

40th In-Nichi Bunkasai



The long-awaited In-Nichi Bunkasai, organized and hosted by NKKS came back in full swing for its 40th edition at the Rabindra Okakura Bhawan, Salt Lake on March 1, 2025. The emcees kicked off the program with a small history of NKKS and introduced the opening song – a soulful rendition of the timeless Rabindra Sangeet “Pran Bhoirye Trisha Horiye”. This beautiful performance was followed by an address by the President of NKKS, Mrs. Babli Chowdhury and an address by the Chief Guest, the Deputy Consul General of the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata, Mr. Katsunori Ashida. Succeeding that was the group performance, Rhythms of Life with folk songs such as “Gram Chara Oi Ranga Maatir Path” and “Tomay Hrid Majhare Rakhbo”. Next, the song “Nijiirō” stirred up deep emotions with a delightful acoustic execution. The songs continued subsequently with two other group songs – “Wasureji No Kotonoha”, and “Old Melodies”, a medley of old tunes from the past consisting of songs like “Dekhi Hai Saari Duniya”, “Mera Joota Hai Japani” and “Chalte Chalte” along with Japanese translations. Giving the audience a break from songs, members of NKKS took the stage for a rendition of the traditional Japanese Kyogen, “Oishii Doku”, written by Alope Basu reintroduced the comedic duo Taro and Jiro, characters from the Kyogen performance in Kolkata by the Shigeyama Sengoro family in 2024. The crowd erupted with laughter as the comedy reached its peak through the cast. The fun continued with students from the Momoyama Gakuin University playing the game “Candy Man” with the help of an audience member. With aching cheeks from the two hilarious productions, the audience then had a taste of flowing elegance with a brilliant Indian dance performance where classical dance met modern choreography with the songs “Ghar More Pardesiya”, “Masakkali”, and “Mere Dholna Sunn”/ “Ami Je Tomar” from the Bhool Bhulaiyaa movies. Next, members of the Japan Club had the spectators clapping and singing along to “Oni No Pansu”, a Japanese children’s song before the Deputy Consul General returned to the stage, this time with the songs “Kawa No Nagare No You Ni” and “Sen No Kaze Ni Natte” with their Hindi translations. Nearing the end, students of Japanese language performed Bon Odori to the “Hanagasa Ondo”, donning vibrant happi coats and carrying floral umbrellas, who were joined by some enthusiastic members from the massive audience. The event finally closed with the NKKS sing and then the vote of thanks delivered by Mrs. Sumana Dey, the Vice President of NKKS, leaving the spectators and performers with a sweet aftertaste of an immensely memorable evening.

~ Dwijabanti Polley



MEET Ishani Chakraborty

I met Ishani san probably after seven or eight years. Did we last meet in a NKK picnic?

Recently we met in South India when I was on a private tour. After some discussions I asked her a question.

And that was like, "Ishani san, now I have come to you on behalf of our newsletter SAKURA! Can you guess why?"

She smiled and we started an informal talk for SAKURA interview!

"So Ishani san tell me something about you." She answered, "In one phrase if I introduce myself, then it would be 'an eternal learner'.

As a kid I read a Bengali poem that says 'I learnt benevolence from the sky and the wind taught me to keep working tirelessly'. This struck a chord! and kept ringing in my mind. Yes, there is so much to learn!"

My next question was about her occupation. At present she is working with WeSchool Bengaluru, a B-School as a faculty member. Probably after that picnic she left Kolkata. But why she had started to learn Japanese? Ishani in a reminiscent mood brooded over her past, "Initially, the prospect of becoming a translator motivated me to enroll for the course. Gradually, as the course progressed, the Japanese culture and people, regular interactions with the members of Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society, kept me interested in it."

Her hobby is to read, to write, and to travel. After some chatting I asked her if she could remember any memorable incident in connection with Japanese learning or Japanese people. She tried to remember and said, "During the course we had a few student exchange programs. Although I did not get any opportunity to visit Japan, I happily interacted with the Japanese students who came to visit India and stayed here for some time as a part of the program. Once I accompanied one such group to South City mall, Kolkata. It was around 6pm in the evening and they wanted to treat us with "O SAKE" and got pretty surprised to find out that it is not served in the food court. Then we discussed about the cultural difference and how liquor consumption is being disdained in Bengali society."

SUGOI DESUNE! Yes, those were really memorable moments!

She shared her various experiences about job and other things. Then it was time to wind up our informal chat for SAKURA! So at the end I asked her what is her suggestion or opinion about how to build a career in Japanese language and she summed up as follows.

