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বাঙালির মানসজগতে ভাওয়াইয়া গানের স্থান
 শাস্ত্রনিকেতনের পাখি
 বর্তমান সময়ের প্রেক্ষিতে মোহিত চট্টোপাধ্যায়ের 'বর্ণ বিপর্যয়' ও
 'ক্যাস্টেল ছররা' দুটি আবাসার্ড নাটকের মূল্যায়ন
 নবাবী আমল এবং লক্ষ্মীয়ার সংগীতের ইতিহাস
 অস্তিত্বের সংকেটে বাংলা ভাষা : ভাবনায় দুর্ভাবনায়
 চেতনা-জীবনকথা : শ্রীঅমিয়নিমাইচরিত
 বিদ্যাসাগরের কর্মচর্চা: ঈশ্বরের "নন্দনকানন"
 মনোজ মিত্রের 'সাজানো বাগান' : প্রান্তিকায়িত মৃতপ্রায়
 বাছাদের উত্থান ও উজ্জীবনের প্রচেষ্টা
 শিক্ষায় আধ্যাত্মিক চেতনা গড়ে তুলতে রবীন্দ্রসঙ্গীতের ভূমিকা
 বই কেন পড়বো ?
 বৈদিক যুগের পরবর্তী অধ্যায় অর্থাৎ মধ্যযুগের প্রচলিত ও
 অপ্রচলিত ভাষা

রিত্তা মিশ্র ১০৪
 কৃত্তিকা ভট্টাচার্য ১০৭
 মো: আফরুক সেখ ১৪০
 সত্যপ্রিয় রায় ১৪৫
 সেখ হাফিজুল হক ১৫০
 ড. শ্রীবাস বিশ্বাস ১৫৪
 মনোজ কুমার চুড়ু ১৫৯
 ড. বিপ্লব দাস ১৬৩
 অসীম কুমার রায় ১৬৬
 ড. সনৎ ভট্টাচার্য ১৭৯
 প্রিয়ব্রত চন্দ্র ১৮৪

Rabindranath Tagore's Ideas on 'Quality of Life'
~~of Women's Rights in Colonial Bengal~~
 Colonial Voice in Fanny Parkes's *Wanderings of a pilgrim
 in search of the picturesque* (1850)
 Status of Technological Pedagogical and Content
 Knowledge (TPACK) among Pre-Service Teachers
 A study of personality and academic achievement among
 children of working and non-working mothers
 The British Seaside *Birkul and Narayantala*:
 Holidays and Summer Resorts in Colonial Bengal
 Facets of Developments and their Impact on the
 Agrarian Economies of the Canning Sub-Division,
 Sundarbans, West Bengal, India since 2001
 Forest in the life of the Santal Communities in
 Suri Sadar subdivision of Birbhum District, West Bengal :
 A Geographical Overview
 River as a landscape feature in Bengali Cinema :
 A Transactional theory analysis with special reference
 to Titas Ekti Nodir Naam.

Arup Daripa 190
 Arijit Goswami 196
 Bijay Kumar Das 200
 Animesh Biswas 210
 Dr Suman Mukherjee 217
 Sanat Kumar Purkait 224
 Prakash Ray 232
 Irani Chatterjee 239
 Malay Mukhopadhyay ২৪৮

লেখক পরিচিতি



Suman Mukherjee

The British Seaside *Birkul* and *Narayantala* : Holidays and Summer Resorts in Colonial Bengal

Dr Suman Mukherjee

Abstract : The British decided to construct sea-side resorts in different parts of Coastal Bengal to save them from summer heat of Calcutta. In the 18th century '*Beerkul*' (presently Digha) was a sea-side resort. First Governor General Warren Hastings (1774-1785) selected '*Beerkul*' to save himself from the heat of Calcutta. The sweet sea wind of *Beerkul* was very useful for health of the European administrators and aristocrats. Hastings constructed a bungalows there and he marked it as '*Brighton of the East*'. But the said plan was not implemented very successfully. Sir Andrew Fraser (1903-1908) tried to construct *Narayantala* (presently Frasersganj) Island as a sea-side summer resort. He preferred this place for its location at the side of the Bay of Bengal. This place was covered by sea-beaches and natural beauties. But finally his plan was not successful. The major thrust of my paper is about why the British explored *Birkul* and *Fraserganj* as a seaside resort and health sanitarium of Bengal? How tourism, leisure and recreation informed an agenda in Colonial *Birkul* and *Fraserganj*? Why and how *Birkul* and *Fraserganj* emerged as a popular seaside holiday destination in Colonial Bengal? Who were the key players in tourism, leisure and recreation in Colonial *Birkul* and *Fraserganj*?
Key Words: Seaside; Holiday; Summer Resorts; *Birkul*; *Narayantala*; '*Brighton of the East*'; Warren Hastings; Sir Andrew Fraser; Tourism; Leisure; Recreation.

Within Western nations, water has long been associated with restorative qualities and medicinal benefits to balance the ardor of work, life in the city, or the pollution inherent in industrial/urban areas. This association is evidenced in past practices of picnicking beside creeks, rivers, and lakes; short excursions to lake areas, thermal springs, and the seaside; the taking of seaside holidays and vacations; second-home ownership by lakes, or at the seaside; and bathing and spa therapy as well as taking in the waters and fresh or sea air. Traditionally, in England, seaside resorts and activities were used as a break from normal routine. With the onset of the Industrial Revolution and subsequent developments in working conditions, such as shorter working days and public holidays, discretionary income, along with the concurrent development of transportation technology, the lower-middle and working classes were able to experience to differing degrees the recreational and leisure pursuits that had previously been the purview of the upper-middle and upper-class ranks. For example, toward the end of the eighteenth century in England, spa towns, previously the realm of the upper class, were inundated with lower-middle class populaces.

