



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND  
CULTURAL STUDIES, INDIA

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2019-2020**

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# Annual Report

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## 2019-2020



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND  
CULTURAL STUDIES, INDIA



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## DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India started its journey in 2011 with an aim to promote enquiry into the fundamental themes and problems of life and thought. The versatile team of the institute is committed to facilitate research and promotion of creative thought in areas which have deep human significance.

The Institute provides an environment suitable for academic research, particularly in selected subjects in the Humanities, Indian Culture, Comparative Religion, Social Sciences, policy, governance and development along with other areas as the Institute may, from time to time, decide.

The Institute has also been organizing several national and international level seminars every year on themes of pressing contemporary relevance as well as of fundamental theoretical significance. Distinguished scholars from abroad are frequently also invited in these seminars.

During the year 2019-2020 multiple national and international initiatives were taken. New initiative like a series of discussion under "Co-eval Discourse" in collaboration with The Indian Council For Cultural Relations (ICCR), India was actuated to highlight factors and challenges having a direct impact on sustainability.

ISCS has started rolling out Bi-Monthly Bulletin "News Reel" in order to reciprocate frequently and efficiently on variegated subjects. The bulletin in its compact format and interdisciplinary approach attempts to bind narratives and counter narratives to accede engagements and ideas of wider global audience.

The other units of the Institute especially The Freedom Struggle Studies, Indian Ocean Resource Centre remained active through organizing workshops, seminars and events, discussing matters on National Integration, ancient connect, people's contributions- transformations with the focus on the matters of sustainability, ecology and climate change. The dialectics and presentations at the National Conference on environment and ecology at Darjeeling was hosted by ISCS over inter-institutional collaborations featuring matters of climate derangements, outlined adaptation plans to prevent the caveats of disasters in time to arrive.



The Chapter VII and VIII of SudhiSangam- a cultural colloquy that was organized by the Institute for last couple of years turned out to be an event of experience sharing and defining how a piece of an art is a fusion of emotion, beauty, idea and technical proficiency by a well known artist Sri Ganesh Haloi.

Institute's publication programme during the 44th Kolkata International Book Fair was marked with the release of some interesting monographs on revolutionaries, legislative proceedings and depicted politics of Kashmir through an interesting format and annotation.

The Annual Report summarises ideas, review of programmes, discussions initiated by the working and core team members during the annual and review meets to analyse the practice of work and future exercises to initiate multiplicity of approach and generate ideas to attain engagements, directions and recommendations towards the research efforts and documentations in the course of time.

Arindam Mukherjee,  
Director, ISCS, India



## Introduction

The Chapter on Freedom Struggle Studies is a dedicated unit that organizes lectures and events on the contributions of freedom fighters and the movement led during country's freedom struggle. Over past years institute had not only organized events but laid special thrust on the documentations and publications divulging India's great passion, zeal and resilience in coming out from the British yoke. As part of 2019-2020 activity Institute had not only published some significant monographs of national importance but hosted discussions and writing workshops for the participants of various age groups, who desire to contribute to institute's Man and Nation Series –gathering and highlighting the importance of national movement and its relevance for the present generation in today's time.

## Third Writers' Workshop under "Man and Nation Series"

Third writers' workshop was held on 22nd of June 2019 for the writers of "Man and Nation". A range of publication rolled out as a part of the institute's cell of Freedom Struggle Studies. The event was co-hosted by Sri Aurobindo Bhavan, Kolkata. The workshop was participated by writers, researchers and participants from various fields of study who expressed their desire to conduct research and document the works and ideas of revolutionaries and reformists of Indian renaissance.

The workshop not only oriented on the writing tactics, referencing style, modes of documentation and archiving layouts but also over one to one interaction aimed to understand the ideas of the present generation about reformists and the way they would like to present the research and history to inspire and attract the new age readers. The queries regarding the documentation which included chapter

designing, quotation of facts & figures with referencing etc were answered by the team of ISCS's Editors and members of the cell.

The institute also discussed about certain ideas and plans that they would like to undertake. For instance the Director of the institute mentioned that as a part of the series institute would also like to document the contributions of the heroes of Indian freedom movement from the neighbouring states in vernacular language and enhance the circulations, access of these monographs beyond Bengal. Institute as a part of the series intended to connect with writers and researchers from other states and countries who on a regular basis could deliberate episodes from the history of Indian freedom struggle with multi-sectoral audience. The members and senior editors of the series requested for participation of the youth towards institute's initiative in documenting the struggle and glory and especially the attributes of the contributors of Free India.

## Programme on Release of the “RaktoTirtho”

ISCS in collaboration with Sri Aurobindo Bhavan, Kolkata hosted the launch of Panchanan Chakraverty's “RAKTO TIRTHO” on 11th September 2019.

