

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL STUDIES

Annual Report

2017-18



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL STUDIES, INDIA

C O N T E N T S

Secretary's Report	5
Events and Activities	6
Sudhi Sangam	13
Cultural Events	14
Book Fair	16
Publications	18

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies as an independent autonomous organization signed up in 2011. To foster innovative research, nurture new generations of social scientists, deepen inquiry on interdisciplinary subjects and mobilizes necessary knowledge on important public issues. The ISCS is guided by the belief that an amalgamated approach towards justice, exchange of ideas, and democracy are essentials towards better understanding of complex social, cultural, economic, and political processes. Institute has engaged practitioners, policymakers, academic researchers in the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences experts. To build interdisciplinary and international networks, working with partners around the world to link research to practice and strengthening individual and institutional capacities for learning, and enhancing public access to information.

In year 2017-2018 ISCS disseminated its approach through remaining focused on the triad of history, connectivity, multi-faceted cultural linkages. The Institute in collaboration with the ministry and private stakeholders hosted an interesting conclave on tourism. Which in parallel to geophysical and biological system of Eastern cartography of the country explored the gradients of human sensitivity, geographies of religion and human sustainability. Among other initiatives the institute's international symposium on Indo-Myanmar relations stimulated organizational interests to introspect the intricacies of Indo-Myanmar shared trade partnerships, Buddhist heritage, history of colonialism and contemporary bilateral engagement.

Institute's cultural colloquy "Sudhi Sangam" remained equally interesting as it enabled the audience of Kolkata to get acquainted with life experiences of Alokannada Roy- an internationally acclaimed exponent of Indian Classical Dancer and a reformer who through her activities has helped a section of ostracized society to envelope a bouquet of hope and find their importance in decision making process. The publication segment of the institute was an account of India and South Asia relations reflecting the dynamic weaves of national histories and transnational trends of the enigmatic region altogether.



For Institute its pelerine of 2017-2018 was a weave of creative thinking, discussing and disseminating reflections and innovative proposals on the definition and the implementation of public and private development and cooperation policies. Which it aims to further transcend by developing convergence amongst Think Tanks, international professionals, gathering multidisciplinary research and sharing their reflections through a set of interesting documentation in coming times as well.

Arindam Mukherjee,
Secretary, ISCS, India



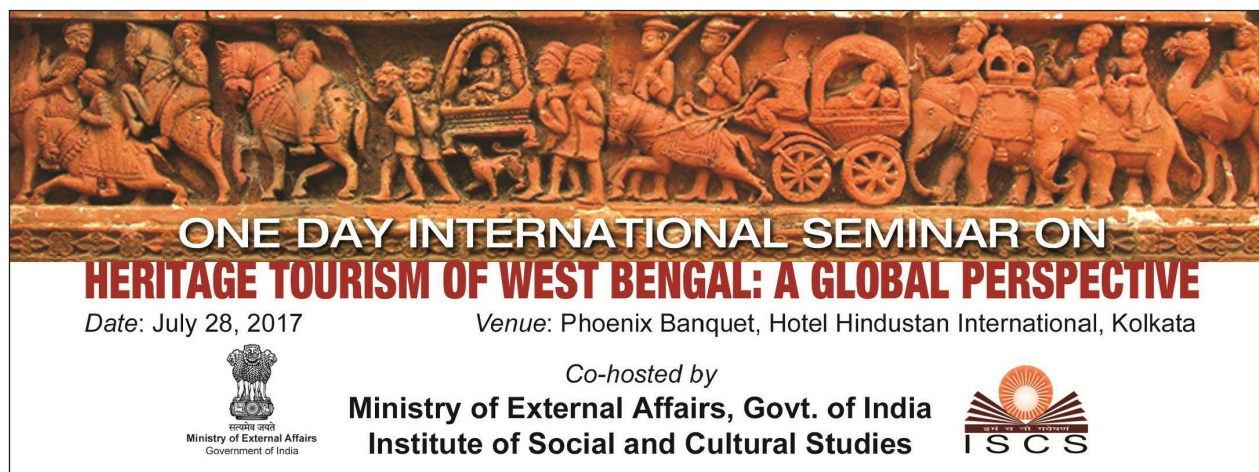
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

International Seminar on Heritage Tourism of West Bengal: A Global Perspective

The initiative was hosted by the Institute in collaboration with The Ministry of External Affairs(MEA) and in support of The Indian oil and The ONGC Ltd- on 28th of July 2017 at The Hotel Hindustan International, Kolkata. As an occasion to reminisce about the faded cultural interlinkages, religious circuits, heritage, and historic sites and unveil their importance to the global audience.

