



SAKURA

No. 107

January - February 2018



底には底がある There is a reason underlying the given reason

新年おめでとうございます！



A Musical Evening to Remember



On the 11th of November 2017, two musical maestros – Ms Sumie Kaneko and Pundit Tanmoy Bose - graced G D Birla Sabhaghar and enthralled us

with their soulful performances. Ms Sumie Kaneko is a world renowned expert in the Japanese stringed instruments of koto and shamisen and is also a jazz singer-songwriter. Pundit Tanmoy Bose is a world-class master in Indian contemporary music, in particular, the tabla (a percussion instrument). Ms Kaneko was very witty and charmed the audience with both her music and her words. Both artists took time to explain the history behind the instruments and told us stories and the sentiments behind the musical pieces they were performing. For example, Ms Kaneko explained that the shamisen's ancestor is the Indian sitar and how the name 'shamisen' came to be - Sha meaning three to indicate the number of strings; Mi meaning flavour or tone; and Sen meaning string.

Useful tips to crack JLPT



In the JLPT session in Sarat Samity on 22 nd November Kazuko Nigam Sensei delivered a lecture on Japanese Language Proficiency Test. She advised the JLPT aspirants about some valuable and effective tricks as to how to crack the not so easy examination. There was an arrangement of tape listening -----'Chookai' Students listened and tried to answer. When they faced difficulties to answer or understand Sensei guided and discussed about the nuances.

Sensei also advised students how to listen attentively because missing even a single word creates problems for choosing the right option. The session was a very effective and simultaneously interesting also.

The artists played three solos each and three duets. Each solo piece was amazing on its own but when they played together it was truly magical. The fusion-duet rendition of Tagore's 'Ekla Chalo Re' was especially beautiful. It was a great opportunity to witness the fusion of Indian and Japanese culture and music. It would be lovely to have them back again!

This evening of musical fusion was very kindly brought together by the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata and supported by The Japanese Association of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata in keeping with the spirit of the Year of Japan-India Friendly Exchanges.

Neha Agarwal

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AN INTERVIEW WITH SATOKO CHATTERJEE SENSEI



Mrs Satoko Chatterjee Sensei teaches Japanese language in Jadavpur University. She also teaches in Japanese Supplemental School of Calcutta. Satoko Sensei --an embodiment of serene and calm personality, also sees Bengali TV

Kolkata. She likes the place - she thinks it is a good place.

Q Which part of Japan did you come from?

A From Niigata prefecture. It is in the northern part of Honshu Island - the weather is very cold there .

Q You studied -

A My major was Liberal Arts ----"

Q Your parents were teachers, you also taught part time English for two years. Now you teach Japanese, and also do social work for an N.G.O.

A Yes, Thanks to my husband, I came to know about NGO in India and got interest in social work. That time, before I came to India, there was no scope of such work in Japan.

Q You met your husband Mr Chatterjee in connection with some N.G.O. and later you got married him.

Your husband knows Japanese?

A When I met him, he already knew Japanese language as he had learnt it from the office of Consul General of Japan, Kolkata (then in Pretoria Street)

Q Have you visited any other place in India?

A Yes, I went to Bangalore, Goa, Allahabad, Tamil Nadu, Auroville...

She also spoke about her experience of staying Cambodia for three years in connection with some Japanese N.G.O..

Q Your hobby?

A Lazy gardening, reading books - especially historical books about Japan, its discoveries, various documentaries.

Q How did you learn such fluent Bengali?

A I used to learn Bengali for three years from a college girl of my neighborhood in Chandannagar.

Q Any memorable experience?

A After getting married we shifted from Allahabad to Auroville, Puducherry by bus, a journey of ten days. We had to stop at many places and cook by ourselves like enjoying a picnic and a memorable experience!

Satoko Sensei also spoke about Radhabinode Paul, the famous Indian judge in Japan and also the legendary Indian leaders Rashbehari Bose and Subhash Chandra Bose. She likes Hemonta Mukapaddaya singing, too!

serials.

Q Bengali TV serial?

Satoko Sensei smiled and said "Yes, Rani Rashmoni, a Bengali TV serial"

A Japanese lady, a teacher, watches Bengali daily soap? Strange! Or we just have to believe her. She knows Bengali language well as she is married to a Bengali.

While I was talking with Satoko Sensei about her Bengali connection, her addiction, no we should say it's a dedicated watching of a Bengali daily soap aired on Kolkata TV channel based on a historical and legendary character – the magnanimous Rani Rashmoni - famous for her benevolence.

Q Do you find that Bengali daily soap interesting?

A (She smiled) Actually sometimes I can't understand some words and old customs. But I think that is one way of learning Bengali language, too.

Yes there are characters of that serial who talk in a kind of old Bengali dialect, which is not prevalent in today's day -to-day conversation.

