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THE BHAWANIPUR BEACON

'omnium rerum principia parva sunt'



THE BHAWANIPUR EDUCATION SOCIETY COLLEGE

DEPARTMENTS OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION
AND ENGLISH

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Panel Discussion on 200 Years of Vernacular Press in India



The experts' panel and the students of journalism department in the seminar

May 1, 2018: A multidisciplinary panel discussion on the occasion of 200 years of Vernacular Press in India was organized by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, BESC on 30th April, 2018. The discussion, focussing on the theme "Indian Mass Media and National Identity: The Colonial and Post-Colonial Experience", attempted to capture the role of the Indian mass media in the construction of national identity during colonial and post-colonial era with special reference to the role of the Indian vernacular newspaper in the said period. In the inaugural address, Dr. Suchandra Chakravarty reminded the audience of the crucial role played by the mass media in India's freedom struggle and expressed hope that the present generation of journalists would take lessons on courage, determination and perseverance from their illustrious predecessors. The inaugural session was followed by thought-provoking deliberations by six experts on different aspects. While Dr. Dipankar Sinha spoke on the changing role of the Indian media from nation building to nation branding, Dr. Abhijit Roy emphasized on the importance of the vernacular press in taking the mantle of becoming the voice of the regional masses. Mr. Snehasis Sur summed up the journey of Bengali vernacular press from its inception till date and concluded that

though the journey has been good so far, a lot still remains to be achieved. In the post-lunch session, Prof. Mrinal Chatterjee presented insights on the role of the vernacular press in shaping the idea of India while Mr. Subir Ghosh spoke on the role of the Bengali newspapers being the harbingers of national awakening. The final speaker of the session, Dr. P. K. Bandhopadhyay added variety to the discussion by speaking on the history and growth of the All Indian Radio as a public service broadcaster and its role in the formation of India's national identity. The panel discussion concluded with a fruitful interactive session between the experts and the audience comprising of the students and faculty members of Department of Journalism and Mass Communication where all the queries of the audience emerging from the expert deliberations were duly addressed by the concerned experts themselves.

- Beacon Reporter

Interactive Session on “Conflict Reporting: Techniques and Challenges”

August 4, 2018: An interactive session on “Conflict Reporting: Techniques and Challenges” with Ms. Ipsita Chakravarty, an award winning editor currently associated with the online news venture, Scroll.in, was organized by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, BESC. Drawing on her personal field experiences as a journalist in Kashmir, Ms. Chakravarty shared the practical challenges waiting for the budding journalists in the real working environment and offered her suggestions on how these challenges may be addressed. Emphasizing that every story is bound to have multiple versions, she

stressed on the importance of never accepting one version or the other of a particular story to be true merely by the first looks of it or simply because the majority say so. Rather a journalist should seek to explore deeper and present the story in all its totality.



Ms. Chakravarty’s talk was followed by interaction with

the students and the faculty members where many pertinent questions on the opportunities, pressures, challenges and safeguards of conflict reporting were raised and duly deliberated upon. One of the key points made by Ms. Chakravarty was the importance of never losing objectivity and avoiding sensationalism while covering conflict situations or other sensitive issues. Thus, the session served as an eye-opener for the students of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication on the practical challenges ahead of them in their professional aspirations.

- Beacon Reporter

BESC Organises Breast Cancer Awareness Programme



October 10, 2018: BESC in association with Hitaishini, a voluntary non-profit Breast Cancer Support Network organisation, organised a Breast Cancer Awareness

Programme to raise awareness among the students regarding the disease. Smt. Krishna Dutta, Secretary, Hitaishini shared her insights on the occasion and emphasized that early detection of the disease could help significantly in saving and increasing the lifespan of the patients besides deliberating on the possible factors contributing to the increase in incidence rate of the disease. The students

were also made aware of the early signs of the disease which ought not to be overlooked. A self-examination manual regarding the disease was also given to each of the participants for their knowledge and sharing the same with others which may help them in self-care and raising collective awareness concerning the dreaded disease.

- Beacon Reporter

Bhawanipur's Got Talent

November 21, 2018:

"Every person is born with some talent." Keeping this in mind, the BESC organized a special event called 'Bhawanipur's Got Talent' on 20th November, 2018. Mr. Dilip Shah, the Dean of Student's Affairs inaugurated the event. Every participant had 90 seconds to showcase their talent. A stress relief performance was also done by the team 'Flames'. The top 10 finalists were Mayank (Dancer), Ranaditya Sengupta (Mentalist), Anjali Dubey (Singer), Sneha Chatterjee (Recitation), Abhishek Sharma (DJ), Sagnik Mandal (Dancer), Harshit

Chandal (Beat Boxing), Arka Guha (Magician), Siddharth Sharma (Actor),



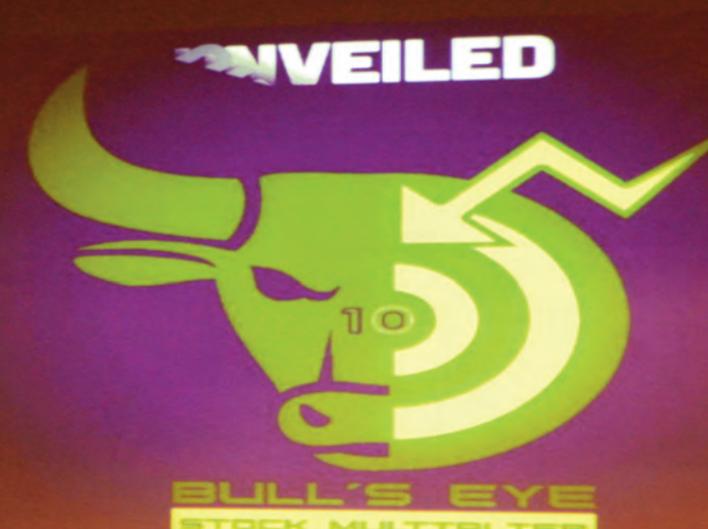
Poulomi Saha (Singing), Rohan Sharma (Dance), Rohit Sharma (Drawing), Tenahaba (Singer), Sumita Basak (Ramp). In the finals, the judges added another challenge for the

participants.