The inaugural session, was chaired by Mr. Rajat Kumar Bose, Director, Tourism & Ex-officio Commissioner, West Bengal Tourism Department, Government of West Bengal, other dignitaries like Shri Sabyasachi Chakraborty, Chief Guest, Smt. Kajori Biswas, Director, MEA, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata and Shri Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary, ISCS. The Distinguished Speakers while narrating about the facets of historical sites and bestowed their legacies. Rested a sufficient importance on the restoration of all heritage tourist spots in coming time. Also catalogued how the arrangement for basic amenities and proper publicity could attract global tourists. A special map of Buddhist Heritage of West Bengal was launched during the session

In the Plenary Session I themed : **“Bengal and Maritime journey during the Raj”**, chaired by Dr. G.M. Kapoor, Convener, INTACH, Kolkata Chapter, Prof. Ishani Naskar, Dept of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University who discussed the theme and featured about the “Indentured Labour movement from India: Calcutta a fragment in the Mosaic”, Shri Rangan Datta, Travel Writer and Photograph boast about



the “Lascars of Indian Ocean and Journey of Indian Indentured Laborers” and Smt. Kajari Biswas, Director, MEA, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata through her presentation titled “The significance of the Heritage of the Suriname Ghat” made historical analysis of indentured laborers sailing through Indian Ocean leaving behind their native territories to architect the fortune of other continent.

The plenary session II titled **“Buddhism and Bengal”**, was chaired by Ven. P. Seewalee Thero, General Secretary, Maha Bodhi Society of India. He said that the followers of Buddhism within the country and beyond have a miniscule knowledge on how Buddhism had its deep root both here in Kolkata and the different districts of Bengal. He proposed that the places of Bengal where relics of Buddhism has been traced through excavation could be properly restored and can be brought under the realm of Heritage Tourism. Smt. Keka Banerjee Adhikari, Curator, The Asiatic Society through her presentation: “Myanmar-West Bengal Linkage through the Legacy of Buddhist Cultural Heritage, opined that it will be difficult to develop tourism until and unless there are availability of basic amenities like hotels, public toilets, travel guides security provisions at and around the heritage sites. Mr. Raj Basu, Convener, Association for Conservation and Tourism proposed that an annual tourism festival in Kolkata should be rolled out as the region is the nerve centre for Buddhist tourism of Bengal.

In the Plenary session III subject being **Jewish Diaspora in West Bengal and European Settlements along the river Hugli** chaired by Dr. Shyamalkanti Chakravorty, Former Director, Indian Museum, Smt. Jael Silliman, Author and Scholar discussed through her presentation on “Recalling Jewish Calcutta: The Making Of An Archive”, the process through which Recalling Jewish Calcutta was being curated and developed. This digital archive designed and developed by the Speaker includes photographs, films made for the archive, documents, written accounts from community members of the Calcutta Jewish community, and interviews with Bagdadi Jews who now live in India and across the world. Shri Sanjit Chowdhury, Author and Researcher through his presentation *Little Europe* focused primarily on public buildings and family residences of historical and aesthetic value of four European powers— the Danes in Serampore, the French in Chandernagore, the Dutch in Chinsurah, and the Portuguese in Bandel, as one moved downriver from Kolkata, which settlement, of course, became the “Second City of [the British] Empire”.