How to build a career in Japanese language:

- ☐ Start young – the sooner you start, the better you would be
- ☐ Practice – makes it all 'perfect'
- ☐ Excel in JLPT
- ☐ Be a part of a dedicated learners' group
- ☐ Try picking up small assignments where you can apply your Japanese language proficiency while learning.

~ Alope Basu

GOROAWASE # 7

~ Tuneer Chakrabarti

Pronounce a word using the number

3661

[Click for more help](#)

Hint: Rashomon, anyone?

GOROAWASE

Solution # 6

1 0 5 9
= ten go ku
= Heaven

Nihon no Ningyou



On April 20th, a very interesting talk was organized by NKKS. It was an online presentation on 'Nihon no Ningyo' by Priyaly Chakrabarti Sensei, Japanese Language faculty at Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture and Sister Nivedita University. It was a mesmerizing session with attractive slides and videos of dolls and how they have evolved over the different historical periods of Japan. She took us through a fascinating journey starting from the terracotta dolls of the Jomon and Muromachi period to the modern intricate dolls made of paper, wood, clay, plastic, etc. She explained the deep significance and importance of these delicate dolls in Japanese life. There are dolls designed for every occasion, and even for funerals there are special dolls! As well as spiritual dolls! Among the marvellous videos she shared there was a video showing a performance of Bunraku puppets, another showing the vibrant decoration of dolls for Hina Matsuri, yet another showed the modern mechanical dolls which are unique. We could feel her love for Japanese dolls through her beautiful and deeply researched presentation. Indeed, dolls are truly embedded in the Japanese culture, religion and history. Thank you Priyaly Sensei!

~ Poonam Nand Dey

A Merry Get-Together with Momoyama Gakuin University



On February 26, 2025, a small event was hosted at Sarat Samity for students of Japanese language from Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Language and Culture (RMIC) and students of Momoyama Gakuin University, Osaka, Japan. The students from RMIC were accompanied by Nigam Sensei and Sumana Sensei while the four students from Japan were accompanied by their teacher. After the latter introduced themselves, a fun quiz was played where the two groups of students asked each other questions about their own countries. Next, groups were made consisting of Japanese and Indian students and we spoke on various topics like how life is in Japan, their favourite things and different festivals back home and in India, their pets, hobbies etc. In the end, everyone joyfully clicked photos together and exchanged contacts. It was a wonderful event filled with the exchange of cultural knowledge that broadened the view of Japan and its people.

~ Dwijabanti Polley



■ Travel Tip ■

There are a few high rises in Tokyo where you can go up for free and get a panoramic view of the city. If lucky, English speaking aged volunteers will also provide necessary explanation. Find those out and keep your list ready for this immersive experience!

Riddle

~ Khushboo Agarwal

め み わたし
目には見えないけど、いつも私たちの
なん
まわりにあるものは何でしょうか？



Riddle Solution

(Mar - Apr 2025)

流れ星（ながれぼし）



18 May 2025 (Sun)
5.00 PM

Honne and Tatemaie

~ by Supratik Sil Ray
(online link will be sent by email)

21 June 2025 (Sat)
5.00 PM

Annual General Meeting
(followed by a book bazaar)

@Ashtosh Mukerjee Memorial Institute
Open to All NKKS Members

If you wish to
donate any
book for low
cost
repurchase by
others,
contact
Nigam sensei!

Find the Person

~ Tisyagupta Pyne

Fill in the Blanks to Find Out the Famous
Japanese Personality

1. わたしのきょうだいにはおとうとがいますが、__もうとはいないです。
2. きょうははれてよかった。__もりだときもちがなんかわるいよ。
3. せんげつアメリカ、こんげつイギリス、らいげつインド！まじで、__びちゅうだね。
4. ながのの__んごがゆうめい！たべてみたいなあ～。
5. このかばんはいく__ですか。

Ans: _____ さん。

A well-known Japanese singer-songwriter,
member of the duo YOASOBI.

Find the Person Solution

(Jan – Feb 2025)

くろやなぎ てつこ
黒柳 徹子さん



Scan the QR codes to watch
the videos !

40th In-Nichi Bunkasai



[Click here](#)

Wonders of Japan



[Click here](#)

BOOK POST

If undelivered please return to:
NIHONGO KAIWA KYOOKAI SOCIETY
2B, SHIVANGAN 53/1/2, HAZRA ROAD
KOLKATA – 700 019