

## Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, India





# ANNUAL REPORT



ute of Social and Cultural Studies



20222023





# **Annual Report**

2022-2023



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Today when India looks ahead through Bi-lateral relations with neighbourhood and intends to tide high in post pandemic recovery rates through involving local talent and fastening infrastructural projects. It becomes important to mark the development of the Indian periphery and counter the hindsight of challenges regarding infrastructural initiatives and Maritime activities. At the same time becomes integral to refer a workable option for the drivers exploring myriad of issues in context to Asia and dexter global stage.

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies(ISCS),India that marks its 12th being one of the fastest and premier autonomous Think Tank of Eastern India brings together some of the finest thinkers in the country to deliberate on the gamut of political, social, economic, infrastructural issues. Addresses the challenges with neighbourhood and tries to chart a way forward to soar country's model of self reliant and inclusive growth at multiple levels.

Institutes Chapters, Study circles, initiatives and publications thrives the objective of developing convergence between research and policy system at the same time facilitate greater exchange and dissemination of ideas. The year 2022-2023 institute had devoted interest in the study of history of contributions, global economic trends ,renewed patters of integrations, road initiatives ,tech harbors, industrial innovation reappraising the pattern of economic, social and cultural changes at regional and sub-regional levels.

As India turns 75, in this Amrit Kal it becomes significant to reminiscence the contributions of patriots who have offered advice and self sacrifices in the times of colonial conquest. Their invincible approach to spread the fervor of nationalism in the remotest part of the country and passion to arch India as the mirror of aspiration, ambition and approach attributes to the ideas and ethics driving contemporary Indian diplomacy; examine the methods and contours of India's engagement with the world; and, offer a prognosis of India's future as a leading power. Therefore the set of vernacular publications and events rubric within the institutes chapter of Freedom Struggle have defined the role of the national heroes playing a crucial roles for India in shaping this decade and determining the trajectory of decades to be followed.

The battle against the climate change plays a pivotal role in shaping India's economic trajectory. The proposals to ensure a shift from conventional models to an alternate green energy technological ecosystem in India to create a sustainable future for a population of approx. 1.38 billion in green frontier were discussed at the Chapter called "Coeval" – designated to raise and address the present day challenges and consequences in collaboration with The Indian Council For Cultural Relations (ICCR).

It is often referred that the growing importance of the India and Indo-Pacific ocean have given a new momentum to the Indo-Pacific geostrategic construct. Though India does not see the Indo-Pacific region as a strategy or a club of members but a layout to integrate with its global cultural and commercial commons. The International conference on India -Tanzania Relations: An Overview organized in collaboration with the High Commission of India at Dar Es Salaam became an occasion to discuss about the vitals of Maritime security, economy and trade relations, culture and historical linkages.

In other words the conference as a part of Institutes Indian Ocean Resource Centre(IORC) was a reflection of Hon'ble Prime Minister's Indo-Pacific vision of integrating IORA, ASEAN region and QUAD within the Indo-Pacific dynamics and architect a long term strategic and economic interests.

Bangladesh has emerged as India's pivot in sub regional groupings such as Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation(BIMSTEC) and prime in context to India's Act East. Institutes Chapter on Bangladesh have remained nimble in discussing multi-modal issues and contours of future road map with India's Eastern neighboring.

Institutes through its chapter of Neighbourhood Studies organized discussion sessions on Thailand, Bhutan in collaboration with The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies(MAKAIAS), Ministry of Culture and involved in commemoration of 25 years of BIMSTEC in collaboration with The Ministry of External Affairs(MEA), GOI at Kolkata this year with partnership of multiple forums across the BIMSTEC region. Which enabled the stakeholders to develop a manifesto for intensifying cooperation, and allocating more resources for functions, expanded activities and connectivity across the BIMSTEC periphery.

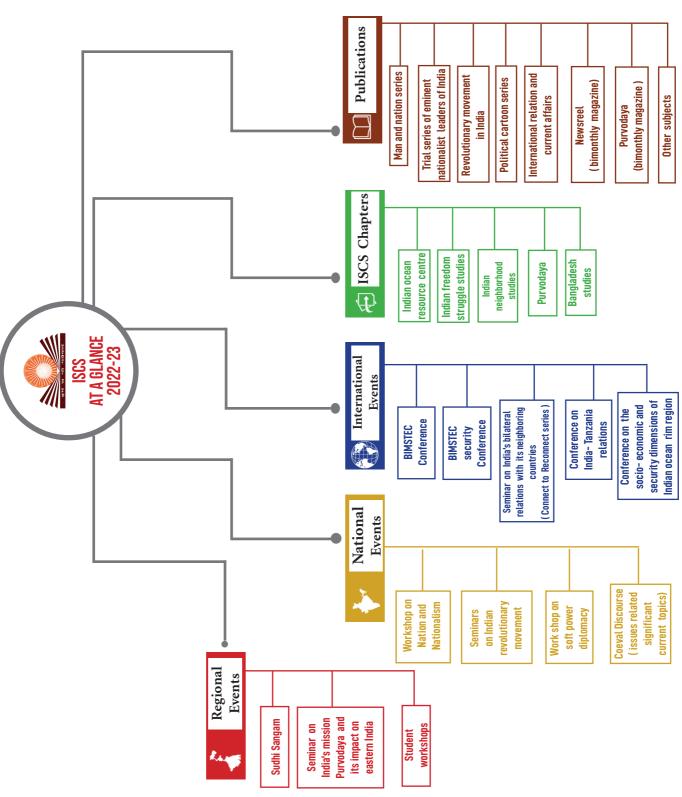
In order to identify how Mission Purvodaya is strengthening India's Eastern Arm through transforming the region through a major infrastructural upgrade. Institutes Chapter on Purvodaya through research, events, discussions and range of webinars along with a panel discussion that constituted to commence a year long journey of the Chapter. In presence of Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship- highlighted how the policy framework could become a blueprint for an eternal way forward for the Eastern India.

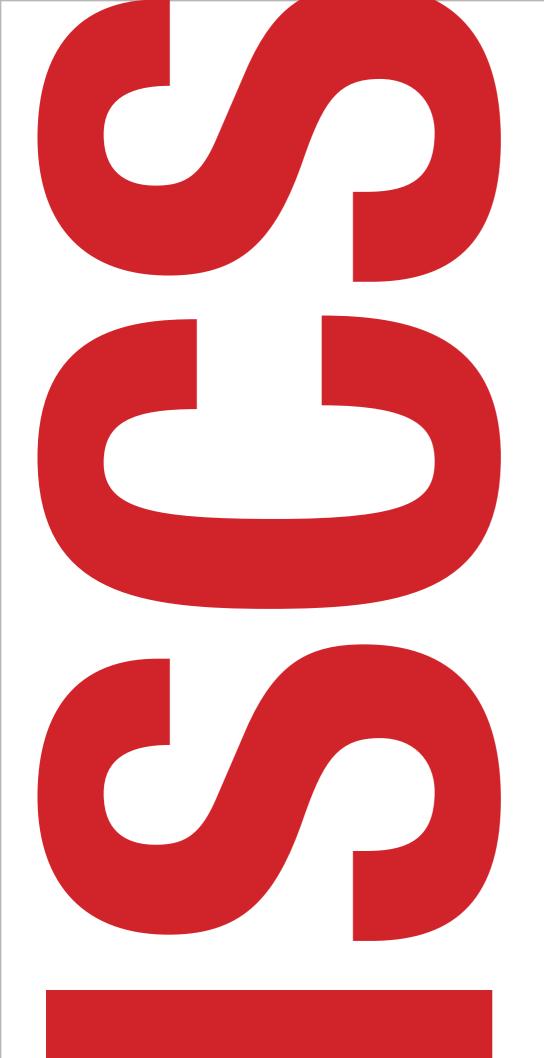
Apart from the discrete activities on significant issues through institutes chapters. The team ISCS remained active in reciprocating about India's soft power policies, cultural dynamics through Bangla Chapter, cultural colloquium "Sudhi Sangam", publications, internship programmers as well as training programmes that was imparted for the officials of ICCR as well as research scholars in collaboration with the ICSSR. The training programmes became a ground to exchange thoughts on how Indian culture and its perspectives becomes an intellectually stimulating factor for the Indian foreign policy.

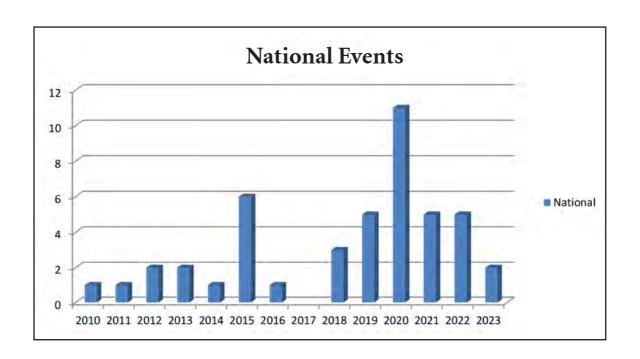
The year 2022-2023 enabled the team ISCS to avail opportunities to weave together on national themes and transnational trends of South Asian history and evolving political trends, domestic demands, productivity and competitiveness from different angles. Institutes growing networks, support from different stakeholders and affection of wide reaching audience have enabled the Institute to encourage voices from various corners of the world and work on coherent policies on governance, development and foreign policy objectives. In the coming year the institutes initiatives, international events and multilateral conferences and reading frames aims to further engage its audience in exploring Indian history, vexed relations with neighbourings and geo-strategic implications transforming India in more ways than one.

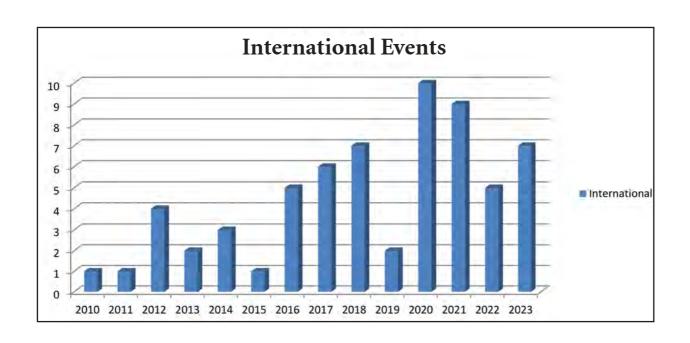
Arindam Mukherjee Director, ISCS, India

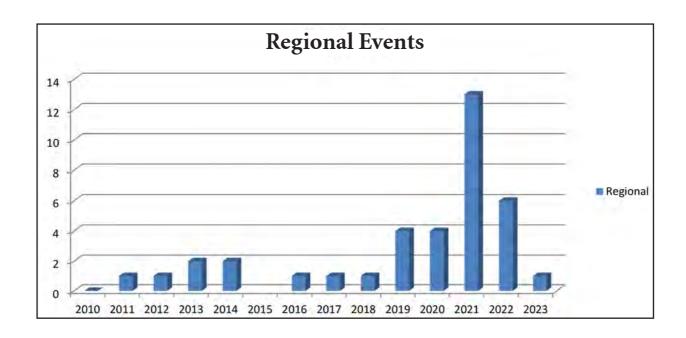
## **Pictogram of ISCS Activities**

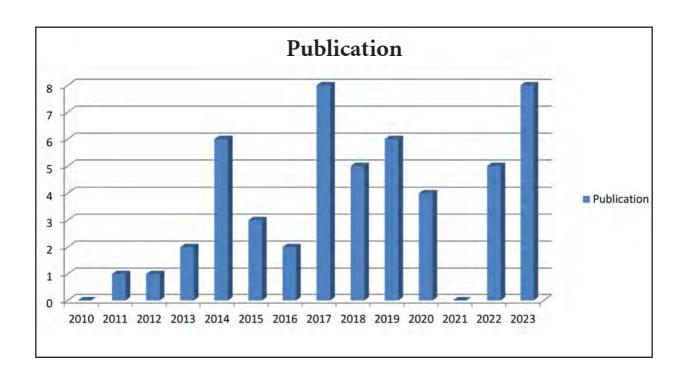






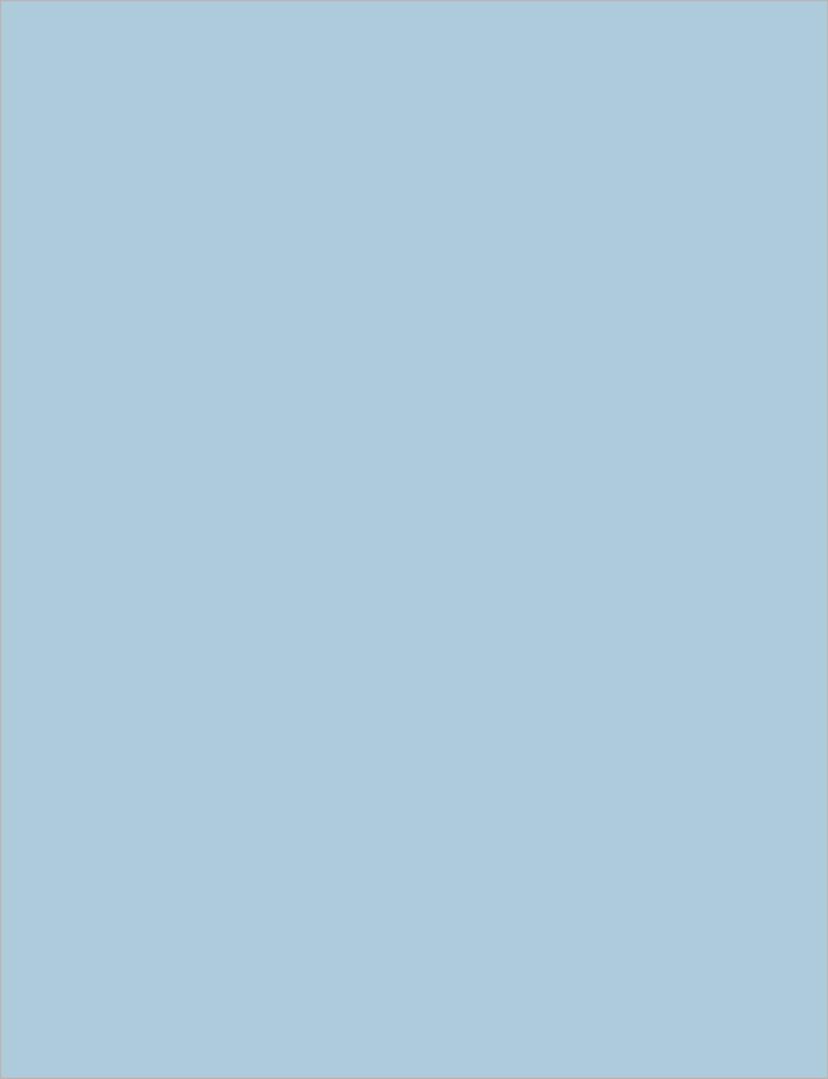






## FREEDOM STRUGGLE STUDIES





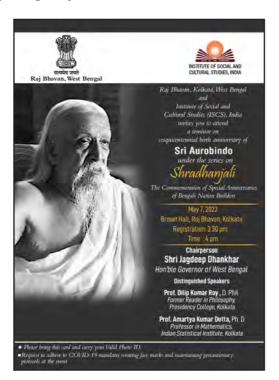
### 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo

**Under the series** 

# Shradhanjali: The Commemoration of Special Anniversaries of Bengali Nation Builders

7th May, 2022, Raj Bhavan, Kolkata

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India in collaboration with the Raj Bhavan, Kolkata under its collaborative series of "Shradhanjali" which is dedicated to pay tributes to Social Reformers from Bengal on their Birth Centenaries hosted its second Chapter on Sri Aurobindo at the Raj Bhavan itself on 7th May 2022. The event marked its beginning with a floral tribute to Sri Aurobindo by the dignitaries and all the Distinguished Speakers. Followed to which the meeting Coordinator of the event Sri Ujjwal Bose did welcome the Hon'ble Chairperson of the event, distinguished Speakers and thanked all dignitaries for participating in the hosted lecture on ideas and vision of Sri Aurobindo.



The event further proceeded with the welcome Address by Sri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India who expressed his gratitude to the authorities of Raj Bhavan for their initiative and support towards hosting of the event itself. Followed to which the First Distinguished Speaker of the event, Prof. Dilip Kumar Roy, D.Phil., Former Reader in Philosophy, Presidency College, Kolkata thanked the organizers for giving him an opportunity to participate in the prestigious event. As a part of his deliberation later he mentioned that Sri Aurobindo has etched a road map from human development and the harmony of human civilization. It is now the onus of human nature to understand his or her potentials through spiritual ideas, enrichment of knowledge and curb the "ego" system to attain ultimate happiness. Spiritual thoughts as narrated by Sri Aurobindo can enable human being to dominate his worldly desires, social aspirations and proceed towards the ultimate paths of enlightenment.

The second Distinguished Speaker of the event, Prof. Amartya Kumar Dutta, Ph.D., Professor in Mathematics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata conveyed his ideas on

the relations between psychic, consciousnesses. He mentioned how mind and knowledge in convergence can become an instrument for enrichment for mankind. Lastly Sri Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata as the Hon'ble Chairperson of the event firstly thanked the organizers for inviting him and later through examples, epics and episodes appraised the participants about many unknown facts from the journey of Sri Aurobindo Ghosh to Rishi Aurobindo. He also highlighted how significant the ideas of Sri Aurobindo are in contemporary times especially in the growth & development of the youths and for the solidarity of the society on the whole. The event concluded with vote of thanks and High Tea.



Prof. Dilip Kumar Roy



Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh



Marble Hall, Raj Bhavan, Kolkata





# Sheikh Hasina's Recent India Visit and Indo-Bangladesh Relations

17th September, 2022, ICCR, Kolkata

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies that has been a daily tracker of the happenings of Indo-Bangladesh relations, in order to identify to what extent the recent visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh – Sheikh Hasina's visit has been fruitful for the adjoining nations, organized a Discussion session on 17th of September 2022 at the RTC, ICCR, Kolkata in collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). The close group meet was addressed by Distinguished Panellists comprising of eminent journalists, academicians, policy makers along with researchers, govt. officials, intellectuals who attended the discussion and also exchanged ideas on the given topic.

The event started with a short deliberation by the Chair of the discussion, Sri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India. As a first Distinguished Speaker, Sri Arindam Basu, Former Journalist and Senior Faculty, Mass



Communication and Journalism Department, Sister Nivedita University, commenced his deliberation briefing about the history, challenges and political round abouts taking place post 1971 Liberation War and how the adjoining countries have been maintaining a sustainable relation for 50 years through multi-sectoral initiatives. In fact his deliberation enlisted about the initiatives taken by the countries during the recent visit of Sheikh Hasina in terms of waterway connectivity, energy, trade and commerce. The speaker focused that despite of multiple complimentary initiatives undertaken, the complication surrounding the Teesta water treaty remains unresolved and also problems like minority issues, conversions, vandalism continue to exist. The second Speaker, Prof. Ishani Naskar -Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University expressed an apprehension about Indo-Bangladesh relations being solely dependent on Sheikh Hasina, and hence she asserted that India should now focus on getting connected with the institutionalized form of mechanism with Bangladesh than remaining solely dependent on one person. She added that India should develop collaboration through adequate use of foreign policies like BIMSTEC, BBIN and can also extend support by providing green energy provisions to Bangladesh and help them to fight against Climate Change and other hazards in coming times.

The third speaker, Devadeep Purohit – Chief of Bureau (Politics and Policy) said that Indo-Bangladesh relations have never been linear, rather have been full of ups and downs. Some steps through multilateral projects and initiatives have been taken by Sheikh Hasina to amend a sustainable relation with next door neighbours of Bangladesh which includes India. In order to boost India-Bangladesh relations collaborative steps should be taken towards supply of energy, mitigating food scarcity at Bangladesh, connecting power grids, make use of land and water routes to enhance trade and commerce. According to the Speaker some comprehensive steps have been taken between the two nations to mend the lacunae in the mentioned areas. Therefore this time Sheikh

Hasina's visit can be regarded as beneficial for both the nations. The final speaker of the event, Ms. Sohini Nayak, Junior Researcher from ORF, Kolkata Chapter denoted that approaches have mended but it's time to implement them – through enhancing connectivity through India's Act East Policy, Eastern Coastal Economic Corridors, reinvigorate SAARC and other foreign policies like BIMSTEC, BBIN and develop connectivity to trigger economy and trade prospects with South East Asia. The interesting discussion also facilitated interactions and exchange of views between the multi-sectoral participants and the speakers on various topics and concluded with the observation and key take aways by the Chair himself.

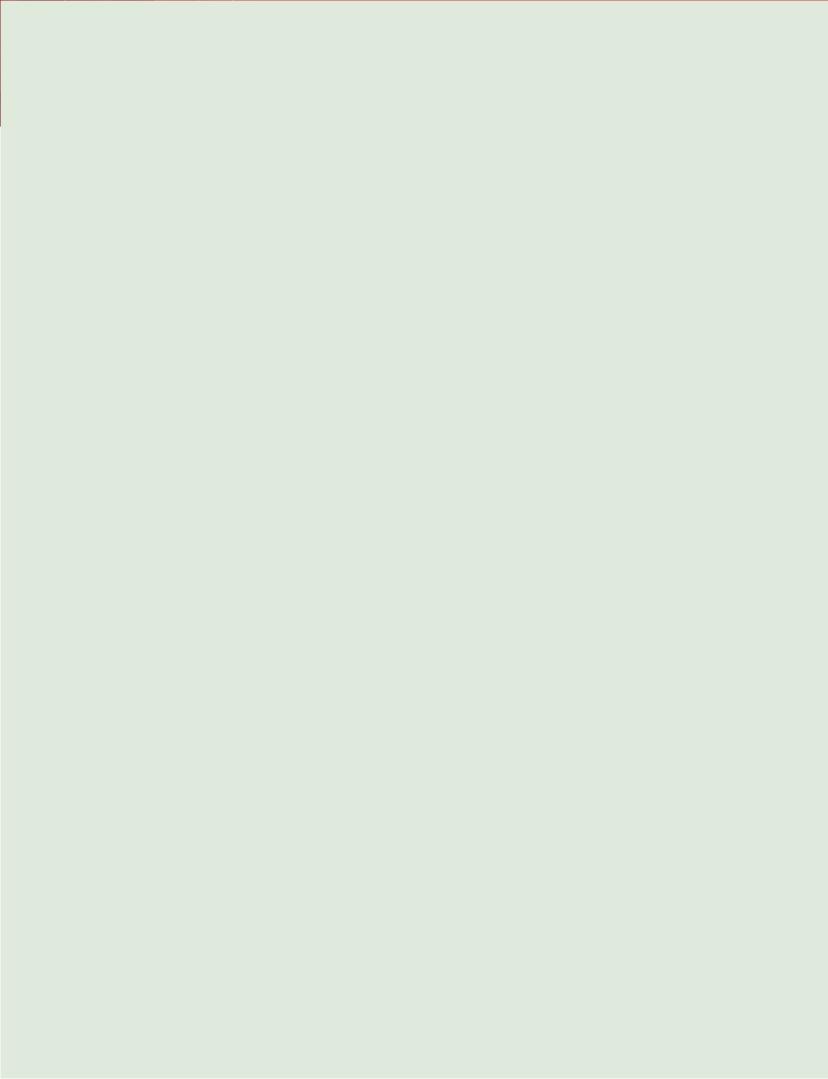


Speaker at the forum



## **NEIGHBOURHOOD STUDIES**

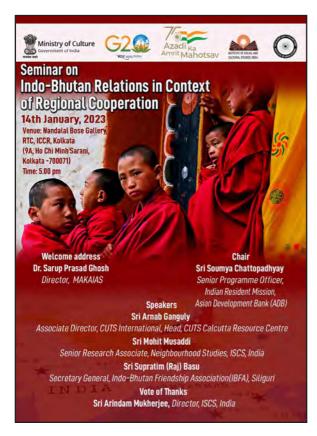




# Indo-Bhutan Relations in Context to Regional Cooperations

#### 14th January 2023, Nandalal Bose Gallery, RTC, ICCR, Kolkata

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies & Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) hosted a Collaborative seminar on Indo-Bhutan Relations in Context to Regional Cooperations on 14th January, 2023 at RTC, ICCR, Kolkata. As a Chairperson the event was addressed by Sri Soumya Chattopadhyay, Senior Programs Officer, Indian Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and as Speakers the seminar was addressed by Sri Supratim (Raj) Basu, Secretary General, Indo-Bhutan Friendship Association (IBFA), Siliguri along with Sri Arnab Ganguly – Associate Director, CUTS International, Head, CUTS, Calcutta Resource Centre and Sri Mohit Musaddi – Senior Research Associate, Bangladesh and Neighbourhood Studies, ISCS, India.



The event started with a welcome address by Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh - Director, MAKAIAS, where he thanked all the participants for their presence and mentioned how Bhutan is strategically important for India and how it can act as a buffer state for India historically, politically and deep down culturally as well. Followed to which the Chairperson of the seminar - Sri Soumya Chattopadhyay expressed that today's international seminar would review what are the potentials between India and Bhutan which can be put in use for the development of South East Asia. He also highlighted about the role of ADB through a programme called SASEC (South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation) which brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka in a project-based partnership that aims to promote regional prosperity, improve economic opportunity and build a better quality of life for the people of the subregion.

After the address by the Chair, the first Speaker Sri Arnab Ganguly reflected Indo-Bhutan relations in context to BBIN which focuses on building connectivity placing India as a transit nation for Bhutan and Bangladesh.

The second speaker Sri Mohit Musaddi denoted about multipolar programmes that have been developed and should be improved further to suffice



the pace of growth and development in the postpandemic era. The final speaker Sri Supratim (Raj) Basu reciprocated about his narratives through a power point presentation. He focused on the cultural interactions and exchanges that have been taking place between India and Bhutan based on deities, beliefs, customary practices and traditions. He also described the Padmasambhava trail and noted how the concept itself can become a vital component or a soft power and become a main bridge of association between the two Himalayan neighbourings as well as South East Asia at a large.

After the deliberation the discussions were drawn between the participants and the speakers and lastly a vote of thanks was delivered by Sri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India.



Sri Soumya Chattopadhyay, ADB, India

#### **Indo-Thai Relations**

#### 28th January, 2023, Library Hall, RTC, ICCR, Kolkata

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) with parallel interests in policy, neighbourhood connectivity and happenings of Asia organized a Seminar on Indo-Thai Relations on 28th January, 2023 from 5 pm onwards at the Library Hall of RTC, ICCR, Kolkata.



The main objective of the seminar was to foray on the social and the cultural linkages between India and Thailand and also reciprocate as well as exchange ideas on how India and Thailand, who have been partnering through BIMSTEC and multi-modal initiatives, can facilitate a growth based semantics in coming times.

The seminar did commemorate with a Welcome Address by Shri Arindam Mukherjee who is the Director of The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) and Vice-President of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS). The event would further proceed with the deliberation of the Guest of Honour of the event – H.E. Ms. Acharapan Yavaprapas, Consul General of Thailand to Kolkata. Thereafter the Chairperson of the seminar – Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Former Ambassador of India to Thailand & Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation shared his ideas and experiences with the participants of the event.