The programme was chaired by Prof. Supriyo Bhattacharjee in presence of Dr. Purabi Roy, as a Guest of Honour and Mr. Asimpada Chakraborty, the direct descendant of Panchanan Chakraverty. The event started with the felicitation of the distinguished guests followed by welcome address by Sri Arindam Mukherjee who spoke how the documentation, editing and launch of monographs and facsimile served institute's interests of representing the works and contributions of the revolutionaries to present generation. In the same line he reminisced the contributions and gallantry of the freedom fighters Jatindranath Mukhopadhyay popularly recognized as Bagha Jatin along with the life and activities of Jyotishchandra Sengupta.

Mr. Asimpada Chakraborty appreciated the great effort of ISCS for releasing the re-edited version of this book. He also presented some unknown facts about illustrious life and revolutionary activities of Panchanan Chakraverty.

Dr. Purabi Roy thanked ISCS for taking this great effort and expressed her views on the revolutionary activities of Panchanan Chakraborty.







## INDIAN OCEAN RESOURCE CENTRE

### Introduction

The Institute through its multitude initiatives and documentation have featured Indian Ocean Rim Countries over economy, security, civilization and cultural inter linkages. In order to work more intensely on Indian Ocean Rim related issues, the Institute in 2015 had developed Indian Ocean Resource Centre (IORC), which is conversing much efficiently about different genres of history, progressive views and ostensible diversities surrounding Indian Ocean.

### International Seminar on “Revisiting a Great Narrative: Indentured Labours and the Ganges”

Kolkata Port Trust and the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India jointly hosted an International Seminar on “Revisiting a Great Narrative: Indentured Labours and the Ganges” on 30th of January at the Indentured Memorial Site of Kolkata Port Trust.

It was an initiative to mark the saga of transit of Indentured Labours from the Ganges to attain the growth ascendancies of the Girmitya countries. The event started with a song presented by the indigenous troupe “Ugna (Nilambar)” who expressed the pathos of the Indigo cultivators in India due to British imperialism. This was followed by the felicitation of the Chairman Port Trust, Sri VinitKumar ,

acting Director of ISCS Sri.TapanMitra and the Key Note Speaker Prof. Geraldine Forbes, Distinguished Teaching Professor of History, State University of New York, Oswego.

The Chairman of Port Trust over his deliberation emphasized on how Kolkata Port Trust had been a centre of cultural confluence and connectivity. He further added that Kolkata Port Trust that had been standing erect for last 150 yrs was a live witness of history like that of Indentured who during the colonial days were ported to foreign land to attain the growth stature of several other while conjuring an abysmal lifestyle. He congratulated the initiative taken by the members of his organization in restoring and revamping the site “The indentured Memorial site” which he hoped in future days would continue to portray the narratives of Indentured especially about their contributions as well as their pathos of being parted from their native land.

The key note speaker through different facets and episodes described the stygian socio-cultural and economic condition of the Indentured Labours and more specifically described the apathy of women Indentured Labours and the dichotomy they were subjected to in the foreign lands.

In continuation Sri.Mrityunjay Kumar Singh,IPS ,Director General of Police (HG) West Bengal addressed the multiple aspects of Indentured Labours , conceptualized the plight of Indentured Labours , who were victims of colonials and ported to various colonial destinations through the mouth of River Ganges. They all expected a sustainable future but were ultimately landed facing the abject of misery and trepidations.

The academic session on “Reminiscing the Indentured Kolkata Connect and their contributions in Girmitya Countries”, was chaired by Prof RenuModi , Centre of African Studies , University of Bombay along with eminent academician Dr.HimadriLahiri , Prof of English Burdwan University.

He elucidated the representational dimensions in the construction of history (personal and locational) at the micro-levels, as found in fictional and ‘factional’ narratives such as Ramabai Espinet’s The Swinging Bridge(2003) and GaiutraBahadur’s Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture (2013).Dr.IshaniNaskar , Prof of Political Sceince , RabindraBharati University through her deliberations depicted the dilapidations and the hostility to which these Indentured were subjected to in order to catapult the growth and Development of Girmitya Nations, focusing the distress of women indentures, treated as a global commodity.



The students , Govt officials , academicians, researchers and who all participated appreciated for enriching them to certain chapters of history that were unknown to them . On a concluding note Sri. Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary, ISCS expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the participants and the speakers for reminiscing the lost memories of thousands who sailed through riverine to leverage the growth acumen of other nations bestowing through the polemical tides of hostility and despair for years.

## **An International Seminar on 'Kenya and India: Connections Ancient and Modern' at Kenya National Museum, Nairobi on June 27, 2019**

The programme was attended by Former Vice President of Kenya, High Commissioner of India to Nairobi and others. The event was jointly organized by University of Nairobi, National Museum of Kenya, Asian African Heritage Trust, Kenya, Asian Foundation, Kenya, Chandaria Foundation, Kenya and Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India.

