



Purvodaya Literary Festival 2025

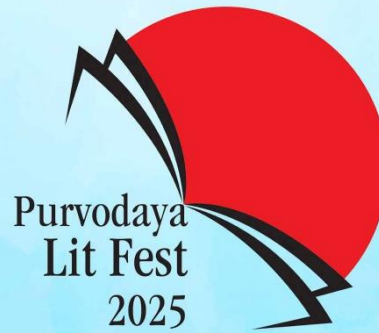
Knowledge Partner



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27th Feb-1st March, 2025

ICCR, 9A, Ho Chi Minh Sarani,
Kolkata -700071

Event Schedule

Corporate Support



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The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies that for the last three years over its chapter on Purvodaya has been taking efforts to deliberate the development already taking place, is also reflecting issues which needs to be addressed from policy perspective to conflate conundrums threatening the progress of the Eastern region of our country. The territorial dimension of Purvodaya constitutes from Gangasagar of West Bengal to Ganga in Benaras, though attempts are made and deliberations identifies the need to transcend the territory of Purvodaya. As concept of such regional confluence to be a dynamic and could serve as a catalyst running parallel to Act East in harnessing growth of North East.

In order to promote versatility in Purvodaya's gamut of activities, and bestowing confluence among people of the seven states – West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, the Institute organized the Purvodaya Literary Festival 2025. For its initiatives the organization received support from the corporate sectors and also national bodies including the Sahitya Akademi, National Book Trust, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Aurobindo Bhavan. The event not only stimulated literary discussions on important topics but also emphasised on regional literature through multiple parallel sessions on Assamese language, Odia language, Eastern Himalayan language to acknowledge the contributions and present trends surfacing in the regional language literature. In order to craft this literary festival that witnessed a footfall of hundreds each day the ISCS team relentlessly put together all its efforts for months to not only interpret the event as a mere literary gathering but also an occasion of engagement for the youth and school students. In order to justify the institute's stand of inclusivity in Purvodaya Literary Festival as well, as it does in all its other cases. Institute in parallel to discussions on literature from diverse angles and languages also sting in initiatives like competitions, content creation workshops, writing workshop, cultural programme and young adult book fair.

Prelude Events

As a prelude to this mega event three other events were organized at Guwahati, Bhubaneswar as well as in Kolkata. The Odisha Chapter as "Purvodaya Sahitya Utsav" on the evening of 11th February, 2025 at Buddha Mandir witnessed an assemblage of good number of literature lovers who participated to seek ideas of eminent literary personalities on the importance and essence of Odia literature. The event was participated by Padma Shree Awardee, Dr. Pratibha Satpathy, Smt. Sakuntala Baliar Singh, Dr. Sadananda Nayak, Dr. Raghunath Satpathy, Shri Ramkrushna Sahoo.

The literary meet at Guwahati as "Purvodaya Sahitya Samavesh" organized in association with Publication Board of Assam, Government of Assam held on 21st February, 2025 at Assaam

Prakashan Parishad, Bamuni Maidan, Guwahati and participated by Pramod Kalita, Sumanta Chaliha, Dr. Bimal Mazumdar, Dr. Prasanta Chakraborty, Smt. Bhairavi Boro, Shri Anubhav Tulsi. The discussion delved on the important aspect on present day context of Assamese and Bengali literature opened up opportunities for the new age poets and writers to share their ideas and works during the poetry hours and interaction session. The Guwahati literary meet did set a stage for the young writers recognizing their contributions towards preserving the regional diversities portrayed through literature.

Curtain Raiser at Kolkata.