The participants along with their performance had to complete the challenge given by the judges. The winner of this event was Ranaditya Sengupta (Mentalist) the first runner up was Arka Guha (magician) and the third runner up was Sagnik Mandal (Dancer). All the participants were given certificates and chocolates. The program was concluded by Mr. Shah who thanked Nidhi Desai, the Teacher-In-Charge of the event.

- Nikita Mittal and Bansari Hindocha

The 'Bull's Eye'



July 29, 2018: On 28 July, 2018 the induction ceremony for the event bull's eye was held in the placement hall for the first year students. This program dealt with the concept of stock market and its working. The program was initiated by the senior students and Mr. Dilip Shah (Dean of Student Affairs). The guests of honor for this event were Mr. Yash (ex-student of

Bhawanipurcollege) and Mr. Paul (MBA and a lecturer). Mr. Yashgave a detailed information to the students regarding stock market, national stock exchange etc. Mr. Paul, on the other hand, discussed the merits of investing in the stock market taking examples of famous personalities like Warren Buffet (world's richest investor). It was an interactive session with a PowerPoint presentation on stock market. Mr. Paul had a questionnaire with the student clearing the doubt on stock market and its mechanism. After this the session was concluded by Mr. Dilip Shah who gave a token of appreciation to the guests of the event.

- Beacon Reporter

Career Talk for Computer Science Students

September 19, 2018: On 18th September, 2018, the Department of Computer Science of BES College presented 'Expert Discussion' on Career Avenues for Computer Science Graduates at the 2nd floor auditorium of the College. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Soumya Sen, Assistant Professor of A.K. Choudhury School of Information Technology, Calcutta University. The career counselling session aimed at giving students a clear vision of their career choices. Dr. Sen interacted with the students asking them about their career plans and encouraged them to keep abreast of new technologies. He imparted the students with valuable knowledge and informed them about the latest technology and available infrastructures. He stressed upon the importance of education after Graduation and the positions in which a student can land up with such degrees.

Dr. Sen also presented his thoughts on learning as a dynamic process and stressed on the importance of learning outcomes. The session was attended by all the students of the Computer Science department.

- Shaibalina Choudhury & Harshal Shah



Good Food, Good Mood

March 02, 2018: The Department of Sociology organized a one day seminar on 'Food Culture and Affiliations' on 28th February, 2018. The practice of eating and its cultural affiliations were the main topics for discussion in the seminar. Two eminent speakers from the discipline of sociology, Dr. Prasanta Ray and Dr. Basabi Chakraborty, gave their valuable inputs on this unique theme. They centered their arguments on food as the basis of living, its cultural configurations and its role in the Bengali social praxis. Several paper contributors from different institutions

attended the seminar. The papers focused on a wide range of subjects such as food as an individual's



identity, the historical trajectory of various food crops, prison food, the impact of globalization on changing food palates, gendered notions of eating and cooking and the present laws governing food production, consumption and distribution.

The central idea emerging from the arguments of the various speakers was that food is not only meant for satiating hunger, but it also represents who we are and who we become. Thus, eating, besides being an identity, is also a point of exchange, transaction and diffusion of ideas, money and tradition respectively with the capability to define, alter and redefine the essence and soul of a community and its way of living.

- Beacon Reporter

Celebrating Life with a Drop of Blood



September 01, 2018: On 31st August 2018, a Blood Donation Camp was organized by BESC in joint collaboration with the Project Life Force. The venue for this camp was the college campus and the program started from 10 am. The opening ceremony was inaugurated by the Dean of Students Affairs, Mr. Dilip Shah and Mr Pranab Bedi. Lakshmi Parakh (the head of the camp) and Mr Anurag Agarwal were felicitated by the Project Life Force. At 10:30 am all the dignitaries of BESC along with Mr Ashim Basu (Bhawanipur Ward

Counselor) lit up the holy lamp and shared their insights with the students on the importance of blood donation. A collective pledge to donate blood and contribute to save life was taken by everyone present. At 11:00 am the donors started arriving at BESC. They were given either blue or red pamphlets. The blue pamphlet donors proceeded to room No 129B while the red pamphlet donors moved in to room 129A where they got registered for the donation. After that the donors proceeded to room no 129C (Blue) and 129D (Red) for checkup by the doctors. The doctors checked the blood pressure, hemoglobin and body weight of all the donorsto certify their eligibility for donation. Then they proceeded to room 128 where they were given refreshments. After taking refreshments, the donors were taken to Valia Hall where they donated blood. After blood donation, all the participants were given caps. Every donor was photographed and given a copy of the same. Finally all the donors were provided with lunch. The event ended at 8:30 pm with a reported number of 838 donors in all.

