

FROM THE MD'S DESK

Dear Reader,

Wish all of you Shubho Naba Barsha. May you have a year filled with peace, good health and happiness. We too are filled with renewed and energy and vigour to serve, as we remember that three years back we had started our operations around this time. Though we have grown in leaps and bound since then and now serve a considerable part of the Kolkata seniors, our ever-growing team looks forward to being of even more service. After all, every day should be a celebration of life.

In this newsletter, we bring you the concluding part of Dr Irene Sarkar's article on her experience in the earthquake-hit Garhwals during the Chamoli earthquake. Besides this, we also bring you the awe-inspiring Antarctica Expedition by Professor Bimalendu Bhushan Bhattacharyya; the beautiful and grand artworks of Ms Arundhuti Roy; and the finger-licking recipe of pumpkin leaf fritters by Ms Chhanda Dasgupta. Indeed a celebration of our talented members, whose quality of life we always seek to enhance!

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Happy Reading!
Apratim Chattopadhyay*



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NEWS

Congratulations!

We would like share with you that our Chairman, Ms Deepanwita Chattopadhyay, also Chairman & CEO, IKP Knowledge Park received the Top Women Achievers of the Year 2017 that took place in Singapore's iconic Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre. It was an international summit of 16 industries, wherein the Brand and Leader Award winners were felicitated on 29th Jan 2018. SE



New TSC learning centre in North Kolkata

We now have a new TSC learning centre at Vidyasagar Bhawan, Raja Rajkrishna Street, Manicktala. Spoken English and Recitation classes are being held on a regular basis.

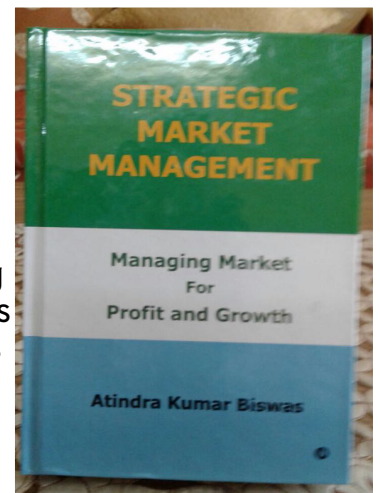
Details:

Class: Recitation; Timings: flexible

Class: Spoken English; Timings: Every Monday at 5.30 PM SE

Book Launch!

We are happy to announce that our esteemed member, Mr Atindra Kumar Biswas, has written the book *Strategic Market Management: Managing Market for Profit and Growth*. This book gives step-by-step directions to business professionals about how to do business from the perspective of the target customer and make the market customer-oriented. The marketing executives can learn how to use analytics to identify the most profitable customers and package solutions that fulfill their unmet needs through innovation and suitable business models. The book ends with recommendations on how to manage customer loyalty and profitability, steering the firm to the path of sustained profitable growth. SE



TRAVEL

A Voyage to the White Continent

Professor Bimalendu Bhushan Bhattacharyya, one of our members, who was the leader of the fourth Indian Expedition team to Antarctica (1984) shared his exciting experience about this far-away place with Mousumi Gupta.

I am sure that most of us will agree that Antarctica's intense cold, surrealistic remoteness, enormous ice shelves, and exotic life never ceases to pique our curiosity. And so meeting the leader of an Indian Expedition Team to the Antarctica and getting to know about his one-of-a-kind experience of this vast, harshly beautiful land was indeed sheer good fortune.

