinion that Japanese is one of the most difficult foreign languages to learn.

● Your experience of Japan tour:

During the course of my daily work and partly due to my own interest, I come to think a lot about Japan. It ranges from reading about various topics such as tourism, lifestyle, traditions, history, technology to practicing the way of work. So you can say I *virtually* tour Japan often and the experience is a therapy for wellness, that relaxes the mind and rejuvenates the soul.

● Any memorable experience:

As a member of 16th IJSC, I was invited to the official residence of Consul-General of Japan for dinner in 2012. That was the first time I had Japanese food and it was hard for me to believe that sitting in Kolkata I could drink sake and taste an assortment of authentic sushi prepared by a Japanese chef. Till date, that is one of the most pleasant evenings of my life.

● Your hobby:

During my university days, I used to design and build Radio controlled miniature aeroplanes and take part in various RC flying competitions. I also take particular interest in cooking and dining as well, especially Asian cuisine.

● Your experience with NKKS and In-Nichi Bunkasai and students' conference:

By becoming a member of NKKS during my student days, I could meet many like minded people from an early age, thus understanding the value of an association. I am very thankful to it, especially my teachers, Mrs. Ruma Chatterjee and Mrs. Kazuko Nigam, for entrusting me with responsibilities during In-Nichi Bunkasai and students' conference, through which I was also able to make lifelong friends and express myself.

● What is the one aspect about Japan that fascinates you most?

The mindfulness nature of the average Japanese person is something for which I have the highest regards. I think it is this 'care for the one after you' spirit that becomes the root cause for their infamous cleanliness, punctuality, sincerity, hospitality and a host of their qualities unique to Japan. So if all of us can start changing our habits in order to not cause any inconvenience to other people, especially strangers, the world will become a better place.

~ Alope Basu

WELL DONE

dream



Congratulations to Robinson san for bagging the 3rd position in the 32nd All India Speech Contest!

Listening Comprehension (Choukai) Mock Examination

日本語能力試験

JLPT Japanese-Language Proficiency Test

N4

On 10 April 2021 (Sat), NKKS had organized an online listening comprehension (choukai) mock examination. It was held as a practice examination to help all the NKKS members who are aspiring to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N4 level in July 2021. The mock examination was conducted by the President of NKKS, Mrs. Poonam Nand Dey. The listening comprehension examination was held in the official JLPT examination pattern, where the students were shown the questions by the presenter via screen-sharing from the device, while the recording of the questions were being played in the background, which the students were listening to in order to answer the questions. Although the members could not meet physically to take part in the session, they could still reap the benefits of such an invaluable mock examination through the online digital meeting platform, Google Meet, while staying safe at their homes.

~ Anoubhav Bhaduri

Tanabata Matsuri

Tanabata, also known as the Star festival, is a holiday based on the 2000 years old Chinese festival QiXi. It was adopted into the Kyoto Imperial Palace during the Nara period. According to a legend, princess Orihime, a seamstress, wove beautiful clothes by the bank of Amanogawa (Milky Way). She was so dexterous at weaving that her father, Tentei (The Sky King), was very proud of her. Tentei, concerned about his cherished daughter, arranged for her to meet Hikoboshi, a cow herder who lived on the other side of the Milky Way. They immediately fell in love and soon got married. They were so devoted to one another that they started neglecting their duties. Orihime stopped weaving and Hikoboshi let his cows stray all over heaven. This angered Tentei and he forbade the two to be together. Watching his daughter plummet in grief, Tentei allowed them to meet once a year on the seventh day of the seventh month if Orihime resumed weaving. However, the first time they tried to meet, they found it too difficult to cross Amanogawa and as Orihime shed tears, a flock of magpies came and promised to make a bridge with their wings so that she could cross the river. Tanabata festivals are held across Japan in early July and August. Rain on the day of the festival is considered unlucky as it is said that the magpies cannot come and the two lovers will have to wait another year to meet. It is often regarded as the tears shed by the star-crossed lovers not being able to meet. On this day it is customary to write wishes on colourful pieces of paper called Tanzaku and hang them on bamboo trees. The bamboo and decorations are often set afloat on a river in the hope that these wishes come true.

~ Namrota Mandal



UPCOMING PROGRAMME

25 July 2021 | 5 PM
Learn Japanese Online
using Apps Part 2
~ by Soham Pal

Scan & register
for notification!



15 August 2021 | 5 PM
37th Birth Anniversary of
NKKS (Virtual Meet)

Crosswords

~ Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

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

ACROSS

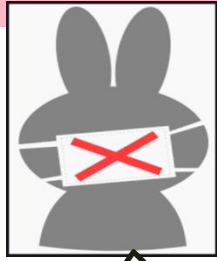
- Help each other
- Ball
- Judging
- Blooming
- The four Seasons
- Ten Thousand
- Pull at nail
- To Tie /Bind
- To Reach

DOWN

- Fight in Election campaign
- Own residence
- Rain
- Floating Island
- Precious Metal
- To Purchase
- Scatter
- Chrysanthemum

Jumbled Words-72

~ Sontu Debnath



1. べにちく (Lipstick)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

2. たいはん (Opposite)

○			
---	--	--	--

このことわざはなんですか。

3. みをがくざわ (To improve one's skill)

○	○				
---	---	--	--	--	--

4. ものいかわ (Youngsters)

○		○		○
---	--	---	--	---

5. どすもにとも (To go back to the start)

○	○				
---	---	--	--	--	--

KOTOWAZA:

○	○	○	○	○	○
○	○	○			

NEW! Write your solutions of Crosswords and Jumbled Words on a piece of paper and send its snapshot to nkksorg@gmail.com. The entry with the first correct answer will get a special mention in the next edition!

Crosswords Solution

(May-Jun 2021)

1. か	2. た		3. う	4. え	5. き
6. わ	た		7. た	り	き
8. り	く	9. つ		10. も	ぐ
は		11. き	12. き	と	る
13. て	ん	き	ん		し
る		14. り	り	し	い

Jumbled Words Solution

(May-Jun 2021)

- ねずみ
- こもじ
- しゃくはち
- かしも

Kotowaza: 「ねこもしやくしも」

Meaning: "even a cat and a ladle"

Scan the QR code to watch the videos!

Ruma Sensei's
First Japan Visit



Make Onigiri
at Home



BOOK POST

If undelivered please return to:
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KOLKATA - 700 019