

## NKKS Foundation Day



Lights dimmed, hearts raced, and a palpable buzz filled the air as the much-awaited NKKS Foundation Day event took center stage on the 15th of August 2023. The event was attended by NKK members as well as the 27th IJSC members, coming together with equal parts of support and gusto.

The opening act, a Japanese song performed by the charismatic trio of Soham Sankar Mukherjee, Riddhika Chatterjee, and Prakriti Saha, immediately whisked the audience into a world of harmonious melodies and cross-cultural camaraderie. Nabanita Chakraborty followed with a poetic Haiku performance that revealed the magic of brevity followed by Faria Kaiser's solo Japanese song that was a universal embrace. The dance performance that followed, a dynamic collaboration between Soma Mukherjee and Shraddha Paul, was a mesmerizing spectacle of movement and rhythm. Sourav Maity's Bengali solo song, rich in emotion and cultural flavor, gave us a snapshot of the diversity that defines our community. Dwijabanti Polley's recitation was a spoken symphony that stirred emotions and underlined the potency of language as an art form. The drama "Tanabata" unfolded on the stage, a magnetic performance by Nabanita Chakraborty, Anouska Mazumda, Faria Kaiser, Adesh Kumar Sahoo, Reetu Chowdhury, Oishee Biswas, and Poulomi Saha. As Rupasree Das's Japanese solo resonated, followed by a dynamic group act featuring Bikramjit Ghosh, Romit Khilari, Sankalan Bhattacharya, Ayan Kumar Paul, Adreeta Dey, Nibedita Das, and Drishti Shroff, the audience was treated to a feast of voices that celebrated unity in diversity. Babli Chowdhury and Alope Basu's dramatic duet was a masterclass in storytelling. Anoubhav Bhaduri and my final Japanese song performance was marred in laughter and shenanigans. Tisyagupta Pyne further bolstered the interactivity by taking the mantle of quizmaster as the evening drew to a close.

As the cake was wheeled into centre stage, the patrons and senior members of the NKKS cut it in a great flurry of cheer and celebration as the the NKKS turned a grand 39 years old. Food Packets were distributed and many pictures were taken and connections were made between old and new friends alike. As the roar of applause in the hall died down, the din and finally fallen on a grand day indeed.

## Meet Consul General NAKAGAWA

*(continued from previous edition)*



### **Good Memories Abroad:**

I have many good memories. There are so many that I can't remember them all. I have worked and lived in New York and Los Angeles in the U.S., Cape Town in South Africa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in Israel, and the border region with Syria, in addition to India. I believe that understanding and accepting the culture and customs of each country will make your daily life and work more enjoyable and lead to good memories of your time abroad.

### **Opinions about the differences between Japanese culture and Indian culture:**

The most impressive cultural experience for me in Kolkata was the Durga puja. Not only is it a celebration rooted in the local religion, but the pandals, a regional exhibit that differs from one region to another, allows you to feel the artistry of its creator and the region in which it was created. In Japan too, there are various festivals in different regions. While respecting the rituals handed down from ancient times, they also demonstrate diversity to meet modern needs. This is also true for Durga Puja.

It is natural that there will be differences in the cultures and customs of each country. Durga puja and many of the Japanese festivals have been inscribed on UNESCO's World Intangible Cultural Heritage List, and both Bengali and Japanese people seem to embrace diversity through these festivals, including differences in religion, race, and customs. Am I the only one who thinks that rather than "differences," we can find "commonalities" in these festivals?

While I am working as Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, I would like to continue my journey to find all the commonalities between Japan and Bengal.

### **How will studying Japanese help foreigners in their careers?**

Japan-India relations will continue to grow and develop. Promoting economic relations and cultural and personal exchanges are the most important matters for both countries, without which there can be no further growth. Both countries occupy an important position in the world peace and stability.

We believe that for the future of Japan-India relations and for the young generation of talented Indians who are expected to play an active role in the global community, learning Japanese will surely be of great help for them to play an active role in the international community.

The Consulate-General of Japan in Kolkata is committed to promoting all kinds of programs for students and professionals alike, including study abroad and human resource development. We hope that you will actively learn Japanese and acquire excellent Japanese language skills.

*~ Alope Basu*

## *People to People Exchange*



The 27th India-Japan Students' Conference was inaugurated on 7 August 2023, where 8 students from Japan and 20 students from India participated in Kolkata.

*~ Full report in next edition*

# Calligraphy Demonstration and Workshop



The Calligraphy demonstration and workshop held on the 9th of August, 2023 was organised by Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society, in collaboration with Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata, the Japan foundation and South City International School. Miss Hiroko Nagahama began with an introduction to the Japanese writing system that includes Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji. She then explained the art of Shodō and the tools needed for it, which are: Fude (brush), Sumi (ink), Bunchin (paper weight), Hanshi (calligraphy paper), Shitajiki (desk pad). Miss Nagahama first demonstrated the first kanji of the workshop - 桜 (Sakura) the National flower of Japan. Miss Nagahama's playful disposition with the participants sparked off a thread of requests. The participants were taught how to hold the brush - to keep it upright, hold it at an appropriate distance from the tip of the brush and to sit straight while painting. Participants, from school goers to middle aged people, followed through the instructions and produced beautiful Shodō artworks of their own. Further more, Kanjis like 夢 (Yume), Heiwa's 和, 太陽 (Taiyou) and 茶 (Cha) were also demonstrated by Miss Nagahama.