The Distinguished Speakers Dr. Uttam Sinha – Head, Non-Traditional Security Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), Dr. Rajiv Nayan – Asian Security and Defence Analyst, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA),



Speakers at the event

Sri Soumya Bhowmick – Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Kolkata further discussed about economic partnerships, macroeconomic situations, security angles and multimodal connectivity approach that includes infrastructure, tourism, educational exchange to strengthen people-to-people connect between the Asian neighbours.

The event finally marked its conclusion with the valedictory address by Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS).

#### 2nd ISCS BIMSTEC CONFERENCE

# BIMSTEC: 25 Years of Driving Force behind Neighbourhood Cooperation

25th-26th March 2023, Hotel Taj Bengal, Kolkata

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) in collaboration with The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had organized a two day 2nd BIMSTEC conference on 25-26th March, 2023 at Taj Bengal, Kolkata. The event received support and cooperation from multiple other Think Tanks across

the BIMSTEC countries. From India circuit Research and Information System For Developing Countries (RIS), Bharat Chamber of Commerce, National Library, Ministry of Culture, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute For Asian Studies whereas (MAKAIAS) other **BIMSTEC** from Countries institutes like South Asia Watch on Trade, **Economics** and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal, Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE), Nepal, Bangladesh Institute International Strategic Studies (BIISS), Bangladesh, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD),

Bangladesh, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, Department of Politics and International Relations, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand, Awarelogue Initiative, Sri Lanka, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal, Norbuling Rigter College, Bhutan and The Asian Development Bank (ADB) extended their partnership towards the event. The event in itself was a commemoration of 25 Years of BIMSTEC's Journey altogethger.

The conference was inaugurated by Shri Rajkumar

Ranjan Singh (MOS), MEA, GOI along with Amb. Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General BIMSTEC, Secretariat Dhaka and Shri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India.

The two day meet held exclusive sessions on Transport connectivity, Food Security, Climate Change, Educational Cooperation, Cultural Exchanges People-to-People connect. Ambassador of Myanmar Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung, Dr. Rajdeep Roy, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Mr. Thiam Hee Ng from Asian Development Bank, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS along with other national and international delegation

participated and shared their ideas on policies and perspectives on how BIMSTEC as a sub regional policy could harness growth and development in coming times. Important aspects including the sports diplomacy, India's millet diplomacy tourism were being discussed.



As Kolkata is strategically important, especially for Act East policy, therefore it can enable east and north east of the country to become leaders for the diplomatic strategy for the region. A Kolkata Declaration was also read out on the concluding day that charted the range of issues which needs focus and introspection in the coming time. It was also proposed to engineer such assemblage of thinkers and policy makers through BIMSTEC Conference by the institute on an annual basis.



Special Session on Reviewing Food Security and Value Chain Approach in BIMSTEC Countries



Felicitation of Bangladeshi deligates on the occasion of their Independence Day





## Annual Report (2022-2023)



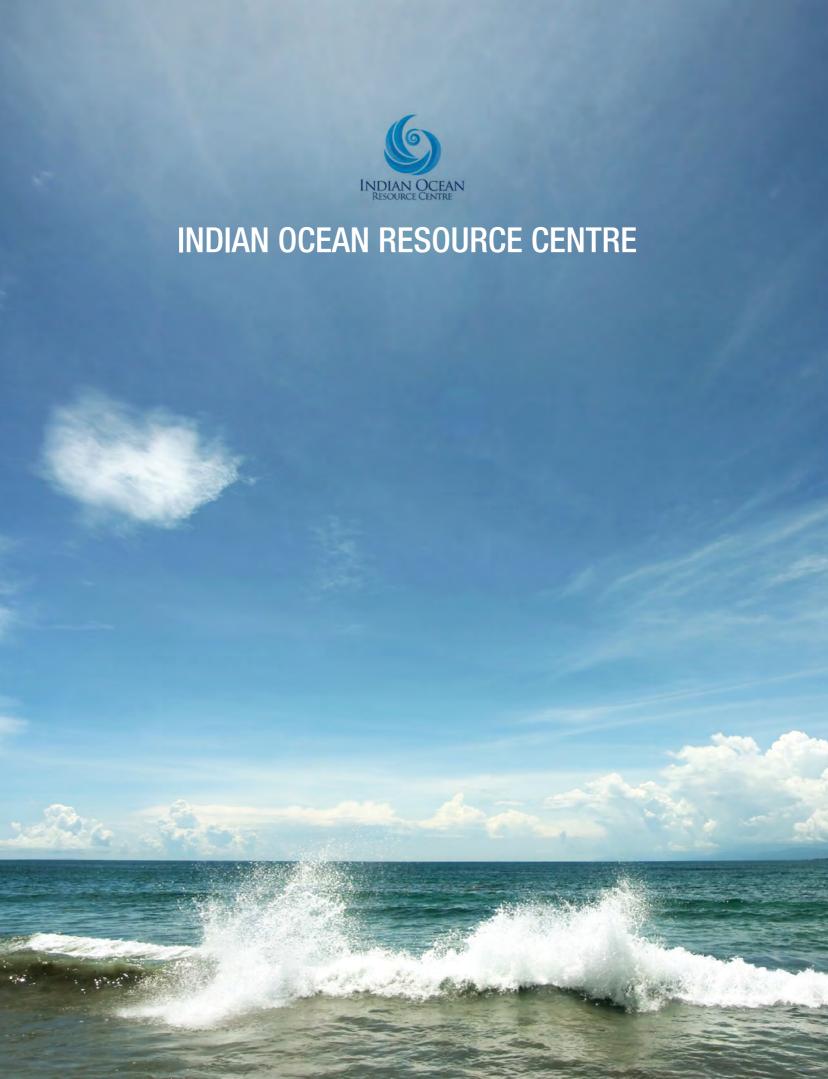




Speakers of the BIMSTEC Conference



Billboard about the BIMSTEC Conference at Kolkata





# International Conference on India-Tanzania Relations: An Overview 30th September-1st October, 2022, Dar Es Salaam

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India in collaboration with High Commission of India, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania and National Museum of Tanzania hosted an International Conference on India-Tanzania Relations: An Overview on 30th September and 1st of October, 2022 at Dar Es Salaam itself. The event over its academic sessions on India's Cultural & Historical Linkages with Tanzania, Strengthening People-to-People Connect through Tourism, Health and Education, Rebooting India-Tanzania Partnership, Maritime Co-Operations and Coastal Security Management, Moving Through Histories: Indian Diasporas & East Africa addressed some key areas with respect to India-Tanzania relations, including the rich history, culture and trade network between India and Tanzania which is connected through the Magnificent Indian Ocean. In parallel to these some contemporary issues such as trade, tourism, educational exchanges in post COVID-19 era to foster people-to-people connect and leverage growth partnership between the two countries were also looked upon.



(L to R) H.E. Mr. Felix Wandwe, Director, Tanzania-Mozambique Centre for Foreign Relations; H.E. Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, High commissioner of India to Tanzania; H.E. Amb. Liberata Mulamula, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation; Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, ISCS Director; Dr. Achlies Buffure, Director, Museum and House of Culture, National Museum

The event was addressed by the Director of ISCS Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, HC of India, H.E. Binaya Pradhan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation H.E. Amb. Liberata Mulamula; without forgetting the presence of the Director of Tanzania-Mozambique CFR, and National Museum and House for Culture Dr. Achilles Buffure along with the eminent speakers and Dignitaries from both the countries. The event, in other words, actually turned itself to a platform for the Think Tanks from India, government agencies from Tanzania to convey history and associate on the developmental perspectives of the countries.



H.E Amb. Liberata Mulamula, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Tanzania



H.E. Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, High commissioner of India to Tanzania



(L to R ) Prof. Eliab Z Opiyo, VC, St. Joseph University, Tanzania; Prof Elifas Tozo Bisanda, VC, The Open University of Tanzania; Dr. Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate & Centre Coordinator, Manohar Parrikar Institute For Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA); Dr. Makarius Itambu, Dept of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, University of Dar es Salaam

## **Cultural Programme**



African Traditional Dance by Fitness Stop Dance Group



Indian Semi Classical Music Consort by Mr.Vishnu Mishra & Dr. Surjato



(L to R) Dr. V. Selvakumar, Associate Professor & Department of Maritime History and Marine Archaeology, Head &. Coordinator, Centre for Indian Ocean Studies, Tamil University, Thanjavur; Dr. Priyadarshi Dash - Associate Professor, RIS; Vice Admiral (Retd) Shekhar Sinha, Former Chief of Integrated Defence Staff & Commander in Chief, Western Naval Command, India; Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India



(L to R )H.E Amb. Liberata Mulamula, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Tanzania; H.E. Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, High commissioner of India to Tanzania; Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy, Director General, Manohar Parrikar Institute For Defence Studies and Analyses, MP-IDSA, New Delhi; Dr. Ruchita Beri - Senior Research Associate & Centre Coordinator, Manohar Parrikar Institute For Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA)



Virtual Presentation by Prof. Nilufer Bharucha, Co-Director of the Mumbai Muenster Institute of Advanced Studies (MMIAS)



(L to R ) Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India; H.E Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, High Commissioner of India; Dr. Herbet Francis Makoye, Principal - The Bagamoyo Institute of Arts and Culture (TaSUBa); Dr. Achlies Buffure, Director, Museum and House of Culture, National Museum and Co-organiser of the conference

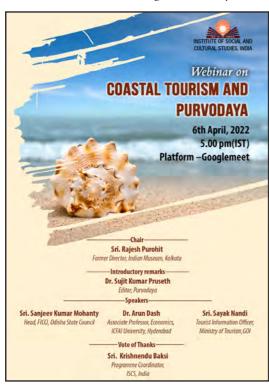




# Webinar on Coastal Tourism and Purvodaya 6th April, 2022

As the institute's followers know that ISCS's Chapter on Purvodaya – is creatively designed to focus and feature the growth and development of Eastern India. The Chapter over months, through persistent writings and events, has addressed connectivity, importance of religious economy etc. Therefore carrying forward the trend, the Institute hosted a Webinar on "Coastal Tourism and Purvodaya" on 6th of April 2022 from 5 pm onwards.

The webinar started with a brief introduction of the topic by Dr. Sujit Kumar Pruseth, Chapter Co-Ordinator, ISCS, Purvodaya. He highlighted that government of India has laid a lot of importance to facilitate tourism. Policies and Programmes like Dekho Apna Desh launched in 2020, Swadesh Darshan are structured in such a way that they, apart from tourism, act as an agent that lays sufficient



importance on connectivity, trade, preservation of ecology and building cultural connect.

The Distinguished Chair of the webinar Sri Rajesh Purohit – Former Director, Indian Museum Kolkata featured that coastal tourism with regard to Eastern India. As coastal enrouting across Bengal, Orissa and Andhra would play a significant role in connecting South East Asia, development of ports which can facilitate trade, generate employment and prove equality in the life of people. Cruise Tours, Blue economy will enable the region to attain economic prospects, hospitality and ultimately fuel the sustainability of the local people. Especially after the pandemic and its aftermath importance should be laid on tourism on whole and of course to the context of Coastal tourism to determine the growth of east India.

Followed to which the First Distinguish Speaker – Sri Sanjeev Kumar Mohanty - Head, FICCI Odisha State Council mentioned that coastal tourism could help the region to gain investments, foreground the art and culture of the region, will help to attain global consumer for local handicraft and crafts. Thus it will be helpful for the self-help groups that have become a source of livelihood or support family income for the women. Secondly he added that coastal tourism would also help the flourishment of Buddhist Tourism and become an important factor towards the representation of cultural linkages amongst India and South East Asia. Thirdly the speaker mentioned that Orissa, Bengal, Andhra Pradesh are the regions of festivals surrounding the coasts. In terms of fair, customary practices, epics and believes. Thus coastal tourism would help India and neighbouring to get appraised about deep rooted cultural attributes and also ensure equality among people. Lastly the speaker's deliberation captured that coastal tourism predominantly could facilitate marine economy,

Martime trade and development of ports along with eco-tourism.

The Second Speaker of the event – Dr. Arun Dash, Associate Professor, Economics, ICFAI University, Hyderabad, taking the discourse further, mentioned that tourism sector is one of the largest public sector, boosting connectivity and strengthening the economy. The covid-19 situation has weakened the tourist sector, restricting travels. But as we are setting ourselves to normalcy, so the tourism sector should be also given an enormous importance. With ratios and statistics he enumerated the range of tourists visiting the coasts every year. From Andhra Pradesh perspectives he added that Govt. of Andhra is taking vital steps to promote tourism, like involving private sectors through hospitality measures, infrastructural development. Andhra Pradesh, through tourism, is also commissioning the art and culture of the region, as Andhra is a region of beautiful temples. Thus renovations and conservation practices are undertaken by the government to facilitate and



Shri Rajesh Purohit Former Director, Indian Museum, Kolkata



Dr. Arun Dash Associate Professor, Economics, ICFAI University, Hyderabad

illume cultural congregation between the rest of the South India and also neigbouring China and Japan, through Buddhist tourism. The Speaker added that in order to transcend the range of coastal tourism, the central and state governments should get aligned and also include private sectors to initiate multiple other steps with appropriate facilities with skill development and capacity building; training youths to engage in the tourism sector and also to create coastal tourism as a fertile sector for the region and the country altogether.

The Third Speaker – Sri Sayak Nandi, Assistant Director, Ministry of Tourism, GOI began by magnifying the possibilities, challenges of Coastal tourism from West Bengal's point of view. He analyzed that Infrastructural development with regard to eastern India coast line has already gained momentum. Also number of other initiatives have underlined towards the development of eastern coast line. If the development gets completed based on timelines as asserted then eastern India and especially eastern coast line will become a tomb of foreign tourism. Social media and digital India has also made great heights to facilitate tourism, whether in terms of depicting the importance of region of enabling tourists to become a recipient of hospitality synergies, ensuring safety, hygiene and COVID-19 precautionary while developing tour itineraries or selecting their stay. Moreover Govt. of India is taking a proactive step and using digital and social media to highlight cultural infrastructure, religious circuit, new developments in foreign forums, as it was been done during the recent Dubai Expo 2022. In complement to cruise ride, beach tourism, facilities like water sports, beach festivals, carnivals are also being organized. Initiatives are moulded in view of post COVID era to develop to restore tourism through better end infrastructure, tying up with embassies, designing eco-retreats, providing capacity building (through training and courses) to restructure tourism and coastal tourism sector to induce an inclusive growth.