The Plenary Session IV themed **“Bengalis, Bangladesh and a Common Root** was chaired by Dr. Sreeradha Dutta, Director, MAKAIAS. Prof. Bimal Sankar Nanda, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Charu Chandra College through his paper titled “The Bengalis of West Bengal and Bangladesh: A shared Heritage, a Common Root. The Speaker opined that Political boundaries could be drawn, but culture and heritage cannot be defined through boundaries. They always remained as unifying force, could bind people of different nationalities together. Prof. Sabujkali Sen(Mitra), Department of Philosophy, Visva Bharati a detailed picture of cultural heritage and various festivals at Shantiniketan. Mr. Sarbajit Chakravorty, former DHC of India to Bangladesh shared his experience during his official stay at Bangladesh.

The Valedictory Session was chaired by Shri Tapan Mitra, Acting Director, ISCS and the speakers were Shri Rangan Datta and Amb. Krishnan Srinivasan, former Foreign Secretary, Government of India. The seminar marked its end with a vote of thanks given by Dr. Indrashis Banerjee, RKMV, Belur Math.



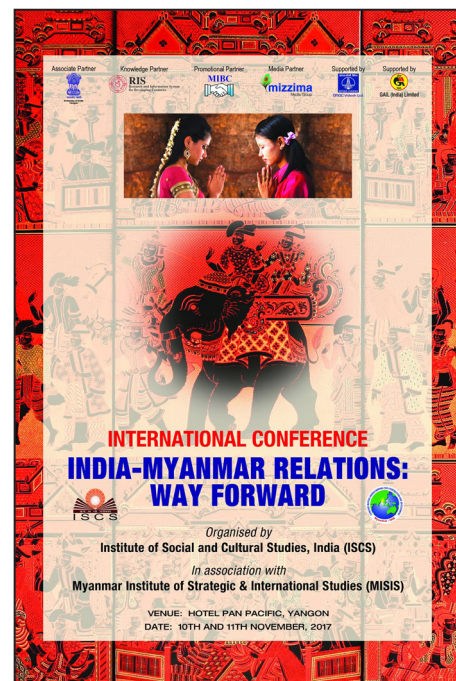
Report on International Conference on Indo-Myanmar Relations

An International Conference on “India-Myanmar Relations: Way Forward” was being organized at Pan Pacific Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar on 10th and 11th November, 2017 by Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), Kolkata, India in association with Myanmar Institute of Strategic & International Studies (MISIS) and was supported by Embassy of India, Yangon.

The inaugural of the event was chaired by H.E. U Nyunt Maung Shein, Rtd. Ambassador, Chairman, MISIS, Welcome address was delivered by Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary, ISCS, H.E. Mr. Vikram Misri, Ambassador of India to Myanmar pitched for very close cooperation between security forces between India and Myanmar to meet emerging threats in the region. H.E. Mr. N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur, India iterated for closer relations with Myanmar. He detailed the considerable resources base of northeast India and the neighbouring regions of Myanmar could only be utilized if there are adequate road infrastructure development and setting up of market centres along the Myanmar-India border are made. H.E. U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary, MOFA, Myanmar said that bilateral trade between two countries had gone up several times and there are further scope for improvement through border trade. The following books were released

- 1) **The Twenty First Century: India-Myanmar Relations** --- Edited by Babul Dey
- 2) **Early India and Myanmar: Spheres of Interaction** --- by Dr. Suchandra Ghosh
- 3) **India-Myanmar Road Connectivity Projects** --- by Dr. Rashmi Singh

In the Plenary Session ITheme: Buddhism: A Common Cultural Heritage was chaired by Prof. Dr. Daw Kyi Kyi Hla, Member, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, *Member, Academy of Myanmar Arts and Science*, Dr. Suchandra Ghosh, Profesor, Dept. of Ancient History and Culture, University of Calcutta “The study of Buddhism in this region is not just a look back to the past but a key towards the development between people to people connect and country as well”. Dr. Mrinal Chakma, Director, Buddha Bhumi Parikrama Pvt Ltd, India said that many Buddhists from South-east Asia including Myanmar are in a view of creating a harmony within the village in Buddhist sites in India. He appealed to the Indian Government to help to create such village and also to set up a directorate of Buddhist sites to handle their issues and livelihood.