The three member delegation of ISCS from India comprising Mr.Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary, ISCS, Mr.GautamChakraborty, Security Advisor and Coordinator Heritage, Kolkata Port Trust and Prof. SuchandraGhosh, Dept. of History, University of Calcutta participated in the symposium.The distinguished speakers as a part of their deliberations stressed on the need towards the development of a database (Heritage and Cultural Sites and Connectivity) comprising of images, text and bibliography for references and future research.Events and activities in form of seminar and consortiums should be carried out to represent and discuss about the inter-cultural linkages,riverine civilization and Indian-African cultural ties to boost the continental relations further. The ideas of ancient civilizational connectivity should not remain restricted amongst researchers,academicians and policy makers but should be conferred, discussed and disseminated among the school students through visits,chapters on diasporas and short clips on artefacts to orient them about the history and shared legacies bestowed within the waves of Indian Ocean.



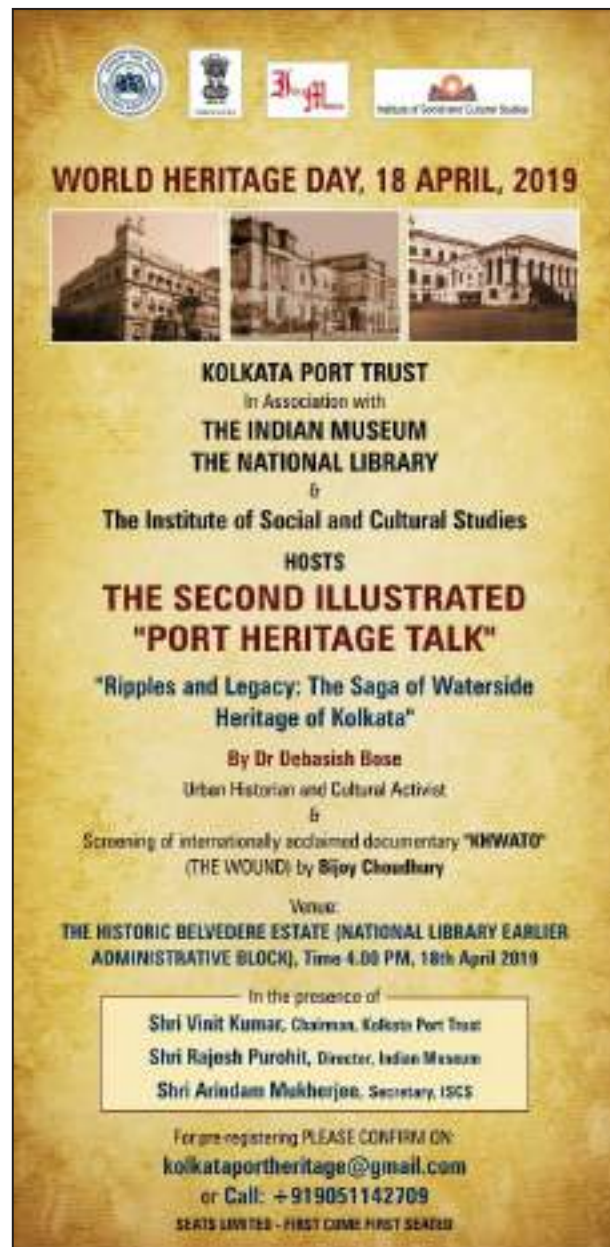
## Heritage Talk

The Second Illustrated Port Heritage Talk was hosted by The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) in association with Kolkata Port Trust, The Indian Museum and the National Library on the World Heritage Day April 18, 2019 at the 250-year old Durbar Hall of the Belvedere Estate, Kolkata.

In the inaugural session, Mr. Vinit Kumar, Chairman, KOPT highlighted the history of the Kolkata Port and the different projects they had undertaken for the restoration of heritage Ghats along the river Ganges.

Mr. Rajesh Purohit, Director, Indian Museum, discussed the importance of restoration of heritage properties. Mr. Gautam Chakraborti, Security Advisor of KOPT felt that restoration of heritage whether in the form of document, infrastructure, music or science should be a collective concern and the initiative of preservation of heritage should be collectively taken care with an active participation of the youthfolk. Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary, ISCS- remarked, 'with changing times youths are taking significant interest in the preservation of heritage and are devoting themselves in the search of chronicles also through many platforms representing the country's historical infrastructure, legacies to the western conclaves. Thus it is important to appreciate their attempts and encourage them in their prospects. This will not only help in preserving our heritage but will also appraise the world about the indomitable cultural treasures of our nation.'

