



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Annual Report

2016-17



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL STUDIES, INDIA

C O N T E N T S

From Secretary's Desk	5
Indian Ocean Resource Centre	6
Events and Activities	9
Sudhi Sangam	16
Cultural Events	17
Publications	19
Other Activities	22

FROM SECRETARY'S DESK

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India that laid its foundation stone six years back with an aim to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environment, information and society, poverty alleviation and health.

The Institute over the span of 2016-2017 through events, conferences and dialogues have tried to design and establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities to improve policy making and strengthen democratic institutions and civil societies around the world. The International Conference in collaboration with another eminent Kolkata based research institute – Maulan Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies MAKAIAS on “Strategy for Countering Radicalization and Extremism in South Asia”. Turned a vital platform for discussing context, trajectory and implications presenting a critical overview of radicalism and surge of violence in South Asia. Following others featuring neighborhood cooperation's, relations and future directions.

On the other fold to stimulate study and facilitate discussions from sea to shore of Indian ocean. As in how this ocean have been connecting and separating nations, shaping countries culture and ideologies through movements of goods, people, ideas, and religion. Institute developed a comprehensive chapter named- Indian Ocean Research Centre (IORS) within the umbrella of ISCS in 2015, which hosted an International Conference on “Connectivity Revisited :India, Kenya and India Ocean”. The event focused on how Kenya and India has played a major role in raising a development specific policy. Their collective effort towards organizing event and coming up with a relevant documentation became a catalyst for achieving the broader objective of promoting South-South developmental cooperation's and fulfilling the priority areas of Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs).



In the later parts of the year the institute along with hosting annual cultural colloquy and cultural events, laid a major emphasis towards enriching its publication, cataloguing activities and initiatives of its study units, initiating surveys and documentations. In order to determine itself as a pre-eminent institution in the eastern region to foster intellectual exchanges between India and partnering countries and represent country's cultural legacy and educational efflorescence in years to come.

Arindam Mukherjee,
Secretary, ISCS, India



International Seminar on Connectivity Revisited: India, Kenya and the Indian Ocean

The Institute of Social & Cultural Studies (ISCS), India in association with The High Commission of India, Nairobi, The Asian African Heritage Trust, Nairobi, organized a seminar titled, "Connectivity Revisited: India, Kenya and the Indian Ocean" at the Louis Leakey Auditorium in the Nairobi National Museum on 28-29 March 2017.

The event identified itself to be the foremost on the Indian Ocean region organized by the Government of India in Africa after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative.

H. E. Amb. Dr. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Foreign Affairs, Kenya delivered the keynote address at the inaugural ceremony on 28 March 2017. In her remarks, the Cabinet Secretary highlighted importance of the Indian Ocean and connectivity in robust India-Kenya partnership. High Commissioner, Ms. Suchitra Durai, shared her observations recalling the historic Indian Ocean links between India and East Africa, particularly Kenya, which has facilitated recent development in bilateral relations and recommendations for future engagements.

Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary, ISCS in his speech focused on the relation between the two countries with the Indian ocean on historical background and referred that to the similarity of the name amongst the countries with that of an ocean due to close proximity and extensive relationship

Seven eminent Indian speakers represented India. At the inaugural ceremony 4 monographs/booklets namely (i) Africa – a poem by Rabindranath Tagore; (ii) Mountain of the Moon – an English version of the famous Bengali novel “CHANDER PAHAR” written by Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay on East and Central Africa; (iii) Reflections on Africa: Select articles from the Modern Review edited by Arnab Nag (an English periodical published from Calcutta) on East Africa and (iv) Development-Oriented Trade Policies and Cooperation: Exploring New Vistas for India-Kenya Partnership by Sachin Chaturvedi and Pratyush Sharma were released



There were five plenary sessions focused on review of various aspects of India-Kenya bilateral relations including civilization linkages, archaeological evidences, Indian Ocean-strategic-dynamics, people-to-people contacts, socio-cultural exchanges, Indian-Kenyan literature, economic cooperation and development partnership, influence of literature, cinema, sports and the way forward. The Seminar engaged policy makers, academics, civil society and relevant stakeholders in addressing the issues of people-centric development and explored new areas of cooperation. The event exchanged ideas and experiences of scholars/experts from the two countries to further strengthen bilateral comprehensive partnership.

