



At the home of the historian, Jadunath Sarkar, 10 Lake Terrace, Kolkata 700029

A unit of the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC)

Set up with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India



The House on 10 Lake Terrace

The house was the former residence of the eminent historian, Sir Jadunath Sarkar (1870-1958). When Sir Jadunath moved with his family into this newly-constructed residence in 1938, the house address was P62, subsequently P255, Lansdowne Road Extension. The street was renamed Lake Terrace in 1943, and the house was subsequently renumbered 10 Lake Terrace. This is the place Sir Jadunath worked out of for the last two decades of his life, and it is in the ground floor study of this house that he passed away peacefully, after a full day's work, on the night of Monday 19 May, 1958. His family continued to live here through the 1960s.



Jadunath Sarkar, studio portrait by N.N. Virkar, Bombay, 1 December, 1936

Sir Jadunath's wife, Lady Kadambini (1880-1964), left a will stating that the house should be sold after her death and the proceeds given to a hospital. When the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was set up in 1973 under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, Professor J.P. Naik, then Education Advisor to the government, negotiated with the trustees of Lady Kadambini's will and acquired the property for ICSSR, New Delhi, and the sale proceeds were donated to the T.B hospital in Jadavpur. Soon after its founding on 1 February 1973, the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC), one of the early research institutes established under the aegis of ICSSR, rented this house and subsequently purchased it.

The CSSSC at 10 Lake Terrace (1973-2000)

Gradually building additions and extensions to the house, including its two present upper floors, to accommodate its offices, library and class rooms, the CSSSC was located here for the first twenty-seven years of its existence.



Sketch of 10 Lake Terrace by Ramabai De, used on the cover of the first Annual Report of the CSSSC, 1974-75

When the CSSSC (soon to be known in the city as 'The Centre') first moved here in July 1973, it consisted of its founding Director, Professor Barun De, Registrar, Susanta Ghosh, Librarian, Arun Ghosh, 17 members of faculty and 30 members of administrative staff. The subsequent decades saw the Centre acquire its full strength of faculty and administrative staff and develop into one of the country's premier institutions of social science research and inter-disciplinary studies. Its reputation drew in senior and younger scholars from universities in Bengal and all over India, who came here on permanent positions or temporary stints. Its library came to be regarded as one of the city's best-stocked book and periodical resources in the social sciences. Its seminars and lecture series came to be equally well-known for the lively discussions and debates these generated. And it is in this house that, from 1978, the Centre developed and ran its pioneering Research Training Programme, which is the precursor of the institution's current M.Phil. in Social Sciences programme. In this phase, the house bred many scholars who have gained national and international recognition, such as Javed Alam, Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Nirmla Banerjee, Gautam Bhadra, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Partha Chatterjee, Amitav Ghosh, Amalendu Guha, Ramachandra Guha, Tapati Guha-Thakurta, N. Krishnaji, Nita Kumar, Sugata Marjit, Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Gyanendra Pandey, M.S.S. Pandian, Madhava Prasad, Ranabir Samaddar, Hiteshranjan Sanyal, Asok Sen and Surajit Sinha. It opened up critical areas of theoretical and empirical scholarship, it also nurtured a close family of faculty, students and administrative staff.

The Jadunath Sarkar Resource Centre for Historical Research (JSRC)

In 2000, the CSSSC moved out of this location to its new campus at Baishnabghata Patuli. The house at 10 Lake Terrace thereafter underwent some restructuring to become a resource centre for historical research. The JSRC was inaugurated in December 2004 with a three-day international seminar on *History in the Vernacular*, that was a part of a Ford Foundation project at the Centre for building a *Cultural History Archive of Eastern India*. Occupying the second and third floors of the building, the JSRC came to house the large Bengali, Assamese, Oriya, Hindi and Urdu book and newspaper collections of the CSSSC's library. Into this library also came the institution's valuable scholar

collections, consisting of books, pamphlets, photographs and other print material donated to the Centre on behalf of several eminent scholars such as Debiprasad Chattopadhyay, Edward Dimock, Hitesranjan Sanyal, Arun Kumar Dasgupta, Sukumar Mitra, Amales Tripathi, Buddhadev Bhattacharyya, Buddhadeva Bose and others. Several other scholar collections have, since then, also come into the Centre's library, such as those belonging to Naresh Guha, Tapan Raychaudhuri and Sumanta Banerjee, and the book collection of Ashok Mitra has also been willed to the institution.