For Kolkata it was a curtain raiser event that was organized at the Kolkata Press Club on 20th February, 2025. In order to detail about the importance and objective behind such initiatives the curtain raiser was organized. The Director of the Institute, addressing the press and media of leading vernacular news papers, elucidated the importance of organizing such festivals at Kolkata which in itself is the literary and cultural hub. While stating the importance he put forth three important points. One was that this literary conclave is one of the biggest in eastern India as it had striven to bring seven states of Eastern India under one roof. Secondly such literary festival manifests inclusiveness in terms of its participation, divulging importance of regional languages opens a huge learning opportunity for youths, who gets to learn, interact with regional authors. Apart from that as this festival designs rooms for workshops and other initiatives by expertise themselves, it again serves good opportunity for youths to learn to capture and transpire literature through technology and multi media. Lastly it also provides business opportunities for regional artists, publishes and other multi-sectoral stakeholders. In other words The Purvodaya Literary Festival truly harps facilitating engagements for all in varying forms. The other speakers who were present at the event also marked the significance of the event sharing their excitement of also being a part of the Purvodaya Literary Festival 2025. Shri Rupak Saha, who also participated at the event, did put forth the fact that such initiative should have been taken earlier and thus thanked ISCS for taking such initiatives. Prof. Kamal Kishor Mishra who also participated in the PLF added that the Fest in later years would turn into a foreground of consortiums of literary people from states across interpreting the cultural connectivity they share and hence through this the networks and association with neighbouring states could be strengthened. Smt. Roopsha Dasgupta, who participated in content creation workshop orienting students with the concept of creating interesting podcasts, mentioned that Purvodaya has already turned itself into canvas of opportunities which otherwise students finds difficulty in seeking. Whereas the eminent dancer Smt. Alakananada Roy added that Purvodaya initiatives should not circle around the regional corridors but also should explore international arena in future years. The curtain raiser inaugurated the official Logo of the PLF, the logo manifests the rising sun – indicates the vital role of east towards the reinvigoration of growth, progress and people to people connect in present times.

Purvodaya Literary Festival (27th February – 1st March, 2025)

Inaugural of the Event

The Purvodaya Literary Festival marked its beginning on the morning of 27th February, 2025 at the Satyajit Ray Auditorium, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Kolkata. The Inaugural of the event witnessed a huge number of participation, people cut-crossing cultural diversities made their way to be under the literary umbrella roofing literary personalities from seven different states of eastern India. As a distinguished Chief Guest the event witnessed the participation of Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal Shri C.V. Ananda Bose. As a Guest of Honour the event received participation of Prof. Dhananjay Singh – Member Secretary, ICSSR, Shri Yuvraj Malik – Director, National Book Trust (NBT), Shri Rohini Nandan Goswami – Zonal Director, ICCR, Kolkata and Shri Arindam Mukherjee – Director, ISCS. The event made a formal beginning with lightning of the lamp, felicitation of all the dignitaries and with welcome address by the Director of ISCS himself. The Dignitaries in each of the respective perspective stated that the Purvodaya Literary festival is an exclusive idea and yet is crucial in shaping India's intellectual narratives by bringing together diverse voices from eastern India. The Hon'ble Governor, who himself is a literary enthusiast, mentioned that Purvodaya Literary Festival marks a new chapter in the Indian diplomacy, as through this literary festival we can foster deeper connections and build bridges between nations ensuring that India and especially east remains a powerhouse for generations to come.

Plenary Session

As a part of the literary festival different plenary sessions on diverse topics were set up. The Topics of the plenary sessions tried to capture the literary diversities, role of freedom fighters from eastern India, Spiritualism in literary aesthetics, the cultural and civilizational ties the country shares with South East Asia and also narrating about different narratives that has captured the essence of cultural and civilizational linkages among these countries. The literary festival pursued an objective of enhancing the outreach of the rich repository of literature among students and youths. Needless to say that the youths of today are knotted with various digital mediums. Thus a session was so design on "Intergrating Literature with Technology" that represented the efficiency of technology and effectiveness of software in translating, digitizing volumes of books and concizing it to a pdf format for the ease of accessibility. The session also marked the role and importance of parallel cultural streams for indicating the importance of tribal languages such as Santhali language in surfacing importance issues including the dilapidation of tribals, dystrophies of women and their social movements etc. As participants eminent writes and scholars like Prof. Joy Sen (IIT Kharagpur), Shri Gunjan Shree (Bihar), Prof. Benudhar Patra (Odisha), Ram Sudhar Singh (Banaras) and others put forth the ideas of Eastern India's literary depth and vastness through a very captivating discussion.