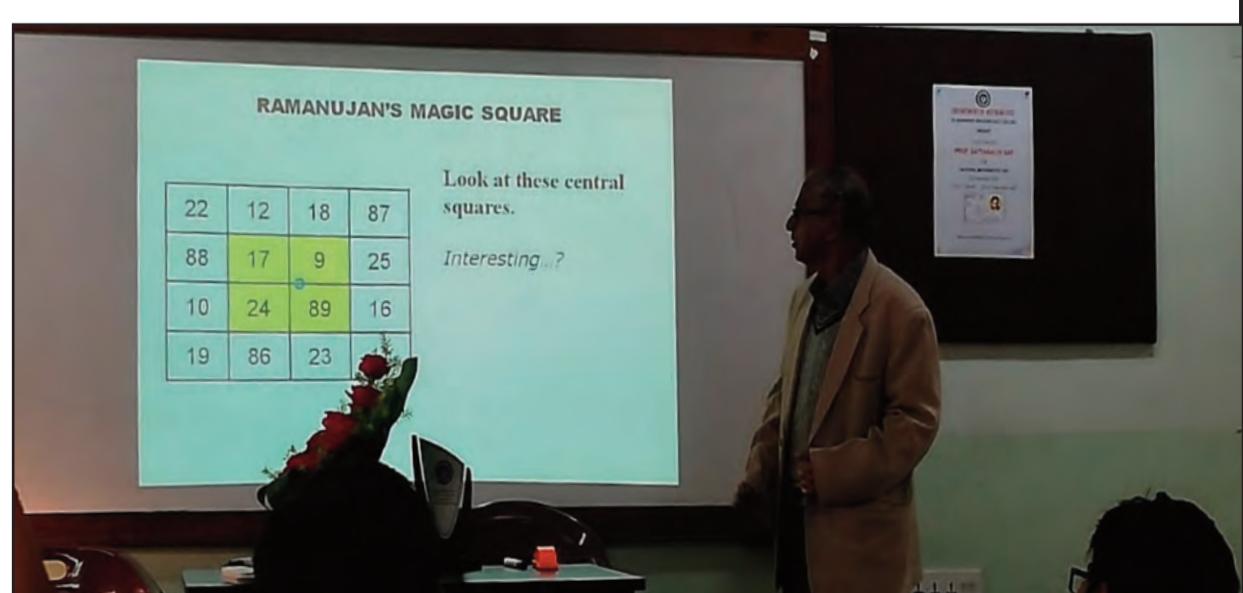
- Nikita Mittal

National Mathematics Day

December 23, 2018: In India, the National Mathematics Day is observed on 22nd December every year. It is celebrated in honour of the famous Indian mathematician Srinivas Ramanujan who was born on this day. Significantly, Srinivas Ramanujan had no formal training in mathematics. Still he made remarkable contributions to the field of mathematics. This year too, the Department of Mathematics, BESC organised a special lecture on 22nd December. This year's speaker was Prof. Sabyabachi Sar. Prof. Sar spoke on the life and works of Srinivas

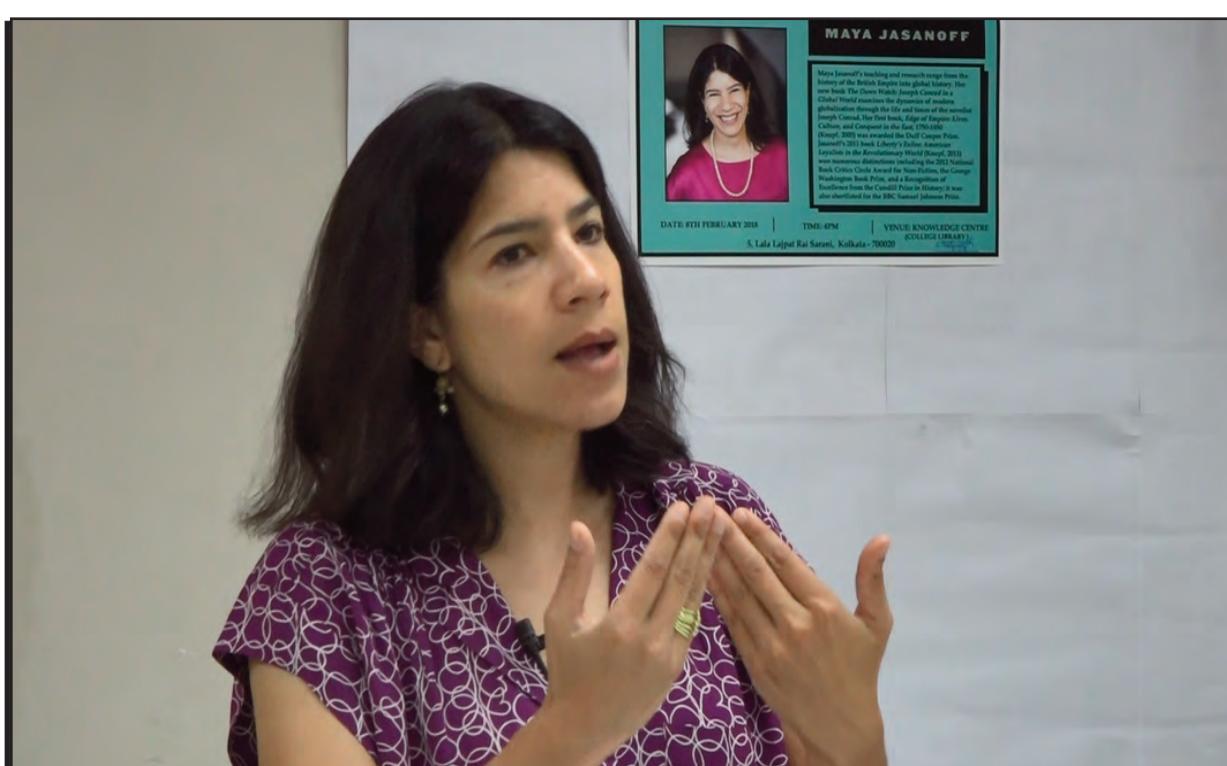
Ramanujan. The event was well-attended with over 50 students and almost all faculty members from the science section listening patiently and intently to Prof. Sar.