Panelists included Mr. Pheroze Nowrojee, Chair, Asian African Heritage Trust, Mr. Kiprono Kittony, National Chairman, KNCCI; Dr. Radha Upadhyaya and Mr. Sharad Rao, Chairman, Kenya Judges & Magistrates, Vetting Board who chaired five plenary sessions. Key Speakers at the Seminar included Dr. Mzalendo Kibunjia, Director General, National Museums of Kenya, Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary, ISCS, Ms. Nancy Karigithu, Principal Secretary, Department for Maritime and Shipping Affairs of Kenya, Amb. Rajiv Bhatia, former High Commissioner of India to Kenya and South Africa, Mr. Deba R Mohanty, Chairman, Indicia Research & Advisory (IRA), India, Dr. V. Selvakumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Epigraphy and Archaeology, Tamil University, India, Dr. Kalandar Khan, Director, Kenya Heritage Training Institute, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr. Casper Cheggeh, Senior Policy Advisor and a Director at Africa Policy Institute, Nairobi, Dr. Tom Odhiambo, Dr. Kenneth Ombongi and Dr. Godwin Siundu of the Department of Literature of the University of Nairobi, Dr. Rafique Keshavjee, Head, Academic Planning, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Aga Khan University, East Africa, Prof. Azim

Nanji, Former Director, the Institute of Ismaili Studies, London and Prof Renu Modi, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai.

Amb. Tom Amolo, Political and Diplomatic Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya delivered a valedictory address.

The Seminar was attended by over 120 participants, which included Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, senior government officials, members of civil society, academics, writers, media, students and representatives of business community as well as Kenya-India Friendship Association.





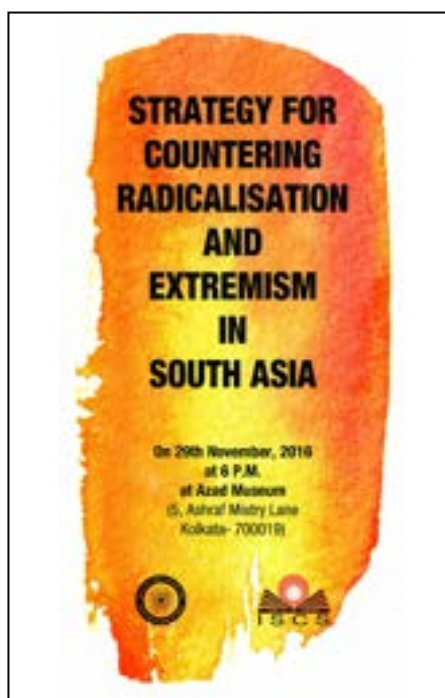
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

International Panel Discussion on Strategy for Countering Radicalisation and Extremism in South Asia

An International Panel Discussion on Strategy for Countering Radicalisation and Extremism in South Asia was organized by the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), duly collaborated by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, held at the Azad Museum, Kolkata on 29th November, 2016.

The programme started with the screening of the documentary film “The Ultimate Jihad”, the final part of Jihad Trilogy, directed by Mr. Shahriar Kabir, renowned Human Rights Activist, writer and film-maker from Bangladesh.

In his inaugural speech Mr. Sultan Sahin, President, New Age Islam Foundation, New Delhi, opined that religion and Jihad must not be inter-mingled. Jihad would be of Greater Jihad, i.e. Peaceful and non-violent jihad and Lesser Jihad i.e. Qital, the last resort as well as an emergency requirement when there was no other option left. Greater Jihad was a lifelong process, a regular effort to refuel one’s personal life with Islamic values.



Muslim youth would be molded and trained by this right spirit of Islam to become the ideal citizens of the country. The modern day jihadists were practising Lesser Jihad which was equivalent to fighting.