Cover of *Alapini*, a fortnightly magazine on music, 1899, engraving by Preo Gopal Das. From the visual archives of the CSSSC



Cover of the annual children's magazine, *Barshik Shishusathi*, 1945(1352). From the visual archives of the CSSSC

Between 2004 and 2012 (when the building was closed down for renovation), the premises housed in addition a large ground floor auditorium, the office of the Eastern Regional Centre of the ICCSR, which also ran a guest house facility on the first floor.

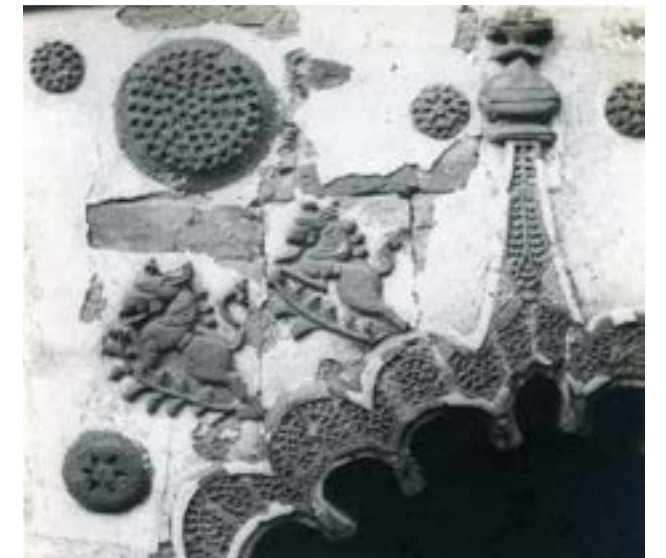
The Jadunath Bhavan Museum and Resource Centre (JBMRC)

The idea of lending a new lease of life to this building and creating a composite library, archives and display complex came out of a grant received in 2010 from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, under its 'Museum Scheme'.

Bengal Temple photographs by Hitesranjan Sanyal, c.1960s, donated to the CSSSC archives



Ananta Basudeb temple, Bansberia, Hooghly



Details of a sculpted archway of a temple at Devanandapur, Hooghly

It has given the Centre a wonderful opportunity to have the premises professionally restored and redesigned, to bring back to the house a semblance of its former appearance and history, while also equipping it with all the contemporary amenities of a library, archive, documentation centre and exhibition space. It has brought together under one roof the Centre's special collection of rare books, journals, newspapers and photographs (which was earlier part of the JSRC) as well as its large analogue and digital archive of textual and visual material from 19th and 20th century Bengal and eastern India (called the Hitesranjan Sanyal Memorial collection). The renovated building provides some much-needed space for the expansion of these print and digital resources and acquisition of new holdings.

The notion of a 'museum' is conceived differently for a space such as this, as an archival museum rather than one of original objects. The plan includes (i) displays on the life and works of Jadunath Sarkar in his study and on the many scholars whose books and papers have been donated to the institution; (ii) exhibitions using the Centre's archival resources of old periodicals, newspapers, photographs, paintings, prints, posters, advertisements and commercial art, gleaned from disappearing institutional and private holdings; and (iii) invitation to scholars, artists and curators to build on the Centre's archival material and conceive of special research projects and exhibitions in this space. The gallery on Sir Jadunath in his old study offers a template for the first kind of display. The different archival exhibitions that the CSSSC has organized out of its visual resources – *Visual Worlds of Modern Bengal* (2002), *From Imperial Product to National Drink: The Culture of Tea Consumption in Modern India* (2005) and *The City in the Archive: Calcutta's Visual Histories* (2011) – are examples of the second kind of display. As part of the third project, the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA), Bangalore (which had first funded the making of the Centre's visual archive) collaborated with the CSSSC's archives to offer three archival fellowships during 2015-2016, to develop new creative projects and displays. The exhibition, *Accessing the Archive: Three Exploratory Projects*, which went on view at JBMRC in June 2016, featuring the works of the graphic artist, Vishwajyoti Ghosh, a film-maker and animation artist, Afrah Shafiq, and a researcher on Calcutta's colonial History, Sujaan Mukherjee, was a culmination of this project.