Parallel Sessions: As mentioned in the earlier section of this documentation, the festival laid a special emphasis on the regional languages. Thus on all three days parallel sessions was organized like Contemporary trends in Odia, Assam, Bengali Literature. Interestingly an exclusive session was designed to know about the importance and transformations of eastern Himalayan languages. Eminent writers from the region themselves participated and deliberated about their regional richness in expression through literature. The festival played an important role in setting for literary personalities of other seven important regions to step out of their niche and represent their cultural legacy in other states among diverse set of people. The unison of ideas, literary exchanges through writers among different states enabled a community consortium among the larger society of eastern India under the roof of Purvodaya Literary Festival. Eminent literary personalities like Soumyadeep Dutta (Assam), BayamanuCharchi (Odisha), Jiwan Rai (Sikkim), Shi Bhagirath Mishra (West Bengal) participated in parallel sessions underlining the strength and importance of regional languages, counting threats that are leading the regional languages to diminish in order to keep pace with trends of globalizations and stretching upon mechanisms in terms of writing skills, technology to redraw attention on regional languages among the present generation.

Book Release Session – As part of the literature festival a book release session took place from 27th February to 1st March, 2025 at the library room of the RTC, ICCR from 3 pm to 4 pm.

On 27th February, 2025 the book release session was chaired by Smt. Namrata Chadha – eminent writer from Bhubaneswar and governing body member of Maha Bodhi Society of India. In this session three distinguished authors released their books which started with the release of Smt. Nayana Sahastrabuddhae edited “Women, Gender and Society in India” published by Aryan Book International, New Delhi which provides an in-depth perspective on the gender discourse in India. This was followed by the book “Harano Sur” published by Matha MotarDoptor, Kolkata written by Smt. Anindita Dey which is a collection of stories that weave together the unspoken emotions of those who remain unseen. These stories capture the small yet profound battles of individuals and the hidden scares they carry. Fragments of women’s struggles, daily conflicts and glimpses of their diverse experiences shape the essence of these tales. Harano Sur is not merely a collection of stories, it is a tale of rebirth, a journey towards rediscovering forgotten dreams, an intimate search for one’s true self. And perhaps somewhere within these pages, the readers will find a reflection of their lost melody, one that was never truly lost, only waiting to be heard again. Lastly the book titled “Karamjalyan” published by Black Eagle books, Bhubaneswar and authored by Smt. Namrata Chadha, this book has a number of actual tales that the author put into anthologies of short stories based on her personal encounters. This book is an earnest attempt to reveal the appalling conditions that women face in modern society.

On 28th February, 2025, the book release session chaired by Shri Bratin Dey, Editor, Bengali division, National Book Trust of India saw the release of several books which included Shri Rupak Saha authored “Pagoday Banka Chand” published by Deep Prakashan, Kolkata. This book is a novel based on the context of Myanmar (Burma). Shri Soumyadeep Datta written “Axomor Aronya Avayaronya Aru Rashtrio Uddyan” which highlights several biodiversity rich forests of Assam apart from presenting valuable information about the wildlife treasure nestled in the protected areas of Assam. This book written in Assamese language presented factual information about all the nineteen wildlife sanctuaries and seven national parks of Assam. In this session Shri Subrata Sankar Bhadra penned “Doctor in Burma” published by Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, Kolkata was formally released. This book gives a vivid description of Dr. Subodh Kumar Bhadra’s (the author’s father) life in Burma where he served as a doctor and his painful return to India from Burma during the second world war. Along with this renowned author Amar Mira written book “Bharatvarsha O Onyanyogolpo” published by the National Book Trust was also released on this day. This book is a collection of short stories written by Shri Mitra.

