

teenage or prepubescent girls, supposedly to spare their parents the shame of having an unmarried girl back home. Many times, these 'brides' would be left behind at their paternal places without a second glance, specially, if they were subsequently widowed. Subjected to semi-starvation and a hard life many of them would flee and become prostitutes. Vidyasagar sought to change this as well. Then the Session Chair discussed on both lectures. After that Dr. Mukherjee was also felicitated by the ISEC.

Technical Session II was started after a Lunch Break under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sudip Budhaditya Deb, Deputy Chief and Executive Officer in WBCAFMPA, Government of West Bengal. Lecture III was delivered by honourable speaker Prof. Chittabrata Palit, the Director of Institute of Historical Science, EC member of ISEC and he was formerly professor of History Department in Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He focused on "Stages of Education in Vidyasagar's Thought". He pointed out that one of the key figures of India's renaissance in the nineteenth century, the social reformer, philanthropist and anti-colonial activist made more than one contribution that have made the annals of our history richer. He agitated for women's education, their rights to a normal life after widowhood, and against the malevolence of various oppressions still weighing on them in late nineteenth century in Bengal. Then the second important contribution of Vidyasagar was that he wrote down the Bengali alphabet as it is known today. His original publication on the subject is called "Barna Parichay", literally, an introduction to the Alphabet. We think whether there was no alphabet before? Of course there was. Just as there was writing, there were stories, there was education, and there were children. But everything has a date and a beginning because

from there starts the categorisation and the classification. Vidyasagar made it uniform by removing some letters, adding others, confirming how many there must be and what the exact shape and sound of each was. He further made a rhyme to introduce each to the child-learner. He published the alphabet accompanied by beautiful wood-cut illustrations. Dr. Palit was felicitated by the memento by ISEC.

Lecture IV was presented by the honourable speaker Dr. Lily Biswas, a Member of Faculty, Department of Philosophy, University of Kalyani. She explained the "Role of Vidyasagar in Developing Child Education and Varnaparichay". She said that another contribution by Vidyasagar was the fact that he reconstructed the Bengali alphabet and simplified the Bengali typography into 12 vowels and 40 consonants. The Bengali alphabet had remained unchanged since Charles Wilkins and Panchanan Karmakar had cut the first Bengali type in 1780. He made significant contributions to Bengali and Sanskrit literature with works like Varnaparichay being considered a classic. Dr. Biswas was then felicitated by the ISEC with a memento.

At the end of the brilliant presentations of the eminent speakers, Vote of thanks was offered by Dr. Bandana Barman, EC member of ISEC and Faculty in Kalyani Government Engineering College, with an appreciation of the Seminars as well as the opinion of the honourable speakers after a fantastic song sang by Mr. Manas Kumar Saha, Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering in Engineering Institute for Junior Executives and life member of ISEC.

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## Report of E-Summit 2020 of E-Cell of Kalyani Govt. Engineering College

Despite the challenges in this lockdown condition, E-Cell (Entrepreneurship Cell) of Kalyani Govt. Engineering College (KGEC), Kalyani with Prof. Santanu Das as its Chairman has managed to organize their E-Summit 2020 on June 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

2020 to bring in formal events for every aspiring entrepreneur. The E-Summit had a series of talks and panel discussions on previous occasions, but this time it is organized in online mode.

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Kicking off the two-day long event, the Keynote Speaker, Miss Smriti Tomar, Founder and CEO of Stack Finance, delivered the lecture live from the KGEC E-Cell Facebook page on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 3 pm onwards. A business enthusiast, Smriti jumped into the business after her first investment only at the age of 16 years. Accordingly, one should increase his/her exposure in other domains during this lockdown period and never stop learning something new. Money is something dealt with by everyone and as there are a lot of transparencies in this era she came up with Stack Finance a FinTech (involving both finance and technology) startup.

Next, there was a panel discussion with team Kesowa, an air mobility company from 5 pm. The team Kesowa made a thorough research in various places of Kolkata to successfully implement their business. It took 6-9 months for them to understand space technology and to create hardware partners in China. A drone can take top view enabling to create sustainable transportation for the future and they have seamlessly managed to operate data due to which the industry is growing day by day.

On the very next day, there has been a live session from 3pm with Pauline Laravoire,

Co-founder and CEO of Y-East to render her illustrations with increasing ecological, social, and psychological hazards. She said that the reasons for an individual to become an entrepreneur should be one's strength, ideal values and core transformation. Identification of purpose aligned to career as well as career orientation is important, she added. Pauline also introduced the Japanese term called IKIGAI which resembles the energy that drives someone to work in the morning.

Finally, participants were excited to have the man behind the revolution of Indian regional OTT platform, Mr. Vishnu Mohta, Director of Sri Venkatesh Films and the Co-Founder of Hoichoi. Mr. Mohta said that things had happened sequentially in OTT business and their target was to create a global audience for their platform. Also Hoichoi is the first and only regional OTT and he believes that lockdown has accelerated the habit of consuming things online he added.

With the completion of the session, the two-day long extravaganza came finally to an end and organizers expect to arrange more exciting events in the near future.

**Santanu Das**  
Secretary, ISEC

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## **Report of Santi De and Gadadhar De Memorial Lecture 2019 and the National Seminar on 150<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of Periodic Table**

On 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, Institute of Science, Education and Culture, Kolkata (ISEC) in collaboration with Birla Industrial and Technical Museum (BITM), Kolkata organized Santi De and Gadadhar De Memorial Lecture 2019 and the National Seminar on 150<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of Periodic Table at the Conference Room of BITM. Registration of this Seminar started from 11.00am and Prof. Anil Kumar Ghosh, the President of ISEC, inaugurated the seminar by addressing and welcoming all the attendees, specially the speakers and session chairpersons of that day. The Director of BITM, Shri V S Ramachandran was unable to join the seminar due to some unavoidable circumstances. Dr. Swapna Mukherjee, the Vice

President of the ISEC also welcomed all and said that the Memorial Lecture was organized to pay homage to the ancestors. Dr. Arun Kumar De mentioned the glorious past of his parents, late Santi De and Gadadhar De. Prof. A. K. Ghosh also expressed his respect to Dr. Arun Kumar De and proud parents of Dr. De.

After the tea break, the memorial lecture started. The chairperson of this session was Prof. Dr. Samir Ghosh, the founder member of ISEC and Retired faculty of Radiation Therapy, Department of Calcutta Medical College and Ex-Senior Physicist, Government of West Bengal. Prof. Ghosh gave an introductory concept of Radiation Therapy as it was the topic of the memorial lecture.

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