Dr. Debasish Bose, urban historian and cultural activist through his presentation Ripples and Legacy: The Saga of Waterside Heritage of Kolkata, projected a sordid picture of different Ghats and surroundings and their historical relevance from heritage aspect. The event also projected an internationally acclaimed documentary "Khwato" by Bijoy Chowdhury.





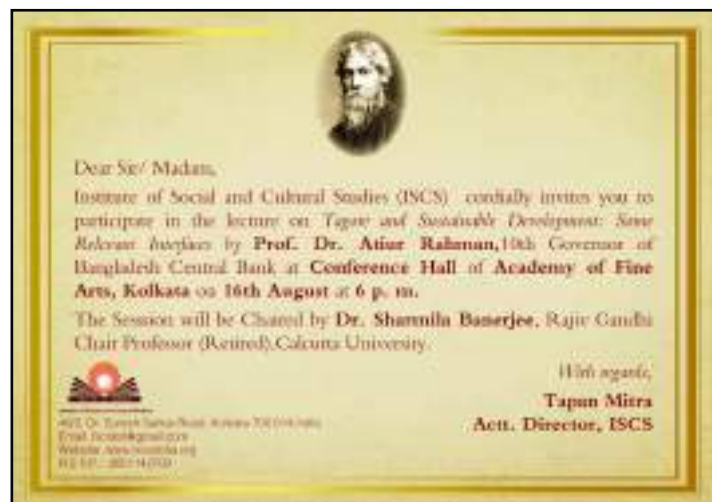


## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Tagore and Sustainable Development: Some Relevant Interfaces

ISCS hosted a lecture session on Tagore and Sustainable Development: Some Relevant Interfaces by Prof. Dr. Atiur Rahman, 10th Governor of Bangladesh Central Bank and Professor of Development Studies, University of Dhaka on 16th August, 2019, Friday at the Conference Hall of Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata.

The session was chaired by Dr. Sharmila Banerjee, Rajib Gandhi Chair Professor (Retd), University of Calcutta. The Distinguished Speaker of the event Dr. Atiur Rahman said, 'the world lays a lot emphasis on planning and fulfilling the goals of Sustainable Development which projects on attaining the primary needs of health, shelter, education, empowerment, eradication of poverty, community harmony, climate actions and some others. The need of the attainment of these basic goals was recognized and manifested while building the layout of Shantiniketan by Rabindranath Tagore decades back. Not only did he promote free and creative



education but also through activities and initiatives promoted provisions for women empowerment through micro industries,planned the township keeping ecological factors in mind'.Dr.Rahman added that Tagore's vision and ideas were not restricted to India and remained a rich source of inspiration for neighbouring Bangladesh. The country over last decade through grameen policies and pedagogies considerably tried to uplift the socio-economic conditions of financially compressed society by providing them a sustainable living.The event also indulged a discussion and a question answer session amongst the Speaker and the participants and concluded with a vote of Thanks by the Programme Coordinator, Sri.Krishnendu Baksi.

## National Seminar on “Eastern Himalayas and its Ecological Trends”

A National Seminar on “Eastern Himalayas and its Ecological Trends” was organized on 19th February 2020 at Sinclairs Hotel Darjeeling. The initiative was supported by Darjeeling Government College the knowledge partner along with ONGC,Indian oil and Oil India Limited who helped the institute in delivering its logistics in a cantabile format. The initiative was designed with an aim to address the various challenges due to the ecosystem of Eastern Himalayas and drew a holistic policy approach to attain the sustainability matrix for the region and its people.

Thus, in order to brace the Institute's course of work, academicians, researchers, civil society actors assembled from Sikkim, Kolkata and other parts of India who were hosted at the Sinclairs, Darjeeling and other hotels from 18th of February to 20th of February .A cultural programme by local troupe was arranged as entertainment for the eminent guests at the hotel auditorium on 18th February 2020 .

