

The Annual Picnic



As the January of 2023 rolled in with the chilling winter atmosphere, it was time again for one of the most awaited events of NKKS, the Annual Picnic. This time it was organized on 15 January 2023 at the Bandana Picnic Spot near Burul, a mesmerizing location on the banks of the Hooghly River. It was a beautiful Sunday morning, when all gathered to board a bus. After a long bus ride, accompanied by singing and cheering, we reached the picnic spot and was welcomed by a deliciously cooked breakfast of Peas Kachori, Alur Dom and winter favorite sweet Moa.

Following breakfast, various games, like Chinese whispers with Japanese words, musical chair, etc. were played which boosted the frolic of the picnic much more and many people, both young and elderly, enthusiastically participated in them. Prizes were also given away. Light snacks of Pakora and cold drinks were served and thereafter many played badminton. Time passed by unnoticed as people immersed themselves in enjoyment and the scenery; and soon it was time for the picnic lunch. It was a lavish lunch service of Chicken, Fish, Paneer and several other luscious dishes. By the time lunch was over, the lively day drew to an end and it was time to say goodbye to the event and head back home. An air of sadness was felt as the picnic ended but it surely filled us with a lot of cherish able memories.

~ Adesh Kumar Sahoo

Dear Readers,
This edition onwards, the Jumbled Words is being terminated. We convey our sincere gratitude to Sontusan for his invaluable contribution so far. Please enjoy trying the replacement puzzle by Tisyagupta-san on page 4 now onwards.

~ Editorial Team
(Aloke Basu,
Khushboo Agarwal,
Supratik Sil Roy)

Meet PINAKPANI MUKHERJEE



Pinakpani san participated in India Japan students' conference some years ago. Now he has been living in Japan since 2017. We had a chat with him during his recent sojourn to Kolkata.

Self Introduction: I am a final year University student at Yokohama National University, also working as a Data Engineer. I was born in Kolkata. When I was ten years old I moved to Mumbai. From there I came back to Kolkata to study Chemical Engineering in Jadavpur University. But I dropped out midway through my second year to study in Japan under the MEXT Scholarship. Now I am a MEXT scholar and hold a language diploma in Japanese from Tokyo University of Foreign studies.

Your Hobby: I am a fan of Judo, Wrestling and BJJ (Brazilian JiuJitsu) and partake in all three of them. I am also an avid photographer and gamer.

Why did you start learning Japanese language? My mother used to study Japanese when I was young. So when I had to take a foreign language to learn I decided to take up Japanese. During my time in Jadavpur University I chose to study Japanese because I wanted to have an extracurricular activity and chose to go the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture. I studied there for a few months and then went to another school.

How did you get the MEXT scholarship? After learning about MEXT, I applied for the scholarship. In a few months I got a response from the embassy telling me that I had to attend an exam. I sat for the exam and wasn't very confident about my performance. But I received a call a month and a half later, telling me that I had to go to the Consulate in Kolkata for my interview. I gave my interview and it went well. Again a month and a half later, when I was giving my exams in University I received a call during lunch from the embassy saying that I have been selected. I was so elated that I just left my exams and went back home. I talked to my parents and told them about this. On the 1st of April 2017 I boarded a plane for Tokyo.

Your experience in Japan: I am really happy that I chose Japan to study. I have had a great time living in Japan, a country where the collectives comes before individuals. It has made great strides in keeping their public places clean, neat and tidy. Living in Japan even as a student was enjoyable which I could not have imagined a few years back. The Japanese people have been always very kind to me. I owe a lot to the people around me for facilitating my good experiences and education.

Your experience in India Japan students' conference: I would recommend anybody interested in Japanese culture or would want to go to Japan in future to attend or take part in the India Japan students' conference. I learned a lot about Japan's culture, problem-solving skills and a lot about management of an international program.

Your plans about future: I would like to continue as a Software Developer in Japan and live there for foreseeable future.

~ Alope Basu



12 March 2023 (Sun)
4.00 PM

38th In-Nichi Bunkasai
Rabindra Okakura Bhavan
Salt Lake

8 April 2023 (Sat)
5.00 PM

Through the Eyes of a Korukatajin: My Life in Japan
by Deepro Banerjee
(online joining link will be emailed on 1 April 2023)

The Unearthing of a Time Capsule



More than twenty five years ago, there used to be a Japanese School (日本人学校) operating as tenant of Indo-Japan Welfare and Cultural Association. It had to be closed in March 1996 due to the reducing number of students. The teachers and students at the school that time, in order to preserve personal belongings and pictures, buried those stuff in a plastic container and said that they will come back to meet each other and dig this 'time capsule' after 25 years. Kazuko Nigam Sensei had also visited the school on several occasions and Sumangali Bhaduri san was once a staff there. Due to the pandemic the unearthing was delayed by 2 years, however, on the 14th of January 2023, after months of preparation, members of The Japan Club had set off to finally unearth the relic of the past. At exactly 3pm in the afternoon, in the premises of IJWCA, they were ready with gloves and shovels to explore memories that have long since been forgotten. Filled with nostalgia, Bhaduri san helped guide the digging hands in their search for the plastic container. Nature had taken its course, and the container was mostly destroyed; nevertheless, the treasure hunters were successful in their quest! By the end of the excavation, several photographs, paper notes, and written messages were recovered from sealed plastic bags. Members of The Japan Club, who have been living in Kolkata for only a few years now were mesmerized to see what is left of a thriving Japanese community that had made Kolkata their home decades back.

