



SAKURA

No. 103

May - June 2017



ねこ くび すず つ 猫の首に鈴を付ける To put a bell around a cat's neck



IN NICHU BUNKASAI 2017

It was a colourful and gorgeous evening at Triguna Sen Auditorium, Jadavpur University on 11th of March. It was because the Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society presented before the guests, The In-Nichi Bunkasai, the 32nd annual cultural function with all pomp and dignity. The Consul General of Japan Hon'ble Mr. Masayuki Taga graced the occasion and Consul Mr. Yasuhiko Tanaka, Vice Consul Ms. Manami Kato were also present. The chief guest was Mrs. Gouri Bakshi, The General Secretary of IJWCA. Besides, the dignitaries like the former ambassador for India Mr. Hiroshi Hirabayashi also present on that occasion. Dance, songs, Japanese children's performances, all were excellent. The hall burst into laughter and applause when the Senseis performed the hilarious drama, Mind Your Japanese Language. The Japanese drama Wakaku naru Kusuri was full of fun and excitement. Audience enjoyed the drama, presented by the members of the Japanese Consulate and both the children and adults were much excited to see their favourite Doraemon and Nobita's India tour on the stage. The "Bon Odori" was spiced by the participation of the Consul General, Mr. Masayuki Taga and Mr. Mr. Yasuhiko Tanaka, both of whom danced on stage. In a nutshell it was a lovely programme which we always look forward to attend every year.

Sumana Dey

Congratulations!

Soham Pal, former IJSC member, now a Master's Student at the Institute of Science, 1st in B.Tech (Computer Science & Engineering) West Bengal University of Technology, will be awarded a Gold Medal at the convocation on 3rd May at EZCC. We are proud of you Soham san!

AN INTERVIEW WITH BIPUL KRISHNA DAS

“Japaner Aparup Rupkatha” (Wonderful Fairy Tales of Japan) was published by Dhrubatarata Prakashani in November 2008. Bipul Krishna Das translated this book from Japanese language. From childhood he started to write and even now he writes poems, short stories, reports etc. In the far northern suburbs of Kolkata he has established an academy of Japanese language named “Sakura Academy”. Many students from this institute have established themselves in Japan and elsewhere. He is also a tourist guide, translator and interpreter of Japanese language. He has a strong passion for reading, and reads many books on modern poems also. Besides fairytales he has translated Japanese Haiku and short stories of the famous Japanese writer Akutagawa Ryunosuke. We had an informal chat in his suburb residence.



Exerpts from the interview

Q Your interest in Japan

A Actually Rabindranath Tagore’s writing about Japan enchanted me. I went to Japan and stayed there for many years. For two years I learnt Japanese in Shizuoka town of Japan in Kokusai Kotoba Gakuin. After completing that course I was engaged in a business concern.

Q You taught Bengali

A Yes during that time I also started to teach Bengali to Japanese students in a language institute called Waseda Hosien. There I made Japanese students translate Japanese fairytales into Bengali language. From then I had nurtured an ambition to translate Japanese fairytales into Bengali and publish them.

Q You edited a Bengali monthly magazine in Japan named Boktyobyoyo (One's Say)

A I was the editor of that magazine. Nur Hossain Darpan was the main organiser. Through this magazine we tried to make known our Bengali language and culture to Japanese people and Bengalis living in Japan. Organizing many cultural programmes especially Baishaki Mela (cultural fest in Bengali New year), we interacted with them in poetry, song, dance, drama, discussion etc. We started this and now Indians/Bengalis residing in Japan organise it on a very large scale.

Q Bengali Poetry Festival in Japan?

A We organised first Bengali poetry festival in Japan from our organisation ADDA TOKYO. (adda means an assembly of idle talkers to indulge informal and friendly talk). The famous Bengali poet Nirmalendu Gun graced the occasion as chief guest. His daughter Mritrika Gun also accompanied him. They stayed in my rented house in Japan. I edited the first compilation of Bengali poetry festival.

Many distinguished persons and intellectuals of Japan attended the festival. Besides me Prabir kumar Sarkar, Motaleb Shah Ayub and Sajal Barua also organised the fest. Nirmalendu Gun has written about this in his travelogue

Q Sakura Academy was established on 5th March, 2005.

A Our Japanese language institute was inaugurated by Mrs Hakamada Yasuko, principal of Kokusai Kotoba Gakuin. Nirmalendu Gun was also present.

Q In Salt Lake, Kolkata, "Rabindra Okakura Bhavan" was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe.

A Yes it is the In Nichi Bunka Senta (India Japan Cultural Centre). Professor Kazuo Azuma was the actual inspiration behind this. On account of his endeavour, a certificate course in elementary Japanese started here with the collaboration of our Sakura Academy and we were attached with it initially for one year.