The interesting and optimistic webinar on its rearmost section initiated some discussion between the peakers and the participants and concluded with a vote of thanks by the member of the Institute.

# Webinar on IT Industry and Eastern India: An Overview 18th May, 2022



The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies as a part of its Purvodaya Chapter organized a Webinar on "IT Industry and Eastern India: An Overview" on 18th of May 2022 to identify the sector's growth and potential to attain development and involve young minds of the state in its flourishing journey. The webinar emanated with a welcome Address by the Moderator of the Webinar, Ms. Madhu Agnihotri who highlighted how exponential growth in the last few decades in India has played a pivotal role in transforming services and providing technological solutions to cater the industry requirements. She further added that as the pandemic ravaged the world, experts predicted that Indian IT industry will probably see downfall in its growth patterns having impact even worse than that of the financial crisis of 2008. However, the current scenario has seen the tremendous increase in the demand for flexible technological solutions. Cloud technology solutions and remote working facilities have provided enormous opportunities and opened avenues for rethinking and redesigning business models for



Dr. Venu Gopal Jarugumalli, DGM AI Factory, ZF IT Centre India

sustainable growth. Data security and confidentiality has emerged as the critical challenge for handling business operations in the new scenario.

Taking the thread of the discussion further the Distinguished Chair of the webinar Sri Subimal Bhattacharjee, Director, Jookto, New Delhi & an independent adviser, consultant on cyber security, defence and high end technology policy issues firstly thanked the Institute's initiative for organizing such virtual discussion session. Secondly he mentioned how the industry has a lot of potential in itself to engage human resource and becoming a complimentary sector with the other mainstream sectors through extending support and creating work opportunities. The First Distinguished Speaker of the webinar, Dr. Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman, Startup Odisha, Department of MSME, Govt. of Odisha, Former DG, STPI mentioned how India with large number of Startups in IT sector has secured a distinct IT identity globally and are further mending policies and objectives to improve the IT structure and attain growth.

The Second Distinguished Speaker, Sri Nilabdhi Samantray, Head of Data Science & Artificial Intelligence at CSM Technologies highlighted some investor effective policies in Odisha that are cascading positive effect in the region. He conferred that if we can strike a balance between technical education, policies and investment then IT industry can become a significant sector to accumulate growth and also deliver software services and credibilities. The final speaker of the event, Dr. Venu Gopal Jarugumalli, DGM AI Factory, ZF IT Centre India reflected about some models on outsourcing that have been initiated by Andhra region to facilitate development of IT sector in Andhra Pradesh; as outsourcing models give opportunities for public-private engagements, staff upgradations and resource management techniques to appease the demands of the IT global chains.

The session further facilitated a discussion between the participants and the speakers and concluded with a vote of thanks by Sri Krishnendu Baksi, Programme Coordinator, ISCS, India.



Shri Subimal Bhattacharjee Director, Jookto, New Delhi



Dr. Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman, Startup Odisha, Department of MSME, Govt. of Odisha, Former DG, STPI

#### Discussion on

#### **Evolving Riverine Connectivity in Eastern Hinterland**

3rd September, 2022, RTC, ICCR, Kolkata

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India that has been reciprocating about the development and other multi-dimensional perspectives of Eastern India through its Chapter Purvodaya mostly through virtual platforms, now with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions hosted a Discussion session on "Evolving Riverine Connectivity in Eastern Hinterland" on the 3rd of September, 2022 at the RTC, ICCR, Kolkata. The event was organized to disseminate the importance of riverine routes towards attaining connectivity and fulfil economic goals of India with neighbourhood countries altogether.

As Distinguished Speakers the event attained the participation of Prof. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay – Visiting Distinguished Fellow, ORF, Kolkata & researcher and author on science and the natural





Distinguished Panellists of the Seminar

environment who through a very interesting power point presentation manifested connectivity taking place through Himalayan Rivers across South Asia that have complemented economic upsurge specifically in Eastern India. His deliberation focused on the growth of mountains – interaction of mountains with monsoon thus affecting river flows and later helping to foster interregional interactions between water bodies.

The following Speaker Mr. Md. Shamsul Arif – First Secretary (Commerce), Bangladesh Deputy High Commission of classified important factors that includes navigation issues, MOUs, protocols,

development.

The final speaker of the event Sri Arnab Ganguly—Associate Director, CUTS International, Kolkata and Head, CUTS, CRC pointed that riverine connectivity not only helps the country to create interstate linkages but are important for international connectivity as well. Though schemes like Sagarmala and Gatishakti are leveraging immense of importance to connect rivers by bringing different wings of ministries and private sector under one roof — but other factors like provisions for river trainings needs to be materialized. Logistical issues including trade



factors of coastal shipping and other hindrances faced by India and Bangladesh with regard to the riverine connectivity. He suggested that though we have developed roadways as alternatives but riverine gateways are cost effective for better trades and connectivity. He raised a hope that the visit of Sheikh Hasina – Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India in the month of September stimulates some constructive approach in the making of inland waterway routes more feasible towards trade and

decisions, operative factors, customs practices should be eased out. In other words his deliberation focused that on Whole River management now should be taken as a separate unit of research, policy making in coming times.

The deliberations followed interactions between speakers and the participants and ended with felicitation of the speakers and vote of Thanks by Sri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India.

#### Commemoration of one Year of Purvodaya

#### Seminar on

#### **Purvodaya: An Instrument of Act East Policy**

15th January, 2023, Nandalal Bose Gallery, RTC, ICCR, Kolkata

A year long journey of the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) Chapter "Purvodaya" – that was launched in November 2021 in order to engage people, ideas and to deliberate on the growth of Eastern India. For a period of one year and a little more, the Institute, through a wide range of events, set of regular monthly webinars and Bi-Monthly (English/Odia) Purvodaya: The Rise of Opportunities, has been conversing on subjects like economy, new business ventures, connectivity,

Seminar on Purvodaya: An Instrument for Act East Policy 15th January 2023, Sunday, 7.00 pm Nandalal Bose Gallery, RTC, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Kolkata 9A, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata - 700 071 Chairperson Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Hon'ble Education Minister Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India Speakers-Shri N. G. Khaitan President. Associate Director, Bharat Chamber of Commerce CUTS, International, Kolkata and Head CUTS, Calcutta Resource Centre Shri Gautam Banerjee Ms. Sohini Nayak Managing Director, Researcher and Business Brio & Director. Foreign Policy Analyst 3000 Data Science Foundation International You are cordially invited Shri Arindam Mukherie Director, ISCS, India 3000

and people-to-people connect through tourism and education.

In order to commemorate a year long journey of its chapter an event was hosted at the RTC, ICCR, Kolkata on 15th January, 2023. The event received support from Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) and Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR). The event as a Chairperson received participation of Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship – Sri Dharmendra Pradhan along with other Distinguished Speakers like Sri N.G. Khaitan – President, Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Prof. Virendra Kumar Tewari - Director, IIT Kharagpur, Sri Arnab Ganguly - Associate Director, CUTS International, Kolkata and Head, CUTS, Calcutta Resource Centre, Sri Gautam Banerjee -Managing Director, Business Brio & Director, Data Science Foundation International and Ms. Sohini Nayak – Researcher and a Foreign Policy Analyst.

The event started with a welcome address by Sri Arindam Mukerjee, Director, ISCS, India. Followed to which the Logo of the Purvodaya was unveiled and the January-February (2023) edition of the Bi-Monthly was released. As a part of the Institute's Man and Nation Series a Publication of Jnan Chandra Ghosh by Ms. Sujata Banerjee was also released. Sri Jnan Chandra Ghosh was an eminent Bengali Scientist and was the first Director of IIT Kharagpur.

After this a discussion session was organized on Purvodaya: An Instrument of Act East Policy. The Distinguished Speakers were Sri N.G. Khaitan – President, Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Prof. Virendra Kumar Tewari – Director, IIT Kharagpur, Sri Arnab Ganguly – Associate Director, CUTS International, Kolkata and Head, CUTS, Calcutta Resource Centre, Sri Gautam Banerjee – Managing Director, Business Brio & Director, Data Science Foundation International and Ms. Sohini Nayak – Researcher and a Foreign Policy Analyst.

Each of the Speakers expressed how the concept is vital and diverse for the growth of Eastern India and would help the region to transcend its networks with the neighbouring countries and further to south and south east Asia.

After the deliberation by the speakers an observation was shared by the Hon'ble Minister Sri Dharmendra Pradhan, where he mentioned the ultimate objective is a self reliant nation—Atmanirbhar Bharat. Its aim is to transform the country from a passive market to an active manufacturing hub, to support a self reliant India as a "Force Multiplier" in the global economy. In this context the idea of Purvodaya has become multidimensional. It can also be used as an instrument to attain the objective of stimulating regional cooperation among the South East Asian countries. As the Hon'ble Prime Minister



Distinguished Panellists of the Seminar



Purvodaya logo was unveiled by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

Sri Narendra Modi's adoption of Act East Policy is boosting India's trade and investment relations with the South East Asian region, undertaking the large cross-border projects, upgrading and connecting the national highways of countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar and Nepal and laying importance on riverine connectivity, Purvodaya and Act East Policies are complementary to each other.

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), an important think tank in eastern India is actively disseminating different social, economic and political issues related with both Purvodaya and

Act East Policy. It has launched a Purvodaya. Through regular discussions and publications, the Institute has helped to exchange ideas on vital issues like trade, connectivity, development in this part of our country extensively. He hoped that the Institute will identify more important dimensions of these important policies and help our nation to move forward and expressed a desire that the Institute should take further initiatives to disseminate the concept of Purvodaya in other regional as well as foreign languages.

A vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh – Director, MAKAIAS, Kolkata.



Release of Monograph on Jnan Chandra Ghosh under ISCS's Man and Nation Series



ISCS Book Stall



## **BANGLA STUDIES**





# Talk on Kara Kahini (Tales of Prison) 18th July, 2022, ICCR,Kolkata



The Bangla unit of The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India organized a discussion on "Kara Kahini" (Tales of Prison) on the Nelson Mandela international Day – 18th July, 2022 between 6-7 pm at the RTC, ICCR, Kolkata.

Sri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India turned out to be the main speaker of the event who over a power point presentation deliberated on the histories of national and international prisons. He also shed the light on the pre-independence days, as in how eminent personalities like Sri Aurobindo, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Veer Savarkar were imprisoned with many others and had to undergo inhuman torture under the British Raj.

Through the presentation the speaker tried to make an attempt to exhume how these prisons in



Shri Arindam Mukherjee delivering his lecture

themselves are a testament to the darkest chapter of India's Freedom Movement, mocking the sacrifices of innumerous freedom fighters. As the Chairperson of the session it was a privilege for the Institute to have Sri Chayan Mukherjee, Retd. ADG ( Law and Order). The event was attended by several national and international dignitaries including Sri Atiur Rahman – famous economist from Bangladesh, Smt.

Alakananada Ray – Dancer and reformist who works in the prison to reform the inmates with the power of music and dance.

The presentation was followed with a discussion session among the participants and the speaker and also the chairperson and summed up with a Vote of Thanks by the member of the institute.



Guests and Participants at the event





### **COEVAL DISCOURSE**





## Virtual Discussion Coeval Discourse-VIII

on

## Impact of Connectivity on Environment and Ecology 5th June. 2022

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India in collaboration with The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has been rolling out a series "Coeval Discourse" to deliberate on issues that has a direct impact on sustainability. On the occasion of International World Environment Day – 5th June, between 5-6 pm "Coeval Discourse-VIII" was organized on "Impact of Connectivity on Environment and Ecology".



As connectivity remains an area of interest for the organization and in alliance with The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Branch Secretariat the institute had featured a series to mark the importance of connectivity towards development. Thus the idea behind the proposed Coeval was to understand how connectivity single-handedly is helping the country to better end its connect with neighbouring regions, but at the same time causing damage to the environment. In order to deliberate on the idea eminent speakers assembled on a virtual platform. The discourse started with the thoughts of Sri Raj Basu, Convener, Association for Conservation and Tourism.

Followed to which the first distinguished Speaker - Dr. Anwaruddin Choudhury, Divisional Commissioner (Retd), Assam through a power point presentation represented how the criss-cross of connectivity especially in the eastern belt of our country is challenging the wellbeing of wild lives. Thus his views manifested that connectivity should be planned in such a way that everybody is a recipient of it in a positive way. The second Distinguished Speaker of the discourse - Sri Sayanangshu Modak started his deliberation with a very interesting remark - he asserted that Environment is an asset for all. A good environment is everybody's gain. The speaker mostly defined how a government and a private body collaborative approach in planning, developing can prevent climate change and can prevent environment from further derangement. The Speaker repeatedly stressed on the need of awareness amongst various social groups as the sole way in order to preserve for future generations.

The final Speaker Dr. Sonam Lama – Assistant Professor, Geography, Darjeeling Govt. College, through a power point presentation again highlighted how connectivity especially in Eastern Himalayas has been threatening the environmental conditions leading to environmental hazards, flash floods, extinctions of species etc. As a panacea Dr. Lama stressed on the engagements of environment expertise, resource personnels of non-government

organizational members, local community members in planning committee who can give ideas, suggestions on how connectivity can be enriched and at the same time the life of Himalayas can be taken care of.

