

The 28th India-Japan Students' Conference



What a pleasure it was to participate in the 28th India-Japan Students' Conference! It was held in Tokyo (mainly) from 21 August to 2 September 2024 and was attended by 10 students from Kolkata and 2 students from Chennai. IJSC truly gave me an opportunity to see the reality of Japan, in all its splendor and richness, and I was truly amazed by its technological prowess, moved by the kindness of its people and quite pleasantly surprised at the sense of hospitality that we share with them, even though separated by thousands of miles! Alongside group discussions on three sub-topics under the umbrella theme of "Community Development through Japan-India Collaboration", we also spent a large amount of time going for sightseeings, field visits, home visits and so on. In Tokyo, we visited Sensou-ji, Tokyo Ueno Museum, teamLab, Yasukuni Shrine, Akihabara, Shibuya, Shinjuku and many other places. As we were mostly having dinner outside, we got to taste a large number of dishes we had all watched in dramas and anime! I got to eat yakisoba, sushi, ochadzuke, okonomiyaki, katsukare and many other items - they were all so delicious and amazing. I do not know why people say Japanese food is bland! It is very tasty, rich and most importantly, fresh! Even though there were very few dustbins, the roads were all so clean and that is when I noticed that nobody throws their garbage on the road! There are so many things that Japanese people do, in their daily lives, and observing those, I asked why could we not replicate them and take a leaf out of their book? Even though we were in Fukushima Prefecture for only two days, I was mesmerised by the greenery and absolutely touched by the kind hospitality of the people there. I can certainly say that some part of my worldview changed after I returned.

~ Sabarno Sinha (President, 28th IJSC)



As we wrap up another wonderful year at NKKS, we'd love to hear from you! Share your thoughts and memories, and you could be featured in future editions of our newsletter!



MEET Shreya Bose



SHREYA san now is the Assistant Secretary of NKKS. She is a very active member of NKKS for a decade now, working silently and diligently. Here is an extract from our conversation with her.

Q: Say something about yourself....

A: I was born and raised in Kolkata and pursued a master's degree in Geology. In 2019, I started working as a Japanese language data analyst at Darts-IP. Then I transitioned into my current job role of a Senior Business Development Executive at Sagacious IP under the Japan Sales Team.

Q: When did you start learning Japanese language?

A: My first encounter with the Japanese language was through

anime and manga, which really piqued my interest. I was really fascinated with the way the characters spoke and started picking up on certain words and phrases. I completed my Japanese language diploma course of 5 years from Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture. My first teacher was Uttara Sensei.

Q: Your experience with NKKS.

A: I first came to know about NKKS through Ruma Sensei. I was intrigued to know that we had such an organization of Japanese language teachers and students that organized various cultural and academic events related to Japanese language and culture. I have loads of happy and fun memories in this organization along with shouldering of responsibilities that have also contributed largely to my confidence and growth. I am forever grateful to everyone specially our Chief Patron Nigam Sensei and all the senior members who have guided us diligently.

Q: Your experience going to Japan and opinion about Japanese life, culture and people.

A: It was through the India-Japan Students' Conference (IJSC) in 2017 that I could visit Japan. Those 2 weeks became the most memorable days in my life. It was a great experience trying out different types of street foods, trying on kimonos, having calligraphy workshops and also visiting the onsen with friends. One of the many highlights from our trip was visiting anime related destinations like Akihabara and the One Piece theme park located just below the Tokyo Tower. Speaking about Japanese life and culture, the most appealing aspect to me is their sincerity and attention to the smallest of things. I particularly love how attentive they are in terms of presentation and punctuality. I have also been a huge fan of origami ever since my childhood and I still occasionally try it on days when I feel stressed out.

Q: Your hobby.

A: Travelling and bird watching. Occasionally watching anime.

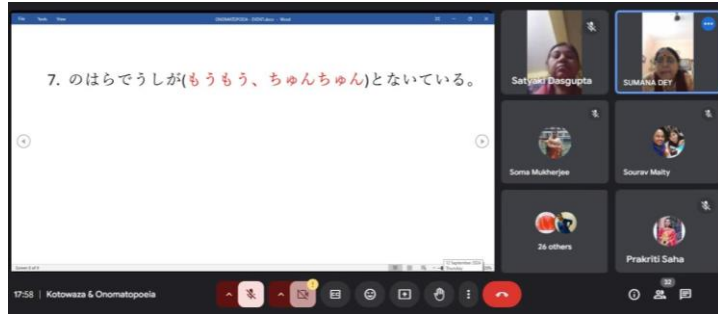
Q: Advice to Japanese language students.

A: Hard work and practice are the only advices that I have. I think it is very important to create a self-learning environment where one should refer to Japanese podcasts, news articles and other blogs of interest. By doing this you will also enrich your vocabulary and gain knowledge of information outside of textbooks. JLPT is important but it lacks a speaking section where the candidates' speaking skills are tested and hence it is very important to converse with your teachers and classmates in Japanese during kaiwa sessions in class or even group studies (which is highly recommended).