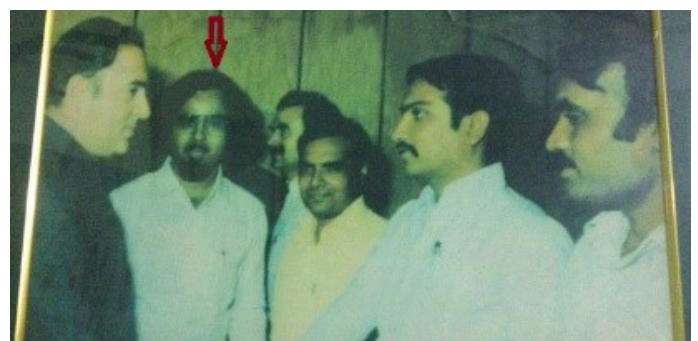
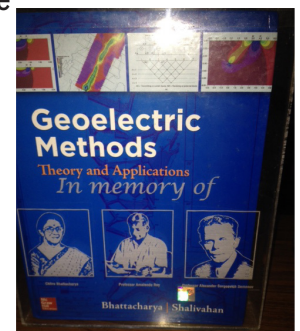
The unique geological conditions of this part of the Earth makes it a much-coveted place for research and study. The work on the second permanent research station in the Antarctica, namely 'Maitri', was started under the leadership of Professor Bhattacharyya. The first one, named 'Dakshin Gangotri', was built in 1983 and was abandoned in 1988-1989 after it was submerged in ice. Professor Bhattacharyya can still recollect every single day of the expedition—the carefully planned loading of all the building materials needed for building the station, the colossal amount of food they carried, as well as the letters and gifts wrapped with love and sentiments from the families of those who were researching there for several months. Even now he remembers the fateful day when the expedition team was waiting outside the then Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi's official residence to get the approval letter signed by her. "It was quite early in the morning when we were waiting outside the Prime Minister's residence to meet her. It was the month of October in 1984. Suddenly, someone came and told us that we would have to go back because our meeting had been postponed. Disappointed, we went back. We were worried about how it would get delayed. By the time we reached home, the television channels were abuzz with the news of the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi. In fact, our letter was one of the few letters that were signed by Mrs Gandhi just before she left her residence, after which she was assassinated..."

The team lead by Professor Bhattacharyya, consisting of 83 members from various walks of

life, left Goa on 4th of December, 1984. As they approached the icy desert, the team was welcomed by the unique marine life of the place—from the flightless, waddling penguins and large albatrosses to a herd of the largest variety of seals—leopard seals, and Krills—the smallest variety of crustacean.

Professor Bhattacharyya had to take some very crucial decisions during his job there. His alert and careful decision had once saved the ship and the lives onboard when the fast ice (which otherwise does not move with currents and waves) suddenly started to crack. It could have endangered the ship. The last day of their expedition was also quite memorable for him because along with the captain of the ship, he had to take a hasty decision when the weather started worsening. He had to cut short their emotional good-bye and ensure that they set off at the earliest. He also made sure that the research team, that stayed on, reached their destination even after the continent had disappeared from sight.

He has authored the book *Geoelectric Methods* and now keeps himself busy by training his students to become an exceptional leader like him. SE



MEMBER SPEAK

A Trip Down Memory Lane (Part 2)

*This is a continuation of A Trip Down Memory Lane (Part 1) by our member, **Dr Irene Sarkar**, featured in the last newsletter. She relates her experience of going on a survey mission in the wilderness of earthquake-hit Garhwal Himalayas. She had visited as part of a team of geologists, geophysicists and earthquake engineers from IIT, Roorkee. They had arrived in a jeep at the earthquake epicentral zone, Gopeshwar, the pervious day and had woken up to see a huge landslide in activity. Read on to find out what happens next.*

After a ground survey of the Alakananda river valley for two to three days, our team decided to move over to the Mandakini river valley. We were advised to drive through Chopta to reach Ukhimath. We quickly packed up after a hurried lunch, as we wanted to reach Chopta before dark. But bad news awaited us. At Chopta, we were told that no hotelier would be in Chopta that night. With continuous small aftershock activities shaking the buildings and mountain leopards on the move due to the earthquake, the hoteliers preferred to go to Gopeshwar, where the other villagers had been assembled and were being guarded.