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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE LOOKING FORWARD THE INDIA-MYANMAR RELATIONS

ORGANISED BY
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES, INDIA (ISCS)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
MYANMAR INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (MISIS)

VENUE: HOTEL PAN PACIFIC, YANGON DATE: 10TH AND 11TH NOVEMBER, 2017

In the Plenary Session II under the Theme Shared Interest in Security, chaired by H.E. U Wynn Lwin, Rtd. Ambassador, Member, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, H.E. U Aung Min, Former Union Minister, Peace Process who deliberated that it was high time for all to work for peace along the lines of Manipur, Nagaland border, to cut down in armed conflicts. U Ko Ko Hlaing, Former Presidential Political Adviser, Myanmar: India -Myanmar relationship with opening up of economies could be a window for:

1) Open border exacerbate pressure on non-traditional security (NTS) sectors.

We need strong coop to stop Meth trade.

2) Insurgency - insurgent groups from either side taking refuge in each other's territory. Some armed groups from Myanmar getting training in India. Armed groups are behind the drug and arms trade in the region.

Arms smuggled to India both through land border with Myanmar and through Thailand to Bangladesh to NE.

3) Huge illegal trade of diamond in Myanmar. Thai consumer goods are smuggled through Myanmar to NE markets.

THOUGH VARIOUS COOP MECHANISMS EXIST, more coop needed to stop NTS.

Mr. Rajindar Khanna, Former Secretary (R), Cabinet Secretariat, GOI said that all efforts would be taken to save Myanmar to become a Jihadi zone.

Dr. Naing Swe Oo, Founder and Executive Director, Thayninga Institute, Myanmar: India is gate to Middle East and SE Asia informed that the two countries had signed MoU on data sharing on non-ship movement.



Mr. Subir Bhaumik, Former Bureau Chief, East & Northeast India, BBC and author, stressed the need for India Myanmar and Bangladesh to join hands to stop terrorist activities in Rakhine.

In the Plenary Session III, Theme: Strengthening People to People Cooperation was chaired by Prof. Daw Carole Ann Chit Tha, Member, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Member, Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science, U Khin Maung Nyo, Former Presidential Economic Advisor/Senior Advisor to Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies who in his remarks insisted that Indian investors must not just look at the size of the local market but also must take into account Myanmar's potential to produce at competitive rates for a larger regional market.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India pitched for specific thrusts in capacity-building that India is providing support for implementing Sustainable Development Growth (SDG), for which development of the border regions was so important.

Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Chief Coordinator, Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine-UEHRD Member, Peace Commission stated that states within Myanmar must discuss SEZ proposals to get investment for industries based on locally available natural resources.

Plenary Session V Theme: Connectivity and Scope for Economic Cooperation chaired by Dr. Khin Zaw Win, Director, Thampadipa Institute, Mr. Pratim Ranjan Bose, Chief of Bureau, Kolkata, Hindu Business Line, opined that connectivity was not the only way to growth, but time line oriented and cost-efficient logistics are to be defined to accede the basics of connectivity.

The Cultural proximity between Mizoram and Myanmar and the bordering states of Myanmar was an added advantage. Apart from health care, education was one such area. With connectivity improving, it might be time to see more opportunities unfolded between the two nations.

Annual Report – 2017 -2018

Plenary Session VI, Theme: Unleashing Tourism Potential, chaired by U Naung Han, Joint-Secretary General, Myanmar Travel Association important speakers were

