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Alumni Link | Editorial Team

Sandeep Chatterjee | 98 ME

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A NEW BEGINNING

Another new year and another ray of hope for the College. The Fourth Alumni Day was held on 31st December, 2017 and was a huge success. The 1997 batch celebrated their 20 years while the 1992 batch erected a statue commemorating their 25 years.

We are featuring an article on twenty years of public service provided by IEST in removing arsenic from village drinking water systems. Kudos to the Civil Engineering Department for this milestone.

We also cover some of the notable contributions by our illustrious alumni.

We also lost a few of our alumni, the prominent being Sarod Maestro Padmabhushan Buddhadev Dasgupta and the Wetlands Specialist Dhruvajyoti Ghosh. We offer our sincerest condolences to the departed souls.

We also cover Route 55 which completed its 5th edition.

As the alumni base grows in leaps and bounds, we are featuring a historical narrative of the Global Alumni Association to provide the youngsters a common ground. The Alumni Association continues to support the alma-mater in its own way!

We hope you will enjoy reading this edition!



TWENTY YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDED BY IEST IN REMOVING ARSENIC FROM VILLAGE DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS

Arun Deb | 1957 CE

Introduction and Background

West Bengal is very rich in groundwater and more than 80 percent of its populations tap this source as drinking water. In West Bengal, and in the neighboring nation of Bangladesh, a health crisis of devastating proportion has been quietly unfolding over many years. Much of the groundwater underlying the Upper Deltaic plain between the Bhagirathi River in West Bengal and the Padma River in Bangladesh has been contaminated by arsenic concentrations exceeding the Indian permissible limit of 0.05 mg/L; arsenic concentrations most often ranged from 0.09 to 3.2 mg/L.

The arsenic contaminated groundwater constitutes the sole source of drinking water for 12 to 15 million people in West Bengal who use hand pumps to draw water from scattered wells. The effects of arsenic accumulation in the human body are well-documented – such as skin lesions and disorders of the circulatory and nervous systems.

Laboratory and Field Testing of Arsenic Filters

In January 1996, Water for People (WFP), a non-profit organization, located at Denver, USA, with the objective to help providing safe drinking water to poor people in developing countries awarded Bengal Engineering College (BECDU)/ BESU/IEST a grant of \$10,000 to conduct a laboratory and a prototype study to select an arsenic-removal technology appropriate for use in rural environment. The Environmental Engineering Laboratory of Civil Engineering Department of the then Bengal Engineering College Deemed University (BECDU) conducted laboratory tests to determine the most effective technology for removing arsenic. BECDU selected a locally available activated alumina (AA) which proved to have significant capacity for arsenic removal.

Bengal Engineering College working with Lehigh University of USA developed domestic and prototype wellhead Arsenic Removal Units. The well-head units are named AMAL Arsenic Filters, after late Dr. Amal Datta, Professor of Civil Engineering of B. E. College and the first Principal Investigator of the project who passed away in 1997.

After completion of laboratory testing at Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESU), in 1997, Amal Arsenic Filters were piloted in twelve affected communities for three years. The pilot field applications for three years indicated their suitability for further replication to cater to the suffering millions. A fundamental part of the project is sustainability by fostering community participation, developing an education model, and establishing the institutional and financial capacity necessary to shoulder responsibility for unit operation and maintenance as well as media regeneration.

Local Awareness, Social Mobilization and Willingness to Pay

The arsenic mitigation project not only attempted to shift villagers' use of unsafe water sources to treated water supplies, but also to pay for the cost to operate and maintain the new system. Given the socioeconomic status of the population and the fact that water had historically been provided to the public free of cost, project implementation required that villagers understand the need for arsenic mitigation from a health standpoint and bear the cost and benefits of the arsenic removal project.

A broad communication strategy was developed and implemented by BECDU/BESU faculty and staff members to increase public awareness of the health problems associated with arsenic contaminated water and the arsenic removal project as a prevention option. The desired objective was to support the filter unit scheme and public use of this water for cooking and drinking. BEC faculty and staff members participated in key activities such as community meetings; home visits by health educators and water committee members, dramatic performances, and video and print media.

Social Infrastructure for Implementation and Sustainability

Establishing and training the water committee was a critical strategy in preparing for implementation success and sustainability. The water committee is the key institution developed to ensure the ongoing functioning of the arsenic removal unit. Primary functions related to this included tariff collection, fund management, and oversight of the proper operations of the filter unit, hand pump, and well.

BESU/IEST faculty established guidelines and provided training to water committees to ensure that they are adequately prepared to assume management responsibilities. These guidelines set minimum standards for committee membership and operations to help ensure effective, democratic and transparent operations. For example, guidelines specified that members must:

- Be elected annually by paying water users

- Agree to serve on the committee without pay, as membership on the committee should be based on a desire to promote good health within the community
- Try to ensure that one-third of the committee members are women
- Abstain from engaging in politics while on the committee
- Meet formally at least every three-months
- Hold an annual general meeting to gather formal feedback from users and support future planning

Hiring and Training the Caretakers

Each committee is required to hire and monitor the performance of a local caretaker of the filter unit and the well and pump to which it is attached. The caretaker is responsible for carrying out the technical and operational tasks that are necessary to ensure proper functioning of the unit, such as back washing of the units and monitoring water quality.

Maintaining and Sustaining the AMAL Filter Units

Operations and maintenance (O & M) of the units are kept as a simple procedure. The key is regularity in performing O & M tasks and vigilance in monitoring the system to identify and rectify any emerging problems. The water committee and the caretaker coordinate with each other to ensure that several tasks take place on a regular basis.

Women's Role is Critical

Women are key stakeholders in this project. As the primary collectors of water, and as those responsible for feeding their families and maintaining household hygiene, women are a critical group of potential change agents in communities concerning water consumption and health practices. This project, with its requirement of at least one-third membership of women on the water committee, and its selection of women for health worker positions has served to shift traditional norms.

Financial Sustainability

Capital cost of approximately \$2,000 per unit is provided by the Project. One unit supports about 200 households i.e. approximately 1000 people. Each household receives 20 liters of water per day for daily consumptions for cooking and drinking.

The financial aspect of operating and maintaining the system is another key component to ensuring proper functioning. The water committee collects funds from users on a monthly basis, issuing a tariff card and deposits funds each month in a bank or in a post office account, keeping an accounting book of all financial transactions

transparent. Without this fund, repair costs and payment of the caretaker is not possible.

Project Impacts

A consulting firm from USA conducted a case study on two village AMAL Arsenic Filter systems. Data indicated that a number of positive impacts resulted from the Project. These included a change in water usage among village populations, realization of health benefits with the reduction of medical costs, and increased awareness of health risks and safe hygiene practices. In addition, data indicates women have benefited maximum from the project.

Project Expansions

During the last twenty years, the project has been expanded significantly by constructing more than 200 Amal arsenic removal units covering villages and schools which benefitted more than 200,000 people. The project design has been modified several times for improvement. A separate and larger unit has been designed for school water supply.

Regeneration of Activated Alumina

BESU/IEST faculty also designed village based activated alumina regeneration system with chemicals. This regeneration system is maintained and managed by IEST trained personnel. Each water system committee monitors the arsenic levels once a month. When the arsenic concentration goes near to the permissible limit, the water system calls regeneration personnel. After receiving a phone call from a village water system, these trained personnel attend the water system to remove the exhausted activated alumina and replace it with a regenerated alumina. The cost of regeneration is borne by the water committee.

All arsenic rich waste in the form of flocculated water is captured in a sand filter in small amount and has not been discharged in the environment.

IEST Contributions to the Society

The Civil Engineering Department of BEC/BESU/IEST has made a tremendous contribution to the society supplying arsenic safe water to more than 200,000 people in villages of West Bengal for many years and thus saved health and lives of many poor people. These units are sustainable institutionally and financially. There are rare examples which can be compared with this kind of social service provided by an educational institute in India and impacting the lives of economically underprivileged people in rural areas.

During the last twenty years, many faculty and students from reputed universities of the world such as MIT and Stanford university of USA and Oxford and Cambridge Universities of UK visited and studied the system. American Academy of Engineers gave an award of \$200,000, and in the year 2008, American Society of Civil Engineers selected and awarded this project as one of the best five civil engineering projects in the world.

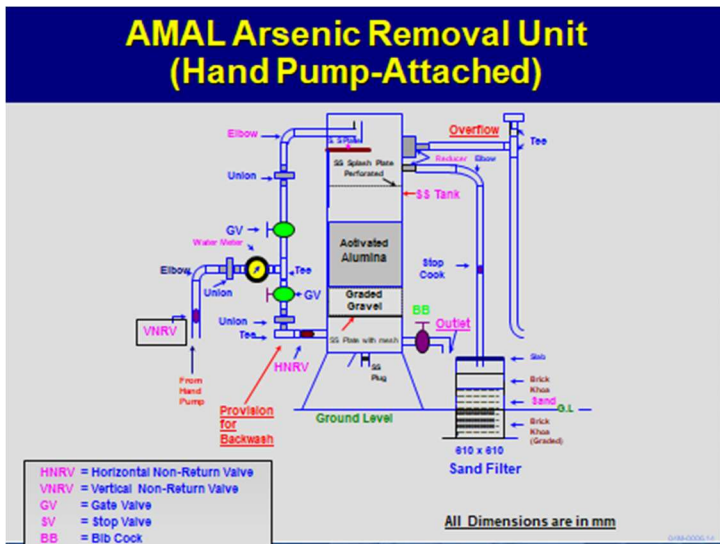
Awards and Prizes

This project received many national and international awards. Some are listed below:

- National Academy of Engineering – 2007 Grainger Challenge Prize (\$200,000)
- ASCE – Opal Award Top Five Finalist – 2008
- UNESCO - Modialogo Award – 2005
- Institution of Chemical Engineers, U.K. – Dhirubhai Ambani Award - 2008

Acknowledgements

The main force behind this project is Professor Anirban Gupta of Civil Engineering Department who took over the charge of the project after untimely death of Professor Amal Datta and still leading the project. Professor Arup Sengupta of Lehigh University of USA worked with Professor Gupta in researching and developing technology. Ranjan Biswas and Sudipta Sarkar at the Civil Engineering Department also worked hard in developing and managing the project. In addition, other staff members and research scholars of BESU/IIEST and Lehigh University worked in developing the project.



