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THE ASIATIC SOCIETY

(AN INSTITUTION OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE)

1 PARK STREET • KOLKATA-700016

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ADMINISTRATOR'S PAGE

Dear Members and Readers!

On the occasion of the 72nd Death Anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, former President of The Asiatic Society (1942-1944) and 101th Death Anniversary of Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, Second Indian President of The Society (1907-1908, 1921-1922), The Asiatic Society paid homage at their Memorials. Dr. Y. Manikandan, Professor and Head of Department of Tamil Literature, University of Madras, visited the Society on 22.05.2025.

The Society organised a Lecture cum Demonstration on 'Temples of West Bengal- Its Classification' on 27.05.2025 by Shri Kinjal Bose. Shri Pallab Bhattacharya, an independent filmmaker was invited to showcase three Documentary Films on 28.05.2025. Forty



Administrator paying homage at the Memorial of Sir Asutosh Mookerjee



Administrator paying homage at the Memorial of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

School Librarians from the Kingdom of Bhutan and six faculties from Adamas University visited the Library and Museum of The Asiatic Society.

It gives me great pleasure to bring to your attention that the Society has taken a significant initiative by starting its own Podcast Channel to reach out more to the younger generation.



Administrator presenting publications of the Society to the Hon'ble Governor

Dr. P.M. Nair, former Director General of Police, NDRF, Government of India, Advisor and Expert Resource Faculty, NRCHT Rastriya Raksha University, Ahmedabad visited the Society and gave his thoughtful advice.

A Summer Internship Programme from 13th June to 3rd July 2025 is organized for the students of Calcutta Girls College. Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Patron of The Asiatic Society was presented with publications of the Society on 14.06.2025. His Excellency appreciated the new initiatives taken by the Society in various areas of academics, research, publication, digitization and preservation of heritage and culture. Young trainees from the Officer's Training Academy, Gaya, visited the Society on 20.06.2025. 11th International Yoga Day was observed at the Vidyasagar Hall of the Society with the motto- 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health' in a befitting manner.

I would like to thank all the Members and the well-wishers for their continuous co-operation and support.

I wish you a happy reading.

The Asiatic Society
Kolkata



Anant Sinha
Lieutenant Colonel
Administrator, The Asiatic Society



**AN ORDINARY MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING OF
THE ASIATIC SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON
MONDAY, 7TH JULY 2025 AT 5 P. M. AT THE
VIDYASAGAR HALL OF THE SOCIETY**

**MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO KINDLY ATTEND
THE MEETING**

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Ordinary Monthly General Meeting held on 2nd June 2025.
2. Exhibition of presents made to the Society in June 2025.
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 names of members to be announced and suspended as defaulter under Regulation 32 of The Asiatic Society.
6. The following paper will be read by Shri Asit Baran Giri:
"My never-failing bond with Bond"

1 Park Street, Kolkata-700016

Dated : 19.06.2025



Anant Sinha
Lieutenant Colonel
Administrator, The Asiatic Society

My never-failing bond with Bond

Asit Baran Giri

Life Member, The Asiatic Society

“The Wordsworth of the hills and mountains of Garhwal and Kumaon” or “our very own Wordsworth”— What could be a better title to be befittingly bestowed on Ruskin Bond?

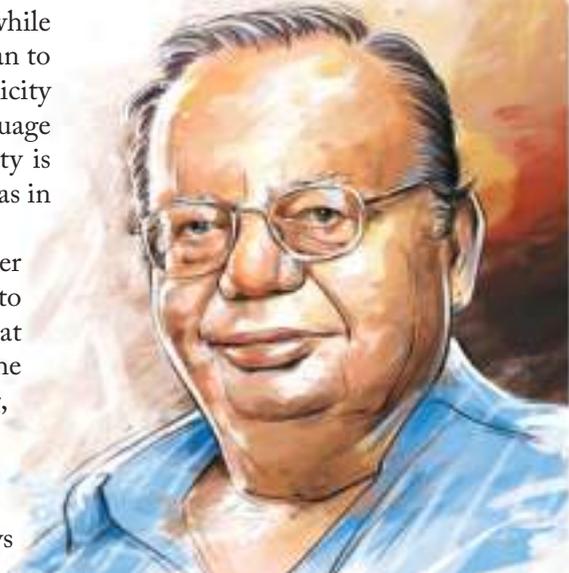
A close perusal of what he has written will reveal that he is always in his elements when he writes about the hills and humans of the Kumaon and the Garhwal regions. The style of what he has to say and write is simple in its true sense and he tells things in an all the more simple diction. His theme being simple in tone and essence, it befits the diction he has used. As for the poet in him “the simplest things in life are best...”

By the phrase “things simple” I mean to refer to the things he writes on, while by the phrase “simple language” I mean to refer to its intrinsic simplicity. Simplicity in thought as well as simplicity of language marks most of his writings. Simplicity is there in the flow of thought as much as in that of his language.

To him, in fact, matter and manner are equally important and hence to him it is ‘what’ as much as ‘how’ that matters most. Therefore quiet flows the Don of his diction. The result being, each tale told in his stories and each thought composed in his poems makes an easy reading. A reader need not go through them, he instead enjoys

reading in the way he takes oxygen from the air. The child in a reader can only have an easy access to the world of poetry or the poetry magic Ruskin Bond is adept at conjuring up.

I enjoy reading his poems better than his stories. It is not because the latter are more absorbing or interesting than the former, but because I find in his poems more of him than I find him in his stories. The poet in Ruskin Bond is very much present in his absence in almost each of his poetic compositions. His poems are much closer to his heart than his stories. In fact, in his poems, in particular, he has “unlocked his heart”.



This write-up is indeed an attempt at searching for the poet in Ruskin Bond. But before I embark on my Odyssey, I must make it clear that Ruskin Bond is not always subjective, I mean, autobiographical.

Nevertheless, a reading of some of his poems reveals that each poem he has written depicts a certain layer of his state of mind. It is a proven fact that against a certain background is a poem written, portraying a certain mood of its master. It can be said that many Ruskin Bonds in many moods is there in many poems, which taken in their totality, helps one delve deep into the heart of the poet. His poems are, therefore, multi-layered.

Nature being his “natural bent”, his poems on Nature must come first. His “tryst with Mother Nature” that began in his boyhood still continues. He seems to be “growing older” and “even bolder” when he is in the lap of Nature. It is aptly said: “Ruskin Bond’s name conjures up vivid images of windswept villages, stately pines and the pristine Himalayas.”

The poet in him takes a flower to be “Nature’s generosity” and to call a “cheerful flower” like Dandelion, a “common weed” is indeed “an insult”. Since “sublimely does it bloom and seed/ In sunshine or in shade”, it is painful to degrade “a flower divinely made”.

‘Granny’s Tree Climbing’, a poem written in a lighter vein, may be cited as a case in point. It tells the tale of one’s innate love of trees where every breeze whispers of summer. The poem seems to uphold one’s “right to reside in a tree” which the poet himself certifies.

That Nature has had a soothing effect on him is writ large on a poem, titled ‘Don’t be Afraid of the Dark’. How

serenely sublime is - “The Sun may be harsh but moonlight-- never!” Playing “a lone fox dancing in the morning dew” as much as “at night, late at night” when the world is at peace is what the poet always looks forward to.