- Beacon Reporter



Special lecture on the National Mathematics Day

Award-Winning Writer Visits BEBC



Prof. Maya Jasanoff in a book reading session at Bhawanipur College

February 9, 2018: A book reading session by award-winning book writer and presently an academic at Harvard University, Prof. Maya Jasanoff, was organized jointly by the Department of English & the Department of History, BEBC on 8th February, 2018. The program started off with the felicitation of Prof. Jasanoff by the Teacher-In-Charge, Dr. Suchandra Chakravarty, following

which Prof. Jasanoff read a few passages from her latest book, *The Dawn Watch: Joseph Conrad in a Global World* which was published by the Penguin Press in 2017.

The book reading session was followed by an engrossing interactive session between Prof. Jasanoff and the audience comprising of both students and teachers alike. The interactive session shed more light on the book and the journey of its actualisation from initial thought-shaping to the final drafting.

The book has, incidentally, received significant critical acclaim across the globe since then and has also earned Prof. Jasanoff the prestigious Cundill History Prize for its significant contribution as a literary work in the area of history.

- Beacon Reporter

Special Lecture on Homer



Dr. Amitava Roy co-founder and president of the Shakespeare Society of Eastern India

September 15, 2018: On 14th September, Friday, the BEBC College organized a special lecture on Classical European Literature and Homer's Iliad for the first year students of the English Department. The event started at 12:50 P.M with an introduction to the speaker Dr. Amitava Roy, the Co-Founder and President of the Shakespeare Society

of Eastern India. Dr Roy started the session with an explanation of key concepts of myth and mythology. He termed mythology as the study of myths. He mentioned few books on the Indian civilization by Sister Nivedita and the 'Vandana on Triveni'. A detailed introduction to the Greek pantheon followed. Mr. Roy further read out a few portions from Homer's Iliad and gave a brief description on Homers life, and his renowned epics Iliad and Odyssey. He differentiated between primary and secondary epics and denoted Homer

as a primary epic singer, whose epics are called the 'Epic of Growth'. The last part of his lecture included a vivid discussion of major episodes from Homer's epic like the wars between the Greeks and the Trojans, the involvement of Greek Gods and Goddess like Apollo, Athena and Aphrodite, and the elopement of Helen and Paris. The session was followed by the felicitation of Dr. Roy by the department of English. This event turned out to be a good learning experience for all the students.

- Simran Bhardwaj
& Rukhsar Faiz

A Walk to Remember: Exploring Kolkata's Grey Town



Rangan Datta, blogger and a heritage enthusiast, with the faculties and the students in the Heritage Walk

February 19, 2018:

A heritage walk that was organised by the 'Heritage Society' and the Department of History, Bhawanipur Education Society College, Kolkata.

Around fifteen students of First Year (Undergraduate course of Arts Department) along with three teachers were taken around by Rangan Datta, Calcutta Wikipedian, blogger and a heritage enthusiast. It was a unique opportunity to explore parts of Kolkata which are old, obscure yet beautiful. The walk was mostly spread around the Grey town of Calcutta away from the Anglicised White Town and from the indigenous Black Town.

The walk commenced from Howrah flower market.

Mr. Datta shared with the students the history of the Howrah Bridge. The students also enjoyed a bird's eye view of the Flower Market from the bridge after which the team climbed down the rickety stairs to the market. The array of colours, market sounds and floral fragrance was truly overwhelming. The Ghats around the area were noisy,

cluttered and filthy. However, the majestic Hooghly flowed serenely giving solace to the citizens. The next stop was the Armenian Church, which had an air of tranquillity. It was serene, calm and beautiful, enclosing innumerable tombstones. Students were taken to the grave of Rezabeebeh, wife of the late charitable Sookias who had died in 1630 AD. It is the oldest tombstone in the area. The next destination was the Portuguese Church which was holding the Sunday Mass prayers at that hour. Students were briefly informed about its history. Hereafter, students were taken to Maghen David Synagogue. They were awestruck by the beauty of its interior decor. It was bright and well-lit and had a central platform from where the Rabbi was conducting the ceremonies along with twelve male members of the community. Visiting the Beth El Synagogue was also a unique experience. The next destination was the old Parsi Fire temple in Ezra Street. The crumbling monument is in a sad state

and its restoration is essential. Already excited, the students walked further into the Chinatown of Kolkata. They saw two Tao temples, and were amazed to know about the oldest Chinatown of Asia. Mr. Datta told them about the Chinese migrants who came to the city over generations and made it their home. The last destination was the Burmese Buddhist Temple, which was housed in the upper storey of a small building (which served as a residential complex and a 'dharamshala'). A portable pristine white Buddha statue made the prayer room very serene.

The walk came to a close in front of the Central Metro Station. The Heritage Society of BECS expressed its deep gratitude to Mr. Rangan Datta for accompanying the students and making the experience an enriching and joyful one.