Ms. Priya Singh, fellow of MAKAIAS, expressed her anxiety, saying that terrorism gradually taking its deep root in the soil of South Asia because of massive spread of connectivity of internet and social network, alluring the youth force in their dragnet. Hence it was the responsibility of these social institutions to convince them back to normal life.



Ms. Yasmin Nigar Khan, great granddaughter of Khan Abdul Gaffer Khan (Frontier Gandhi) and President, All India Pakhtun Jirga-E-Hind, proposed to build a university in the name of his great grandfather in West Bengal since the same in Pakistan was desecrated by the blood of martyrs and terrorist activities.

Mr. Shahriar Kabir hoped that it was the civil society who could show the right path to rout radicalism and terrorism from this earth, and not by police, administration and defence force alone. He urged all people, irrespective of caste, creed and custom, to come forward to fight together to free this world from these evil forces.

Mr. Krishnan Srinivasan, former Foreign Secretary, Govt. of India and moderator of this panel discussion, expressed that freedom and security of a country would go hand in hand if there was tolerance in every field of livelihood of human beings.

In the question-answer session, Mr. Shahriar Kabir said that though the Prime minister of his country boasted of an impartial image and was trying to rebuild the country doing away with terrorism, there was regular infiltration of terrorism at the grass-root level of the ruling party.

International Panel Discussion on India-Afghanistan: Current Relations and Future Directions

An International Panel Discussion on India-Afghanistan: Current Relations and Future Directions was organized by the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), duly collaborated by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) in association with Charu Chandra College on January 04, 2017 at the Auditorium of Rotary Sadan, Kolkata.

In his welcome address, Dr. Sreeradha Datta, Director, MAKAIAS said that due to Govt of India's initiatives, India- Afghanistan policy is making a shift from a reluctant, albeit friendly one, to a more confident and multi-dimensional approach. India would like to expand its role in the south Asia region and

would accept a regional arrangement for rebuilding efforts in Afghanistan with close cooperation of other nations.

The speaker from Afghanistan, Mr. Nazir Kabiri, the advisor to the Finance Minister of Afghanistan, presented his views on India-Afghanistan Relations. He said that it was his strong belief if India and Afghanistan could work together to improve economic ties between the two countries, they could easily bypass negative agendas (e.g. state sponsored terrorism of Pakistan) in this region.

Highlighting his view on Emerging Dynamics of India-Afghanistan Partnership, Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said that economic development of Afghanistan was more important not only for the country but also for the region. With continued impediments from Pakistan, linkages between India and Afghanistan via Iran assumed greater significance.



Capt. (Retd.) Alok Bansal, Executive Director, the South Asian Institute for Strategic Affairs (SAISA), New Delhi, said that the focus of the discussion would be on how India would assist Afghanistan in emerging as a strong, stable, democratic and liberal state.

The last speaker of the panel was Mr. Shakti Sinha, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), New Delhi, expressed his anxiety that the current

deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, triggered by Pakistan's gross interference, had challenged the development of the Afghan nation. It was high time two countries continue to work together despite difficulties and obstacles, precisely because they were in quest of peace within and in their neighbourhood. That would be possible through early operationalization of Chahbahar port and the rail link to Afghanistan as well as better linkage with Iran and Central Asia.

A short and aggressive question-answer session was followed by the vote of thanks given by Mr. Bimal Shankar Nanda, Asstt. Professor, Political Science, Charu Chandra College and coordinator Research, ISCS.

