



SAKURA

No. 95

January - February 2016



はらかわは 腹の皮が張れば、めかわ 目の皮がたるむ Satiety brings laziness



JLPT N4 SESSION

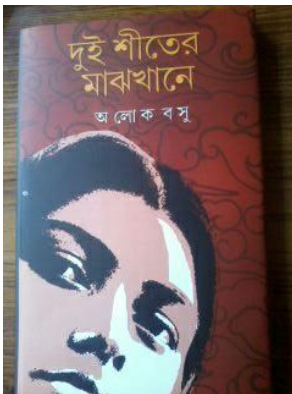
On the 21st of November, 2015 (Saturday) a special JLPT N4 session was held at Sarat Samity by Ms. Kazuko Nigam. The session was truly enlightening in nature. It started off with Nigam Sensei giving us handouts of vocabulary and listening from official JLPT N4 question papers. Then we started with the thirty five minute *kikurenshyuu* (listening comprehension) exercise. After the exercise, we got valuable tips from Nigam Sensei about the ways in which *kikurenshyuu* questions should be tackled. A detailed description of the type of questions that can come, the importance of writing a memo, to know what to do during the pauses and breaks and timing oneself throughout the exam were some of the important points taught to us. This was followed by the general guidelines (which are of extreme importance) of the JLPT exam along with the do's and don'ts.

As a participant of this session, I learnt valuable tips of tackling the exam. The *kikurenshyuu* of the JLPT examinations are tough for every level is what I had learnt from my first exam in JLPT N5. I originally thought that listening comprehension was easy, but the results showed otherwise. After attending the session with Nigam Sensei, I have gained new confidence and am excited to give my JLPT N4 examination. Thank you very much for the experience!

Pranamika Lahiri



Bijoya Sanmilani



OMEDETOU!

Aloke Basu's latest publication: "Between Two Winters"

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Annual Picnic:** 17th Jan 2016
At Rammandir Garden, Howrah
Assembly RKM 7:30 am Departure: 8 am
- ◆ **In Nichi Bunkasai:** 27th Feb 2016
At Triguna Sen Auditorium
Jadavpur University 5:30 pm

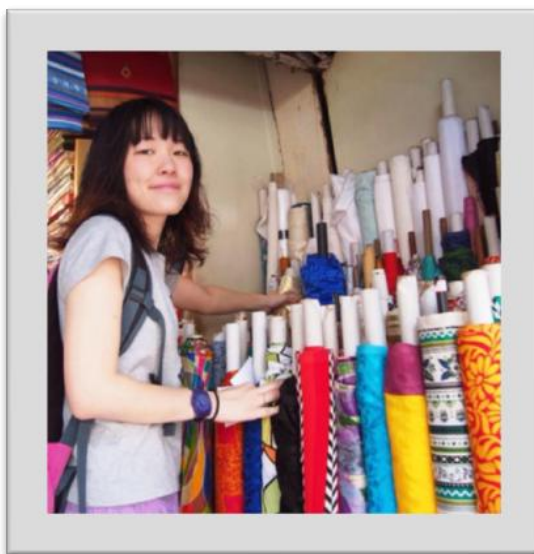
Renshuu...



AN INTERVIEW WITH FUMIKA DATE

Fumika Date first came to Kolkata in 2011. During her university vacation she wanted to go somewhere, where she could fulfil her mission. As she wanted to do some social service, searching through the website she decided on a unique country - India, as her destination. She did a lot of sightseeing and some voluntary service. She stayed in Mother House.

I saw her at the NKKS Foundation Day celebration at Nigam Sensei's house. Then I could talk with sensei and her students about many topics.



six and seventh tour in Indian she searched partner NGO and finally decided to collaborate with "Destiny Foundation, an Indian NGO.

Q: Have you any academic or formal training (degree) in Fashion?

A: Actually my parents loved "fashion". In her University Club Fumika Date participated in various activities including fashion shows such as dress making; I studied about fashion by myself and I could experience to

explain my feelings through fashion.

Q: How many times have you come to India?

A: This is the 8th time. (Her eyes were resplendent as she smiled) From the first to the fourth time I stayed at Mother House and did some social work. For the fifth time she came here for a report collection to be submitted to the university.