- Neena Ghosh & Salman Karim

Knowing Mathematics Better - CRTAM 2018

September 16, 2018: The Department of Mathematics, BESC organized the 2nd National Seminar on “Contemporary Research in Theoretical and Applicable Mathematics” (CRTAM 2018) on 14-15 September, 2018. The seminar was aimed at inviting scholarly discussions on recent innovations in the field of pure and applied mathematics. The event began with the welcome address by Dr. Nirabhra Basu of the Department of Mathematics, BESC. He welcomed the Chief Guest for the event was Swami Suparnananda Maharaj (Secretary, RMIC). The inaugural session



“Contemporary Research in Theoretical and Applicable Mathematics” - organized by the Mathematics Dept.

was followed by the first technical session which began with a keynote address by Dr. Indranath Sengupta, Professor of Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar who spoke on the coin exchange problem and proposed a method to find the minimum number of coins of certain denominations. He was followed by Dr. Atasi Deb Ray, Professor of University of Calcutta who is currently researching on the Ring Theory, acquainting the audience with the resemblance and

difference between $C(X)$ and the ring of Baire on functions on topological spaces. Afterwards, Dr. Jaydeb Sarkar, Professor of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Bangalore, spoke about differentiation, from real to complex. Other eminent speakers made valuable contributions to the topic on the second day of the seminar. These included a discussion on ‘incompleteness phenomena in arithmetic’ by Prof. Arindama Singh (IIT Chennai) and the ‘scope of research and seminar activities in colleges’ by Dr. P. Biswas ASRMSS, Jalpaiguri). However, the major highlight of the

second day was the talk by renowned mathematician, Prof. V. Kannan who spoke on “Orbit Patterns of Interval Maps”. The seminar turned out to be a huge success with almost 150 participants enthusiastically attending the event, listening to the deliberations and presenting their queries before the experts.

- Dhristi Shah & Pratibha Singh

Educational Visit to Serampore College



The Serampore College

April 05, 2018: The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, BESC organised a one-day educational visit to Serampore College jointly with the Department of History, BESC on 4th April 2018. The visit was significant in the backdrop of the completion of 200 years

of the vernacular press in India which had started its bare beginnings from the Serampore Missionary Press in 1818. Thanks to the exercise, the students got a chance to see the rare archives of the early Indian vernacular press. The students visited William Carey's Library and had a look at the books read and referred to by Carey himself and other information resources such as his personal correspondences, his personal collection of shells and minerals as also old

currencies. The students also visited the St. Olav's church which was built in the sacred memory of his Excellency, Late Colonel Ole (Olav) Bie who was born at Serampore on 18th May, 1805 and went on to become the governor of Fredrics Nagore. Thus, the event turned out to be a fun-filled experience packed with knowledge enhancing information for all the students.

- Beacon Reporter

Intra-College Accounts Olympiad

August 11, 2018: On 6th August 2018 the Bhawanipur Education Society College arranged a “Common Proficiency Test” (CAPT) for the students in their respective classes at 7 am. It was open to all the students of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year.



was “Jumble Up” round and it was conducted by Professor Ujwal Kakar. It was a buzzer round and every correct answer would give +30 and every wrong answer would charge a negative marking to the team. Round 3 was “Jeopardy”



Participants and the guests of ‘Intra-College Accounts Olympiad 2018’ organized by the BES College

There were 18 sections in the OMR sheets and each section comprised 40 questions. The total time allotted was 40 minutes. Over 1400 students participated, out of which 75 students were selected for the Intra College Accounts Olympiad. The Olympiad was mainly framed for motivation and to maintain competitive spirit among students. All participants were given a certificate of participation.

On 10th August 2018 the top 75 students appeared for the Intra College Accounts Olympiad in the New Concept Hall from 10:30 am onwards. The students were divided into 12 teams before hand and the placement was done accordingly. The Olympiad was inaugurated by Mr. Dilip Shah, the Dean of Student’s Affairs. The Olympiad consisted of 7 rounds and each round was conducted by a faculty member from the Commerce Department, BESC. Round 1 was the “Crossword” round and it was conducted by Professor Mohit Singh. In this round, each team was provided with the answer script and they were given 8 minutes to complete the task. Round 2

round and it was conducted by Professor Ankit Patwari. Round 4 was “Current Affair” round which was conducted by Professor Priyanka Kumari. Round 5 was “Rapid Fire” round and it was conducted by Professor Mohit Agarwal. Round 6 was “Pyramid” round and it was conducted by Professor Preeti Modi. The final round (Round 7) was “Case Study” round and it was conducted by Professor Ankit Patwari. In this round each team was given a case which they needed to solve and they were given a time limit of 6 minutes to solve the case.

After an intensely competition of seven rounds, Team 12 emerged as the winner of the Olympiad with 830 points. The event ended with the winning team sharing their experience and thanking everyone.

- Nikita Mittal

Game of Proms

September 19, 2018: 'Game of Proms', a concept based on the famous reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', was held in the early morning hours at the Old Concept Hall at the Bhawanipur Education Society College. The Chief Guest of the event, Dean of the Student Affairs, Professor Dilip Shah, set the event in motion by enlightening the audience with some wise words on management. He said, "You get to understand management when you work together."



**Participants of the event
'Game of Proms'**

The moderators of the game explained the rules to the contestants, and then began the game with a set of questions for the first team. According to the rules of the game, thirty

seconds were allotted to every group to answer each question, with the group taking the least time being awarded five more marks. The fifteen groups, M1-M15, were provided with several lifelines which would help them to proceed further in the game. To name a few, there was 'audience poll', in which the audience helps the contestants with the right answer, '50:50', which removes two options and leaves another two to choose from, 'expert advice', where they can take help from the experts. The game was divided into three levels with three groups being eliminated in the first level and five groups being eliminated in the second level. The third level saw an exciting turn of events with the teams actively competing for the winner's trophy. M15 emerged as the winner after a tough fight from the other teams, whereas M8 and M14 were the first and second runners up respectively. The competition ended on a very high note with the audience cheering for the winners and asking for more such more interesting games.

