

July - August 2025

No. 162

## 40th Annual General Meeting



The 40th NKKS Annual General Meeting which was held on 21st June 2025 turned out to be a great success. First of all, the formal proceedings were initiated by the President, Mrs. Babli Chowdhury. Then the Secretary, Mr. Anupam Das mentioned the detailed reports regarding recent events that occurred in financial year 2024-25. On behalf of the treasurer, Mr. Anupam Das provided a comprehensive overview of the organization's financial status. The members of new executive committee for the financial year 2025-26 are as follows:

Mrs. Babli Chowdhury, President  
Mrs. Sumana Dey, Vice-President  
Mr. Anupam Das, Secretary  
Ms. Shreya Bose, Assistant Secretary  
Mrs. Papiya Dasgupta, Treasurer  
Mr. Smritiman Barua, Member  
Ms. Khushboo Agarwal, Member  
Ms. Ela Bhattacharya, Member  
Ms. Sumana Bhattacharya, Member

New executive committee members were warmly welcomed by all. After the session, the best part of the day was the highly anticipated Book Bazaar, which saw an overwhelming response from members. The event once again defined the society's commitment in dedicating the admiration towards Japanese culture and literature.

~ Gourav Chakraborty

あかご て  
赤子の手をひねる | to accomplish something with ease.

## MEET Dr. Sabujkoli Sen

DR. SABUJKOLI SEN, Principal of School of Languages, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark since 2021, always exudes a smiling and friendly appearance! A professor of Philosophy, her specializations are Biomedical Ethics, Nyaya (Indian logic) and comparative religion, Phenomenology of Religion, Sociology of Religion, Continental Philosophy, Existentialism, etc. In 1971 post joining Visva-Bharati she did BA, MA and PhD. Excerpts from our warm and pleasant conversation:



Q : You have a checkered career. Associated with the Visva-Bharati in various roles, including Director of studies, Educational Innovations and Rural Reconstruction etc.

A : I was Vice-chancellor of Visva Bharati from 3rd February 2018. Before that I was also Head of the Department of Philosophy.

Q : You were also Chief Advisor of the Bolpur Municipality.

A : Being raised in Bolpur I was always eager to serve the local people specially the tribal community in the university's neighborhood.

Q : You are still involved in the welfare of the tribal students.

A : We have always tried to educate tribal students in an effective way so that they can stand on their own feet and abilities. We still work on that purpose. So many tribal students are now established in various fields making us proud!

Q : You have earned so many awards and academic distinctions...

A : I was Visitor of UGC sponsored Indo-French Cultural Programme, Member of Editorial board of Journal of Humanities at Vidya Sagar University, Academic Secretary of Academy of Comparative Religion, Santiniketan Chapter. I went to many countries as a member of various Educational and Administrative tour, namely Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mauritius and more.

Q : Tell us about your Japan tour.

A : Japan, country of discipline, honesty, cleanliness and dedication was so mesmerizing! I In 2013 I visited Okinawa for an Educational Administration Workshop for 1 month with representatives of 18 countries. Japan seemed an enigmatic picturesque country of beyond description! The experience of island school teaching was so effective! There was a rule that every teacher has to teach in a village school for two years! I learnt so many things from the Japanese! The experience of Okinawa was superb! I lectured in Okinawa International Centre also.

Q : Your hobby...

A : Reading, gardening, listening to music with special interest in travelogues and memoirs!

Q : You are the author of so many books.

A : Yes, some of them are RABINDRAPOTNI MRINALINI, SHRI RAMKRISHNA O ANYANYA PROSONGO etc. I have also edited some books and collections and journals.

Q : What advice do you have for students?

A : My idols are Rabindranath, Ramakrishna, and Swami Vivekananda. So I advise them to follow the teachings of these great personalities. My motto is work is worship!