BHAAT PLUS PLUS

Dr. Akshay Das | 1983 CE

প্লাস+১

এই ভাট তাহাদের প্রতি উৎসর্গীকৃত, যাহারা বি, ই, কলেজে ভর্তি তো হইত, কিন্তু ইঞ্জিনিয়ার হইবার জন্য নয় - ডাক্তারী করিবে বলিয়া।

যাহারা ভাবিতেন আমি ঘুরপথে একটি ভাটোপাখ্যান ফাঁদিবার তাল করিতেছি, তাহাদের 'সর্বনাশের মাথায় বাড়ি!' আসলে ভাট মরিবার জন্য কোন বিষয় অথবা ভ্যানতারা-র প্রয়োজন হয় না। 'ভাট ছিল - ভাট আছে - ভাট থাকবে।'

মাথায় বাড়ি শুনিয়া মাথা গরম হইয়া গেলো তো! রাগিয়া বাড়ি মাথায় করিবেন না। দরকার পড়িলে মাথায় বারি ঢালিতে পারেন। বাড়ি নিয়ে বাড়াবাড়ি করিবার বিন্দুমাত্র ইচ্ছা আমার নাই। তাই কবি এই প্রসঙ্গে বলিয়াছেন -

তোমার বাড়ি, আমার বাড়ি,
আমার বাড়ি নেই-

ঘাবড়াইবেন না! কবি কিছুই বলেন নাই। ওপরের লাইনটি 'লালকৃষ্ণ' সিনেমার একটি গানের - আর দার্জিলিং-এর লালকৃষ্ণ সরকারী বাড়ি - তোমার বাড়ি- আমার বাড়ি নয়।

এতক্ষণে নিশ্চয়ই বুঝিয়া গিয়াছেন; ভাট মরিবার জন্য কোন বিষয়ের প্রয়োজন নাই। তবুও বিষয়বস্তু হিসাবে উপেক্ষকে বাছিয়া নিলাম। উপেক্ষ সেইসব প্রতিভার একজন যাহারা মেডিক্যাল চান্স পাইয়া কলেজ ছাড়িয়া চলিয়া যাইত।

প্লাস+২

কলেজের দ্বিতীয় দিনে ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং মেকানিকস্ ক্লাসের শেষে বাইরে আসিয়া এদিক ওদিক তাকাইতেছি - টয়লেট-এর খোঁজে। একে র্যাগিং-এর ভয় তাহার ওপর ফ্লি-বডি ডায়গ্রাম-এর তিরে শরবিদ্ধ হইয়া ভাবিতেছি - কোনদিকে টয়লেট। তখনই উপেক্ষকে দেখিলাম - আমার দিকে তাকাইয়া আছে।

রোগা, লম্বা, ফর্সা চেহারা। খাড়া টিয়াপাখি নাক। শান্ত মুখে একটা ভয়ঙ্কর মিচকেমির আভাস। একেবারে ডেপোমির হাতবান্ধ।

ও আমাকে বলিল - "প্রকৃতি কি ডাক দিয়াছে?" সাধুভাষা শুনিয়া ঘাবড়াইয়া গেলাম - আমি ঘাড় নড়িতেই ও বলিল - "এখনও পর্বত টয়লেটে র্যাগিং-এর কোনো ইতিহাস নেই। চল, গন্ধে গন্ধে ঠিক চলে যাব। তাই এই প্রসঙ্গে কবি বলিয়াছেন" -

পথে এবার নামো সাথী,
পথেই হবে পথ চেনা -

বুঝিলাম, প্রকৃতির ডাকের সাথে, যে ছেলে হেমন্ত মুখোপাধ্যায়ের বিখ্যাত গানকে একাকার করিয়া দিতে পারে, সে ছেলেকে কার্টেসিয়ান কো-অর্ডিনেটে ধরা যাইবে না।

প্লাস+৩

পরের দিন সকালে কলেজ যাইবার হোস্টেল থেকে বাহির হইতেই উপেক্ষর মুখোমুখি হইয়া গেলাম। শার্ট প্যাঞ্চে গোঁজা নেই। এই গরমের মধ্যেও শার্টের বোতাম গলা অবধি বন্ধ - কেমন একটা কলসি-কলসি লুক। আমি একটু খোঁচা মারিয়া বলিলাম - "কি রে কলসিকুমার! কেমন আছিস?"

গম্ভীরভাবে বলিল -আমার নাম উপেক্ষ কুমার নরুণ - সংক্ষেপে "উ-ক-ন"। নিকনেম-টা আমি নিজেই দিইছি। মনে মনে বলিলাম - "এর থেকে ভালো নিকনেম দেয় কার সাধ্য।"

উত্তর কোয়ার্টারকে বাঁ-পাশে রাখিয়া উলফ-এর সামনে আসিতেই সমবেত চিৎকার - "হাত তোলা! হাত তোলা!"

আমি রাগ-অস্বস্তি-অপমানে উলফ-এর দিকে তাকাইয়া হাত তুলিব কিনা ভাবিতেছি। পাশ থেকে উপেক্ষ শান্ত গলায় বলিল - "উলফ-এর নেকড়েগুলোর দিকে তাকাস্ না। হাত তুলে ফেল! - মনে কর নগর সংকীর্তনে বেড়িয়েছিস। মুখে একটা প্রেম-প্রেম ভাব এনে নিজেকে গৌর-নিতাই ভেবে নে - দেখবি, রাগ কেমন হোস্টেলের ডালের মতো হয়ে গেছে।"

তারপর বলিল - তাই এই প্রসঙ্গে কলসিকুমার বলিয়াছেন -

মেরেছ কলসির কানা,
তাই বলে কি হাত তুলব না।

কলসির কানা যে আমার দিকে এত ভাড়াভাড়ি পাটকেল হইয়া ফেরত আসিবে ভাবি নাই।

প্লাস-৪

উপেন্দ্র যে একটি পিস, এই খবর ক্যাম্পাসে ছড়াইয়া গেল দ্রুত।

এই সময় এক সন্ধ্যায় উপেন্দ্রর ঘরে আমাদের আড্ডা জমিয়া উঠিয়াছে। উপেন্দ্র লিপিতে দেখিয়া আসা সুখেন দাসের ‘ভাগ্যলিপি’ সিনেমার গল্প বলিতেছে। ক্লাইম্যাক্সে যখন সুখেন দাস ফাইটিং-এ ব্যস্ত, ঠিক তখনই সিনিয়র দাদা আমাদের একটু কচলইবার জন্য (পড়ুন র্যাগিং নামক কার্কাইডে পাকাইবার জন্য) আসিয়া পড়িলেন।

ধরা যাক দাদাদের নাম অমুকদা এবং তমুকদা। অমুকদা বলিলেন – “তোদের মধ্যে উপেন কে রে?” বুঝিলাম উপেন্দ্র আজকের টার্গেট।

উপেন্দ্রর মুখটা কাঁচুমাঁচু হইয়া একেবারে ছাল ছাড়ানো লিচু হইয়া গেল। (এটা যে অভিনয় ছিল পরে বুঝিতে পারিলেন।)

তমুকদা বলিলেন – “সুনেছি তুই নাকি খুব পাকা।” প্যান্টের পকেট থেকে একটি ‘চন্ডীমার্কা’ বই বাহির করিয়া উপেন্দ্রকে টেঁচিয়ে পড়িতে বলিলেন।

উপেন্দ্র বলিল, সে মাধ্যমিকে সংস্কৃত ভাষায় লেটার পাইয়া পুরোপুরি সাংস্কৃতিক হইয়া গেছে। তাছাড়া ছেলেবেলা হইতে রামায়ণ-মহাভারতের আদর্শে মানুষ হইয়াছে। বরং রামায়ণ-মহাভারতকে একত্রিত করিয়া সে যে অতিমহাকাব্যিক পাঁচালীটি লিখিয়াছে, তাহা আবৃত্তি করিয়া শুনাইতে পারে।

উপেন্দ্র বলিল – পাঁচালীর নাম – ‘সীতা আউর গীতা’। অমুকদা-তমুকদা কিছু বলিবার আগেই উপেন্দ্র পয়ার ছন্দে সুর করিয়া পাঁচালীটি আবৃত্তি শুরু করিয়া দিল এবং একটানা সাত মিনিট ছত্রিশ সেকেন্ড পরে মহর্ষি ‘চুলমিকি’ আর ‘ভটবাস্য’-কে প্রণাম জানাইয়া থামিল।

সেই পাঁচালীর অতিমানবিক আকাশচুম্বী অশ্লীল ভাষা, রামায়ণ-মহাভারতের চরিত্রগুলির বেধড়ক ব্যাভিচারিতা, অভিনব খেউড়ের জপমালা, আমাদের সকলকে স্তম্ভিত করিয়া দিল। হাসি মুছিলে রুমাল ভিজিয়া যাবে ভাবিয়া হাসিতেও পারিলাম না।

অমুকদা-তমুকদার তখন অবিমুখ্যকারিতা আর কিংকর্তব্যবিমূঢ়তার মাঝামাঝি। তমুকদা অমুকদাকে বলিল – “চল! হোস্টেলে ডিনারের সময় হয়ে গেছে।” দুজনে দরজা অবধি যাইয়া, তমুকদা আমাদের দিকে তাকাইয়া নিম্নপাতা মুখে আমতা আমতা করিয়া বলিল – “দেখ, আমরা যে এসেছিলাম ...মানে...ইয়ে...আমরা আসলে আসিনি... মানে এই যা হোলো... মানে কাউকে বলিস না ...কমন্!”

