

## The Japanese Society

### Annual Report for the last Academic Year, April 2023 - March 2024:

- The Japanese Society began its activities for the academic year by holding its **orientation** for the first-year junior members on 12th September 2023. It was attended by about 40 people. The FYs were briefed about the purpose of the society and the functioning of different verticals. Introductions were held and an ice breaker game was played.
- The Japanese Society organized a cultural showcase called **Japan In Focus** on 12th October, 2023. It was initiated by a matcha tea preparation in the mess lawns followed by a detailed session in NPLT including matcha tea preparation, yukata wearing and a calligraphy workshop. Shintaro Ichikawa from Nihon University and Chisato Tateno from Waseda University lead the event. We also had guests from AFS including Riya Badgel, National Director of AFS.
- The Society also organized a two day minifest called **Tsukimi** on 30-31st October 2023. Day one had a sporting extravaganza unfold. Participants engaged in an array of traditional games, including the tug of war, sack race, and the three-legged race. Following the sports session, a musical evening happened. A group of dedicated volunteers graced the audience with their artistic talents, bringing forth a harmonious atmosphere. The event concluded on a melodious note.

The focus on the second day shifted to the intellectual and linguistic realm. A Speech Competition where participants were allowed to express themselves in the Japanese language. The topics of discussion were subjects of personal interest, encouraging thoughtful discourse and cultural exchange. Subsequent to the speech competition, the audience was treated to a cinematic experience. The Japanese horror film "Ju-On: The Grudge" was screened, adding a thrilling and spine-tingling dimension to the evening. Both days of these meticulously organized events concluded successfully. These events undoubtedly served as a platform for cultural enrichment and engagement

- A **Haiku Workshop** was conducted as a part of a collaborative event between The Poetry Society and The Japanese Society of St. Stephen's College on 3rd November, 2023. The workshop began with an overview of the history and structure of Haiku by Nabin Panda and Unita Sachidanand, highlighting its traditional form of three lines with a syllabic pattern of 5-7-5. Participants were then provided with special Haiku writing sheets where they could express themselves, delving into various techniques for capturing fleeting moments, nature scenes, and emotions within the confines of this minimalist framework.

- **Online Interactive Session with the Students from Keio University Date:** On 18th November, 2023, The Japanese Society of St. Stephen's College Delhi through an online student-to-student interactive session had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Ui Teramoto Sensei and some students from Keio University, Tokyo. The session aimed to promote cross-cultural understanding and exchange of ideas among participants. Participants engaged in discussions on a wide range of topics, including cultural traditions, education systems, societal norms, and current events in their respective countries. Through interactive icebreakers, group discussions, and collaborative presentations, students had the chance to

learn about each other's cultures, perspectives, and experiences. Overall, the college students' interactive online session was a resounding success, serving as a testament to the power of technology in facilitating global connections and promoting cultural exchange.

- The Japanese Society of St Stephen's College conducted a collaborative **Karate Workshop** with The Karate Federation Of India on 5th December, 2023. The Workshop began with tutorials and

demonstrations by the esteemed instructors Mr. Aniket and Ms. Deepika to the participants. It was an enriching and insightful experience to the participants.

- A successful three-day fest **Wabi Sabi Soiree** was organized on 29th February, 1st and 2nd of March, 2024. On the first day, an interactive session was held by Professor Mukesh Williams on connections between Japan and India. The session was an insightful look into the daily life of Japan, along with the academic system and processes. It was interactive and informative with various topics being brought up for discussion. The talk was followed by a visit to the art space where the students were able to peruse through the works of Dr. Ui Teramoto who had put up traditional Japanese paintings. Shortly after, Prof. Mukesh Williams delivered a talk on the critically acclaimed Hariprabha Takeda's Diary.

Second day, followed by a Panel Discussion on "Opportunities for Student Exchange between Japan & India". It was an insightful and enriching forum for dialogue and collaboration. The panelists included illustrious personalities like Prof. Mukesh Williams, Dr. Ui Teramoto, Prof. Nabin Panda and Dr. Sweety Gupta.

The Society wrapped up the final day with their annual society lunch, "**Shokuji**," held at the college mess hall. Over 100 junior members attended, enjoying a menu curated by Teramoto sensei and Professor Mukesh Williams, featuring authentic Japanese dishes such as Soba noodles, Shrimp Tempura, Veggie Tempura, Cabbage Pickle, Cheesecake, and Iced tea which catered to both Vegetarians and meat lovers. The event concluded with a scrumptious meal shared by the Principal, Teramoto sensei, Professor Mukesh Williams, Naveen sir and the Staff Advisor to the Japanese Society, Sanil sir, prepared by the students.

- The Society also held its annual fest **Matsuri** from 15th-16th April, 2024. A Panel Discussion on the "Impact of Japanese Media in India" on the first day provided valuable insights into the growing influence of Japanese media on Indian audiences. Throughout the event, panelists examined the various facets of Japanese media, including anime, manga, films, music, and digital content, and their reception and influence in India. They highlighted the increasing popularity of Japanese pop culture among Indian youth and the role of digital platforms in facilitating cross-cultural exchange. Panelists also explored the challenges and opportunities associated with promoting Japanese content in the Indian market, including localization and adaptation strategies.

The second day unfolded with vibrant energy and cultural immersion of various stalls, musical jam and competitions. The event saw over 500+ registration and an attendance of about 200+ people. The day commenced with an array of stalls. Photo Booth, manga exhibition and face painting stations along with food stalls and wrestling showcases were set up. Additionally, a yukata stall provided attendees with the opportunity to experience wearing traditional Japanese attire which were carefully borrowed from and returned to Japanese Embassy. Musical Evening captured the live performances, featuring both

traditional Japanese melodies and contemporary hits. The highlights of the day were the competition segment, featuring dubbing and cosplay contests. 20+ Participants showcased their talent and creativity, where prizes were awarded to winners.

The Japanese society in the academic year 2023-24 humbly achieved a few markers outlined in the society's objectives of achieving a prosperous cultural and academic exchange within the college space via various Talks, Panel Discussions, Workshops and Cultural Fests and Lunch.

Signed

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Japanese Society