Ruskin Bond is a poet whose feeling of oneness with Nature does raise his readers to a sublime state that inspires him to “search for the stillness within the tree” or “the silence within the root”. In sharp contrast to human births that “don’t come quiet”, the bud opens silently. It is amidst silence that the poet “listen(s) to the night wind in the trees”, “the time that’s tripping by”, “the moon as it climbs the sky” or “the mist in the trembling leaves”. Bond is a born-lover of trees, and so he verily intends to own his own tree that, like the bees, would help him drink nectar in a state of ecstasy from each bloom.

Nature to him is always a great book for everyone to learn. A big river or the dark night is something not to be afraid of. While a big river is safe so long as one is “in these warm arms forever”, a dark night offers one a path to boldly walk along to “see the truth and light”. While many have the fear of owls, the poet in him takes the owl to be an innocent creature, an integral part of Nature, and hence the poet pleads in favour of this nocturnal bird :

“Why then this fear of owls
Calling in the night?
If men must speak
They have the right.”

Even the lesson he learns from a snail that teaches him to “brave the hazards of the road” has left so deep an imprint on him that it makes him “feel quite small” in presence of so small a creature.

That Nature has a diction of her own is the other lesson for Bond to learn. Since the poet in him lives in close proximity with Nature he knows Nature as much as Nature knows him : “They know me well, these trees”. A devout devotee of Nature, so to say, he is endowed with the rare virtue to “listen to their whisperings/ Their own mysterious diction” and is humble enough to “bow (my) head before their arms / And ask for benediction.”

The best lesson, ever learnt by Bond in the School of Nature is :

“Nature does things in good order:
And birds and butterflies recognise
No man-made border.”

A good many poems of Ruskin Bond revolve around his love for mountains “under the whispering pines/ And deodars, near stars/ And a brighter moon”. He calls it a rare privilege “to listen to the night wind in the trees.. to listen to the time that’s tripping by.. to listen to the moon as it climbs the sky.. to listen to the pebbles humming.” Here it is worth noticing how the poet gently glides from the particular to general, verging on a universal truth. His feelings are such that they seem to appeal to the heart of every reader of his poems. It finds expressed when he writes :

“This leaf, so complete in itself,
Is only part of a tree.
And this tree, so complete in itself,
Is only part of the mountain.
And the mountain runs down to the sea.
And the sea, so complete in itself,
Rests like a raindrop
On the hand of God.”

His genuine for love of Nature stands clear when he writes: “once you live(d)

with mountains.../ You will return,/ You will come back/ To touch the trees and grass/ And climb once more the windswept / Mountain pass”. He thanks The Lord “for silence;/ The silence of great mountains late at night that helps him “hear small sounds outside.” His bond with the mountains is strong, so much so that “they watch me while I watch them grow” and out of gratitude he humbles himself to “bow (his) head before their arms/ And ask for benediction.” Here’s a poet who is always looking forward to being in a “hilly crest” because “there’s some respite, and when / The fretting day is done,/ Beneath the cherry tree there’s rest.”

The lover of Nature in him is all praise for the foresters:

“Without your help to Nature’s thrust,
This land would be a bowl of dust” --

But it is not without a word of caution:

“A land without its forest wealth
Must suffer a decline in health.”

Like the great poets who are the only inheritors of truth down the ages, the poet in Ruskin Bond too rings a timeless truth in the rhyming couplet, quoted here-above. Besides being an example of a spontaneous overflow of a prophetic realisation, it is also pregnant in essentia and in potentia.

That Ruskin has had an emotional growth and that too with an innate love for the mountains is known to every aficionado of his. He therefore wishes the elders (from among his dear readers) to help the young ones “grow strong like chestnut trees”, thereby wishing the youngsters to be as upright as “tall pines that climb up the hills”. He further wishes the grown-ups to

“... teach them to bend too--
To be humble like the willow.”

To him watching the sun at the crack of the day is always a much-awaited event and a grace of the Lord because there’s “the promise of days to come”. It therefore behooves a reader to know how naturally a note of optimism is woven fine into the texture of his poems. It is worth mentioning that a good number of poems of Ruskin Bond have had a sublime elevation, born of the simple but perennial thought. Though it abounds in ‘ifs’, the poem, entitled ‘If Mice Could Roar’, deduces a philosophy, both pleasant as well as inspiring : “This world would be nicer than most”. Same is true of ‘Lullaby’ that teaches the philosophy of the simplest kind : “But you do not take from any man his song.” While “Living With Mountains” teaches everyone that “once you have lived with these ... You will return... To touch the trees and grass...”, “The Trees” with their “mysterious diction” inspire their worshippers to bow their “head before their arms/ And ask for benediction.”

This lover of Nature in Ruskin Bond is a champion of the flora and fauna and he fights a superstitious belief with regard to the owl. What he pleads for the owl gets deduced to a simple philosophy, too deep for tears:

“Why then this fear of owls
Calling in the night ?
If men must speak,
Then owls must hoot
They have the right.”

The philosophy that oozes out of what he has written has no smell of spirituality,

nor is there an undercurrent of religiosity. It is instead a pragmatic philosophy as is evident in ‘The Snail’:

“He will brave the hazards of the road...
He must await each threatening step
Chancing his luck,--
Though all unaware
Of the dangers of being quashed,
He does not pause or flinch”--

That everything on earth, both biotic and abiotic, is intrinsically interwoven, is definitely a philosophy to reckon with:

“This leaf, so complete in itself,
Is only part of a tree.
And this tree, so complete in itself,
Is only part of the mountain.
And the mountain runs down to the sea.
And the sea, so complete in itself,
Rest like a raindrop
On the hand of God.”

Thomas Carlyle, in his *Hero and Hero Worship*, underlines who a real poet is. He has used a word ‘Vates’, which refers to one who is both a Poet and a Prophet, as an abiding quality or an indispensable attribute of a good poet.

The poems, penned by Ruskin Bond, if lovingly read, would surely lead one to infer that this poet does not lag far behind the said epithet in its truest sense.

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A Military Engineer from Colonial Period: Major General William N. Forbes

Pronoy Roy Chowdhury

Life Member, The Asiatic Society

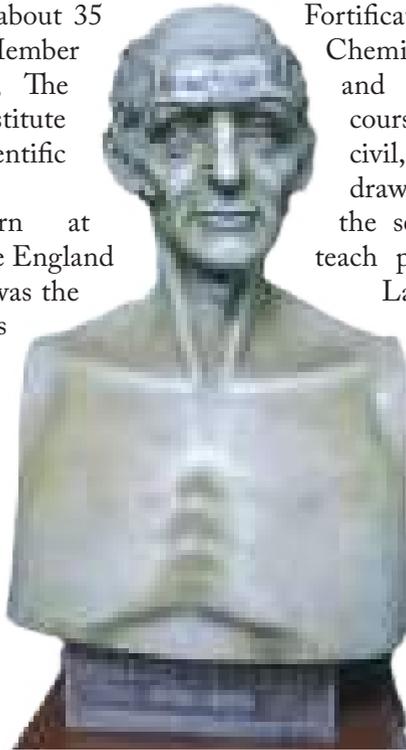
Major General W. N. Forbes was well-known in Calcutta and in his field; he was a member of various learned societies, including the Institution of Civil Engineers, for about 35 years. He was also a Member of Geological Society, The Asiatic Society, The Institute d’Afrique, and other scientific societies.