From the Siddhartha Ghosh collection of early studio and family photographs



Hand-tinted portrait, Kamala Studio, College Street, Calcutta, c. 1920



Self portrait of Raja Birchandra of Tripura with his wife Monomohini, Royal Place, Agartala, 1890

From the Parimal Ray collection of commercial art



Advertisement of HMV gramophone company, enamel hoarding, c.1940s



Advertisement for family planning, enamel hoarding, c.1940s



Bernard Matthews. Eden Gardens, watercolour, c.1930, painting for a poster of the Tourism Development of Bengal

Lay-out of different floors of the Jadunath Bhavan Museum and Resource Centre

Ground and Mezzanine floor: Jadunath Sarkar's study; reception and offices; auditorium; pantry; storage area for heavy, large format material like newspapers and maps.

First floor: Displays on scholars and their donated collections; dedicated room for the book and photographic collections of Hitesranjan Sanyal; gallery space for temporary exhibitions and rotating displays on archival images; audio-visual and smaller seminar rooms.

Second floor: Library stacks with the CSSSC's full collection of Bengali books and periodicals and print material in other Indian languages; reading rooms and computer work-stations; server room; dedicated room for the book and photographic collections of Barun De.

Third floor: CSSSC's archives, with older microfilms, transparencies and photographs and the new digitized collections; digital retrieval and documental unit; archive users' spaces, faculty lounge and open terrace.



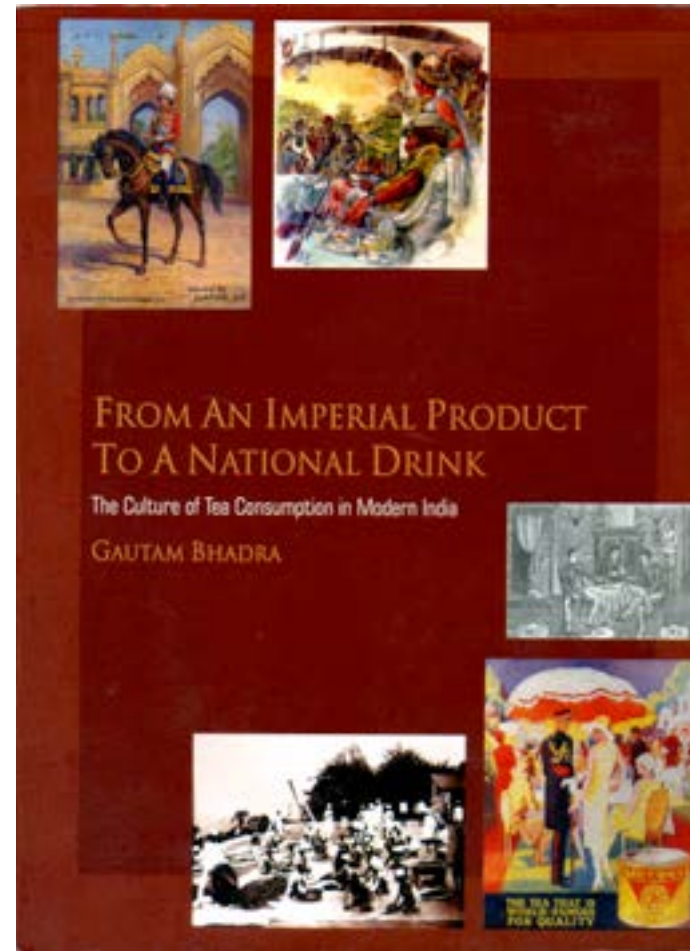
Satyajit Ray, Poster for his film, *Debi*, released on 19 February, 1960, Courtesy: Parimal Ray



