

Shanti Sandesh

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Shanti Sandesh

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Shanti Foundation

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MY WORD

Introducing Shanti Sandesh

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Shanti Sandesh, the newsletter from Shanti Foundation. While “Shanti Sandesh” beautifully translates to “message of peace” in Hindi, for us, it encapsulates the essence of Shanti Foundation’s communication—a quarterly window into our ongoing initiatives.

In recent months, Shanti Foundation has been a bustling hub of dynamic activities, ranging from the establishment of operational facilities to the orchestration of impactful on-ground events. Our relentless focus has been on empowering underprivileged students in the farthest reaches of West Bengal. Communities like Mohanbati, Chowberia, Chakdaha, Ghughia, and beyond have reaped the rewards of Shanti Foundation’s educational pursuits. These efforts culminated in a series of transformative STEM education camps for school students, leaving an indelible mark on young minds. Simultaneously, undergraduate students from diverse colleges in these regions engaged in enlightening computer skill training workshops hosted at the distinguished Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary Colleges. The foundation also identified a crucial need to uplift government school and degree college teachers, thus organizing specialized IT skill camps to enrich their expertise.

Acknowledging the financial hurdles faced by promising students, the Shanti Devi Scholarships took root. In a significant stride, the foundation identified five deserving undergraduates and granted them the inaugural Shanti Devi Scholarships, propelling them forward in their educational journeys.

For women, the foundation embarked on a journey of content aggregation and development, focused on healthcare and fostering a better quality of life. From various open sources, we curated small booklets and concise videos to create a wealth of valuable resources.

Guided by our unwavering commitment to enhance STEM education in Indian languages, ensuring equitable access to cutting-edge learning content, we orchestrated a landmark one-day conference. This assembly brought together esteemed science educators, communicators, and policy-makers, forming part of our science communication popularization and extension (SCoPE) initiative in Bangla. Hosted near Kolkata in Rahara, this event became a platform for luminaries and enthusiasts to deliberate and propose actionable strategies, especially for underprivileged Bangla-speaking students.

Amidst these strides, Shanti Foundation successfully secured compliance and tax-benefit certificates, such as FCRA and 12AA/80G, facilitating streamlined fund-raising.

Stay tuned for more updates in the forthcoming editions of Shanti Sandesh. Our commitment to disseminating education, empowerment, and progress to every nook and cranny of society remains resolute.

(Nakul Parashar, PhD)

One-Day Summit: Catalyzing Bangla Science Communication & Education

Joint Endeavor by RKMVCC, Kolkata, & Shanti Foundation, New Delhi
August 26th, 2023 Kolkata

August 26th, 2023 Rahara (Kolkata) —a day enshrined in the annals of intellectual awakening—witnessed the birth of a symposium that transcended the ordinary. The hallowed Maa Sarada Auditorium at Ramkrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College (RKMVCC) in Rahara, West Bengal, was the crucible for a symposium of profound import. Enigmatically titled "Science Communication: Igniting Legacy, Embracing the Present, and Forging the Frontier in Bangla," this symposium was an alchemical fusion of RKMVCC and the Shanti Foundation. With the reverberations of Swami Kamalasthananda Ji's voice, the symposium unfurled at the stroke of 11:00 AM, ushering in a new era. His words, an anthem for the ages, resonated with the imperative of science communication as the bedrock of societal transformation.



The symposium's tapestry was interwoven with the presence of Dr. Nakul Parashar, an emissary of the Shanti Foundation, who articulated the symposium's raison d'être. A pause of reflection was dedicated to the memory of luminaries now in the realm of immortality—Dr. Samar Bagchi, Dr. Bikas Kumar Sinha, Shri Kalyan Kumar Dasgupta, and Dr. C. R. Rao—whose brilliance continues to illuminate the corridors of science.

The symposium climaxed with the unveiling of six tomes, gems of knowledge in the realm of popular science. Among these, luminary works such as "Bigyan Panchashot: Ponchasti Lokbigyan Probondher Sonkolon" by Dr. Manas Pratim Das, "Alokbidyar Itikotha" by Dr. Gautam Gangopadhyay, "Shankur Sakshate" by Dr. Sudakshina Gupta, "Nirbachito Jonbigyan Probondho Sonkolon" by Siddhartha Joardar, "Bheshoj Udbhid: Bharatbarsher Akti Amulya Sampad" by Dr. Tuhin Chatterjee and Dr. Sujay Pal, and "Ganiter Duniyai Kichukshan" by Dr. Bikas Chakraborty, illuminated the intellectual landscape. Amid these literary luminaries, the absence of Dr. Gautam Gangopadhyay was palpable, yet the eloquence of Dr. Shankarashis Mukherjee seamlessly unveiled his optics-oriented opus.



The symposium crescendoed in a panel discussion, "The Journey So Far," skillfully orchestrated by the doyen of science communication, Dr. Bhupati Chakraborty. The panel, a constellation of luminaries including Prof. Siddhartha Joardar, Prof. Shankarashis Mukherjee, Dr. Manas Pratim Das, Dr. Abhijit Bardhan, and Shri Amitesh Banerjee, embarked on a profound exploration of the SCoPE-Bangla movement's trajectory since its inception in 2019. With surgical precision, the session unveiled the movement's metamorphosis from its nascent origins to its triumphant present.