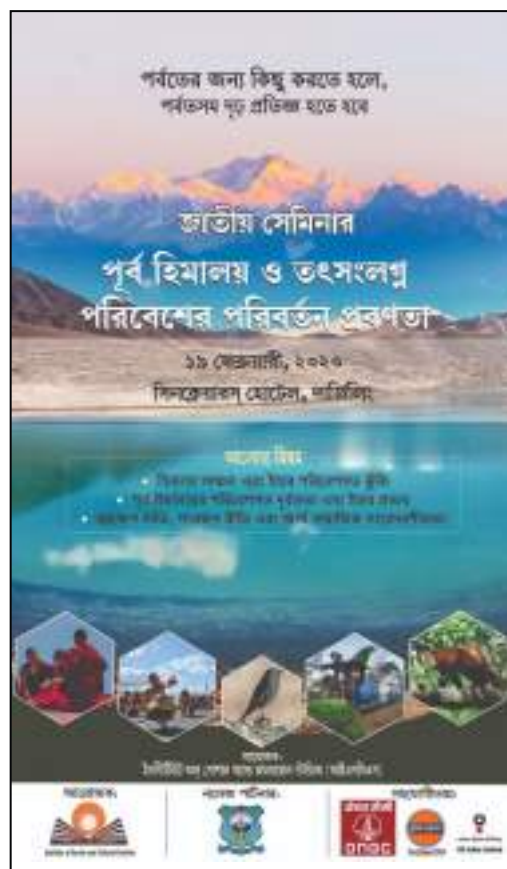
On 19th February 2020 the proposed National Seminar on “Eastern Himalayas and its Ecological Trends” was conducted at the auditorium of Sinclairs Hotel. The inaugural session was addressed by Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary,ISCS. The Chief Guest of the event was Ms.DeepapPriya, DistrictMagistrate,Darjeeling,and the other guest was Retired Prof.JayantaBandyopadhyay ,IIM Calcutta , distinguished Fellow ,ORF India. Swami Nityasatyananda, Secretary Ram Krishna Mission, Nivedita Educational and Cultural Centre , Darjeeling chaired the session. The eminent guest and the dignitaries elicited that the conservation practices for the extant of the Eastern Himalayas should



be adopted at an individual level. The discussion on the same thesis continued in the following three academic sessions , namely “Himalayan Region and the Risks of its Ecosystem”, “Ecological Vulnerability of the Eastern Himalayas and its Impact” and “Intervention Policies Conservation Practices and Socio-Cultural Diversities” .The seminar through the paper presentation of the dignitaries , researchers and policy makers addressed some of the key issues condemning the wellbeing of the ecological trends of Eastern Himalayas acting as a hamstring for its residents. Thus on the concluding edge the proposed National Seminar could highlight certain sensitization practices and guidelines that individual should redeem and transpire others to conserve the imperishable serenity of Eastern Himalayas.

The institute’s initiative was remarkably publicized through print media, hoardings , Invitations and other forms .Thus National Seminar received a wonderful response of around 230 guests including dignitaries, eminent personnels from various blocks of Darjeeling district, research scholars, students and media people. The students and research scholars even travelled long distance to attend the sensitizing seminar on environment and ecology.

Post conference cultural programme of a local troupe was also organized by the institute at the Sinclairs auditorium hall. The conference was able to accede the institute’s objective , to create a sensitization among the people of Eastern Himalayan region towards the preservation of their environs and its surroundings.





## **Sudhi Sangam –VII**

ISCS jointly with Sri Aurobindo Bhavan, Kolkata organized Sudhi Sangam programme on 26th July, 2019 where Justice Chittatosh Mookerjee, grandson of Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee was a distinguished Speaker.

The event started with felicitation of the distinguished speaker and dignitaries. As a part of the deliberation Justice Mookerjee informed that his adoption of legal field as practitioner was not only to drive out his passion but also a legacy that he intended to carry forward. He discussed how the judiciary system of the country had been evolving with time- 'Online court rooms and digital procedures/ informations are helping citizens to gain information about rights and entitlements over a click.' He further shared his childhood memories, his inspiration from Shyama Prasad Mookerjee and how he would love to document them in course of time. He raised concern about how the youths of today moving direction less and emphasized that youths should be inspired with the great works and ideas of the nation's contributors and reformists that would help them to gain access of the true principles of life.



## Sudhi Sangam VIII

The VIII Chapter of the ISCS's SudhiSangam turned out to be of great interest for the art lovers of the city who on 14th September 2019 assembled at the MaulanaAbulKalam Azad Hall of ICCR,Kolkata to listen experiences and ideas behind the dots and strokes of eminent painter Sri.GaneshHaloi.The event was Chaired by Mr.GautamDey, Regional Director, ICCR,Kolkata

Sri.Haloi narrated his childhood experiences at Bangladesh, his village life,his love and proximity with the nature that influenced him to display the beauty of environs through interesting shapes,lines and strokes.He also described how the famous Ajanta Art and distinct works of Nandalal Bose inspired him and encouraged him in the field of artistry. His art works not only gained appreciation but was able to create an appeal towards the preservation of ecology and environment in years to come.Sri.Haloi remained extremely enthusiastic in reciprocating with the art lovers on different perceptions and ideas of painting. At the end Shri Haloi, with an arch depicted greenery of happiness on the easel as requested by his lovers and admirers.





## Introduction

The Coeval Discourse is a platform to present, exchange of views and outline strategies to mitigate against challenges and issues causing threat to country and well being of its people. The discourse involves distinguished speakers, academicians, journalists, govt/non-govt officials and civil society activists from national and international levels.

Under the title “Coeval Discourse”, a programme was organised in collaboration with - Indian Council for Cultural Relations, ICCR Kolkata in 2019. The initiative attempted to focus on peremptory consequences that caused an impact on sustainability and development approach widely.