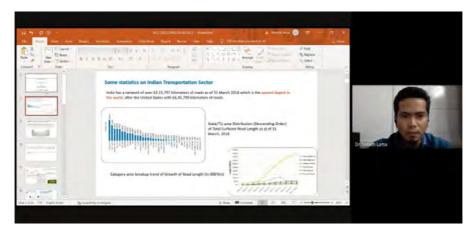
The discussion was followed with some interaction and finally came to an end with the Vote of Thanks by the Director of ISCS, Sri Arindam Mukherjee himself.



Sri Raj Basu



Sri Sayanangshu Modak



Presentation by Dr. Sonam Lama

## SUDHI SANGAM





#### **Sudhi Sangam-9**

#### 25th June, 2022, ICCR, Kolkata

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, as a part of its Cultural Colloquy within its Bangla chapter of Studies, organized Sudhi Sangam-9 to mark the contribution and also appraise the audience about the illustrious life of eminent Lawyer and Former Advocate General of West Bengal Sri Jayanta Mitra.

The event was organized at The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, RTC, ICCR, Kolkata. The event was Chaired by Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti, General Secretary, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata. The event started with the welcome address by the Research



Associate and the Coordinator of ISCS's Bangla unit of study. Followed to which the Distinguished Chair denoted how Advocate Mitra has contributed to the field of judiciary and thereby has played a major role in social well being of the people. His fight for the rights of people has rendered an example that irrespective of professional commitments one through his skills and efforts should facilitate a betterment of the society.

Advocate Mitra initiated his address remarking that his main motto was to remain firm to his conscience. He said that his 60 years of experience and contributions in the field of judiciary has taught him many aspects; he also had to contravene multiple ups and downs. During his tenure as Advocate General of the State of West Bengal he had to confront multiple conundrums. But he remained firm to his ideas and never compromised with his ethics. Sharing his early years of life he mentioned that he was born to an illustrious family of Bogendranath Mitra who was a well known educationist and social reformist. Advocate Mitra pursued his schooling from Ballygunje Government High School, followed by Presidency College and later went to The London School of Economics to seek a formal training in the field of Law.

He reciprocated that after his education of Law from The London School of Economics, he returned and joined as a Lawyer at the Calcutta High Court and shared a very pleasant and cordial relationship with other legal practitioners who may have later contested him as opponent at the Court during trials but on a personal edge always shared a benevolent relation with each other. He added that the field of law along with his practising



experiences helped him to develop the attribute of public speaking, respecting others and most importantly learn tolerance. The qualities not only helped him to aspire in his professional field but also contributed in his other walks of life as well. Over his discussions he shared some of his professional life experiences and also addressed the questions from

the audience during the interactive session. Some of the participants known to Advocate Mitra also narrated their ideas and their personal experiences with Sri Mitra on several occasions.

The event marked its conclusion with a vote of Thanks by the Director of the Institute Sri Arindam Mukherjee.





Former Advocate General Sri Jayanta Mitra delivering his speech





#### Planning Meeting 2022-2023

30th April, 2022

#### Hotel Kenilworth, Kolkata

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India organized its Annual Planning Meeting on 30th of April, 2022. The meeting itself was a symposium of Institutional members, advisory board members, Trustees and well wishers. Arindam Mukherjee, The Director of the Institute as a part of his welcome address expressed his gratitude towards the working team, members and associates of the Institute for extending their support and encouraging the organization in its initiatives and activities.

The event was regarded extremely special as the Institute has marked its 10 years of journey in 2021 itself. Therefore the Programme Administrator of the Institute through a power point presentation, appraised the participants about the chapters of the institute, research initiatives along with the working of the institute's publication cell in details.

Followed to which the Institute's Annual Report for the year 2021-2022 was released by the Director

of the Institute in presence of Sri Krishnendu Bakshi, Programme Co-ordinator and Sri Biswajit Ganguly, Managing Member of Sri Aurobindo Bhavan, Kolkata. The discussion followed with presentation and deliberation of the Director himself as he outlined initiatives and interesting research topics along with some publications – that the Institute would be undertaking during the year 2022-2023.

The participants also shared some interesting ideas, activities and suggestions during the discussion session. Among other objectives, that was discussed at the meeting, more emphasis was given on planning events and international conclave as a part of Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav, as the nation would be celebrating its 75th Year in August 2022.

The members and associates of the Institute shared their compliments and wishes for the working members for their tireless efforts for the entire year. The interaction continued over lunch between the participants and team members.



Release of ISCS Annual Report 2021-2022

#### Webinar on

### A Tale of Bicycler: Hungary to Darjeeling

25th May, 2022

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India that as an autonomous organization has been addressing interesting ideas through research and activities, thus hosted an interesting webinar on "A Tale of Bicycler: Hungary to Darjeeling" on 25th May, 2022 to know about interesting aspects of the bicycle expedition of Viktor Zicho – a Bike Traveller, Passionate climber, Mountaineer, Photographer and Videographer of Hungary. The event was also attended by Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti, General Secretary, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata as well as Amb. Kumar Tuhin, Director General, ICCR, New Delhi and also Former Ambassador of India to Hungary.





Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti

The event started with the address by the Distinguished Chair of the event Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti, General Secretary, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata who shared interesting facts from life journey of Alexander Csoma Expedition – who was the first one to carry out a bicycle travelogue from Hungary to Darjeeling 200 years back. Followed to which Amb. Kumar Tuhin mentioned that India and Hungary has a history of shared relations and such initiatives taken by Viktor would further boost the friendly relation between two geographies.

The Distinguished Speaker, through a power point presentation, added that bi-cycle ride was a greenest form of expedition and explore Alexander Csoma's experiences that he had around 200 years back. But now things have changed and connectivity have become much easier, but there were other challenges that he came across, especially pandemic and financial troubles. But the experience remained extremely scenic and worth remembering. The speaker described his programme map and mentioned about the support that he received from regions and especially India.

The webinar remained an interesting one and the participants had a chance to communicate with the Distinguished Speaker. Finally the event marked its conclusion with a Vote of Thanks by Sri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), Kolkata.



Amb.Tuhin Kumar

#### Seminar on

### **Indo-Israel Bilateral Relations: Defence and strategic Cooperation**

24 February, 2023 Rabindranath Tagore Centre, ICCR, Kolkata

India and Israel share a deep bondage of friendship and cooperation since New Delhi announced its recognition of Israel on 17th September, 1950. India's relationship with Israel partners in multiple sectors which include economic, trade and commerce, agriculture, defence and security, innovation, science and technology, health, culture, people-to-people contact etc. In the last decade India-Israel relationship had grown stronger with the changing geo-political situation. In accordance with this growing India-Israel bilateral relationship, Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India has meaningfully deliberated on several key aspects of India-Israel bilateral relationship through



organizing seminars, publishing articles over past some time. As a part of this endeavour ISCS, in collaboration with the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), had organized a National seminar on India-Israel relationship titled "Indo-Israel Bilateral Relations: Defence and strategic Cooperation" on 24th February, 2023 at the RTC, ICCR, Kolkata from 5 pm onwards.

The International Seminar was addressed by Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, MAKAIAS, who commemorated the event while felicitating the guests and delivering his welcome address. Followed to which the Chairperson of the event Shri Arun K Singh, Former Ambassador of India to Israel, shared his valuable observation regarding Indo-Israel relations.

The Distinguished Speakers of this seminar did include Professor Ripu Sudan Singh, Specialization in West Asian Studies, Department of Political Science, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar university, Lucknow, Shri Sanket Joshi, Research Associate, Delhi Policy Group and Shri Pradipta Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Scottish Church College, Kolkata who deliberated about key aspects of Indo-Israel bilateral relations as to how both nations could collaborate with each other more effectively in this rapidly changing geo-political and economic situation.

The deliberation of the speakers did mark its conclusion with the initiation of an interactive session where several questions were raised by the audience and hence that were adequately addressed by the speakers. The seminar did summarize itself with a brief note and a Vote of thanks by Shri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India.



Participants and Panellists at the Seminar



#### Interactive Session

on

#### **Budget 2023: An Interaction**

11th February, 2023, RTC, ICCR, Kolkata

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India as an autonomous Think Tank, has been corresponding on versatile matters related to trade, economy, connectivity, development, culture and social perspectives. In order to review how the Central Budget Proposal 2023-2024 delivered by India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman poses a multi-dimensional approach and an inclusive growth, an interactive session was organized by the institute on 11th February, 2023 at the RTC, ICCR, Kolkata from 5 pm onwards.

The Interactive Session was addressed by Shri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India who



commemorated the event while felicitating the guests and delivering his welcome address. Followed to which the Chairperson of the event Shri N.G. Khaitan – President, Bharat Chamber of Commerce shared his valuable observation, especially how the Central Budget 2023 has allocated funds and had laid opportunities to MSMEs, created job opportunities, ramped up capital spending on roads and connectivity hence reviews lucrative for the investors.

The Distinguished Speakers included Dr. Ranajoy Bhattacharyya, Head Economics Division, Indian Institute for Foreign Trade (IIFT), Shri Shantanu Som, Founder and CEO, Somnetics (Som Imaging Informatics) and Smt. Soma Banerjee, Director Business Brio, Member of Steering Committee-NASSCOM, 10000 Start-Ups. Over interaction with the Chairperson the Distinguished Speakers discussed how the central budget 2023-2024 could compensate the losses ushered during the pandemic in the country and how it promotes scope for the women entrepreneurship and economic mainstreaming of women through vibrant and secured schemes. The Speakers did highlight how the Central Budget 2023-2024 could secure a pro development provisions including sustainable planning and energy transition, Inclusive growth through tech enabled economy, impetus to EV sector, securing exemptions to lithium iron cells from paying tax duty, fill viability gap funding to support battery energy storage system. The Speakers asserted that the given budget would enable India's plan to become an engine for global growth and deploy digital as leading India's development. The event initiated an interaction between the participants and the speakers and marked its valedictory by the Programme Administrator of the institute.



Felicitation of Advocate N.G. Khaitan



Participants and Panellists at the event

#### **Day Long Conference**

on

#### **BIMSTEC Security Cooperation**

31st March, 2023; ICCR, Kolkata

On 31st March, 2023, Institute of Social and Cultural Studies organized a day-long seminar on "BIMSTEC Security Cooperation" at the RTC, ICCR where distinguished speakers from the BIMSTEC nations did deliberate on how sub regional platform like BIMSTEC can address key non-traditional security issues like counter terrorism, cyber and energy security, disaster management etc. The event received collaboration of the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA) was partnered by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies.



The International Seminar commenced with the welcome address of Shri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India followed by the address of the Chief Guest of the event – Former Air Chief Marshal Shri Arup Raha who shared his valuable observation regarding BIMSTEC Security Cooperation from varied perspectives.

The academic session of the seminar was addressed by distinguished speakers and scholars from the BIMSTEC countries which include Captain (IN) Alok Bansal, Director, India Foundation and Adjunct Professor at New Delhi Institute of Management, Vice Admiral (Retd.) Shekhar Sinha, Former Chief of Integrated Defence Staff & Commander in Chief, Western Naval Command, India, Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), Dhaka, Captain Sarabjeet S Parm, Senior Fellow, National Maritime Foundation, Ms. Sohini Nayak, Research Associate and Foreign Policy Analyst, ISCS, India, Prof. Indranil Sengupta, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT-Kharagpur, Air Cdre (Retd.) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Treasurer, East West University Aftabnagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Prof. Rohan Gunaratna, Security Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technology University, Singapore, Sri Gautam Banerjee, Managing Director, Business Brio, Director, Data Science Foundation International, Uttam Sinha, Senior Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, Dr. Pramod Jaiswal, Director, Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE), Nepal, Dr. Lobzang Dorji, Senior Lecturer, Norbuling Rigter

College, Royal University of Bhutan, Dr. Sirinbhattra Sathabhornwong, Lecturer, Ubon Ratchathani University.

The Speakers in their discourse addressed key issues like the dynamics of maritime security and cooperation among the BIMSTEC nations in this regard, BIMSTEC'S policy initiatives towards countering terrorism and radicalization and the

necessity of energy security and cooperation among the BIMSTEC member countries. The seminar marked its closure with a valedictory speech of Cmde (Dr.) Srikant Kesnur, Ph.D., (Retd.) Former Director, Maritime Warfare Centre (MWC) and Distinguished Academician in Maritime and Naval History, Defence and Diplomacy which was chaired by Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS).



Former Air Chief Marshal Shri Arup Raha delivering his speech



Shri Arindam Mukherjee delivering his welcome address



## **ISCS Book Stall at**

### 46th International Kolkata Book Fair 2023

As Kolkata enters the last leg of winter, the city gears up for its favourite and one of the most awaited events, the 46th International Kolkata Book fair 2023 that is being held between 30th January-12th February 2023 at Boimela Prangan, Central Park Mela Ground, Karunamoyee, Salt Lake. The event represents the peak of Bengali energy, tens and thousands of books and food loving Bengalis gather at one place to do what they love most. The

A6th
INTERNATIONAL

A6th
INTERNATIONAL

BOOK
FAIR

31st January - 12th February 2023
(17 Noon -8pm)
Boimeta Prangan, Contrat Park Meta Ground, Salt Lake City

Institute of Social and Cultural Studies
Michael Madhusudan Dutt Hall
Hall-1 Stall-1

Stall Inauguration, 31st January, 2023, Spm
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Zanal Director, Bharathy Widys Bahara, Kelkata & Agartata

Director, Bharathys Widys Bahara, Kelkata & Agartata

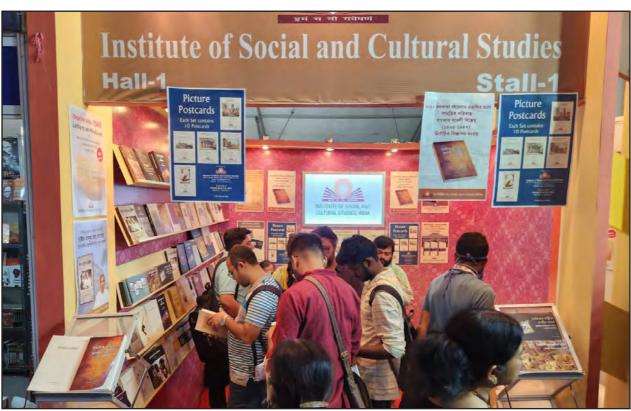
event becomes a place of meet for people from every walk of life – poets, authors, actors, politicians, social workers. The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India also for the fifth time participated in the annual fair of the book industry and presented new release of books on wide range of subjects covering history, politics, socio-cultural apects and contemporary politics defining Asia and its evolving features. The Institute also displayed its new range of memorabilia in the form of picture post cards on transports of Calcutta, boats of Bengal, musical Instruments and various others to attract art enthusiasts and collectors.