দাদারা চলিয়া যাওয়ার পর উপেন্দ্র উঠিয়া গিয়া দরজাটা বন্ধ করিয়া দিল। তারপর আমাদের দিকে তাকাইয়া নির্বিকারভাবে বলিল – এই প্রসঙ্গে কবি বলিয়াছেন –

এসেছিলে, তবু আস নাই,
জানায়ো গেলে –

প্লাস-৫

কিছুদিন পরেই ক্লাস টেঁচু শুরু হইয়া গেল। পরের দিন ম্যাথস টেঁচু। সবাই যখন অঙ্কগুলো ফোটা এবেং মুখস্ত করিবার জন্য ব্যস্ত, উপেন্দ্র তখন ডাক দিল – “বর্ণা চলো!” বাকিরা ডাকে সাড়া না দিলেও আমি আর তপন রাজি হইয়া গেলাম।

সিনেমার নামটা যদুদ্র মনে পড়ে – ‘বোম্বাই কা মহারাজা’ কিংবা ‘হীরা কা চোর’ অথবা ‘চোর কা মহারাজা’ কিংবা ‘বোম্বাই কা হীরা’ হইলেও হইতে পারে – ঠিক মনে নাই। তবে আমজাদ খান হিরো আর অশোক কুমার ভিলেন – নিশ্চিত ভাবে মনে আছে।

সিনেমা হলে ঢুকিয়া চমকাইয়া গেলাম। আমরা ছাড়া আর মাত্র কয়েকজন দর্শক ছড়িয়ে ছিটিয়ে বসিয়া আছে। এত নির্জন সিনেমা সিনেমা হল কখনো দেখি নাই। উপেন্দ্র একটুও অপ্রভুত না হইয়া বলিল – এই প্রসঙ্গে কবি বলিয়াছেন –

তোমার এই বর্ণাতলার নির্জনে –

তপন এই সুম্মদ রসিকতাটা ধরিতে না পারিয়া বলিল – “বর্ণাতলা কোথায় রে! এ তো ব্যাতাইতলা!”

কিঞ্চিৎ সংশোধন করিয়া উপেন্দ্র বলিল – আসলে কবি বলিয়াছেন –

তোমার এই ব্যাতাইতলার বর্ণাতলে –

এই লাইনটি ‘হযবরল’-র ন্যাডার মতো একবার, দুইবার, বারবার গুনগুন করিয়া গাহিতে লাগিল।

প্লাস-৬

সিনেমাটা শেষ পর্যন্ত শুধু আমরা তিনজনই দেখিয়াছিলাম।

। সিনেমার গল্পটি ছিল ভারী গোলমালে। সংক্ষেপে বলিবার চেষ্টা করিতেছি...

...আমজাদ খান রাজা, অশোক কুমার প্রজা – পরম বন্ধু। অশোক কুমার, আমজাদ খানের মুখোশ পরিয়া আমজাদ খানের মূল্যবান সংগ্রহ হইতে একটি একটি করিয়া হীরা চুরি করিয়া লইতেছে। আমজাদ খান একদিন আমজাদরূপী অশোক কুমার-কে হীরা চুরি করিতে দেখিয়া ফেলে ভাবে, একাজ তাহার ছোটবেলায় বখিয়া যাওয়া নিকৃদ্দিষ্ট জমজ ভাইয়ের। তখন রাজা আমজাদ খান অশোক কুমারের মুখোশ পরিয়া আমজাদ খান রূপী অশোক কুমারকে নজর রাখিতে শুরু করে এবং হাতেনাতে ধরিবার সুযোগের অপেক্ষায় থাকে। এদিকে অশোক কুমার, অশোক কুমার রূপী আমজাদ খানকে দেখিয়া ভাবে, তাহার ছোটবেলায় মেলায় হারাইয়া যাওয়া জমজ ভাই। ওদিকে আমজাদ খান (যাহা আসলে অশোক কুমার) হীরা চুরি করিয়া রাজবাড়ীর রসুইঘরে, কয়লার রুপের নিচে লুকাইয়া ফেলে।

শেষে অশোক কুমার রূপী আমজাদ খান আর আমজাদ খান রূপী অশোক কুমারের মধ্যে প্রবল ক্যাণ্ডালি, ক্যালাকোলি, ধ্বংধ্বি হয়। তাহাতে অশোক কুমারের আমজাদ-মুখোশ আর আমজাদের অশোককুমার-মুখোশ খুলিয়া যায়। অশোক কুমার-অশোক কুমারে, আমজাদ খান আমজাদ-খানে পরিণত হয়। যাহাকে পাতা বাংলায় বলে – ‘দুধ কা দুধ, পানি কা পানি’ হইয়া যায়।

শেষমেয় আমজাদ খানের কয়লা হইতে হীরা উদ্ধার এবং অশোক কুমারের জেল যাত্রায় সিনেমা শেষ হয়।

বুঝিতেই পারিতেছেন সিনেমাটি ছিল ট্রান্সফরমেশন, ইনভার্স ট্রান্সফরমেশনের একটি জটিল চক্র। ইহাতে একটি লাভ হইয়াছিল – আমার ‘লা-প্রাস ট্রান্সফরমেশন’-এর কনসেপ্ট একেবারে পরিষ্কার হইয়া গিয়াছিল। যাহা পরের দিনের ম্যাথস পরীক্ষার প্রস্তুতি হিসাবে কাজ দিয়াছিল।

সিনেমা হল হইতে বাহির হইয়া উপেন্দ্র বলিল – “ট্রান্সফরমেশন আর মেটামরফসিস – এর চাপে, কার্বন রূপান্তর প্রক্রিয়ায় কয়লা হীরে আর হীরে কয়লা হয়ে যায়নি – বাপের ভাণ্ডি।”

রাতের খাওয়ার সময় হইয়া গিয়াছিল। প্রবল খিদেয় তাড়াতাড়ি হোস্টেলের দিকে পা চালাইলাম। লেভেল ক্রসিং-এ আসিয়া দেখি গেট বন্ধ। প্রায় একশো বগির একটি মালগাড়ি ডানদিক থেকে বাঁদিকে যাইতেছে। কিছুক্ষণ পরে আবার বাঁদিক থেকে ডানদিকে। উপেন্দ্র হতাশ হইয়া আকাশের আধখানা চাঁদের দিকে তাকাইয়া বলিয়া উঠিল – এই প্রসঙ্গে কবি বলিয়াছেন –

ক্ষুধার রাজ্যে পৃথিবী গদ্যময় –
আকাশের চাঁদ যেন ‘ডিম বাই টু’।

প্লাস-৭

হোস্টেলে ফিরিয়া উপেন্দ্র নিজের ঘরে না গিয়া আমাদের ঘরে নাটকীয়ভাবে প্রবেশ করিল। আমার রুমমেট পাঁচু এই ঐতিহাসিক এন্ট্রিকে পান্ডা না দিয়া অঙ্ক ফোটা করিতে লাগিল।

উপেন্দ্র না দমিয়া বলিল – “চল জয়েন্ট ষ্টাডি করা যাক।” পাঁচু আর থাকিতে না পারিয়া বলিয়া উঠিল – “মরণকালে হরিনাম!”

এই প্রসঙ্গে কবি ...এই পর্যন্ত বলিতেই পাঁচু ধমকাইয়া বলিল – “কবি কিছুই বলেননি – ডিষ্টার্ব করিস না।”

উপেন্দ্র বলিল – “ঠিক বলেছিস। কবি কিছুই বলেননি। এই প্রসঙ্গে জাপানী দার্শনিক ‘হিগিতো মাচি’ বলিয়াছিলেন – ‘জীবনব্যাপী হরিনাম করিয়া মরিবার থেকে মরণকালে হরিনাম করা অনেক ভালো।’

পড়িবার শেষ চেষ্টায় জলাঞ্জলি দিয়া পাঁচু খাতাটা খাটের ওপর ছুঁড়িয়া ফেলিল।

প্লাস-৮

বেশ চলিতেছিল। কিন্তু উপেন্দ্র দ্রুত বদলাইয়া যাইতে লাগিল। ক্লাসে না আসিয়া হোস্টেলে বসিয়া কি সব করিত। তারপর গুনগুন উপেন্দ্র ‘ঘুমসেনা’ গোষ্ঠীর সদস্য হইয়াছে।

ঘুমসেনাদের সম্বন্ধে একটু বলিয়া নিই। ঘুমসেনিকেরা দিনে বিশ ঘন্টা ঘুমাইয়া থাকিত এবং বিশ্রাম করিত – ঘুমাইয়া থাকিলেই পৃথিবী সুন্দর হইবে।

ইহাদের সমস্যা ছিল – দিনের বেলায় সূর্যের আলোয় ঘুমাইয়া থাকার অসুবিধা। উপেন্দ্র এই সমস্যা দূর করিতে একটি যুগান্তকারী আবিষ্কারের কথা ভাবিল – ‘কালো রঙের আলো।’ যাহা একবার জ্বালাইয়া দিলে দিনের বেলায় ঘর অন্ধকার হইয়া যাবে।

সকলে যখন ক্লাসে যাইত, তখন লাল, নীল, হলুদ, সবুজ বাল্ব একটি জটিল সার্কিটে ফেলিয়া উপেন্দ্রর গবেষণা চলিতে লাগিল।

প্রত্যেক সাধনায় যেমন বাধা আসে, উপেন্দ্ররও আসিল। উপেন্দ্র এক কৃষ্ণকায় মডেল(স্কুল) সুন্দরীর প্রেমে পড়িয়া গেল। মেয়েটি রোজ হোস্টেলের পাশ দিয়া যাইত। সবসময় মুখভার করিয়া স্কুলে যাইত বলিয়া আমরা মেয়েটির নাম দিলাম – ‘ভেরোনিকা।’

কালো-আলো আর কৃষ্ণসুন্দরীর চাপে পড়িয়া উপেন্দ্র একেবারে ঘাটিয়া ঘুঘনি হইয়া গেল। এবং কবিতা লিখিল –

ভেরোনিকা, ভেরোনিকা
কালো রঙের আলো।
ভেরোনিকা, ভেরোনিকা
তোমায় লাগে ভালো।

কতদিন এইভাবে চলিত জানি না, তবে একদিন ওর ক্রমমেট হলো এই প্রেমবাজি আর আলোবাজিতে বিরক্ত হইয়া সমস্ত সার্কিট ছিড়িয়া দিল। উপেন্দ্র গভীর দুঃখে বলিল-কালো রঙের আলো প্রসঙ্গে কবি বলিয়াছিলেন-