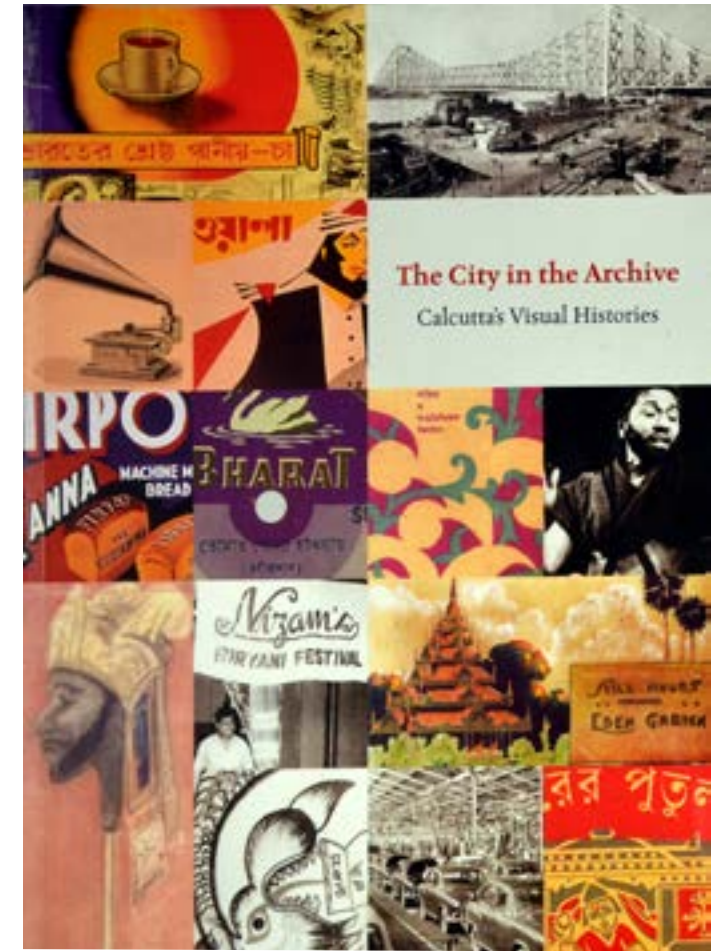
Deboleena Majumdar, *Bride*, portrait of her sister Monobina Roy, c 1938, Courtesy: The Photographer



Cover of *Visual Worlds of Modern Bengal*, curated by Tapati Guha-Thakurta (Kolkata: Seagull, 2002)



Cover of *From Imperial Product to National Drink*, curated by Gautam Bhadra (Kolkata: Tea Board of India, 2005)



Cover of *The City in the Archive*, curated by Tapati Guha-Thakurta (Kolkata: CSSSC, 2011)

Opening of the Jadunath Bhavan Museum and Resource Centre on 1 February 2015

After the completion of the civil construction and renovation work on the premises, the building at 10 Lake Terrace was reopened and the Jadunath Bhavan Museum and Resource Centre was formally inaugurated in the renovated precincts on 1 February 2015. The date marked the 42nd anniversary of the founding of the CSSSC in this historical building. While a small amount of the renovation work remained to be completed then, the entire ground floor was made ready for the occasion.



Release of the Occasional Paper by Dipesh Chakrabarty on Jadunath Sarkar in the room that was his study, 1 February, 2015



Gathering of faculty in the reception lobby leading to the Jadunath Sarkar Gallery, 1 February 2015

The highlight of the event was the setting up of a gallery on Sir Jadunath Sarkar in the room that was his former study – with text panels, photographs and his own study table that was gifted by his grandson – and the release of an Occasional Paper by Professor Dipesh Chakrabarty titled, *Reading Sir Jadunath: Literature and History*. A special logo for JBMRC was designed on this occasion, which was installed as a plaque at the building entrance and used in the signage and publicity for the house. The occasion was marked by the hosting of an evening tea for a large gathering of the Centre's alumni of its older faculty, staff and students, along with its current faculty and administrative staff.

Events organised at the building - February 2015 to February 2017

The first lecture of the JBMRC Lecture Series was delivered by Mr. Jawhar Sircar, CEO, Prasar Bharati, on Competition, Conflict and Harmony: Vividh Bharati and the Emergence of a Supranational Identity in India, on 8 September 2015, in the auditorium of the building.

A Memorial Meeting was organised on 5 January 2016 for Professor Asok Sen, one of the senior-most founding members of faculty of the CSSSC, who passed away on 10 December 2015. Professor Sen was at the CSSSC from 1973 until his retirement

in 1992 and remained closely connected with several of the Centre's faculty and activities for long after.