Q: Besides Kolkata, have you visited any other place in India?

A: Delhi, Darjeeling, Banaras

She had various experiences with the Indian street children. She helped them in various ways to be independent.

Q: Once you were connected with a Siliguri based NGO –named Concern – and now?

A: Now I am working with "Mode For Smiles" Hiroshima University students organization and an Indian non-government organization - "Destiny foundation".

Q: Now you are engaged in some fashion related work which you believe brightens up a girl's life?

A: Yes we would like to create a meaningful time where women under various distressed situations can feel truly happy, something that will motivate them to live their lives in a more positive way through the fashion.

Fumika Date researched for girls who are in distress. She observed these Indian girls have to resort to the various odd jobs – such as housekeeping etc. She wanted to help them. But soon she started to help in a different way - through fashion show. She started to organize "Mode for Smiles" which aims to support women and girls through fashion. During her

Q: What is the purpose of this fashion show?

A: Our mission of fashion show is to create opportunities so that women can be confident of themselves and to raise awareness towards gender equality, showing that Japanese and Indian people can encourage themselves to think about deeper issues. Our purposes of the show is to create a platform to show case their skills leading them to empowerment, creating awareness for society about issues affecting women and propagating Japanese culture to the audience.

Her previous plan was to give some vocational training. But later, while working with girls and children in distress she had this unique idea of creating empowerment (specially for poor, down trodden girls) through fashion shows making clothes for growing their self-confidence and self-esteem

Date san made almost all the designs by herself – first time made by Japanese, then by Indians.

On 26th September 2015 a fashion show was organized by "Mode for Smiles" with the collaboration of Destiny Foundation (an Indian NGO) at Jogesh Mime Academy (Kalighat , Kolkata).

Q: Contents of the Fashion Show?

A: There were Indian Traditional clothes using Japanese traditional material (5 designs) Japanese traditional clothes using Indian traditional material (5 designs) , Western clothes using Indian and Japanese traditional material (10 designs) and Kids clothes using Indian and Japanese materials (9 designs).

Q: An exhibition and products sale were held at the

....contd. from page 2
same time.

A: Yes – there were introduction panels of the team, setting booths up as their own space, photos during preparation, introduction of Japanese Fashion and Culture, enlightenment posters of women issues. There was also a donation box and a note book for audience opinions.

Q: Your hobby?

A: As I am in social service through fashion related activities, I like sewing. I also read books, especially fashion magazines, and books related to developing countries. I also like travelling.

Date san was born in Nara. Her father works in an electric company and mother is an English Language teacher. She has two younger brothers.

Q: It is difficult to be accustomed to Indian life style?

A: Sort of –But I have been learning and now I am accustomed and I like it. From her first to seventh terms in India she was like a tourist. But in this eighth time, she shares a room with an Indian girl and finds it a bit different – a kind of new experience. She finds Kolkata traffic jams a hurdle for time management. She has seen the Oscar winning movie "Slumdog Millionaire" and likes it. She visited Victoria Memorial, Princep Ghat, Kalighat temple etc. She finds Durga Puja festival very mesmerizing, sometimes she wears sari, finds it unique.

Aloke Basu

UNIQUE JAPAN -4



Next day morning we got up at six o'clock, got ready within eight minutes and started for Miyagawa morning market. On arrival we came to know that market would start from 8 a.m. We went to Betsuin Temple, attended morning prayer till 7.45 a.m. Next when we reached the morning market, it was in full swing. It seemed farmers were selling fresh vegetables, herbs etc. We were offered hot miso soup in one shop, but we did not have it on an empty stomach. We had breakfast in the hotel with sweet bread, custard bread and started for Shirakawago. It took fifty minutes to reach by bus. During this journey we passed many tunnels, none of which was less than one kilometre. Shirakawago had an outstanding scenic beauty covered with snow all over, a wooden bridge over a small river. The Gassho style houses scattered all around created a new ambience for which it is designated as 'World Heritage'. I was overwhelmed with the scenic beauty and started to write our names on the snow. All those houses were

well maintained; even the restaurant where we had our lunch with rice, miso soup, tempura platter was a Gassho style house. Green tea was also served with the lunch. We roamed in the Shirakawago village for hours and boarded on the bus for Kanazawa.