অন্ধকারের উৎস থেকে উৎসারিত আলো -

প্রাসঙ্গ

মেডিক্যাল এন্ট্রোসের ফষ্টি লিষ্ট, সেকেন্ড লিষ্ট, করিতে করিতে, থার্ড লিষ্টে উপেন্দ্র বাফুড়া মেডিক্যাল কলেজে চান্স পাইয়া গেল। তারপর একদিন ডাক্তারী পড়িতে বি, ই, কলেজের মায়া কাটাওয়া মড়া কাটিতে কাটিয়া পড়িল। আমরা সকলে আড়াই নম্বর গেটে গিয়া উপেন্দ্রকে বাস-প্যাট্রা সমেত বাসে তুলিয়া দিলাম। বাস ছাড়িবার সময় হইতেই সবাই বাস হইতে নামিয়া দাঁড়াইলাম। মন খারাপ সকলকার।

পরিহ্রিত একটু সহজ করিবার জন্য উপেন্দ্র বাসের জানালা থেকে মুখ বাড়াইয়া বলিল - “এই প্রসঙ্গে কবি বলিয়াছেন ...” - বাকিটা শোনা যাইল না। বাস ছাড়িয়া দিল। উপেন্দ্র আমাদের জীবন হইতে মিলাইয়া গেল। কবি ঠিক কি বলিতে চাহিয়াছিলেন তাহা আজও রহস্যময়।

পটী : উপেন্দ্র কলেজ ছাড়িয়া যাইলেও নাম-সংক্ষেপের ট্র্যাডিশন বেশ কিছুদিন চলিয়াছিল। বেণী কুমার বড়াল - ‘বেকুব’, অমিত গায়ন - ‘অগা’, বারীণ দত্ত - ‘বাদ’, দানেশ দত্ত - ‘দাদ’, হইয়া গেল। তবে এই জোয়ারে যখন, ইলেকট্রিকাল-এর গোলমুখ স্বাস্থ্যবতী সরমা রায়, ‘সরা’ নাম পাইয়া রাগিয়া কলেজ ছাড়িয়া ফিজিক্স পড়িতে চলিয়া গেল - তখন সবাই সাবধান হইয়া গেল। কারণ সেইসঙ্গে ছাত্রীরা প্রায়-বিলুপ্ত প্রজাতির প্রাণীর মধ্যে পড়িভেন। তাই পরের বছর আর্কি-সুন্দরী ‘নালিমা রায়’-কে ‘নীরা’ নাম দিয়া সংক্ষিপ্তকরণ আন্দোলনকে রোমাণ্টিকতায় বদলাইয়া দেওয়া হইল।

‘পটী’ শুনিয়া যাহারা অন্যকিছু ভাবিতেছেন তাহাদের জানাইয়া রাখি, ‘পটী’ হইতেছে ‘পাদটীকা’-র সংক্ষিপ্তরূপ।

অজ্ঞতা স্বীকার: আমার ভাটাজ্ঞতা (ভাট সহজে অজ্ঞতা) সবর্জনবিদিত। তাই কিছু ঘটনা অন্যের কাছ থেকে শুনে বেমানাম ভেপে দিয়েছি। মানস সামন্ত (‘চ-১, মেক্যানিকাল) এমনই একজন ভাট যার কাছে বাণভট্ট কৃতজ্ঞ।



2017 GET TOGETHER FOR SEATTLE ALUMNI

Niladri Sannigrahi | 2001 CE

The Seattle Chapter of Bengal Engineering College (IEST) graduates organized an annual get together for alumni and their families on Saturday, September 21st, 2017 at the Crossroads Community Center in Bellevue, Washington.

It was a rainy day after a long streak of sunshine, and only an evergreen “adda” among BEings could have lightened the mood! And that’s what we had – after setting up the room with few first attendees, first order of business was to get the teapot running and indulging in the “nirbhejal bhat” from our college days. We talked about the halls/hostels, cricket matches, as well as unique characteristics of some of our Directors and VCs.

As time passed by, the crowd started to show up and at the end, we had about 29 alums from the area and their families in attendance. In addition, alumnus Iswariprosad Chatterjee and his wife, Smriti Chatterjee of Kolkata attended the party who were visiting Seattle. The alumni presence extended across multiple generations, from 1959 to 2013 (total around 71 people in the Seattle area). However,

as always, the respected seniors were all dada’s and didi’s and we mingled freely. Being new to the area, it was a great experience for my wife and me, to be able to connect with the fellow alum in the area.

With so many Bengalis in the room, food had to be a priority! Thanks to the lead organizers Saumitra Sinha (1981, Met) and Subrata Biswas (2011, IT) – we had a great lunch. Catered from local chefs, our menu included Pulao, Vegetable chop, Chicken Roast, Mutton Kasha, Chutney, Kalojam and Cham Cham! The kids ran around and enjoyed Pizza for lunch. It was a very enjoyable experience for all of us and we eagerly look forward to the next one!



PROF INDRAJIT RAY TO LEAD THE SATC PROGRAMME AT NSF

Sandeep Chatterjee | 1998 ME

Starting June 2018 Prof Indrajit Ray (1988 CST) will be on deputation from his current job - Professor of Computer Science at Colorado State University - to be a Program Manager at the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NSF is one of the largest sources of funding of basic research in the STEM areas in US colleges and universities. It has an annual budget of approx \$7.5 billion. Prof. Ray will be leading the Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC) program at NSF which is one of the largest programs crosscutting 5 different directorates. In 2016, it had a budget of \$76 million. He will be responsible for deciding which research proposals in cyber security submitted by various academic researchers from the US and also sometimes from international institutes would be funded. He will also have an opportunity of setting the research agenda as well as influencing national policy in cyber security.



উত্তরাধিকার ওয়েব সাহিত্য পুরস্কার ২০১৬-১৭

Soham Mitra | 2015 CE

The first ever Bengali e Zine পরবাস was released in 1997. That was a decade before Window's বাংলা saw the light of day. Readers were required to download special programs or macros and fonts to read and write in বাংলা। Today, just over two decades later, the web world is inundated with plethora of webzines, blogs and other literary/semi literary contents in বাংলা for grown ups and children, alike. As a first step of coming together for the sake of children's literature, irrespective of the medium, Uttaradhikar, common body for 6 major webzines for children and six major print publication house, including পত্রভারতী/কিশোরভারতী and দেব সাহিত্য কুটির decided to honour writers/contributors for the participating webzines in five categories, viz, Short story, fiction, illustration, essay and ছড়া। The methodology followed was this: each webzine editors nominated two works published in their zines over last one year in each category. An independent panel evaluated the work. Editors were not allowed to judge work from his webzine. Arindam Gangopadhyay, 1988 ETC is the proud recipient of this award.



শৈলেন ঘোষ স্মারক পুরস্কারঃ বর্ষসেরা গল্প “মিতুল আর কর্তাদাতুর পুতুলরা” অরিন্দম গঙ্গোপাধ্যায়	অত্রীশ বর্ধন স্মারক পুরস্কারঃ বর্ষসেরা কম্পিউজ্ঞান “নিবারণ চক্কোত্তির হাতঘড়ি” জয়দীপ চক্রবর্তী	গিরিধারী দত্ত স্মারক পুরস্কারঃ বর্ষসেরা প্রবন্ধ “এইচ পি লাভক্র্যাফট -জীবন ও সাহিত্য” সন্দীপন চট্টোপাধ্যায়	আরতি দত্ত স্মারক পুরস্কারঃ বর্ষসেরা অলঙ্করণ সুমিত রায়	সরল দে স্মারক পুরস্কারঃ বর্ষসেরা ছড়া “খেলা খেলা” তন্ময় ধর
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পরবাস, জয়চাক, ইচ্ছামতী, ম্যাজিক ল্যান্স, কম্পিউশ্ব, একপর্পিকা-এই ছটি নিয়মিত প্রকাশ হয়ে চলা ওয়েবপত্রিকায় নভেম্বর ২০১৬ থেকে অক্টোবর ২০১৭ অবধি এক বছর ধরে প্রকাশিত সমস্ত লেখা ও অলঙ্করণের ভিত্তিতে।

NOSTALGIA : MY EARLY DAYS AT THE BENGAL ENGINEERING COLLEGE SHIBPUR -- PART ONE



Arya K Sengupta | 1966 ME

Introduction

The year 1961 was a momentous year for me. That was the year I passed the Higher Secondary Examination and said goodbye to my school, Mitra Institution, Bhowanipore, where I spent 10 long years of my childhood and learnt my ABC and 123 from some of the wisest and most excellent teachers. I did reasonably well in my final school leaving exam and had to decide where I should pursue further education. I have written briefly about my predicaments in those days in my earlier blogpost "Nostalgia 1 ... "(<http://senguptaarya.blogspot.in/2014/06/random-memories-3-my-student-days-in.html>). I ultimately opted for enrolling myself in the Bengal Engineering College, Shibpur to study Mechanical Engineering, and spent five years in that college to get a B.E. degree in that subject.

The Bengal Engineering College (BE College or BEC for short) is one of the oldest technical institutions in India, established in 1856; perhaps it is the second oldest, after the famous Roorkee Engineering College which was started in 1847. Over the 160 years of its glorious existence, the College has undergone several name changes; it started off in 1856 as Calcutta Civil Engineering College, then christened in 1880 as Government College, Howrah. In 1920 it was named the Bengal Engineering College. It was elevated to become a Deemed University (BECDU) in 1992, and later in 1995 became a full fledged independent state university under the name of Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESU) thus unshackling itself from the University of Calcutta. In March 2014, it was upgraded to the status of an Institute of National Importance, funded by the Central Government, and was renamed as the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST), Shibpur. Everytime the name and the status changed, the college expanded its academic activities. At the present time, there are fifteen departments, of which ten cater to engineering, four to science and one of Human Resource Management, nine schools of special technology and science disciplines and eight centres of excellence, including one for Management Studies.