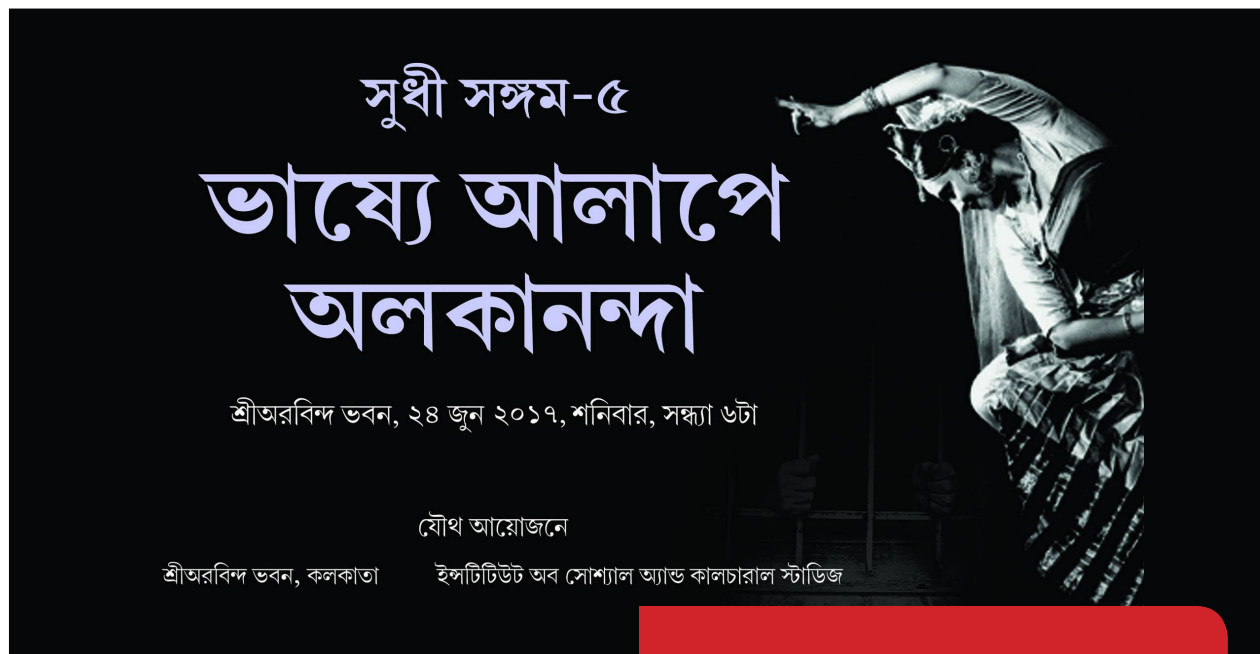
Dr. Venkatesh A.R, CEO, Global Pharma Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., Yangon, Supratim (Raj) Basu, Founder Director, Help Tourism, Daw May Myat Mon Win, Chairperson of Myanmar Tourism Marketing and Vice Chairman of Myanmar Tourism Federation, Rajul Goenka, EC, Myanmar India Business Chamber (MIBC), Yangon and U Naung Han, Joint-Secretary General, Myanmar Travel Association.

Valedictory Session was Chaired by Daw Kay Thi Soe, Director General, Strategic Studies and Training Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Secretary, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies. The Chief Guest was H.E. U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister, Yangon Region, Myanmar. Guest of Honor was U Hla Myint Oo, Rtd. Ambassador / Former Chairman of Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House Parliament), Myanmar. Speech of Valedictory was delivered by Amb Gautam Mukhopadhyay, Former Ambassador of India to Myanmar. Address of the Chair was given by Daw Kay Thi Soe, Director General, Strategic Studies and Training Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Secretary, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies.

YANGON DECLARATION was officially made between two countries.

The concluding Vote of thanks was given by Mr. Krishnendu Bakshi, Programme Coordinator, ISCS, Kolkata





SUDHI SANGAM

Bhashaye- Alape Alakananda: A Report

The programme was organized by ISCS under the banner Sudhi Sangam-V, held at the auditorium of Sri Aurobinda Bhavan, Kolkata on 24th June, 2017 (Friday), co-hosted by Sri Aurobinda Bhavan, Kolkata.

The programme began with screening of a documentary film on danseuse Alakananda Roy, featuring how she molded the inmates of Alipore Correctional Centre through using her self-belief and spreading the message of growing self-confidence among them through music and dance. Her esteem efforts highlighted that every human body, (even he/she is convicted in the eye of law), if gets proper chance to rectify himself/herself through proper care, love and affection to come back to the main stream, that person finds a second life.