The last day of the book release session was chaired by Shri Jyoti Khataniar, eminent Assamese writer from Gauhati where several distinguished authors released their books. The book release programme initiated with the release of the book “From Science to Society: Journey of an Indian Geologist” written by Dr. Shubhayu Chattopadhyay and published by Primus Books, New Delhi. This book gives a vivid description of the life and activities of Shri Pramatha Nath Bose, the first Indian Geologist who was later credited for his significant discoveries as a state geologist of Mayurbhanj which led to the foundation of Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd (TISCO), the first heavy industry of India. The book thereafter released was a collection of short stories penned by Shri Bhagirath Mishra and published by the National Book Trust titled “Achin Pakhi O Onyanyogolpo”. The subsequent book release was “Mahajeevan Shyamaprasad” written by Anath Bandhu Chatterjee and published by the National Book Trust of India that discusses about the life and endeavour of Shyamaprasad Mukherjee. A significant release that took place in this session was Ure Elo Raj Hangsha authored by Pramod Kalita which is a novel based on the partition of India. Along with this “Prabahoi Shuner Dharona” a collection of poem written by Shymashri Roy Karmakar and published by Aloprithibi Prakashan, Kolkata was released in the session. “Sabuj Shakti” written by Subhas Bandopadhyay and published by National Book Trust of India, which focused on the issue of sustainable development, was formally released on this day. Besides this Shri Biswajit Ganguly on behalf of Sri Aurobindo Bhavan re-released the book “Sri Aurobindo” written by Nobojato which throws light on Aurobindo Ghosh’s spiritual life and endeavour.

Purvodaya Literary Excellence Award – The organizers of Purvodaya Literary Festival aimed at felicitating a literary personality from the region itself for their contribution towards literature,

art. Amit Chaudhuri is the author of eight novels, the latest of which is *Sojourn*. He is also a poet, essayist, short story writer, and musician. Faber released a full set of his backlist titles in the U.K. over 2022-23 with introductions by Colm Toibin, James Wood, and Pankaj Mishra. His first three novels were reissued in 2024 in the New York Review Books Classics imprint. The awards he has received for his work include the Commonwealth Writers Prize, the Encore Prize, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction, the James Tait Black Prize, the Sahitya Akademi Award, and the inaugural Infosys Prize in Literary Studies in the Humanities. He is Professor of Creative Writing and Director of the Centre for the Creative and Critical at Ashoka University, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and an honorary fellow of the Modern Language Association of America and of Balliol College, Oxford. On the evening of 27th February he received the First Purvodaya Literary Excellence Award. The Award was presented to him by Shri Shankar Lal Bhattacharya, an eminent writer and journalist himself and by the Director of ISCS Shri Arindam Mukherjee. Shri Amit Chaudhuri expressed his happiness for being the first recipient of this excellence award. He thanked the organizers by mentioning that initiatives like these are important when the generations of today are slowly moving away from reading and busy dissenting dimensional economic progress falling into the grasp of attaining the mean-end theory, which slotting their time and interest towards the rich literature created and in process.

Purvodaya Facilitating Student and Youth Engagements

Purvodaya Literary Festival organized an array of talent competitions for three days catering to the school students and the college students. Such competitions included essay writing competition, sit-and-draw competition and debate competition for the school students and extempore competition, comic-making competition and nukkadnatak competition for the college students. Apart from this, three day long skill developing workshops were also conducted on story framing, photography and on content creation that included blogging, vlogging and podcast by renowned personalities in the mentioned field. On matter of participation, while students from renowned schools and colleges of Kolkata competed in the youth competitions, the workshops had no bar in the age limit and people from all ages starting from college students, school students to working professionals joined the workshops at the Purvodaya Literary Festival. Below are the details of the youth competitions and workshops that were conducted at the Purvodaya Literary Festival on 27th February, 28th February and on 1st March.

Report on Essay Writing competition on 27th February, 2025

On 27th February, 2025, an essay writing competition for the school students was organized at the Purvodaya Literary festival at the Nandalal Bose gallery of the Indian Council for Cultural

Relations (ICCR). This essay writing competition saw an overwhelming participation from the school students belonging to class VII, VIII, IX, X and IX. About twenty students coming from various renowned schools of Kolkata like the Dolna Day School, The New Horizon High School, South Calcutta National School, Dakshin KalikataSevasram and Mitra Institution participated in the competition. In this context, while ten participants belonged to The New Horizon High School, three participants came from Dolna Day School, four participants came from Dakshin KalikataSevasram, two from Mitra Institution and one participant came from South Calcutta National School.

