



Two Day International Seminar on

“ Revisiting 1942 : 75 years of Quit India Movement”

Date – 4-5 August, 2018 Venue: Amar Kutir, Sriniketan, Birbhum, W.B.

Organized by : Amar Kutir Society for Rural Development, Birbhum

in collaboration with : Paschimbanga Itihas Samsad, Kolkata

ABOUT THE ORGANIZING INSTITUTION:

(a) Amar Kutir was founded by freedom fighter Late Susen Mukherjee in the early 1923 with objectives as envisaged by Rabindranath Tagore in his experiments in rural reconstruction at Sriniketan. The organization was closed down by British Government for accommodating freedom fighters in 1932. During this period Amar Kutir was raided by the British rulers and Mr. Mukherjee was put behind bars till 1937. The activities of Amar Kutir came to a halt. During his years in prison Mukherjee met several revolutionary leaders, notably Pannalal Dasgupta and Moni Ganguly. From 1938 when the British Government relaxed its rules and started releasing many of the revolutionaries from prison, a few of the released persons begun living and working at Amar Kutir establishing a commune. They were instrumental in organizing night classes and spreading political ideas amongst the rural masses. When the World War II broke out in 1939, many of the revolutionaries left Amar Kutir and were directly involved in organizing Peasant Movement in the villages. Many of them were also active during the Quit India movement in 1942.

After independence, Amar Kutir became a cooperative to rejuvenate and develop rural handicrafts, reflecting the ideals of self-help and sustainable rural development advocated by Tagore. One of the veterans of Amar Kutir, Late Pannalal Dasgupta, renowned freedom fighter and social activist then registered the organization as Amar Kutir Society for Rural Development (AKSRD) in 1978 as self-supported voluntary organization for rural development. Since then the society, has been organizing training and production of traditional handicrafts of the district and now supports more than thousands artisans with marketing, technical improvement and design development. The women entrepreneurs are encouraged for incubation of self-help business organizations at micro level.

(b) Paschim Banga Itihas Samsad (Founded in 1978 in Kolkata) is one of the largest regional associations of professional historians and history- inclined people in West Bengal. It has maintained close links with the Indian History Congress for more than a decade now. It has consistently tried to promote the cause of teaching and research in history through the Bengali language and maintain links with other regional associations pursuing similar goals. It has also directed its efforts towards upholding secular and scientific values in all history - related endeavors. It has continued to devote its attention to rationalizing and updating the history curriculum followed in schools, colleges and universities of West Bengal. The publications of books and compilations of articles continued to form an integral part of Samsad's Activities. The Paschim Banga Itihas Samsad also organizes special lectures on education, political thought and historical geography apart from social and economic history of India. As an organization of historians, teachers, research scholars and history loving people all over West Bengal. Samsad is the largest professional organization of the Historians and the Social Scientist committed to the writing of History on secular and scientific basis.

OBJECTIVE :

In 1942, the Indian National Congress (INC), which was one among the many political parties and organizations in India, gave a call to the British Government to quit India. The movement began with a highly emotive speech delivered by Gandhi on August 8, 1942 in Mumbai. The following day Gandhi was arrested and that led to nation wide upsurges, which combined both the Gandhian and the un-Gandhian forms of struggle against an exploitative British Raj. The behaviour of the Indian masses revealed that the final hour of India's independence struggle had arrived and that people were willing to sacrifice their lives for it, imbued with a new sense of personal or individual entitlement which had been popularized by the Gandhian slogan 'Kareng Ya Maareng'. The movement coincided with the vagaries of the World War II and with the last minute efforts of the major European powers to retain their exalted

status in the world order. However, it was clear that decolonization would set in somewhere in the near future.

But, the ordinary masses who lent strength to the Quit India Movement had very different ideas. The many voices of the nation stood out during the movement and vindicated the fact that the national movement was in real terms a sum total of millions of expectations at the local levels. The movement was not typically one Today, as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of this glorious struggle, we think that this movement with all its emotional flavour had set in the process of the decolonization of the mind, something which has attracted Indian intellectuals in recent times.

MAJOR THRUST AREAS OF THE SEMINAR:

- (a) *International Politics ,World war II and Change of the Political Scenario in Indian Sub-continent*
- (b) *Quit India Movement : Causes , All India Character, Debate on Organized Revolt & non-violence struggle*
- (c) *Quit India Movement : reflect in Literature, Songs, Drama, Cinema*
- (d) *Quit India Movement and undivided Bengal : District wise reflections*
- (e) *Quit India Movement and Popular Protest*
- (f) *Bengal Famine & Quit India Movement*
- (g) *Quit India Movement and Birbhum*

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Contribution in any fields related to the thrust areas of the Seminar is welcome. A brief abstract (not exceeding 250 words) of the paper intended for presentation in the Seminar should be sent to the Organizing Secretary before **20th July 2018** along with the registration fees by NEFT/Demand Draft in favour of “**Amar Kutir**” payable at **Sriniketan, Birbhum, West Bengal**. Selected papers chosen by the editorial board will be published in the proceeding volume with ISBN. The abstract should be sent by E-mail (MS WORDS, Times New Roman, font size-12, 1.5 line space) along with one hard copy. One hard copy and one soft copy (by e-mail/CD) of full paper must be submitted before **3rd August, 2018**.

LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION:

1. College & University teachers across India and Abroad
2. Persons from Research Institutions across India and Abroad
3. Persons from NGOs and School Teachers
4. College and University research scholars & students

WEATHER:

The weather of the Amar Kutir in the month of August remains quite pleasant with the temperature ranging from 25-37°Celsius.

HOW TO REACH AMAR KUTIR:

Bolpur-Santiniketan is connected by good motorable road and railway to all places in West Bengal. Amar Kutir Society for Rural Development (AKSRD) is very popular in Bolpur town and is well connected by all means of public transport. From Bolpur railway station to Amar Kutir distance only 7 k.m.. Amar Kutir is 180 k.m. from Kolkata, 55 km. from Burdwan and 54 km. from Durgapur railway station.

LOCAL HOSPITALITY:

All outstation participants will be provided with local hospitality (on request). Organizing Committee will arrange accommodation for all out station participants in our Guest Houses or nearby Lodge/Hotel/ on sharing basis. The accommodation charge has been fixed at Rs. 200/- per person in Dormitory and Rs. 300/- in room on sharing basis (3/2). However, participants who intend to get accommodation in hotel (personal basis) are requested to inform the organizing committee in advance with their date of arrival and departure. Participants are requested to send full payment for accommodation along with their registration fees. Organizers humbly express their inability to arrange accommodation for participants without having any prior information.

REGISTRATION FEE: Rs. 700.00 only. Every participant must have to be registered in order to take part in the Seminar.

Bank Details :

SBI, SRINIKETAN BRANCH, Acc. No. – 33882865841 IFSC – SBIN0012391

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- (c) For any queries please contact :
 - i) **Organizing Chairman:** Dr. Amiya Kr. Ghosh,
9434150432/ 993229445
 - ii) **Organizing Secretary :** Dr. Prasanta Kr Ghosh,
9434008821/7602862841
 - iii) **Organizing Asst. Secretary :** Dr Ashis Kr. Das
9433181373/ 8584827824

N.B. – Abstract must be in English, the presentation may be of by lingual.