At the end of the film, Mr. Biswajit Banerjee of Aurobindo Bhavan asked her some impromptu questions, starting from her child life, married life, her great devotion towards Holy Mother and Rishi Aurobindo, her carrier as a dancer and her present holistic service of transformation with the inmates etc. All these questions were replied by madam with grace and great confidence.

There was a small inter-action session with the audience and there also she rose to her great height and answered all their queries crisply and smartly.

A vote of thanks was given by Mr. Tapan Mitra, Actt. Director, ISCS.



A Report on Deepavali Sandhya – 2017.

Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GOI, Kolkata office jointly organized a Cultural Evening Deepavali Sandhya on 28th October, 2017 at the premises of MEA, Kolkata Branch Secretariat. The Attraction of the evening was the performance of the renowned exponent of traditional Rajasthani Folk song Ustad Mohd Rafiq Khan Langa and his group.

In their short welcome address was made by Ms. Kajari Biswas, Director, Branch Secretariat, MEA, Kolkata and Mr. Krishnendu Bakshi, Programme Coordinator, ISCS, both of them expressed the importance of organizing such programme. The event over mellifluous renditions of Ustad Mohd Rafiq Khan Laga enthralled the audience present at the event.

A large number of officials from different embassies/ office of high commissioners of different countries in Kolkata and dignitaries of ISCS were present in this event.

Mohd Rafiq Langa is a renowned exponent of the traditional Rajasthani Folk instrument called Khartaal. Rafiq Khan Langa belongs to the famous Langa family of Rajasthan. He is the son of Ustad Rehmat Khan Langa.



DEEPAVALI SANDHYA

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GOI
and
Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS)
cordially invite you to attend the cultural evening
DEEPAVALI SANDHYA
to be performed by Rajasthani Folk Singers
Utsad Mohd Rafiq Khan Langa and his group.

Venue
Ministry of External Affairs, Kolkata Branch Secretariat
2, Ballygunge Park Road, Kolkata-700019

Date : Saturday, October 28, 2017
Time : 6:00 PM

Kajari Biswas
Director
Branch Secretariat, MEA
Kolkata

Arindam Mukherjee
Secretary
Institute of Social and
Cultural Studies

Annual Report – 2017 -2018

The Langa family is globally known for traditional folk singing and playing famous instruments of Rajasthan. Rafiq's father taught him the art of khartaal-playing. By the age of 10, he had started giving public performances.

Since the age of 15 Ustad Khan is been performing, on national-level platforms. He has also done various shows abroad in countries like Russia, Pakistan, France, Australia, South Korea, Dubai, Nepal, Morocco, Uzbekistan, Japan, and US.

He was awarded with Veena Ghoomar Cassette Award (2003) from Rajasthan. He regularly performs with popular Indian classical band 'The Drums of India'.

He conducts workshops and teaches children at National Bal Bhavan in New Delhi.





BOOK FAIR

A Report on Kolkata International Book Fair 2018

The 42nd Kolkata International Book Fair 2018, organized by Publishers and Book sellers Guild, held at the Central Park, Karunamoyee, Salt Lake, came to an end on 11th February, inaugurated on 30th January by the Chief Minister of West Bengal.

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) this year was allotted a stall no 62 at the Pavilion No 2 at the fair ground.

The stall was inaugurated on 31st by Justice Chittatosh Mukherjee in presence of Mrs. Kajari Biswas , Director, Branch Secretariat, MEA, Calcutta, Mr. Bratin Dey, Regional Manager, NBT, Prof. Bimal Sankar Nanda of Charu Chandra College, Mr. Tapan Mitra, President, ISCS, Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary, ISCS and other dignitaries.

The first book of the Monograph Series “Man and Nation”, on Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee, written by Debdutta

WELCOME!

INTERNATIONAL KOLKATA BOOK FAIR

Institute of Social and Cultural Studies

Hall-2 Stall - 62

Central Park Mela Ground, Karunamoyee, Salt Lake, Kolkata
(31 January -11 February, 2018, 12 Noon - 8 P.M.)

Stall Inauguration : 31 January, 2018, 4:30 P.M.