## Coeval Discourse I : Round table Meet on “New Paradigm on India-Bangladesh Economic Cooperation”

The first coeval discourse – a platform to assess the act and impact of the current happenings prompted a Round Table meet on “New Paradigm of India-Bangladesh Economic Cooperation” in partnership with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Kolkata on 21st of October 2019. The Round table acted as an initiative to engage expertise from disparate columns to assess the aftermath of the Memorandums and Agreements contrived between India and Bangladesh as a part of Hon’ble PM of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina’s visit to India, October 2019.

The speakers surmised that the bilateral partnership based on, sovereignty, peace, trust and equality would flatten colossal of advantages for both the countries over conventional as well as non-conventional areas. The revered economists, diplomat, academicians and eminent journalist elucidated that how a

win-win business partnership between the adjoining riveraine nations would boost connectivity over trade and commerce. The North Eastern belt of India would have a better access to LPG's at reduced price, generating revenues over cross border energy trade. The economist view point focused that the strategic economic partnership would help Bangladesh to make their economic growth sustainably fertile enhancing country's per capita income rate that remained substantially low than India till date. The medium of the growth spurt would be the export of textiles, jute, commercial goods, Pharmaceuticals including the swell of a lucrative approach towards marketing and commercialization. In order to ascertain the growth matrix for the grass root people of Bangladesh through the establishment of 'Border Haats', youth education and skill training the proposed approach also aimed to rekindle the growth prospect of cargo hubs, inland water and motor route connectivity to accord an efficient trade and connectivity corridors between India and Bangladesh in the future years.



The representative from the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Kolkata while illustrating the key impacts of the recent development between both the nations added that the Feni water agreements would strengthen the relation between both the nations. Underscoring the fact that all the agreements would redeem a proactive approach in condemning impinging issues like migration, socio-economic issues, gender and health notably the Memorandum on Zero Tolerance and the security surveillance was regarded as a resolute effort towards tranquil, stable and crime free border by all the speakers and the chair himself. They attested that Memorandum on Zero tolerance, Costal security surveillance and border security management including the installation of check post at Akhaura (Tripura) and Ghojadanga (West Bengal) as a manifestation of the commitment towards anti- terrorism , extremism and other illegal acts.

On a concluding line the Round table reaffirmed the fact that the avid multi-dimensional partnership would be rewarding for both the nation in terms of people to people connect, trade and commerce, connectivity, security and development of land ports.

The deliberation conceded the fact that the need of the hour for the countries was to synthesize an empirical articulatory approach to meet the evolving market and commercial requisites and people's need. The Round table members and the participants of the meet recalled the shared bonds between India and Bangladesh over history, culture, language and other commonalities. They also paid their solemn tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War of 1971, the Muktiyodhas and the Indian soldiers who fought relentlessly to cherish the value of secular democracy, growth and development. The meet culminated with a hope on the efficacy of recent transcend multi-dimensional bond, diplomatic channels, cultural linkages that would constructively roll anew a paradigm of growth and development between India and Bangladesh.

## Coeval Discourse II : “Eco Perils with the onset of winters in India”

The Institute hosted its ‘Coeval Discourse II’ with eminent speakers from the field of academics, Medicine, Law. The session was chaired by a very eminent environmentalist Lt.Col(Retd) Mr.ShaktiRanjan Banerjee. The welcome address was delivered by Sri.Gautam De, Regional Director,ICCR Kolkata who elicited that it was high time for the citizens to set measures in order to control the pollution rate and attain a sustainable living. The academician and the Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kolkata Chapter, Sri.G.V.Subramanian shared a wonderful illustration on how threatful a future could be for the next generation if the society would continue to thrive in the digital deltaic, automobiles and practices deforestation widely. He further appraised the audience about some of the measures that their institute adopted to curb the prodigious rate of pollution. His examples and illustrations cast an insight on how hazardous the sustainability would be if the surging of pollution matrix would not be restricted at the moment.

The same thread was also pulled by Dr.Rituparna Chatterjee, a consultant ophthalmologist of an esteemed medical care unit of Kolkata. Her deliberation, statistical figures helped the audience to acknowledge the health deficits caused by the influx of pollution all over the country and especially in the Northern region. She enlisted some of the precautionary measures including the health care tips to be adopted to stall the impact of the pollution on our healthy living. An interactive deliberation was pulled off by the legal practitioner Mr.Shayak Chakroborty who tried to skim the key causes of pollution in the country especially in the Northern region being enveloped with pollution during the onset of winters due to various agricultural practices, inefficient implementation of policy mechanisms, derailment of jurisprudence and lack of government interventions. His case studies elucidated the ignorance of effective policy mechanisms at the state and the central level inducing the proliferation of the rate of pollution during winters.