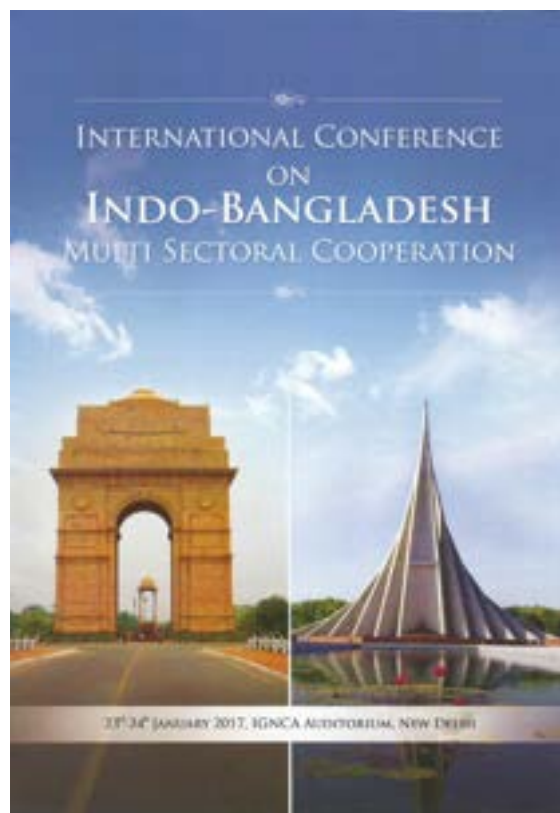
International Conference on Indo-Bangladesh Multi-Sectoral Cooperation

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) collaborated with Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi (RIS), Maulana Abul kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata (MAKAIAS), Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi (NMML) and Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi (IGNCA) organized a two day international conference : Indo-Bangladesh Multi-Sectoral Cooperation on 23rd -24th January, 2017 in New Delhi with special emphasis on the understanding of the relationship between the two countries.

Present at the inaugural session of the conference were Chairperson Mr. M. J. Akbar, Hon'ble Minister of State (MOS), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Chief Guest, Mr. Mozammel Haque, MP, Hon'ble Minister of Liberation War Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, Guest of Honour, Mr. Syed Muazzem Aali, Hon'ble High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India and Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA, New Delhi. Key Note Speaker was Ms. Sripriya Ranganathan, JS (BM), GOI.

The Minister from Bangladesh expressed in his speech that revisiting the spirit of the Liberation war might help to fight the scourge of fundamentalism. He also expressed the intention of his Government to pay homage to the members of the family of soldiers who had lost their lives in the Liberation War. Chairperson Mr. M.J. Akbar, Hon'ble Minister of State (MOS), Ministry of External Affairs, said that Bangladesh's importance as an economic power has risen to great heights in recent times. Indian contingents including Secretary, ISCS expressed their willingness to organize similar programmes on Liberation war in the coming five years. Welcome Address was given by Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary, ISCS.

In the Plenary Session I: Revisiting Mukti Juddho (Liberation War): 45 years of friendship between India and Bangladesh, speakers from Bangladesh Ms. Aroma Dutta, Executive Director, PRIP Trust, Bangladesh, William Sloan, President of American Association of Jurists, Canada Chapter, Lt. Gen. M. Harun-Ar- Rashid, former Chief of Army Staff, Bangladesh, Mr. Hiranmay Karlekar, Consulting Editor, The Pioneer and Maj Gen Dhruv C. Katoch, editor : SALUTE Magazine shared their experiences on Liberation War and expressed the willingness of Government of both the countries to strengthen the bilateral relationship through revisiting the Liberation War agenda. The session was chaired by Mr. Deb Mukherjee, former Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh.



In the Plenary Session II: Indo-Bangladesh Economic Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities , chaired by Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, GOI, speakers from India Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS, Dr. Rashmi Singh, Editor, Telecom Live and Infra Live, New Delhi, Mr. Pratim Ranjan



Bose, Deputy Editor and Chief of Bureau, The Hindu Business Line and Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, acting Research Director, BISS expressed their opinion and the outlook of the Government of both the countries about the growth of economic cooperation. Bangladesh attached a very high priority to build closer economic links with India and significantly improving physical connectivity to facilitate trade across the

border as it used to share the longest land border with India, almost encircling the nation.