Logistical and technical assistance of the event was provided by ISCS where all twenty students were provided with pen and sheets of paper for writing down their essays. Students were provided with three topics, namely, 'Write an essay on any one cultural festival of Eastern India', 'Contribution of Eastern India in Indian Freedom Struggle' and 'How can the youths contribute to mission Purvodaya of PM Narendra Modi' among which they had to write down an essay on a single topic, within 1000 words. The competition had as its honourable judge, Mr. Bratin Dey who is the Assistant Editor of Bengali department at the National Book Trust, India. As the result of the essay competition, participant from Dolna Day School secured the First position followed by participants from The New Horizon High School securing the Second and Third positions respectively. On completion of the event the winners were provided with the certificate of merit along with books published by the National Book Trust, India. Apart from this, all the participants were also given the certificate of participation.

Report on Extempore competition on 27th February, 2025

On 27th February, 2025, an extempore competition was organized from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Purvodaya Literary festival at Lecture Room 3 (Hall Ganga) for the college students. The event attained success with the help of participation of students and scholars from various institutes of higher education like Seth AnandramJaipuria College, Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, Jadavpur University, Hooghly Mohsin College and Scottish Church College. Here the speakers were provided with two topics like 'Is social media a boon or a bane for the youths of today' and 'Does societal beauty standard affect mental health', among which they had to select a single topic for their extempore speech. This competition had as its honourable judge Mr. Bimal Shankar Nanda who is the Associate Professor at the Charuchandra College, Kolkata. As the result of the competition, participant from Scottish Church College secured the first position followed by a participant from Ramakrishna Mission Residential College securing the second place and a student from the Hooghly Mohsin College securing the third position. At the end of the event, the winners were handed down certificate of merit and were given books as prizes. Apart from this, all the participants were also given certificate of participation after the completion of the event.

Report on Drawing competition on 28th February, 2025

After the successful completion of the first day of Purvodaya Literary Festival 2025, the second day of the festival witnessed an overwhelming participation of school students from Binodini Girls' High School and Dolna Day School at the Sit-and-draw competition held on 28th February, 2025, at the Nandalal Bose gallery of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). In this competition while participation from Binodini Girls' High School stood at more than forty students, a single participant from Dolna Day school also participated at the sit-and-draw competition. The students were also given the choice of considering anyone one of the following topics like, 'An Eastern Indian Festival that you like' and 'Any landscape of Eastern India' and making their art based on it. As the honourable judges for the sit-and-draw competition, there were eminent personalities like National Award Winner artist Mr. Rathindra Nath Mallick, Eminent graphic designer Mr. Kamallesh Mondal and Eminent artist and author Mr. Babul Dey. The competition ended with a delightful performance of the students from Binodini Girls' High School where all the winners hailed from the mentioned institution itself. At the end of the competition the winners were provided with certificates of merit along with books as prizes. Apart from this, all the participants were given certificate of participation for taking part in the sit-and-draw competition at the Purvodaya Literary Festival.

Report on Comic Making competition on 28th February, 2025

Besides the sit-and-draw competition, a comic making competition catering to the college students was also organized on 28th February, 2025 at the Purvodaya Literary Festival. Students from various colleges like the Scottish Church College and Vidyasagar College for Women had participated in this event. Logistical and technical assistance of the event was provided by ISCS where all the participants were provided with drawing sheets for creating comic art on the topic 'The Change that you want to see in the world'. The competition had as its judge eminent personalities like Mr. Bappa Bhowmick, artist at the Lalit Kala Academy and Ms. Sohini Dasgupta, founder of 'Gulmohar Diaries' who graced the occasion and encouraged young talents for further improving their artwork. At the end of the competition the winners were given certificates of merit and books as prizes and all the participants were given certificates of participation.

Report on Debate competition on 1st March, 2025

On the third day, i.e., the last day of the Purvodaya Literary Festival on 1st March 2025, a Debate competition catering to the school students was organized from 12 noon to 2 pm at the Nandalal Bose gallery of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), located at 9A, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata-700071. This competition saw an overwhelming participation of the students from classes VIII-X of The New Horizon High School where about thirteen speakers took to the dais to speak in favour of or against the motion that delved into the topic of 'Is the habit of reading dying among the youths of today.' Apart from the aspect of student participation, the debate competition had as its judge Mr. Shayak Chakraborty who is a

distinguished Advocate of the Calcutta High Court. The competition turned out to be a grand success as the two teams of speakers gave a head-to-head competition to each other which resulted in the honing of their debating skills. The event was finally wrapped up by providing the winners with a certificate of merit and prizes and by providing each participant a certificate of participation.