Q When did you come to India for the first time?

A In 1985. I wanted to visit the villages of India / Bengal.

Q Then you must have travelled a lot ---and had the taste of rural life of Bengal.

A Yes I had a great experience.

Q Before that you were a teacher in Japan?

A Actually I taught for two years, and I also worked in a local TV station. I had to work hard till late night.

Satoko Sensei now lives in Chandannagar ---near

瓜子姫

(Urikohime)



うりこひめは すくすくと そだって、すなおで やさしい むすめに なりました。うりこひめは、とん からり、ぎい ぼったんと、 はたを おりました。ある ひ、おじいさんと おばあさんは、「るすばんを たのむよ。いたずらもの あまんじゃくがきても、けっして とを あけては いけないよ。」と いて、でかけました。

とんから とんから。うりひめこが、はたを おっていると、あまんじゃくがきて、「ちょっと あけて くれ。」と とを たたきました。うりひめこは、「とは あけられないの。」と ことわりました。

あまんじゃくは、わざと かなしそうなこえで、「ゆびが いっぽん はいるだけ。」と たのみました。うりこひめこは、かわいそうに なって、とを すこし あけました。

あまんじゃくは、また たのみました。「もう ちょっと てが はいる だけ。」うりひめこが、また すこし とを あけると、あまんじゃくが「うわあ。」と とびこんで きました。

「やあい、やあい、だまして やったぞ。」おいら いたずらが だいすきよ。」あまんじゃくは、うりこひめを さらうと、うらの やまへ、はしって いきました。あまんじゃくは、かきに きのしたで、うりこひめの きものを ぬがせると、じぶんが きました。あまんじゃくは うりこひめに、じぶんの よごれた きものを きせて、きに しぱりつけました。「あまんじゃく、きから おろしてよ。わたしの きものを かえてよ。」うりこひめが たのんでも「いやだよ、いやだよ。おしろの とのさまが、うりこひめをみたいんだって。だから もうすぐ、むかえの かごがくるんだ。おいら、うりこひめに ばけて、おしろへ いくのさ。」

To be contd..

(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>



Since the day I had applied for the Long term Teacher's Training in Japan, one thing used to bother me continually- that how am I going to survive the winter of Japan. I have always detested even the usually "pleasantly cool" winter of Kolkata, let alone the freezing winter of Japan (the mere thought of it has intimidated me always). Basking the last few days of the warm (sometimes hot) October counting at the same, the number of days remaining to the harsh winter days, a phenomenon I had completely unanticipated, took place- Autumn in Japan.

As the temperature began to drop, I witnessed something, which was never there in my own country in the proper sense of the term and felt overwhelmed. This autumn shattered a misconception I have had held so far- that among all seasons, spring is the most beautiful. Contrarily, all I see is vivid and vibrant hues, ranging from yellow to crimson red all around me. These beautiful "kouyou" leaves covering the trees and carpeting the ground remind me of nothing less than the beautiful forest from William Shakespeare's play, "The Midsummer Night's Dream". Now as the temperature keeps falling everyday, I feel all the more prepared to welcome winter wholeheartedly, no longer an alien to me.

Finally, as I behold the beauty of Autumn season for the first time in my life, a sudden thought crosses my mind- If at all you are to fade, fade away gracefully....

Khushboo Agarwal

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ In Nichi BunkasaiPractice: January
- ◆ Annual Picnic: 4th Feb 2018
At Budge Budge
Departure RKM 8 am sharp!
- ◆ 33rd In Nichi Bunkasai: 24th Mar 2018

JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(January - February)

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

ACROSS

- 1) Impudent
- 6) Expensive
- 7) Shore
- 8) Egg omelette
- 10) To cut/mow
- 11) Instruction
- 13) Ancestor
- 14) Square shaped

DOWN

- 1) Warm
- 2) Arrest
- 3) Care
- 4) Deposit money (rent)
- 5) Will
- 9) Promise
- 11) Period/era

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(November - December)

1 は	2 く	3 ぶ	4 つ	が	5 く
6 さ	し	と	め		ろ
み		7 う	た	8 が	い
	9 け	し	い	ん	
10 た	し	つ		11 め	12 す
13 ま	き		14 だ	ん	し

WORD JUMBLE - 52

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



“Satisfied NOW?!”

- 1. くふうよ (Western style clothes)

○	○		
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- 2. かすと (To melt)

○		
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- 3. んてう (Rainy weather)

○		
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- 4. こううく (Airport)

○			
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- 5. しんくに (Blood relation)

○	○		
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Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE - 51

- 1. じゃくてん
- 2. きんにく
- 3. きょうかしよ
- 4. しょくぶつえん

じ	ゃ	く	に	く	き	よ	う
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し	よ	く
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