The Book Stall of ISCS was inaugurated on the 31st of January by the Distinguished Guests including Dr. Ajay Pratap Singh, Director General, The National Library of India, Ministry of Culture, GOI, Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Ms. Minakshi Mishra, Zonal Director, Rabindranath Tagore Centre, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Kolkata and Dr. G.V. Subramanian, Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kolkata & Agartala.



Inaguration of ISCS Book Stall





# **INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME**





## **ISCS Annual School Internship Programme**

15th May-15th June, 2022

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India organized a month long Summer School Internship Programme for young students of class IX and X. Eminent schools from Kolkata like The Modern High School For Girls and The Delhi Public School, Ruby Park participated in the designed internship programme. The Internship programme is usually organized to orient students with multiple facets of research and documentation. It also provides an insight in the domain of foreign policy, governance and developmental economics. The module of 2022 Summer internship programme focused on how soft diplomacy is setting itself as an important agent for the country to meet political interests and national objectives.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

28th May 2022 4-5pm

Shri Sandeep Chakravorty,

Lucy Europe West Division,

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

INDIA AND Secretary,

Europe West Division,

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

In order to transpire the theme of the internship module while ensuring COVID-19 mandates online academic sessions were developed. The First one was hosted on 21st May, 2022. The session was conducted by Dr. Shrabana Barua, Assistant Professor, University of Delhi. The Speaker actually taught students how to comprehend research paper, articles and essays. Paraphrasing as well as referencing techniques were also been shared to help students with their academic term paper writings. The second session – "A Conversation with Diplomat" was organized to appraise students about the neighbourhood policy of our country. The Session was addressed by Sri Sandeep Chakravarty, Joint Secretary, Europe West Division, MEA, GOI. The Distinguished Speaker

not only deliberated about some essential neighbourhood policies with regard to trade, security and development taken by Government of India with its first neighbours like Bangladesh, Nepal etc., but also shared his experience representing India at various nations as a Foreign Service Official. Students also interacted with the Speaker on multiple aspects between India and Bangladesh and their 50 years of eternal friendship.

Followed to which an exclusive session was organized to determine the "Role of Indian Culture in Indian Foreign Policy". The session was conducted by Sri Rajesh Purohit, Former Director, Indian Musuem, Kolkata. The speaker illustrated on Indian Civilization connectivity, history, Indian art and culture and how these features

have amended an important role in assuring India's security policy and economic goals in recent times. He also explained how media, Indian music, film industry and tourism as marshals are helping the country to better its networks and boost bilateral relations with countries at a par. As a part of their assignments students were asked to compose a 1200 word write-up on contemporary subjects ranging from environment, education, governances and impact of COVID-19 on sustainability.

As a part of the internship programme students were given chance to participate at the other events that were hosted by the institute during their internship duration. The selected write-ups were also published in the institute's Bi-Monthly "News Reel". On completion of the internship programme participation certificates were given to all the 33 students and the ones whose write-ups were selected were also presented with a gift hamper by the organization.





# TRAINING PROGRAMMES





### **Course Work**

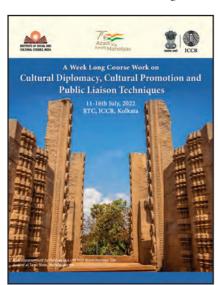
on

## **Cultural Diplomacy, Cultural Promotion and Public Liaison Techniques**

11-16th July, 2022 RTC, ICCR, Kolkata

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) organized a six day course work on "Cultural Diplomacy, Cultural Promotion and Public Liaison Techniques" between 11-16th July, 2022 at the RTC, ICCR, Kolkata for the 32 newly recruited officials of The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), India.

The Course work was designed with an objective to:



- To orient newly entitled officials of ICCR about Cultural Diplomacy, Cultural Promotion and Public Liaison techniques.
- To enable participants with capacity to examine history, geographies of religion and social changes shaping India and its soaring role at a global stage.
- To surface ideas on how soft diplomacy as creative process through debate, joint reflections, research and experimentation is supporting foreign policy and enabling to correspond on objectives that are of national interest.
- To orient on the module and key objectives of ICCR and regional centers of ICCR contributing towards Indian cultural diplomacy and soft power policy.



Amb. Kumar Tuhin delivering his address



Prof. Ishani Naskar Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University.

# Annual Report (2022-2023)





The Six Day course work comprehended itself as a package of lectures, presentations and visits to help the officials to understand about the diverse issues like ethnicity, identity, civilizational viseguards between India and its neighbouring territories. The Inaugural of the course work was addressed by Amb. Kumar Tuhin, DG, ICCR while the Special Session "A Conversation with the Diplomat" and the valedictory was addressed by Amb. Rajib Kumar, DDG, ICCR, India.



Prof. Radharaman Chakrabarti, Former Vice Chancellor of Netaji Subhash Open University



Sri Mrityunjay Kumar Singh, Commandant General and Director General of Police, Home Guards, West Bengal & Former Director, ICC, ICCR, Jakarta and Bali.



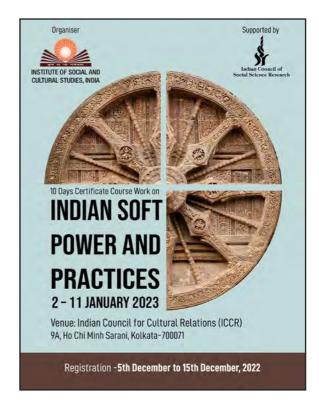
Swami Atmapriyananda Maharaj, Pro-Chancellor, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Education and Research Institute.

# 10 Day Certificate Course Work on

## **Indian Soft Power and Practices**

2nd-11th January, 2023 RTC, ICCR, Kolkata

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), India as an autonomous forum for more than a decade has been probing into history, culture, identity, and variance of cultural hemisphere of fascinating India and its adjoining regions. In order to transpire how soft power is being used as an important tool to strengthen the country's relation with its neighbours and coastal allies with whom the country shares its civilization linkages, security and socio-economic ties, the institute has designed and organized a 10 Day Certificate Course work on "Indian Soft Power and Practices" in Collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) at the RTC, ICCR, Kolkata from 2nd to 11th January, 2023. The course work was so structured that it traced the cultural commonalities between India and its abutting nations. The course also detailed about some of the diverse issues like ethnicity, identity and civilization link-ups affecting interstate relationship between India and adjoining regions. Along with academicians, researchers, post graduate students multi-sectoral stakeholders with interests





Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, MAKAIAS, Kolkata



Prof. Ishani Naskar, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University

in governance, policy implications and history, heritage and socio-cultural diversities participated in the course work. The course work enabled 30 participants from various institutions and regions of India including North East to learn and engage

and exchange ideas, converse, survey and debate with national and international academicians and eminent personalities on multiple cultural themes, social lives and future unfolding and opportunities.



Ms. Keka Sarma, General Secretary, The Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata



Prof. Barun Kumar Chakraborty- Former Professor Head, Department of Folklore, Kalyani University



Dignitaries with the Couse Work paricipants

# PUBLICATIONS





### A Glimpse to ISCS's Publication (2022-2023)

### **Bi-Monthly Bulletins**

1. News Reel – Since 2019, with the institute's Director Sri Arindam Mukherjee as an Editor-in-Chief, ISCS's Bi-Monthly "News Reel" has been discerned as an interesting compilation that enables wide multi-sectoral global readers and writers to identify and braid dynamic and contemporary narratives on precincts of culture, power and politics. So far, each of its segment has conjured a discrete flavour and accorded Institute's readers an agility to recognize and learn about stimulating arguments, future indictments, marshalling economy, defence, environmental sustainability altogether.



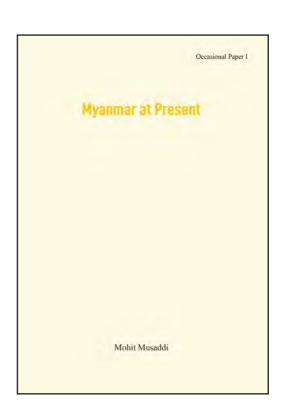


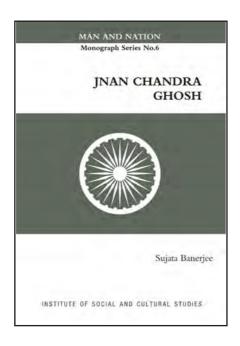
2. Purvodaya: The Rise of Opportunities – The institute's other Bi-Monthly journal "Purvodaya: The Rise of Opportunities" is published as part of institute's Chapter on Purvodaya. The Bi-Monthly, with the institute's Director Sri Arindam Mukherjee as the Editor-in-Chief and Dr. Sujit Kumar Pruseth as the Editor, was launched by Sri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in November, 2021. The Bulletin, through English/Odia mediums discusses and disseminates the critical and emerging areas of development in the eastern states of India. It focuses on policy related issues on 'Purvodaya' initiative of Government of India. The Bi-Monthly is financed and supported by The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), GOI, from March, 2022 onwards.

### **Publications**

# Neighbourhood Studies- Myanmar at Present (ISBN No. 978-81-954876-9-1)

Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) had published their first occasional paper "Myanmar at Present" authored by Mohit Musaddi . This prized publication deliberates about the socio-economic, political dynamics of Myanmar after the country's military leadership took over the power from the hands of the civilian government through a military coup in February, 2021.





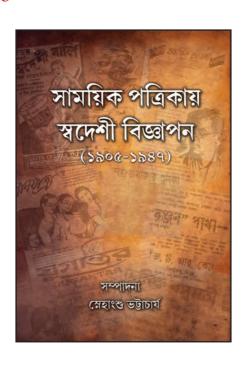
# Man and Nation Series- Jnan Chandra Ghosh (ISBN No. 978-81-954876-0-8)

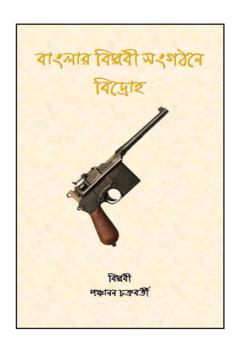
Institute of social and cultural studies had been publishing books at regular interval on the Bengali personalities of the 19th century who through their writings had made valuable contributions to the growth of nationalization. As a part of this endeavor, this year ISCS had published the 6th monograph under Man and Nation series on "Jnan Chandra Ghosh" (ISBN No. 978-81-954876-0-8) authored by Dr Sujata Banerjee, which throws light on Dr. Jnan Chandra Ghose's views on Indian national building and detailing the relevance of actions in the backdrop of colonialism and the struggle for independence.

### **Publications from Freedom Struggle Studies**

# Samoyik Patrikai Swadeshi Bigyapon (ISBN No. 978-81-960749-7-5)

Edited by Snehangshu Bhattacharjee is a compilation of Swadeshi advertisement that came up in the periodicals of Bengal during the period of 1095-47. This book by meaningfully analyzing the advisements published in the periodicals tried to show how Indian indigenous industries used the medium of advertisement to associate themselves with the growing nationalist spirit of India. This book mentions the struggle made by the Indian industrialists in establishing their industries and how they had sustained their business activities competing with the foreign companies.





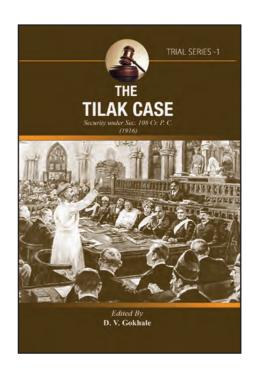
# Banglar Biplabi Sangathane Bidroho (ISBN No. 978-81-960749-6-8)

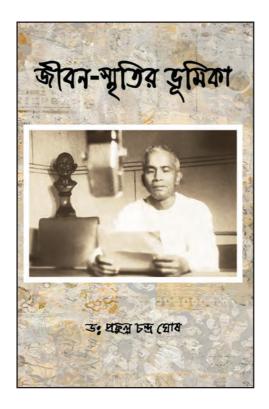
ISCS for long had been carrying out in-depth research studies on the revolutionary movement of India. As a part of this endeavor—this year—institute reprinted the book of eminent revolutionary Panchanan Chakravarty titled "Banglar Biplabi Sangathane Bidroho". This book highlighted the revolutionary activities of different groups in Bengal and interestingly pointed out the internal conflicts within these groups also.

#### The Tilak Case

(ISBN No. 978-81-954876-2-2)

ISCS as a part of its trial series had published its first book which is a reprint of "The Tilak Case". First published in 1916 from Poona city edited by Advocate D.V. Gokhale. The book was a compilation of all significant court papers pertaining to all the three trials faced by Bal Gandadhar Tilak. The contents of the book included the depositions made by the witnesses, recorded arguments by the council and even details of the exhibits tendered before the court.