Report on Nukkad Natak competition on 1st March, 2025

Following the debate competition catering to the school students Purvodaya Literary Festival also organized a Nukkad Natak competition or a street play competition for the college students. This competition saw an enthusiastic participation from the students of Seth AnandramJaipuria College who, with their exuberant performance, left everyone spellbound. The Nukkad Natak competition had as its judges, eminent literary personalities like author Bhagirath Mishra, Biswajit Ganguly who is the honourable trustee of Sri Aurobindo Bhavan, eminent artist and author Babul Dey, writer Anath Bandhu Chatterjee and Bratin Dey who is the Assistant Editor of Bengali department at the National Book Trust, India. With such erudite personalities on the panel as judges the programme turned out to be a successful event that helped the young theatre artists of the country to showcase their talents on a prestigious platform like the Purvodaya Literary Festival. The programme was finally ended by handing out the certificates of merit, prizes and certificate of participation to the participants.

Story Framing, Photography and Content Creation workshop at the Purvodaya Literary Festival

As a part of the Purvodaya Literary Festival several workshops were organized like story framing and content creation and photography that matches the current academic and professional demand in the market. Accordingly, the Story Framing workshop was conducted by Shri Dwijendra Kumar, Assistant Editor (English), National Book Trust on all three days, which attracted a lot of attention from the aspiring authors of the country who were particularly benefitted from the knowledge and tactics shared during the workshop for creating a successful author in the future. The workshop witnessed huge participation from people of all ages which included high school students, college students, working professionals, academicians and even journalists. Students and Teachers from schools like The New Horizon High School and Dakshin KalikataSevasram attended this workshop with a great fervour and showed interest for further workshops like this in the future.

Parallel to the story framing workshop, Purvodaya Literary Festival in partnership with 'Fotounit' also organized a three day long Photography workshop conducted by Shri Anjan Dev Biswas and his team of photographers at the Jamini Roy Gallery on all three days. This workshop saw an overwhelming participation from photo enthusiasts who attended the session

in large numbers, on all three days in order to learn about the nuances of professional photography from the experts.

Apart from the photography and the story framing workshop, the Content Creation workshop conducted by the Purvodaya Literary festival offered a diverse palette of learning where the workshop accommodated within it master-classes on Food and Travel blogging, Food and Travel Vlogging and session on the art of podcasting. In this regard, on 27th February, 2025 session on food and travel blogging was conducted by expert blogger Ranjini Guha, followed by Pamela Nandi at the Hall Kanchenjunga. This was followed by a session on food and travel vlogging on 28th February, 2025 which was conducted by renowned vlogger and social media personality Anindya Basu. Purvodaya's content creation workshop was concluded on the third day, that is, on 1st March, with a captivating session on the art of podcasting conducted by social media personality RoopshaDasgupta. This Purvodaya organized content creation workshop also mustered a great participation from college students, journalists and other working professionals who attended the sessions en masse for three days to learn about the secrets of excelling on social media.

The workshop sessions conducted at the Purvodaya Literary Festival for three days thus witnessed a great and diverse participation from both professional and student population who not only enriched their knowledge base from these workshops but also expressed their desire to attend more such workshops in the future. The workshop module of Purvodaya was concluded with handing out the certificates of participation to the participants of the workshops at the end of the Purvodaya Literary Festival on 1st March, 2025.

Other Attractions:

1. Poetry session – On 28th February, 2025, that is, on the second day of the Purvodaya Literary Festival conducted at the Rabindranath Tagore Centre of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), a 'Poetry hour' session was held at the Fountain Court of the ICCR building from 4 pm to 5 pm in the evening. With eminent poets of Eastern India like Bappaditya Roy Biswas, Sabarna Chatterjee, Abantika Pal, Gautam Das, Assistant Police Commissioner, Kolkata Police and Tapas Sen on the dais, the Purvodaya poetry hours made the audience embark on a mellifluous journey of poetical excellence. Apart from such stalwart poets, this poetical session also welcomed enthusiastic participation from budding poets of various colleges where young poets like Jayaditya Mukherjee, student of Jadavpur University and Rudrarup Pal from Scottish Church College also displayed their poetic talent during this programme.
2. Young and Adult Book Fair – As a part of the Purvodaya Literary Festival, 2025 an Young and Adult bookfair was organized from 27th February, 2025 to 1st March, 2025 jointly by the National Book Trust of India and the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies inside the Bengal gallery and the RamkinkarBaij sculpture court at the Rabindranath Tagore Centre of Indian Council of Cultural Relations, Kolkata. This book fair saw participation of several