~ Rohan Bhattacharya

Japan Pavilion, 46th Kolkata International Book Fair



The dramatic kabuki and the beautiful Hina dolls lightened up the Pavilion of the land of the rising sun. I remain at a loss of words, if not perfect, to describe the Japan Pavilion in the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair, 2023, organised by the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata in collaboration with The Japan Curry. Wabi-sabi perhaps? The inauguration took place on the 31st of January where the Hon'ble Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, Mr. Nakagawa Koichi showed us how to fold cranes. Those cranes remained as a shining beacon, ornamented in the pavilion - inspiring all to give their best everyday. Happi coats were a mad rush. People waited in lines; sometimes hours to wear them; perhaps to get that sense of experiencing something new. Kendama was fun. And so was the excitement of the Japanese Handwriting and Calligraphy. Karate, Judo and Aikido mesmerized people. The books and manga attracted avid readers. The Origami Club displayed the essence of paper folding. Events like the Treasure Hunt, Anime Voice-Over, Fun Games, Japan Pop Talks and last but not the least the Bon Odori Dance, which to some extent, literally uplifted the entire Book Fair on the 11th of February. From the 31st of January till the 12th of February, 2023 Japan Pavilion ran with all its vim and zest. And before the stroke of its final hour, we joined in a warm evening of Karaoke and sang it off. Memories were made and new things were experienced. This book fair, adorned with paintings, tsuru and our beloved Doraemon was one to endear.

~ Tisyagupta Pyne

GOROAWASE # 3

~ Tuneer Chakrabarti

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Pronounce a word using the number

889

Hint: the traffic is just too much

GOROAWASE Solution # 2

8 9 3 = ya ku za = mafia

Word Grid

~ Soham Pal

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| り | と | ま | じ | わ | る | れ | さ | な | べ | ぼ | さ |
| わ | り | び | き | れ | ろ | い | べ | ど | び | お | め |
| ふ | て | ぐ | ひ | ぎ | い | う | か | む | る | ぶ | の |
| ぎ | い | く | は | も | ぼ | が | そ | に | て | ほ | が |
| ぺ | ね | び | れ | び | と | ぼ | い | く | も | ら | う |
| れ | い | い | う | せ | あ | も | び | ろ | が | ぜ | で |
| ち | と | で | ゆ | あ | さ | い | と | ら | な | ぼ | し |
| う | そ | み | み | ん | む | ご | に | ぐ | ぺ | つ | な |
| よ | び | も | ゆ | ま | は | で | か | く | こ | ふ | ぎ |
| く | え | ぐ | ぶ | り | ん | れ | む | い | そ | ず | ぐ |
| う | る | さ | べ | こ | た | く | が | か | も | て | わ |
| つ | な | う | ら | ち | い | む | ぶ | ひ | え | な | ば |

Find out at least ten **4 letter** Japanese words present in the above grid. You can go vertically, diagonally and horizontally.

Word Grid Solution

(Jan – Feb 2023)

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ら | る | こ | ん | よ | ぼ | の | ち | だ | と | つ | ぶ |
| つ | ち | と | る | ふ | あ | だ | は | け | つ | い | ぬ |
| け | あ | わ | ぎ | き | ゆ | ち | り | び | ん | せ | ん |
| あ | す | ぎ | ぶ | さ | ら | た | げ | づ | き | す | お |
| ひ | き | お | し | ふ | こ | き | び | ぶ | び | つ | ね |
| そ | と | れ | ほ | か | や | う | ら | ら | き | ち | が |
| の | ら | ま | る | し | な | も | さ | あ | ぎ | そ | い |
| ま | べ | く | え | い | い | く | う | い | な | む | つ |
| ま | せ | て | な | さ | ち | け | な | ず | も | よ | た |
| ふ | せ | い | い | ぜ | だ | ば | む | る | ろ | ゆ | ば |
| さ | も | せ | げ | け | る | こ | ん | し | ぶ | な | こ |
| た | い | え | さ | ん | や | い | い | ぎ | じ | う | や |

Find the Person

~ Tisyagupta Pyne

Fill in the Blanks to Find Out the Famous Japanese Personality

1. __どもたちはげんきでかわいいね！いいな。
2. この __ __ はせかいでいちばんたかいですね。エヴァレストというなまえですね？
3. たいようの__かりがわたしたちにとどくのはつぶんかかります。
4. __よなら、またあとでね。
5. __うつうじゅうたいがひどかったんだ。

Ans: _____ さん. She is a solar observer who collected sunspot data for decades.

Jumbled Words Solution

(Jan – Feb 2023)

1. ぐんたい
2. がっかり
3. くすり
4. ねむりぐすり
5. るすばんでんわ

Kotowaza: ぐっすりねむる
Meaning: "Fast asleep"

Scan the QR codes to watch the videos !

Make Mitarashi Dango at Home



<https://bit.ly/3EK7ktP>

Make Japanese Spinach Salad at Home



<https://rb.gy/bws7nj>

BOOK POST

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