In the Plenary Session III: Indo-Bangladesh Cultural Relations: A Shared Legacy, chaired by Amb. Veena Sikri, former High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh and Myanmar, Prof. Suchandra Ghosh, Prof., Ancient History, University of Calcutta through her paper – Bay of Bengal Buddhist Network: A Shared Maritime Space between India and Bangladesh and South East Asia, Prof. Muntassir Mamoon, Prof., Department of History, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, presenting his paper on Indo-Bangladesh Relations, Theoretical Framework: A Reassessment, Mr. Rafiqul Islam Khokan, Founder and Executive Director, Rupantar, Bangladesh, through his paper on The Sundarbans: Cultural sharing can take a catalyst role for promoting Indo-Bangla partnership, Dr. Sarwar Ali, Trustee, Liberation War Museum, Dhaka on his paper Indo-Bangladesh Cultural Relationship: Opportunity and Challenges and Dr. Anirban Ganguly, Director, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Research Foundation, New Delhi presented different aspects of strengthening cultural relations of both countries.



The Plenary Session IV: on the theme: Security Challenges to Indo-Bangladesh Relations: A Review chaired by Amb. Rajeet Mitter, former Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, speakers from Bangladesh were Mr. Shahriar Kabir, General Secretary, South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism, Dhaka, Major General Abdur Rashid, Executive Director, Institute of Conflict Law and Development Studies, Mr. Shyamal Dutta, Editor, Bhorer Kagoj, Prof. Syed Munir Khasru, Chairman, The Institute for Policy, Advocacy and Governance (IPAG) & Prof., Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka spoke about different aspects of security and its influence on the relationship between two countries. Some of the speakers raised a point of apathy of GOI in this regard, totally rejected by the speakers Dr. Sreeradha Dutta, Director, MAKAIAS and Mr. Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury, Asstt. Editor (Foreign Affairs), The Economic Times, New Delhi and assured that present Government is much keen to provide maximum protection from security angle even though China was supplying defence equipments to them.

In the Valedictory Session, present were Chairperson, Justice A H M Shamsuddin Choudhury, former Judge, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Chief Guest, Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Honb'le Minister of State (I/C), Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, GOI, Chief Speaker, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS and Guest of Honour, Mr. Shakti Sinha, Director, NMML, New Delhi. All appreciated and thanked the organizers for arranging such conference at the right time when GOI had taken every initiative to maintain good relations with the neighbouring countries.

Two-day conference ended with a vote of thanks given by Prof. Bimal Shankar Nanda, Asstt. Prof., Political Science, Charu Chandra College and Coordinator, Research and Publication, ISCS.

International Panel Discussion on India-Israel Relations: New Milestones, New Horizons

A Panel Discussion on India-Israel Relations: New Milestones, New Horizons was organized by the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), co-hosted by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) held on March 22, 2017 at Jamini Roy Gallery, RTC, ICCR, Kolkata.

Dr. Sreeradha Dutta, Director, MAKAIAS introduced the speakers to the audience.

In her inaugural presentation, Ms. Dietza Froim, Minister Counselor, Embassy of Israel, New Delhi, said that the very basis of cooperation and relation between the two countries is based on knowledge and experience. She termed her country's role as a research laboratory and India is the final factory where products are manufactured on the basis of those experiments. Results are much evident in different sectors like agriculture, irrigation, space research, education, tourism, information technology, defence products etc.

Ms. Debalina Ghosal, research fellow, Centre for Human Studies, Hyderabad, said that Israel had taken always a lead role in modernizing defense system of India through transferring technology, know-how in

manufacturing sophisticated arms and installing security systems. Besides, India had also participated several times in the defence show of Israel.

Prof. P. R. Kumaraswamy of the Dept of International Relations, JNU, discussed the pros and cons of India- Israel relations. He said that India would definitely benefit if it purchases modern technology from the Israeli market which is regarded as an open market. In this context, the proposed visit of Indian Prime Minister in Israel in the month of June-July of this year remains significant.

Ms. Swati Bhattacharjee, Senior Assistant Editor, Ananda Bazar Patrika, shared her experiences about high-yielding varieties of agricultural products she noticed during her Israel tour and expressed her sense of gratitude, saying that India highly benefitted by utilizing those high-end varieties.