The College and the campus

BEC campus is situated on the banks of the river Hooghly, the southern part of the mighty Ganga. In the sixties it was a fully residential college (and it still is to a large extent). The students of the college, from the first to fifth year undergraduate courses, as

well as those engaged in postgraduate studies all lived in Halls of Residence or Hostels, some twenty of them, including one specifically for women students. Senior students, 3rd year and above, and PG students (Masters and Doctoral) lived in Halls of Residence, in single seater rooms. These Halls were named after distinguished professors of the College who had been Principals; such as Sengupta Hall, Sen Hall, McDonald Hall, Richardson Hall, Wolfenden Hall and Pandya Hall. There were three other halls, namely Heaton Hall, Slater Hall and Downing Hall, which had three or more students residing in each room, these were mainly 1st or 2nd year students. There were seven more hostels, Numbers 7 to 13, each four story high and accommodating some 120-150 students; of these, Hostels no. 12 and 13 were inaugurated in 1961 itself, the year I entered the college. In addition there were two more hostels, E1 and E2 which had been converted to student hostels from their earlier status of faculty residence. There were also two more asbestos covered large barracks (which had been built during the second world war for housing American marines) where quite a few students (mostly 2nd year, who got admitted after passing out the Intermediate Exam of the University) were accommodated albeit temporarily. In our time there was only one hostel for girl students; it was called the Ladies' Hostel and was adjacent to the Principal's Residence. The number of girls, if I recall correctly, were hardly 20, out of the total student population in the BEC of around 2500.

Apart from the student hostels and halls of residence, there were quite a few residences for faculty members and their families inside the sprawling campus. There were at least two large play grounds, named Oval and Lords (after the two famous cricket grounds in London), an old place of Christian worship, a large water body, a clock tower, a swimming pool and a gymnasium. Imposing Academic Buildings, workshops and laboratories and an Institute Hall adorned the campus.

BEC had nurtured few generations of engineers and technocrats in our country both before and after independence. I can name at least three from my own family, who studied in this college before I did; my uncle, Chhotokaka, Kalyan Kumar Sengupta graduated in civil engineer in 1936 and retired from the Calcutta Improvement Trust (CIT) after some thirty years of service there with great distinction. My cousin, Pranab, aka VNepu, aka Monida, Chotokaka's eldest son, was also a student of BEC, graduating in Civil Engg in 1960, the year before I joined in my first year. Monida worked for the leading engineering consulting company, Dastur & Co., and rose to become an Executive Director in that company, retiring in early 2000. One of my nephews, Vidyut Dasgupta, also studied Civil Engg. in BEC, graduating in 1963. He spent most his professional life working for the Howrah Improvement Trust (HIT). Vidyut, aka Rajat, passed away last year.

Life in the Hostel -- Away from Home

It was a warm afternoon in July of 1961 that I entered the Hostel no. 12, where I was allotted a seat for residence in the first year at the BEC. It was a four seater room on the second floor; there were three other roommates, Shatabdi Nath Sen, Ranen Chakrabarty and Subhasis Sengupta. Each one of us was given a wrought iron cot for sleeping, a small cupboard to keep our books and clothes and a 2x3 feet study table. All of us had been admitted to study Mechanical Engineering. The hostel being brand new and with a large window facing the river, the accommodation was quite comfortable; in the evenings the cool air from the riverside made the room very pleasant throughout most of the year. The adjoining rooms in the same floor were allotted to students of the same batch of Mech Engg. In the first year, the room next to ours were given, if I remember correctly, to Samindra Mohan Sen, Gautam Chatterji, Prabir Neogi and Tapan Chatterji.

Hostel no. 12 had been the abode of around 150 first year boys, and so was the adjoining Hostel no. 13. Residents of these two hostels were all first year students, freshers, as they were called. That year, approximately 400 students got admitted to the College. Some of the freshers were also accommodated in E1 and E2 hostels and Heaton and Downing Halls. They were to study, for the next five years, various streams of Engineering, such as Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, Civil. Metallurgy, Mining and Architecture; in the first year though all the first year students were to be engaged the same course of studies, namely Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Applied Mechanics, Humanities, Engineering Drawing and Workshop Practices. The lecture sessions (each of one hour duration) started every day early in the morning at 7 AM. Normally, there would be four lecture hours in the morning until 11AM, after which there used to be a two hour break when we all went back to our hostels for lunch and a bit of siesta. We had to attend also to a number of practical sessions in labs and workshops, pertaining to science and workshop subjects, which were held mostly in the afternoons. The second year courses were also the same for all; Metrology, Surveying and Particle Dynamics were added to the list of subjects covered. From third year onward the subjects pertaining to the relevant engineering streams were taken up and classes were held in specific departments.

I was a young man of only 17 years of age then. It was the first time for me to be living away from home, away from my parents and other members of the largish joint family who lived in a three storied house in a street named Shyamananda Road in Bhowanipore in South Kolkata. My mother, Ma and my aunt, Munima came to the College on the first day to settle me in my new surroundings. I endured (more correctly, enjoyed) hostel life the ensuing five years,

the first two in Hostel 12 and the next three years in the Sengupta Hall.

I made a host of friends during those five years. From the 1961 batch from my school Mitra Institution Bhowanipur, Subir Bhattacharya, Subroto Mukherjee, Swapan Chatterji, Satyapriya Mukherjee, Gautam Mukherjee, Rai Kamalendu Choudhury, and Abhresh Mukherji got admitted to BEC. They were given seats either in Hostels 12 or 13. I soon made friends with boys from other schools; among them were Kumar Sengupta, Manas roy (who had a nick name Gigi- pronounced Jee jee), Niladri Sarkar, Soumyakanti Roy, Bhaskar Mukherji (Gaan Bhaskar), Manojit Dasgupta (Manju), MS Radhakrishnan (Radha), Samar Basu, Sundar Shankar, Indranath Bhattacharya, Subhash Saha, Pradyot Chatterji (Galu), Moley Mitra, Swapan Roy, Biren Nath, Arundev Mukherjee, Tathagata Roy, Asit Rakhsit, Amarnath Chandar, Aurobindo Ganguli, Bimal Bose and many many others. These were lifetime friendships; retaining contacts even today after more than five decades. A few of them, like Kumar Sengupta, Shatabdi, Swapan Chatterji, Radha, Manju, Samar Basu and Gigi, however, have been taken away by death in the intervening years, but their memories have not faded away.

All student hostels at BEC were managed under the superintendence of a Professor from the College. The Superintendent of Hostel 12 was Professor K.C. Das, a senior faculty of the Mathematics Department, who lived in a nearby faculty residence. The hostel was a four story building, with the kitchen, dining hall and a common room on the ground floor. Day to day operations of the hostel were supervised by the students themselves- at the beginning of every month one of them was selected to be the mess manager, whose primary job was to look after the menu for each meal in the hostel. One student boarder, by rotation, was identified every day to be on mess duty and his job was to help the mess manager for the day. The kitchen staff included two or three cooks, and four or five helping hands. On each floor, one or two mess boys were there, who organised a small cooking arrangement in one corner and provided tea, coffee and snacks to the boarders as and when they called for it.

The mess fees for each student was a princely Rs. 35/- per month, that provided lunch and dinner every day. The food , though not very frugal, was not really worth writing home about- rice, daal, a vegetable curry, a fish or egg dish and some sweet variety was in the menu every lunch and dinner. Once a week one had a meat item at dinner time, in place of fish; once a fortnight we had, what was called, an improved diet, at dinner time where both meat and fish were served along with icecream. Once a month at one weekend dinner we had feast, with a bit more esoteric items on the plate, the menu was decided by the mess manager and his friends

after some serious deliberation a day or two in advance. The monthly expenses on food bill often exceeded the budget. The deficit was met by excess fees charged from each student the next month. During the first year or two, this deficit would range between Rs 5 and 25, but in the fourth and fifth year at Sengupta Hall it could be, occasionally as high as Rs 100/-.

Life in hostels for me was a leap from a conservative disciplined Shyamananda Road household to a sense of almost unbridled freedom. Apart from attending classes in the college, our time was mostly spent in adda, sitting together in hostel rooms, discussing and arguing amongst ourselves on all subjects in heaven and earth. We roamed, sometimes alone, and many a times in groups, around the campus, from one hostel to another, in play grounds and gardens, inside and outside the gates. One of our most favourite haunts was the Indian Botanical Gardens, the biggest one of its kind in India in those days, famous for its enormous collections of plants, orchids and trees, including the Great Banyan Tree (reckoned to be the largest tree in the world). Many young, and not so young, couples from Kolkata city and adjoining towns used to come to the Garden for romantic stroll. It was right beside the river Ganges. Walking by the river inside the garden around rare plants, trees and ponds were truly a treat for the eyes as well as the mind. From our Hostel 12, it was hardly a ten minutes walk to the Gate no 3 of our campus, just beyond which was a wicket gate to enter the B Gardens.



EMERGENCY FUND APPEAL

GAABESU Emergency Fund Raising Committee has decided to initiate a Global Fund raising drive to support Shri Abhijit Sengupta (2013/IT).

Abhijit's Father is suffering from Decompensated Chronic Liver Disease – CTB Class B since January, 2015. As advised by Doctors, his father should undergo Liver Transplantation at the earliest. Abhijit and his family, have already spent more than ten (10) lakhs for the treatment. Present financial scenario is as below:

1. Estimate for Transplantation by Doctor – 22 lakhs (Indicative)
2. Applicant can arrange from his resources – Rs. 12 lakhs

We request all to support Abhijit in any form (financially, mentally etc.) to overcome this challenge and pray for his father's recovery.

Please refer details of the Co-ordinators in this drive:

Co-ordinator in USA:

Mr. Kaushik Sen (1998 MIN)

11502 Barrington Way, Austin, TX – 78759

Phone No. 201-220-7648

Email ID: kaushiksen76@gmail.com

Local Co-ordinator:

Shreayan Nandy, 2012, Metallurgy

Email : Shreayan.basu.met@gmail.com

Phone : +91 98363 91651

UAE Co-ordinator:

Supriya Ganguli, 1993/CE

Email : sup197@yahoo.com

Phone : +971506846157

Please send a note to GAABESU Office (gaabesu@gmail.com) with your transaction information, purpose of the transaction. Please include your full name, year and department for all communications to us.

