

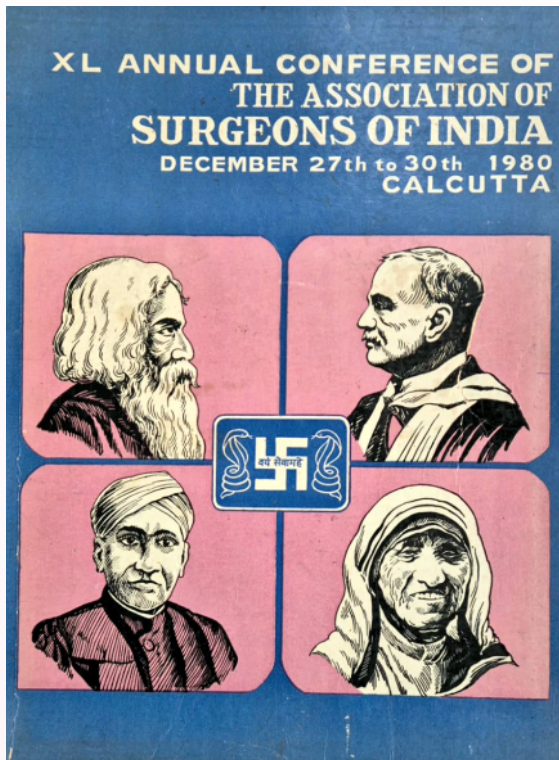


# 85th Annual Conference of The Association of Surgeons of India

17th - 20th December, 2025 | Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata



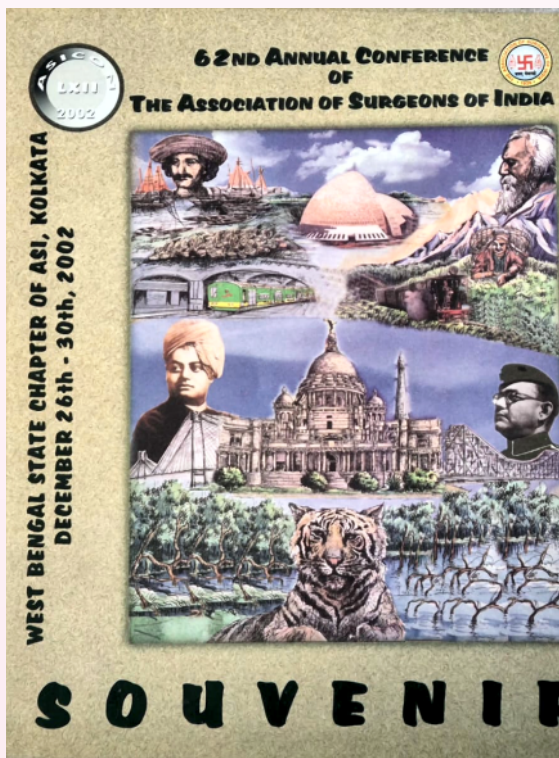
## ASICON Kolkata Souvenirs



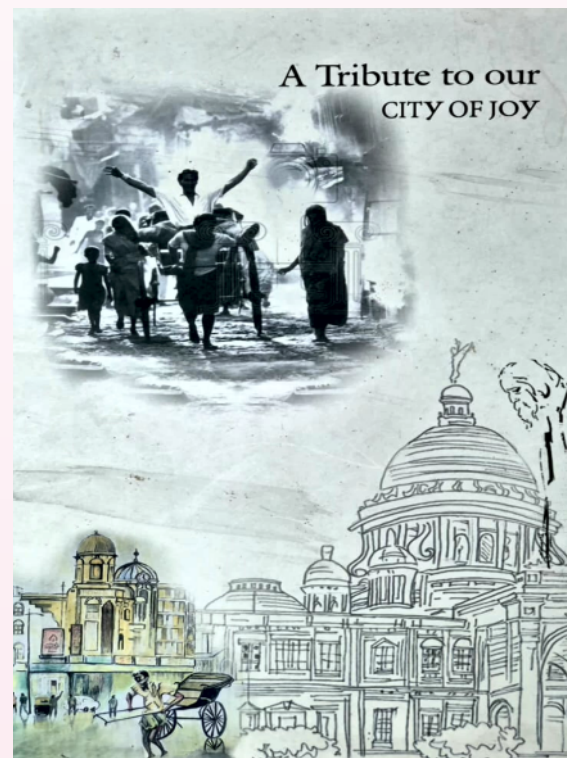
ASICON 1980



ASICON 1992



ASICON 2002



ASICON 2012





# 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

of The Association of Surgeons of India

Biswa Bangla Convention Centre  
Kolkata

**17<sup>th</sup> December - 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2025**



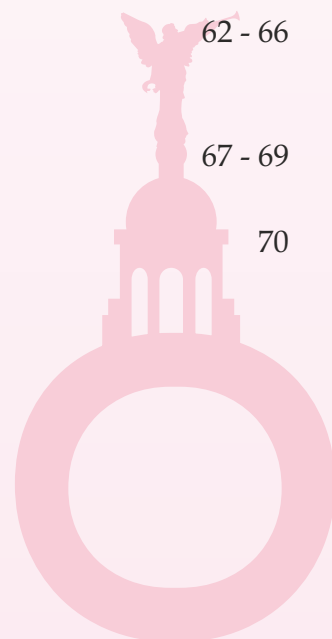




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Front Cover Photograph - Dr. Anirban Chatterjee  
Back Cover Photograph - Dr. Sanjay De Bakshi





মমতা ব্যানার্জী  
মমতা বনার্জী

ممتا بنرجی

Mamata Banerjee



মুখ্যমন্ত্রী, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ  
मुख्यमंत्री, पश्चिम बंगाल  
وزیر اعلیٰ مغربی بنگال

CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

26<sup>th</sup> November, 2025



MESSAGE

I am glad to know that the West Bengal Chapter of *The Association of Surgeons of India* will be organising the association's 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference — ASICON 2025 — at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, New Town, Kolkata, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2025, on the theme “**Surgical Brilliance Meets Bengal's Heritage.**”

On this occasion, I convey my heartiest greetings and best wishes to the participants and organizers of the event and wish the conference all success.

  
(Mamata Banerjee)

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**Narayan Swaroop Nigam, IAS**  
Principal Secretary



**Government of West Bengal**  
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**MESSAGE**

Dear esteemed colleagues and distinguished guests,

It gives me great pleasure to convey my warm greetings to the organizers and delegates of ASICON 2025, the 85th Annual Conference of the Association of Surgeons of India. Surgery remains a vital pillar of public health, yet challenges such as equitable access, timely interventions, and integration of surgical care within universal health coverage continue to demand our attention. West Bengal remains committed to strengthening surgical capacity through skill development, infrastructure, and innovation in service delivery. May this conference inspire fresh ideas and collaborative efforts toward advancing safe, affordable, and inclusive surgical care for all.

*With Warm regards,*

(Narayan Swaroop Nigam)  
Principal Secretary  
Health & Family Welfare Department  
Government of West Bengal



*Dr. Swapan Saren*

MBBS,DPH,MPH  
Director of Health Services  
Department of Health & Family Welfare  
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MESSAGE

*It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest wishes to the Annual Conference of the Association of Surgeons of India, scheduled to be held from 17th to 20th October 2025 at the majestic Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata.*

*The theme of this year's conference, 'Surgical Brilliance meets Bengal's Heritage', is a perfect blend of celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Bengal and the remarkable achievements of surgeons across the country.*

*I am confident that the conference will provide a unique platform for surgeons to share their expertise, exchange ideas, and learn from each other, ultimately benefiting the medical fraternity and the society at large.*

*Wishing the organizing team and all the participants a grand success and a memorable experience.*

*Swapan 17/12/25*  
*Dr. Swapan Saren*

**Director of Health Services**

## From the desk of President, ASI



Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Association of Surgeons of India!

We wholeheartedly welcome you all to the City of Joy – Kolkata for ASICON 2025. This year's conference promises to be a landmark and truly historic event. I have personally witnessed the tremendous hard work and meticulous planning that has gone into every detail – from curating a rich and diverse scientific program, ensuring your comfort at the venue, to creating delightful entertainment sessions designed to leave you relaxed and rejuvenated after engaging academic days.

Many new and innovative scientific sessions, workshops, and daily theme-based programs have been thoughtfully planned – including unique events that allow you to showcase your skills and explore life beyond the operating room. I sincerely appreciate your enthusiastic participation, which will surely make this event a grand success.

At the ASI Head Office, we continue to work relentlessly to make ASI one of the most vibrant academic bodies – not only in India but globally. To celebrate our great legacy – from the era of Sushruta to our visionary leaders of modern times – we recently launched Surgeons' Day and Surgeons' Week for the very first time. The overwhelming participation from every corner of the country made this initiative a historic success right from its inception. My heartfelt thanks to each one of you for making it possible.

We have also launched several important academic programs such as:

- Emergency Trauma Life Support (ETLS) – to equip medical professionals with lifesaving trauma management skills,
- Essential Communication Skills for Surgeons (ECSS) – to enhance doctor-patient interaction, and
- Surgeons' Training in Endoscopy Program (STEP 2) – to promote advanced skill development.

It is a moment of immense pride and satisfaction for all of us at the Association of Surgeons of India (ASI) Head Office, Chennai, as we inaugurate the state-of-the-art ASI Skill Enhancement Center (ASEC).

This center has been a cherished dream of many ASI leaders for the past decade, and I am delighted that we have finally made it a reality – thanks to the generous support of Olympus India Pvt. Ltd.



In addition, we have trained more than 400 Samruddhi Expressway personnel in Basic Life Support (BLS) and roadside trauma management — a proud step in extending life saving expertise to community welfare.

One of our most significant milestones this year is DIGIASI, which has made ASI the first medical association in the country to go completely digital. This futuristic platform is transforming the way we communicate, teach, and learn, empowering every surgeon across the nation. I am sure you are all enjoying exploring the DIGIASI app during this conference.

This is just the beginning of a new era in the illustrious history of ASI. I am confident that our future leaders will carry this momentum forward with even greater passion and commitment.

I urge all of you to encourage your colleagues and friends who are not yet members to join ASI — so that together we become stronger than ever, united in protecting the rights of both surgeons and patients.

Once again, I thank each one of you for attending ASICON 2025 and for your enthusiastic participation in every session. My heartfelt congratulations to the organising team from Kolkata, led by Dr. Makhan Lal Saha and Dr. DiptendraKumar Sarkar, for their tireless efforts and meticulous planning in creating yet another landmark event in ASI's glorious journey. I also extend my compliments to the Souvenir Team for crafting such a thoughtful and informative publication.