- Disha Jaiswal & Awanika Rai

BESC Signs MoU with Loreto

January 12, 2019: An MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between the Bhawanipur Education Society College and the Loreto College on January 11, 2019. While BESC's Teacher In-Charge, Dr. Suchandra Chakraborty and IQAC coordinator, Prof. Tathagata Sen represented the college in the event, Loreto College was represented by their Principal Sister Christine Coutinho and Dr. Sukanya Das, the IQAC Coordinator of Loreto College. The signing of the MoU has facilitated the exchange of resources, skills, facilities and technologies between these two prestigious colleges towards their collective benefit.

In the long run, the MoU is also expected to facilitate joint seminar sessions, literary knowledge exchange programmes and interactive sessions between students and faculties of the two institutions. Briefing the reporters from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, BESC on the occasion, Principal Sister Christine Coutinho said, "The process will involve of one college faculty going to another college and vice-versa due to which both of the



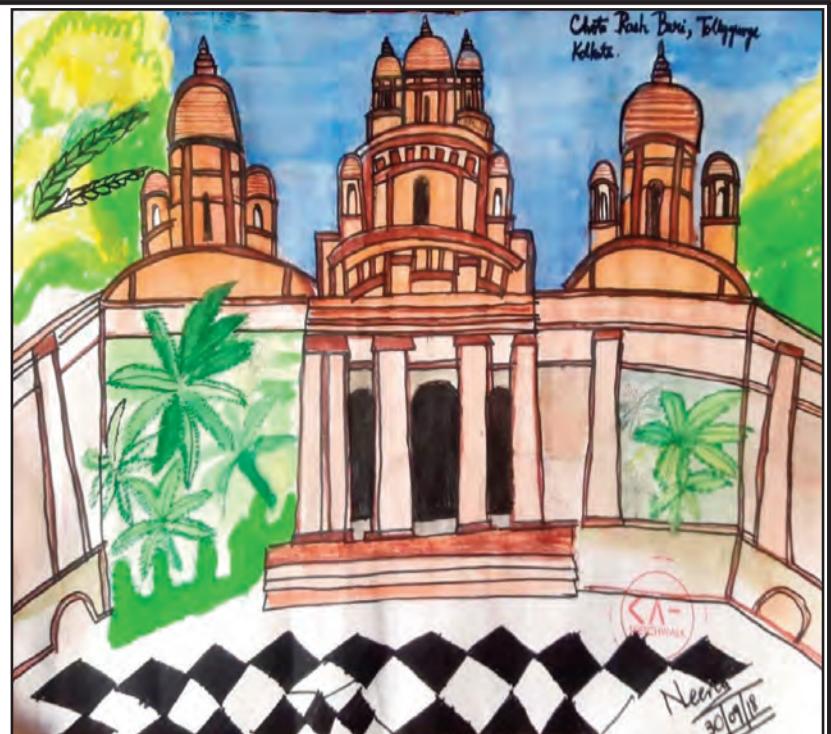
**Dr. Suchandra Chakravarty, TIC of BESC,
signing MoU with the Loreto College**

colleges will get mutually benefitted." Dr. Sukanya Das too asserted, "The students will now have access to a larger curriculum and more faculties and resources. The students can also use the library which could help them in their course work as well as beyond it." Keeping in consonance with its vision of knowledge expansion through sharing and exchange, BESC had made a similar attempt earlier too by joining hands with the Holy Cross College, Agartala. However, the efforts had failed to bear expected results owing primarily to distance constraints. With the signing of MoU with Loreto

College, BESC has made another attempt in that direction with the hope of a more fruitful association this time. The MoU, coming into effect from February, 2019 will initially cover the course curriculum of Master's Degree in English only with limited number of enrollments. Gradually, the scope of MoU is expected to be extended to other departments and programmes too.