Forbes was born at Blackford Aberdeenshire England on 3rd April 1796. He was the 6th son of John Forbes of Aberdeenshire. At a young age, he studied Mathematical and Natural Philosophy at the King’s College, Old Aberdeen, during 1808 and 1809. Then, he went to the University of Cambridge in 1811 wherein as a student, he was educated under Professor Leslie and Playfair. In 1812, he joined as a cadet at the Addiscombe Military Seminary of the East India Company. This military academy was opened in 1809 and was closed in 1861, its purpose was to train young officers

to serve in the East India Company’s own army in Indian Dominion. The curriculum comprised of instructions in the Science of Mathematics, Fortification, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Hindustani, Latin and French language. The course also included the art of civil, military and lithographic drawings and surveys. However, the seminary did not actually teach practical military science.

Later in 1850s, photography was also included in the course. It was in fact not a Military College but rather a militarized public school. The examinations of the seminary were held twice, once in July, another in December. They lasted for three weeks period and culminated in a public examination, which was a day-long examination before a

distinguished audience. By the end of 1813, William Forbes was attached to the Royal Engineer establishment at Chatham in Kent, England. There he showed excellent perseverance and was



Bust of W.N. Forbes kept at The Asiatic Society

particularly noticed by the Royal Military Surveyor.

In 1816, he was appointed to the Bengal Engineers and was assigned as a Surveyor of embankments in Bengal and Orissa. In December 1819, he was ordered to go back to England to superintend the preparation of machinery for the Royal mint at Calcutta (now Kolkata). In 1823, he returned to India, and at the recommendation of the Court of Directors of East India Company to be employed for erection of the machinery of mint and superintend the erection and organization of the department. He was appointed as the Superintendent of the Silver mint at Calcutta. Lieutenant Forbes' service was frequently utilized by the then Government for various engineering projects. It was reported in the book, *Military Engineer in India*, Vol-II, that the most famous architect in old Calcutta was certainly, Captain Forbes (later promoted to Major General Forbes). He designed the old silver mint which took around six years to be completed. The architecture of the mint belonged to Grecian Doric order and was modeled on the half size of the temple of Athena at Athens, which is called Parthenon. The structure was erected on the alluvial soil which was reclaimed from the Hooghly River and has elaborate foundation of depth of about 25 feet. The magnificent frontage of the building added to the elegance of the Strand Road in Calcutta, where it is located. The foundation of the mint was laid in the month of March 1824 and coin production began on 1st August 1829. The coinage production varied between 3,00,000 to 6,00,000 pieces per day. Later on, as an annex to the silver mint, a copper mint was constructed

in 1865. Captain Forbes was frequently engaged by the British Government in different engineering projects. He prepared a plan for the drainage system in Calcutta. The drainage of the city was a concerning issue to the administration. Lord Wellesley in his famous Minutes of 1803 indicated the deplorable condition of drainage of Calcutta especially during the rainy season, and this was attributed to the fact that the town sloped towards Salt Lake and not towards the Hooghly River. Lieutenant Schalch earlier had taken level survey which indicated that lowest part of the main town was at least 8 feet above the highest level of Salt Lake. Based on these findings in 1837, Captain Forbes submitted a plan of drainage before the "Fever Hospital and Municipal Improvement Committee", where he proposed to construct a large masonry aqueduct from the Hooghly River near old Chitpur Bridge to the European Burial Ground at Park Street (South Park Street Cemetery) and communicating with Salt Lake by a wide-open canal running parallel with the Entally canal. The aqueducts may be connected with sluice gates at both the river-front and the Salt Lake so that water may be admitted or excluded from both sides for flushing the system. On either side of the aqueduct, a masonry sewer or covered drain may be constructed and linked up with the subsidiary drains discharging their filth into the two main drains. However, no practical result was obtained by the Fever Hospital Committee on drainage of Calcutta due to paucity of funds. Later William Clark submitted a scheme of drainage on 29th December 1855 to the Calcutta Municipal Commissioners for the drainage of Calcutta. The scheme

derived its basic principles from that of Forbes scheme. As a Captain, William N. Forbes once submitted a report on the best means of keeping open the navigation of the stream connecting river Hooghly to Ganges and it received the approval of Court of Directors of East India Company. In 1825, on request, he joined the army during the siege of Bharatpur. The siege of Bharatpur took place in the period between December 1825 and January 1826, a three-week siege. Bharatpur was a princely state now a part of Rajasthan. Lord Combermere who was a General and Commander-in-Chief of Indian army stormed the princely state of Bharatpur which was previously deemed impregnable and restored the kingdom to its rightful king. Before the siege, Forbes was injured fracturing his right arm and two ribs while doing reconnaissance. However, he could still supervise the

mining operations. He planned to use unusually large mines to breach the walls of the Bharatpur Fort which were 150 feet (46 m) thick and 59 feet (18 m) deep moat. Forbes used large mines to breach the walls of the Fort and it was eventually stormed. Lord Combermere spoke very highly of Forbes capability during the war. After the fall of Bharatpur fortress, W. N. Forbes again joined his duty at the Mint. He was later on appointed the Master of the Calcutta Mint. In the year 1819, by order of the then Governor General Marquis of Hastings, Captain W. N. Forbes prepared a plan for the Cathedral of Calcutta. But as the proposition was very costly for that time the estimate was not sanctioned by the Court of East India Company. Subsequently, the 5th Bishop of Calcutta, Lord Bishop Daniel Wilson requested Major Forbes (Promoted as Captain) to undertake the design of



The Saint Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta, designed by William N. Forbes in the year 1839

the Calcutta Cathedral, which was an Anglican Cathedral dedicated to St. Paul the apostle. The construction of the church began in October 1839 and the building was completed and consecrated in 1847. The Cathedral was planned as a perpendicular type of structure with various modifications to suit the local climatic conditions. The tower and spire of the Cathedral was influenced from that of Norwich Cathedral of the Church of England, located in the City of Norwich, Norfolk, England. The building was constructed using a special type of brick, light in weight and had good compressive strength. The brick surface was dressed like 'chunar stone' and it was well-covered and plastered with 'chunam' (lime plaster) in the form of stucco. The finish gave the feel of polished marble stone. Marble stone could not be extensively used which was mainly attributed to fund crunch. The dimension of the Cathedral including the wall buttresses is 248 feet (75 m) in length and 83 feet (25 m) in width. The height of the original spire was 201 feet (60.3 m). The nave of the church is fitted with well-crafted wooden pews and chairs. Major Forbes extended much time and mental labour for completing the work of the Cathedral in addition to his regular duties. The church is now the main protestant Cathedral of the Diocese of Calcutta and the Bishop of Calcutta is its custodian. William Narian Forbes was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1841. In 1847, he officiated for five months as the member of the Military Board in the absence of the Chief Engineer. Again, in the same

year he went to England to be appointed as a member of a commission assembled to enquire in constitution of the Royal Mint. His duty was completed in England in April 1849 and he returned to India to resume duties at the Calcutta Mint.

Until 1854, he was in good health, thereafter he frequently complained of exhaustion with complete prostration at times. But he was mentally fit and attended the mint daily. Forbes was promoted to the rank of Major General 1854. In 1855, he was suddenly affected by cardiac spasm, and took leave finally to return to England. He embarked on his last voyage on 9th April 1855 from Calcutta back to England on the 'Oriental'. However, he died on-board on 1st May 1855 of the Island of Tibble Teer.