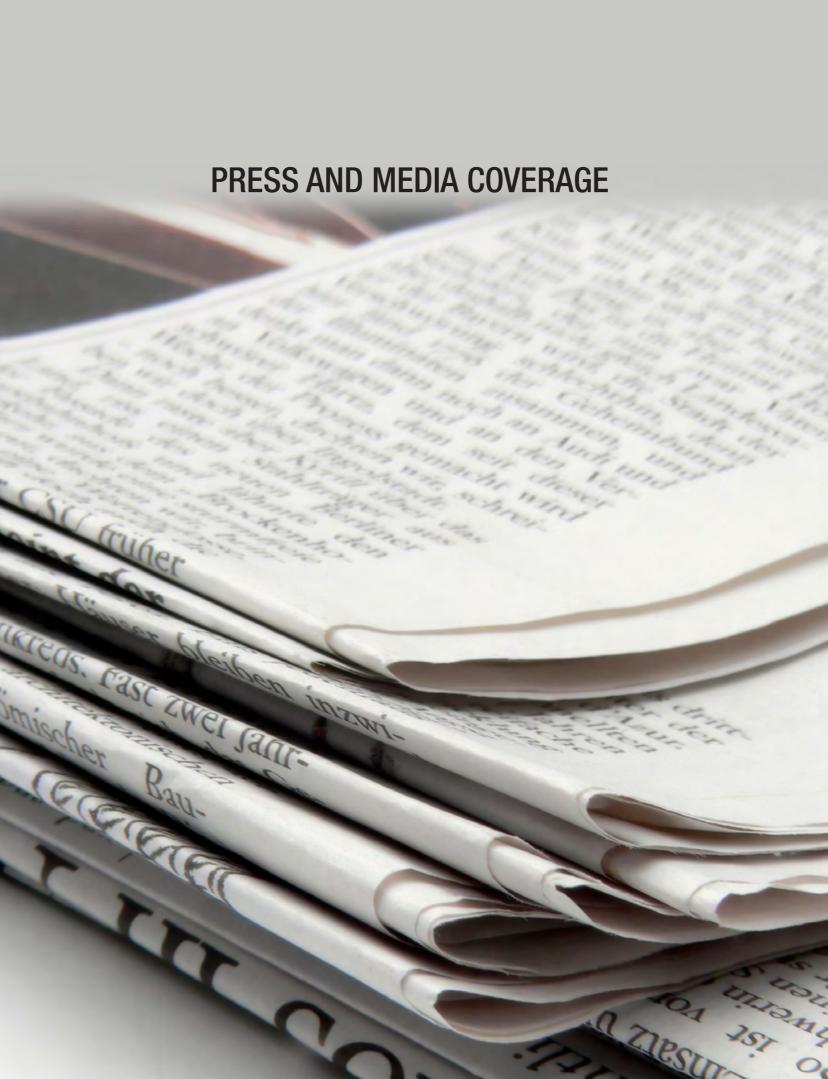




#### **Iibon Smritir Bhumika**

(ISBN No. 978-81-961229-0-4)

This book highlighs the political journey of Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghose, the first Chief Minister of Bengal, and his valuable observations on the political scenario of Bengal and India to a large extent.









DAILY NEWS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022

# Tanzania, **India** commit to enhance film industry

By KAUNGA MAULID it promotes more the country's

TANZANIA in collaboration with India has endeavoured to send film artists to India with ment.

the aim of learning and ex
The Minister thanked the the aim of learning and ex-changing skills in developing the film industry in the country. This was revealed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs

and East African Cooperation Liberata Mulamula when she inaugurated the two-day International Conference on India-Tanzania Relations at the India High Commission to Tanzania

in Dar es Salaam.

"In cooperation with India, which has made great strides in film technology, we will send our artists to India with the aim of learning and exchanging film making skills so that we can make progress as we have made progress in music indus-try," she said.

She also said that in order to achieve this, they have already signed an agreement on developing and promoting the film industry in the country. Also, Mulamula said that

this is the time for various Tanzanian artists to use these opthe film industry in the country a book in the Swahili language

economy to a large extent since the Royal Tour Film has opened the country's doors for invest-

Indian High Commissioner for organising the International Conference on India-Tanzania Relations which she said will be very productive especially for the youth.

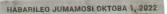
On his side, the Director of Museums and House of Culture Achiles Bufure said that Tanzania through the national muthat show that there is a great relationship between the two countries

Achilles has also said that India has been cooperating with Tanzania for centuries in cultural matters where they used to exchange various cultural items

Also, the Indian High Commissioner Binaya Pradhan said Tanzania in raising the film in-dustry because Tanzania is the biggest partner in Africa due to our long relationship.

In order to ensure this, Bina-

ya also said they hope to publish and abroad, the Minister said the film industry is very important in the country because in libraries in India.



## Ujenzi Hospitali ya Apollo Dar waiva

Na Francisca Emmanuel

Balozi wa India nchini, Binaya Pradhan,
amesema ujenzi wa
Hospitali ya Apollo nchini
utaanza hivi karibuni Masaki mkoani Dar es Salaam,
Balozi Pradhan amesema
kati ya Oktoba na Novemba,
mwaka huu wataanza kuta-

mwaka huu wataanza kuta-futa makandarasi wa hospitali

futa makandarasi wa nospitani hiyo ya saratani. Alikuwa akizungumza ka-tika kongamano lililoandaliwa na ubalozi huo jana Dar es Salaam ambalo mgeni rasmi alikuwa Waziri wa Mambo ya Niko wa Ishirikano wa Afrika Nje na Ushirikiano wa Afrika Mashariki, Balozi Liberata Mulamula. Balozi Mulamula alisema

kutokana na Tarzania ku-peleka wagonjwa wengi wa saratani katika Hospitali ya saratan kanka Prospitan ya Apollo, wameamua kujenga hospitali hiyo nchini ili kura-hisisha utoaji wa huduma na kupunguza gharama. Aidha, Balozi Pradhan alisema India na Tanzania zimekuwa na mahusiano praguni ya kidinlomasia

zimekuwa na mahusiano mazuri ya kidiplomasia kwa muda mrefu ambayo yamejenga msingi imara katika biashara, uwekezaji na utamaduni kati ya nchi hizo. Alisema India ni nchi ya tano kwa uwekezaji na utamaduni kati ya nchi ya tano kwa uwekezaji na biashara Tamzania kwani wawekezaji kutoka India wamewekeza pentiji wa kisa inda Dola za

mtaji wa kiasi cha Dola za Marekani bilioni 3.7. "Biashara kati ya Tarızania na India imekua kutoka Dola za Marekani bilioni 1.2 hadi Dola za Marekani bilioni 2.2

sawa na asilimia 9.3 na tuna-tarajia kukua kwa soko kwa sababu tutaongeza usafirishaji wa zao la parachichi, "alisema Balozi Pradhan. Balozi Mulamula amesema zaidi ya Watanzaria 45.00 wamenufaika na ufadhili wa kinasomo uliotolewa na Serikali ya India katika sekta mbalimbali. Aidha, alisema watashirikiana na ubalozi huo kuhakikisha wanaendeleza

watashirikiana na uhakozi huo kuhakikisha wanaendeleza Watanzania katika kutengeneza filamu nzuri zitakazouzwa ndani na nje ya nchi. Alisema kongamano hilo linalenga kufanya tathunini ya mahusiano kati ya Tanzamia na India kabia na baada ya Uhuru na namna ya kuendeleza ushirikiano huo. "Tumangalia tulipotoka, tulipo na tunapokwenda, kwani India meweza kutuletea misaada mingi.

wenda, kwani India imeweza kutuletea misaada mingi katika kubonesha sekta za maji, kilimo, afya, elimu na nyingine na Watarzania zaidi ya 4,500 wamenufaika na scholar-ship (ufadhili wa masomo) walizozitoa katika maeneo mbalimbali," alisema Balozi Mulanuik

mbalimbali," alisema Balozz Mulamula. Alisema ubalozi huo pia unatarajia kuanzisha Taasisi ya Teknolojia ya Habari na Mawasiliano (Tehama) nchini ili kukuza teknolojia. Naye Mkurugenzi wa Makumbusho na Nyumba ya Uranaghuri, achiles Bufure

Utamaduni, Achiles Bufun alisema makumbusho ina vielelezo mbalimbali vina-vyoashiria mahusiano kati ya Tanzania na India kama vile picha, jahazi na ramani.

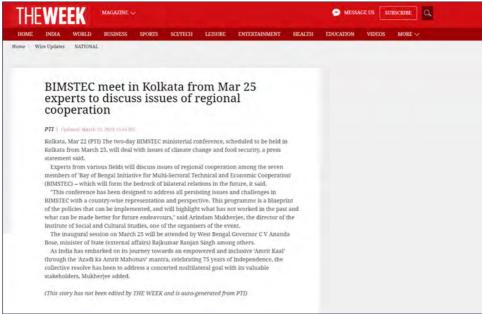
















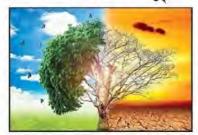


# বিশ্ব উষ্ণায়ন ঠেকাতে বিমস্টেকভুক্ত ৭ দেশের উদ্যোগ

### আজকালের প্রতিবেদন

বিশ্ব উষ্ণায়ন ঠেকাতে বিমস্টেকভুক্ত ৭টি দেশে জেটিবদ্ধ হয়ে পুনর্নবীকরণ-যোগ্য শক্তির আঞ্চলিক নেটওয়ার্ক গড়ে তোলার পাশাপাশি ম্যানগ্রোভ সংরক্ষণ প্রয়োজন। এমনটাই উঠে এল কলকাতায় আইএসসিএস আয়োজিত বিমস্টেকের ২৫ বছর পূর্তি উপলক্ষে আয়োজিত এক আলোচনাচক্রে। জ্বোর দেওয়া হয়েছে সৌরবিদ্যুতের পাশাপাশি নিউক্লিয়ার এবং হাইড্রোজেন শক্তির ব্যবহার বাড়ানোর ওপর।

সেন্টার ফর ভূটান এবং জিএনএইচ স্টাডিজের গবেষক সাঙ্গে গুয়াংদি বলেন, 'ভূটানের সংবিধানের নির্দেশ অনুযায়ী, সে দেশের ৬০ শতাংশ এলাকা বনাঞ্চলে রূপান্তরিত করার কথা বলা হয়েছে। ইতিমধ্যেই ভূটানের ৭০ শতাংশ এলাকা বনাঞ্চলে



পরিণত হয়েছে। তারপরও বিষ্ণ উষ্ণায়নের ফল ভূগতে হচ্ছে ভূটানকে। যে অঞ্চলে শীত বেশি, সেখানে ঠাতা বেড়েছে। অন্যদিকে, যেখানে গরম বেশি, সেই এলাকা আরও গরম হয়ে গেছে।' সেন্টার ফর ফরেষ্ট য্যানেজমেন্ট অ্যান্ড গভর্ন্যান্স ল্যান্ডের গবেষক ড. যোগেশ গোখলে বলেন, 'পরিবেশগত তাপমাত্রা নিয়ন্ত্রণে আঞ্চলিক পর্যায়ে বিমস্টেকের ৭টি দেশকে জেটিবদ্ধ হতে হবে। ম্যানগ্রোভ কার্বন নিঃসরণ নিয়ন্ত্রণে বিশেষ কার্যকরী। তাই সুন্দরবনের ম্যানগ্রোভ অঞ্চলকে রক্ষার পাশাপাশি যে অঞ্চলগুলির গাছ নম্ভ হয়েছে, সেই অঞ্চলকে পুনরুদ্ধার করতে হবে। লাগাতে হবে নতুন স্যানগ্রোভ গাছ।' ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধ্যাপক ড. শামিম রেজা বলেন, 'শুধু সরকার নয়, পরিবেশ রক্ষায় জনগণেরও সার্বিক অংশগ্রহণ প্রয়োজন। বিমস্টেক এক্ষেত্রে কার্যকরী ভূমিকা নিতে পারে। গড়ে তুলতে পারে পুনর্নবীকরণ যোগ্য শক্তির নেটওয়ার্ক। এই উদ্যোগ উষ্ণায়ন রুখতে সহায়ক হবে।

দ দিনের সম্মেলনে পরিবহণের যোগাযোগ বৃদ্ধি, খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা, বিমস্টেকভুক্ত দেশগুলির জনগণের মধ্যে যোগাযোগ বৃদ্ধি, শিক্ষার সমন্বর-সহ সাংস্কৃতিক বিনিময়ের বিষয়গুলি নিয়ে আলোচনা হয়।

## Minister stresses on city's leadership role in India's Act East policy



## বিমস্টেক সভা

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা

সম্মেলনের আনুষ্ঠানিক উদ্বোধন হয়েছে। দক্ষিণ এশিয়ায় বাংলাদেশ, ভূটানের এই অর্থনৈতিক সহযোগিতা দিন আলোচনা হয়েছে।

মঞ্চে শনিবার কলকাতার কৌশলগত গুরুত্বের কথা মনে করিয়েছেন দেশের বিদেশ প্রতিমন্ত্রী রাজকুমার রঞ্জন সিংহ। এ বছরের শেষে ব্যান্তকে কলকাতায় দু'দিন ব্যাপী বিমস্টেক বিমস্টেকের শীর্ষ সম্মেলন। এই দেশগুলির মধ্যে সডক, রেল, আকাশ ও জলপথে পারস্পরিক সংযোগে মায়ানমার, শ্রীলঙ্কা, ভারত, নেপাল, কলকাতাকে ঘিরে পরিকল্পনা নিয়ে এ

## বিমস্টেকভুক্ত দেশগুলির যোগাযোগের কেন্দ্রস্তল হয়ে উঠতে পারে কলকাতা

প্ৰকিনাটো ইফাৰ হয়। বিভাই বালুক পান্দৰ্ভাৱ কোনোহাটো হয়। উচ্চত পাতে কান্দৰ্ভাৱ আছিল কান্দৰ্ভাৱ উচ্চত পাতে কান্দৰ্ভাৱ আছিল কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কিন্তুক্তি কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দ্ৰিত কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কোনোৱা কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কোনোৱা কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কুল্ডীৰ নাল্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দৰ্ভাৱ কান্দৰ্ভাৱ