For and on behalf of GAABESU Emergency Fund Sub-Committee

Pradip Kumar Bandyopadhyay (1988/ME)

Member of Executive Committee 6, GAABESU

Global Alumni Association of Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur



GUIDELINES FOR PUBLISHING ARTICLES IN ALUMNI LINK

The following guidelines are followed in accepting any write-ups for publication:

1. Please send your comments and relevant information/materials for publication to alumnilink3@gmail.com and write "Alumni Link" in the subject line
2. Comments, observations, and suggestions about any alumni activities and IEST, Shibpur are welcome.
3. Contribution in the form of stories, poems, sketches, cartoons, travelogues, essays, etc. are highly appreciated.
4. Contents are accepted in English or Bengali.
5. All write-ups (both Bengali and English) should be in MS-Word format (no PDF)
 - a. Font and size: Adorsholipi (9pt) for Bengali and Verdana (9pt) for English
 - b. Bengali typing software: Avro Keyboard (in MS Word)
 - c. Poems/songs/quotations Font (that are part of the articles, not stand-alone content): Adorsholipi in italics (9pt)
 - d. Alignment: Justify or aligned with left margin
6. NOTE for Bengali Font:
 - a. Set the typing parameters before editing/typing. Avro may be associated with some bugs while transforming fonts and it may fail to change the fonts later; please use this caution to avoid retyping.
 - b. Set font to Adorsholipi and size 9 point before typing starts. Avro uses Vrinda by default.
 - c. Please refrain from using English words as much as possible in a Bengali write-up and too many such use i.e. inability to translate English to Bengali may lead to rejection of the content.
 - d. When it is absolutely required to put English fonts in Bengali write-up, please use Verdana 9pt font.
 - e. Do not use multiple spaces/tabs between words; use default paragraph margins for typing and two spaces at the start of each new sentence. Please do not change the line indents.
 - f. Save files in .doc (or .docx format. MS Word sometimes fails to retain formatting after closure of document and you are

responsible to choose appropriate version (2003 etc.) as long as your formatting is not disrupted when you convert the document to a PDF.

7. Personal and professional accomplishments that you want to share with your fellow alums are encouraged. Please refrain from using this forum to promote personal propaganda or business.

8. Local news, Batch news, event announcements and event/chapter reports are most welcome.

9. If you are looking for help to promote institutional or Alumni interest you may reach out via this forum

10. We solicit any entry that is appropriate for the IEST (student, faculty and alumni) community.

11. We will publish the write-ups as long as the message does not attack anyone personally and/or contain any apparent political agenda

12. Electronic newsletters are published quarterly. The Alumni Day Edition will have the print version.

13. Please come up with your original article that is not published or available with the same content in the web or print version; Alumni Link is an exchange forum for Alumni and not a “College news”.

14. You may submit your articles anytime during the year and if it is associated with any seasonal notion, mention that in the subject when you want to see it published.

15. There will be an ‘Opinion’ Section where alumni can voice their views for the betterment of the institute and her communities. Alumni are requested to maintain proper decorum and professionalism and not use this as a forum to promote any personal agenda. The Alumni Link Editorial Team reserves the right to exclude/modify the content. Editorial Team would seek permission from the writer if he/she agrees with the changes and the writer would have the option to withdraw the write-up if he/she does not like the changes. There will be a provision to include the e-mail address and/or phone number which is optional. Ideally any Alumni (GAABESU Member/Non-Member), Faculty, Staff or Student can submit his/her opinion. However we do not encourage any Alumni Link Editorial Team Member (and EC Members too) to write in the opinion section as there may be a conflict of interest. Neither GAABESU Executive Committee nor Alumni Link Editorial team is responsible for the opinions expressed in this section.

16. Editorial team reserves the ultimate right to edit/accept/reject any entry.



OBITUARIES

In memory

As a limb falls down from a family tree;
 You can hear a voice says ‘don’t grieve for me’,
 Remember the best times, the laughter the song-
 The good life he had when he was strong.
 Death is nothing but slipping away;
 Into the next room so, just pray,
 And remember how truly he was blessed-
 So, put your mind at ease and let his soul rest.

Rasbehari Ghatak, 1962 EE

Mr. Rasbehari Ghatak (‘62 EE) is no longer with us. He was sick for a while. His last breath was on December 19, 2017. He left behind his wife Dipali, two sons and grandchildren. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his grieving family. May his soul rest in peace.

BECAA, East Coast

Yatin Ghosh, 1959 ARCH

Mr. Yatin Ghosh (‘59 Arch) passed away on November 28, 2017. He was a very accomplished intellectual. He obtained his Master’s Degree in Urban Planning and Architecture in Holland. He started teaching at I.I.T. Kharagpur and left India in 1970 for USA. Here he worked for Mercedes-Benz and then for the City of New York. He had multiple talents and immense knowledge. He was also an artist and a musician. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and four grandchildren.

BECAA, East Coast

Parimal Banerjee, 1957 CE

It is with deep sadness, we inform you that our beloved alumnus Mr. Parimal Banerjee passed away on Monday (Jan 9, 2017) evening around 11 PM while at a NJ rehab. Parimal'da leaves behind his wife, Bijoylakkhi Banerjee and two daughters. We will miss him deeply. May his soul rest in peace.

BECAA, East Coast

Subhendu Nath, 1954 EE

We are deeply saddened to inform you that our alumnus Mr. Subhendu Nath passed away on November 30, 2016 at 7:30 PM at his son's home. He was from in '54 EE batch. He was BECAA, East Coast President in 1987-1988. He was extremely dedicated to BECAA that he would never miss a re-union. Even while he was sick he would come to the re-union and perform by reciting his own poems. BECAA will never forget him and his contribution to the association since 1977. He was the Chairman of 1977 Re-union Committee.

BECAA, East Coast

Nirmal Maitra, 1952 CE

It is with a heavy heart that I share the sad news of the passing away of our alumnus Mr. Nirmal Maitra ('52 CE) on December 1, 2016 at 6:30 PM. Nirmal was suffering from Parkinson disease for the last few years. He used to live at Warren, NJ. Few years ago, he moved to an Assisted Living Facility near Pittsburgh, where his son is a doctor.

BECAA, East Coast

Amit Banerjea, 1952 CE

Our Beloved Mr. Amit Banerjea ('52 CE) is no longer with us. He passed away on December 13, 2016. He was one of the Founding Members of BECAA, East Coast and was its President in the year 1980-1982. May God bless his soul. His family wanted, in lieu of flowers, to send donations to charities which support girls' education in South East Asia.

BECAA, East Coast

Ramaprasad Mukhopadhyay, 1967 ARCH

With deepest sadness we would like to inform you that our beloved Mr. Ramaprasad Mukhopadhyay ('67 Arch), passed away on December 27, 2016 around 12:30 AM. His foundation used to support BECAA financially year after year. May God bless his soul.

BECAA, East Coast

Pranab Sengupta, 1979 ME

With deep regret I am to inform that our friend Shri Pranab Sengupta (1979 Mech) and a GAABESU member succumbed to heart attack today at New Delhi. He was in official tour at New Delhi but otherwise settled in Kolkata with family.

Tanmoy Das | 1979 ME

Prof. Pijush Kanti Som, 1950 CE

Prof. Pijush Kanti Som, a very illustrious alumnus of B E College (now IEST, Shibpur) (1950 civil), an erudite scholar, a great academician and engineer, is no more. He breathed his last today (01 January 2018) at around 11:30 AM when he suffered a massive cardiac arrest while taking shower in the morning.

A very great teacher, a great soul who earned high respect from the engineering community, graduated in Civil Engineering from Bengal Engineering College in 1950 topping the list of his batch from the University of Calcutta.

He worked in Damodar Valley Corporation for sometime in the initial period of the Corporation. He went to Imperial College, London and completed his two-year Master's Course. Thereafter he worked in a British Consulting Company and earned distinction. He was picked up by Prof. Karuna Roy, his teacher in B E College, to start Civil Engineering Course in Jadavpur University. He groomed many Civil Engineers and took Civil Engineering of Jadavpur University to a great height. He headed the Department for a long period before taking the responsibility of entire faculty of Engineering and Technology as its Dean.

He was involved in various important Consulting projects, was Chair/Member of many important National and State Level Committees.

He was actively involved professionally even after his retirement till last days of his life giving advice to his large number of students and other engineers who admired him greatly. Many of us have been greatly benefited by his words of wisdom.

His demise is a great loss to the engineering fraternity. I pray for his soul to rest in peace and offer my condolence to the bereaved family.

Syama Prasad Datta | 1967 CE

Padmabhusan Buddhadev Dasgupta, 1954 ME

One of our eminent Alumni cum Sarod Maestro, Pundit Buddhadev Dasgupta passed away on 15th Jan, 2018; he was 84. We all are deeply saddened by this great loss to our Alma Mater and her communities. In January 2012, he had been conferred with the Padma Bhushan. He was a Sarod player of great repute belonging to Senia Sahajahanpur Gharana.

His autobiography Bamaner Chandrasparshavilash (meaning: "The desire of a dwarf to touch the moon"), was periodically published in a Bengali Magazine "Disha" and has been published in the form of book in 2004 (part-I) and in 2010 (part-II). He performed in Toronto in 2001 as organized by Jyoti Ranjan SenGupta.

Anupam Bagchi | 1966 ME

My memories with Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta

Monday morning as usual is a bad one, universally. But the morning this Monday, the 15th January 2018, came with a bad blow, filled with all sadness, eternally. I came to know from an SMS that Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta, a distinguished Alumnus of our Alma Mater (Mech 1954), an eminent Engineer and Sarod Maestro is no more. He was one of the stalwarts of our Institution and an institution by himself, whom I could see from a close distance which i consider to be my fortune and privilege as a much junior alumnus and a far more junior musician as well. All those memories are clouding on my heavy heart. And , as desired by GAABESU, our auld alumni organization where I also proudly belong to, I quickly pen down some of my precious memories in store with him.

As a young music lover and learner, I used to attend his classical music concerts, although my genre of music was quite different, being a budding folk and country musician myself. He must have noticed my humble but frequent presence in the audience because one day after the show when I was offering my Panams to him, he suddenly asked me about my identity. With all due hesitation I mentioned that I was also a much junior ex-student of B.E. College (as BESU or IEST was yet to come to existence) and a learner of folk music when immediately it created a magic. With in a moment the revered Pandit Ji was transformed to an affectionate senior Dada, as he invited me to his the then residence near Vivekananda Park. That was the beginning. Since then I had a number of occasions to interact with him and in every instance I had learnt something new. He used to appreciate my interest and pursuit fold music and far from despising it with his classical heights, always told me that the spirit and soul of music is spread in the soils of our land. The folk music is the ore which is developed and refined by the Ustads and Kalabants of different gharanas. He also agreed to the term used by my music Guru Hemanga Biswas for the search of folk music as Bahirana.