On his death, the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, Daniel Wilson, erected a monument of him at the St. Paul's Cathedral on public subscription. A bust of late W. N. Forbes was placed by the officers and workman at the old Calcutta silver mint with which he was associated since inception. The bust is now placed at the 3rd floor of new building of The Asiatic Society.

Acknowledgement

I hereby acknowledge with deep gratitude the various documents and web resources, which has been consulted by me in developing this article. They include The Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers UK, 1820, and 1861, Grace's Guide, Wikipedia, The Victoria Web and the Internet Archives.

বাংলায় সশস্ত্র বিপ্লববাদের প্রেক্ষাপটে ‘রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ’ গঠনের ঐতিহাসিক তাৎপর্য

অতীশ দাশগুপ্ত

অবসরপ্রাপ্ত অধ্যাপক, সমাজবিজ্ঞান ইউনিট, ইন্ডিয়ান স্ট্যাটিস্টিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট

অনুশীলন সমিতির অন্যতম তরুণ নেতা হিসেবে নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তকে ব্রিটিশ সরকার প্রথম গ্রেপ্তার করেছিল বহরমপুরে ১৯২৫ সালে, তৎকালীন Bengal Criminal Act-এর সংশ্লিষ্ট ধারায়। তখন তাঁর বয়স একুশ বছর। তিনি মুক্তি পেয়েছিলেন ১৯২৮ সালের আগস্ট মাসে। তাঁকে ব্রিটিশ পুলিশ আবার গ্রেপ্তার করেছিল ‘মেছুয়াবাজার বোমা ষড়যন্ত্র’ মামলায় ১৯২৯ সালের ডিসেম্বরে ইংরেজ সরকারের Explosive Substance Act-এর Section 4(b) এবং a-এর নির্দিষ্ট ধারায়। ১৯২৮ সাল থেকে ১৯২৯ সালের সময়সীমায়, নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্ত নেতৃত্ব দিয়েছিলেন ‘রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ’ গঠনের রাজনৈতিক সাংগঠনিক প্রক্রিয়ায়। ‘রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ’-কে সশস্ত্র বিপ্লবীরা ‘অনুশীলন রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ’ এবং ‘অ্যাডভান্স গ্রুপ’ বা পার্টি নামেও অভিহিত করেছিলেন। ব্রিটিশ পুলিশের খাতায় রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ চিহ্নিত হয়েছিল ‘নিউ ভায়োলেন্স পার্টি’ হিসেবে। দেশের মুক্তি সংগ্রামে রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ গঠনের গুরুত্ব অনুসন্ধানের জন্য প্রামাণিক আকর তথ্যের প্রয়োজন। গোয়েন্দা দপ্তরের আকর তথ্য ও গোপনীয় ফাইলগুলি পড়বার জন্য স্বরাষ্ট্র দপ্তরের উচ্চপর্যায়ের প্রশাসনিক অনুমতি নেওয়ার পদ্ধতি বলবৎ ছিল। রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ সম্বন্ধে কিছু অনুধাবনের জন্য, অনুমতি পেয়েছিলাম তৎকালীন রাজ্য সরকারের ইন্সপেক্টর জেনারেল শ্রী সন্ধি কুমার মুখার্জির সাহায্যে। গোয়েন্দা দপ্তরের নথিপত্রের মধ্যে যে ফাইলটি রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ গঠনের তাৎপর্য অনুধাবনে বিশেষভাবে কাজে লেগেছিল তার শিরোনাম ‘গোপনীয় আই.বি.ফাইল, নম্বর ৩৭৪২/২৩-এর এইচ.এম. ফোল্ডার ১’।

ফাইলের ১৯৭ পৃষ্ঠায় লেখা শুরু হয়েছে,

বিপ্লবীদের নতুন সংগঠন প্রসঙ্গে সতর্কতা জানিয়ে। ৩০.১০.১৯২২ তারিখে গুপ্তচর (সাংকেতিক নাম ‘সি জেড’) রিপোর্ট করেছিলেন যে, যুগান্তর, অনুশীলন, বেঙ্গল ভলান্টিয়ার্স এবং বাংলার অন্যান্য সশস্ত্র বিপ্লবীদের তরুণ প্রজন্মের নেতারা, বর্ষীয়ান নেতৃবৃন্দের শ্লথতা ও দলাদলির বিরুদ্ধে অবস্থান নিয়ে, ইংরেজ শাসকদের চূড়ান্ত আঘাতের জন্য অবিলম্বে সশস্ত্র সংঘর্ষের প্রস্তুতি নিতে তৎপর হয়েছেন। তরুণ প্রজন্মের নেতাদের মধ্যে বিশেষ উল্লেখযোগ্য ভূমিকা ছিল নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্ত, সন্তোষ মিত্র, প্রতুল ভট্টাচার্য ও গণেশ ঘোষের। তাঁরা সচেত্ন হয়েছিলেন জাতীয় কংগ্রেসের লাহোর অধিবেশনের (ডিসেম্বর ১৯২৯) আগেই, রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ নামে নতুন ঐক্যবদ্ধ সংগঠনের প্রস্তুতি পর্ব সমাপ্ত করতে, যার ফলশ্রুতিতে ব্রিটিশ বিরোধী সশস্ত্র কর্মসূচীর পথ সুগম হতে পারে। গোয়েন্দা দপ্তরের ফাইলে লিখিত আছে : "The agent added that vigorous attempts were being made at the time by Niranjana Sengupta, Santosh Mitra, Pratul Bhattacharjee, Ganesh Ghosh and others to complete the work of the proposed organisation."

ফাইলের ১৯৮ পৃষ্ঠায় বিধৃত আছে যে, ৬.১১.১৯২৯ তারিখে, আরেক গুপ্তচর (সাংকেতিক নাম ‘জে.পি.২৬’) রিপোর্ট করেছেন যে, নতুন সশস্ত্র কর্মসূচীর জন্য রিভোল্ট গ্রুপের বিভিন্ন নেতাদের জেলাভিত্তিক দায়িত্ব ভাগ করে দেওয়া হয়েছিল। বরিশাল ও মুর্শিদাবাদের দায়িত্বে ছিলেন নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্ত। মৈমনসিংহের জন্য প্রতুল ভট্টাচার্য, ঢাকার জন্য সত্য গুপ্ত ও ভূপেন রক্ষিত এবং চট্টগ্রামের জন্য দায়িত্ব দেওয়া হয়েছিল।

যেখানে নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্ত, বিনয়েন্দ্র রায়চৌধুরী, গণেশ ঘোষ ও অন্যান্য নেতারা উপস্থিত ছিলেন, সেখানে রিভোল্ট গ্রুপের সাংগঠনিক বিষয় এবং গোপন ভাবে অস্ত্র সংগ্রহের বিষয়টি আলোচিত হয়েছিল।

