

National Seminar  
on  
**RE-READING VIDYASAGAR**  
HUMANISM, REFORMS AND BEYOND

Organised by  
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, DR. MEGHNAD SAHA COLLEGE**  
Ranipur, Itahar, Uttar Dinajpur,  
West Bengal, PIN-733128

In Collaboration with  
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, RAIGANJ UNIVERSITY**  
Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur,  
West Bengal, PIN-733134

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2019; Time: 10:00 am onward**  
**Venue: Seminar Hall, Dr. Meghnad Saha College**



*Dear Sir/ Madam,*

*It gives us immense pleasure to inform you that the Department of History , Dr. Meghnad Saha College, Itahar, Uttar Dinajpur,W.B. in collaboration with the Department of History, Raiganj University, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur,W.B. is going to organise a National Seminar on “Re-Reading Vidyasagar: Humanism, Reforms and Beyond” on 29<sup>th</sup> March,2019. Prof. Anil Bhumali, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Raiganj University has given consent to inaugurate the seminar.*

*We,on behalf of the organising committee request your kind presence and active participation for making this seminar a grand success.*

*With regards and thanks.*

**Chairperson**

**Dr. Mukunda Mishra**  
*Vice Principal*  
Dr. Meghnad Saha College

**Conveners**

**Mr. Babulal Bala**  
*Assist. Professor, Dept. of History*  
Raiganj University

**Mr.Sukumar Barai**  
*HOD, Dept. of History*  
Dr. Meghnad Saha College

## RE-READING VIDYASAGAR: HUMANISM, REFORMS AND BEYOND

The Seminar intends to rediscover Vidyasagar and his philosophies in newer lights of present days' contexts as well as in the contexts of his own days. It aims to try and grasp his ideologies and many more. The Seminar also intends to create awareness among all its participants regarding the principles of Vidyasagar and the adversities he faced. This shall help us to understand the socio-religious set-up of nineteenth century Bengal as well. Vidyasagar's ideas of social and religious reforms, his motifs of equality of gender, his concept for the congenial preservation of natural environment and improvement of man-nature relationship especially with that of the indigenous people are the many focal points of the seminar. Being a legend rooted in concrete historicity with varied opinions, Vidyasagar has also been a centre of various 'debates'. If the orthodox Hindu faction ostracised him for his revolutionary ideas on widow remarriage; the later historians accused him of neglecting the issue of upliftment of those adult widows who refused to remarry and hence was forced to lead an abominable life. Some criticised him for leaving the Muslim widows out of consideration. The Seminar also opens the floor to contest such controversies purely from academic historical standpoints. As students of history, it is a need to understand the dialogue of the past with the present as it is the duty to comprehend the grass-roots. In an age, such as this, subaltern perspectives are needed to write a balanced history and without popular culture, that criteria cannot be fully fulfilled. From motifs of Vidyasagar and his teachings as popular fabric prints especially on the tant sarees that have gone trans-border in trade to comics and themed based souvenirs, Vidyasagar is omnipresent in popular culture. The Seminar also proposes to explore these alleys to re-understand how Vidyasagar continues to influence the popular culture. The seminar is a humble tribute to the maestro on his bicentenary. It is an initiative to go beyond academic excursions to try and internalize in truer sense the need to embrace the present with flexibility and to welcome the future accepting one's own faulty ways. This seminar aims to explore all these facets of Vidyasagar's life, and much more, to help us understand the relevance of his works and philosophies in a time when such free thoughts laced with liberalism as well as tolerance is needed the most. It is a reminder to all despite some of his 'elusive milestones', Vidyasagar continues to be one of the 'Greatest Bengali of All Time' even in this twenty-first century (BBC Poll, 2004).

### SUB-THEMES

- a) **Vidyasagar's Life and Messages**
- b) **Vidyasagar's Ideology and Empire**
- c) **Vidyasagar's Principle of Religious Tolerance**
- d) **Indian Economy and Vidyasagar**
- e) **Vidyasagar and the Educational and Social Reforms**
- f) **Vidyasagar and Nationalism**
- g) **Vidyasagar and the Women Question**
- h) **Vidyasagar on Environment, Ecology and Indigenous People**
- i) **The 'Debates' on Vidyasagar**
- j) **Vidyasagar and Other Personalities: A Comparison and Beyond**
- k) **Vidyasagar in Popular Culture**

### ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Dr. Meghnad Saha College started its journey in the year of 2k at Ranipur, the rural confines of Itahar in the district of Uttar Dinajpur with the solemn appeal of providing quality education at undergraduate level to local youths for enlightening them with academic knowledge as well as versatility of professional skills along with the 'manifestation of perfection' of human excellence and morality. Ranipur is a growing village in Itahar block within the district of Uttar Dinajpur featured by its scenic un-rugged landscape touching the horizon, the prominent colours and odours being transformed with seasons, the fresco of zigzag roads curving through the canvas of green cropland, the cloy less wind waving upon the jute and paddy plants and after all the simple, industrious, gentle and helpful dwellers. It was not very long ago that the rural confines of Itahar could only dream of quality higher education. Named after the venerable scientist Dr. Meghnad Saha, who overcame all barriers of poverty and the challenges of outrage of acute social disparity, the college remains a symbol of inspiration and adoration to the resourceful youth of the region towards moulding their lives with the hymns of discipline, devotion and perseverance having tuned with the melody of communal and religious harmony to reach the goal of becoming the responsible citizens for serving the nation. The college initially started functioning with general courses in the humanities stream under the affiliation of the University of North Bengal. Within nineteen years of its origin the college has succeed to offer Honours Degree courses in twelve subjects in Science and Arts stream as well as B.A. and B.Sc. General Degree courses to more than three thousand students per academic session under the affiliation of the University of Gour Banga. The introduction of the National Service Scheme (NSS) along with the curriculum further emphasize the role of college in promoting education through a strong attachment with the larger part of the ambient society and social livelihood. It is worth mentioning that since its inception the college had History as a subject in graduation level, with History as a Honours course came into existence in 2004. The university Grants Commission (UGC) has affiliated the College under section 2(f) and 12(b).

## SPEAKERS

- ❖ Prof. Ananda Gopal Ghosh, *Former Professor, Department of History, North Bengal University*
- ❖ Prof. H. Sudhir Kumar Singh, *Department of History, Manipur University*
- ❖ Prof. Anil Kumar Sarkar, *Department of History, Kalyani University*
- ❖ Dr. Girish Pandey, *Associate Professor, Munger University*

## REGISTRATION

The Registration fee for the participants:

Faculty and Research Scholars- Rs. 300/-

Students- Rs.100/-

Registration fees will be received till the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, 2019 via online mode.

Link for the registration is [http://www.drmscollege.ac.in/2019/03/13/history\\_seminar/](http://www.drmscollege.ac.in/2019/03/13/history_seminar/)

## SUBMISSION

Participants are requested to send their abstract in MS Word, 12 point font with 1.5 line space. Abstract should not exceed 250 words. The last date for submission of abstracts for the seminar is 27<sup>th</sup> of March, 2019. The participants must bring the full papers on the day of the seminar. Abstracts can be submitted to the Conveners of the seminar Mr. Sukumar Barai and Mr. Babulal Bala on the following email id:- [drmschistseminar@gmail.com](mailto:drmschistseminar@gmail.com).

## LOCATION

The college is located at a distance of 2 kms from Itahar Bus stand on NH-34. It can be easily reached from Itahar bus stand by Totos, buses and Auto-Rickshaws.

### Chief Patron

**Prof. Anil Bhumali**, *Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor*, Raiganj University

### Patron

**Dr Subrata Saha**, *Hon'ble Administrator*, Dr. Meghnad Saha College

### Advisory Board

**Prof. Kalishankar Tewari**, *Dean of Sciences*, Raiganj University

**Prof. Dipak Kumar Roy**, *Dean of Arts*, Raiganj University

**Sri Barendranath Giri**, *HOD, Department of History*, Raiganj University

**Dr. Durlav Sarkar**, *Registrar*, Raiganj University

**Dr. Apurbo Chakraborty**, *Inspector of Colleges*, University of Gour Banga

**Dr. Md. Enarul Hoque**, *Co-Ordinator, IQAC*, Dr. Meghnad Saha College

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

### Chairperson

**Dr. Mukunda Mishra**, *Vice-Principal*, Dr. Meghnad Saha College

### Conveners

**Mr. Sukumar Barai**, *HOD, Department of History*, Dr. Meghnad Saha College

**Mr. Babulal Bala**, *Assistant Professor in History*, Raiganj University

### Organizing Secretaries

**Ms. Ananya Roy Choudhury**, *Assistant Professor in History*, Dr. Meghnad Saha College

**Dr. Kasturi Ghose**, *Assistant Professor in History*, Raiganj University

### Treasurers

**Mr. Nobdip Chowhan**, *Govt. Approved Part Time Teacher*, Dr. Meghnad Saha College

**Ms. Sarbani Giri Mukherjee**, *Govt. Approved Part Time Teacher*, Dr. Meghnad Saha College

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Mr. Sukumar Barai, HOD, Department of History, Dr. Meghnad Saha College

Mob No. : 9434423900 (Between 6 pm and 9 pm)

Mr. Babulal Bala, Assistant Professor in History, Raiganj University

Mob No.: 8967241917 ((Between 6 pm and 9 pm)

Email: [baraisukumar5@gmail.com](mailto:baraisukumar5@gmail.com) & [babulabala@gmail.com](mailto:babulabala@gmail.com)