- Tanisha Roy, Astha Shaw and Disha Jaiswal

Rediscovering Kolkata: The Hidden Treasures of the Adi Ganga



**Heritage Society members visited the Rash Bari on the banks of the Adi Ganga.
Sketches prepared by the students.**

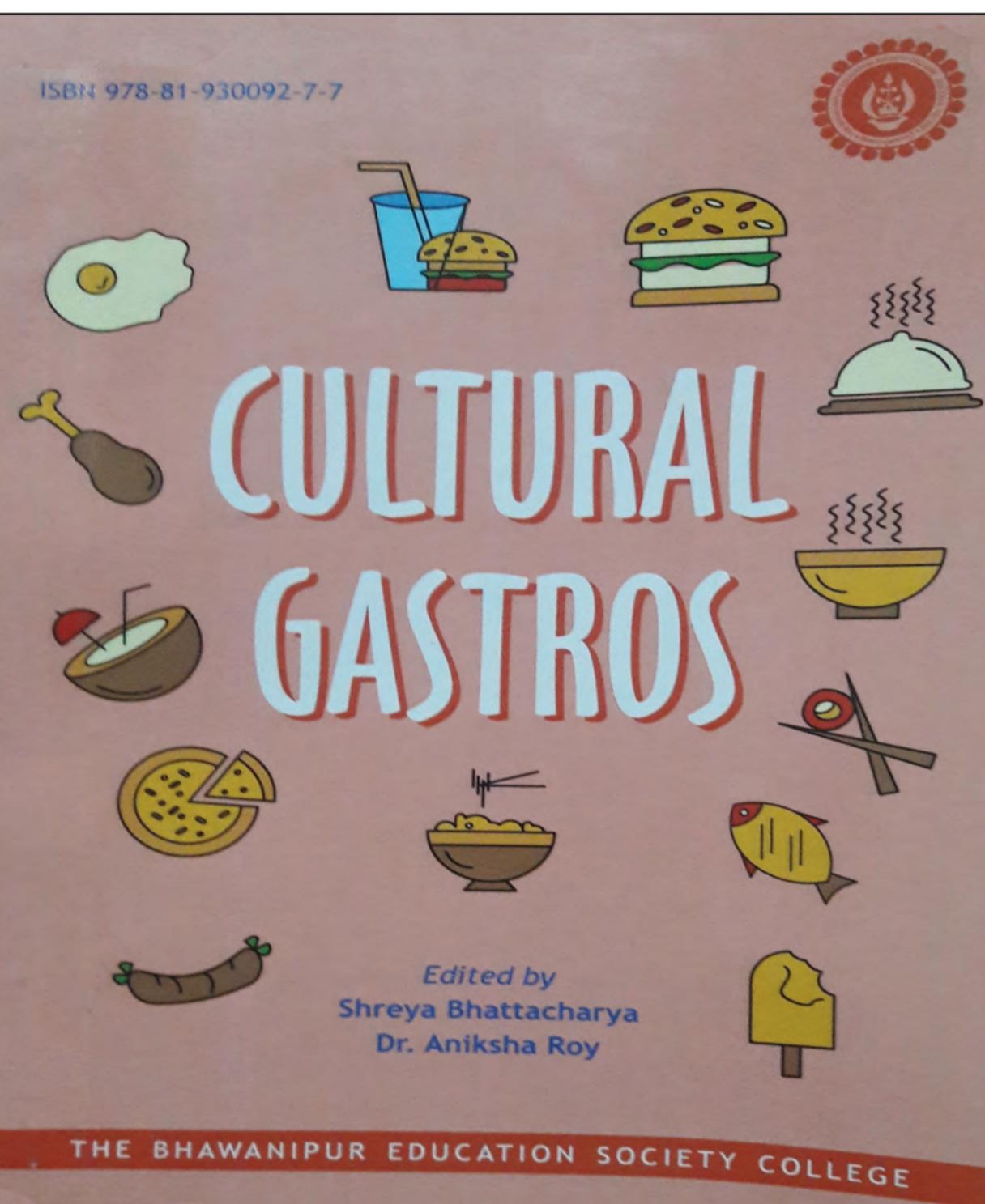
October 01, 2018: 30th September, 2018 was a particularly memorable walk for all Heritage Society members when they decided to explore the magnificent temples of Tollygunge situated on the banks of the Adi Ganga. The event was conducted in association with the Kolkata Architectural Foundation. The participants also benefited from the company of Mr. Kinjal Bose, an eminent blogger and an authority on temples of West Bengal. As the members set off on the walk from Tollygunge, Mr. Bose started narrating the history of the place and pointed out that it was after Lord William Tolly that the place was named. After the Battle of Plassey in 1757, Lord Clive, the British General had invited several well-to-do Bengali families to come and settle in the region. The participants made their first stop at the Boro Rash Bari which was built by Manik Mondal between 1809-1812. Standing at the gateway one can directly see the deities seated at the Garba Griha, the inner sanctum of the temple. In this particular architectural style, the deity is placed at perpendicular distance from the main entrance of the temple. The temple is a unique amalgamation of the Pancha Ratna temple (5 pinnacled temple) and the Navaratna (9 pinnacled temple). The Madan Mohan Temple in the complex was built in between 1828-1834. In the present day, Lord Krishna and Goddess Radhika are worshipped here. While the statue of Lord Krishna is carved out of Touch Stone, the idol of Goddess Radhika is made out of 'ashtadhatu' (a mixture of 8 different metals). There are also several temples outside the temple complex in which Shiva lingams are worshipped. Walking out of the Baro Rash Bari one can see the Nahabat Khana where singers and bards sang classical Indian songs to commemorate the festival of Rash. A few steps later one can see the Choto Rash

Bari. The temple complex is surrounded by three Shiva Temples on the periphery and it stands right on the banks of the Adi Ganga. Near the doorway there stand three distinct plaques on which are inscribed certain facts and information in old Bengali script. Two of the plaques are made of marble while the third is carved out of touchstone. The plaques mention that the foundation of the temple was laid out by Pyarilal Mondal and Monimohan Mondal and the construction of the structure had begun in the Bengali year 1252 and work was completed in the Bengali year 1253 (1846-47 AD). In the Choto Rash Bari, one can find a Navaratna (a Nine pinnacled temple), two Pancharatna (5 pinnacled temple) and 10 Aatchalas (eight roofed) temple. The 10 aatchalas are distributed on two sides with 5 temples on each side. The Navaratna temple is dedicated to Gopalji who is chief deity of the temple. On the pedestal sits another idol called the Shyam Sundarji. The temples also have a special place where the 'Naibaidya' is offered to the deities. Unfortunately, very few places could be visited in such a short time. However, all in all, the one-day walk along the banks of the Adi Ganga proved to be a cherishing knowledge-enhancing experience for the members of the Heritage Society. The 'Heritage Society', BESC hopes to take part in more such activities in the future that may keep the present generation stay connected to their cultural roots.

**- Sneha Singh
& Neena Ghosh**

The Food-Culture Connect

January 11, 2019: Good news for all Kolkata food-lovers! The Research and Publication Wing of the Bhawanipur Education Society College has published a book for the people for whom food is not just about satiating hunger. Rather, it has multiple significations attached to it. This particular book titled 'Cultural Gastros' has been jointly edited by Prof. Shreya Bhattacharya and Dr. Aniksha Roy of the Department of Sociology, BESC. The book has been titled 'Cultural Gastros' considering the etymology of the word 'Gastros' and its association with the various shades of human culture.