Q On 22nd March 2011 an international seminar was organized by Sakura Academy and School of Languages, Jadavpur University

A Yes the topic of the seminar was "Tagore and Japan - A Retrospection". Professor Abhijit Mukherjee, Prabir Bikash Sarkar, Professor Kioko Niwa (Tokyo Studies University) Professor Nabin Kumar Panda (Delhi University) delivered lectures on Tagore and his relation with Japan and its culture. Our Sensei, Kazuko Nigam, also attended this seminar. Tagore had started a course for Japanese language and Judo in Shantiniketan. In 1902 the historical meeting between Tagore and Tenshin Okakura paved the way for the cultural relation between India and Japan.

Q Any suggestions for better teaching of Japanese language?

A I think that if Japan Foundation and Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata arrange a meeting

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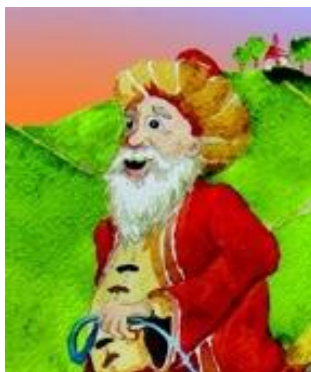
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where teachers can convey their suggestions for any improvement or express their grievances, that can create an atmosphere for better learning and imparting lessons. The other is to arrange a stall in the Kolkata International Book Fair which can campaign for Japanese language.

Q Any memorable experiences?

A Once I went to a restaurant in Japan where I was rather taken aback when I heard a Japanese lady recite a translation of Banalata Sen ---sennen mono aida watashi wa michi o aruite iru??

Aloke Basu



STORIES OF MULLAH NASRUDDIN

(4) かんばん (THE KANBAN)

ナシルッディンさんは一軒店を^あけてそこに^{なん}こんな^{ふた}かんばんをかけた。何でも^{しつもん}二つの^{ひやくまい}質問に^{ぎん}百枚の^{こた}銀のコインで^{ふた}答える。ある人は^{だいじ}二つの^{しつもん}大事な^{こた}質問の^か答えが^ほ欲しかった。彼は^{かれ}ナシルッディンさんにお金^{かね}を渡して「^{ふた}二つの^{しつもん}質問のために^{ふた}百枚の^{ぎん}コインは^た高かすぎるね」と^き聞いた。ナシルッディンさんは「はい、それで^{ふた}二つ目の^め質問は^{なん}何ですか」と^き聞いた。

(5) ターバン (THE TURBAN)

ある^{ひともん}日文^{もう}盲の^{ひと}人が^{じぶん}自分に^{てがみ}きた^も手紙^もを持って^なナシルッディンさんの^{ところ}の^きところに^{てがみ}来て「ナシルッディンさん、この^よ手紙^もを^よ読んで^かくれな^いか」と^ききた。その^{てがみ}手紙^みを見て^なナシルッディンさんは^{ひと}一言^もも^わ分^{かれ}から^なな^かつた。それで^{ひと}彼は^かその^{ひと}人に「^{てがみ}ごめん、^よぼくは^よこの^よ手紙^よが^よ読^めない」と^{こた}答^ええた。ナシルッディンさんの^{こた}その^{こた}答^ええに^{ひと}びっくり^して^{ひと}その^{ひと}人は「^は恥^だよ。この^{きょうい}教育^くの^しる^しの^ような^{かぶ}ターバン^もをか^ぶつて^いても^わこれが^わ分^らない^のは^は恥^ずか^しい^よ」と^ささ^けんだ。ナシルッディンさんは^{じぶん}自分の^{あたま}頭^かから^とターバン^とを取^りて^{ひと}その^{あたま}人の^{あたま}頭^にの^せて「^もし^しこれを^かぶ^つて^{これ}が^あなた^にに^何か^ち知^え恵^を上^げたら^自分^でこの^手紙^を読^{んで}くれ」と^{こた}答^ええた。

Compiled by Aloke Basu

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JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(March - April)

1	2	3		4	5
6			7		
8				9	
		10			11
	12				
13				14	

ACROSS

- 1) Scissors
- 4) Shoulder
- 6) High wave
- 8) Telegram form
- 10) Knowing (Honorific)
- 13) Value
- 14) Lung

DOWN

- 1) To work
- 2) Boundary
- 3) Orphan
- 5) Seed
- 7) Ethnic People
- 9) Wick
- 11) Period
- 12) Deer

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(March - April)

1 あ	2 つ	3 か	4 い		5 い
6 み	み	ず		7 か	し
	8 か		9 か	み	
10 か	さ		11 や	さ	12 い
13 ま	ね	14 く		15 ま	る
16 う	る	さ	い		か

WORD JUMBLE – 48

Unscramble the following words, and join the circled letters to find out the answer:



1. しょくいつ (One colour)

○	○				
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2. せいか (Mars)

	○		
--	---	--	--

3. しないきにて (Don't worry about it)

○	○				
---	---	--	--	--	--

4. きんちよ (Saving)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

5. じょうちょう (Peak)

		○			
--	--	---	--	--	--

Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE – 47

- 1. あいじょう
- 2. あいかわらず
- 3. まあたらしい
- 4. にいまくら
- 5. がんこ
- 6. うつくしさ

あ	い	あ	い	が	さ
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