

#STATIONERY AWARDS 2025

The Only Election That Matters

This year's winners celebrate a delightful mix of function, sustainability, and surprising joy in everyday tools.



Forget politics, this is the only election stationery lovers care about. In Japan, where pens are precision tools and folders can win design prizes, the 2025 Japanese Stationery Awards have spo-

ken. This year's winners celebrate a delightful mix of function, sustainability, and surprising joy in everyday tools. Here's a look at the products that took home the prizes in each category, the unsung heroes of study desks, office drawers, and artist kits.

Sustainability Category Winner

MONO Natural Eraser - Tombow

Tombow reimagines an iconic staple with an eco-friendly twist. The MONO Natural Eraser retains the brand's legendary erasing performance but uses natural rubber and a more sustainable paper sleeve. It's simple, elegant, and guilt-free, proof that even erasers can do their part for the planet.

Marking & Categorizing Category

Kept Kiera - Raymay Fujii

For students and planners who love colour-coded chaos, the Kept Kiera delivers. These translucent indexing tabs combine form and function, making your textbooks and notebooks not only more organized, but aesthetically too. Think minimal, pastel, and deeply satisfying to use.

Organization Category

Komagoma File - SAKURA

Designed for those drowning in bits and pieces, the Komagoma File from SAKURA provides a home for all the little things. Stickers, memos, receipts, everything finds its place in this modular file system that feels like a stationery bento box.

Cut, Paste, Bind Category

Akelkey 2WAY Box Opener - Sun-Star

Utility meets safety in this clever cutter. The Akelkey 2WAY Box Opener offers dual functionality and a lockable blade for peace of mind. Whether you're opening a package or trimming washi tape, it's a sharp upgrade to your everyday tools.

Record Category

Laseno Soft Ring Binder Notebook - KING JIM

KING JIM's Laseno notebook brings flexibility to the classic binder. Featuring a soft, easy-to-hold ring binding, this notebook combines the freedom of loose-leaf with the structure of a traditional journal, ideal for planners, students, and bullet journaling pros.

Writing Category

DECOT 3 Markers - Sun-Star

Why choose one style when you can have three? The DECOT markers let users switch between dot, line, and brush tip, making them perfect for note-taking, highlighting, or creative journaling. Add a splash of flair to your everyday writing without switching tools.

Grand Award Winner

Otona no Yuruki Pen - Kokuyo

Translating to "The Adult Motivation Pen," this beautifully designed ballpoint pen from Kokuyo is more than a writing tool, it's a daily motivator. With its refined, mature aesthetic and smooth ink flow, it's meant to inspire focus, purpose, and yes, a bit of grown-up ambition.

Final Thoughts

The Japanese Stationery Awards don't just spotlight 'cool' items, they honour tools that shape how we think, plan, and create. Whether you're trying to declutter your workspace or find joy in daily note-taking, these category winners show that good design really can change the way we work.

After all, who said elections had to be boring?



World Rainforest Day

he rainforests are keeping our planet alive. They're home to half the world's animal species, they provide us with freshwater, and are essential for keeping our climate stable. Yet every second, one and a half hectares is lost, while each year, 78 million hectares of precious rainforest are destroyed. As more and more rainforest is removed, the surrounding wildlife habitats and homes of indigenous peoples are also more significantly disrupted. That's why World Rainforest Day has been created to take decisive action to combat deforestation, reduce the effects of climate change, and protect our rainforests for future generations.

#RISING

Taj Mahal in Madhya Pradesh

As a child, he distributed milk, and the buffalo design serves as a daily reminder to stay grounded.



A n era where opulence often grabs headlines, one man in Madhya Pradesh is redefining what true grandeur means, not through extravagance, but through genuine emotion and purpose. A viral video showcasing a breathtaking house modeled after the Taj Mahal has captivated viewers across the internet. Yet, it's the heartfelt story behind the marble floor reflects Chouksey's humble beginnings. As a child, he distributed milk, and the buffalo design serves as a daily reminder to stay grounded and never forget one's roots, no matter how high one climbs. It's a beautiful metaphor woven into the fabric of this grand home, an enduring testament to humility amid grandeur. The video, shared by content creator Priyam Saraswat, quickly garnered viral attention, not only for the home's striking beauty but for the inspiring values it represents. Social media users showered praise on both the craftsmanship and the ethos behind it. Comments like 'Uncle has a more

beautiful heart than his Mahal' and 'His humility shines brighter than the house itself' flooded the post. Even TV actress Kavita Kaushik chimed in, calling it 'So nice, nice people,' highlighting the admiration for Chouksey's character as much as his creation.

The overwhelming response reflects how this home transcends its physical structure, it has become a symbol of love, humility, and staying true to one's origins. In a world increasingly obsessed with material wealth, this residence offers a refreshing perspective: that true greatness is measured not by what you build, but by the values you uphold.

As Saraswat eloquently summarized in the viral post: "This stunning home near Indore in MP was built as a symbol of propagating love among all. The best part is that it's located inside a school founded by Anand Prakash Chouksey." This combination of education and love encapsulates the spirit of the home, making it a beacon of hope and inspiration for generations to come.



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CP Revisited

#THOSE DAYS



Dr. Goutam Sen
CTVS Surgeon
Traveller
Storyteller

In the last week, I had the pleasure of reading for four continuous days the story of Connaught Place (CP) as seen by a person who lived and worked for the last seven decades there. Lalit Nirula not only lived and breathed there but he also breathed life into the place. He and his family contributed immensely to the creation of a place full of vim and vigour. They were the early ones to create a hotel and restaurants in CP. This later brought about the development of the area into an elite shopping arcade.

