



CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN
55, M. N. SEN LANE, TOLLYGUNGE,
KOLKATA - 700 040

Message

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on the success of the 34th Durga Puja. I would like to express my deepest respect to the Tokyo Bengali Association for their untiring efforts. The success of this year's Durga Puja is one of the symbols of the India-Japan friendship and will be another milestone in the long history of BATJ.

It has been a year and four months since I arrived here in Kolkata last May as Consul General of Japan. During this time, I have visited many places in Kolkata and in West Bengal. What impressed me deeply in those places was that the history of people-to-people exchanges between Japan and Bengal still remains strong in the hearts of the people. The deep connection between the Japanese and the great poet Tagore, as well as Chandra Bose (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) and Behari Bose (Rash Behari Bose), who worked devotedly with Japan for India's independence, is a strong emotional bond that supports the current friendship between the two countries.

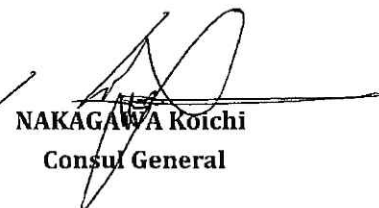
Furthermore, I still cannot forget the excitement I felt when I was touched by the depth of knowledge and passion for Japan, including Japanese language education, among the young students of the next generation.

This year, Japan takes the G7 Presidency while India takes the G20's. I feel that the strong commitment shown by the two leaders during their frequent visits to and from Japan and India, especially with regard to strengthening people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, including student exchanges, was truly symbolic of the history of Japan and Bengal and a reminder of the passion of the young people of both Japan and India for the future.

As for myself, I hope to contribute to the development of human resources here in Kolkata which will serve as bridges between Japan and India in the future, and I hope that one day I will be able to connect the two sides with BATJ's dedicated activities towards Japan-Bengal friendly relations.

I sincerely wish for the further development of your organisation.

Sincerely,


NAKAGAWA Roichi
Consul General

Date: September 14, 2023