কর্মসূচী নিয়ে সেদিনের মিটিং-এ প্রধান বক্তা ছিলেন নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্ত। ফাইলের ১৯৯ পৃষ্ঠায় লেখা আছে : "Niranjan was the main speaker in this meetings, where he said: (1) that their intentions were to bring about rebellion, in a particular district, in which one batch of them would take by surprise the district police, and occupy the District Treasury, and the Aronoury, while a second batch would attack the houses of the executive officers of the district, e.g. the District Magistrate, the Superientendent of Police, and other high profile officers, and kill them (2) that if they could thus keep the district under their control, even for an hour, and then die fighting as the Irish Revolutionaries did in the Easter Rising at Dublin, it would have a tremendous effect upon the youth of the country, (3) that he already secured a number of firearms, and was expecting a large number of them in the near future, (4) that he had made arrangements to smuggle rifles and Mausar pistols from Germany, (5) that he required at least Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-, for paying arms smugglers, and that he would collect this sum by committing docoities, (6) that he was engaged in preparing, or making preparations for manufacturing bombs, that Ganesh Ghos had advanced a long way in that direction and that Chittagong was the most suitable place for preparing explosives. It was decided that in this meeting that Chittagong

and Barisal would be organised first for a rebellion and Calcutta, for committing terrorism in the shape of killing police officers, and Europeans and committing dacoities." গুপ্তচর 'জে. পি. ২৬' আরও লিখেছেন ফাইলের ২০৭ পৃষ্ঠায় গুপ্তচরের সাংকেতিক নাম ('এ. এম. ২৬') সূত্র উল্লেখ করে লেখা হয়েছে যে, ১৯২৯ সালে নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্ত ৩৭টি রিভলবার সংগ্রহ করেছিলেন এবং বেআইনি অস্ত্রের কারবারী আবদুল রজ্জাকের সহযোগিতায়, তিনি আরও বেশি সংখ্যক আগ্নেয়াস্ত্র করায়ত্ত করতে প্রস্তুত ছিলেন।

ফাইলের ২০২ পৃষ্ঠায় (গুপ্তচরের সাংকেতিক নাম 'সি. জেড' জানিয়েছেন যে, ১৯২২ সালে নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্ত একটি রাজদ্রোহিতামূলক পুস্তিকা প্রকাশ করতে উদ্যোগ নিয়েছিলেন। ঐ প্রেসটি যুগান্তর গোষ্ঠীর বিপ্লবীদের যোগাযোগের অন্যতম কেন্দ্র ছিল। গুপ্তচরটি আরও জানিয়েছিলেন যে, এই সময় প্রতুল ভট্টাচার্য, গণেশ ঘোষ এবং অন্য বিপ্লবীরা প্রায়ই ২২/৩ মেছুয়াবাজার স্ট্রিটে অবস্থিত নিরঞ্জন সেনের ভাড়া বাড়িতে যেতেন, এবং 'রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ' বা 'নিউ ভায়োলেন্ট পার্টি'র গঠন পদ্ধতি এবং কর্মসূচী নিয়ে আলোচনা করতেন। ফাইলের ২০৩ পৃষ্ঠায় গুপ্তচর 'এ. এম. ২৮' জানিয়েছেন যে সূর্য সেন ও তাঁর সহযোগী অনন্ত সিং, নিরঞ্জন সেনের সংগঠনের প্রতি সক্রিয় সহযোগিতা প্রকাশ করেছেন। ২০৪ পৃষ্ঠায় 'সি জেড' আবার রিপোর্ট করেছেন যে, তার হাতে নিরঞ্জন সেনের লেখা রাজদ্রোহিতা মূলক পুস্তিকাটি এসে গেছে, যার নাম 'বাংলার তরুণদের প্রতি'। আইনের ভাষায় : "The leaflet advocated armed revolutions for securing independence for India, and assassination of the Englishmen, and its highly eulogical terrorist murderer, Khudiram Bose, Kanailal Dutta (both hanged) and others. Niranjan would circulate this leaflet in order to prepare the minds of the youths for revolutionary works."

ফাইলের ২০৭ পৃষ্ঠায় লেখা আছে যে, গুপ্তচর 'এ. এম. ২৬' ০১. ১২. ২৯ তারিখে রিপোর্ট

করেছেন যে, সতীশ পাকড়াশী, অনুশীলন সমিতির প্রতুল সাকুলির মতো পুরনো নেতাদের 'waiting policy'-এর প্রতি বিরক্ত হয়ে, নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তের নেতৃত্বাধীন 'রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ'-এর সাথে চূড়ান্তভাবে যুক্ত হয়েছেন, অবিলম্বে ব্রিটিশ শাসকদের বিরুদ্ধে সশস্ত্র সংঘর্ষ শুরু করার সংকল্পে গুপ্তচর 'জে. পি. ১৪' রিপোর্ট করেছিলেন যে, তাঁর মতে রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ "was the most violent terrorist party, and it was collecting fire arms."

ফাইলের ২০৭ পৃষ্ঠায় আরও লেখা আছে যে, "on (112/29) J. P. reported that he learnt from Arun Guha (State Prisoner) that Sanat Ghosh, Satya Gupta and few other important members had joined Niranjana Sengupta, through whose efforts, Sanat Ghosh succeeded in securing four pistols." ফাইলের ২০৮ পৃষ্ঠায় বলা হয়েছে যে, চট্টগ্রাম ও বরিশালের কর্মসূচী সমাপ্ত করে, নিরঞ্জন সেন ১০. ১২. ১৯২৯ তারিখে, কলকাতায় ফিরে এসেছিলেন, এবং মেছুয়াবাজার স্ট্রীটে কলাবাগান বস্তিতে তাঁর আস্তানাকে কেন্দ্র করে, গোপন রাজনৈতিক কার্যকলাপে তৎপর হয়েছিলেন। পাঞ্জাবের বিপ্লবী দলের সদগুরু, তাঁর সাথে এই সময় যোগাযোগ করে চারটি তাজা বোমা চেয়েছিলেন, লাহোর সংক্রান্ত মামলায় অভিযুক্ত ভগৎ সিং ও বটুকেশ্বর দত্তকে মুক্ত করার জন্য। উত্তরপ্রদেশ থেকেও কিছু বিপ্লবী মেছুয়াবাজার স্ট্রীটে, নিরঞ্জন সেনের আস্তানায় এসে, তাঁর কাছ থেকে আগ্নেয়াস্ত্র নিয়েছিলেন।

তার ফলে, ১৯.১২.১৯২৯ তারিখে, ইংরেজ পুলিশ অফিসার কলাবাগান বস্তিতে ২২/৩ মেছুয়াবাজার স্ট্রীটে অবস্থিত নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তের কাছে সকাল ৯টা নাগাদ রিভোল্ট গ্রুপের বিপ্লবী সুধাংশু দাশগুপ্তের একটি সুটকেস নিয়ে এসেছিলেন, নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তের সাথে যোগাযোগের জন্য। সাদা পোশাকের পুলিশ ও গোয়েন্দা বিভাগের অফিসাররা সুধাংশু দাশগুপ্তের সুটকেস তল্লাশি করে বোমার শেল পেয়েছিল, এবং তৎক্ষণাৎ তাঁকে গ্রেপ্তার করেছিল। নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্ত, সতীশ পাকড়াশী, সুধাংশু দাশগুপ্ত ও রিভোল্ট গ্রুপের অন্যান্য নেতাদের গ্রেপ্তার করা হয়েছিল Explosive Substance Act-এর

4/B ধারায়, এবং অবিলম্বে রুজু করা হয়েছিল 'মেছুয়াবাজার ষড়যন্ত্র মামলা'। বিপ্লবীদের আস্তানা থেকে বোমা ও আগ্নেয়াস্ত্র তৈরির ফর্মুলা, বোমার শেল, বিপ্লবীদের নামের তালিকা 'বাংলার তরুণদের প্রতি' পুস্তিকা ও আইরিশ বিপ্লবী ডাব ব্রীজের বই 'My fight for Irish Freedom' তল্লাশি করে পাওয়া গিয়েছিল। বরিশাল অঞ্চলে রিভোল্ট গ্রুপের আস্তানা থেকে সংগৃহীত তথ্য জেলার প্রশাসন ব্রিটিশ গোয়েন্দা অফিসারদের দিয়ে দিয়েছিল।