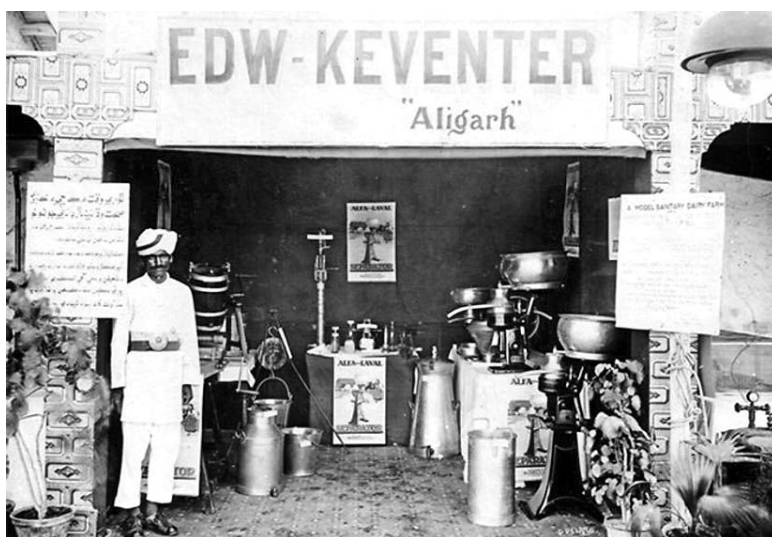
The recent articles on CP reminded me of my early childhood visits. For us who lived far away in Jaipur, CP was one of the first places to approach in New Delhi. CP, with its long continuous tall colonnaded verandah with elegant shops opening into it, has been the most enjoyable place to go to. Even today, with its new name, Rajiv Chowk, is a central

point to visit. Although we lived in Jaipur, visits to Delhi for a holiday or meeting friends and family was a constant feature. There would be at least two visits made besides transiting through while going to Nainital or Shimla in the summer holidays. The large Chevrolet Station Wagon was preferred as we could pack in a lot of people and even the dog into it. The only road to Delhi in the 1950s was long one through Alwar. The single track road turned sharply at Shahpura to take us through Sariska. It was densely forested. The tigers and wild animals were there in good numbers. Seeing the



Passing through Alwar was not such a big deal. It was not a large town and the road bisecting it was rarely crowded in the early hours. The Mewat region was the beginning of the green belt and was quite under populated at that time.

Nilgai and variety of Chital and Sambhar at the roadside was exciting. Although tigers were there, we never saw them in the daytime. Since the journey took more than six hours, our departure from Jaipur was before sunrise at about 4:00 am. The car would be packed and ready the evening before. We, youngsters, would be awakened and given



sandwiches with milk. And then, journey would begin.

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waylay them on this lonely stretch. We kept on waving and encouraging them to come closer. The truck driver made up his mind to not to stop. He accelerated the vehicle to full speed and rushed by us at high speed. In passing, he must have seen the car and the ladies sitting inside. They stopped about fifty yards beyond us and one person came back to check. That is how we were able to get some drinking water from the earthen pot they were carrying. Anyhow I digress. We were fortunate that my father and uncle were senior employees of the Jaipur State, and therefore, we could stay at Jaipur House (now National Museum waiting to be demolished to build the new Central Government Offices). It was not too far from CP. After a quick unpacking, we would make our way for shopping and snacking. The common practice was not to eat at one place but pick up food as we sauntered through the verandahs. Wengers was our first stop. Each of us chose whatever we fancied from the large variety of bakery products that the place was famous for: Sweet buns, pastries with actual whipped cream layers, chicken/mutton patties and absolutely delectable large-sized Shami Kebabs were handed over to us in individual bags to be savoured with flavoured Keventers milk in glass bottles from the adjoining shop.

With the tummy full, we were let loose to go whichever way we wanted. A meeting point and the time was decided. The threat was that if we were not there on time, we would have to walk back the four kilometers to Jaipur House. A small amount of spending money was given to each of us to whatever



er shopping we wished. The choices were many and money had to be sparingly spent.

It was not just us alone who had a bucket list. My mother and aunts had two major destinations. Manohars was the first stop. It was one of the largest crockery shops I had ever seen. Besides the



One important shop to visit was Mahatta & Co. It was a posh and advanced photography shop. When the first coloured film rolls arrived in the market, there were very few places for them to be developed.

usual crockery and cutlery, it had a section for gadgets. Even window shopping would take more than an hour. New electric ovens and the early model grinders were the fascination. Chunky ceramic coffee mugs too were a new entry and appealed more than cups and saucers. From there, it was not too far away to Khadi Gram Udyog shop in the Regal Cinema building. Silk sarees from all over the country created wide choice to choose from. Later, the bigger Cottage Emporium on Janpath and all the regional shops from each state on Baba Kharagh Singh Marg would continue to allure. Small items like good quality 'Sindoor' and red 'Alta' (liquid colouring for the feet during the Durga Puja and auspicious occasions) were the hard to get items in Jaipur. They are always well stocked in the West Bengal Emporium.

The men folk too had their specific shops to go to. Elder uncle made a baseline to Empire store for 50 cigarettes cans imported from England. New apparel was also displayed in a section. I remember

the cocks had to be bought for the rest of the family. One important shopping was the cartridges for the 12 bore shotguns. Supply of Manton and Riley in full range was easily available. There was no queue or license in those days.

When CP expanded in the outer circle, the main areas were Shankar Market and Super Bazaar that drew our attention.



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By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

BABY BLUES



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