He used to affectionately call my self accompanying instrument Dotara (actually a four-string one) as ‘Saroder Choto Bhai’. While adding that our actual relation through the Alma Mater is also kept in tact through our instruments.

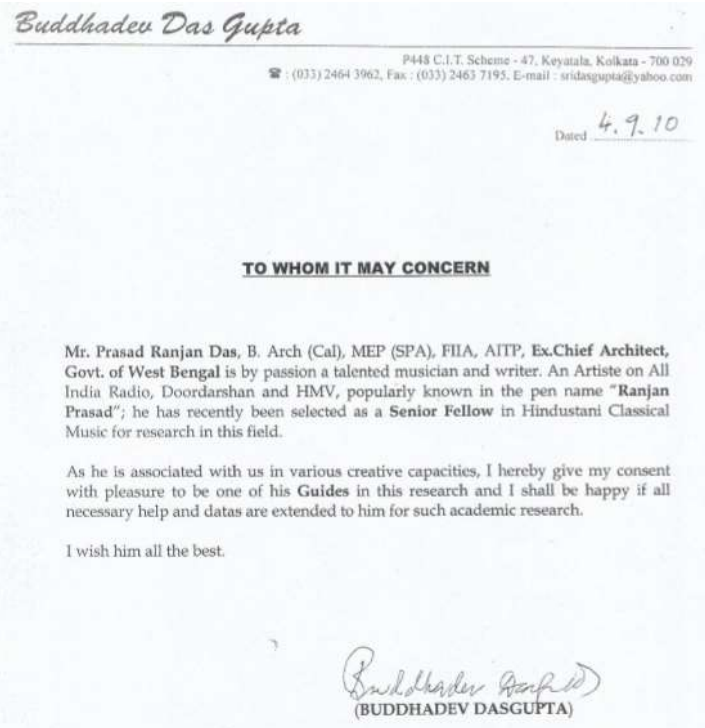
I can not forget that how glad he was to launch one of my CD’s from HMV, and personally spoke to the august gathering proudly with mention of our B.E. college where both of us had studied. He was also one of my guides when I was selected for the senior fellowship from the Ministry of Culture Government of India. It may also be mention here that he also had a latent affection on me as behind my pen name I actually hailed from a Dasgupta family of Dhaka Bikrampur.

I also had the honour and privilege to work with him as a Member of the West Bengal State Music Academy (WBSMA) where he was the

Chairperson. I can recollect how seriously he stressed upon propagation of good music among the youth, and always gave due importance on creating a healthy taste and awareness among the people in general without whose active participation no music or culture can survive.

Recently, during our meeting in different places like ITC/SRA Bhowanipore Sangit Sammilony and other musical venues, it seemed that he was not keeping well, though always greeted my with the same warm & affectionate smile. But I could never imagine that the end of the Maestro has come so close.

My humble Pranams to you, my revered senior in all respects.



Ranjan Prasad Das | 1969 ARCH

Amitava Sarkar, 1969 CE

I am very sad to convey you a sad news of passing away of Amitava Sarkar 1969CE on 4th January, 2018 at the Peerless Hospital due to a massive stroke. He is survived by his wife Jayasri Sarkar.

Amitava spent most of his professional career in the US. He worked in various consulting companies in the United States and for the last 17 years he was doing his own consulting business. He was the prime mover to establish a Vedanta Center at Raleigh, North Carolina. He came at Kolkata for vacation.

Arun Deb | 1957 CE

Bholanath Pal, 1976 ETC

This is to inform with heavy heart that our batch mate of 1976, Bholanath Pal (E&TC) has left this world for heavenly abode at Bangaluru tonight just about one and half hour before. The information was conveyed by Anup Palit. As per his information, he was suffering from infection of both the lungs. His wife, son and other relatives were near his death bed. Let us pray to almighty for eternal peace of his departed soul and may the almighty give sufficient strength of mind to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

Dipankar Chakraborty | 1976 EE

Dhrubajyoti Ghosh, 1968 CE

Sometime in the early 1980s, West Bengal's finance minister wanted to find out how to gainfully use Kolkata's sewage. Dhrubajyoti Ghosh, an engineer in the state's planning board, was assigned the task. He was to travel across the country and prepare a report within a year. He got his ticket to visit India's first sewage treatment plant at Dadar, Mumbai. Then came a moment of introspection.

"It occurred to me that they might ask me how Kolkata handles its sewage," Ghosh later recounted, "I didn't know". He searched high and low and found nothing. It seemed nobody knew what the city did with its sewage. So Ghosh did what officers aren't encouraged to do in government policy: He went for a walk. He ambled along the 28-km channel that carried the city's sewage eastwards, along the slope, to where the salt marshes once stood. Here, he saw shallow ponds that turned the city's sewage into algae. Then, the algae-rich water was let into nurseries, to be eaten by fish, that was then sold in the city. A marvel of recycling, of turning waste into food.

Shortly after, Ghosh wrote an account of what he'd seen and sent it to Richard Meier, a famous American ecologist. Meier was delighted; he wrote back to tell Ghosh that if he invested five years in the wetlands of east Kolkata, he'll make history. Ghosh replied he was ready to invest 10. He ended up dedicating most of his working life to the wetlands, right up to his death at the age of 71 in a Kolkata hospital last Friday, February 16. That the East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) exist today, spread over thousands of acres, owes to Ghosh's untiring efforts.

The fisherfolk here have grown fish in Kolkata's sewage for the past 80 years, at least. Their craft has been fine-tuned over generations. Both the scale and nature of the operation has no parallel in the world. The wetlands, often called the city's kidneys, treat its sewage and garbage for free, provide employment to thousands, and generate cheap food. Not to mention preventing floods, absorbing Kolkata's runoff during the monsoon (are you listening Chennai, Mumbai, Bengaluru?).

Another country might have been proud. Another country might have learned from Ghosh's work, and found inspiration in EKW's fisherfolk to clean its rivers and lakes saturated with untreated sewage, not India. But for Ghosh, who retired in 2004 as West Bengal's chief environment officer, land sharks with political connections would have developed the wetlands a long time ago. Perhaps nobody imagined Ghosh's tenacity and the scope of his scholarship. Through years of effort, he documented the wetlands and its fisherfolk, surveyed the land, created a strong case for their protection, all in a way only a government official could have done.

In 2002, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands extended its protection to the EKW. Now, both the Union and state governments are bound by an international treaty to protect it from real estate developers. This made Ghosh unpopular in some government circles. He had to take early retirement. As an official, he worked from inside the government to protect the EKW. After his retirement, he became a full-time activist and a scholar of ecology.

He started writing about the EKW widely. He brought out books based on his studies. He collaborated with numerous organisations and individuals, inspiring them, mentoring researchers, all the while keeping alive his relationship with the fisherfolk of the EKW. Among them, he was not a scholar who had come from outside to study them as his subject material. He was a friend, a go-to man, agony aunt, and a warm avuncular presence.

There was a sweet irony in Ghosh's ecological interest in sewage. Born in 1947, Ghosh began his career in the late 1960s as a junior engineer, treating sewers for a monthly salary of Rs 100. He dabbled in the Naxal brand of Maoist politics, but was disillusioned soon. A book he read during a train journey mentioned, in the footnotes, an ecological study of West Bengal villages. He fell in love with the idea of ecology.

He got in touch with Meiers, then a famous ecologist in the University of California in Berkely. Meiers became the external supervisor of Ghosh's PhD from the University of Kolkata. He was still working as an assistant engineer in the city's water and sanitation authority. The young engineer so impressed Meier that he would come to India on his own steam to guide Ghosh, later becoming his mentor.

Our governments spend crores of rupees in contractor-heavy programmes to clean rivers. Ghosh's life and work showed that the solutions are cheaper than we imagine. They lie in ordinary people. All that is needed is leaders and officials who are ready to go out for a walk. With an open mind, with a warm heart, with the commitment of sound scholarship.

Source:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/dhrubajyoti-ghosh-death-1947-2018-he-found-wealth-in-waste-5070411/>

Santanu Sen, 1981 EE

It is painful to intimate one of our batch-mates Santanu Sen [1981 EE] expired on 12.06.2017 . He was with BHEL Bhopal and is survived by his wife Gayatri and daughter Trina.

Ranjit Ganguly | 1981 EE

On behalf of everyone at GAABESU, we offer our sincere condolences to their families and friends. We pray for the eternal peace of the departed souls.



INDIA'S FIRST HIGHWAY CAPACITY MANUAL: IEST WAS PART OF ITS MAKING

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Feb 12, 2018 released country's first ever Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) which will guide road engineers and policy makers about road expansion. The manual known as 'Indo-HCM' has been developed by CSIR-CRRI on the basis of an extensive, country-wide study of the traffic characteristics on different categories of roads like single lane, two-lane, multi-lane urban roads, inter-urban highways and expressways and the associated intersections on these roads, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said in a statement. The road transport and shipping minister "released India's first ever Highway Capacity Manual. The manual will guide Road Engineers and Policy Makers about Road Expansion", it said. The study involved seven academic institutions including IIT-Roorkee, Mumbai and Guwahati, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, **Indian Institute of Engineering and Science and Technology, Shibpur**, Sardar Vallabhai Patel National Institute of Technology, Surat and Anna University, Chennai. The manual lays down guidelines for when and how to expand or manage different types of roads and their intersections and the level of services to be put in place. It has been developed based on the unique nature and diversity of traffic on Indian roads. "While countries like the US, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan developed their own Highway Capacity Manuals long time back, this is the first time that the manual has been developed in India," it said.

The minister has expressed hope that the long awaited manual would help in the scientific planning and expansion of road infrastructure in the country, the statement said.

Gadkari also underscored the need to popularise the use of new material like fly-ash, plastic, oil slag and municipal waste in road construction, saying that scientists and the media should also play an active role in this regard.