A workshop was organised by The National Museum of Denmark and the CSSSC with support from the Indian Council for Social Science Research – Eastern Regional Centre, titled Establishing an Indian-Danish Research Network on the Social History of Serampore (Hooghly District), at the JBMRC auditorium on 13 April 2016. This preparatory workshop was intended to facilitate and develop a research network around European archives in Bengal focusing on the town of Serampore.

A panel discussion was jointly organised by the JBMRC and the "Achhyut Mlechha Chandal Katha" magazine, titled *Asurer Itihash* [The History of Asuras] on 23 April 2016. Professor Partha Chatterjee chaired the session and the speakers were Shri Ajit Hembram from Shikar Disham Kherowal Beer Lokachar Committee, Purulia, Professor Brajadulal Chattopadhyay and Professor Gautam Bhadra.

An exhibition titled, *Accessing the Archives: Three Exploratory Projects*, was held on the first floor rooms of the JBMRC from Friday, 10 June to Saturday, 18 June 2016. A product of the archival fellowships awarded by the India Foundation for the Arts, Bangalore, the exhibition featured three multi-media displays – "Sultana's Reality" by Afrah Shafiq, "Bengali Spring, Winter Sun" by Vishwajyoti Ghosh, and "Chance Directed" by Sujaan Mukherjee.



Poster of the CSSSC-IFA exhibition, *Accessing the Archive: Three Exploratory Projects*, held in the first floor galleries, June 2016.



At the opening of the new Jadunath Sarkar Gallery, 1 February 2015



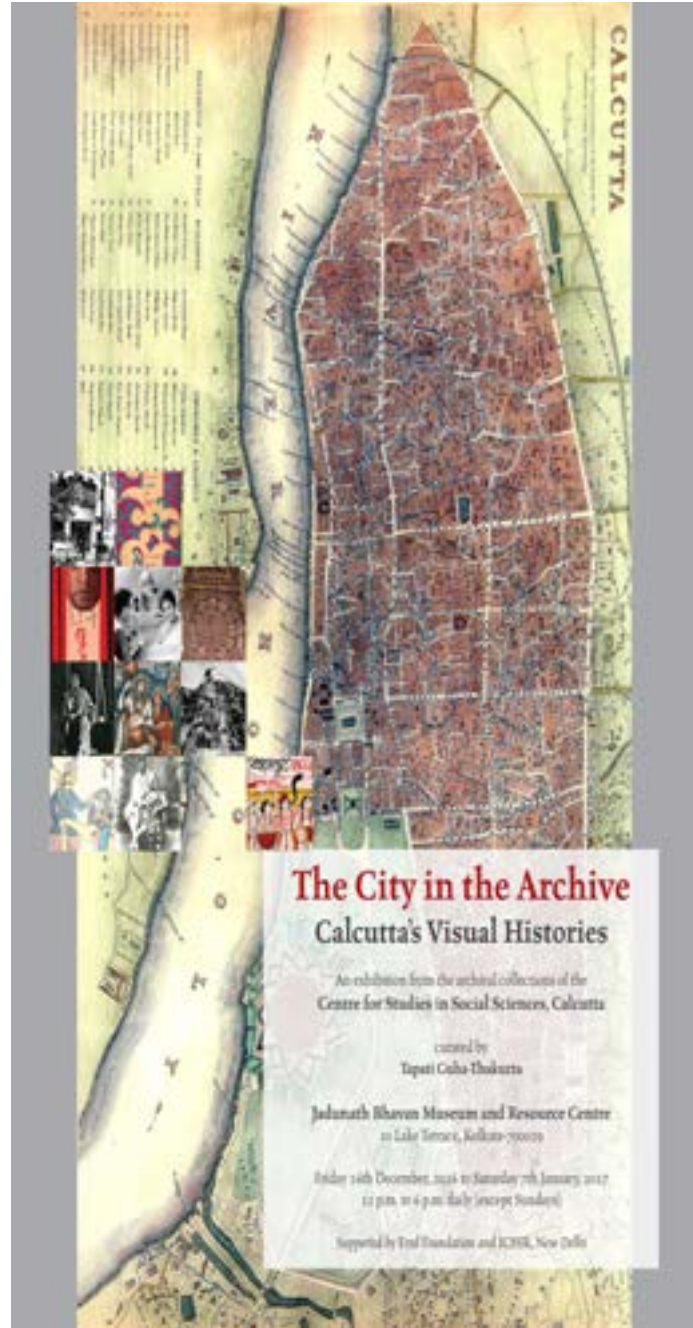
The renovated and modernised auditorium at the Jadunath Bhavan Museum and Resource Centre.