The session was chaired by Mr. Krishnan Srinivasan, former foreign secretary, GOI.

The inter-active session was highly interesting and praiseworthy. Most of the questions were lucidly replied by Prof. Kumaraswamy.

A vote of thanks was given by Prof. Bimal Shankar Nanda of Charu Chandra College and the Programme Coordinator, ISCS.





SUDHI SANGAM

Sudhi Sangam IV

A programme 'SanlapaAlapane Debasish Bose'on growth and development of Kulaji Literature of Bengal was held on August 3, 2016 at the Conference Hall of Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata.

Justice Chittotosh Mookerjee deliberated briefly on this subject and spoke about the speaker Dr. Debasish Bose, An eminent scholar and hails from Kulaji family.

Dr. Debasish Bose commented through his presentation that the Kulaji literature was an important component of our history. He expressed with regret that present day historians lacks respect towards the importance of Kulaji literature. Speakers deliberation reflected a strong belief that a day would come very soon when the history of Bengal would be rewritten based on this Kulaji literature. He also strongly recommended the Kulaji literature will be a tool which would be used to reformulate history to represent a true and fair view of the evolutions and nationalistic perspectives..

Beginning the dialogue, Mr. Shekhar Bhowmik, Prof. of Vidyasagar College, presented a series of questions which were crisply replied by Dr. Debasish Bose based on his own experiences and problems he faced while preparing and doing research work on Kulaji of his family. He illustrated that a lot of documentation has been done by international scholars as compared to the Indian academicians on Kulji. It was proposed new web-site should be launched on Kulaji where interested can seek and contribute to documentation.





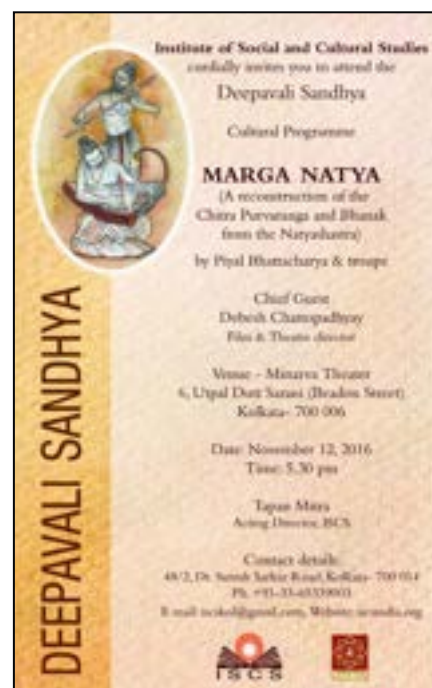
CULTURAL EVENT

Deepavali Sandhya

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, like previous years, organized a cultural programme titled “MargyaNatya” on 12th November, 2016 at Minerva Theatre in presence of Sri Devesh Chattopadhyay, a noted Theatre and film director as chief guest and Sri Angshuman Bhowmick, a famous cultural commentator and art critic.

MargyaNatya was staged by noted dance personality Sri Piyal Bhattacharjee and his troupe. The theme was a reconstruction of the Chitra Purvaranga, i.e. an extraordinary amalgamation of dance, music and rituals and ‘Bhank’, a nritya-prabandha or abstract dance-poetry.

As its mostly seen that the research scholars spout dry theoretical ideas. But Natyashastra-researcher Piyal Bhattacharya dreams of breeding a clan of Gandharva Vidya followers was revealed. Almost two decades back, this brilliant Kathakali exponent became obsessed with Bharatmuni’s musical ideas. He delved deep into ancient scriptures, sculptures, literature,



vocal and instrumental music and, of course, drama – to discover the basic and intrinsic philosophy of Gandharva Vidya. Apart from learning and reconstructing the basics of dance and music as prescribed, described and notated in Natyashastra and its several teekas (explanations by eminent scholars), this exploration also included learning the ancient techniques of playing different varieties of veenas, instrument making, dyeing of raw cloths for costume designing, fashioning of ornaments and instructions of stage décor.