In order to transmute the actual situation to the audience addressing the discourse, Dr.Puneet Agrawala Medical practitioner from Delhi joined the discussion and boasted the actual situation of north India along with the underlying causes inciting the Environmental caveats in details. The chair Lt.Col(Retd) Mr.ShaktiRanjan Banerjee did sum up the discourse by highlighting the need of sensitization, effective policy mechanism and adoption of livelihood practices on an individual level to void such eco perils during the onset of every winters in our country.





## COEVAL DISCOURSE III : The Name of Ladakh : Mapping Extant and Plotting Future

Ladakh was established as a union territory of India on 31 October 2019, following the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act. Prior to that, it was part of the Jammu and Kashmir state. Ladakh is the largest and the second least populous union territory of India.

In 'Coeval Discourse III' on Ladakh the eminent speakers from the field of academics participated to address to outline a suitable road map for the country's newly entitled Union Territory.

The seminar held on 21st December, 2019 was chaired by Prof. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, Visiting Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, India. Other speakers were Brigadier Niladri Shankar Mukherjee, SM, VSMM (Retd), Secretary and Treasurer, The Research Centre for Eastern and North, Eastern Regional Studies, Kolkata, Adv. Adil Murshed of Calcutta High Court and Prof. Bimal Shankar Nanda, Dept of Pol. Science, University of Calcutta.

The importance of Ladakh to both India and China was rooted in complicated historical processes that led to the territory becoming union territory in 2019 (earlier it was part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir). Mr. Goutam De, Regional Director, ICCR, Kolkata in his welcome address presented his views and suggestions on the very issue.

Brigadier Niladri Shankar Mukherjee presented his discussion on the Geostrategic aspects of Ladakh. Located at the crossroads of important trade routes since ancient times. Ladakh had always enjoyed great geostrategic importance. Besides India, several other countries like China and Pakistan were trying to establish their dominance over this region. Brig. Mukherjee in his deliberation explained the role of the above-mentioned nations in this geostrategically important region.

Adv. Adil Murshed while pointing out the ecological aspects of Ladakh expressed his fear that one had to be more careful in an ecologically-sensitive region like Ladakh. There would have been a consideration on the ecological degradation before the region was opened up for the tourists, the government must have strict regulations in place.

Prof. Bimal Shankar Nanda in his deliberation discussed the political importance of Ladakh as a region. In his discussion, he analyzed the political importance of the union territory status of Ladakh bringing a feeling of comfiture among the localities especially with regards to their sustainability. He added that long standing disassociation, economic and political discrimination affected the Ladakhis to a great extent would now come to an end.



## **Coeval Discourse IV : Topic-Food Adulteration: Detections and Health Risks**

In collaboration with Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Kolkata the “Coeval Discourse IV” was held on one of the most relevant issues of present time - Food Adulteration: Detections and Health Risks. The event was supported by a Knowledge partner- Indian Chambers of International Business(ICIB).

The event rolled out with a welcome Address by Sri.Gautam De, The Regional Director,ICCR ,Kolkata who elucidated the need of each and everyone to understand the ills of consuming the adulterated food on a day to day basis. The Chair Col.Dahitule illustrated the health risk caused due to consumption of adulterated food. He also helped the audience to recognize the methods and the mediums through which they can recognize the adulterated food components. He also mentioned the reasons inducing the availability of adulterated food as economic issues, inflation in production mechanisms, lacunae in demand and supply, legal tentacles etc.

Ms.Debolina Banerjee the dietician taking the thread of discussion forward addressed common health risks like thyroid , obesity , diabetes, cancer and multiple others caused due to adulterated food. She stressed that one should be more vigilant about the daily consumption , restrict the consumption of sugar ,opt for fat free diet and healthy and organic eating. Mr.Rehmani, associated with food industry for a very long time through his deliberations pointed that the availability of adulterated food could be curbed through awareness programmes , surveys, inspections, striking a balance between demand and supply and transparency in legal forums , especially with regards to licensing the products before available to the consumer.

Mr.Guha a senior representative fromFSSAI forum joined the discussion and sensitized the audience with points that one should consider some facts about the daily consumptions .One should check the manufacturing date before purchasing a particular product, the source of food, proportion of fat and other nutrients, govt trade marks and stamps and most importantly one should be aware of the govt and legal forums like consumer forums where one could lodge a complain or post on social networking sites, FSSAI websites for support and protection.

Thus on a concluding note the participants expressed their gratitude and shared their experience of having felt enriched attending such an informative discourse. The discourse was wrapped up with a commitment to ensure safety and promote awareness against the viscose adulteration and its impact threatening the sustainability of society.