As soon as we reached Kanazawa Central bus terminus from Shirakawago, APA hotel was visible just in a walking distance. The very next moment we realised our mistake as our hotel was in Katamachi for which we had to take bus for another ten minutes. Having got down at Korinbo bus stop when we were looking for our hotel, we found one young man who also boarded on the same bus from Central bus terminus accompanied us till the hotel and then proceeded to his destination.

On reaching Kanazawa, one new requirement had cropped up – 'travel adapter' without which mobile phone, camera – nothing would be working. Since we got this adapter in the Hotels of Tokyo and Takayama, we were under impression that this would be available in the hotels only. What to do now? After searching frantically in many places, we managed to get the information from a lady in Sunkus Convenient Store and got the travel adapter in Atrio Spring Mall, and the rest of the ten days in Japan we travelled peacefully.

When we came to Kanazawa Central Bus terminus for buying loop bus ticket for next day, we experienced the deep emotional attachment of Japanese towards India. We were supposed to go to Higashi Chaya. It was an old town of Kanazawa. We asked one gentleman about the bus track no. at East gate for going to Higashi Chhaya. He showed us gate no. 4 and also asked about our country of origin. He was incredibly ecstatic on being informed that we were from India. His beaming face depicted his deep attachment with India. He tried hard to recollect someone's name but in vain. As we were about to board on the bus, he rushed to us and said that he wanted to mean 'Chandra Bose'. We then had a talk for few more minutes and told him that we were also from Subhas Chandra Bose's place – Kolkata. He was once again overwhelmed. We roamed around in Higashi chaya town, Ume-no-hashii bridge, Tenjinbashi bridge for hours and returned hotel when temperature was gradually going down.

..to be contd.
Debi Das



A
GASSHO
STYLE
HOUSE

JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(January - February)

1.	2.	3.		4.	5.		6.
	7.			8.		9.	
10.			11.		12.		
		13.		14.			
	15.		16.			17.	18.
19.		20.			21.		
22.				23.			
	24.						

ACROSS

- 1) Cute, lovely
- 7) Niece
- 8) Bamboo paper
- 10) Warning
- 12) Region
- 13) Too reserved
- 16) Heaven
- 17) Cloth
- 19) Take charge
- 22) Polish
- 23) Sake cup
- 24) Ointment

DOWN

- 2) Fame
- 3) Loss
- 4) Deer
- 5) Nettle
- 6) Row of trees
- 9) House dog
- 10) Sword
- 11) Scrap iron
- 14) Japanese pronunciation
- 15) Bamboo fence
- 18) Farming machine
- 19) Sea
- 20) Seaweed
- 21) Light
- 23) Pierce

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(November- December)

1.	2.	3.	い		4.	5.	6.
て	い	さ	い		か	た	み
7.				8.			
い	た	む		か	た	す	み
し		9.	10.				
		い	い	ぐ	さ		か
	11.		12.		13.		
	は		か	や	た	き	
14.		15.		16.			
あ	や	ま	り	し	か		
17.				18.		19.	
か	く	ち		か		ま	き
20.			21.		22.		
つ	ち		か	が	や	く	
き		23.			24.		
		あ	ま	い	ら	く	

WORD JUMBLE - 41

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



このこと
わざは何
ですか?

1. かのう (Farmer)

○		
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2. まつかど (New Year pine decoration)

	○		
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3. てらか (Karate)

○	○	
---	---	--

4. がくてつ (Philosophy)

○		○	
---	--	---	--

5. うぼんで (Telegram)

○			
---	--	--	--

6. るいか (Light)

	○	
--	---	--

Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE - 40

- 1. じじもんだい
- 2. きゅうりょうび
- 3. にんしき
- 4. とうししゃ
- 5. いねむり
- 6. かるうし

じ	ゆ	う	に	ん	と	い	ろ
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EDITORS: Tanusree Chatterjee & Alope Basu

BOOK POST

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NIHONGO KAIWA KYOOKAI SOCIETY
2 B, SHIVANGAN
53/1/2, HAZRA ROAD
KOLKATA - 700 019

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Address correction requested