Chief Guest :
Justice Chittatosh Mookerjee

Guest of Honour :
Ms. Kajari Biswas, IFS
Director, Branch Secretariat, MEA, Kolkata

Mr. Bratin Dey,
Regional Manager, NBT

Prof. Bimal Shankar Nanda
Charu Chandra College, Kolkata

• **Book Release**

Annual Report – 2017 -2018

Chakraborty was unveiled by Justice Mukherjee in the midst of this programme.

During these 13 days long book fair, a number of dignitaries, named Mr. Shariar Kabir, Mr. Biswajit Gangopadhyay, Secretary, Aurobinda Bhavan, General Secretary, Asiatic Society and others visited the stall.

There was a brisk sale of books, (publications of ISCS), postage stamps; first day covers etc. during these days from the stall.





PUBLICATIONS

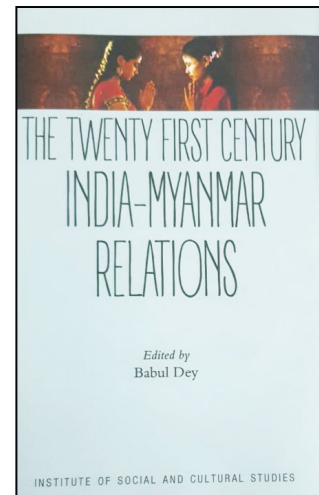
1) The Twenty First Century: India-Myanmar Relations — Edited by Babul Dey

The book brings together four articles published in this century, together with the Joint Statement on PM Modi's Visit to Myanmar, 2017. The articles have been selected in so far as they look at the past to sketch a future outline about India-Myanmar Relations.

Year of Publication: 2017

ISBN No. 978-93-84566-12-8

Price: Rs. 300/-



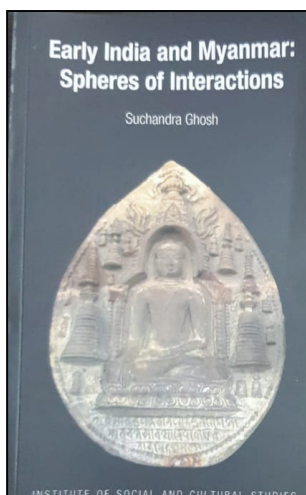
2) Early India and Myanmar: Spheres of Interaction — Dr. Suchandra Ghosh

This booklet attempts to view early interactions between India and Myanmar through a few case studies which focus on region to region or place to region interactions.

Year of Publication: 2017

ISBN No. 978-93-84566-13-5

Price: Rs. 250/-



3) India-Myanmar Road Connectivity Projects

— Dr. Reshmi Singh

Road connectivity between North-East India and Myanmar and within Myanmar is an important feature of our bilateral relationship. The Rs. 1,177 crores road construction and maintenance project inaugurated by PM Modi, funded by India and executed by Indian cos through competitive bidding for the Yagyi-Kalewa section, is the latest example. Several other robust road networks are at various stages of development.

Year of Publication: 2017

ISBN No. 978-93-84566-14-2

Price: Rs. 80/-



4) Ashutosh Mukherjee

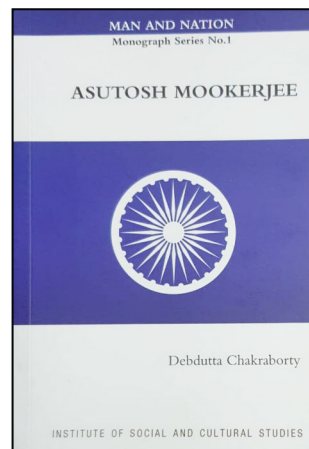
— Debdutta Chakraborty

This monograph is the first of the series “Man and Nation”. Ashutosh Mukherjee, the legendary Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, was one of the finest products of Bengal Renaissance. His role in nation-building merits the highest praise. Uncompromising on his principles and fiercely independent-minded, he never yielded to pressure from the British authority. This monograph underscores his reflections on nation and nationalism.

Year of Publication: 2017

ISBN No. 978-93-84566-04-3

Price: Rs. 200/-



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