

# Purvodaya

*The Rise of Opportunities*

SPECIAL ISSUE



24 – 28 November, 2025

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (RTC, ICCR)  
9A, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata-700071

## Purvodaya Lit Fest-2

Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) organizes the Purvodaya Literary Festival that aims to celebrate the rich literary and cultural heritage of Eastern India, spanning states like West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Sikkim, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. ISCS and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, in association with Indian Council of Social Research, Nalanda University, National Book Trust and Sri Aurobindo Bhawan, Kolkata, organized the second edition of the literature festival from 24th to 28th November, 2025 at the Rabindranath Tagore Center, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (RTC, ICCR), Kolkata.

In regard to this festival ISCS planned to create an early momentum for the event and engage the student community in dialogue on literature, culture, and social development through a series of prelude events in the schools, colleges and universities. For school it was Katha Utsav and this event was organized in different schools like Dolna Day School, New Horizon and others while the events pertaining to college which was a Extempore competition was organized at the Adamas University on Rashtriya Ekta Divas along with others like Sri Ramakrishna Sarada Vidyamahapitha, Kamarpukur and Scottish Church College.



*Dolna Day School*

The lit up literary canvas as Purvodaya Lit Fest in its second year did bestow support of National Book Trust, Bhartiya Bhasha Samiti, Ministry of Education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Ministry of Culture, Shri Aurobindo Bhawan, and University of Nalanda and have become a source of inspiration to many to bring out their note pad and pen, puff out the dust settled as the post pandemic era accords greater significance to digitization to stimulate convergence between minds, thoughts, ideas and narration. The literary carnival as Purvodaya Lit Fest in its second year have already carved a distinct space for itself and promoted enthusiasm amongst the literary personalities and literature lovers from the eastern region namely, eight states as an annual one stop visit. As the fest apart from disseminating dialogues and essaying thoughts of versatile set of writers from regions like West Bengal, Odisha, Tripura, Assam, Sikkim, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar did signal as a colossal of connect between publishers and personnel from cultural field, who through their contributions and genre illuminated the rich cultural heritage that the region persists on the whole.



*New Horizon High School*

The event was also special as the timeline of the fest between 24th to 28th was deliberately chosen as each of the days marks a significance of a distinct type, for instance 25th of November resonates International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women whereas 26th of November being The Constitutional Day or the Bhartiya Samvidhan Divas reckons the resilience and caliber of the constitution that remained unchanged and erect till day towards upholding the spirit of democracy.

The Festival did remain an empowering space for informed intellectual dialogue, where ideas are debated and stories shared, staged performances by the range of artists, promoted workshops, included access to the various print houses and publishers to acquaint multi-dimensional audiences with their diverse range of

publications as well as artisans representing crafts of the region. But the most engaging was the competitions for audience across ages. That encouraged a great number of footfalls from the students' fraternity. The connections, compassion, exchange of dialogues, entertainment and inter-state connects of the east was once again skillfully nestled under the roofs of Purvodaya Lit Fest, that with time is slowly turning to be the Eastern India Annual Literary and Cultural fiesta.

The Fest on 24th of November, 2025 started with the inaugural in the presence of Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, H.E. Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose who as a Chief Guest marked the beginning of the 5 day long festival. Every year the Purvodaya Lit Fest honours distinguished writers with Purvodaya Literary Excellence Award from



*Lighting of the Lamp by H.E. Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose Governor of West Bengal at the Inaugural Session of the Purvodaya Lit Fest*



*H.E. Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose presenting the Purvodaya Literary Excellent Award to Smt. Paramita Stapathy*

the region itself. This year Smt. Paramita Satpathy, eminent writer and influential voice of the Indian literary arena received the excellence award. She also thanked the organizers and in her address mentioned that the concept of gender mainstreaming should now be featured on a wider note as it will actually help society to progress and certain clichés to transgress from the society to a large extent.