A basic peculiarity is that some of the rarest instruments played in this performance that had either lost their importance in the present day music world or people had a little knowledge about them. Although some of such instruments continues to seek significance in our neighbouring Myanmar.





Bleeding Times: Select writings on Recent Terror-Strikes in Bangladesh
– edited by Arindam Mukherjee

This book is a compilation of select writings in the dailies and blogs of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan in the wake of the Jihadist depredations at the restaurant Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka. It presents a slew of narratives premised on a multitude of perspectives and views.

Publication Date: August'2016

ISBN No.: 978-93-84566-03-6

Price: Rs. 300/-



Prabandha Sankalan :Rajnarayan Basu

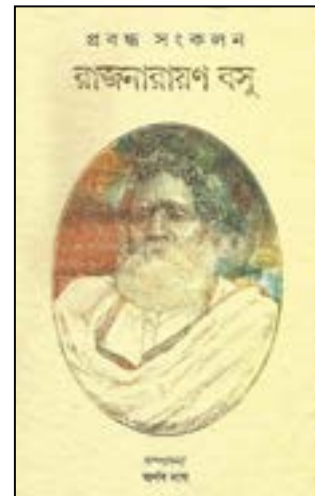
– edited by Arnab Nag

A compilation of the writings on the role and activities of RajnarayanBasu, known as the grandfather of nationalism, in the eye of his contemporary civil society and the present day academicians.

Publication Date: October'2016

ISBN No.: 978-81-925557-06-8

Price: Rs. 250/-



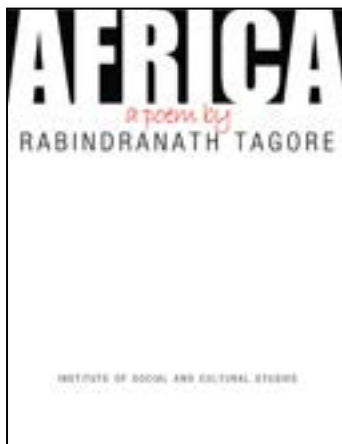
Development-Oriented Trade Policies and Cooperation: Exploring New Vistas For India-Kenya Partnership by Sachin Chaturvedi and Pratyush Sharma

This book explores the possibilities in details about the several areas at the global level where India and Kenya have played an important role in raising development specific policy issues. These collective efforts on their part can become catalyst for achieving the broader objective of promoting South-South development cooperation

Publication Date: March'2017

ISBN No.: 978-93-84566-07-4

Price: Rs. 50/-



Africa – a poem by Rabindranath Tagore – an English Translation

– by Monish R Chatterjee

This booklet presents the translation of Rabindranath Tagore's seminal poem "Africa". It is a telling commentary on the historical and cultural aspects of an enslaved continent, a scathing condemnation of colonialism, imperial brutality and naked racism, the ravages wrought by Imperial Europe.

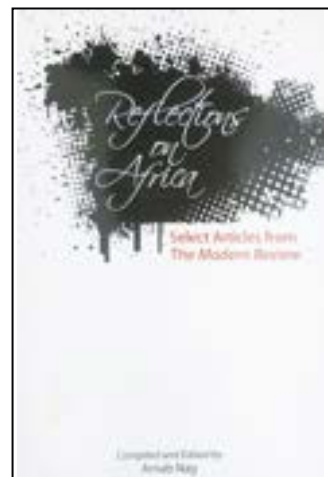
Publication Date: March'2017; Price: Rs. 50/-

Reflections on Africa: Select Articles from The Modern Review – Compiled and Edited by Arnab Nag

This monograph is a compilation of articles on Africa published in the periodical The Modern Review till 1947 and is an excellent example of India's engagement with modern Africa since early twentieth century.