The library at the Jadunath Bhavan Museum and Resource Centre was reopened at the renovated building from Thursday, 11 August 2016.



Inauguration of the conference, "The City as the Site of the Political: Urban History, Infrastructure and Culture", 15 December, 2016

As a part of the CSSSC's collaboration with partner German institutions, an international conference on the subject, 'The City as a Site of the Political: Urban History, Infrastructure and Culture' was held on 15 and 16 December 2016. The workshop explored and identified critical themes in the understanding of urbanism, and focused on the city as a site and subject of archiving practices, drawing on the long-standing work the CSSSC has undertaken in archiving domains of urban experience in Kolkata and Eastern India. The conference brought together an important group of urban historians and archivists from across India and other parts of the world. To coincide with this conference, the CSSSC's archival exhibition, curated by Tapati Guha-Thakurta, *The City in the Archives: Calcutta's Visual Histories*, was remounted in the first floor rooms of the JBMRC. A new set of panels on the archives of the Calcutta Improvement Trust was added to the exhibition.



The City in the Archive

Calcutta's Visual Histories

An exhibition from the archival collections of the
Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

curated by
Tapati Guha-Thakurta

Jadunath Bhawan Museum and Resource Centre
22 Lake Terrace, Kolkata-700019

Under 14th December, 2016 to Saturday 7th January 2017
11 pm to 4 pm daily (except Sundays)

Supported by Ford Foundation and ICSSR, New Delhi



Exhibition panels, *The City in the Archive: Calcutta's Visual Histories*, first floor galleries of JBMRC, December 2016.

An Exhibition Lecture Series was held at the JBMRC auditorium between 17 December 2016 and 7 January 2017. The lectures series, chaired by Rosinka Chaudhuri, had the following four lectures – (i) 27 December 2016 - Tapati Guha-Thakurta, "From Craftsmanship to Commercial Art: The New Vocations of Design in late Colonial India"; discussant - Parul Dave Mukherjee. (ii) 30 December, 2016 - Ranu Roychoudhuri, "An Art for Society's Sake: Documentary Photography, Iconoclasm, and the Making of 'People of Calcutta'"; discussant: Manas Ray. (iii) 3 January, 2017 - Tapti Roy, "Bidya Sundar and the Story of Print in Nineteenth century Calcutta"; discussant: Gautam Bhadra. (iv) 7 January, 2017 - Trina Nileena Banerjee, "The Art of Staging: Spectacle, Realism and the Idea of the 'Minimal' in Left Theatre Aesthetics in Calcutta"; discussant: Sudipto Chatterjee.



The City in the Archives: Calcutta's Visual Histories

Exhibition Lecture Series

chaired by Rosinka Chaudhuri, Professor in Cultural Studies and Head, Academic Affairs, CSSSC, will Chair all four lectures of this series

Tuesday, 27 December, 2016, 4 pm
Tapati Guha-Thakurta
Director and Professor in History, CSSSC
"From Craftsmanship to Commercial Art: The New Vocations of Design in late Colonial India"
Discussant: Parul Dave Mukherjee, Professor, School of Arts and Aesthetics, IITM

Friday, 30 December, 2016, 4 pm
Ranu Roychoudhuri,
Assistant Professor in History, Nalanda University
"An Art for Society's Sake: Documentary Photography, Iconoclasm, and the Making of 'People of Calcutta'"
Discussant: Manas Ray, Professor, CSSSC

Tuesday, 3 January, 2017, 4 pm
Tapti Roy,
Historian, Independent Scholar
"Bidya Sundar and the Story of Print in Nineteenth-century Calcutta"
Discussant: Gautam Bhadra, Honorary Professor, CSSSC

Saturday, 7 January, 2017, 4 pm
Trina Nileena Banerjee,
Assistant Professor in Cultural Studies, CSSSC
"The Art of Staging: Spectacle, Realism and the Idea of the 'Minimal' in Left Theatre Aesthetics in Calcutta"
Discussant: Sudipto Chatterjee, Professor, CSSSC