উপরোক্ত গোয়েন্দা ফাইলের ২১৪ পৃষ্ঠায় বিধৃত করা হয়েছে :

"From under the pillow of the bed of Niranjana Sengupta, and others, at 22/3 Mechhubazar Street were recovered (a) 'Dak Ore Dak Mrityu ke Dak Jiban Pane' ('invite, o ya, invite death unto life) leaflet, (b) a collection of bombs, pistols, and other explosives for destroying the English system of Government for salvation of India, (c) a cover addressed to Satish Pakrashi, containing a formula for making bombshells, and (d) a piece of paper, containing the lines : 'From under the seeming stillness of the sea of the Indian humanity, a veritable storm is about the break out. We have given a fair and loud warning—Bhagat Singh and Batukeswar Datta', which was also the catch-line in the leaflets 'Banglar Tarunder Prati' (To the youth of Bengal) seized from different houses reached in this connection and also circulated in different districts on 19/12/1929 and 20/12/1928."

স্পেশাল ট্রাইবুনালের বিচারকরা 'মেছুয়াবাজার বোমা ষড়যন্ত্র' মামলার বিচার শেষ করে রায় দেওয়ার সময় ১৪. ০৬. ১৯৩০ তারিখে ঘোষণা করেছিলেন যে, তাদের বিবেচনার ভিত্তি ছিল (১) অভিযুক্তদের কাছে রক্ষিত বিপ্লব ও রাজদ্রোহিতামূলক পুস্তিকা ও কাগজপত্র, (২)

বোমার শেল, (৩) আন্নেয়াস্ত্রের উপাদান, (৪) বোমার শেল বানানোর উপাদান এবং (৫) বরিশাল ও অন্যান্য জেলার গুরুত্বপূর্ণ প্রশাসনিক দপ্তরের ও বিপ্লবীদের নামের তথ্যাদি ও সংশ্লিষ্ট ঘটনাবলী।

গোয়েন্দা ফাইলের ২১৭ পৃষ্ঠায় লেখা রয়েছে যে, উপরোক্ত কারণের ভিত্তিতে, বিচারকরা নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্ত ও অন্যান্য অভিযুক্তদের সশস্ত্র প্রস্তুতির মাধ্যমে ব্রিটিশ শাসনাধীন ভারতের জীবনযাত্রা ও প্রশাসনিক সম্পত্তির ধ্বংসের চক্রান্তে লিপ্ত বলে চিহ্নিত করেছিলেন। নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্ত ও সতীশ পাকড়াশীকে চক্রান্তের প্রধান নেতা বলে ঘোষণা করে নিরঞ্জনকেই বলেছিলেন 'the brain of this conspiracy'। বিচারকদের রায়ের শেষ অংশ উদ্ধৃত করে লেখা হয়েছে : "Niranjan Sengupta was accordingly convicted u/s 120B I.P.C., read with Section 4(b) of the Explosives Substances Act, and sentenced to transportation for 10 years, by the Special Tribunal on 14/6/30. On 22/4/31 this sentence was, however reduced to 7 years by the Hon'ble High Court."

ব্রিটিশ শাসকরা, বিপ্লবী নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তের 'রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ'-এর সশস্ত্র স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামের প্রস্তুতিকে ভয় পেয়েছিল। তাঁদের বিচার যখন চলছিল, তখন বিপ্লবী সূর্য সেনের নেতৃত্বে, চট্টগ্রাম যুব বিদ্রোহ সংগঠিত হয়েছিল ১৮.০৪.১৯৩০ তারিখে। ব্রিটিশ শাসক ও বিচারকরা চট্টগ্রামের যুব বিদ্রোহের ঘটনাবলীর দাপটে ভীত ও সতর্ক হয়েছিলেন। তাঁরা বিপ্লবী নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তের বিচারের ক্ষেত্রে আর ঝুঁকি নিতে সাহস করেননি।

আন্দামানের সেলুলার জেল ছাড়াও নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তকে একাধিক কারাগারে বন্দী থাকতে হয়েছিল। তিনি কারারুদ্ধ হয়েছিলেন মেদিনীপুর

জেলে। গোয়েন্দা ফাইলের ২৪২ পৃষ্ঠায় একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্য লিপিবদ্ধ করা আছে। বিপ্লবী প্রমোদ দাশগুপ্ত ও বিপ্লবী সত্যব্রত সেন, রিভোল্ট গ্রুপের প্রতি আকৃষ্ট হয়েছিলেন নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তের আহ্বানে। তাঁরা ১৯৩০ সালে দুইবার মেদিনীপুর জেলে নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তের সাথে যোগাযোগ করেছিলেন। তিনি তাঁদের উৎসাহিত করেছিলেন, সংগঠনকে নতুন ভাবে গড়ে তোলার জন্য, এবং প্রয়োজনীয় চিঠিপত্র পাঠাতে বলেছিলেন ফরিদপুর, কলকাতা ও কুমিল্লায় সক্রিয় রিভোল্ট গ্রুপের সদস্যদের কাছে। ঢাকায় সেন্ট্রাল জেল থেকে বন্দী সুধাংশু দাশগুপ্ত নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তকে একটি চিঠি পাঠিয়েছিলেন, কিন্তু গোয়েন্দা দপ্তরের অফিসাররা তা হস্তগত করেছিল।

গোয়েন্দা ফাইলের ২৪১ পৃষ্ঠায় উদ্ধৃত আছে যে, 'রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ' গঠনের আগে নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্ত, কাকোরি ষড়যন্ত্র মামলায় অভিযুক্ত যোগেশ চ্যাটার্জি ও বিপ্লবী শচীন সান্যালের সঙ্গেও সক্রিয় যোগাযোগ রাখতেন। শহীদ যতীন দাসের মৃতদেহ যখন কলকাতায় বেঙ্গল ভলেন্টিয়ার্স গ্রুপের নেতৃত্বে নিয়ে আসা হয়েছিল মিছিল সহকারে, তখন নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তের নিজের লেখা একটি পুস্তিকা বিতরণ করেছিলেন, যার শিরোনাম ছিল 'রক্তে আমার লেগেছে আজ সর্বনাশের নেশা'।

গোয়েন্দা ফাইলের ২৪৭ ও ২৪৮ পৃষ্ঠায় আরও গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্য রয়েছে। আন্দামান সেলুলার জেল থেকে নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তকে যখন আলিপুর সেন্ট্রাল জেলে নিয়ে আসা হয়েছিল, তখন ০৭.০৫.১৯৩৬ তারিখে তিনি দৃঢ়ভাবে বলেছিলেন যে, তিনি সশস্ত্র বিপ্লবের পথেই অগ্রসর হবেন, এবং তিনি সাম্যবাদ ও বিপ্লবের পথ থেকে বিচ্যুত হবেন না।

এই ছিল ভারতের স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামে বিপ্লবী নিরঞ্জন সেনগুপ্তের নেতৃত্বে 'রিভোল্ট গ্রুপ'-এর ঐতিহাসিক অগ্নিগর্ভ ভূমিকা।

Students' Incubation Workshop on Sustainable Development

'Students' Incubation Workshop on Sustainable Development', jointly organized by The Asiatic Society and the Indian Institute of Social Reform & Research, was held in the Vidyasagar Hall on 29th April 2025 from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm. About 200 participants, including students, teachers from about 47 schools and a group of 25 resource persons, including international educationists and five Vice-Chancellors have attended this Incubation Workshop. It has been tried to inculcate and motivate the student participants towards incubating their new innovative ideas for developing new Project Plans on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), identified by the United Nations towards solving the real-world problems.



