

6th Japanese Language Singing Contest



The 6th Japanese Language Singing Contest was held on 10th January 2026. Organized by NKKS in collaboration with Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture and supported by Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata, the event provided a vibrant platform for Japanese language learners to express their passion for Japanese music while demonstrating linguistic accuracy and musical sensitivity. The contest was adjudicated by an esteemed panel comprising Mr. Katsunori Ashida, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata and Shri Debanjan Ghosh, Japanese Language Teacher of Rabindra Bharati University. Dr. Sabujkoli Sen, Principal, School of Languages also graced the occasion.

Performances commenced with participants presenting a diverse selection of well-known Japanese songs spanning different genres and eras. Alongside the in-person audience, the event was live-streamed, allowing a wider virtual audience to participate and experience the performances in real time. Among the notable performances, Abhipriya Chakraborty delivered “17-sai”, while Faria Kaiser moved the audience with “First Love” and they went on to bag the 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively. Srejita Das, who emerged as the winner, captivated the judges with “Natsu no yuki”. To further enrich the program and encourage active engagement, an interactive quiz session was conducted at intervals between the musical performances. Correct responses were acknowledged with prizes. Overall, the 6th Japanese Language Singing Contest stood as a meaningful celebration of musical talent and cross-cultural understanding, reinforcing the growing enthusiasm for Japanese language and culture among learners.

~ Soham Sankar Mukherjee

あばたもえくぼ | Someone in love sees pimples as dimples

MEET Purba Sur



PURBA SUR studied Japanese language in Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark. Kazuko Nigam Sensei was her teacher. She first started working as a lecturer of political science in Teju College of Arunachal Pradesh and became a housewife after her marriage. Last year in NKKS annual picnic I met her. Then I asked her to talk about her experiences about Japanese language learning and Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society.

Q : When NIHONGO KAIWA KYOOKAI was founded, you were studying Japanese language...??

A : Yes then I was a student of Japanese language in Ramkrishna Mission. Nigam sensei was my teacher.

Q : You also knew Russian language..

A : As I did MA in International Relations, Russian language was a part of our international relations study.

Q : So why did you start learning Japanese language?

A : Japan was my one of my favourite countries. The art and culture of Japan attracted me since childhood. So I wanted to know Japan and it's people. Hence I got admitted in Japanese language course in the late 80s.

Q : Why Japan attracted you?

A : Japan's resilience and technological developments post second world war, alongside its ability to maintain the unique culture and heritage really impressed me.

Q : Your hobbies..

A : Reading, travelling, watching travel shows.

Q : Memorable experience...

A : Watching Ikebana shows, going to Japanese Consulate, meeting Japanese people there —all were great experiences! After NKKS was founded, we participated in Japanese plays, songs and enjoyed thoroughly! I can't forget how Nigam sensei prepared us for everything! Though I am far from Japanese language now, but I feel great that I used to be associated with it!

~ Aloke Basu



DID YOU KNOW?

Hinamatsuri celebrated every year on March 3, has origins in an ancient Chinese belief where people used to take a dip in the river to purify themselves (reminds you of Haridwar?). In Japan this ritual got transformed and people started flowing dolls in the river to ward off evil spirits. Eventually in the Edo period, when craftsmanship was highly encouraged, the present ritual of displaying exquisite dolls on stands at every home developed as a tradition.



NKKS Picnic

As the chilly winter weather set in, it was time again for the NKKS Annual Picnic. This time the picnic was organized at Poddar Gardens on 28 Dec 2025. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from members and their friends across all age groups, creating a lively and cheerful atmosphere. A delicious array of breakfast, snacks, and lunch was arranged throughout the day, which was enjoyed by everyone. Various recreational activities and team games were also organized, encouraging interaction and strengthening the community bonds. The cheerful participation and positive feedback from attendees reflected how much everyone valued the opportunity to relax and connect outside the usual routine. Overall, the NKKS Annual Picnic once again proved to be a delightful and memorable gathering, which strengthened the spirit of togetherness within the NKKS community.