ভারতের পরবান্ত্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের মাননীয় প্রতিমন্ত্রী, রাজকুমার রনাজন সিং বিমসটেকের ২৫ তম বার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে দুইদিনের বিমসটোক কৈকের উঘোধন করেন। পরবর্তীতে তিনি সদস্য দেশগুলোর মধ্যে খাদ্য সংকটের সমাধানের জন্য ভারতের ভূটা উৎপাদনের উপর জোর প্রদান করেন।

বে অফ বেঙ্গল ইনিশিয়েটিভ ফর মান্টি-সেষ্টরাল টেকনিকালে আয়ভ ইকোনমিক কো-অপারেশনের (বিমসটেক) উয়েমবা অধিবেশনের কভুতার তিনি বলেন, ভারতের প্রধানমান্তী ভূটা চাগতে কঙ্গতের সাথে দেখাছেন। ভূটা জলবায়ু সহনশীল একটি ফঙ্গল এবং এর পুষ্টিছণ অনেক বেশি। ভূটা উৎপাদনে কম পরিমাণ জনের প্রয়োজন এবং এটি যেকোন পরিবেশেই কন্মাতে পাবে। ভাই খাদ্য ঘাটিত মেটাতে ভূটার কনেক গুলুত রয়েছে।

বিমসটোকের স্বতন্ত্র আন্তর্জাতিক আইনি ব্যক্তিক এবং ক্রমবর্ধমান গুলত্ব দেখে আর্নাপিত হন তিনি। বিমসটোক সম্বিতিভাবে সমস্যার সমাধান করতে পারে, কান্ধ করতে পারে এবং এমনভাবে সহযোগিতা করতে পারে যা ভারতীয় এই অঞ্চলে টেকসই উন্নয়ন লক্ষ্যমাত্রা আর্কনৈ সহায়ক। ভারত সরকার বিমসটোকের আঞ্চলিক সংস্থার প্রতি উতিশ্রতিক। এই করণেই ২০২২ সালে, শ্রীলান্ত্র সম্বাদনে বিমসটোক সচিবালয়কে নরেন্দ্র মোদি আর্থিক সংস্থান দিয়েছেন। বিমসটোক এখন বালেপসাগরের একটি কার্যকর আঞ্চলিক সংস্থা হয়ে উঠেছে।

উদ্বোধনী অধিবেশনে বক্তৃতাকালে, বিমসটোকের মহাসচিব কেনজিন দেকফেল বলেন, কলোখোতে অনুষ্ঠিত গঞ্জম বিমসটোক শীর্ষ সম্মেলনের এক বছর পর এই মাসের ওকতে অনুষ্ঠিত ১৯ তম বিমসটোক মন্ত্রী পর্যাব্যের বৈঠকের পরপারই সম্মেলনাটি অনুষ্ঠিত হচ্ছে। ব্যাংককে ৬৪ বিমসটোক শীর্ষ সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। বিমসটোকের ১৪ টি সম্মোদিতা ক্ষেত্রকে ৭ টি উপথাতে বিভক্ত করা হয়েছে এবং প্রতিটি সদস্য দেশ এই উপথাতচলোর দায়িত্ গ্রহণ করবে।

বিষসটোক কনভেননান অন ফৌজনারি বিষয়ে পারস্পরিক আইনি সহায়তা, কৃটনৈতিক একাতেমিগুলোর মধ্যে পারস্পতিক সহবাোগিতার বিষয়ে সমধ্যেতা স্মাকত, কলম্বোতে বিমসটোক প্রস্থৃতি স্থানান্তর সুবিধা প্রতিষ্ঠার বিষয়ে এমওইউ এবং পরিবহন সংযোগের জন্য বিমসটোক মাউার প্রান গ্রহণ দেখার যে বিমসটোক সঠিক পথেই এগিয়ে যাক্ষে।

১৯ তম মন্ত্রী পর্যায়ের বৈঠকটিতে বিমসটোক মেরিটাইম ট্রাঞ্চপেটি কো-অপারেশন চুক্তি অনুযোগিত হয়েছে, যা সদস্য রাষ্ট্রগুলোকে উল্লেখযোগাভাবে উপকৃত করবে তারণ এটি দৌকায় বিনামূল্যে প্রবেশাধিকার দেবে এবং সদস্য দেশগুলোর মধ্যে পণ্য ও পণ্যসন্তারের বাণিজ্ঞা ও পরিবহন বৃদ্ধি করবে।

আইএসসিএস ডিরেক্টর প্রী অরিন্ধম মুখার্জি বলেন, এই সম্মেলনটিতে দেশতিত্তিক প্রতিনিধিত্ব এবং দৃষ্টিতলি সহ বিমসটেকের সমস্ত স্থায়ী সমস্যা এবং চ্যালেচ্ছ মোকারেলার জন্য কি কি পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করতে হবে সবকিছু নিয়ে আলোচনা করা হবো, এই গ্রোগ্রামটি কেবল কী নীতিতলো বাস্তবায়ন করা যেতে পারে তার একটি নীদনকথা নয়, বর্ম অতীতে কোন কাঞ্চতলা করা হয় নি এবং তবিখাতে কোন পদক্ষেপতলো গ্রহণ করতে হবে সে বিখয়েও আলোচনা করবে।

উল্লেখ্য বিমসটেক ১৯৯৭ সালের জুন মাসে প্রতিষ্ঠিত। তখন এটি বিষ্ট-ইসি নামে পরিচিত ছিল। এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা সদস্য দেশ বাংলাদেশ, ভারত, শ্রীলদ্ধা এবং ধাইল্যান্ড এর নামে এ নামকরণ করা হয়েছিল।

পরবর্তীতে ১৯৯৭ সালে মিয়ানমার এতে যোগ দেয়। ২০০৪ সালের ফেব্রুয়ারিতে যোগ দেয় দেশাল এবং তুটান। বিমানটাকের সদার দারর বাংলাদেশের চাবায়। ২০১৪ সালে বাংলাদেশের প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হালিনা এ সদরদারর ডিয়াখন করেন। ২০২২ সালের মার্চ মাঙে, কলখোতে পঞ্চায় শীর্ষ সংখ্যালে, বিমানটাক সদলে সদস্য দেশাভাগা স্বাক্তর করে এবং পরবর্তীতে এটি গৃথীত হয়।

বর্তমানে বিমসটোক সদসা দেশগুলোর মধ্যে প্রযুক্তিগত এবং অর্থনৈতিক সহযোগিতার উদ্দেশা নিয়ে কান্ধ করে যাছে। এর প্রধান উদ্দেশ্য হলো বাণিজা, বিনিয়োগ ও শিপ্স, প্রযুক্তি, মানবসপদ উন্নয়ন, পর্যটন, কৃষি, জালানি, এবং অবকাঠামো ও পরিবহন খাতে নির্দিষ্ট সহযোগিতা প্রকশ্য চিহিতকরণ ও বাস্তবায়নের মাধ্যমে দ্রুত উন্নয়ন।

## কারা-কাহিনি

সংগ্রামের সঙ্গে কারাগার শব্দটি প্রায় অবিচ্ছেদ্য ভাবেই জড়িয়ে। পৃথিবীর সব প্রান্তেই সংগ্রামীদের জেলবন্দি করার ইতিহাস অপরিচিত নয়। দক্ষিণ আফ্রিকাতেও বর্ণবিশ্বেয়ের বিরুদ্ধে লডাই করার জন্য ২৭ বছর জেলে কাটাতে হয়েছিল প্রাক্তন প্রেসিডেন্ট নেলসন ম্যান্ডেলা। এ বার নেলসন ম্যাভেলা আন্তজাতিক দিবস উপলক্ষে কারাগারের ইতিবৃত্ত নিয়ে এক আলোচনাসভা আয়োজিত হতে চলেছে ইনস্টিটিউট অফ সোশ্যাল অ্যান্ড কালচারাল স্টাভিজ-এ। অনুষ্ঠানের শিরোনাম 'কারা কাহিনি'। ১৮ জুলাই, সোমবার, বিকেল ৬টায় আইসিসিআর-এর পঞ্চম তলের সন্মেলন কক্ষ-১'এ অনুষ্ঠানে মুখ্য বক্তা ইনস্টিটিউটের পরিচালক অরিন্দম মুখোপাধ্যায়। তাঁর কথায় উঠে আসবে মধ্য ভারত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলের নানা ঐতিহাসিক কারাগারের বিবরণ।

Ei Samay

# কারা-কাহিনি

প্রতি বছর ১৮ জুলাই পালিত হয় নেলসন ম্যান্ডেলার জন্মদিন, তাঁর নামাঙ্কিত আন্তর্জাতিক দিবস হিসেবে। সামাজিক ন্যায়ের পক্ষে তাঁর সংগ্রামের অচ্ছেদ্য অংশ ছিল কারাবাস। প্রাচীন কাল থেকে শুরু করে আজও সমান প্রাসঙ্গিক কারাগার, দুর্বহ তার ভার। ১৮ জুলাইয়ের আবহে আন্দামান-নিকোবর, মায়ানমার, ভিয়েতনাম, তানজানিয়া-সহ এশিয়া ও আফ্রিকার ঐতিহাসিক কয়েকটি কারাগার নিজে ঘুরে দেখার কথা বলবেন অরিন্দম মুখোপাধ্যায়, আগামী সোমবার সন্ধ্যা ৬টায়, আইসিসিআর-এর পঞ্চম তলের সভাকক্ষে; সভামুখ্য চয়ন মুখোপাধ্যায়। ইন্ডিয়ান ইনস্টিটিউট অব সোশ্যাল অ্যান্ড কালচারাল স্টাডিজ (আইএসসিএস বাংলা)-এর উদ্যোগে এই অনুষ্ঠান, 'কারা কাহিনি'।

Anandabazar Patrika



Times of India (Kolkata), 31st March, 2023



Times of India (Kolkata), 25th March, 2023









### **Kolkata Declaration**

### Roadmap for a Rejuvenated BIMSTEC 2<sup>nd</sup> ISCS BIMSTEC Conference

March 25-26, 2023, Taj Bengal, Kolkata, India

- The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
  organised the 2nd ISCS BIMSTEC Conference: 25 Years of Driving Force behind Neighbourhood Cooperation,
  in Kolkata, India on 25th and 26th March, 2023. The conference was the second in the series organised by the
  ISCS and hosted participants from all seven BIMSTEC countries.
- The salient points and suggestions as of the outcome of the deliberations based on the thematic sessions are
  as follows:

### Strengthening Regional Solidarity through Transport Connectivity

- BIMSTEC can act as an enabler for the landlocked member states Nepal and Bhutan to access the region's vast
  maritime networks.
- The BIMSTEC nations have acquired successful implementation of the Agreement for Maritime Transport initiative and have also gained significant momentum in the Master Plan for Transport Connectivity initiative for road, railways, air, and maritime transport.
- Bridging South and Southeast Asia through connectivity will open many avenues to facilitate a robust ecosystem for commerce. Focusing on the hard and soft infrastructure is critical to the way forward.
- · Conduct regular workshops to monitor the status of ongoing projects.

#### **Food Security and Value Chain Approach**

- Myanmar is the lead country for the agricultural and food security sector and has been envisaging agricultural modernisation and value addition. The focus remains on intensifying food security, promoting cost efficient cultivation through technological innovation while enhancing farmers' income.
- BIMSTEC member states must explore opportunities in food processing and value addition for strengthening the agricultural pillar of cooperation.











- The member states should focus on growing climate resilient crops with high nutritional value to address the
  prevailing food crisis across the region.
- BIMSTEC should address food insecurity by increasing awareness, promoting relevant policies to curb food wastage, and enhancing agricultural development to support and attain SDG targets.

### Imperatives and Initiatives on Climate Change

- Bhutan, the lead country for the environment and climate change sector has managed to preserve and
  increase forest cover, however, such efforts need to be taken at the regional level to avert the impacts of
  climate change. Green initiative and other energy initiatives are being proposed to encourage a sustainable
  future
- Focus should be on cultivating clean energy through developing technologies in solar, nuclear and hydrogen sectors

### People-to-people Connect

- The various modes that are being adopted to enhance people-to-people connectivity include cultural
  exchanges, sports diplomacy, and tourism, among others.
- The BIMSTEC region that has capability of earning USD 200 billion tourism revenue by 2024 has enriching
  cultural links that can strengthen people-to-people connectivity. Fast tracking implementation and
  developing an ease in transportation across the region with propositions such as the Buddhist and temple
  circuits are the need of the hour.
- Sports diplomacy has the power to transcend cultural differences and bring people together.











### **Educational Cooperation**

- Encourage and enhance the research community to develop a culture of common resolution-based thinking, including mutual exchange of data in academia through joint institutions such as BIMSTEC University and BIMSTEC Centre for Coastal and Climate Disaster Management.
- Member states must stress on establishing a multi-disciplinary approach to educational cooperation.
   Technology Transfer Facility, Task Force on Traditional Medicine and human resource development are the prime components of educational cooperation.
- Youth exchange programs and cultural programs regarding the scope of BIMSTEC and its underlying issues related to the environment, economics, society, and politics need to be facilitated.
- To increase the organisation's visibility, member states must increase research funding and work with local universities to create electives on BIMSTEC.

### **Cultural Exchanges**

- The region has historical links that paves way to forming enriching cultural diversity and a unique mix of
  identity. Several existing pilgrimage sites where people across the region share and connect with
  overlapping cultural and historical stories provides an opportunity to forming everlasting links with each of
  the member states.
- BIMSTEC can provide funding and support to cultural institutions, such as museums, galleries, and
  performing arts centres for the preservation of heritage and hosting cultural events. Additionally, BIMSTEC
  can establish a committee to oversee and coordinate these programs to ensure that they are effective and
  beneficial to all member states.





# TEAM ISCS CELEBRATING AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV, 2022



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