~ Alope Basu

Learning Kotowaza

Learning Onomatopoeia



On the 8th of September, NKKS organised an online Japanese Proverbs session by Mr. Alok Basu, who gave us an enlightening experience by explaining different kinds of proverbs based on certain themes. Some of the them were cats, flowers and water. The most interesting part of this event was understanding the origin of Kotowaza and how it is still commonly used in the Japanese language. As explained by Alok san, proverbs had traditional influences as they were manifested long before the Meiji Era. Few of the proverbs that I learnt from this event are; “Neko mo Shyakushimo” which literally means cats and rice ladders, but it actually means “all inclusive or everyone”. “Takane no hana” which literally means flower on a high peak is actually used to mean “an object of desire that is completely out of reach”. “Mizunoawa” which literally means water bubbles has an underlying meaning which is “a great effort was in vain”. I believe all the members and Japanese language enthusiasts would be looking forward to having more opportunities to learn Japanese Proverbs.

~ Shaswata Ganguly

On the 8th of September, NKKS organised an online event to help all its members learn about Japanese Onomatopoeia conducted by Mrs. Papiya Dasgupta and Mrs. Sumana Dey. The respected teachers explained Japanese onomatopoeia and its common uses in the language. Papiya sensei gave us a wonderful introduction on Japanese onomatopoeia and how they can be identified for better understanding. Giseigo are used for voice related sounds for example; the barking of a dog (wan wan) whereas Gitaigo are words that mimic an action, condition, or manner of expression, for example; the way a person is sweating (daradara). This helped most of the members understand the basics of Japanese Onomatopoeia. Later on, Sumana sensei gave us more examples of various kinds of onomatopoeia that are often used in the Japanese language. The most commonly used Onomatopoeia was explained with example sentences for better understanding. We also had an interactive session at the later half of the event. The participants were enthusiastic and also amused to find the differences in similar words. The overall event was a success as everyone learnt something new and also had fun while learning.

~ Shaswata Ganguly

終わりは新たな始まり。感謝を胸に、
来年も共に前進しましょう。

UPCOMING
EVENTS

16 November 2024 (Sat)
5.00 PM

Bijoya Sammelani

@Sarat Samity

22 December 2024 (Sun)
All Day

NKKS Picnic

@ Poddar Garden

Enjoy a day
full of fun and frolic..
Depart RMIC @ 7:30 am
Members: INR 600
Guests: INR 650
Contact Sumana Sensei or
Anupam san & book your
seat ASAP!

Riddle

~ Khushboo Agarwal

あまくて食べられる「こ」ってなに?



#なぞなぞ

Find the Person

~ Tisyagupta Pyne

Fill in the Blanks to Find Out the Famous Japanese Personality

1. けいた__ばんごうをおしえてね。あとでしや__んをおくるよ。
2. えきのひがし__ちからでると__つぶんかかります。
3. こんしゅう、__ようびから、どようびまでまつりがあります。
4. 「す__めのとじまり」しんかいまことのあたらしいアニメです。
5. __かあさんがばんごはんをつくりました。

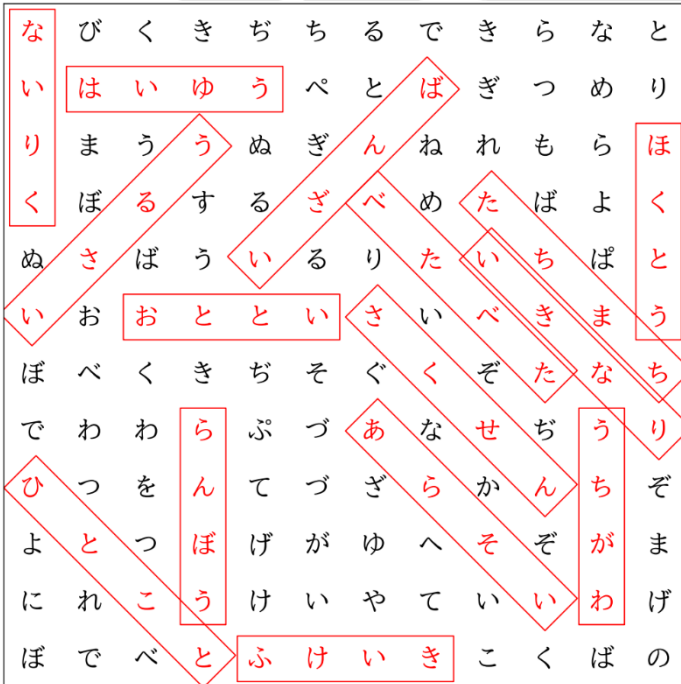
Ans: _____ さん。

Nobel Laureate. Author of many popular novels like Remains of the Day and Never Let Me Go.

BIG thanks to Nivi Pal for contributing with Word Grid column for 3 years. This edition onwards please look forward to a riddle every edition!

Word Grid Solution

(Sep – Oct 2024)



Find the Person Solution

(Sep – Oct 2024)

なかむらひかる

中村光 さん



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