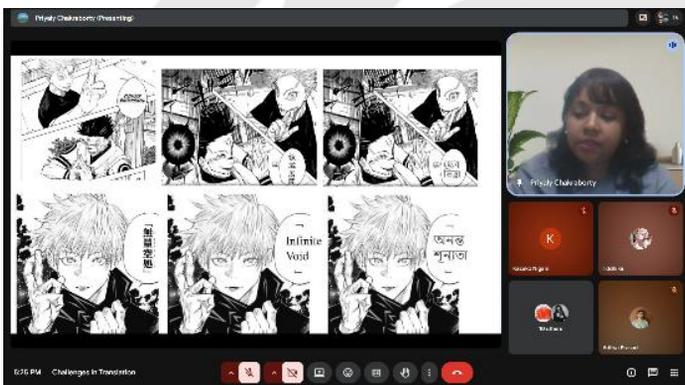
~ Tamalika Nag

Catch the early blooming Sakura LOVE before they fleet off...

CLICK



Context, Culture, and Keigo: Key Issues in Japanese Translation



On 22nd February, I attended a session conducted by Priyaly Chakraborty sensei on “Challenges in Translation”. The session had informative insights on how translators face difficulties in carrying forward the context and explained the basic sentence structure in Japanese and how it is more similar to Hindi and Bengali. She also shed light on the problems faced by translators in understanding the different pronunciations and nuances as well as in finding proper

translations for honorifics or Keigo which tend to change based on the situation. To make the session more engaging, she used examples from the famous manga and anime “Jujutsu Kaisen”. She explained how mangas are a form of modern Japanese literature, catering the youth and young adult population, where translations are beyond literal translation and are best suited according to the behavior and persona of the character. Priyaly sensei also demonstrated the difference in the translated variants of the opening song of “Doraemon” in English and Hindi. This signified that as a translator, it is important to have a culturally sensitive approach to ensure that Japanese literary works are accessible. I got to learn what goes inside the mind of a translator and it really helped me understand the importance of cultural influences and necessary changes to be made to the original text to fit best for the reader or listener.

~ Aditya Prasad

Riddle

~ Khushboo Agarwal

もり なか た はん
林の中で食べるご飯ってなあに？



Riddle Solution

(Jan – Feb 2026)

ろうそく
蠟燭



14 March 2026 (Sat)
5.00 PM

4th In Nichi Bunkasai

[@Rabindra Okakura Bhavan](#)

5 April 2026 (Sun)
5.00 PM

Japanese Colleagues

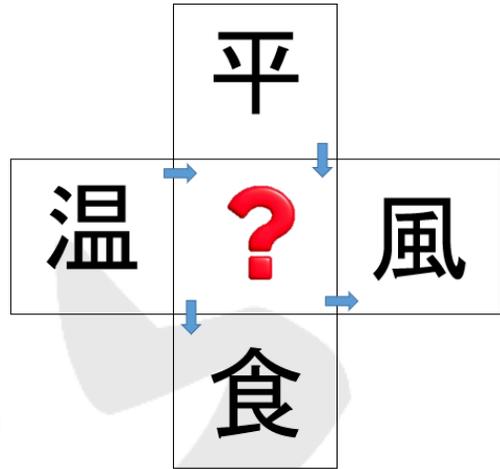
~by Mr. Supratik Sil Roy

Further details will be sent by email

穴埋め

~ Adesh Kumar Sahoo

Fill in the centre square with a single kanji character such that when combined with each of the 4 given kanji characters, it will make 4 distinct meaningful words.



Anaume Solution

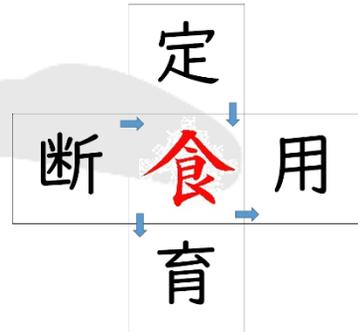
(Jan – Feb 2026)

だんじき
断食 Fast

ていしょく
定食 Set-meal

しょくよう
食用 Edible

しょくいく
食育 Nutrition



Scan the QR codes to watch the videos !

6th Japanese Language
Singing Contest



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Pokemon Park
Opens in Japan



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