~ Poulomi Saha

# Kanji wa Omoshiroi



The presentation of Smritiman san & Shreya san on 30 July 2023 in the "Kanji wa Omoshiroi" session was really OMOSHIROI and educative. The Kani radicals were explained very lucidly covering the points.

1. The two parts of Kanji i.e. Radical block & Stem Block.
2. Radicals are the fundamental to every Kanji
3. Decomposition of a Kanji shows how a Radical & Stem represent different meaning.
4. How Radicals & Stem Parts of a Kanji can help memorize a Kanji.
5. Overview of positions of Radicals viz. hen, tsukuri, kanmuri, ashi kamae, tare & nyou.
6. How Chinese Radical maps help in memorizing Kanji easily.
7. Explanation of 'on yomi' and 'kun yomi' by showing Smritiman-san's self made dictionary.
8. Introduction to a game "KANJI COMBAT" specially for the beginners of Japanese language student.

Shreya san conducted a Quiz in five rounds where enthusiastic responses of all the participants made it a success. Nigam Sensei explained the thoughts behind 'on yomi' and 'kun yomi' and how it came from China via Korea to Japan through Buddhism about 1500 years back.

~ Debi Das

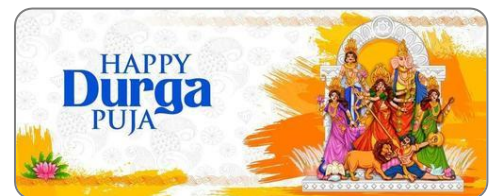


Look forward to the **NKKS Picnic on 17<sup>th</sup> December** and **Singing Contest in January**



9 September 2023 (Sat)  
2.00 PM

25<sup>th</sup> Nihongo Quiz  
Shivananda Hall, RMIC Golpark



2 October 2023 (Mon)  
5.00 PM

Online JLPT Practice Session  
~ by Papiya sensei and Sumana sensei

# Word Grid

~ Soham Pal

げ	び	ふ	ぎ	ほ	こ	ひ	く	い	ぷ	い	づ
ゆ	ん	で	る	わ	く	ぼ	る	た	や	や	ね
が	も	そ	こ	せ	ぼ	た	て	し	く	ま	ご
ぬ	ん	れ	く	あ	ん	ぼ	い	び	ま	た	き
も	か	ぶ	れ	む	よ	ち	さ	べ	か	は	は
ら	ゆ	こ	な	び	ひ	ん	れ	い	せ	を	む
ち	れ	し	べ	と	こ	し	ぼ	ぜ	る	ふ	ぜ
で	い	き	り	う	ま	ず	ぼ	び	ん	ん	ふ
ん	は	で	で	こ	ぼ	こ	え	ろ	ね	し	ど
せ	ん	で	え	ぎ	ぞ	ね	み	ん	だ	け	ん
ん	ぶ	げ	ぢ	さ	く	も	つ	む	こ	わ	づ
わ	ん	ぎ	ぬ	む	こ	お	ぺ	か	ち	ぶ	へ

Find out at least ten 4 letter Japanese words present in the above grid. You can go vertically, diagonally and horizontally.

## Word Grid Solution

(Jul - Aug 2023)

ぐ	き	ち	て	け	あ	え	は	ん	す	る	わ
み	ま	ぎ	こ	の	た	び	よ	ぼ	ひ	て	べ
い	た	め	る	が	お	や	あ	に	え	ば	か
め	び	し	せ	い	を	し	ろ	は	せ	ぶ	ほ
せ	ほ	ん	じ	ぬ	ぐ	ず	ま	べ	じ	せ	ぎ
え	せ	ん	ふ	さ	み	す	げ	い	た	め	ぎ
い	ぶ	が	き	は	ぎ	べ	び	だ	を	づ	て
つ	だ	ひ	そ	う	よ	す	ぐ	ぶ	さ	び	ひ
ろ	ぶ	れ	く	ほ	の	べ	た	こ	へ	ろ	ぼ
ぶ	ん	え	ま	ご	な	ろ	ふ	す	う	じ	あ
く	さ	け	ほ	づ	か	は	ろ	れ	か	り	よ
と	ん	あ	ち	こ	ち	と	う	た	つ	る	つ

# Find the Person

~ Tisyagupta Pyne

Fill in the Blanks to Find Out the Famous Japanese Personality

1. に\_\_つがおもいからくるまでくこうにいきます。いろいろなものがあります。
2. ひろい\_\_み。えんすいがそこにある。さかなたちのいえ。
3. さかな、にく、やさいとごはんをつかってどんぶ\_\_をつくりました。
4. ほそだ\_\_ \_\_ \_\_さんは「みらいのみらい」と「おおかみこどものあめとゆき」のかんとくです。

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_ さん. The first Japanese Astronaut.

## Find the Person Solution

(Jul - Aug 2023)

なんば やすこ  
難波 康子



Scan the QR codes to watch the videos !

Chiisana Koi no Uta (Yume)



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