As we all know about the writing passion of the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, H.E. Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose and hence as a part of the occasion his book which is written in Odia, *Nirabata Bhalo Shuve* was released by all the dignitaries. The book which is a compilation of essays drawn on stories, anecdotes, personal experiences, literary references, mythology and history to illuminate the complexities of human conduct and public systems altogether.

As a part of his address, the Hon'ble Governor explained how literature can scaffold human nature, inspires humans to take initiatives that ultimately creates apposite impact in their livelihood. He also shared some of his childhood experiences and how his readings written by eminent writers like Rabindra Nath Tagore, Shakespeare, Wordsworth has illuminated his life and also inspired him and his actions as a bureaucrat and have natured his writing skills. The Vote of Thanks was extended by Ms. Kankana Roy, Coordinator, Purvodaya Lit Fest, where she thanked all the supporting partners and contributions of the organizing team for their hard work and contributions in assembling the stage for such a vibrant fest at the heart of Kolkata.



*H.E. Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose*



*Smt. Paramita Satpathy*

## Day -1 , 24th November, 2025

**Interactive Session:** The first day was the Black and White Day and it featured the interface between film and Literature. Also this session was essential to pay tribute to three eminent personalities from Eastern India namely, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, Shri Ritwick Ghatak and Uttam Kumar.

To celebrate the contributions of these eminent personalities at the Purvodaya Lit Fest, distinguished speakers like veteran actress Smt. Sabitri Chatterjee, Shri Arjun Chakraborty, renowned actor and author, Shri Sanjoy Mukhopadhyay, film critic and Shri Bidyut Kumar Bhuyan, journalist from Assam along with Shri Biswajit Ganguly set the stage for the discussion.



*Discussion Session on Is Literature Relevant in Film Making?  
From Left - Smt. Sabitri Chatterjee, Shri Arjun Chakraborty, Shri Sanjoy Mukhopadhyay,  
Shri Bidyut Kumar Bhuyan and Shri Biswajit Ganguly*

### Competition:

On 24th November, 2025, a Literary Quiz Competition was organized at the second Purvodaya Literary Festival, at the Library of the Rabindranath Tagore Center, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). This Quiz Competition, which was open to all, saw an overwhelming response from schools and colleges alike. Students from New Horizon School, Dolna Day School, Scottish Church College, Gokhale Memorial Girls' College, Bethune College, and Lady Brabourne College participated in the Quiz Competition. Cultural Event

**Cultural events:** were organized by performing artists on every single day of the Purvodaya Lit Fest. 24th November – on the very first day of the event, Sanskrit Drama- Meghadutam was staged by Howrah Sanskrit Sahitya Samaj between 5 to 6 pm at the Satyajit Ray Auditorium. Meghadutam written over 1500 years ago, remains a poetic masterpiece in Sanskrit literature themes, structure, style, and historical relevance and most importantly, the performance was highly appreciated by the audience.



*The Quiz Competition*



*Sanskrit Drama Meghadutam by  
Howrah Sanskrit Sahitya Samaj*

## Day- 2, 25th November 2025

Day 2, 25th November 2025 started with an interactive session Bimarsh, an Interactive session was organized between Students from different schools like Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission, New Horizon and Heritage School of Kolkata. The interaction took place between the students and Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, MAKAIAS, Smt. Alo Sud – teacher by profession and curator of the Pondicherry Lit Fest along with Dr. Asitendu Datta and Professor of Mathematics

of Jadavpur University, Dr. Buddhadeb Sau. The speakers interacted with students interpreting the role of literature that would influence in setting their careers, nurture their skills and also would implant love for their nation, which is most important as in today's hard rush world in pursuance of their aspiration, youths often forget about their duties and love that they should behold for their nation and thus should in some or the other way through their careers and welfare services should strive to serve their nation.



