Japanese abacus also known as soroban has been made available in India thanks to some leading players like Virtual Academics who have proved their credibility and perfection in teaching abacus as a tool to make math a fun subject. Japanese abacus is considered as one of the oldest and accurate abacus of all time.

Soroban was modified into the modern configuration. It is made from wood, and has five-bead in each column, one-bead in the upper deck and four-bead in the lower deck. The Soroban helps to perform mainly addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

The Soroban was one of the necessary calculation tools before the electric calculator was widely used in Japan. Yet, the Soroban has been an excellent educational tool for children to understand and recognize numbers since its introduction. In addition, practicing Soroban gives you more opportunity to develop your mental calculation ability. After mastering the Soroban, you will need no calculator with you because you are capable of calculating numbers by visualizing Soroban beads.

Even though the structure has been adapted from chinese abacus, there are some differences like there are 5 beads in one rod instead of 6 which is similar to greek abacus. Another unique feature that sets the soroban apart from its Chinese cousin is a dot marking every third rod in a soroban. These are unit rods and any one of them is designated to denote the last digit of the whole number part of the calculation answer. Any number that is represented on rods to the right of this designated rod is part of the decimal part of the answer, unless the number is part of a division or multiplication calculation. Unit rods to the left of the designated one also aid in place value by denoting the groups in the number (such as thousands, millions, etc.). Suanpan usually do not have this feature.

On November 12, 1946, a contest was held in Tokyo between the Japanese soroban, used by Kiyoshi Matsuzaki, and an electric calculator, operated by US Army Private Thomas Nathan Wood. The bases for scoring in the contest were speed and accuracy of results in all four basic arithmetic operations and a problem which combines all four. The soroban won 4 to 1, with the electric calculator prevailing in multiplication. And India is lucky to have such a mathematical tool that is faster and more accurate than a machine.