Our correspondent spoke to one of the editors regarding the book and this is what she had to say:

1. Madam, could you please tell us something about your latest book, 'Cultural Gastros'?

- Food is meant not only to substantiate survival instincts but aids in bringing individuals closer to each other. 'Prepared with affection', food impinges on the soul through the medium of taste buds and the palates remain ever grateful to the entire methods

and people involved in preparing edible items. The book is an academic representation of nostalgia coupled with modernity and changing kaleidoscope of commensalism. It is oriented towards the processes of identity construction, societal relationships, globalisation and memory that food is attached to. It represents not just the justification of the title but is a whole new passport to the world of gastronomic aspirations which provide a tangible form to the ongoing dialectics between the traditional age old recipes, rituals and practices and the constant quest for exploring new and unknown territories.

2. Would you please tell us why you chose the title 'Cultural Gastros' for the book?

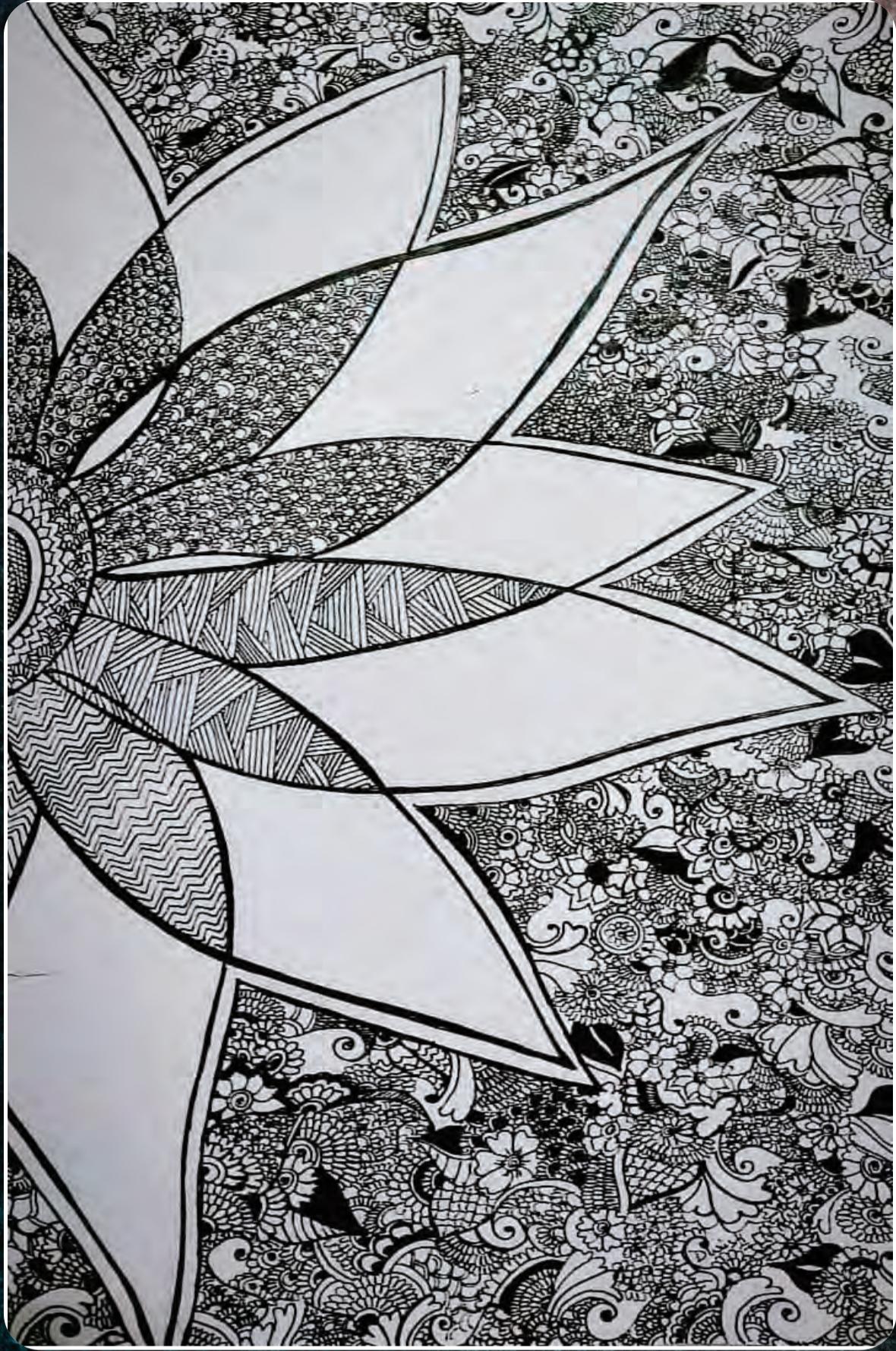
- The book has been christened 'Cultural Gastros' because of the etymology that the word 'gastros' carries with it and the notion of 'culture' associated with it. The theme of the book is an agglomeration of ideas centering around 'art of eating, interacting, identity and change'. The basis of survival is satiating hunger and the fundamental basis of human existence in community is culture. Hence, the logical justification of the title. The name of the book also reverberates the point "Who we are and what we become depends on what we eat."

3. Has such a book been published in Kolkata earlier?

- As far as our knowledge goes, no book of such a name has been published in Kolkata. The theme of the book is very unique and we have divided the book into sections dealing with issues inextricably connected with food and gastronomic desires which we believe would make the readers' experience rather intellectually enriching and excite independent assessments on the subject of food sociology as a whole.

- Tanisha Roy, Disha Jaiswal and Astha Shaw

Creative Corner



by Dhristi Shah (Part - II, JMC Department)



by Shaibalina Choudhury (Part - II, JMC Department)