Publication Date: March'2017

ISBN No.: 978-93-84566-08-1; Price: Rs. 125/-

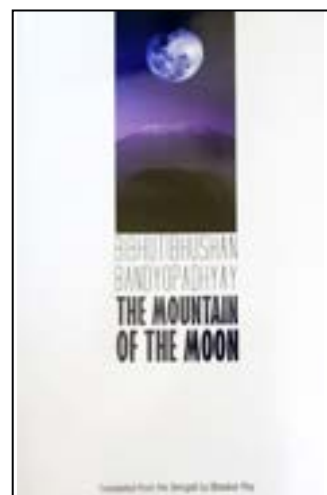


The Mountain of the Moon by Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay – an English Translation by Bhaskar Roy

This is an English rendition of the Bengali novel, ChanderPahar by Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay. Set in East and Central Africa, The Mountain of the Moon, is a classic adventure story. In the opinion of the author, “ChanderPahar(The Mountain of the Moon) is neither a rendition of an English novel nor an adaptation of a story in any foreign tongue. The story and the characters in this book are derived from my imagination”.

Publication Date: March'2017

ISBN No.: 978-93-84566-05-0; Price: Rs.150/-





OTHER ACTIVITIES

Reference Library:

The Institute has a well-maintained reference library where a good number of both old and recent publications on history, culture and other relevant topics are available. On regular intervals valuable books and periodicals are collected, and they help the research scholars to use them as an important source of reference. Even our valued members and academicians use our library to know the unknown and to see the unseen.

Archieve:

The Institute has created an Archieve on current affairs and is also preserving documents of National Heritage including its intangible components. A photo-archieve has also been created in which nearly 14000 photographs,



covering among other things, Rabindranath Thakur's Dwellings, Buddhist Sites, Major Festivals, Shakti Piths, Zamindari Mansions, Pilgrimage Sites; the Religious Structures etc. of Bangladesh have been restored. Process is going on for the same regarding Myanmar and other countries.

Indian Ocean Research Centre (IORC)

It is a chapter of the parent body ISCS, officially formed in the year 2015 to work more extensively on Indian Ocean-related issues. IORC organized a two-day Seminar on "Geopolitics and Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean: An Indian Perspective" on 19th and 20th February, 2016 in collaboration with Andaman and Nicobar Administration and Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya (JNRM), Port Blair, supported by Andaman and Nicobar Command at Port Blair. The objective was to confirm the active and powerful presence of India in this region to face the ever-growing menace of hostile forces as well as to reaffirm and develop better cultural and commercial relations with all small and major countries. More programmes and seminars are on the card to expand its activities in the near future.



The secretary of ISCS visited Kenya, Tanzania and a few other countries of the Eastern part of Africa, met the academicians and Government officials exchanging pleasantries and participating in people-to-people social and cultural relationship programmes.

Research and Survey

ISCS has a strong contingent of research associates who are continuously working out to gather relevant information in connection with their works, to enrich their research activities. The well-drawn project of ISCS on the contributions by the great men of our country on strengthening nationalism are getting spontaneous response from writers' circle and more such projects may come in the near future.

A team of Researchers and experts of ISCS had taken up a brief survey job on Socio-Economic and Environment Status of areas around Middle Tista River course in North Bengal.

Bangladesh Society for Cultural and Social Studies

A new society was formed from the participants of civil society, academicians and members of different cultural units of Bangladesh to develop similar movement and activities as that of ISCS in their soil. They regularly organize different seminars and programmes based on their own social and cultural issues and act as a chapter of ISCS. Recently, this society organized a Alochona Sabha titled Commemoration of 45th year of independence: Expectation and Achievement on 18th March, 2017 at R.C. Majumdar Milanayatan auditorium of Dhaka University in presence of Prof. Gauhar Rizvi, Advisor to the Honourable Prime Minister on International Relations, Prof. Dr. Syed Anwar Hussain, Deptt. Of History, Dhaka University, Prof. Syed Abul Barak Alvi, Dhaka University and Dr. Turin Afroz, Prosecutor, International War Crime Tribunal.

NOTES

[illegible]



Institute of Social and Cultural Studies

48/2, Dr. Suresh Sarkar Road

Kolkata- 700 014

dofficeiscs@gmail.com

www.iscskolkata.org