



“Know Bengal”

Six-day workshop on the Social and Cultural Heritage and Diversity of West Bengal

Organised by Institute of Language Studies and Research, Govt. of West Bengal and Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata

Kolkata, 17-21 March, 2025

About the Workshop

West Bengal is one of India's unique provinces with its geographical regions, diverse population, flourishing economy and rich cultural heritage. Although drawn from different castes and classes, people of the state celebrate most of the festivals together. Many of them migrated from different parts of India even before the Partition. They work in different sectors, from agriculture to industry, academia, literature, and other fields. In short, West Bengal is one of the telling examples that has been experimenting with the idea of "unity among diversities" even before the Partition. The diverse nature of West Bengal helped the state's economy, politics, culture and other parts of life although it is seldom reflected in higher studies in colleges and universities or higher research. The lack of knowledge about the diverse nature of the society created various misconceptions among the public life and unwelcome divisions in the name of race, language, caste and culture. Therefore, discussion about West Bengal becomes necessary.

Institute of Language Research (ILSR), in collaboration with Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, propose to organise a five-day workshop to deepen our understanding of West Bengal's society, economy, politics, and culture. This initiative promises to foster a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the state, thereby addressing the lack of awareness and dispelling the misconceptions that currently prevail.

Who Can Apply

Researchers, college teachers (permanent or ad-hoc) who have joined in the last five-six years, young journalists, lawyers, NGO professionals, activists within the age limit of 40 years will be eligible to apply for this workshop. Applicants should have the following things in their mind before sending their applications:

- i) Knowledge of Bengali is essential and knowledge of any other recognised languages of West Bengal is preferable.
- ii) The applicants should select any of the two themes for participating in this workshop.
- iii) Each applicant should submit a Statement of Purpose (200 words) with her/his application along with a short note/ proposal (500 words) based on the themes selected.
- iv) The decision (regarding selection of candidates) of the committee of the workshop is final.

Applications (along with all necessary documents) may be sent to the following email addresses

Rajat Kanti Sur: rajatkanti@mcrgr.ac.in with a copy to Subhashree Rout: subhashree@mcrgr.ac.in and toilsr.2022@gmail.com.

Last date of application: 3 February 2025.

Selected applicants will be informed via email on or before 20 February 2025.

The registration fee for participation is INR 1000.