## **Bi-Monthly Bulletin**

In order to converse about contemporary issues and global interconnections a condense yet a very interesting form of documentation “News Reel” the Bi-Monthly Bulletin was started by the institute. The bulletin aimed to print about weaves of national history with transnational trends, geographies of religion and developmental perspectives for institute’s wide reaching audience. The initiative was supported and observed in terms of content selection, review and designing by versatile and experience group of members who constantly attempted to bring together some of the finest thinkers to deliberate on gamut of political, diplomatic, economic issues and undergoing global transformations.

## **Glimpse of Institute’s Publication 2019-2020**

The Institute managed to roll out an interesting compilation of publications at the 44th Kolkata International Book Fair. The range of old and new publication by the Institute garnered attention of the readers who intended to account a dynamic and nimble understanding of resistance, revolution and power within the country and neighbourhood.

## **RAKTOTIRTHA --- PanchananChakraborty**

Edited by Arindam Mukherjee

ISBN : 978-93-84566-25-8

Price: Rs. 170/-

This book by Biplabi Panchanan Chakravorty can be treated as a valid document of the Revolutionary Movement of India.

This book is a valuable unpublished authenticated document about the last war between Bagha Jatin and his four compatriots against British rulers on the bank of the river Buri Balam.



## **JATINDRANATH MUKHOPADHYAY**

Edited by Gautam Biswas

ISBN : 978-93-84566-20-3

Price: Rs. 350/-

This book is an anthology of the revolutionary activities of Bagha Jatin written by the eminent historians and research scholars. Edited by Sri Gautam Biswas, this book contains valuable information about Bagha Jatin's (Jatindranath Mukhopadhyay) revolutionary endeavor. This book contains various unknown activities of Bagha Jatin published in the pre-independence newspapers, declassifying frequent police reports from numerous archives of India and abroad.

## **DAINIKPATRER CARTOON E KASHMIR PRASANGO (1947-1972)**

Edited by Snehangshu Bhattacharjee

ISBN : 978-93-84566-35-3

Price: Rs. 150/-

Since independence, Kashmir issue had become a bone of contention to the Government of India. It was thought that the main issue for which India had to face a number of wars with neighbouring countries after independence was principally due to Kashmir. This book is an authenticated document of how two newspaper groups presented their views on Kashmir issue in those dailies. This





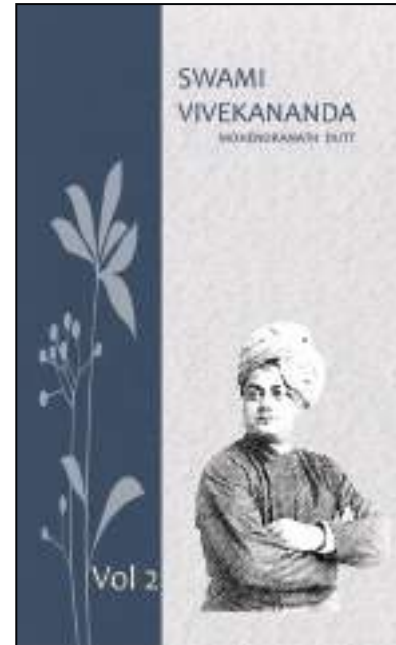
book is also being an instrument how cartoon can be a medium to unearth the Kashmir issue from a common man's perspective.

## **SWAMI VIVEKANANDA VOL 2 --- MahendranathDutt**

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The second volume of this book highlighted the changing nature of the Muslim politics in Bengal by meaningfully analyzing legislative discourses during the no confidence motion of 1938. It thereafter discussed the plethora of legislation initiated by the Muslim League led coalition government and the controversies related to it . It also highlighted how the communal aspiration of the Muslim legislators found its place in the legislative deliberation on issue of communal reservation of the Muslims in government services.





## PLANNING AND REVIEW

### Organizational Planning Meeting

A Planning Meeting was held on 21 stSeptember,2019 Saturday at “Maharaja Banquets, Chowringee, Kolkata. The planning meeting was an initiative for synthesizing algorithms towards socio- Cultural unifications. The meeting was attended by the members and the stakeholders of the institute , academicians, media personals, corporates and members of various government and Non –Government sector .The meeting illustrated the academic work , research , publications and events that had been carried out by the institute for almost for a decade . It emphasized on the planner that was outlined during the first Planning meeting of the institute in 2016 . It did analyze and assess the target areas of emphasis in 2016 .Arindam Mukherjee and other members involved with ongoing research and other activities of the institute were delighted to receive much appreciation for the variegated activities it had and still been carrying out in multifarious ways.

The meeting initiated an enriching deliberations by its participants who intended to sketch its next two years planner(2019-2021) through their substantial ideas , and strategies along with colossal of engagement opportunities for a global community by their suggestions on events, international and National outreach, publication segment, and research Initiatives aiming to aspire the institute towards the study of connections between local,regional national and global histories over many centuries in order to provide a useful way to think creatively about social life and future unfoldings of the world around us.

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