Post an intermission infused with culinary rejuvenation, the symposium's second act materialized through a panel discussion, "The Road Ahead," navigated by the sagacious helm of Dr. Chinmoy Kumar Ghosh. Anchored by luminaries such as Smt. Amupama Sengupta, Dr. Susanta Majumdar, Dr. Samar Chattopadhyay, Shri Chandan Sen, Dr. Nakul Parashar, and Swami Kamalasthananda, this session embarked on a prophetic dialogue, crafting a roadmap for the SCoPE-Bangla movement's trajectory. Shri Chandan Sen, an icon of theater direction and scripting, painted a visionary canvas where science and performing arts converged to sculpt a resonant narrative.

The symposium climaxed with Dr. Parashar's fervent declaration—the Shanti Foundation would nurture the flame of the SCoPE-Bangla movement, steering its destiny. This commitment entailed the stewardship of "Bigyan Katha," a monthly Bengali science magazine—epitomizing the movement's aspirations.

In an aria of gratitude, Swami Kamalasthananda Ji paid homage to attendees who shared a collective dream: advancing science communication and popularization in the Bengali language.

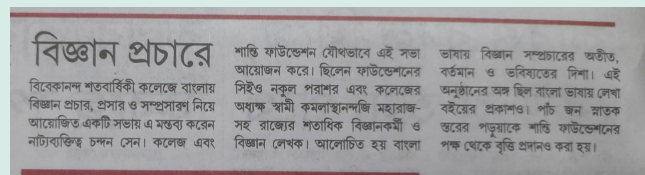


The symposium resounded with actionable manifestos:

- The Continuation of the Popular Science Magazine in Bangla: “BIGYAN KATHA”
- The Multidimensional Tapestry of Science Communication, Popularization & Extension in Bangla, interwoven through mediums spanning print, electronic, social, digital, folk art & culture
- The Radiance of Scientific Awareness Illuminating Underprivileged Students & Women
- The Nurturing of Underprivileged Scholars Through Immersive Study Camps
- The Illumination of Scientific & Medical Awareness Among Underprivileged Women & Students

The symposium’s zenith manifested in the Shanti Foundation’s solemn pledge, launching “Shanti Devi Scholarship” into reality. In a resolute embrace, five deserving scholars of RKMVCC were: ABAR ABRAHAM MAKUR DHUOR (1st-year BSc in Computer Science), MAKENY DANIEL MABOR MAKER (1st-year BSc in Computer Science), AJUONG MOSES RUNDO MACIEK (1st-year BSc in Microbiology), SUBHANKAR MAITY (2nd-year MSc in Botany), and SUMAN MAITY (2nd-year BSc in Chemistry). The symposium’s crescendo witnessed Swami Kamalasthananda Ji bequeathing the torch of opportunity to these luminous beneficiaries.

As the symposium’s final crescendo dissolved into a spirited high-tea, the promises of progress resonated—a symphony of metamorphosis, redefining the contours of Bengali science communication.



Journey So Far

JULY 2023

- **Successful FCRA Certification Attained:** We have successfully obtained the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) certification, enabling us to effectively channel foreign contributions towards our noble causes.
- **Inauguration of Operational Office:** We are delighted to share that our operational office, located at UG-17, Jyoti Shikhar, Distt Center, Janakpuri, New Delhi, is now fully operational and ready to facilitate our endeavors.
- **Welcoming Our Executive Assistant:** We are excited to introduce our newly appointed Executive Assistant, who has enthusiastically commenced their role, contributing to the smooth functioning of our operations.
- **Strategic Partnerships Identified:** We have strategically identified key partners to collaborate on various impactful activities:
 1. **Empowering Women and School Children in NCR:** We are joining forces with the Zaheer Science Foundation and the Mobius Foundation, both based in New Delhi, to empower women and enhance education for school children in the National Capital Region.
 2. **Education and Empowerment in West Bengal:** Our collaboration with the Ramakrishna Mission Centenary College in Rahara is set to drive women's empowerment and school children's education in West Bengal.
 3. **Supporting the Deaf and Dumb Community:** The Noida Deaf Society has been chosen as a partner for our initiatives aimed at empowering the deaf and dumb community.
 4. **Transforming Education in Remote Bihar:** Through collaboration with the Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, we are committed to bringing empowering education to remote and underprivileged areas in Bihar.
- **Participation in Prestigious International Conference:** We are thrilled to announce that the Mobius Foundation has recognized the Shanti Foundation as a partner for the esteemed Annual International Conference on Sustainability Education, scheduled for September 2023. This partnership marks a significant stride in our commitment to sustainability and education.

We are dedicated to making a lasting impact in these critical areas and are excited to embark on this journey of positive change. Your continued support is invaluable in driving our mission forward.



AUGUST 2023

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Inked between RKMVCC, and Shanti Foundation to Propel Mandated Initiatives

We are thrilled to announce the formalization of a significant partnership between RKMVCC, Rahara (Kolkata), and Shanti Foundation, New Delhi, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU). This collaboration is set to empower our collective mission and bring about positive transformations in our target areas.