He also called upon researchers and engineers to expedite formulation of a good design for safe and effective speed breakers for Indian roads.

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/nitin-gadkari-releases-indias-first-manual-on-road-expansion-1811917>



PROF BIJNAN BANDOPADHYAY IS AN IEEE FELLOW

Prof. Bijnan Bandyopadhyay (78 E&TC) has been selected as an IEEE Fellow (w.e.f 1.1.2018) for his contribution in the field of discrete-time, multi-rate output feedback sliding mode control. His Research results published in Springer Verlag, Monograph and IEEE Control Transaction are the first to provide a method for Multi-rate feedback based sliding mode control in control literature.



BRIEF HISTORY OF GAABESU

Tarun Basu | 1967 CE



Although alumni of BE College have been going to USA for a long time for graduate study, the number of alumni in USA increased substantially from late sixties when it opened immigration to the engineers and scientists to meet the shortage in those areas. These newcomers got into graduate schools in different universities not only to get advanced education but also to move up the ladder in technical field. This also allowed our alumni to recognize the attitude of alums of the US Universities towards their Alma Maters. They found out that most US alums maintain a life-long bond with their Alma Maters and how they try to help the universities financially so that they remain centers of excellence.

Our association with the US universities taught us that, as alumni, we have a special responsibility towards our Alma Mater, BE College. Thus, some alums in the mid-nineties started awarding scholarships to the needy students who could not afford to get into BEC while others collected money to improve the physical and academic infrastructure of the college. This was especially important at that time as the WBG funding towards the college was not keeping up with the expenses and the college was falling behind the Central Government funded institutes.

In the meantime, in the early decade of this millennium, the Central Government decided to increase the number of central institutes and BEC was chosen by the MHRD appointed expert committee as one of the candidates for conversion to a centrally administered institute. However, it became clear at the time, that strong lobbying

would be necessary to get approval of the state government as it was opposed to the transfer and the IIT lobby was urging MHRD against the conversion of BEC to an IIT.

Although some informal coordination through the website developed by two alumni in California was being done to carry out the activities of conversion of BESU to an IIT, helping alumni in need, providing scholarship to needy students, seeking donations to set up new laboratories and school and to improve the infrastructure of BESU, it was felt that a Global Alumni Association would better serve the interest of BE College and its community. Formation of Global Alumni Association will not only coordinate those activities but will bring alums from all over the globe under one umbrella.

With that in mind, alums from Calcutta proceeded to get Alumni Association registered under West Bengal Government statutes. The objects for which the Association has been established are:

- To systematically uplift the image and status of the Institution, Bengal Engineering and Science University, both nationally and internationally;
- To project nationally and internationally the Institution and its contribution to the engineering profession;
- To network the present and future alumni on a common platform on a continuing basis;
- To become the voice of the alumni in all matters related to the betterment of the University;
- To foster continuing professional/academic development of the institute by drawing support from achievers amongst the alumni in their respective fields; to maintain fellow feeling and fraternity amongst the ex-students of the Bengal Engineering College/Bengal Engineering College Deemed University/Bengal Engineering and Science University by promoting social and cultural association amongst themselves;
- To maintain the honor and dignity of the members and to further the cause of scientific research and post-graduate studies;
- To make arrangements for holding an Annual Re-union of the past students of the Bengal Engineering College / Bengal Engineering College Deemed University / Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur in cooperation with the Students' Union of the Institution;
- To maintain a benevolent fund to help BESU community in case of distress;

- To help Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur in organizing national & international seminars/congresses/workshops/ conferences/symposia on selected topics of science & technology to strengthen/share the knowledge base of the engineering community;
- To help Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur to organize series of lectures to be delivered by renowned scientists, technologists, economists, etc. on cutting edge technology, social issues, community services, etc.;
- To help Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur to grow, expand and excel in respect of creation and dissemination of knowledge and development of innovative technology serving the need of our country as a whole and the world over;
- To help Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur to contribute towards the development of indigenous technology and provide technical leadership;
- To help Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur to act as a beacon for attracting the knowledge based industries to the Society and create a zone of technical excellence that will have snowballing effect on the economic growth of the country as a whole;
- To approve/promote establishment of units, chapters in different geographical locations having adequate congregation of alumni members.

As BE College became Bengal Engineering and Science University (going through BEC Deemed University) at the time of registration, it was decided that the name of the association would be “Global Alumni Association of Bengal Engineering and Science University (GAABESU)”.

The association was registered in 2005 in Calcutta. Association’s efforts in converting our Alma Mater to Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST), a Central Government administered institute have been successful. It is also designated as an Institute of National Importance (INI). However, alums through association can still contribute a lot for the betterment of our Alma Mater. Although the name of the institute has changed, the association’s name has not changed as there are lot of procedural hurdles to change the name. It will remain known as GAABESU.

Through the years, alums through individual/batch efforts and through GAABESU, have contributed quite a bit for the betterment of the Alma Mater. The efforts include development of LAN,

construction of Alumni Seminar Room, funding to create a CD by Buddhadeb Dasgupta describing the history of BEC, construction of a modern swimming pool, upgrading the gymnasium, remodeling of Slater Hall to house centres for students’ extra-curricular activities, awarding scholarship worth more Rs 10 lakhs/per year for a long time, Purabi Das School of Information Technology, Promoda Lodh Laboratory, funding Chair Professorship, providing financial help in need, etc. GAABESU hopes that alums will continue to contribute towards the physical improvement and academic advancement of our Alma mater.

Although lot of alumni have helped during the formation of GAABESU, we should acknowledge the contributions of Late Santanu Chatterjee (‘65EE) who prepared the first draft of the MOA and got the association registered quickly through his connection.



TRAVEL GRANT HANDED OVER

Travel Grant Cheque was handed over to Punyajay Saha and Sandipan Sharma - Rs.3,150/- each for attending a conference in Sikkim.



EMERGENCY FUND AMOUNT HANDED OVER

A cheque of Rs.48412.00 handed over to Mr. Amit Roy for reimbursement of his medical treatment partly.





ROUTE 55 VERSION 5.0

Route 55, the iconic run from the erstwhile Metro Cinema to IEST Shibpur completed its 5th edition last December. The alumni of the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST) had tied up with Sramajibi Hospital in Belur to extend healthcare facilities to employees of a bus route that they used to take years ago. More than 100 alumni members, all leading successful professional careers in the country and abroad, have chipped in with USD 55 (Rs 3500) each to create a corpus to be given to the Belur Sramajibi Hospital. The hospital will issue health cards to over 70 drivers, conductors and helpers of bus route number 55, which was, at one point of time, the only route from Kolkata for the students of IEST, formerly known as Bengal Engineering College, Shibpur.



IEST'S PATENT MAN

This year Sarbajit K Rakshit, 1997 ME got a position in Global Prolific Inventor list in Wikipedia. Also, this year alone, he has been awarded with 104 granted patents (starting from US Patent #9534905 to #9852547, in last 51 weeks), i.e. two granted patents per week for the entire 2017.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_prolific_inventors)



TEDx IEST SHIBPUR

A confluence of bright and brilliant minds, hailing from diverse backgrounds and all walks of life, TEDxIESTShibpur was organised on the 4th of February, 2018, with the aim of exploring groundbreaking Ideas centered around the overlap of Arts and Science.

It's a conference where Thinkers, Doers and Idea-generators, from a gamut of professions, will share their insights, stories and perspectives, spark exuberant conversations and push the envelope a little more in our quest to explore the very frontiers of 'Crossroads'.

This year's edition had two alumni, Gourab Basu and Dr. Mita Tarafder.





MDOT ENGINEER NAMED WOMAN OF YEAR

An organization dedicated to advancing women's careers in transportation has named Sutapa Samanta, Assistant District Engineer for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), as Woman of the Year. At its January 16 Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony, WTS (Women's Transportation Seminar) recognized Samanta as "a mentor and a beacon of inspiration to many young aspiring women in her field."

"It is a blessing to get opportunities to develop and grow within as great a community as the MDOT SHA and more so, in the transportation industry," Samanta said. "I strongly believe, the right skill set, a good work ethic and a collaborative attitude will always bring a lot of support from the organization and the industry. And my suggestion to the young professionals is not to limit themselves, as they can do much more than what they think they are capable of."

Samanta has been with MDOT SHA since 2006 and works in the District Four office, which handles Baltimore and Harford counties. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the Bengal Engineering and Science University and the Indian Institute of Technology in India, respectively. While working full time at MDOT SHA, she earned her doctorate in civil engineering with a specialization in transportation engineering from Morgan State University in Baltimore

Over the years, Samanta's has been in the District Four Traffic and Engineering Systems Design sections, where she managed system preservation and safety improvement projects. In 2017, she was named Assistant District Engineer for Project Development in District Four.

According to the nomination, her "positive, high energy and personal touch that she brings to the workplace not only creates a productive work environment, but also fosters relationships with staff and builds team camaraderie." The nomination goes on to say that Samanta has an organized and focused approach and a relentless desire in learning and developing project procedures to manage routine activities both efficiently and effectively.

Founded in 1977, WTS is an international organization with more than 6,500 members (including women and men) and 79 chapters.

Source:

<https://patch.com/maryland/timonium/mdot-engineer-named-woman-year>



INTERNATIONAL LINKAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

IEST Shibpur along with IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIM Ahmedabad, CEERI Pilani and BITS Pilani have embarked on a new journey on International Linkage Development Program with Hiroshima University, Japan, following an Indo Japan bilateral Cooperation signed by Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Mr Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. In an inaugural program attended by Indian Ambassador of Japan, CSIR Director General, Mayor of Hiroshima, President and Vice Presidents of Hiroshima University, Directors and one Senior Professor of the collaborating Indian Institutes, this extremely important program was launched on 17th and 18th January in Hiroshima.

The International linkage program with Japan involves short and medium term internship of undergraduate and postgraduate students of both the countries in specific areas of Microelectronics, Robotics, Environmental Science, Internet of Things (IoT), Transportation Engineering and some more areas. Research internship and Collaborative Phd programs will form a major part of the linkage program. The first joint program will start with IEEE International Symposium on Devices, Circuits and Systems to be held at IEST Shibpur in March . This symposium will be jointly organised by Hiroshima University and IEST Shibpur.

