

5th Japanese Language Singing Contest



The 5th Japanese Language Singing Contest was held at Birla Industrial & Technological Museum [BITM], Kolkata on 18th of January 2025. It was a unique event celebrating the fusion of Music and Language organised by NKKS, supported by the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata. The competition aimed to promote cultural exchange between India and Japan while providing a platform for Japanese language learners to showcase their talent. The programme began with a welcome speech by Mrs. Babli Chowdhuri and was moderated by Khushboo Sensei. Participants sang Japanese songs, blending linguistic fluency with musical talent. The quiz held in between the performances was widely welcomed by the audience. A panel of esteemed judges including Mrs. Yuasa Yukiko and Mrs. Madhurima Dutta Choudhury, evaluated the performances. After the judgement the Prize Distribution Ceremony was held where Mrs. Yuasa Yukiko gave away the prizes and certificates. The First Prize was bagged by Anushka Saha, Second Prize was won by Sourima Chakraborty and third Prize was won by Shawan Naskar. To add to the attraction there was a special prize announced for Vaishnavi Mishra. Finally, the Vote of Thanks was delivered by Sumana Sensei which brought the vibrant program to an end. The success of 5th Japanese Language Singing Competition, sets the stage for more such events in future.

~ Ruma Chakraborty



Cherry blossoms in Japan typically are seen between late March to early April, but there are a few varieties that bloom early and stay on for longer periods. One of those is the more pinkier Kawazu sakura, named after Kawazu city of Shizuoka prefecture where they were discovered first. These bloom between mid February to early March and are found in many parts of Japan including some places in Tokyo. Try finding out!



MEET Ryo Nagamura and Malyashree Bhaduri Nagamura

Back in 2015 I had taken interview of Malyashree san. She was then going to Japan (Tokyo) to work in ISFnet as a Bilingual Network Engineer. Now she is married and has a baby as well! After a long time I met her. Her husband Ryo Nagamura also joined us. He seemed a very sweet guy with jovial mood.



I asked him, “When did you first visited India?” Ryo replied with a beaming smile, “This is my fourth time in India. In 2016 I came to India for the first time. Then I went to Hyderabad to visit my friend. I liked that city very much. I remember the beautiful Buddha Statue there! I also remember the fabulous Fatima palace!” Malyashree said, “He likes Hyderabad more than Kolkata!”

Ryo san smiled, “I like Kolkata also! I have gone to some famous places of Kolkata such as Victoria Memorial and Saint Paul’s Cathedral.”

Malyashree has left her previous office. Now she is in Rakuten as a Customer Success Manager. She described her present work with a scope of varieties! She works as a CRO expert. She works with the target of increasing sales. Rakuten’ innovative business model prioritizes customer satisfaction and loyalty. Her husband is an IT professional, a consultant. Now Ryo surprised me,

“Do you know that now I have been learning Bengali language?”

“Oh! Sugoi! Then please say something in Bengali!”

“Anek din dekha hoyni! (I have not met you for a long time!) Then I know the sentence in Bengali – Ami tomake valobasi! (I love you!).” Now Malyashree san declared, “And I am his teacher!” Ryo said, “I can say Bengali words for days of the week – Sombar, Mongolbar. Budhbar”

I hope next time when we meet we definitely will speak only in Bengali! Ryo seems to be a quick avid learner! Malyashree and Ryo Nagamura married in 2023. First they had Registry marriage, then Indian marriage, then Japanese marriage!

“Ryo san, have you seen any Indian movie?”

“Yes Yes, I have seen Hindi movies named Three Idiots, RRR and Bhramastha. I liked the theme of Three Idiots! I was so moved by the message of the movie! I have also seen one Bengali Movie Noukadubi!”

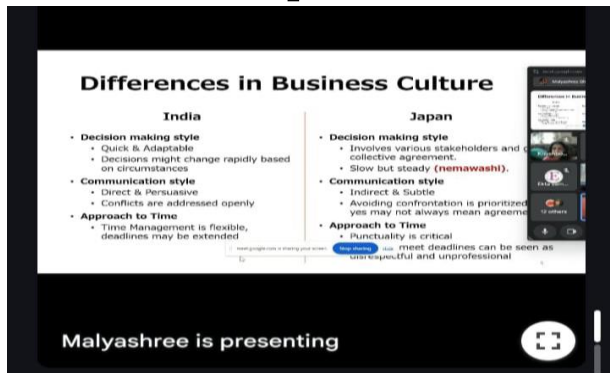
I told him that the Bengali film has been made based on the famous novel of the same name written by Rabindranath Tagore! Ryo though could not understand the movie well, so later Malyashree san narrated him the story. Now I asked him about his hobby!