important international publishers like Penguin Random House India, Orient Blackswan publication. Besides this several other regional publishers like Woodpecker publication, Vitasta publication, Dey Book House, I K Enterprise, Punaschaprakashani displayed their books in this book fair. Institutions like Sahitya Akademi, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, National Book Trust of India, Sri Aurobindo Bhavan and Institute of Social and Cultural Studies also participated in this book fair with their publications. Along with this Gulmohar Diaries also displayed their large collection of collectable diaries in the book fair. Wide range of books of all literary genres were displayed in the book fair where a special emphasis was given on books that reflected the aspirations, demands and trends of the present young-adult readers.

3. Philatelic and Rare Books and Magazines – A “Lit Pex” exhibition on stamps and rare magazines was curated by Shri Babul Dey. Materials and display boxes from Numismatic Society were displayed.

4. Documentary Movie – Every Day between 3-4 pm Documentary films were featured for the audience. The films were based on cultural and social issues of Eastern India and the works and life history of eminent poets and authors of Eastern India.

5. Cultural Programme – On all the three days cultural programmes were organized; on the first day, i.e., 27th February there was a Raindra Sangeet presentation by Shri Prabuddha Raha and Smt. Sraboni Sen along with recitation by Smt. Bijay Lakshmi Barman and Shri Sumantra Sengupta. On the next day, i.e., on 28th February there was a performance by Parvathy Baul which left audience spellbound, as she rendered her unique Baul Philosophy through song and dance; her deeply moving presentation provided a powerful cultural moment at the festival. On the final day the cultural tapestry was represented on stage by Chidakash led by Shri Piya Bhattacharya. The dance performances and the vibrant plays were the practical reconstruction of Bharata's dance and music tradition of Natyashastraic period, which enthralled the audience.

6. Gyan Vriksha – Gyan Vriksha was placed at the fountain court, which became a centre of interest and attraction of all the participants and audience of the Purvodaya Literary Festival. The Gyan Vriksha itself turned as a repository of ideas, as the participants could write their thoughts on the leaves of the Gyan Vriksha and could tie them around. The Gyan Vriksha is a concept to capture ideas, thoughts of participants and with each year we hope that the Gyan Vriksha would rise tall emitting positivity and accommodating the ideas of thousands visiting and participating at the event.

Valedictory Session – The three day event officially marked its conclusion for the given year on the evening of 1st March 2025, in the presence of Shri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, Shri Diganta Biswa Sarma, eminent scholar from Assam and Smt. Alakananda Ray. Smt. Ray appreciated the efforts of the organizer behind the three day fully packed events and

engagements that could facilitate participation of large number of youths. She focussed on the fact that the event like this over time should transcend its reach at the international corridors as well, In order to capture the fascinating literary and cultural linkages of the eastern India, shares with South and South East Asia. Shri Biswa Sarma also mentioned that Purvodaya Literary Festival is a very unique and diverse initiative to achieve ideas of literary personalities, disseminate teachings of renowned personalities like Shri Aurobindo and most importantly this event have opened its corridors for an inclusive participation, bringing people, cultural diversities, literature of all seven states of Eastern India. Thus have been able to accord a recognition of a “Literary Festival of the East”. On the final note Shri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, extended his gratitude towards all the participants including literary personalities, artist forums, Publishing Houses, Ministry, Corporate bodies for extending their participation and most importantly to the organizing team comprising of enthusiast young volunteers, students of bachelor’s and Master’s Programme for making this event a successful one and also aiming for the Purvodaya Literary Festival in November 2025 with more interesting features and characters with a much broader outreach and participation than the present.