“You can stay in any of the rooms at night and make yourself comfortable; we will come and see you off tomorrow, later in the day,” they warmly suggested. We decided to leave Chopta and drive straight to Ukhimath. But for that we needed to take the driver into confidence and get him to cooperate with us. Both my colleagues took him aside and politely explained to him that he could eat whatever he wanted and as much as he wanted but he needed to drive us to Ukhimath that very evening, no matter how dark. After he had gorged on omelettes made from eight eggs and paranthas and tea to his satisfaction, from a local eatery, we moved ahead. The afternoon sun was already on its downward path.

After driving for some time, we decided to stop for a short while. While I sat, slightly tired by the circumstances, on the roadside, my colleagues strolled around, perhaps for a quick smoke. And then suddenly, as I slowly lifted my head, my mind



Picture credit: By Vvnataraj - अपना काम, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9783377>

somewhat in a pianissimo mood, one of the most heavenly sights greeted me in the dimming evening light of the Himalayas. Ahead of me, all along the valley, was a thick forest of tall rhododendron trees. Flowers of different colors and hues, ranging from deep red to lighter shades of red, bright pink to calmer pink to nearly white, possibly the result of natural cross-pollination, covered the entire panorama. Behind me, huge boulders were hurtling down the high Himalayan Mountains, each brushing angrily past each other, spewing flashes of fire. Often the accompanying dry bushes and broken branches of the mountainous trees caught fire so that they seemed like huge, noisy fireballs, angrily rushing down the mountainside. We watched speechlessly at the contrasting faces of nature—calm and serene on one side; fiery and aggressive on the other. It was all so overwhelming and stunning.

The driver brought us out of our stupor. “We must start now for it has started to grow dark.” As we silently climbed back into the jeep, we did not say a word; our mind was so full of musings of the varied rhythms of nature that we had just experienced in the evening twilight. Perhaps we had all forgotten about our actual mission of surveying the Chamoli earthquake-induced ground damage. We were presently brought back to reality by the lilting sound of young voices singing hymns of Sri Ramkrishna Paramhansa filling the thick darkness. We had arrived at Ramkrishna Mission Math in Ukhimath.

Indeed, as John Muir, the American naturalist and conservationist had once said, “the clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.” SE

ART & CULTURE

Art-struck!

These marvellous works of art have been created and crafted by our talented member, **Dr Arundhuti Roy**



1. This gigantic artwork is done in fabric. It is hand crafted with threads, which needs a lot of time, effort and skill. It took Dr Roy quite a few months to complete this work of art. It was highly appreciated by the art fraternity of Kolkata and was on exhibition in a renowned art gallery, under special care, for a month.

2 & 3. These are a combination of the Vrindavan art form and the Kadambari art form. They have been crafted with 24 carat gold. The base is an adhesive-added special clay. The clay is laid the way mehendi is applied. Gold plated sheets are then put on the clay base. The delicate tiny stones are drilled and set within the gold plate. The faces are aesthetically painted with water colours. These art forms mainly depict the mythological stories based on the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* or the deities of Vedic culture. **SE**

RECIPE

Pumpkin Leaf Fritters

A delectable snack recipe shared by **Ms Chhanda Dasgupta**

Ingredients:

3 to 4 pumpkin leaves
1/2 cup grated pumpkin
(for stuffing)
1 teaspoon mustard paste
salt - to taste

Batter

2 tablespoons besan or flour
1 pinch baking powder
salt - to taste

Process

- Keep the pumpkin leaves in salted boiled water for 2 minutes.
- Mix mustard paste, salt and the grated pumpkin. Keep aside for 30 minutes.
- Now fold each leaf in a triangular form and put the grated pumpkin inside the leaf. Fold it again so that the filling doesn't come out.
- Put it in the batter and deep fry it until golden brown.
- Serve it hot as snacks or as starter. It can also be stuffed with mashed or bhuna fish for fish lovers. **SE**