Professor Swapan Kumar Pramanick, Former President, The Asiatic Society and Lt. Col Anant Sinha garlanding the bust of Vidyasagar



Lt. Col Anant Sinha, Administrator, The Asiatic Society, lighting the Lamp along with Professor Swapan Pramanik and other dignitaries and students



Welcome Address by Lt. Col Anant Sinha, Administrator, The Asiatic Society

Session 1: Inauguration:

Welcome Address: The Inaugural Session was presided over by Lieutenant Colonel Anant Sinha, Administrator of The Asiatic Society, Kolkata. He welcomed all the student participants, teachers, resource persons and guests to the Incubation workshop on Sustainable Development Goals. He further went to give a brief account of the activities undertaken by The Asiatic Society Kolkata, its heritage academic treasures and narrated the significance of the proposed workshop for school students.

Inaugural Speech: The inaugural speech was delivered online by Professor Jack Holbrook, UNESCO Science Education Expert. Of the total 17 SDGs, he focused on the goals that are related to education. He referred to the need to achieve inclusion in education at all levels. He also emphasized that critical thinking skills must be developed through formal education to deal with the problems of the present century.



Participants, Resource persons and Guests at Vidyasagar Hall

Scope of the Workshop: Professor Asit Kumar Das, Director, Indian Institute of Social Reform & Research and a Life Member of The Asiatic Society explained the need of this Incubation workshop to inculcate the new innovative ideas among the youngsters; and the importance of doing Project Plans on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recommended by the United Nations in 2015; and which is to be implemented by 2030 throughout the globe.

Release of IISRR-IJR: The IISRR -International Journal of Research, Volume-10, Issue-IV, December 2024 was released during the Inaugural Session by the students and dignitaries present in the workshop.

Keynote speech: The keynote address was delivered online by Dr. Sudhakar Agarkar, Professor (Retired), Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, TIFR, Mumbai. In his speech, he focused on two



Professor Soma Bandyopadhyay, VC, BSAEU, Chief-Guest, addressing the Student Participants

developmental goals: SDG 12 and 13, as they are within the reach of school students. SDG 12 advocates judicious use and production of things. He emphasised on the '3R-Mantra', i.e., need to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle things. He shared various efforts made by people all over the world in this context. The SDG 13 refers to the important issue of climate change. The speaker narrated the ill-effects of climate change and suggested

ways and means to reverse them. In this case too, he narrated efforts made by different groups to save the earth.

Address by the Chief Guest: Professor Soma Bandopadhyay, Vice-Chancellor, Babasaheb Ambedkar Education University, Kolkata, shared her views on how to protect the resources of the earth; so that the next generation do not feel its scarcity. She emphasized that the role of students and teachers is very crucial in this mission.



Dr. Shakti Mukherji, delivering Vote of Thanks

Vote of Thanks: Dr. Shakti Mukherjee, the then Research Officer (in-charge), The Asiatic Society has expressed her pleasure to extend Vote of Thanks to all the speakers and participating students, teachers and resource persons of the workshop, present both offline and online.



Project Plan Presentation by Student Participants

Session 2: Incubation Workshop:

The second session of the workshop was chaired by Dr. Shoroshimohan Dan, former Vice-Chancellor, Burdwan University, and co-chaired by Professor Madan Mohan Chel, former Principal, Samminali Mahavidyalaya. It was divided into 6 parts.

Project Presentation by the Students: Participating students from each of the 47 schools described very briefly about the Project Plan on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Some of the Projects are 'unidisciplinary' in nature, some of them are 'multidisciplinary', some are on 'interdisciplinary', and even some of the Project Plans are 'transdisciplinary' in nature. It has been revealed from their presentation that the thought-process and mind-set of the young generations are so innovative and they are advanced learners. It is our duty to extend our co-operation and collaboration to such young and blooming buds towards implementing their new innovative ideas.



Merit Certificate distribution by Professor Shoroshimohan Dan, Former Vice-Chancellor, Burdwan University

Presentation on Robotics: This presentation was delivered by Dr. T. V. Gopal, Professor, Department of Computer Science at Anna University in Chennai. He spoke on Application of Robotics

in solving the problems of 21st century. Robots are being designed to undertake a variety of activities undertaken by human beings. Professor Gopal first introduced the concept of Robotics and then explained how it can be used to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals put forth by the United Nations.

Role of AI for SDG: Artificial Intelligence is now making its headway in many aspects of the modern society. Professor Shibshankar Jana, Professor, University of Kalyani, West Bengal, attempted to explain the different search techniques using Artificial Intelligence. His talk focused on integration of Artificial Intelligence tools in developing innovative project plans. Student participants found this presentation quite useful.

Wider use of AI: Dr. Pritam Gurey, Librarian, The Asiatic Society Kolkata, spoke on 'Use of Similarity Detection Tools: An Important Approach Towards Quality Publication and Maintenance of Academic Integrity'. He first clarified the concept of plagiarism and how proper citation should be provided so that plagiarism can be avoided. He finally brought home the point of how the potential of Artificial Intelligence can be utilised by using a Similarity Detection Tool and how it can be used to achieve a variety of things associated with project planning, its implementation, evaluation and follow-up. The participants found this lecture informative and useful.



Dr. Keka Adhikari Banerjee, Curator describing to the Students and Teachers about The Asiatic Society Museum



Participating Students and Teachers visiting The Asiatic Society Library

Session 3: Students' Reporting and Valedictory:

This session was chaired by Professor Chandrasekhar Chakraborty, Former Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences. This session had the following activities:

Live Demonstration of Robot: The organisers attempted to show how Robots really function. The help was sought from Aeonix Research and Innovation LLP for this demonstration. A working robot was brought and demonstrations were conducted to show how it follows the orders given by its masters. This activity was received very well by the participants.

Distribution of Merit Certificates: Merit Certificates were distributed to the merit position holders of the project-based poster contests, held during the IISRR-World Conference, at Jadavpur University, during December 2024.

Distribution of Participation Certificates: All the students, teachers and resource persons, who participated in the workshop were given participation certificates in the hands of the dignitaries present during the Valedictory function.

Vote of thanks: The formal Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. Nivedita Talukdar, Secretary of the IISRR.

Session 4: Visit to the Library and Museum of The Asiatic Society:

The Asiatic Society is one of the oldest institutions in the city of Kolkata, established by Sir William Jones in 1784. It has a well maintained and rich Museum and a vast Library with huge ancient and modern academic treasures in the campus. It was thought appropriate to show the Museum and the Library to the participants of the workshop.

The participating students and teachers got the opportunity to witness the Asian heritage academic treasures in The Asiatic Society Library and Museum due to the active initiative taken by Dr. Pritam Gurey, the Librarian of The Asiatic Society. Dr. Keka Adhikari Banerjee, Curator, The Asiatic Society, had also taken personal interest in showing the Museum. These visits proved useful as all the students were very impressed by the vast heritage collection of books and artefacts in the institution. The student and teacher participants have urged that they look forward to such type of future programmes organized under the guidance of The Asiatic Society, an Institute of Eminence in the Asian subcontinent.