Launch of Five Shanti Devi Scholarships at RKMVCC, Rahara (Kolkata) for the Academic Year 2023-24

In an effort to promote education and inclusivity, we are excited to introduce the Shanti Devi Scholarships, dedicated to underprivileged students. This noble initiative has been inaugurated at RKMVCC, Rahara (Kolkata), aligning with our commitment to fostering education and supporting deserving individuals.

An Array of Ground-Level Initiatives for FY 2023-24, In Collaboration with RKMVCC

We have outlined a comprehensive plan for the fiscal year 2023-24, in conjunction with RKMVCC. The following impactful initiatives are on the horizon:

- 1. Women & Child Health Camps:** Aiming to enhance the well-being of women and children, we have scheduled a series of monthly health camps over the next nine months. This initiative is geared towards promoting better health and raising awareness about essential health practices.
- 2. Tribal Literacy Camps:** In recognition of the importance of education and empowerment, we are organizing monthly literacy camps for tribal communities. This initiative seeks to enhance literacy levels among these marginalized groups and empower them with knowledge and skills.
- 3. Learning Kit Distribution for Underprivileged Students:** To bridge educational gaps, we are dedicated to distributing learning kits to underprivileged students on a monthly basis for the upcoming nine months. This initiative aims to provide essential tools for learning and encourage educational advancement among disadvantaged youth.

Our collective efforts with RKMVCC signify our unwavering dedication to effecting meaningful change at the grassroots level. Through these initiatives, we aspire to make a lasting impact on the lives of individuals in need. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders and supporters who make these initiatives possible. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for our communities.

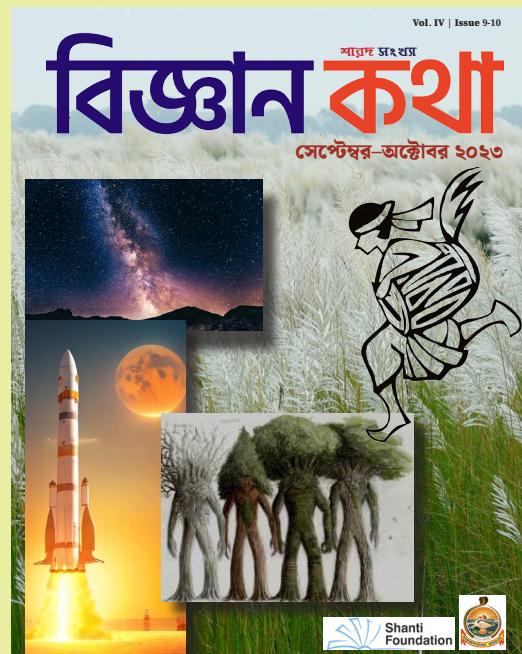
SEPTEMBER 2023

In September 2023, the Shanti Foundation played a pivotal role in the 5th International Conference on Sustainability Education held in New Delhi from September 19th to 20th. Dr. Nakul Parashar, a prominent figure in the field, chaired a significant session on sustainability education in India. During the conference's valedictory session, he was honored as the guest speaker, where he underscored the importance of continued collaborative efforts by all participating agencies. Dr. Parashar emphasized that sustainability should not be a fleeting triumph but a way of life.



One of Shanti Foundation's key initiatives is to foster a scientifically aware society by promoting science and technology communication, outreach, and popularization through various media channels, including print, electronic, social, and digital platforms in multiple Indian languages. The foundation recognizes the significance of making science accessible to underprivileged students in remote rural areas, women, and the deaf community in their native languages.

Notably, Shanti Foundation has chosen to take this mission to West Bengal, where it has adopted the RK Mission Vivekananda Centenary College in Rahara. The foundation's commitment to science communication has led to the publication of its first popular magazine, "Bigyan Katha," in the Bengali language. Coinciding with the festive season in the Bengali-speaking region in September and October 2023, a special issue of "Bigyan Katha" has been thoughtfully curated. This special edition features popular science articles contributed by renowned science writers. You can explore this informative publication on the Shanti Foundation's website at <https://shantifoundation.global/bigyan-katha/>.



SMT. SHANTI DEVI
(1924 –1988)

Hailing from the Dorangala Tehsil of District Gurdaspur in Punjab, Smt. Shanti Devi was a woman of modesty and integrity, deeply rooted in her faith. Her life was a testimony to her unwavering commitment to her family and community.

With relentless determination, she dedicated herself to improving the local environment, tirelessly raising awareness among fellow citizens. An ardent advocate for women's empowerment, social justice, and education, she navigated challenges with resilience. Her pursuit of these goals was marked by resourcefulness and a steadfast spirit, overcoming limitations.

Smt. Shanti Devi's conviction in the principle of "charity begins at home" fueled her initiatives, starting her noble efforts within her own household and immediate surroundings. Her legacy was an inspiration that resonated through her children, cultivating a shared commitment to societal welfare.

Out of this shared dedication emerged the Shanti Foundation, a living testament to her enduring influence.

Shanti Foundation

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