



# SAKURA

No. 112

November – December 2018



あした あした きょう きょう  
明日は明日、今日は今日

Tomorrow is tomorrow, today is today

## Nihongo Quiz



The Nihongo Quiz Contest was held on the 1st of September at the Shivananda Hall of Ramkrishna Mission in Gol Park. Mrs Ruma Chatterjee conducted the contest for the Junior group and Mrs Poonam Nand Dey was the quiz master for the Senior group. Many students from various institutes came to participate for sheer enthusiasm! The Consul General Japan of Kolkata Mr Taga graced the occasion with his august presence and he also gave away the prizes to the winners and participants. Vice Consul Ms Manami Kato was also present. The winners of the senior and junior groups are ---

Winner of the 21<sup>st</sup> Nihongo Quiz

Junior Group

1<sup>st</sup> Avik Sengupta (RKIC)  
Mainak Saha (IILC)

2<sup>nd</sup> Abhishek Chakraborty (Sakura)  
Snehasish Mukerjee (RMIC)

3<sup>rd</sup> Abhishek Roy (Okakura)  
Moupiya Roy Singh (IJLSS)

Senior Group

1<sup>st</sup> Adrija Nath (IILC)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Agnishwar Choudhury (IILC)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jyotsna Das (RMIC)

## Koto & Shamisen



Solo concert At the Rabindra Okakura Bhavan on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
By MS SUMIE KANEKO

**STAY  
TUNED...**  
for



**JAPAN UTSAV  
&**

**COSPLAY COMPETITION**

To be held by the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2018

At the Hotel Hindustan International

For details log into:

<https://bit.ly/2pp5Ca0>



**&  
PLENTY MORE**

Ikebana by K Nigam Sensei  
Calligraphy by H Nagahama Sensei

Nihongo Kaiwa Kyokai Society, 2B, Shivangan, 53/1/2, Hazra Road, Kolkata- 700 019

E-mail: [write2nkks@gmail.com](mailto:write2nkks@gmail.com) Visit us online: <http://www.nkks.org.in>

## AN INTERVIEW WITH CHIEKO FUJIWARA



### SENSEI & HER MOTHER

A nonagenarian, she is now 94 years old. She is Chieko Fujiwara Sama - Mother of our beloved Nigam Sensei. She has come to visit her daughter in Kolkata. She first came here in 1980 when her grandchild was born. We had an informal chat with her at Sensei`s flat. Her conviviality charmed us.

Excerpts from the interview:

Q You were born in Kobe, a part of Osaka - you started your primary schooling there..

A Yes after completing primary School I entered the *Jogakkou*---girls` school –after that I went to a *Senmongakkou* ---a commerce school

Q You did not go to a college or university

A Then my father passed away and my mother wanted me to work and earn. So I started to learn Book -Keeping in that commerce college

Q After completing the training you started to work in a private company

A Yes, during those days it was very rare for women to go out for a job ---but I had to do due to the demise of my father , After completion of the course I was recommended by the school and I got job in a good company ,

Q Sugoi ne! There you worked for 5 years in book-keeping. You were very good in using the *Soroban*

A Yes those days there was no type machine or computer I had to do the book-keeping manually ,

Q After 5 years you left the job

A Actually then I got married – I met my husband in that company --- we both worked in the same company , But in those days, according to Company rules, a husband and wife could not work in the same company So I had to leave the job and became a full-fledged housewife.

Q We have heard that you could read Chinese poem (*Kanshi*) very well. Do you still remember all those?

A Actually in Japan everybody had to learn Chinese poem in school.

Q You performed on Chinese poem on stage in group - chorus - you also used to learn Japanese folk songs

A Yes – I used to learn Japanese folk songs –*Min yo* ----I had also performed on the stage. I also used to play Koto ---and performed on the stage.

Q Can you still sing Japanese songs?

A I learnt a lot - but now I cannot remember - I can sing just a little bit.

Q You have come to India ---Kolkata almost nine or ten times ---what is your impression about Indians or people of Kolkata?

A Actually in Kobe –there were so many foreigners - Indians also lived there ----so I know Indians very well. When I see them I feel\_no difference.

But regarding maintaining of roads, I think here they are maintained very poorly and economically Japan`s lifestyle is much higher – better than India

Q Your hobby

A Singing, reading Chinese poems

Q Any memorable experience

A Omoide?

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War every Japanese had to serve the country by doing some voluntary service. I had to serve also. I had to go to a factory for Accounting work in a factory. Another incident in this time was connected with this service. On account of this service we had no time to attend my commerce school and due to this that school also could not conduct regular classes. But we were given certificates just after appearing in a sort of token exam based on questions of whatever little syllabus was completed.

Aloke Basu

### MONTHLY PROGRAMME

◆ **Academic Session:** 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018  
By Khushboo Agarwal  
Sarat Samity 3pm

◆ **In Nichi Bunkasai Rehearsals:**  
From December 2018

(Interested members to contact  
Nigam Sensei/Ruma Sensei)

## MY EXPERIENCES AT THE 22nd IJSC



瓜子姫

(Urikohime)



はなしを きいた おしろの けらい  
は、あまんじゃくを かごからひきずり  
だしました。

「いたずらおにめ。くびを ちょんぎつ  
て やるぞ。」

「うわあ」

あまんじゃくは、うりこひめの きも  
のを すてて、にげだしました。

「ごめんよう、ごめしよう。 もう し  
ない よう。」

ぴよん ぴよんと、はねるように して、  
やまへ にげて いきました。

おしまい

**(Due to paucity of space the story could not be completed in previous issues.)**

(Nihon no Minwa – for Junior School)

Japan's (1956) first puppet animation film "Uriko Hime to Amanojaku" **Watch on YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSDpSb7A-is>



Check out the latest  
notice about our Annual  
Picnic from the website

The 22<sup>nd</sup> IJSC was very special thanks to the Japan team who had proposed many new concepts. The fashion show and the *undokai* (sports event) attracted special attention, along with the theme of the Sustainable Development Goals. I felt privileged for having been a part of this innovative team.

It came across as a surprise when we learnt that a few members of the Japan side could speak in Bengali and they seemed to be well acquainted with the lifestyle of Kolkata. Their fluency in English proved to be very beneficial for both sides in terms of communication. I was fortunate enough to visit Japan last year through the 21<sup>st</sup> IJSC in 2017, and therefore I knew most of the Japan team members who participated this year.

The most cherished moment for me was the *undokai* on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August when we played indoor games like bowling, Chinese whisper, and other games mostly played by the school children in Japan. The Indian side also organized a cricket match with the Japan side after the school visit on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Although the weather was humid, the Japan side formed teams with the Indian members and played to their hearts content. Mention should also be made of the village visit that was organized by Mr. Jayanta Kumar Saha, President of the NKKS. Sightseeing in Kolkata was on the 18<sup>th</sup> and since the Japan side had expressed their desire to see some British architecture and the historical places here, we decided to take a tour around the heritage buildings near the GPO, an important landmark in Kolkata. On the 19<sup>th</sup> - the last day, NKKS hosted the farewell party followed by a small birthday celebration for one of the Japan side members.

The IJSC is a platform that builds a cultural as well as a bond of friendship which gradually grows with time. Therefore, I hope more people get to experience the thrill of the IJSC because I believe it has a lot to offer

Shreya Bose



**JAPANESE CROSSWORD  
(November- December)**

1	2	3		4	
5				6	7
8			9		
10		11			
				13	
	14			15	

**ACROSS**

- 1) Business meeting
- 5) Area/region
- 6) Pond
- 8) Morning
- 9) Poet
- 12) Theology
- 14) Idea/plan
- 15) Song lyrics

**DOWN**

- 1) Confess/confide
- 2) Small
- 3) Autumn
- 4) Politics
- 7) Architect
- 9) Funds/capital
- 12) Private message
- 13) Painter

*Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee*

**Answers to  
JAPANESE CROSSWORD  
(September - October)**

1 う	2 す	3 あ	4 か	る	5 い
6 け	い	し	き		わ
7 た	か		8 み	9 あ	い
ま		10 み	だ	し	
11 わ	12 く		13 す	も	14 う
15 る	い	ご		16 と	み

**WORD JUMBLE – 57**

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



What is the proverb?

1. にくべち(Lipstick)

○	○		
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2. ぶつかんはく (Museum)

○					
---	--	--	--	--	--

3. ざわざわ(Specially)

○	○	○	
---	---	---	--

4. ししのい(Wild boar)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

4. しゅしょうとも(Former Prime Minister)

○	○				
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*Sontu Debnath*

**ANSWERS TO  
WORD JUMBLE – 56**

- 1. まねきねこ
- 2. にゅういん
- 3. こうさてん
- 4. ぼくだん

ね	こ	に	こ	ぼ	ん
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*EDITORS: Tanusree Chatterjee & Alope Basu*

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