~ Alope Basu





*Here's another take on the unique breads of Japan, in the form of an in season fruit!!!*

## Online session on Honne and Tatemaie



We have all learnt about so many different cultural aspects in Japan but this time one of our NKKS members, Mr. Supratik Sil Roy, conducted a session on the two types of faces of Japanese people: 本音 (Honne) and 建前 (Tatemaie). He touched upon his experiences while working and residing in Japan and also spoke about the professionalism that Japanese people exhibit in their workplace specially in front of their superiors and how they manage to put on an outward façade (the Tatemaie) while hiding their actual opinions or thoughts regarding something (the Honne). Having moved to Japan 6 months back, Supratik san shared his insights with examples of actual incidents of Honne and Tatemaie that he encountered while working with his colleagues or dinning out with them. The session was captivating with the audience being interactive and sharing their own takeaways from it. While narrating his experiences Supratik san also presented example sentences of Honne and Tatemaie which was a good brush up for those studying Japanese honorifics. At the end of the presentation, the floor was opened for questions and answers. Most of the audience requested for a part 2 in the future.

~ Shreya Bose

## NKKS Book Bazaar



On 21st June 2025, after the AGM of NKKS, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Book Bazar organized by the society. It was truly a paradise for anyone passionate about Japanese books. What made it even more delightful was that all the books were old, well-preserved, and sold at incredibly affordable prices. There were mangas, magazines, story books, novels, Japanese language study material, and many other kinds of Japanese language books. It was heartening to see people from all age groups—students, professionals, and even elderly book lovers—browsing through the collections, all connected by their love for reading and the Japanese language. After much thought and excitement, I decided to purchase six books. My haul included a volume of the popular manga "One Piece", some interesting Japanese magazines, and a captivating story book that I am eager to start reading. The warm atmosphere, the shared passion for reading, and the joy of finding hidden gems among the books made it a fun and fulfilling day. I look forward to participating in more such events in the future!

~ Aditya Prasad

**GOROAWASE # 7**

~ Tuneer Chakrabarti

*Pronounce a word using the number*

**315**

[Click for more help](#)

*Hint: Quite literally, the best!*

**GOROAWASE**

**Solution # 6**

3 6 6 1  
= sa mu ra i  
= Japanese warriors

## Riddle

~ Khushboo Agarwal

き かたち  
決まった形がなくて、ふわふわしてい  
じゆう とん  
て、自由に飛んでいるものってなに?



## Riddle Solution

(May - Jun 2025)

空気  
空気



20 July 2025 (Sun) 5.30 PM	7 August 2025 (Thur) 11.00 AM (tentative)
Online Kanji Session  ~ by Mr. Smritiman Barua (online link will be sent by email)	29 <sup>th</sup> IJSC Opening Ceremony  @Jadavpur University (tentative)
9 August 2025 (Sat) 4.00 PM	15 August 2025 (Fri) 5.00 PM
Calligraphy Workshop  ~ by Hiroko Nagahama sensei  @Ramakrishnanda Hall, RMIC	NKKS Foundation Day  @Ashutosh Mukherjee Hall

## Find the Person

~ Tisyagupta Pyne

Fill in the Blanks to Find Out the Famous Japanese Personality

1. へやの \_\_ 道をあけてください。
2. きのうちスーパーで \_\_ かなをかいました。
3. \_\_ のはなといえばさくらだな。
4. みてみて、がっこうのせい \_\_ をみつけた、なつかしいね。
5. せんせいのせいかくは \_\_ さいいですね。
6. ほっかいどうのふゆは \_\_ っしろなふゆです。

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_ さん。  
A well-known Japanese actor, famous for his role as Manabu Yukawa (Detective Galileo).

## Find the Person Solution

(May - Jun 2025)

いく た  
幾田りらさん



Scan the QR codes to watch the videos !

Cream Puff that is making news



[Click here](#)

Day in the life of a Japanese baker



[Click here](#)

BOOK POST

If undelivered please return to:  
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KOLKATA - 700 019