*Bimarsh : An Interactive Session*

**Interactive Session :** As 25th of November is commemorated as the International Day for the elimination of the violence against women, a session was designed exquisitely to address the women in literature. The theme was illustrated by Smt. Paramita Satpathy, Alo Sud whose works and association with various non-government organizations narrates the conflicts between the conscience- desire – reality that the women

had to resolve before setting her foot out were present at the event. Also present was the most versatile Smt. Saswati Guha Tharurta, singer and actress who dared to challenge the set stereotypes and managed to acclaim fame in the television, discussed how women themselves have to firstly decide to come out of their niche defaming the hesitations and of course the social odds that she is compounded in the given social structure.



*From left - Smt. Saswati Guha Tharurta, Smt. Paramita Satpathy and Smt. Alo Sud*

**Competition :** On 25th November, the second Purvodaya Literary Festival organized a Fashion Show for College students. The Fashion Show was held at the Sculptor Court of the Rabindranath Tagore Center, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), from 3:00 pm onwards. This competition catered to students of eighteen to twenty-five years of age. Students from Gokhale Memorial College, Shri Shikshayatan College, and Narula Institute of Technology participated in this event. Each team consisted of a maximum of

ten students. Time allotted to each group was ten minutes precisely. The theme of the Fashion Show was “Traditional Attire of Eastern India” with emphasis on states like West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Sikkim, Assam, Jharkhand, Tripura, and Eastern U.P. Participants were asked to be respectful towards the authenticity and traditional aspects regarding the attire. The participants were also asked to explain the history and tradition related to their outfits.



*Participants of the fashion show*

**Cultural Event :** On the second day of the fest Chau Dance performance was staged at the Satyajit Ray Auditorium from 6 pm onwards. Chhau dance is a tradition from eastern India that enacts episodes from epics. Mahishasurmardini was staged by one of the famous troupes of Purulia led by Shri Samir Mahato.

The performance on folk melodies was played on the reed pipes mohuri and shehnai. The reverberating drumbeats of a variety of drums dominated the accompanying music ensemble and enthralled the audience present.



*Performance – Chhau Dance*

### Day- 3, 26th November 2025

The Day 3 of the Lit Fest which was 26th November is been celebrated as the Samvidhan Divas or Constitutional Day hence keeping the perspective in mind the events throughout the day was curated .

**Interactive Session :** The session started with the release of the book *India Reborn: The Epic Story of Civilizations Rebound from Two Centuries of Decline* by the author Shri Prasenjit Basu himself. The author spoke about how his ideas are bounded in the book giving an insight of the country's dynamic policy system and bold reforms in stringing agriculture, labour, investment and innovation together, that has enabled country to tide out challenges and preserve an inter-sectoral harmony. Similarly Dr. Sajjan Kumar, speaker from Bihar who himself is a policy analyst brought about the country's timely intervention mechanisms,

focusing on decentralization approach and policy matrix enabled the country to usher consistent progress. The Third Speaker, Shri Abhijit Deb, eminent columnist and Writer from Tripura highlighted the versatility of our constitution that has helped the country to set the balance between the traditional and modern approach of development and progress.

The session also received participation of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court, H.E. Shri Biswanath Somadder, who manifested the role of judicial framework that in parlance to our legislation have stimulated participatory democracy and dynamic growth approach. Judiciary that remains independent of influence has played a vital role in participatory democracy. The Seventh and Eleventh Schedules of the constitution remain as exemplary examples to many other countries in stimulating a very interactive and accommodating constitutional arrangements altogether



*Book Release – 'India Reborn' by Shri Prasenjit K. Basu by the Participants of the session on : Forces behind the resilience of Indian Constitution*

**Competition :** The Sit and Draw Competition was organized on the 3rd day at the second Purvodaya Literary Festival, 26th November, at the Abanindranath Gallery of the Rabindranath Tagore Center, Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR). We witnessed an overwhelming participation from students of New Horizon School, Dolna Day School, Heritage School, and a student from G.S.M. School for (Boys), Taki House,

and a student from Creative Garden Academy. The Sit and Draw Competition was held at the Abanindranath Gallery of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) from 11:00 am onwards. Other logistical and technical assistance was provided by ISCS. The Esteemed panel of judges for this competition comprised Shri Gautam Chakraborty, an eminent artist and Shri Bappa Bhowmik, an artist at Lalit Kala Academy.



*Participants of Sit and Draw Competition*

**Cultural Event:** 26th November- A drama based on the life and works of Rashbehari Bose was staged by the theatre group – Sovabazar Protibimbo on day three of the fest. The theatre was written by

Sumantra Chattopadhyay and was directed by Charnak Chattopadhyay. The production, portrayed the vibrant, untamed life of a freedom fighter who still burns like a hidden flame in the nation's heart.



*The Life and Works of Rashbehari Bose was staged by Sovabazar Protibimbo on 3rd Day of the fest*

**Day- 4th, 27th November, 2025**

Noble Peace Prize Day. A very interesting session was staged as a part of the Purvodaya Lit Fest, edition-II that discussed about the global peace and literature and especially denoted about the Indian fundament and role in facilitating peace, harmony also preserving the notion of human rights.

**Signing of the MOU:** Memorandum of Understanding was signed between The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies and University of Nalanda on 27th November, 2025. The official course of actions was undertaken by Shri Arindam Mukhejee, Director, ISCS and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi- Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University.



*Memorandum of Understanding was signed between The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies and University of Nalanda on 27th November, 2025. The official course of actions was undertaken by Shri Arindam Mukhejee, Director, ISCS and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi- Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University.*

**Interactive Session :** The Interactive Session focussed on Global Peace and Literature. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi – Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University presented his views on the necessity of restoring peace and harmony not only for individual progress but also setting pathway for development and achieving goals of



*From Left : Dr. Marcis Gasans, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Swami Vedatitananda Maharaj Dr. Ilya Tarkan*

Vikshit Bharat by 2047. Swami Vedatitananda Maharaj, from Ramkrishna Mission, Shilpamandir, Belur Math, emphasized on how our Indian tradition, its philosophy has sustainably pursued the element of ensuring peace in oneself as well as in societal context. The aspect of how India, its cultural variances, traditional subjective context, Vedas, Upanishads remained instrumental in influencing other parts of the world about the peace

prospects was identified through the deliberations of two international speakers, Dr. Ilya Tarkan, Lecturer, Department of Social Science and Humanistic, Belarusian State Pedagogical University and Dr. Marcis Gasuns who himself is a multilingual linguist and a Sanskrit Scholar have translated Bhagwad Gita in Russian language.

**Competition:** On the fourth day, 27th November of the second Purvodaya Literary Festival, the Poster Making Competition was organized at the Abanindranath Gallery of the Rabindranath Tagore Center, Indian

Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) from 11:00 am onwards. The Competition was opened to participants of classes eight to twelve. The topic for the Poster Making Competition was Global Peace.



*Participants at the Poster Making Competition*



*Receiving of Prizes and Certificate of the Poster Making Competition*

## Day – 5th, 25th November 2025

The Purvodaya Lit Fest on its final day started with a very important discourse Bharatiya Bhasha Pariwar, the aim and objective behind this discourse of promoting scholarly dialogue on India's indigenous linguistic heritage and strengthening awareness about the interconnectedness of Bharatiya Bhāṣhāyein. The conference brought together academicians, linguists, educators, and language enthusiasts from across the country to deliberate on the historical, cultural, and academic foundations of the Bharatiya Bhasha Pariwar

framework. The discourse was participated by Prof. Naresh Annem, Professor, Centre for Linguistics and Translation Studies, University of Hyderabad, Prof. Kusha Tiwari, Professor, Department of English, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, Dr. P. Phani Krishna, Assistant Professor, University of Delhi and National Coordinator, Bharatiya Bhasha Pariwar, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, Ministry of Education, Dr. Shiva Ram Male, Assistant Professor, Centre for Linguistics and Translation Studies, University of Hyderabad, Dr. Purnendu Bikash Debnath, Academic Consultant, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, Ministry of Education.



*From Left : Prof. Tapas Chakraborty, Dr. Shyama Rath, Dr. V. Ramanathan*

**Interactive Session :** As the fest bestowed the trend of marking and deliberating the significance of each of the days of the five days lit fest, similarly the last day too did not differ and shared the significance of the science and literature as 28th November, worldwide is commemorated as the Red Planet Day. Dr. Shyama Rath, Member Secretary, AICTE, Prof. Tapas Chakraborty

– Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (MAKAUT) and Dr. V. Ramanathan- Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Head of Excellence in Indian Knowledge System, Benaras Hindu University took a major initiative to discuss how AI and technology also mark their emphasis in the field of literature.

**Competition 1 :** On the last and final day, 28th November of the second Purvodaya Literary Festival, a recitation competition was held at the Fountain Court of the Rabindranath Tagore Center, Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) from 1:00 pm onwards. The Competition was opened to participants of classes eight to twelve. The topic for the competition was Poets of Eastern India, namely comprising these eight states (Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Tripura, Assam, Sikkim, Eastern U.P.). Students from St. John Diocesan Higher Secondary School, New Horizon School, Dolna Day School, and a student from Techno India Group Public School also participated. Smt. Bijoylakshmi Barman, a reciter of repute, served as an esteemed judge for the event.



*Participants of the Recitation Competition*



*Participants of Nukkad Natak*

**Cultural Event :** On the final day a classical concert by Abraham Mazumder Academy of Music enthralled the audience with his mellifluous performance paying tribute to legends from Eastern India From Tagore to European Maestros and finally playing Satyajit Ray. The audience were enthralled with his mesmerizing rendition by Maestros himself and his fellow troupe members.



*Performance by Abraham Mazumdar Academy of Music on concluding day of the Purvodaya Lit Fest - 2*

## Other Attractions

### Book Fair

The Purvodaya Lit Fest, Edition–II also organized a Book Fair in parallel to the main event to acquaint speakers with its diverse range of publications and interesting set of memorabilia's. Along with ISCS there were other organizations like Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Sri Aurobindo Bhavan, Kolkata, Bhartiya Bhasha Samiti. The Book Fair was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose- Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal on 24th of November itself. As we all know that the Hon'ble Governor is also a literary enthusiast and has written and edited books in different languages and some of his books were also displayed as a part of the book fair.



*H.E. Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose inaugurating the Book Fair at the Purvodaya Lit Fest - 2*

### Exhibition

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*The exhibitions showcasing the 'Indonesian Odyssey of Rabindranath Tagore', curated by Arindam Mukherjee, and Purvodaya Litpex: A Philatelic Exhibition on Literature by Babul Dey, were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Dr. C. V. Ananda Bose. Guest of honour was the Honorary Consul General of Indonesia to Kolkata Shri Mahesh Saharia.*



*Hon'ble Governor and other dignitaries .....through the exhibition*

## Pater Gaan

The Purvodaya Lit Fest, Edition-II also organized a Book Fair in parallel to the main event to acquaint speakers with its diverse range of publications and interesting set of memorabilia's. Along with ISCS there were other organizations like Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Sri Aurobindo Bhavan, Kolkata, Bhartiya Bhasha Samiti. The Book Fair was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. C.V. Ananada Bose- Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal on 24th of November itself. As we all know that the Hon'ble Governor is also a literary enthusiast and has written and edited books in different languages and some of his books were also displayed as a part of the book fair.



*Presentation of Pater Gaan during the Purvodaya Lit Fest - 2*

## Photography Workshop

A photography workshop was organized for all five days by Fotounit. As the workshop gained immense success and interest since last year, therefore this time too this workshop was organized at the Abanindranath Gallery every day between 2 to 3 pm. The workshop with over hundred participants across the age group turned out to be a real successful one. Participants were taught about the intricacies of photography and were also given assignments.



*Five Days of Photography Workshop by Fotounit at the Purvodaya Lit Fest - 2*

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