Malyashree said, “He is a very good piano player! That is his hobby!” Ryo said, “I have other hobbies also! Rock climbing and baking!” Again Malyashree eulogizes her husband, “Oh! He is a very good cook!” I asked Ryo, “According to you what is the difference between India and Japan?” He clearly said, “Infrastructure!”

I asked Malyashree, “What would you like to advise the Japanese language learners to enhance their ability in Japanese?”

Malyashree said, “You have to be dedicated. You should read more and more Japanese comprehension. You have to learn Kanji with innovative ways!” And Ryo approved of that.

Business Japanese Session



On 2nd February 2024, an insightful lecture on business Japanese was held online, aimed at providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of cultural nuances essential for effective communication in the Japanese business environment. The session was conducted by Mrs. Malyashree Bhaduri Nagamura who currently works as a customer success manager at Rakuten. The lecture emphasized the importance of proper etiquette in Japanese business setting, the correct way to exchange business cards (*meishi*) and appropriate bowing techniques. She also covered all the essential phrases and vocabulary. Malyashree san provided examples of polite and honorific expressions as well as common greetings used in meetings. She also explained the cultural context behind the language including the significance of hierarchy and the indirect communication style often employed in Japanese business interactions. To enhance practical understanding, the session included case studies and role playing activities which made it more engaging. The last part of the lecture discussed about the importance of Business Japanese Proficiency Test. The participants gained knowledge and understood the importance of cultural sensitivity and effective communication in the Japanese business world.

~ Shruti Mukherjee

Cosplay and Karaoke @ Sister Nivedita University Pavillion



Sister Nivedita University's School of International Languages organized a Cosplay and Karaoke event at the SNU Pavilion of the 48th Kolkata International Book fair on 5th February 2025. Students of the university dressed up as their favourite characters from books, Netflix shows, manga and anime. Cosplay characters like Gojou Satoru, Nanami Kento, Maki Zenin from Jujutsu Kaisen, Denji, Power and Kobeni from Chainsaw Man, Itachi from Naruto, Yor Forger from SpyxFamily, Nana Osaki and Nana Komatsu from Nana, Professor from Money Heist and Count Dracula were present. The costume designed by the students were phenomenal and they were able to connect with like-minded individuals. The opening song of the Karaoke event was Apt by Rose and Bruno Mars followed by "La Cucaracha" a Spanish song, Suzume, Bella Ciao and many more. The karaoke event added a musical element to the fair, providing a platform for attendees to express themselves through song and enjoy a shared experience with fellow music lovers. The highlight of the event was the ramp walk in the SNU Pavillion presented by all the Cosplayers that demonstrated the power of pop culture and its community.

~ Priyaly Chakraborty



March 3 is Hinamatsuri in Japan and from mid-February Hina dolls are occupying shelves at lifestyle stores and malls!!!!

India Japan Students' Conference will take place in Kolkata later this year. Applications will be accepted from mid-April. Please stay in touch with your Japanese language teacher.

Riddle

~ Khushboo Agarwal

よる み そら なが
夜しか見えない空を流れるものって
な—に？



Riddle Solution

(Jan - Feb 2025)

わいろ



1 March 2025 (Sat)
5.00 PM

40th In-Nichi Bunkasai

@Rabindra Okakura Bhavan

20 April 2025 (Sun)
5.00 PM

Dolls of Japan

~ by Priyaly Chakraborty

(online link will be sent by email)

Find the Person

~ Tisyagupta Pyne

Fill in the Blanks to Find Out the Famous
Japanese Personality

1. よるのそらが__ __くなくてもほしのひかりが導いています。
2. ラーメンと__きそばではどっちが好き? __かなかきめられないな。どっちも好きだよ。
3. しけんのとき、じかんをむだにしないで。わからなかったらつ__にすすんで。
4. __んきがわるくなってきた。__きもみえなくなってきた。
5. __おりをいれてつめたくしてね。

Ans: _____ さん。

Actress, talk show host, and author, known internationally for "Tottochan."

Find the Person Solution

(Jan - Feb 2025)

あべしんぞう
阿部信三 さん



Scan the QR codes to watch
the videos !

Nigam Sensei's Odyssey



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Mizuki @ Durga Puja



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