Lecture-cum-Demonstration on ‘Temples of West Bengal—Its Classification’

A lecture-cum-demonstration was delivered by Shri Kinjal Bose, a heritage enthusiast and a Life Member of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) Calcutta Chapter, on the topic ‘Temples of West Bengal – Its Classification’ on 27th May 2025 at 4 p.m. at the Humayun Kabir Hall of The Asiatic Society.

Dr. Shakti Mukherji, the then Research Officer-in-Charge welcomed Shri Kinjal Bose and introduced him to the audience. In his presentation, Shri Bose provided a detailed classification of the temples in West Bengal, categorizing them by material and ornamentation — with special emphasis on terracotta work; structural form — including multi-storeyed temples and other superstructures; architectural styles — such as the various ‘chala’ types (2-chala, 4-chala, 8-chala, 12-chala, 16-chala, 17-chala, 25-chala); and structural types — including ‘Deul’ type (or Rekha Deul), Bangla-type, Chala-type, Ratna-type, Jor-bangla-type (or Trilanga) and Dalan-type temples.

Shri Bose supported his classification with research-based observations and cited specific examples from prominent temple sites including Bishnupur, Sonamukhi, Bolara, Gokulnagar, Kotulpur, Hadal Narayanpur in Bankura district and other sites across the districts of Paschim Burdwan, Purba Burdwan, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur, Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Birbhum, and Malda.

He also highlighted the distinctive architectural features of various auxiliary temple structures such as Rashmanchas, Dolmanchas, Snanmanchas, and Tulsimanchas found at these temple sites.

The session was both informative and insightful, offering valuable perspectives on the typology and regional diversity of the temple architecture in West Bengal.



Dr. Shakti Mukherji welcoming Shri Kinjal Bose

Screening of Three Documentary Films

A presentation was held by Shri Pallab Bhattacharyya, an independent film-maker, on 28th May 2025 at 4 p.m. at Humayun Kabir Hall of The Asiatic Society. Lieutenant Colonel Anant Sinha, Administrator, welcomed Shri Bhattacharyya. Shri Bhattacharyya showcased and discussed three of his documentary films that focus on unique folk festivals of Bengal.

The first documentary film highlighted the observation of 'Ravan Kata Nach' which is a traditional festival celebrated in Bishnupur town of Bankura district of West Bengal. It is a unique Dussehra celebration where Ravan is beheaded, symbolizing good over evil and features traditional dance performances. The festival starts on 'Dasami' tithi and ends with the beheading of Ravan on 'Dwadashi' tithi of Shukla Paksha in the Bengali month of 'Ashwin'.

The second documentary film highlighted the observation of 'Chata Parab' which is a vibrant cultural festival primarily celebrated by Santhals in Purulia district of West Bengal. It involves raising a white umbrella on a long pole, propitiating Chata Bongas (Gods) by an affluent landlord who also patronizes the festival, followed by traditional singing and dancing (including Naachni and Pata) throughout the night.

The third and final documentary film highlighted the observation of 'Karam Parab' which is a festival celebrated widely across the districts of Jhargram and Purulia of West Bengal on the auspicious 'Sukla Ekadashi' tithi of the Bengali month of 'Bhadra'. This festival is about prosperity in agriculture celebrated after completion of Paddy cultivation. 'Jawa Geet' or 'Karam Geet' is the principal part of this festival.

Through these films, Shri Bhattacharyya explored the rich folk traditions, ritual performances, and cultural significance of these lesser-known festivals. The presentation offered

valuable insights into the indigenous cultural practices and the continuing legacy of rural Bengal's performative traditions.

The session was engaging and informative, drawing attention to the importance of preserving and documenting local folk heritage through visual media.



Lieutenant Colonel Anant Sinha welcoming Shri Pallab Bhattacharyya

The Asiatic Society Launches Podcast Series

The Asiatic Society was founded on 15th January, 1784, by Sir William Jones, who was a puisne judge of the Supreme Court. Jones was a renowned scholar who knew several languages, and who had an abiding interest in the cultivation of knowledge of Asiatic civilization. Acknowledged as the 'parent society' of all institutions, the Society in the long run of its career has always tried sincerely to live up to the ideals and expectations of the Founder, Sir William Jones, enquiring within the geographical limits of Asia, into Man and Nature- 'whatever is performed by Man and produced by Nature'. It is evident that The Asiatic Society is primarily devoted to the continuous and intensive cultivation of knowledge of the Indian subcontinent and the Asiatic continent. The consequences of this enquiry are, firstly, an endless collection of materials for study and analysis and secondly, the publication of such studies in the journals entitled the *Asiatick Researches* and the *Journal of The Asiatic Society*. The researches of numerous European and Indian scholars, published in these two journals, constituted a serious challenge to the Eurocentric view of human civilization. This is undoubtedly a great achievement of The Asiatic Society. The Asiatic Society and the Discovery of Asia are really coterminous.

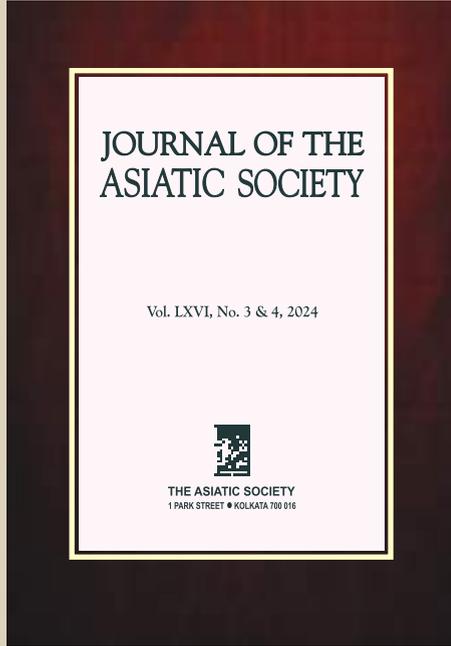
The Society is a vast repository of artefacts, books, manuscripts of many languages, archaeological materials, rare paintings, coins, rare lithographic works, antique objects, and various artefacts. The Asiatic Society took a path-breaking decision of reaching out to members, well-wishers and the young generation by starting its own Podcast channel: Asiatic Dialogues, an initiative to discuss various



A screenshot from the first episode

subjects pertaining to the interests of the people. This podcast aims to increase the outreach of Society. The first episode of Asiatic Dialogues focused on the History of the Pakistan occupied Kashmir in conversation with Shri Raghvendra Singh. Mr. Singh is an avid antiquarian, student of History and Member of the Indian Administrative Services, belonging to West Bengal Cadre narrated the history of how India managed to restore the Kashmir Valley, yet a sizeable part of Jammu and Kashmir is still under the Pakistani occupation since 1948 and how it led to the contention of wars between India and Pakistan ever since independence. A complete threadbare analysis of the matter is featured on the Podcast channel. In addition to this, Society will hold roundtable conferences, dialogues, debates, parleys and exchange of ideas and showcase it on its social media platforms.

The Asiatic Society will not only focus on its existing works but also add dimensions related to strategic dialogues and talks related to India and her neighbourhood issues. Talks related to Defence and Security Studies, Intelligence Network, matters of importance related to Geopolitical, Economic, Diplomacy and public policies concerning Asia and other topics of importance.



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