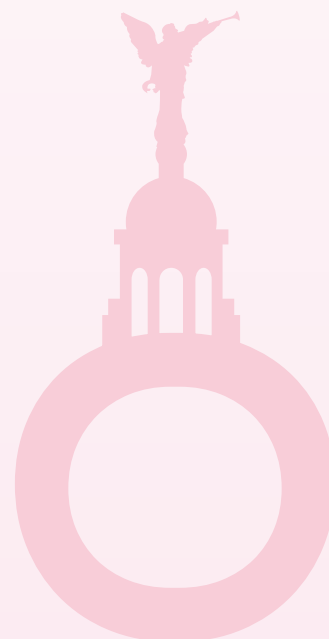
Please enjoy the next three days and cherish every moment.

Long Live the Association of Surgeons of India!

Warm regards,

**Dr. Pravin Suryawanshi**

President, Association of Surgeons of India



## From the desk of Honorary Secretary, ASI



Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from ASI Headquarters!

It gives me great pleasure to write this message for ASICON 2025, being held in the historic city of Kolkata. ASICON continues to represent the pinnacle of academic excellence, collaboration, and professional bonding among surgeons across India.

The year 2025 has been remarkable for ASI, marked by several new initiatives and impactful activities aimed at strengthening surgical education, skill enhancement, and professional development. The ASI Skill Enhancement Centre was inaugurated at ASI head quarters, and STEP program aiming to provide structured hands-on training to young surgeons was launched. The STEP (Surgeons Training in Endoscopy Program) and ETLs (Emergency Trauma Life Support) programs have gained tremendous momentum, empowering surgeons with essential operative and life-saving skills.

The ECSP (Essential Communication Skills Program) initiative has addressed an often-overlooked dimension of surgical practice—effective communication and empathy—furthering ASI's mission of holistic professional growth. Our commitment to academic excellence was further reinforced through regular webinars, CMEs, and collaborative programs with national and international surgical bodies.

On the administrative front, ASI has taken progressive steps towards digitalization, transparent governance, and wider member engagement through enhanced communication channels and the DIGI ASI App.

As we gather at ASICON 2025, let us celebrate these achievements and renew our collective commitment to advancing the science and art of surgery in India. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Organizing Committee of ASICON 2025 for their meticulous efforts in creating a scientific and cultural feast that truly reflects the spirit of ASI.

With best wishes for a successful and memorable conference.

**Dr. Gaddi Diwakar**

Honorary Secretary, Association of Surgeons of India



## From the desk of Honorary Treasurer, ASI



Dear Esteemed Members,

It is my pleasure to invite you to ASICON 2025, the Annual Conference of the Association of Surgeons of India in Kolkata, a city renowned for its rich cultural heritage and history of medical excellence. As Treasurer, I am committed to ensuring the financial stability of our association, and I am delighted to announce that we have made significant strides in strengthening our financial position.

The conference in Kolkata promises to be an intellectually stimulating and academically enriching experience, with a stellar line up of speakers and cutting-edge topics. I am confident that the event will foster collaborations, spark new ideas, and reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing surgical care in India. This conference is just not a platform for exchange of knowledge, it is much more. There is a sense of fellowship, a feeling of unity. United we stand, united we prosper.

It is also my privilege to be a part of the organizing committee for this historic conference. Apart from the academics, Bengal has something to offer for each one of you. If you love the mountains, we have the Himalayas, if the ocean beckons you there are numerous beaches in the coastline and if you are religious there are temples, churches and cathedrals. You will find peace at Shantiniketan and immense happiness when you behold the golden Kanchenjunga. You will take back with you memories to cherish for a lifetime.

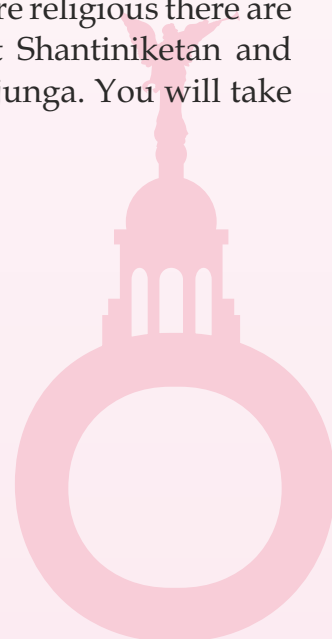
Looking forward to welcoming you in Kolkata!

Long live ASI!

Best regards,

**Dr. Madhumita Mukhopadhyay**

Honorary Treasurer, Association of Surgeons of India



## From the desk of Organising Chairman, ASICON 2025



This gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to ASICON 2025, the Annual Conference of the Association Of Surgeons of India being held in the vibrant city of Kolkata, the cultural capital of India. This conference is not only a celebration of surgical excellence but also a confluence of knowledge, experience, and comradeship. The Organising Committee have endeavoured to scientific programme that balances cutting edge innovations with practical clinical insights.

The workshops, skill courses, symposia, guest lectures, panel discussion, paper presentations and interactive sessions have been designed to engage participants at all levels - from young surgical trainees to seasoned experts.

Organising such a conference of this magnitude has been a journey of teamwork, commitment and passion. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the members of the organizing committee, Biswa Bangla management authority, HIDCO and the event team. My sincere thanks goes to the executive committee of Association of Surgeons of India for entrusting us with this responsibility and to our sponsors and partners for their generous support. A historic landmark for ASICON Kolkata is participation of all Royal Colleges of UK. A huge number of international delegates are attending this ASICON.

In addition to the scientific deliberation the organizing team also arranged for showcasing your extracurricular activities in the platform of PHOTOASICON and SURGEONS WALL.

I warmly welcome all the delegates who have travelled across the country and from abroad to be part of this academic celebration. I hope your stay at Kolkata will be personally memorable and professionally enriching.

With best wishes for a successful and fulfilling conference.

Warm regards

**Dr. M. L. Saha**  
Organising Chairman  
ASICON 2025, Kolkata





## From the desk of Organising Secretary, ASICON 2025



“The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but that makes our life in harmony with all existence.”

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

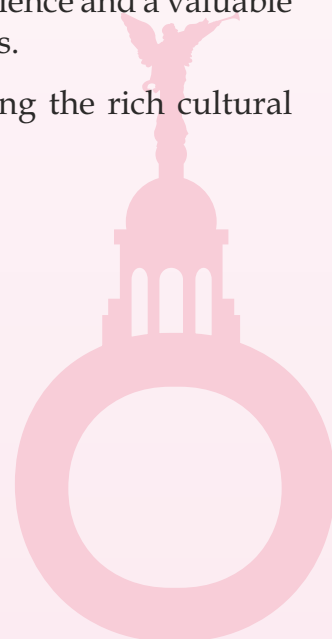
It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 85th Annual Conference of the Association of Surgeons of India, being held in the vibrant city of Kolkata. This conference promises to be a premier platform for surgeons from across the country and beyond to come together, share knowledge, and showcase the latest advancements in surgical care.

Over the next few days, we will be witnessing thought-provoking lectures, engaging panel discussions, and live surgical demonstrations that will enhance our skills and knowledge. The conference theme will highlight the latest trends and innovations in surgery, providing opportunities for fruitful interactions and collaborations.

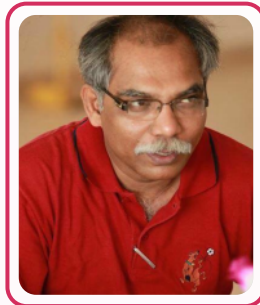
We extend a warm welcome to our esteemed faculty, delegates, and guests. We are confident that this conference will be a memorable experience and a valuable opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

We look forward to welcoming you to Kolkata and sharing the rich cultural heritage of our city.

**Dr. Diptendra K Sarkar**  
Organising Secretary  
ASICON 2025, Kolkata



## From the desk of Organising Treasurer, ASICON 2025



Dear Friends,

Greetings from West Bengal.

I thank, from the bottom of my heart, the General Body of Association of Surgeons of India for giving us the opportunity to host ASICON, 2025 at Kolkata, "The City of Joy", from 17th to 20th December, 2025.

On behalf of The West Bengal Chapter of Association of Surgeons of India, I thank the principal office bearers of headquarters for agreeing to our proposal to host ASICON, 2025 at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre and Biswa Bangla Exhibition Centre - undoubtedly the best conference venue in the country at present.

I, the Organizing Treasurer, along with all surgeons of West Bengal and the Eastern Indian States, assure you that this will be a conference full of love and warmth to all attending faculty, delegates and their family.

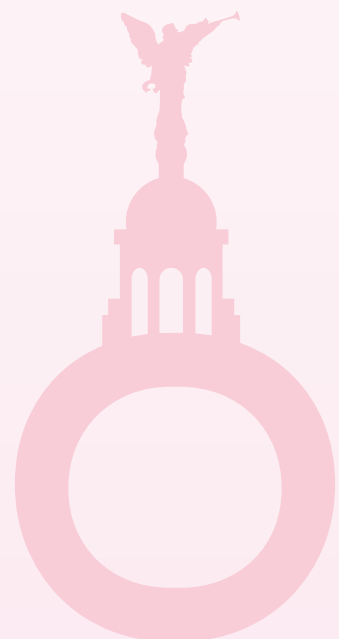
Let us all meet and greet each other at ASICON, 2025 - Kolkata.

Long Live ASI.

Long Live Doctors' Unity.

**Dr. Sandip Ray**

Organising Treasurer, ASICON 2025





## From the desk of Chairman, WBASI & Chairman, Reception Committee



Dear Esteemed Delegates, Colleagues, and Friends,

On behalf of the Association of Surgeons of India – West Bengal Chapter, it is our profound honor and privilege to welcome you to ASICON 2025, to be held in the vibrant city of Kolkata from 17th to 20th December 2025.

Kolkata, a city steeped in heritage, intellect, and resilience, opens its arms to you with warmth and pride. As hosts, we are committed to curating an enriching academic experience, complemented by the cultural richness and hospitality that our city is known for. From cutting-edge surgical advancements to collaborative learning and spirited camaraderie, every aspect of this conference is being meticulously planned to offer you the very best.

Yet, as we gather in this city of ideas and ideals, we do so with a heavy heart. We remember and mourn the tragic loss of a young postgraduate trainee doctor, whose life was brutally cut short in her place of duty. Her memory compels us to reflect deeply on the safety, dignity, and well-being of every healthcare professional. Let this conference also be a space where we reaffirm our collective commitment to compassion, justice, and the sanctity of the healing profession.

We look forward to welcoming you to ASICON 2025 – a confluence of knowledge, remembrance, and resolve.

Warm regards,

**Dr. Tamonas Chaudhuri**

Chairman, ASI – West Bengal State Chapter

Chairman, Reception Committee, ASICON 2025



## From the desk of Secretary, WBASI



Distinguished guests, respected faculty members, fellow surgeons, and dear colleagues,

It is with immense pride and heartfelt warmth that I welcome you all to ASICON 2025, the Annual National Conference of the Association of Surgeons of India, will be held this year in the vibrant city of Kolkata at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Newtown.

We are truly honoured to host this prestigious gathering that brings together the best minds and most skilled hands in surgery from across our nation. ASICON has always been more than just a conference – it is a celebration of surgical excellence, innovation, and collaboration. This year's conference promises to uphold that legacy with an inspiring scientific program, thought-provoking keynote sessions, hands-on workshops, and invaluable networking opportunities.

Kolkata, a city of art, intellect, and heritage, extends its arms to welcome all of you with open hearts. As you participate in the scientific deliberations, we hope you also experience the charm, culture, and warmth that make this city unique.

On behalf of the West Bengal State Chapter of ASI, I extend my deepest gratitude to the organizing committee, our partners, sponsors, and each participant for making this grand event possible. Let us use this platform to share knowledge, ignite new ideas, and strengthen the bond that unites us as a fraternity of surgeons committed to excellence and ethical practice.

I welcome you all once again to ASICON 2025 and wish each of you an intellectually satisfying and memorable experience in Kolkata.

Thank you.

**Dr Arkaprovo Roy**  
Secretary, ASI – West Bengal State Chapter



## INSTITUTE OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

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**ASICON** is the gathering where science meets tradition, skill meets spirit and surgical brilliance meets the timeless heritage of Bengal. It is the platform of not merely exchange of knowledge but to celebrate the profound values that define our profession – precision, compassion, resilience and curiosity.

Bengal with its centuries old legacy of intellectualism, innovation and humanism offers the perfect backdrop for this conference. Over the decades the role of surgeon has evolved from being a master of technique to becoming a leader of innovation. Today we operate in an era where AI assists our decision making and robotics enhances our precision. Yet the essence of surgery remains deeply human and our greatest instruments are not scalpel and sutures but empathy, integrity and unwavering commitment to healing.

  
**Prof. (Dr.) Kaustav Nayek**  
Director,  
IHFW, Kolkata.



## THE WEST BENGAL UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES



Prof. (Dr.) Mukul Bhattacharyya  
Vice- Chancellor

Memo No. Message/PA-VC/WBUHS/2025-2026/0035

Date : 09/12/2025



### Message

*It gives great pleasure to note that the Association of Surgeons of India, West Bengal Chapter is going to organize their Annual Conference ASICON 2025 at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, New Town, Kolkata from 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 - 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2025.*

*I believe that the conference will be an ideal platform for sharing knowledge with experts and I am sure that at the end of the conference (ASICON-2025), the participants will be enlightened with newer thoughts and ideas and will be able to serve the society in a much better way.*

*I express my gratitude to all the members and advisors of the committee for their long and useful services to the state and nation through their thoughtful activities.*

*I am happy to know that a souvenir will be published to commemorate this auspicious occasion.*

*I extend my warmest wishes for a grand success of the ceremony.*

*Mukul Bhattacharyya.*

Prof. (Dr.) Mukul Bhattacharyya  
Vice Chancellor

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**DR. SUDIPTO ROY**

Member  
West Bengal Legislative Assembly

M.B.B.S., D.A., M.D. (Cal)



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Date 09/12/2025

**Message for ASICON 2025**

I am happy to note that Kolkata will be hosting the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Surgeons of India from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

History is replete with examples of exemplary and stalwart surgeons and physicians from Bengal, right from the pre independence years, who have been shining examples for their next generations to emulate and become ethical and compassionate doctors. It is therefore apt that the theme of the conference is "Surgical Brilliance meets Bengal's heritage". I am sure that the delegate, faculties (both from India & abroad) will benefit immensely from the academic deliberations during the conference, while getting a taste of the culture and heritage of Bengal. On behalf of the West Bengal Medical Council, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and warm welcome to all the delegates and faculties and wish the conference great success.

**President**

**West Bengal Medical Council**

Member and Chairman, Committee of Estimates, West Bengal Legislative Assembly  
Chairman, West Bengal Health Recruitment Board  
Chairman, Finance Committee, West Bengal Health University

## From The Editorial Team

It has become an oft repeated adage to “welcome visitors to the City of Joy- Kolkata”. There is unquestionably that, coined after the book so sensitively and eloquently penned by Dominique Lapierre in 1985 and adapted to a film by the same name in 1992 by Roland Joffe.

However, we also want to welcome our visitors to a city where the first human dissection was performed by an Indian, Pundit Madhusudhan Gupta on January 10th, 1836 at the Calcutta Medical College, the first Medical College to be established in India in 1835. Pundit Gupta fiercely contested numbing social and religious taboos and he was supported wholeheartedly by Dr. Goodeve and Dr. Bramley and by the noted Scottish philanthropist and educationist, David Hare, who (Mr. Hare) put his incredible knowledge of time as a watchmaker, to sponsor an epoch-making event which would prove “timeless”.

Therefore, it was but natural for the entire organizing team of the ASICON 2025 to take a covenant to ensure that this conference would essay an incredible surgical academic extravaganza. It will not only be in the subjects and academic topics being discussed but will also to follow our pledge and promise to offer hands-on workshops to younger surgeons in training.

The organizing team believes that the pinnacle of a Surgical life is not only to achieve self-improvement in the service of humanity but also to ensure that knowledge learned is passed on like the proverbial “torch” to an enabled future generation to work on and to essay newer and better achievements.

We have all enjoyed ourselves in bringing to you a souvenir, with articles from prominent persons and also exploring “surgeons who have explored life outside the operating rooms” in various artistic endeavours.

We are also bringing out a booklet both offline and online, of management algorithms of important clinical scenarios to help younger surgeons.

The editorial team owe a great debt of gratitude to all our contributors.

Enjoy yourselves at ASICON 2025, KOLKATA, you are in for a rare treat!





## The Association of Surgeons of India Office Bearers - 2025



**Dr. Pravin Suryavanshi**  
President



**Dr. D. Maruthu Pandian**  
Vice President



**Dr. Probal Neogi**  
Immediate Past President



**Dr. Gaddi Diwakar**  
Honorary Secretary



**Dr. Madhumita Mukhopadhyay**  
Honorary Treasurer



**Dr. Shiva K. Misra**  
Advisor



**Dr. Santhosh John Abraham**  
Advisor



**Dr. Puneet**  
Director, Academic Council



**Dr. Siddesh G**  
Director  
Social Welfare Council

## The Association of Surgeons of India

### Executive Committee Members - 2025-2027

#### Andhra Pradesh

Dr. Kodali Tirumala Prasad  
Dr. K. Rama Chandra Naidu  
Dr. S V Rama Mohan Reddy  
Dr. Samir Ranjan Nayak

#### Assam

Prof. Jishan Ahmed  
Dr. Kanakeswar Bhuyan

#### Bihar

Dr. Mrityunjai Kumar  
Dr. Atul Verma  
Dr. Priya Ranjan  
Dr. Sanjay Kumar Sinha

#### Chhattisgarh

Dr. Subhash C. Agrawal

#### Delhi

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Dr. Deborsi Sharma  
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Dr. Minesh C Gandhi  
Dr. Shailesh R Shah

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Dr. Gautam N Gole  
Dr. Madan Gopal Vashist

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Dr. Mohammad Azad

#### Jammu & Kashmir

Dr. Sanjay Kumar Bhasin  
Dr. Zaffer Saleem Khanday

#### Karnataka

Dr. H V Shivaram  
Dr. Gaddi Diwakar  
Dr. Gurushantappa Yalagachin  
Dr. Ishwar R. Hosamani

#### Kerala

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Dr. Binny John  
Dr. (Capt) Sidhic K A  
Dr. Sulfekar M S

#### Madhya Pradesh

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Dr. Sumit Shukla  
Dr. Rajesh Prajapati  
Dr. Manish Kaushal

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Dr. Rajendra M Shinde  
Dr. Siddharth Pramod Dubhashi  
Dr. Rajendra A Ganeriwal

#### Northern

Dr. D.K. Verma

#### Odisha

Dr. Kamala Kanta Panigrahy  
Dr. Prakash Kumar Sasmal  
Dr. Prakash Kumar Sahoo

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Dr. Baljit Singh Johal  
Dr. Kamal Gupta

#### Rajasthan

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Dr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma  
Dr. Ramkaran Chaudhary

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Dr. K Govindaraj  
Dr. A Rajasekar  
Dr. S Marimuthu

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Dr. Mandala Ilaiah  
Dr. Venkateswar Perugu  
Dr. Raju B

#### Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Puneet  
Dr. Sameer Kumar  
Dr. Vaibhav Srivastava  
Dr. Vikas Singh

#### West Bengal

Dr. Madhumita Mukhopadhyay  
Dr. Sandip Ray  
Dr. Shamita Chatterjee  
Dr. Parthasarathi Ghosh



## **The Association of Surgeons of India - West Bengal State Chapter Executive Committee**

**Dr. Tamonas Chaudhuri**  
Chairman

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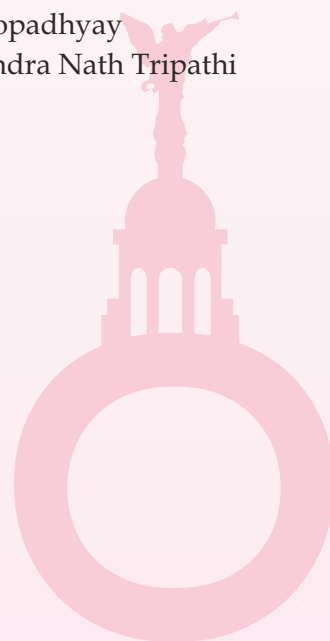
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Dr. Anuj Kanti Poddar   Dr. Kalyan Das   Dr. Nadeem Khan   Dr. Srijan Basu		

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## The Young Brigade



## WALL OF FAME

### LALIT MOHAN BANERJEE (1880-1968)



Lalit Mohan, Calcutta University's first MS and first Indian professor of Surgery, dedicated his career to Carmichael (now RG Kar) Medical College. Renowned as a surgeon, he operated on literary stalwarts like Sarat Chandra Chatterjee and Rabindranath Tagore. Serving as the Indian President's personal surgeon after independence, he also operated on Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1955, Banerjee generously donated his lifetime earnings for the development of RG Kar Medical College and Christian Medical College, Vellore.

### PANCHANAN CHATTERJEE (1892-1963)



A Calcutta Medical College alumnus and FRCS, this distinguished general surgeon and surgery teacher, served at Carmichael (now RG Kar) Medical College and Calcutta Medical College. Notably, he issued a vital "fake" medical certificate of sciatica for Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in 1941, helping Netaji avoid court summons and execute the historic "Great Escape", which ignited Netaji's subsequent heroic efforts in the freedom movement, including the formation of the Indian National Army.

### SUBODH MITRA (1896-1961)



Subodh Mitra, MD (Berlin University), FRCS(Edinburgh), MRCOG(London), graduated from Calcutta Medical College. Mitra, India's first gynecological oncologist, famous for his invented "Mitra Operation" for cancer of uterine cervix, shifted from today's RG Kar Medical College to Chittaranjan Seva Sadan (CSS), the maternity hospital newly established on a land donated by Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das in 1927. Pioneering gynecological cancer treatment, he blended teletherapy and brachytherapy, introducing radium and deep X Rays. Founder of India's second dedicated cancer hospital named Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI) and its associated research centre, Mitra ushered in the era of evidence-based cancer care and cancer research in Bengal, earning numerous global honors.

### KADAMBINI GANGULI (1861-1923)



Kadambini, the first Indian practicing lady doctor, overcame societal barriers to enroll in medical school in 1883, supported by her ever cooperative husband Dwarkanath. Earning LRCP and FRCS from Edinburgh and LFPS from Glasgow in 1896, she briefly taught at Campbell (now NRS) Medical School before flourishing as a private practitioner. Renowned for enhancing Calcutta's medical infrastructure, she notably established the Pediatrics department at Dufferin Hospital. Kadambini, beyond her medical prowess, was a devoted wife, mother, philanthropist, and freedom fighter.



## WALL OF FAME

### BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY (1882-1962)



BC Roy, a distinguished doctor, freedom fighter, and political figure, earned MB and MD from Calcutta Medical College, achieving MRCP & FRCS in England. Serving at Calcutta Medical College, Campbell (now NRS) Medical School, and Carmichael (now RG Kar) Medical College, he became the first Chief Minister of West Bengal in 1948 and is renowned for the state's immediate post-independence developments. He received the Bharat Ratna in 1961. Born and passing away on July 1, he is remembered as a medical and political stalwart, with 1st July observed as National Doctors' Day in India.

### KUMAR KANTI GHOSH (1907-1976)



A distinguished pupil of legendary surgeon Lalit Mohan Banerjee, this Kolkata-based celebrated surgical practitioner, an alumnus of Calcutta Medical College, excelled in abdominal, urological, breast, and even orthopedic surgeries. Retiring as the Professor and Head of General Surgery at his alma mater in 1965, he notably operated on renowned retinal surgeon Captain Kiran Lal Sen, curing a severe biliary peritonitis from gall bladder perforation.

### SHAIENDRANATH MUKHERJEE (1907-1990)



Shailen Mukherjee, the "Bidhan Roy of Bardhaman," was a versatile doctor and academic achiever graduating from Calcutta Medical College in 1931. Pioneering surgical and general practice in Bardhaman, he served as an honorary surgery faculty at Bardhaman Medical College. Excelling in diverse interests like painting and gardening, he established Bardhaman's first private nursing home and a school for the deaf and dumb, leaving a lasting philanthropic impact on the town's development.

### AJIT KUMAR BASU (1912-1986)



This alumnus of Calcutta Medical College, FRCS from England and Rockefeller Foundation Fellow from USA was one of the elite team involved in developing the Institute Postgraduate Medical Education & Research (IPGME&R) during its initial years. Basu established the first independent department of Cardiothoracic Surgery of Eastern India and started postdoctoral MCh training at IPGME&R. Besides performing the first permanent pacemaker implantation and first open-heart surgery of Eastern India, he also conducted extensive researches on Non-Cirrhotic Portal Fibrosis and pioneered the shunt surgery in cirrhosis of liver. Recipient of the prestigious Padmashree and Bhatnagar awards, Basu was a visionary much ahead of his time.

## WALL OF FAME

### MURARI MOHAN MUKHERJEE (1914-1988)



Murari Mukherjee, a pioneer of Plastic Surgery in Bengal, established the state's first department at IPGME&R (Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research at SSKM / PG Hospital) in 1956, heading it until 1972. An alumnus of Calcutta Medical College, he contributed significantly to IPGME&R's development, serving as Surgeon Superintendent and Director. Trained under plastic surgery stalwarts in England, he laid Bengal's Plastic Surgery foundation upon returning in 1951.

### ANJALI MUKHERJEE (1918-2012)



Anjali Mukherjee, a pioneering figure in surgery, broke gender barriers in the male-dominated field. After graduating in 1943, she excelled, becoming a faculty member at Calcutta Medical College, establishing the Plastic Surgery department, and founding Kolkata's first burn unit at SSKM Hospital. Her impactful career included roles at North Bengal Medical College as Professor and Head of General Surgery and the Institute of Child Health as Professor and Emeritus Professor of Pediatric Surgery.

### HIMADRI SARKAR (1920-1970)



This housesurgeon of Colonel Anderson at Calcutta Medical College, trained in urology under Harry Hamilton Stuart during FRCS in England, pioneered Urology in Bengal. He founded the first independent Urology department at IPGME&R, Kolkata, in 1962. The astute surgeon also served in the Indian Armed Forces for some time. Despite his early demise, his impactful contributions to Urology are fondly remembered.

### ASHOK KUMAR BAGCHI (1925-2005) AND RANENDRANATH ROY (1928-2020)



Bagchi and his successor Roy, prominent neurosurgeons, developed the neurosurgery unit at Bangur Institute of Neurosciences, SSKM Hospital. Bagchi, a Carmichael (now RG Kar) Medical College alumnus trained at Vienna, initiated neurosurgery at PG Hospital before focusing on NRS Medical College. Ranendranath, mentored by Jacob Chandy at CMC, Vellore and trained in Vienna and England, succeeded Bagchi. Roy significantly contributed to BIN's growth and later directed IPGME&R and BIN. Bagchi was also known for his literary prowess, while Roy was a dedicated communist.

## WALL OF FAME

### SUBIR KUMAR CHATTERJEE (BORN 1926)



Chatterjee, a Calcutta Medical College alumnus and FRCS from England, pioneered Pediatric Surgery in Bengal. As a Professor at NRS Medical College, he established the first Pediatric Surgery department of Bengal and postdoctoral MCh course there. Renowned for India's first successful tracheo-oesophageal fistula operation in 1964 and separation of conjoined twins in 1981 and 1986, Chatterjee was mainly attached to Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratisthan and Park Nursing home as a practitioner.

### BIJAY KRISHNA BISWAS (1930-2011)



Biswas, the pioneer in Endoscopic Urologic Surgery in Bengal, graduated from Calcutta Medical College, completed MS at SSKM Hospital, and achieved FRCS from England. Trained in Urologic surgery in England and the USA, he became a renowned faculty at Calcutta National Medical College, establishing its Urology Unit. He was also a successful private practitioner and played a key role in developing the Nephrology cum Dialysis unit at CMRI (Calcutta Hospital).

### AMIT C GANGULI (1931-2005)



Ganguli, a prominent figure in Bengal's plastic surgery, pioneered the Plastic Surgery Department and initiated its MCh course at Calcutta Medical College. A Calcutta National Medical College graduate and MS from KGMC, Lucknow, he began his career under Murari Mohan Mukherjee at SSKM hospital. Together, they introduced the palatal lengthening by cheek flap technique, documented in D Ralph Millard's authoritative book "Cleft Craft".

### BHUMENDRANATH GUHA ROY (1933-2015)



Cardiothoracic surgeon and poet BN Guha Roy (*alias Bhumendra Guha*) played a pivotal role in the metamorphosis of post-Tagore Bengali poetry by resurrecting the works of the legendary Jibanananda Das, a pathbreaking star who did not get due recognition during his lifetime. A Calcutta Medical College graduate, Guha Roy established the Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery department at his alma mater, leaving a lasting legacy as its Professor and Head.

## WALL OF FAME

### ARUNAVA CHAUDHURI (Born 1934)



Chaudhuri, a Calcutta Medical College graduate, who achieved FRCS from England and Fellowship from Boston, USA I, was extensively trained in Urologic surgeries abroad. He joined IPGME's Urology department as a faculty in 1974. Notably, he and vascular surgeon Sachinandan Banerjee performed Bengal's first successful kidney transplantation in 1978 at SSKM Hospital. A renowned urosurgeon and busy practitioner, he served in multiple Government medical colleges and was associated with the Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratisthan.

### SAIBAL GUPTA (BORN 1934)



A Calcutta Medical College alumnus, trained initially under Ajit Kumar Basu at SSKM Hospital, this Cardiothoracic Surgeon significantly advanced the field in Bengal's government and private sectors. Gupta's impactful career included roles at Malmo University (Sweden) and as the Hunterian professor in England. His international acclaim stemmed from pioneering researches on pulmonary hypertension and aortoarteritis. Upon returning to India, he established the Cardiothoracic Surgery department at NRS Medical College, achieving phenomenal success in surgeries for congenital heart diseases and acid strictures.

### SITANATH DEY (1936-2018)



Dey, a Calcutta National Medical College alumnus and FRCS from England, chose to return to his native place of Jhargram with his British wife, foregoing opportunities in England. As the founder of the "Association of Rural Surgeons of India," he dedicated his life to surgical practice in resource-limited Jangalmahal. Renowned for diverse surgical operations, this founder of *Banasree Nursing Home* at Jhargram pioneered surgical practice in rural Bengal's remote areas.

### JAYANTA SEN (1937-2005)



A flamboyant surgeon at NRS Medical College, revered for his teaching and skillful operations, Sen advocated for surgeons to excel as physicians too. Operating a busy private clinic at St Mary's Nursing Home, he skillfully balanced medical demands with a passion for golf, tennis, and Bengal's cultural scene, embodying a versatile and admired professional persona.



Sketches by  
**Dr. Sugata Dasgupta**  
Professor of Critical Care Medicine  
IPGME&R



## Surgery - The Heritage & Legacy of Development and ASICONs in Kolkata

**Dr. Sukumar Maiti**

From the time during British rule till last few decades of 20th century, Kolkata was the most important hub for medical innovations and care specially surgery. Calcutta was the British capital in India till 1911. British wanted to shape Calcutta in their ways and soon it happened. Calcutta emerged as the "Second City of the Empire". British Calcutta witnessed things that were not only first in India but many of those were first in the Asian continent.

The city is home to some of India's oldest and most prestigious medical institutions, namely the Calcutta Medical College (initially it was Medical College, Bengal) (1835) and first Non-Govt. Medical College, R G Kar Medical College (1916) which was established by Indian Doctors inspired by nationalism in British India. National Medical Institute (Jatiya Ayurbijnan Parishad) was founded in 1911 with same spirit of patriotism and in 1948 the Calcutta National Medical College had its beginning. The city's medical institutions have produced notable alumni who've made significant contributions globally. With time, throughout the country in every state, particularly following India's independence, there is remarkable advancement and overall progress; yet at present, the city's resilience and adaptability have helped to keep Kolkata as India's one important medical landscape.

ASICON the fabulous annual event of the Association of Surgeons of India. Calcutta (presently Kolkata since 2001) is the host of ASICON 2025. Guests and delegates from all over the country and abroad will assemble to share experiences and knowledge helping professional advancement and friendship. This is the 85th annual meeting of the association. ASICON had its beginning in the year 1948 at Patna, Bihar. The annual meetings of the association up to 1948 was not named as ASICON.

Kolkata hosted six ASICONs before this 85th ASICON. ASICON 1962, was postponed (due to Indo- china war) and held in 1963 at Calcutta. Sadly, Dr. Panchanan Chatterjee, the Organizing Chairman passed away on 22nd May, 1963, before the conference was eventually held. It was a joint conference with the Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists (ISA), as was the practice at the time since 1949. The Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists (ISA) had its first independent "Stand-alone" annual conference in Hyderabad in 1965.

During ASICON 1980 we observed, three world-renowned paediatric surgeons played the pivotal role in the grand show. Dr. R K Gandhi, Dr. T Dorairajan and Dr. Subir K Chatterjee were the then ASI President, ASI President-Elect and Organizing Secretary of the ASICON.



**Dr. R.K. Gandhi**  
President, ASI



**Dr. T. Dorairajan**



**Dr. S.K. Chatterjee**

ASICON in Kolkata & Venue	ASI President	Organising Chairman	Organising Secretary
<b>Annual Meeting 1941</b> R G Kar Medical College	L M Banerjee	L M Banerjee	
<b>ASICON 1951</b> Medical College, Kolkata	G D Kapur	A K Basu	
<b>ASICON 1963</b> Medical College, Kolkata	BN Balakrishna Rao	Panchanan Chatterjee	K K Ghosh & S K Chatterjee
<b>ASICON 1980</b> Rabindra Sarovar Stadium & RKM Institute of Culture	Dr. R K Gandhi	Dr. A K Basu	Dr. Subir K Chatterjee
<b>ASICON 1992</b> N R S Medical College	Dr. H G Doctor	N K Pal	Dr. U S Arora
<b>ASICON 2002</b> Science City	Dr. S M Bose	Dr. B K Biswas	Dr. B P Chakraborty
<b>ASICON 2012</b> Science City & Milan Mela	Dr. Ramakant	Dr. Urmila Khanna	Dr. Tamonas Choudhury
<b>ASICON 2025</b> Biswabangla Convention Centre	Dr. P R Suryawanshi	Dr. M L Saha	Dr. Diptendra K Sarkar

Since the inception of the Association of Surgeons of India in 1938, its members from Bengal contributing in all possible capacity with sincerity. Mr L M Banerjee was one of the six founder members with Dr. R. N. Cooper, Sir A. Lakshmana Swamy Mudaliar, Dr. S. R. Joglekar, Dr. Mulgaonkar, and Dr. A. E. D'sa. Amidst many orations and awards of ASI, Dr. Panchanan Chatterjee Endowment Lecture, Brig. Dr. Rasamoy Ganguly Oration Dr. Anil Sen Sharma Endowment Lecture, & Dr. A K Basu Travelling Fellowship etc. are in the list, established with initiative from the West Bengal Chapter of ASI. Four renowned surgeons from West Bengal became the President of ASI. The present treasurer of ASI HQ is incidentally from Kolkata.



**Mr. L M Banerjee**  
President, ASI (1941-42)

**Mr. L. M. Banerjee** an intimate friend of Dr. B. C. Roy born at Rawalpindi of undivided India on 23rd March 1880. He was the first Master of Surgery of Calcutta University in 1913. He was FRCS (England) and awarded Padmabibhusan (1955). He operated on many famous people of his time, to name a few, Rabindranath Tagore for benign hypertrophy of prostate at Tagore's residence of Jorasanko with special arrangement, Bengali novelist Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay for gastric Carcinoma. He did appendectomy of late president of India Sarbapalli Radhakrishnan. He did the operation for a surgical ailment of Maharani of Nepal. Mr. L M Banerjee, a towering personality, a bachelor, a Christian, followed a very simple livelihood. He donated all his savings and property to medical and social organization. The R. G. Kar Medical College & Christian Medical College, Vellore were the greatest beneficiaries.



**Dr. Panchanan Chatterjee**  
(1892-1963)  
President, ASI (1949)

**Dr. Panchanan Chatterjee** (1892-1963) was born in 1892 at Bally in the district of Howrah. He received his early education in Guwahati, Assam, where his father was posted in the service of Govt. of India. He also served R. G. Kar Medical College and Medical College, Kolkata from where he retired. His contribution on filariasis in the tropical surgery of 'Rob & Smith Operative Surgery' edited by Dr A K Basu is indeed a master-piece. He was a perfectionist in all possible ways. "You perform one operation which is technically sound, rather than attempt many haphazard adventures" thus taught Dr. Chatterjee to his pupils. He was the member of the Senate and Syndicate of the Calcutta University, editor of the Calcutta Medical Club Journal and president of Bengal branch of IMA.



**Dr. A K Basu**  
(1912-1986)  
President, ASI (1967)

**Dr. A. K. Basu**, a tall man with towering personality, a surgeon with exceptional quality and extra-ordinary creative dexterity, gained the highest national and international repute from this region of the country. He had the initial surgical training under Col. John Anderson, an outstanding teacher-guide during that time at Medical College, Kolkata. He did phenomenal work on Tropical Splenomegaly, Non-Cirrhotic portal hypertension which were internationally acclaimed. He established the department of Thoracic Surgery at I.P.G.M.E.R. He was the first Indian examiner of Royal College of surgeons in England. He was honoured in 1970 with the Padma Shri. He also received Dr. B. C. Roy National award & Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (1967), Coates Medal and many such. He was a Hunterian Professor. He was co-author of many books including Pye's Surgical Handicraft, Current Surgical Practice, edited Rob's & Smith Operative surgery and a member of the Editorial board of British Journal of Surgery.



**Dr. N K Pal** (1930-2013)  
President, ASI (1991)

**Dr. N K Pal** (1930-2013) was born in a village named Udaynarayanpur, Amta, Howrah district. He used to perform surgery very fast and was fond of operating thyroid, breasts, gall bladder, stomach, pancreas, colon, kidney, prostate etc. Sometimes his assistant could not keep pace with the speed of his knife. As a surgeon he was very popular among the students, staffs, teachers, high officials of government, film industry, shipping corporation, politicians and sports organizations. As a human being he was very dignified, cool and soft spoken. He had a computer brain and could memorize the whereabouts of vast number of students. His administrative skill and organizing capability were remarkable.

**Calcutta (Kolkata) is the place where some landmark incidences, innovations and discoveries happened as “first in the country”**

The Medical College, Bengal (now Kolkata) was India's first institution to teach Western medicine to Indian students was established on 28th January, 1835 and had a long history of medical and surgical pioneering. The first Principal of Medical College, Bengal was M.J. Bramley. He was an Assistant Surgeon who was tasked with creating the first medical college in Asia. Bramley was an educationist from the very core of his heart, and he always wished for the betterment of the students. He died early at the age of 34 years. His legacy as a pioneer in the fields of medical education in India will be remembered. During the same period, Madras Medical College was also opened on 2nd February, 1935 followed by Grant Medical College in Mumbai (1945). The first human dissection in modern India was performed in 1836, and the first Ether Anaesthesia in India was administered at the Medical College, Bengal in 1847. The college has produced many distinguished alumni, including R G Kar, Sir Nilratan Sarkar, U N Brahmachari, L M Banerjee, Bidhan Chandra Roy, Balai Chand Mukhopadhyay (Banophool) the Bengali novelist, Dr Subodh Dutta (Pioneer of Gall Bladder Surgery in India), Dr P C Sanyal. The list will be unending.

M.J. Bramley, the principal of Medical College, Bengal and many other British Doctors greatly contributed with dedication, in the growth and development of Medical Teaching in India. Some of them contributed immensely in the fields other than medical sciences. Col. F. J. Anderson, an outstanding surgeon -teacher and Head of the Dept of Surgery, trained a set of surgeons who have dominated the surgical stage for more than quarter of a century.

**First dissection on human body in modern India and the first woman medical graduate of the country from Kolkata**



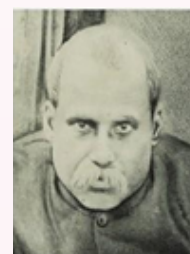
**Pandit Madhusudan Gupta**  
(1800-1856)

The first Indian to perform anatomical dissection according to Western medical practice.



**Kadambini Bose Ganguly**

**Kadambini Bose Ganguly** (1861-1923) born in Bhagalpur, Bihar was the first Indian woman medical graduate from a Medical College in India (Medical College, Bengal) in 1886 and practiced modern medicine.



**Dwarakanath Ganguly**

Kadambini's achievement was looked upon with great appreciation by Florence Nightingale. Annie Besant also hailed Kadambini as a “symbol that India's freedom would uplift India's womanhood.”

Dwarakanath Ganguly, Kadambini's husband was an ardent supporter of Brahmo Samaj and woman's emancipation, immensely supported Kadambini against many odds.

A 21-gun salute was fired from the ramparts of the Fort William to commemorate the first anatomical dissection of the human body by an Indian student, Pandit Madhusudan Gupta on 10th January, 1836. The first batch of students graduated in 1838 and in 1844 the noted Prince Dwarka Nath Tagore financed four of these graduates to go to England, for higher education.



**Anopheles mosquito is the vector for transmission of Malaria was proved in a small laboratory of Presidency General (PG) Hospital of Kolkata**



**Sir Ronald Ross**  
(1857-1932)

**Sir Ronald Ross** (1857-1932) was born at Almora, India in 1857, worked in Kolkata and received Nobel Prize in 1902 for his work on identifying the vector, mosquito which transmits Malaria. After many years of hard-working researches and many failures ultimately, he succeeded in demonstrating the life cycle of the malaria parasite. His main places of research work were Bangalore, Secundrabad, Lobac tea estate of Assam and Calcutta in India. During his posting in various places in India, he also wrote a number of adventure stories and a book of poems which became very popular.

**In Kolkata, the epoch-making discovery of medicine against Kala-azar saved thousands of lives and the discovery missed the Nobel Prize**



**Sir U N Brahmachari**  
(1873-1946)

In 1922, **Sir Upendranath Brahmachari** discovered urea-stibamine (Carbostibamide) the medicine against Kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis). Upendranath Brahmachari was born at Burdwan, WB. He received early education from Eastern Railways Boys' High School in Jamalpur, Bihar, MD 1902 and PhD 1904. Sir U N Brahmachari was a nominee for the Nobel Prize twice in 1929 and five times in 1942, in the category of physiology or medicine although he never received it. Some sources suggest that his ethnicity may have influenced the Nobel committee's decision.

**A Surgeon at Kolkata Medical College helped the realization of establishing one of the oldest zoological gardens in India**



**Sir Joseph Fayrer**

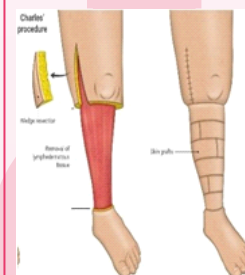
**Sir Joseph Fayrer** was head of the department of surgery (1859-1872), Medical College, Bengal. He is remembered for his writings on medicine, work on public health and his studies particularly on the treatment of snakebite, in India. He was President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1867 and proposed a scheme for a zoological garden in Calcutta. This was finally opened by the Prince of Wales in 1875. He took considerable interest in the wild animals and wrote a book on tigers.

**A Surgeon at Kolkata Medical College worked diligently on a very common helminth related surgical problem in India and found a solution.**

**Sir Richard Henry Havelock Charles** Professor of Anatomy & Surgery. He was HOD Surgery, Medical College, Kolkata 1905-1906. During his tenure as a surgeon in the Medical College, Calcutta, he also served as the staff surgeon to the Prince of Wales. He described the Charles Operation - Excision and skin grafting: The procedure involves surgically removing the excess, swollen subcutaneous lymphoedema tissue and then covering the open wound with a skin graft, often taken from the removed tissue itself.



**Sir Havelock Charles**



Telegraphic network throughout the country was the brainchild of a doctor of Kolkata Medical College.



**Dr. William O'Shaughnessy**  
(1809-1889)

**Dr. William O'Shaughnessy**, a professor of chemistry and forensic medicine at Calcutta Medical College, was not only a renowned medical professional but also an expert in various scientific fields. British Governor Lord Dalhousie, took his expertise for establishing the telegraph network service across India, His research and contributions to the treatment of diseases like cholera, tetanus, and gout are highly appreciated and recognized worldwide.

India's first chemical and pharmaceutical company was established in Kolkata

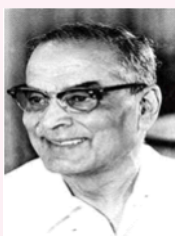


**Sir Prafulla Chandra Ray**  
(1861 - 1944)

Bengal was the cradle of India's modern pharmaceutical industry, with **Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray** widely recognized as the "*father of Indian chemistry*" and the most prominent pioneer. In 1901, he established Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Works Ltd. (BCPW) in Kolkata, which became *India's first chemical and pharmaceutical company*. The Royal Society of Chemistry honoured his life and work with the first ever Chemical Landmark Plaque outside Europe. Ray's pioneering efforts fostered a generation of brilliant Indian scientists and entrepreneurs, inspiring the establishment of other indigenous pharmaceutical companies in Calcutta during the colonial era in response to *Swadeshi movement*.

The pharmaceutical manufacturers which set up operations in Kolkata after **Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Works Ltd. (BCPW) (1901)** are: - **Buttokrishna Paul & Co. (1858)**, **GD Pharmaceutical (Boroline maker) (1929)** **East India Pharmaceutical Works Ltd. (1936)**, **Albert David Limited (1938)**, **Stadmed Private Limited (1940)**, **Dey's Medical Stores (Mfg.) Ltd. (1941)**, **Jupiter Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (1969)**, **Emami Ltd. (1974)**.

**Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy made the road map of medical devolvment in Bengal after independence**



**Bharat Ratna Dr. B C Roy**  
(1882 - 1962)

**Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy**, the second chief minister, the architect of glorious Bengal was born on 1 July 1882 in Bankipore, where his father, Prakash Chandra Roy coming from a wealthy family of Khulna district, now in Bangladesh, serving as an Excise Inspector. Dr B C Roy served as the *first President of Medical Council of India (1939-1945)* and *first president of Cardiological Society of India (1948-1950)*. His dedication to healthcare profoundly shaped the Bengal's medical landscape. He played an important role in the establishment of the Jadavpur T.B. Hospital, Chittaranjan Seva Sadan, Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital and India's first postgraduate medical Institute in Kolkata. Dr Roy was Mahatma Gandhi's and Jawaharlal Nehru's personal doctor and friend. Dr. Roy's immense contributions to medical science are honoured nationally by celebrating *National Doctors' Day (Roy's Birth & Death Day)* and *Dr. B. C. Roy National Award* (to recognize exceptional contributions to medicine).

### Landmark books in surgery

Kolkata in the past as well as presently contributed immensely in surgical teaching through publication of popular books. To name some of the books are "Clinical Methods in Surgery" & "Handbook of Operative Surgery" by Dr. K P Das, "Basic Surgery" by Dr. Amiya Sen, "Principles and Practice of Modern Surgery" by Dr. Asita Lal Som "A Short Text Book of Surgery" by Dr. BP Chatterjee "Undergraduate Surgery" by Dr. A K Nan and "Bedside Clinic in Surgery" by Dr. M L Saha. Books written by Dr. P C Sanyal, Dr. A K Dutta Gupta, Dr. S Bhattacharya, Dr. Dhiraj Choudhury, Dr. S R Ghosal and Dr. Arkaprava Roy are also worth mentioning.

### Emergence of Super-speciality departments began at Kolkata

The first organized paediatric surgical unit was established in Calcutta in 1946 at the Medical College, Calcutta under Dr. Umesh Chandra Chakraborty. The paediatric surgical unit, was named "Sisur Nivas," Later, the first independent Department of Paediatric Surgery was established at the Institute of Child Health in 1957, also led by Dr. Chakraborty. Indian Association of Paediatric Surgeons offer an award for best research paper in his name.



**Dr. UC Chakraborty,**  
the founder of first paediatric  
surgery unit in Kolkata



**Dr. P K Sarkar**  
carried on the legacy with  
wisdom and many innovations

A full fledged department of paediatric surgery was established at NRS Medical College in 1969 with initiative from internationally renowned Dr Subir Kumar Chatterjee. Paediatric Surgery Units were also started at Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratisthan (1966), BC Roy Children Hospital (1966) Calcutta Medical Research Institute (1972) Park Children Centre (1977) as well as in all Govt. Medical Colleges in Kolkata. Dr. B C Talukdar, Dr. U S Arora, Dr. Achintya Nandi Dr. Nanda Sil were paediatric surgeons during that early period.

### First laparoscopic cholecystectomy in Kolkata

First laparoscopic cholecystectomy in Kolkata was done by Dr Ashish Mukherjee in private sector at Shusrusha N Home in Central Kolkata in 1991. Later Dr P Das Mahapatra a gynaecologist with his vast experience in laparoscopy in Gynaecology performed cholecystectomy.

During the same time Dr Om Tania was one of the earliest pioneers and did his first Lap Chole on 15th January, 1992. Visiting surgeon Dr Surendra Ugale from Hyderabad did plenty of laparoscopic surgery at Private sector hospital namely Belle View Clinic and Woodlands Nursing home.

In the same year of 1992 before the ASICON 1992, Kolkata first laparoscopic cholecystectomy was done at NRS Medical College, by Prof US Arora. When laparoscopic surgery was already established in corporate hospitals of Kolkata, In 2001 a workshop & training programme for the then faculty members in the department of surgery, Medical College, Kolkata was organized, inviting the guest faculty Dr Om Tania, Dr Pramathesh



Das Mahapatra and Dr Purnendu Roy as trainers. Few more training workshops were organized and laparoscopic surgery started in Govt Medical Colleges, though it was already installed at NRS Medical College, to begin with. Advanced laparoscopic surgery facility available now in both private and Govt. sectors. Gasless laparoscopic surgery training program was organized at Medical College, Kolkata in Aug 2019 under the Aegis of Association of Rural Surgeons of India, West Bengal University of Health Sciences and Leeds University, UK. Gasless laparoscopic surgery is being carried forward at Medical College, Kolkata with initiative from Dr Manas Dutta. Few of so many names who helped the progress of Minimal Invasive Surgery in the city of Joy are Late Dr Sayandev Dasgupta, Dr Ramesh Agarwal, Dr B Ramanna, Dr Tamonas Choudhury, Dr Sarfaraz Baig, Dr ML Saha, Dr Udipta Roy and Dr Sumantra Dey and many others are renowned at national level. Dr S Patnaik, Dr Anand Sagar, Dr Satyapriya Dey Sarkar are continuing GI endoscopic surgery since 1990's.

Installation and functioning of Robotics are made available in more than six corporate Hospitals in Kolkata; installation is expected soon in one or two Govt. Medical Colleges. In the city a good number of surgeons are trained in robotics.

**The first dedicated department for neurosurgery in Calcutta** was officially established in 1967 at the Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (IPGMER), which is attached to the SSKM Hospital. In 1955, Dr. Herbert Kraus, a visiting professor from Vienna, arrived for a year to help develop the neurosurgery department and train local surgeons at the PG Hospital. Dr R N Roy was the first HOD of Neurosurgery, at SSKM Hospital. Dr Ashoke K Bagchi was the key person to develop neurosurgery department at NRS Medical College. At Medical College, Kolkata Dr R B Chatterjee was pioneering the neurosurgery department. Recently the Institute of Neurosciences, Kolkata (I-NK), founded by Dr R P Sengupta, an eminent neurosurgeon, has become a centre of excellence in eastern India.

**The first formal Urology Unit in Calcutta** was established in 1964 at the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (IPGMER). Dr. Himadri Kumar Sarkar was instrumental in its formation.

At the beginning the pioneering uro-surgeons in Kolkata were Dr Kumar Kanti Ghosh, Dr. Bimalendu Mukherjee, Dr Bijoy Kr Biswas, Dr Ekendra Ghosh, Dr B P Maji, Rathin Basu and others. Dr. Arunabha Chaudhury performed eastern India's first kidney transplant at IPGMER in 1978. Dr Choudhry is a living legend and a prolific writer on urology as well as ancient world history.

The first major centre for cancer treatment in Calcutta (now Kolkata) was the Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, which was inaugurated on January 2, 1950. While it began as a general cancer treatment facility, specialized surgical oncology services developed within it and at other institutions over time. The name of Dr Amiya Kr Sen will be remembered as the leading cancer surgeon in 1970s. Dr Sen's disciple Dr A P Majumdar was also a very reputed surgeon. The Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital was merged with the Chittaranjan National Cancer Research Centre to form the CNCI (1957).

Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute (1973) is a not-for-profit hospital was founded with the vision of providing accessible cancer care for all, with a focus on patients from the underprivileged sector. It grew to become a comprehensive cancer hospital offering surgical oncology services.

Surgical oncology is now a well-established discipline practiced by various clinicians across the city's hospitals both in public and private sectors.



**The first cardiothoracic and vascular surgery (CTVS) department** in Kolkata was established at the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research (IPGMER), which is part of SSKM Hospital (1954) led by Dr A K Basu.

A separate cardiac surgery department at NRS Medical College and Hospital was established in 1973, though a thoracic unit that had been operating since the 1960s. For cardiothoracic surgery Dr B P Chatterjee, Dr Saibal Gupta were the leading surgeons at NRS Medical College and Dr Saibal Sen played the same role at R G Kar Medical College and Dr Godrej Korai at National Medical College in 1970s. Striking development happened at Medical College, Kolkata with extensive and resilient research work by Dr Bhumen Guha Roy during the same period.

A pioneer work was made by Dr Bhabotosh Biswas, Ex Vice Chancellor of West Bengal University of Health Sciences and Ex-Vice- President of DNB board, India, by establishing an advanced state of art Cardio-vascular and thoracic surgery department at R G Kar Medical College & Hospital in 2006. It is now one of the leading centres and a model institution in the country for teaching and training on Cardio Vascular & Thoracic Surgery, Cardiac Anaesthesia, and Allied Health Sciences.



Dr. Bhabotosh Biswas



Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences,  
R G Kar Medical College, Kolkata

The first heart transplant in West Bengal was performed at the B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre in 1990. Dr Tapas Roy Choudhry performed first successful heart transplant in private sector at Fortis Hospital, Kolkata on 18th May 2018. First heart transplant in a government set up was performed in the same year, 2018 at Medical College, Kolkata with a team led by Dr Plaban Mukherjee, Dr M S Pal and others. The first successful combined heart-lung transplant at a government hospital in the state was conducted at SSKM Hospital in 2024.

The first independent Department of Plastic Surgery in Calcutta (now Kolkata) was established in 1956 at the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (IPGMER) and SSKM Hospital. The department was opened largely due to the efforts of Professor Murari Mohan Mukherjee. Officially the department was inaugurated in 1956 by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. The then Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. B. C. Roy, presided over the event. Other surgeons who did remarkable contribution in plastic surgery should be mentioned namely Dr. Rasamoy Ganguli, Dr. Amit Ganguly, Dr Bankim Chandra, Dr. Samir Banerjee, Dr Sheila Rohatgi, Dr Mira Sen, Dr Siti Roy Chowdhury, Dr Debmalya Banerjee, Dr Ila Saha, Dr Sankar Sarkar and Dr Sasanka Sekhar Chatterjee.



Dr. Murari Mukherjee



Dr. Anjali Mukherjee



Dr. Amit Ganguli

Initiative for microvascular procedures in plastic surgery was taken by Dr. Siti Roy Chowdhury with installing an operative microscope at SSKM Hospital and its journey started as a full flagged advanced unit with Dr. Sasanka Chatterjee at the helm. Dr Chatterjee had his microvascular training and PhD from USSR. The first successful 2nd toe to thumb microvascular transfer was in 1994. In West Bank Hospital, Howrah, Dr. Anupam Golash and Manish Mukul Ghosh have been performing emergency microvascular reconstruction since 2000.



Dr. Siti Roy Choudhuri



Dr. SasankaSekhar Chatterjee



Dr. Anupam Golash

### **Surgery and the leading Women Surgeons in the city of Kolkata**

Some names, amongst many women surgeons from Kolkata may be mentioned for their remarkable contributions. Anjali Mukherjee, Mira Sen, Sheila Rohatgi, Siti Roy Choudhuri, Illa Saha (Plastic Surgery), Sushila Shripad, TriptiA dhya, Soma Guhathakurta (Cardio-thoracic Surgery). Dr. Soma Guhathakurta developed 'Synkroscaff', a tissue engineered pericardial patch for clinical use for which she received President of India's award, 2017. She is now teaching at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, India, guiding the doctoral scholars and managing research projects supported by Indian Ministry of Science & Technology.

Kalyani Saha Basu, a very accomplished lady is at present heading the prestigious paediatric surgery department of N R S Medical College, the first lady on that chair in the state. In general surgery, Urmila Khanna (Past -president of ACRSI), Mamata Chatterjee, Kalyani Banerjee, Gita Chaterjee, Meena Bhattacharya, Bansari Goswami contributed enormously for the surgical teachings and progress. Surgical fraternity in Kolkata remain shocked by the too early demise of Gargi Bandyopadhyay and Manju Banerjee, the two very dynamic ladies; both served Governing Council of ASI HQ. At present we are cherishing the very sincere and tireless works of Shamita Chatterjee (presently GC Member, ASI) and Madhumita Mukhopadhyay (current treasurer of ASI HQ).

### **Envisioning a Brighter Tomorrow**

It is difficult to cover innumerable events and developments in the evolution of medical care,



particularly, surgical care in the city of Kolkata, in the limited space of this article. Immense contributions of many unsung heroes of the past and present are missed in this write up unintentionally. Remarkable services are provided by ten Medical Colleges and more than hundred well-equipped corporate hospitals in the city. Belle Vue Clinic is one of the oldest reputed private hospitals in Kolkata where many celebrities were treated for critical illness, namely Mother Teresa, Satyajit Roy, Uttam Kumar, Suchitra Sen and many others. Oscar award for film was handed over to world famous film director Satyajit Roy, when he was on the Belle Vue hospital bed.

Currently many young surgeons are doing commendable works bringing back the reputation of the city. ASICON 2025 in December is going to be a mega event for the city with the hard-work of a brigade of young forces with dynamic leadership of organizing team. Dr M L Saha, Org Chairman, Dr Diptendra K Sarkar, Org Secretary, Dr Tamonas Choudhry, Chairman of WB Chapter of ASI, four GC Members from the state and Dr Sanjay De Bakshi, Chairman Souvenir Committee, ASICON 2025, all themselves are very well reputed surgeons and organizers at national level.

In spite of many shortcomings and hindrance, the city's rich medical heritage and legacy serve as a constant inspiration and reminder of its glorious past, motivating medical professionals and learners to strive for excellence against many challenges. It's heartening to see Kolkata keeping pace with modern standards, maintaining it as an important hub for quality health care and medical education.



Organizing Committee of ASICON 1980, Dr. AK Basu, Org. Chairman, Dr. Subir K Chatterjee, Org. Secretary



Organizing Committee ASICON 2002 with Dr. BK Biswas, Org. Chairman and Dr. Urmila Khanna, Org. Secretary



Organizing Committee of ASICON 2012 with Dr. Urmila Khanna, Org. Chairman, Dr. Tamonas Choudhury Org. Secretary

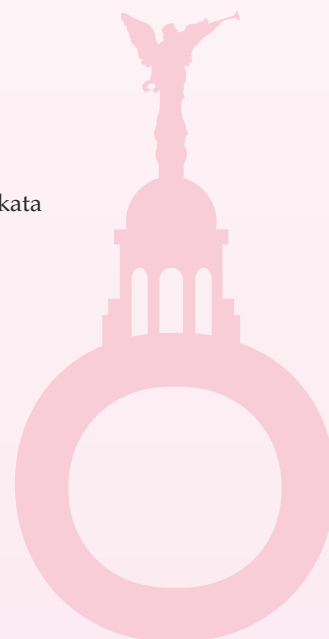


ASICON 2012- ASI President Dr. Ramakant lighting the Auspicious Inaugural lamp



**Dr. Sukumar Maiti**

Ex-Head of the Department of Surgery, Medical College, Kolkata  
Past Chairman of WB Chapter of ASI  
GC Member of ASI HQ (2003-2009)





# The Scalpel and The Brush



Dr. Sumanta Dey



## Kadambini Ganguly (1861 - 1923)

Dr. Siti Roy Chowdhury

Nineteenth century British India was in tug-of-war between age-old religious superstitions and beliefs on one side and modern scientific ideologies induced by British thinking on the other. Gender equality and women's society where women were illiteracy and conservative for a few great thinkers and and formed a contemporary hard to promote women's gender equality and They were Ishwar Raja Rammohan Roy, Durgamohan Das, who were leaders and the time. Among them all not only supported women empowerment implemented it in his life. example in the life of his



Dr Kadambini Ganguly was physician and social reformer. (the other being Chandramukhi India and practice Western numerous barriers in a field dominated particularly in women's healthcare made significant progress towards gender equality and social justice.

empowerment were unthinkable in a thrown into the dungeons of orthodox dogmas. It was only reformers who came forward Indian society who worked education and fight for women empowerment. Chandra Vidyasagar, Dwarakanath Ganguly, Keshab Chandra Sen, revolutionary thinkers of Dwarkanath Ganguly gender equality and but practically He set a groundbreaking wife, Kadambini Ganguly.

a trailblazing Indian One of the first two women Basu) to graduate in British medicine in India. She broke by men. Her contribution to medicine

Kadambini, daughter of Brojo Kishore Basu, was born on 18th July 1861 in Bhagalpur, Bihar in British India. As an infant she looked like a fresh flower that has just bloomed. It is interesting to know the meaning of her name. She got her name from the Kadamba flower that blooms in the monsoon months. Her name is an imagery of the Kadamba flower blooming amidst tufts of monsoon clouds. Brojo Kishore Basu was headmaster of the Bhagalpur School. Apart from his job as headmaster, he was a leader at the Brahmo Samaj, a reformer who was particularly keen about women empowerment. He was co-founder of Bengal Mahila Samity formed in 1863. This was, probably, the first women's rights organisation in India. Born in era of the Bengal Renaissance, Kadambini grew up witnessing religious, social and educational achievements in Bengal particularly for women. She initially received an English education at the Brahmo Eden Female school in Dhaka. She then shifted to Calcutta and joined Bangla Mahila Vidyalaya which eventually merged with Bethune School. She appeared for her Entrance examination from University of Calcutta and became the first Indian woman to pass the Entrance in 1878.

Since 1876, women had already started their fight for permission to appear for Entrance Examination. Social reformers like Dwarkanath, Shibnath Shastri, Durgamohan and others helped women obtain their rights to education. It was sanctioned in 1877. Calcutta University agreed to open its doors to higher education for women, both to study as well as appear for Examinations.

Two Bengali girls asked for permission, Kadambini and Sarala (daughter of Durga Mohan Das). They not only took permission for the Entrance Exam but also asked for permission to study medicine, once they passed their FA (First Arts). Kadambini appeared for her FA in 1880 along with her companion, Chandramukhi Basu (who later became the first Principal of Bethune College). After passing her FA, she and her friend Abala Das (daughter of Durga Mohan Das) again expressed their desire to study medicine. Both studied hard for the admission test but, unfortunately, the Medical College Council would not grant admission to lady students. Without wasting time, Kadambini took admission into BA course in Bethune College and graduated in 1883 and became the first female graduate in India. She knew that if she passed BA she would definitely get a chance to take admission into Medical College as was the rule. So, in 1883, she started her medical education. Just 11 days before her admission into Medical College, she was married to Dwarkanath Ganguly, the social reformer and her mentor.

In 1887, she completed her medical studies and appeared for her Final Examination. Unfortunately, one of the examiners was not supportive of women's medical education. He failed Kadambini for just one mark. He was Dr R Chandra. Another examiner, Dr Coats, principal of the then Bengal Medical College and a teacher of medicine, was aware of Dr Chandra's prejudice about women medical students and that he particularly disliked Kadambini. He knew the real reason behind Kadambini's failure. Many others also felt that whatever had happened with Kadambini was not right.

This was not at all unusual in Kadambini's life. On several occasions she had to face criticism, unusual attack and humiliation for her smartness and intelligence and for her distinct presence among others. Men believed that women should always follow them with their heads bent low and mouths shut. The Brahmo Samaj and others around her were against her education and she had been humiliated several times on different occasions. However, there were some who truly appreciated her courage and intelligence. One of her great supporters was Dr Coats, who was aware of the partiality that she was facing and passed Kadambini with GMCB (Graduate Medical College Bengal) degree. These were not uncommon for a woman in those times, but Kadambini was lucky to have a teacher like Coats by her side. She received her result in 1888. Before 1857, GMCB was the name of the Diploma that used to be given to the students by the principal of Bengal Medical College. After establishment of Calcutta University, the degree was given a different name, Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery i.e. LMS and Bachelor of Medicine or MB. Though GMCB was not used, it was not stopped or declared cancelled by then. This was the reason why Dr Coats allowed Kadambini to start practice with that Diploma.

It was never a smooth road for Kadambini. She had to face a lot of criticism right from her entry into Medical College and even before that. However, she cleared her LMS exam before she left for England. Kadambini started her practice but like many beginners it was not exciting or colourful. She accepted a job in Eden Hospital that made her more of a midwife than an obstetrician. In 1890 she joined Lady Dufferin Hospital with a salary of Rs300, that was quite reasonable in those times. Around 1889 she joined the Indian National Congress. She went to Bombay to attend its 5th Congress along with two other women, Swarna Kumari Devi and Basanta Kumari Das. The very next year, at the 6th session of Congress in Calcutta, Kadambini was a speaker, the first lady speaker of India at that Congress. She was also the first President of Transvaal Indian Association founded by Gandhiji's colleague, Henry Pollock.

Later, in 1914, she presided over the General Brahmo Samaj session in Calcutta. Around 1891, she gradually settled down as her popularity was increasing and her practice was

much better than before. But a group of people could not accept her success. Once, the editor of Banga Nibashi Weekly, Mahesh Chandra Pal, followed the same path of abusing Kadambini and published a humiliating article in his weekly. Kadambini's husband, Dwarkanath could not tolerate that and along with his two friends Shibnath Sashtri and Dr Nilratan Sarkar filed defamation against Mahesh Chandra Pal for making false statements that damaged Kadambini's reputation. Eventually Dwarkanath won the case and the editor of Banga Nibashi was imprisoned for six months and paid Rs 100 fine. Gradually Kadambini realised unless she went abroad and achieved a couple of medical diplomas it would be difficult for her to practice here as there were many who always tried to pull her down. But it was not all that easy for her to organise this. Financial and other hardships were obstacles on her path. But again, with support from her husband Dwarkanath, she managed to organise her trip.

Dwarkanath and Kadambini had eight children altogether. Two were from Dwarka's first wife and six were from Kadambini.

On 26th February, 1893, she left for Great Britain alone. On the way she worked as an attendant to an English lady, Ms Pash, only to collect the fare for her journey ahead. She also carried with her several pieces of local handicraft to hand over to someone travelling to Chicago for an exhibition. In this way she tried to collect funds for her travel. However, all this came at the price of heavy criticism from people around her. Kadambini was strongly focused and didn't bother to react to criticism. Her only aim was to complete her exam, get her diploma and return home where her children were waiting for her. Within a short time, Kadambini appeared for her exam and received three diplomas. Her success in such a short time raised doubts about her honesty and sincerity. The medical gazette of Great Britain, published in 1905, described her in the following way -

### **Ganguly Smt Kadambini**

6, Guruprasad Chowdhury Lane, Calcutta, Bharat Barsha  
BA Calcutta 1883

LRCP, LRCS (Edinburgh) LFPS (Glasgow) 1893

Graduate Medical College 1888,

Ex Officiating Superintendent - Dufferin Hospital, Calcutta

Ex In-Charge - Eden Obstetrics Hospital

After returning from Great Britain, she joined as a senior doctor at Dufferin Hospital from where she became a busy and successful practitioner. After some years, she left the hospital job and concentrated on her practice. She was also invited to Nepal to treat the Raj Mata around 1895 - 1896. Her successful treatment pleased both the patient as well as the royal family who remained grateful to her. Long after she returned from Nepal, the royal family maintained contact with her and consulted her whenever they needed medical advice.

Kadambini used to work hard even at home, after her day-long busy practice outside. On her way to domicile visit in a horse-drawn carriage, she used to keep herself busy with her needle-work. She was deft in needlework as well. Although she was a respected doctor, Kadambini would not be treated with the same dignity when she would visit a home to help with child birth. After the delivery, she would be given food at the same spot where servants of the house would eat. After eating she would have to clear her own plate and clean the spot.

As she grew older, she suffered from high blood pressure but she worked till her last day. She had to reduce her workload to some extent but any successful practitioner gets leave only on his or her last day. It was 3rd October 1923; she operated on a critical case. After



returning home, she told her daughter-in-law that some people were of the opinion that Dr Ganguly is getting old and her hands are not as swift as they were before. But they should have seen what a difficult and complex surgery I had to perform today. On the evening of the same day, Kadambini passed away. That morning, she had earned Rs 50 and that money was spent for her last rites.

A dignified woman physician passed away leaving behind a pioneering legacy that we discuss even to this day.



**Dr, Siti Roy Chowdhury**  
Eminent Plastic Surgeon

## The Scalpel and The Brush



*Lip sync*

**Dr. Partha Pratim Gupta**

# The Scalpel and The Brush



Dr. Sudip Bandopadhyay



# The Scalpel and The Brush



*A quiet moonrise*



*Sunset*

Dr. Sudip Bandopadhyay

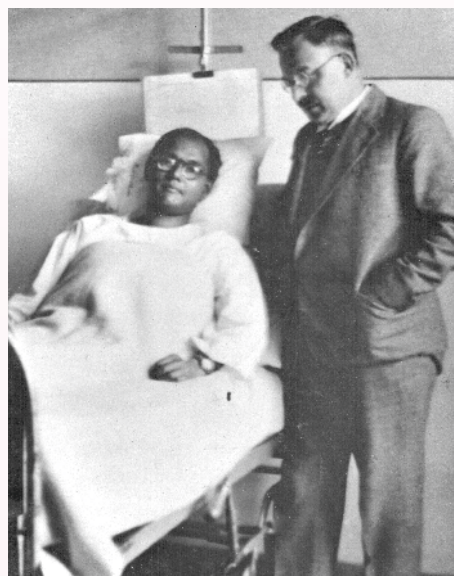


## Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Gall-Bladder Surgery

Sugata Bose

Before being administered anesthesia for his gall-bladder surgery in Vienna on April 24, 1935, Subhas Chandra Bose asked for a piece of paper. "My love to my countrymen, my debts to my elder brother Sarat," he wrote. The line encapsulated his devotion to the cause of India's freedom and the unconditional support that his Mejdada always gave him in the pursuit of his life's mission.

A renowned surgeon, Professor Rudolf Demel, did the operation - far more complex and risky than it is today - at the Rudolfiner Haus, a Viennese sanatorium. The surgery was a success, but the convalescence was long. Professor Demel found a large stone in the gall-bladder that was removed. Sister Elvira led a team of nurses in providing excellent care. Emilie Schenkl was a regular visitor as Subhas made a slow and steady recovery. It took about three weeks before he could walk around a little. He was discharged from Rudolfiner House and moved to the Westend Sanatorium in Purkersdorf on the outskirts of Vienna for further recovery and rehabilitation. Determined to carry on his work as India's spokesperson abroad, his letters reveal that he was rather impatient with his slow recovery.



On February 13, 1933, Subhas Chandra Bose had been brought in an ambulance to the port in Bombay and released from British imprisonment after being put on the Italian ship S.S. Gange sailing for Europe. Repeated spells in prison between late 1924 and early 1933 had broken his health. He had suffered bronchial pneumonia in Mandalay Jail between 1925 and 1927 and had close contact with another prisoner who had tuberculosis. More recently, he had severe abdominal pain, which doctors reckoned was caused by a stone or stones in the gall-bladder. On arrival in Vienna, Subhas was admitted on March 11, 1933, to the Furth Sanatorium where he met Vithalbhai Patel. Feeling rejuvenated after a stay at this clinic, Subhas postponed the plan to have an operation. Instead, he embarked on visits to various European countries between June 1933 and November 1934, establishing friendship associations and organizing Indian students in different European capitals. In the latter half of 1934 he wrote his major book *The Indian Struggle*, which was published by Lawrence and Wishart in January 1935.

Subhas returned briefly to India in December 1934 when his father died and was home interned for just over a month at 38/2 Elgin Road. "I am afraid I shall have to undergo an operation," he wrote to Emilie on December 31, 1934. "There is no other way left open to me." He set off on his European exile once more on January 8, 1935, and submitted to the surgeon's knife in April 24. On May 10, 1935, he wrote to Fazlul Huq from Sanatorium Rudolfiner Haus, