

Snāna Yātrā at Māhesh Then (1796) and Now(2017)

The Snāna Yātrā is the festival of the ritual bath of Lord Jagannātha conducted on the day of full moon in the Bengali month of Jyaiṣṭha (May-June). Seventeen days later, with slight variations depending on the lunar calendar–

Jagannātha is honoured in Ratha Yātrā. The image of Jagannātha in Māhesh is some 600 years old and, at odds with Solvyns's more realistic portrayal of a human head, has the same amorphous, mask-like appearance as the god in Puri.



Source: Francois Balthazar Solvyns, *Two hundred and fifty coloured etchings: Descriptive of the Manners, Customs and Dresses of the Hindus* (Calcutta 1796). The album is preserved in the Museum of the Asiatic Society.

TRADITION
GOES
ON...



Snāna Yātrā
at
Māhesh
Serampore (2017)

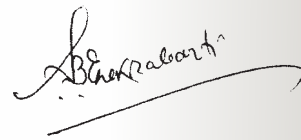
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGhRXY7OqK0>

**AN ORDINARY MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, 2ND JULY, 2018 AT 5.00 P.M.
IN THE VIDYASAGAR HALL OF THE SOCIETY**

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO BE PRESENT

Agenda

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly General Meeting held on 4th June, 2018 at 5.00 p.m.
2. Exhibitions of presents made to the Society in June, 2018.
3. Notice of Intended Motion, if any, under Regulation 49(d).
4. Matters of current business and routine matters for disposal under Regulation 49(f).
5. Consideration of Reports and Communications from the Council as per Regulation 49(g).
6. The Paper on "Koch : Their Linguistic Identity" will be read by Dr. Satarupa Dattamajumdar.



(S B Chakrabarti)
General Secretary

The Asiatic Society
1, Park Street
Kolkata 700016
Dated the 11th day of June 2018

Koch : Their Linguistic Identity

Satarupa Dattamajumdar*

Abstract

The Koch language is spoken in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal (northern part) and also in Bangladesh. The population strength of Koch in India according to 2001 census is 31,119. Koch belongs to the Bodo group of Tibeto-Burman language family. Contact situations of Koch with Bengali and Assamese languages have made the language vulnerable to language shift. UNESCO report mentions Koch as 'Definitely Endangered'. The three states – Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal exhibit three different scenarios for the Koch speech community as far as language maintenance is concerned. A glimpse at the present day scenario of the different identities of the Koch community in different states of Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal (northern part) exhibits that in the Garo hills of Meghalaya only the community retains its identity as 'Koch'. In Assam due to some socio-political reason, there has taken place a merger of the Koch community with the Rabha speech community—the reason being socio-political in nature. The identification of the Koch-Rabha community as 'Rajbangsi' is evident in the Cooch-Behar and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal. However, in spite of the influence of the super-strate languages, the Koch community

of Garo hills exhibit linguistic solidarity in maintaining their mother tongue. The paper will take into account the three different socio-linguistic settings from the historical view point and reveal the difference in language attitude behind the linguistic identity of the Koch speech community in three different states of eastern and north-eastern region of India.

Vowels

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| অ | আ | ঈ | ই | উ | এ | ও |
| o | a | ā | i | u | e | ō |

Consonants

| | | | | |
|----|----|---|----|---|
| ক | খ | গ | ঘ | ঙ |
| k | kh | g | gh | n |
| চ | ছ | জ | ঝ | - |
| ch | s | j | jh | - |
| ত | থ | দ | ধ | ন |
| t | th | d | dh | n |
| প | ফ | ব | ভ | ম |
| p | ph | b | bh | m |

A set of Koch alphabets (Assamese script has been adopted for the Koch language) along with their Roman equivalents (Kondakov and Koch, 2009: xi).



Author (front left) collecting socio-linguistic data from the Koch women of Harigaon village, West Garo Hills district, Meghalaya. Photo Courtesy: Nirmal Koch, Tura



Koch People in a village function. Photo Courtesy: Nirmal Koch, Tura

*Project Director, Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi
dattamajumdards@gmail.com

A Newly Renovated Clay Bust of Henry Thoby Prinsep (1792-1878), Vice-President of the Asiatic Society (1842-43)



The clay bust measuring 30"x12"x18" of Henry Thoby Prinsep executed by Shri Nanda Kumar Pal or Naba Kumar Pal at the request of Prince Ghulam Mahammad, the eighth son of Tipu Sultan. The bust was presented to the Asiatic Society in August 1843 was a fitting tribute to a civilian who served the Society for more than twenty-five years.

Having received his education at Hailybury, he entered the Bengal Civil Service. After holding successively, the post of Legal Remembrancer and Secretary, he was appointed as one of the Council members of the Supreme Government of India in 1840. After that he returned to England in 1843, and was elected to a seat as the Director of the East India Company in 1849 and also was nominated by the Crown as Her Majesty's Council for India in 1858.

About his scholarship, Prinsep wrote several articles, books and pamphlets on India of which some books are mentioned here (i) A History of the Administration of the Marquis of Hastings, (ii) A Translation from the Persian of the Memoirs of Ameer Khan, (iii) Political Life of Ranjeet Singh, published in 1835, (iv) Results of a Discovery of Coins in Afghanistan, in 1844, (v) Tibet, Tartar and Mongolia : their social and political conditions - 1852. Mr. Prinsep was distinguished as an Arabic and Persian scholar and contributed much to the advancement and reputation of the Society. He passed away on the 11th February, 1878.

The Modeller

The artist Shri Nanda Kumar Pal/Naba Kumar Pal was a clay modeller of Calcutta during the middle of 19th century. We know little about the artist and his creation. But his achievement was published in different Newspapers of 19th century, such as the *Englishman*, *Friend of India*, the *Bengal Harkaru*, the *Christian Herald* etc. We find from the *Christian Herald* which gives the following account of the meritorious native modeller Nanda Kumar/Naba Kumar Pal, who modelled the bust of the late Dr. Carey, and to whom the London Society of Arts has awarded the silver Isis Medal.

Art Appreciation

The *Christian Herald* states further that "Of the early history of Nanda/ Naba Kumar we know nothing, but believe he was a common modeller of clay figures, whom Dr. O'Shaughnessy got him out of the bazar. Therefore the entire credit is due to this highly meritorious man, the indigenous modeller, is of course noteworthy. We understand there are also in Medical College some busts made by this native modeller of high personalities such as Lord Auckland, Mr. H. T. Prinsep, Dr. Goodeve, Dr. W. B. O'Shaughnessy, Dr. Egerton, Dr. R. O'Shaughnessy and of the Late Mr. David Hare. The last was made after Mr. Hare's death from seeing him in his coffin, and aided by the recollection by his friends. For Lord Ellenborough's portrait, he was employed by Captain Goodwyn of the Engineers to model from a small plaster cast, the figure of Diana Ventrax, in Lower Hall of

Government House. Nanda/Naba Kumar made a bust of the late Mr. Greenlaw was considered as an admirable likeness, and when sent to England, he was the chief guide for the marble bust executed of that gentleman. The late Captain Macnaughten sent home a clay bust, made by Nanda/Naba Kumar, which had an admirable likeness, and immediately recognized by his children. He has also worked for many other gentlemen, of whom we only know Messrs Hume, Seppings Engledue and Rogers."

At present the artist Sri Swapan Kumar Roy has renovated the bust with due care, successfully brought out the original essence of the art work printed in the last bulletin of the Asiatic Society. The authority of the Society should take care of this art work of precious value.


Somnath Mukherjee


Isha Mahammad

চিত্র প্রদর্শনী

অধ্যাপক ঈশা মহম্মদ ও চিত্রশিল্পী অজয় ঘোষের তত্ত্বাবধানে তরুণ শিল্পীদের আঁকা ছবির প্রদর্শনী। স্থান এশিয়াটিক সোসাইটির বিদ্যাসাগর হল। ২৫শে জুন – ৪ জুলাই ২০১৮ দুপুর ১২ থেকে সন্ধ্যা ৬টা (শনি ও রবিবার ব্যতীত)। একই সঙ্গে এশিয়াটিক সোসাইটিতে সংরক্ষিত বেঙ্গল স্কুল অফ পেন্টিংয়ের ছবিগুলিও প্রদর্শিত হবে।

সকলেই আমন্ত্রিত।

From the Desk of the General Secretary

Dear Members,

Our academic activities and administrative engagements for the period from end of May to early July, 2018 have gradually picked up during the tenure of the new Council which began on May 5, 2018. This time period, as mentioned, began with a National Seminar entitled A Tribute to Maharshi Devendranath Tagore, who was considered as one of the pioneers of nineteenth century Bengal Renaissance. A number of very distinguished scholars took part which was inaugurated by Professor Rabiranjana Chattopadhyay, Former Professor, The University of Burdwan. The next important programme was observance of World Environment Day on 5th June, the theme of which this year was **Beat the Plastic Pollution**. Professor Asok Kanti Sanyal, our Biological Science Secretary, delivered an important lecture along with the screening of a brief documentary. The occasion got a different height with the screening of a very important documentary on the development of a painter's life entitled Shilpi Isha. Incidentally it is the life of the present President of the Asiatic Society who is a globally acclaimed painter. The programme preceded by sapling of two trees in the lawn of the Society. During June 11-15 we had organized a seminar cum workshop on the Techniques of Traditional Indian Paintings in the collection of the Asiatic Society which was attended by a number of famous painters as resource persons as well as a good number of students who received practical training during the course. This was organized for the first time in the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, in its long history. The paintings/drawings that were produced during the workshop will be on display from 25th June to 4th July 2018 for public display. A special lecture was delivered by Professor George Van Driem on the topic entitled the East Asian Linguistic Phylum : A reconstruction based on Language and Genes on 22nd June, 2018.

Let me share with the members that in the coming months (between November 2018 to March 2019) the Society will be engaged with massive academic programmes in terms of reaching out to the people – not only of India but also of other parts of the



Debendranath Tagore

Elected as a member of the Asiatic Society in 1847

From the Desk of the General Secretary

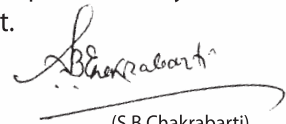
world. One or two International Seminars will be organized in Delhi and Kolkata by inviting renowned scholars from other countries of the world who have worked in the field of Indology. One discourse will be organized by inviting scholars from other Asiatic Societies of the world. An exhibition of equally important dimension will be organized to showcase the treasures of knowledge available in the Asiatic Society, Kolkata and this exhibition will travel round the country such as Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Guwahati and Kolkata. Let me also share with the members that we have been tight pressed in shifting temporarily the valuable books and journals of the Society from the Metcalfe Hall to the Currency Building owing to the renovation work going on in the Metcalfe Hall by the Archaeological Survey of India under the instruction of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Our preparatory work has just started. On our part we have taken the possible technical and administrative precautionary measures for shifting of these books. According to the agreement reached with the Archaeological Survey of India in a joint meeting held on 06.06.2018 these books will be relocated at Metcalfe Hall by the end of September, 2018.

Shri M. J. Akbar, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, visited the Asiatic Society, Kolkata on 15.06.2018 in the forenoon and met with some Council members, Research Fellows and a few officials in the

administration. Later on he visited the Museum, Library, Publication outlet, Conservation Section including the Vidyasagar Hall where the workshop on Painting was going on.

Dr, Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture (Independent Charge) and Minister of State of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Govt. of India visited the Asiatic Society on 21.06.2018. He met the officials of the Council, some Members, Research Fellows as well as the Staff Members including the President of the Employees' Union. He also visited the Museum, Library, Conservation Section and Vidyasagar Hall. He appreciated the activities of the Society and encouraged all concerned to keep the pride of the nation.

The General Secretary recently met the Secretary, Ministry of Culture, in Delhi on 29.05.2016 to discuss about further academic programmes. He is also expected to attend another meeting at Delhi called by the Secretary, Ministry of Culture on 26.06.2018. The General Secretary also shared with all the employees about the coming assignments as well as on the existing administrative issues. A Hindi programme on various items is going to be organized between 25.06.2018 and 27.06.2018. Filling up of certain vacancies are in progress. Security measures are being beefed up. Newly constituted committees have started their functioning. Active participation and cooperation of the members and the staff members will help the Society achieving its cherished target.



(S B Chakrabarti)
General Secretary

Statutory Committees and other Committees 2018-2020

LIBRARY COMMITTEE - AS PER BYE-LAWS (V) 1

1. Professor Isha Mahammad, President,
2. Dr. S. B. Chakrabarti, General Secretary,
3. Dr. Sujit Kumar Das, Treasurer,
4. Professor Tapati Mukherjee, Library Secretary,
5. Dr. Ramkrishna Chatterjee, Publication Secretary,
6. Shri Shyamsundar Bhattacharya, Philological Secretary,
7. Dr. M. Firoze, Joint Philological Secretary,
8. Professor Asok Kanti Sanyal, Biological Science Secretary,
9. Professor Raj Kumar Roychowdhury, Physical Science Secretary,
10. Professor Dr. Subir Kumar Dutta, Medical Science Secretary,
11. Professor Arun Kumar Bandyopadhyay, Historical & Archaeological Secretary,
12. Professor Ranjana Ray, Anthropological Secretary,
13. Professor Biplab Chakrabarti,
14. Professor Didhiti Biswas, and
15. Dr. Nibedita Ganguly.

Invitee member

Dr. Avijit Bhowmik

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE - AS PER BYE LAWS XXXVII

1. Professor Isha Mahammad, President,
2. Dr. S. B. Chakrabarti, General Secretary,
3. Dr. Sujit Kumar Das, Treasurer,
4. Dr. Ramkrishna Chatterjee, Publication Secretary,
5. Professor Dilip Basu,
6. Professor Aparajita Basu,
7. Professor Swapan Kumar Pramanick, Vice-President,
8. Professor Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, Vice-President,
9. Professor Tapati Mukherjee, Library Secretary,
10. Shri Nirbed Ray,
11. Dr. Indranil Sen,
12. Dr. Nirmal Bandyopadhyay,

13. Dr. Rajat Sanyal,
14. Shri Shyamsundar Bhattacharya, Philological Secretary,
15. Dr. M. Firoze, Joint Philological Secretary,
16. Dr. Sankar Prasad Chakraborty,
17. Professor Somnath Mukhopadhyay, and
18. Dr. Sabyasachi Chatterjee.

Invitee members

Dr. Runa Chattopadhyay, and
Dr. Satarupa Dattamajumdar.

B.I. COMMITTEE - AS PER BYE-LAWS XXXVIII

1. Professor Isha Mahammad, President,
2. Dr. S. B. Chakrabarti, General Secretary,
3. Dr. Sujit Kumar Das, Treasurer,
4. Dr. Ramkrishna Chatterjee, Publication Secretary,
5. Shri Shyam Sundar Bhattacharya, Philological Secretary,
6. Dr. M. Firoze, Joint Philological Secretary,
7. Professor Nabanarayan Bandyopadhyay,
8. Professor Badiur Rahman,
9. Professor Subuddhi Charan Goswami,
10. Dr. Bela Bhattacharya, and
11. Professor Biswanath Roy.

STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE - AS PER REGULATION 4A(1)

The Council nominated Professor Swapan Kumar Pramanick, Vice-President of the Asiatic Society in the Standing Finance Committee.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

1. Professor Isha Mahammad, President,
2. Dr. S. B. Chakrabarti, General Secretary,
3. Dr. Sujit Kumar Das, Treasurer,
4. Professor Satyabati Giri,
5. Dr. Ramkrishna Chatterjee, Publication Secretary,
6. Professor Swapan Kumar Pramanick, Vice-President,
7. Professor Alok Kanti Bhowmik, Vice-President,

Statutory Committees and other Committees 2018-20

8. Professor Pradip Bhattacharya, Vice-President,
9. Professor Atis Kumar Dasgupta,
10. Shri Shyam Sundar Bhattacharya, Philological Secretary,
11. Professor Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, Vice-President,
12. Professor Chandramalli Sengupta,
13. Professor Basudeb Barman,
14. Dr. Biswanath Roy,
15. Dr. Arunava Misra,
16. Dr. Shyamal Chakraborty,
17. Professor Arun Kumar Bandyopadhyay, Historical & Archaeological Secretary,
18. Dr. Sankar Nath,
19. Professor Ranjana Ray,
20. Professor Mohidas Bhattacharya,
21. Professor Neela Mazumder,
22. Professor Susnata Das, and
23. Professor Musaraf Hossain.

EXTENSION COMMITTEE

1. Dr. S. B. Chakrabarti, General Secretary,
2. Dr. Sujit Kumar Das, Treasurer,
3. Dr. Pradip Dutta Gupta, President, Asiatic Society Employees' Union.

MANUSCRIPT & ART PURCHASE COMMITTEE

1. Professor Isha Mahammad, President,
2. Dr. S. B. Chakrabarti, General Secretary,
3. Dr. Sujit Kumar Das, Treasurer,
4. Shri Shyam Sundar Bhattacharya, Philological Secretary,

5. Dr. M. Firoze, Joint Philological Secretary,
6. Professor Ajoy Kumar Ghosh,
7. Dr. Soumen Kumar Pal, and
8. Professor Somnath Mukhopadhyay

EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR RESTORATION OF OIL PAINTINGS

1. Professor Isha Mahammad, President,
2. Dr. S. B. Chakrabarti, General Secretary,
3. Dr. Sujit Kumar Das, Treasurer,
4. Dr. Prabhas Das,
5. Dr. Santi Majhi,
6. Professor Ajoy Kumar Ghosh, and
7. Professor Somnath Mukhopadhyay

LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. Professor Isha Mahammad, President,
2. Dr. S. B. Chakrabarti, General Secretary,
3. Dr. Sujit Kumar Das, Treasurer,
4. Shri Alok Kumar Pal,
5. Dr. Bishnupada Dutta, and
6. Dr. Amzad Hossain.

SECURITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. Professor Isha Mahammad, President,
2. Dr. S. B. Chakrabarti, General Secretary,
3. Dr. Sujit Kumar Das, Treasurer,
4. Dr. Amiya Kumar Samanta, IPS (Retd.),
5. Shri Sandhi Mukherjee, IPS (Retd.), and
6. Shri Soumen Mitra, IPS.

The Asiatic Society Kolkata

cordially invites you to

Dr. Biman Behari Memorial Lecture for the year 2016
on *Asuras in Indian Tradition : A Historio Anthropological Analysis*
by **Shri Jawhar Sircar, IAS (Retd.)**

Former CEO, Prasar Bharati, New Delhi
on Wednesday, 4th July, 2018 at 4.00 p.m. at the Humayun Kabir Hall
of the Asiatic Society.

Professor Isha Mahammad
President of the Asiatic Society, will preside.

Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti
General Secretary

Debagram – A new destination in the Archaeotourist Map of West Bengal

Dr. Keka Adhikari Banerjee*

Debagram, a small village in Nadia district demands its place in the archaeological atlas of West Bengal. The village is located in Ranaghat Block II under the Gangnapur police station and is approachable through good motorable road via Chakdaha or by train from the nearest railway station, Ranaghat junction as well as from Kalyanpur junction of Sealdah Division. Located 30 kilometers towards south of Krishnanagar, the district headquarters of Nadia it lies in the border of Nadia and Hooghly districts.

The village is in the centre of 'Garh' locally known as "Debal Ranja Garh" covered by forests with trench encircling a mound with clay 'burz' at the four corners, though only one remnant is visible now. The mound, its surrounding areas and the adjoining ponds with unearth bricks are evidences of structure, potteries of several types, terracotta toys, beads etc. The artifactual remains provide indication of continuous habitation starting from Late Pala period to colonial period.

According to local history & myths Debal Rajah, a local king of Kumbhakar lineage constructed the fort and ultimately lost his sovereignty under Raghav Ray.

An enthusiastic group of local people like Dr. Tilak Purakayastha, Dr. Biswajit Roy, Sri Chitta Biswas, Sri Ashes Halder and young scholars like

Sanjay Bhowmik, Anirban Basu, Debajit Biswas preserved the collected artifacts in a house under the name of "Debagram Debalraja Puratattwa O Lokosanskriti Sangha". The interesting collections are the potteries consisting of black, grey, black-red, red-white & potsherds. Some of the black wares are so finely polished that it creates special interest. Others are of different shapes and designs viz. basket, mat etc.

Many lamps of different designs, ritualistic pots of black and grey colour are possibly the remnants of 'Sena Period' of 12th-13th century A.D. The findings of Vishnu, one in Sampada Sthanaka Pose found from adjacent Gram Panchayet, Anulia and another broken Vishnu image, now preserved at Gangnapur police station emphasises the **Sena** supremacy over the region.

The findings of one small metal Buddha like image and one Vajrajani Tara (now preserved in a Kali temple at Banamalipur), many broken pieces of sprinkler type objects, knife edged bowls (thick & rough) show evidence of **Pala** Sovereignty over the region.

Besides, many narrow necked black finely polished potteries, bricks stucco, silver coins of 1202 A.D. introduced during Baktiyar Khilji's Nadia invasion and Ujbuk Shah's "Nadia Vijay" provide information on **Sultanate** supremacy over the region.

A systematic exploration followed by an excavation may highlight the archaeological importance of the site and establish the scientific sequences of the historical periods.

Debagram is a calm and quiet village with forest & numerous ponds. The forest contains many Sal, Teak, Hijal, Palash trees which create natural beauty blending with its historical past which may take place even in the tourist map of West Bengal.



*Curator, Museum of The Asiatic Society, Kolkata

Remembering Verrier Elwin (1902–1964)



The Anthropological Survey of India, North East Regional Centre, Shillong organized a National Seminar on "Verrier Elwin: Field Work Tradition and Indian Anthropology" during May 21 - 22, 2018 at Shillong. The seminar was convened by Dr.

Gautam Kumar Bera and 15 invited special lectures were delivered by senior academicians of the country including Mr. Ashok Elwin, son of the celebrated scholar Verrier Elwin and Ms. Faith Elwin, the granddaughter of Verrier Elwin who is a doctoral scholar of history at the university. The Keynote address was delivered by Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti, General Secretary, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata; Verrier Elwin Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor T. B. Subba of North-Eastern Hill University and former Vice-Chancellor, Sikkim University; and the Valedictory Address was delivered by Professor Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata.

Verrier Elwin and The Asiatic Society

Verrier Elwin became the member of The Asiatic Society on 1 May 1944. He was awarded with the Saratchandra Roy Memorial Award in 1944 and Annandale Memorial Award in 1951 for his meritorious and many sided contributions to the study of cultural Anthropology. He was elected as the Anthropological Secretary of the Society in 1947 and nominated as the Fellow of the Society in the same year. He had contributed an erudite article on "Conception, pregnancy and birth among the Tribesmen of the Maikal Hills" in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society* (JL-1943-3S: IX (L) : 99-148).



Dr. S. B. Chakrabarti delivering the Keynote Address.

Extract from the speech of Dr. Chakrabarti

... Roughly, an active life of approximately thirty-five years generated quite a number of sparks. A life lived both as a bohemian as well as domesticated, a life enjoyed both poverty and poetry, a life received both admonitions and appreciations, a life produced humane health and academic wealth. Judged by each individual items mentioned, Verrier Elwin will be remembered by me personally for his production and promotion of a secular and democratic home. It is worth remembering when his son Wasant reminisces, "Our home was the abode of several religious outlooks, principally, Hinduism from my mother's side, Christianity from our aunts; a staunch Anglican and of course Buddhism. Thus under such democratic religious ambience, Nakul declared he was a Pagan. Ashok chose the Buddha's middle path, whereas Hinduism ... influenced me."



Dr. S. B. Chakrabarti being introduced to Mr. Ashok Elwin, son of Verrier Elwin by Dr. Gautam Kumar Bera.

Mr. M J Akbar in the Asiatic Society

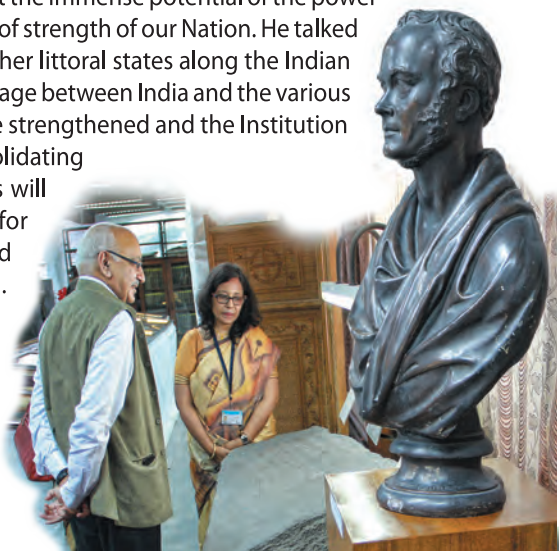
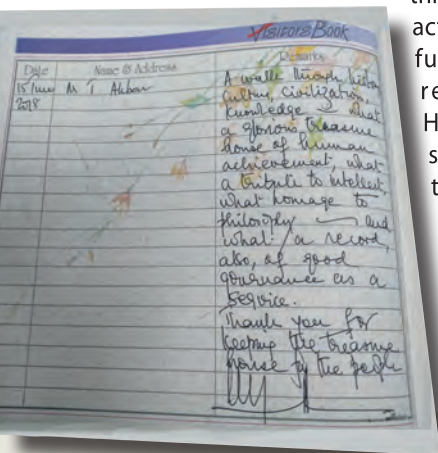


Mr Akbar meeting with Council Members, Research Fellows and Staff Members of the Asiatic Society

Shri M. J. Akbar, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India and a noted intellectual and journalist visited the Asiatic Society on 15.06.2018. He was received at the Humayun Kabir Hall of the Asiatic Society by the President and the General Secretary of the Society. In a brief meeting he met some Council members and officials along with the Research Fellows of the Society. He was briefed about the current research activities and projects which are being pursued in the Asiatic Society. Later on he visited Library, Museum, Publication Display Room, Conservation Section and Vidyasagar Hall where a workshop was being held on 'Techniques of Traditional Indian Painting in the collection of the Asiatic Society'. The Hon'ble Minister took special interest during his visit on the valuable collections of manuscripts and other rare documents and artifacts. He appreciated research activities being carried out by the young Research Fellows of the Society.

In his brief speech the Hon'ble Minister talked about the immense potential of the power of knowledge rather than military power as the source of strength of our Nation. He talked about the valuable connections between India and other littoral states along the Indian ocean over the past so many centuries. The cultural linkage between India and the various countries of the South and South East Asia needs to be strengthened and the Institution like the Asiatic Society can play a valuable role in consolidating

this cultural linkage. This will act as a resource base for future intellectual and research activities. He promised active support and help from the Government of India in all academic ventures of the Asiatic Society in future.



Visiting the Museum of the Asiatic Society

Dr. Mahesh Sharma at the Asiatic Society, Kolkata on International Yoga Day



Dr. Sharma meeting with Council Members, Research Fellows and Staff Members of the Asiatic Society

Hon'ble Minister of Culture Dr. Mahesh Sharma visited the Asiatic Society on 21st June 2018, the World Yoga Day. He was welcomed by the President and the General Secretary in presence of other members of the Council of the Society. In a brief meeting in the Humayun Kabir Hall with the members of the Council, staff and research scholars, Dr. Sharma said that it is a pride moment for him to be in the Society for the third time and that this Institution which itself speaks of its glorious history of 235 years, is a national pride. He also acknowledged the contributions made by the members of the Society and staff in upholding the tradition and sanctity of this

great institution. The Hon'ble Minister mentioned in his speech that how he has appraised the Prime Minister about the great heritage of the Asiatic Society and that he is likely to visit any time soon. He also assured for all round support from the Central Ministry for the Society's developmental activities. Dr. Sharma visited the Museum where an exhibition of the Manuscripts on *Yoga Sutra* was organised and the Library where books on Yoga were specially displayed on the occasion of World Yoga Day. He also visited the Conservation Section and Vidyasagar Hall of the Society and recorded his appreciation on the treasures and works of the Society.

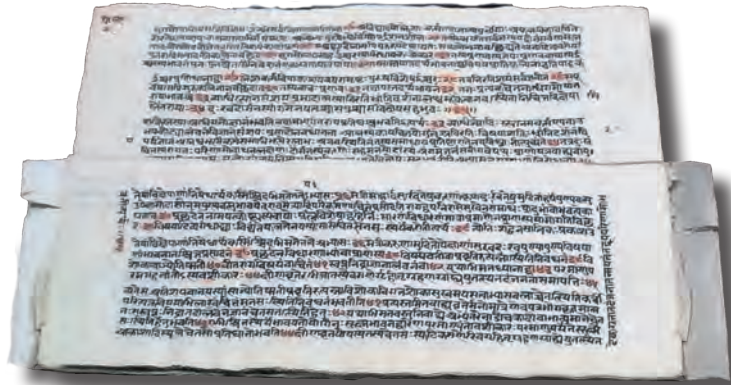


Dr. Sharma delivering address

Receiving current publications

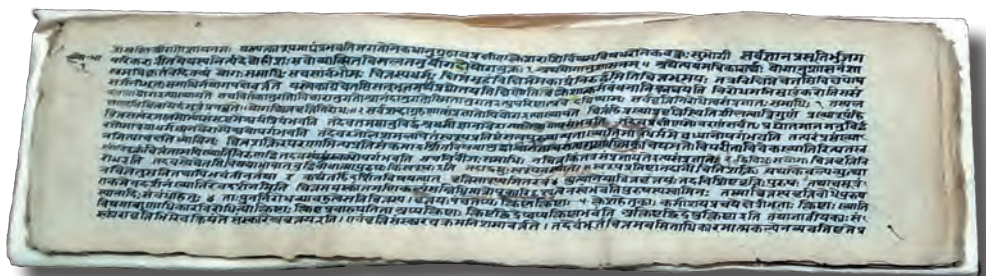
Visiting the Library

Three Valuable Punthis on Yoga Preserved in the Museum of The Asiatic Society



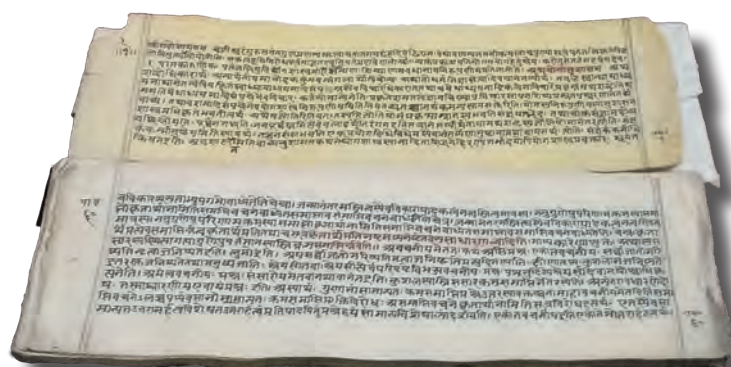
G 9123

Yogacandrikā by Ananta Śarmā
A Commentary on
Yogasūtras of Patañjali



G 9670

Yogasūtras by Patañjali
with Vyāsabhāṣya
Script- Nāgara
Language- Sanskrit



G 10162

Yogasūtras vivaraṇā
by Gopāla Miśra
A Commentary on Yogasūtras
of Patañjali.

The Asiatic Society Observing World Environment Day, 2018

Every year, 5th June is observed as World Environment Day, marked by United Nations since 1974, to raise awareness and action for the protection of our environment. India is the host to this year's World Environment Day and the theme is "Beat Plastic Pollution". The Asiatic Society celebrates the World Environment Day this year with great enthusiasm. Professor Isha Mahammad, the President of the Society, and Dr Satyabrata Chakrabarti, the General Secretary of the Society, have inaugurated the programme by planting trees. The inaugural session is followed by a special lecture which further trailed by two documentary films.

Dr Asok Kanti Sanyal, the Biological Science Secretary of The Asiatic Society and the Chairman of West Bengal Biodiversity Board, has delivered an excellent talk on the theme of the day. He makes us aware that the plastics are made of several toxic, even carcinogenic, materials. Moreover, the growing burden of plastic waste is the biggest threats to the developing nations, especially created by the developed nations.

The talk is followed by a short documentary film on the "Biodiversity in West Bengal: Himalaya to Sagar". The film shows multiple facets ranging from loss of eco-diversity to the declination of common people's livelihood to State Governmental initiatives in preserving the biodiversity by forming Peoples Biodiversity Register. The programme is ended with another documentary film "Artist Isha" by Mr. Shankar Majumdar.



Dr Asok Kanti Sanyal, delivering the speech



Dr Jagatpati Sarkar upholding the banner against use of plastic

Inputs provided by **Smita Halder** and **Suman Hazra**, Research Fellows, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata

Rabindra-Nazrul Sandhya at the Asiatic Society

The Asiatic Society Recreation Club hosted a cultural evening - 'Rabindra-Nazrul Sandhya' on 25 May to commemorate the birth anniversaries of Rabindranath Tagore and Nazrul Islam. With this celebration the organisation proved once again that not only is it a preserver of the country's material heritage but is also an organisation that promotes and supports the performing arts through various events.

The programme started with an inaugural song '*kabe aami baahir halem*' led by Suranjana Choudhury. The evening became colourful with the composite programme of songs, recitations and eloquent speeches remembering the two great poets and lyricists of the last century. It was nice for the cultural club who made the programme successful.

Shrutinatak '*Yajyneshwarer Yajna*', developed from Tagore's short story and performed by the staff and scholars of the Society was praiseworthy. The participants were Amita Bhattacharya, Rupa Mukherjee, Mala Chatterjee, Jagatpati Sarkar, Subrata Mukherjee, Rabindranath Dey, Tapas Das, Apalak Das and Imran Philip. The Drama was directed by Rupa Mukherjee, Music and Sound by Alok Dalui.

The last item '*Rasamanjari*', a thematic dance composition, performed by the scholars became the centre of attraction. Though it was based on the '*navarasas*', only five *Rasas*, *Shanta*, *Roudra*, *Karuna*, *Veera*, and *Shringara* with its two types *bipralambha* and *sambhoga* were performed in three dance styles, that of Kuchipudi, Odissi and Gaudiya, with short narration.

The first dance as *bhakti* and *shantarasa* was performed on the famous Tagore song '*satyamangala premamaya tumi*.' Following that the Tagore song '*hridaye mandrila damaru guru guru*.' as *roudrarasa*, Nazrulgiti '*ore neel yamunaar jal*.' as *karunarasa*, Tagore song '*pinakete lage tamkar*' as *beerarasa*, another Nazrulgiti

'*sandhyamaalati*...' as *bipralambha* *sringar* and finally '*aami tomaaro sange bendhechi amaro praan*' of Tagore's composition as *sambhoga* *sringar* were selected for the dance composition.

The entire programme was efficiently anchored by Dipa Ghatak.



Shruti natok '*Yajyneshwarer Yajna*'



Performers with the General Secretary (L-R) Sneha Agarwala, Ankita Chakrabarti, Debopam Das, Paramita Banerjee, Tanaya Afroz, and Amrita Dasgupta.

Inputs provided by
Dr. Shakti Mukherjee, and
Ankita Charkrabarti

Rasamanjari : A Bouquet of Delights



The Asiatic Society welcomes the British Deputy High Commissioner



President of the Asiatic Society presenting flower bouquet to Mr. Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner at the Society



Mr. Bruce Bucknell visiting the Csoma de Koros Museum

Seminar on Maharshi Debendranath Tagore



(L-R) Professor Tapati Mukherjee, Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti, Professor Isha Mahammad, and Professor Rabiranjan Chattopadhyay on the dais.

Women and Church Politics, A Study of Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod

Mary Vanlalthanpuii*



Mrs. Katherine Ellen Williams, Reverend David Evan Jones and other Mizos

My research focuses on Mizo women in the church. Christian missionaries came to the Lushai hills in 1894 and by the mid 20th-century, large number of Mizos had converted to Christianity. Today almost 90 per cent of Mizos belong to the Presbyterian Church, the Baptist church, or to one of the many indigenized denominations. The Presbyterian missionary D.E. Jones arrived in Aizawl in northern Mizoram and founded the Presbyterian Church in 1897. Welsh missionaries introduced reading, writing, and Christian values for new converts and translated the Bible into native languages. Their main concern was to establishment churches, schools, mission centres, and 'Christian' villages for converts. Medical work served as an important tool to save lost souls and bring Mizo women to Christ.

The legendary Mrs. Katherine Ellen Williams (1904-1927), the wife of the first Welsh missionary Reverend David Evan Jones and other female missionaries founded the Presbyterian Mizo Women's Fellowship in 1904, now the largest religious group in the country and the first Women's Fellowship General Conference was held in 1960. Since then, this Conference has been held 46 times. Currently, the

Presbyterian Church Women's Fellowship consists of 180 Pastoral Areas that includes 72 branch churches and 803 local churches. The Women's Fellowship has been working as one of the effective bodies of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church, working towards a meaningful ministry for the spread of the mission and developing institutions to help orphans and other disadvantaged members of society. According to the Women's Fellowship General Conference Report of 2014, the Women's Fellowship in 180 Pastoral Areas sponsored 420 missionaries and evangelist teachers, 108 orphanages, and the disadvantaged members of society. The Women's Fellowship in 182 local churches sponsored 1,827 missionaries and evangelist teachers, 116 orphanages, and the disadvantaged members of the society. In addition to this, the Women's Fellowship contribution through the 'Handful of rice' project, which began in 1913, became one of the most important sources of income for the Presbyterian Church Synod. With the support of the income generated from the Women's Fellowship, the Synod employs thousands of missionaries working in different fields. According to the report of the Synod Mission Board 2015, there were 2,484 missionaries



Women's Fellowship Conference, 1980

* Research Fellow, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata on North East India Studies



Women's Fellowship Project



Women's Fellowship General Conference, 2013

employed on a permanent and contract basis. Among the 547 permanent employees, there were 258 female missionaries working in various mission fields as evangelists, teachers, staff nurse or health workers, craft teachers etc. (Synod Mission Board Record, 2015). Since 2008, the Synod Mission Board has sent out hundreds of missionaries on a contract basis, making it possible for large numbers of women to enter the Synod mission field.

Contemporary church discourse largely omits the history of Mizo women in facilitating conversion. In fact, Church history focuses primarily on the missionaries and says very little about the important role played by the Mizo people in their own conversion. When 'natives' are mentioned, it is usually men, leaving out the important roles of women as financial supporters of the church. Moreover, there are hundreds of female theologians and missionaries, who played and continue to play important roles in the Church. However, women are denied ordination as Pastors or Elders. Despite the



Solomon's Temple, Aizawl



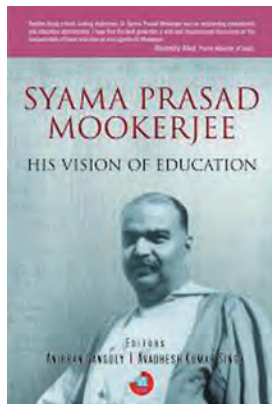
Hospital, Durt lang Aizawl



Synod Higher Secondary School, Aizawl

fact, women cannot become Pastors or Elders; they contribute significant funds, become missionaries, and enforce the church's notions of proper roles for women and men. It is through informal politics that women gain and exercise power.

New Book from Reader's Choice



Syama Prasad Mookerjee: His Vision of Education Edited by Anirban Ganguly and Avadesh Kumar Singh (Wisdom Tree, New Delhi, 2017); Pages 315, Rs. 995. ISBN 9788183284967

Fortune sometimes takes a man far away from the course of life that he has chalked out for himself. Thus Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who had set his eyes on being an educationist in the manner of his father Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, ended his life in the turmoil of politics. Since politics (an unfortunately) overshadows all other aspects of life in this country, many may regard the speeches collected here as of marginal interest in the light of what the great men achieved later in life on the national stage. This in spite of the editors reminding us that to Syama Prasad education was the 'main instrument' for establishing harmony in this country (preface, p. xi). The same claim has been worthily upheld by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the introduction to the book where the main planks of Syama Prasad's educational programme have been summed up as follows: "Broadly speaking, Dr. Mookerjee advocated the need for spreading education right up to the grass-roots, emphasised the importance of technical and skill education for the empowerment and for the upliftment of the masses, focused on women and adult education, supported the strengthening of Indian languages, and spoke of the need to restate India's cultural and educational vision through education."

The inadequacies of the colonial system of education had come under the attack of nationalist thinkers in Bengal from the time of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay onwards. While retaining its framework, Sir Asutosh Mookerjee succeeded in pouring a new spirit of enquiry into it which, while striving to rediscover the best elements of the past, was keenly alive to the changes taking place all round in the modern world.

Syama Prasad followed more or less in his footsteps. Autonomy of the institution was one point on which Asutosh would never compromise. He would decry government attempts to encroach upon it. In a historical confrontation with the government on the utilisation of funds in 1921, he said: "You give me slavery with one hand and money with the other. I despise the offer." And again: "I do not forget the claim which has sometimes been put forward that the Minister is entitled to control the financial administration of the University on the theory that the man who pays the piper is entitled to call the tune. I have never come across a more transparent fallacy. Can the minister be said to pay the piper? Does the money which he calls upon the council to vote constitute his patrimony or his self-acquisition? Is he not the custodian of funds which have been contributed by you and others like you for the benefit of the state?"

The greater part of the present book consists of speeches delivered by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta during the years 1934-1938 (he created a record by being the youngest to be appointed Vice-Chancellor in history). With the passing of time his fame spread. He was invited to deliver the Convocation Address at many universities of India, viz. Bombay and Patna (1931), Nagpur (1936), Benares and Agra (1940) and the Gurukul Mahavidyalaya (1943). Syama Prasad served as the President of the Asiatic Society between 1943 and 1945. The first All India University Teachers Convention was held at Allahabad on 24 December 1947. All the speeches are included here along with the intervention made by Syama Prasad in course of the debate on the Visva Bharati University Bill before the India Parliament in 1951.

The editors have to be credited for bringing out the different components of Syama Prasad's views on education in a thoughtful introduction. The subject has never been discussed in such detail before. Instead of presenting the lectures in chronological order, they have chosen to divide them under four heads --viz. Reorienting education holistically, Reorienting higher education, On advancement of education and For education. The reason for such differentiation has not been stated and may, in fact, seem arbitrary and artificial. Speeches which should normally have followed

New Book from Reader's Choice

each other have been torn out of context and placed at a distance from each other. Syama Prasad was no arm-chair theoretician. His words were born out of practical experience. Muslim fanaticism was on the rise within the boundaries of the University as well as in outside society. Syama Prasad had to contend with the forces of separation from the nineteen thirties onwards. A typical example of this was the controversy surrounding the introduction of the Secondary Education Bill in the Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1937. The editors, while taking note of this place it in the present collection right after the discussion on the Visva Bharati Bill which occurred in the Parliament in 1950. This not only violates history; it offers no clue to the development of Syama Prasad as a national leader of importance and the various stages he had to pass through. As man and educationist, Syama Prasad was a great respecter of the past in his carrier. He had studied the lives and achievements of several important personalities of recent times (including his father to whom to paid allegiance all through his life) in his first book, *Representative Indians*. Even towards the end of his life he paid tribute to Sir Gurudas Banerjee (1844-1918), who was the first Indian Vice Chancellor in the history of British India. That article, which served as the Foreword to the Gurudas Banerjee Centenary Commemoration volume published in 1948, has so far escaped the attention of scholars. (It is not included in the present volume also).

Altogether, the present volume is an improvement on the educational speeches of Syama Prasad which had been brought out by a private publisher in Calcutta in 1959, some years after his death and has since been reprinted by the Asutosh Mookerjee Memorial Institute. At Rs. 995 the book is not priced excessively when one takes into account the prices of similar books in English.

Nikhiles Guha

Life Member, The Asiatic Society &
Member, Indian Council of Historical Research,
New Delhi



Ghosts of Calcutta,
324 pp, SAMPARK
(www.samparkglobal.in),
2015, Rs. 399

'Ghosts of Calcutta', the novel of Sébastien Ortiz, the pen name of Mr Fabrice Etienne, Consul General of France in Calcutta, translated from the French original 'Fantômes à Calcutta' by Sriparna Chatterjee and published by Sampark Publishing House, says about the spirit of the city through the art of story-telling on ghosts of Kolkata. The writer himself says in the very preface of his novel: 'I had lived in India when I was in my twenties. It was in Calcutta and I was on voluntary overseas service at the Consulate of France. More than ten years have since passed. This lapse of time was necessary for me to make up my mind to come back. I found a pretext to write a novel about the ghosts of Calcutta – an excuse which was as good as any, to better reign in my own ghosts. The book has kindled a renewed interest on ghosts in the city following the Robinson Street incident of a father-son duo living with the skeleton of a family member and carcasses of pet dogs for months until the father committed suicide.

The novel is the result of author's search for the ghosts of British Raj-era in Kolkata. The writer narrates: 'I say that I would like to write something about ghosts, the ghosts of Calcutta. This is an old idea, and still, a rather confused one. It would be a book about the ghosts that inhabit the city, the ghosts of its past. I must gather information; I must find stories on which to lean, perhaps eyewitness accounts, historical narratives.' But why and whence the idea does come to his mind? It's the love for Calcutta that drives the writer coming to Kolkata again on the 'pretext' to write the novel. For, he

falls in love with Calcutta during his 'voluntary overseas service at the Consulate of France'.

The author visits worn-out cemeteries and dilapidated government buildings of the city belonging to British era. He delves deep into books and archival materials in the Asiatic Society and the National Library; he meets local experts, wanders in the lanes and bylanes of the old parts of the city and goes back to his friends of the time. However, the book not only tells about the ghosts but also about other characters like friends, associates, passers-by, who were around him.

In the book, the author blends facts with fiction, stories from Kolkata's colonial past with its present. Kolkata seems to him 'like a huge open air cemetery, a city the size of the universe which reflects in each of its corners according to the principle of spectrality – the nostalgic echo of the past in the present.'

Kolkata has several popular stories about ghosts and most of them are said to haunt old, colonial-era buildings in the city such as the National Library, the Writers' Buildings, the Old Mint and Clive House. And ghosts of Europeans, who died in Kolkata during the colonial era, appear as major characters in Etienne's book.

"The novel runs on four parallel narratives. The protagonist, a Frenchman arrives in Calcutta in 2005 to write a book on Calcutta. The protagonist unravels lives of individual English men and women in colonial Calcutta, many of whom died tragic deaths. He tells the stories of their lives and how they live on as ghosts in Calcutta," said Sunandan Roychoudhury of Sampark, the publisher.

What most prominently obvious throughout the 330-page novel is the fascination the French author does have for Kolkata. And here in this book what image of Kolkata do we have is not only of the 'city of joy' but also of 'the city of bereavement'. He writes, 'Calcutta, the most fulfilling city of the universe. The most schizophrenic too, one that epitomizes all the contradictions of existence and absorbs them all. In

Calcutta, one finds the most sublime as well as the most sordid, the past and the future, the height of the spiritual and of the material. The city has continued to juxtapose the opposites.' These contradictions are signs of living life. The author's insightful observations between the lines of his story-telling make us stand face to face of the reality of Calcutta life full of diversities, and of contradictions. On his journey from the airport to the centre of the city, the author depicts the traffic condition vividly. He writes: 'We enter the city. At the red lights, all the taxis switch off the engines and remain immobile.... And then moments before the lights turn green, all the engines rev up, as if they are at the 24 hours at Le Mans, and the race resumes.' Again he says, 'Our taxi stops at level with a urinal which releases an unbearable stench of sulfurous vapours. A little further, he stops in front of a stall selling jasmine, the wafts embalm me. I could faint.' Again he finds in Calcutta 'a place that is totally different culturally and of extreme savagery. It is both magical and ephemeral where all seems possible. The exotic in it intoxicates me and I can feel the beauty of the diversity described by Segalen which is destined to be worn out by habit and familiarity.' Again in course of describing the happenings inside a running bus he is riding with the author finds with surprise how does an old woman, to pay her ticket, run 'a hand through her bra and pull out a small wallet from there.' Contradictory to it 'The conductor holds its bank notes like a fan stuck into his hand.' Such depictions of the happenings add lustre of living traits to the city of Kolkata and enrich 'Ghosts of Calcutta' with lively as well as evergreen literary values.

It's a book about the past and present of the Calcutta and the experience of young men who used to reside in the city 10 years ago. In a way, the book is also a record of a protagonist who once again comes back to the city after his first experiences.

Dr. Rafique Anwar
Independent Researcher

BENGALI SECTION

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বিমলকৃষ্ণ মতিলাল

আমি ও আমার মন / বিমলকৃষ্ণ
মতিলাল। – ভূমিকা ও সম্পাদনা :
অরিন্দম চক্রবর্তী। – কলকাতা : অনুষ্ঠাপ, ২০১৬।

১২৭ পৃ. ; ১৮ সে.মি. (BN 67880)
(9.3.18)

ISBN : 978-93-82425-59-5

২০০.০০ টাকা

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শঙ্কুনাথ ভদ্র

আমার দৃষ্টিতে শ্রী অরবিন্দের
দি লাইফ ডিভাইন (১৯ - ২৮
অধ্যায়)/শঙ্কুনাথ ভদ্র। – কলকাতা :
চট্টোপাধ্যায় ব্রাদার্স, ১৩৮৪।

৫৮০ পৃ. ১৯ সে.মি (B 14894)
(16.2.18)

৩৫.০০ টাকা

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সাঁওতাল জাতির ধর্মপুস্তক / বঙ্গা নুবাদ
সুহৃদকুমার ভৌমিক ; ভূমিকা : সুনীতি
কুমার চট্টোপাধ্যায়। – ২য় সংস্করণ।

– কলকাতা : মনফকিরা, [১৯ – ?]

২৮, ২৬৪ পৃ. চিত্রাবলী : পটচিত্র;
২২ সেমি. (B 14890) (16.2.18)

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তিপটিক। অভিধর্ম। সুমন পাল। ১৪২৩

বিভঙ্গ : অভিধর্ম পিটকের দ্বিতীয়
গ্রন্থ; সুমন পাল ভিক্ষু কর্তৃক বঙ্গভাষায়
অনূদিত। – কলকাতা : সংস্কৃত পুস্তক
ভান্ডার, ১৪২৩ [২০১৬]

৩৯৬ পৃ.; ২২ সে. মি. (BN
67863) (19.2.18)

৪০০.০০ টাকা

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তপতী মুখোপাধ্যায়

ধর্ম অর্থ ও নীতি : প্রাচীন
ভারতীয় শাস্ত্র সমীক্ষা / তপতী
মুখোপাধ্যায়। – কোলকাতা : চ্যাটার্জি

পাবলিশার্স, ২০০৪।

৭৯ পৃ. ; ২২ সে. মি. (67868)
(9.3.18)

৫০.০০ টাকা

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অদিতি বেরা

মেদিনীপুরের ষষ্ঠী পালা ও
ষষ্ঠীপূজার ঐতিহ্য / অদিতি বেরা। –
কলকাতা : পুস্তক বিপণি, ২০১৬।

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৩৫০.০০ টাকা

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শুভেন্দু গুপ্ত

প্রাচীন ভারতে পরিবেশ চিন্তা /
শুভেন্দু গুপ্ত। – কলকাতা : সাহিত্য
সংসদ, ২০১২।

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67876)) (9.3.18)

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২৫০.০০ টাকা

Books accessioned during the last month

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ঢাকা নগর জীবনে নারী ; সোনিয়া
নিশাত আমিন সম্পাদিত ;
প্রধান সম্পাদক শরীফ উদ্দিন আহমেদ।
-- ঢাকা শহরের ৪০০ বছর পূর্তি
উপলক্ষ্য প্রকাশিত
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কলেজ ১৮৯ বছরের সাধনা / গোপেন্দ্র
নাথ রায়। - কলকাতা: শরৎ বুক
ডিস্ট্রিবিউটরস, 2007।
১১৮ পৃ.; ২২ সে.মি. (B14851)
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ISBN : 81-87169-88-5
১০০.০০ টাকা

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শত্ৰুনাথ কুন্ডু
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৩০০.০০ টাকা

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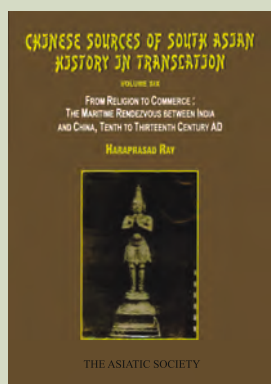
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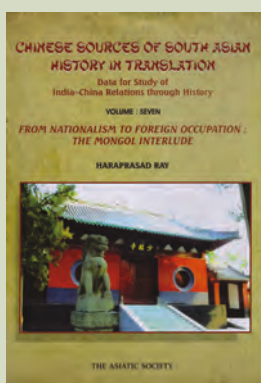
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রথের মেলা ও বাংলার লোকশিল্প

আষাঢ় মাসে রথযাত্রাকে কেন্দ্র করে বাংলার বিভিন্ন জায়গায় বসে রথের মেলা। এই মেলার মূল আকর্ষণের মধ্যে আছে মাটির পুতুল, কাঠের পুতুল, তালপাতার ভেঁপু ইত্যাদি। জায়গা ভেদে পাল্টায় জিনিসের ধরন। যেমন হাওড়া জেলাতে মাটির নৌকো, পাল্কি, রানি-পুতুল, তেমন দক্ষিণ ২৪ পরগনার বজবজ-এর মেলাতে মাটির খেলনা, শোলার পুতুল আর নুংগিতে কাঠের রথ পাওয়া যায়। এই জেলার আর এক আকর্ষণ মাটির টমটম গাড়ি আর বেহালা। এগুলি তৈরি করেন আলমপুরের মুসলিম শিল্পীরা। দমদমের নাগেরবাজারের মেলায় মাটির সুন্দর সুন্দর পুতুল নিয়ে আসেন নিমতার কুমার পরিবারের শিল্পীরা। বর্ধমানের তালপাতার সেপাই, পূর্ব মেদিনীপুরের কাগজের কুমির, হালিশহরের পাটের বাঁদর, সাজিরহাটের মাটির ফল ও হুঁকো খাওয়া ঘাড়া নাড়া বুড়ো, বর্ধমানের নতুন গ্রামের কাঠের পুতুল রথের মেলার বড় আকর্ষণ। এছাড়া ধামা, কুলো, ঝুড়ি, কাঠের তৈরি সংসারের প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিস তো আছেই। উল্টোরথকে কেন্দ্র করেও বসে মেলা। এখন আধুনিক নানা জিনিস মেলাতে এলেও রথের মেলার আকর্ষণের কেন্দ্র লোকশিল্প-ই।

সৌজন্য : ড. সোমা মুখোপাধ্যায়

Brass Chariots of Bengal



Brass Chariot of Bonkati village, Paschim Bardhaman



Brass Chariot of Laksmi Janardan Deva of Mankar village, Purba Bardhaman

Artistic designs of the chariots are widely acclaimed by eminent personalities like Mukul De, Nandalal Bose, Tarapada Santra and others.

Courtesy : Dr. Tilak Purakayastha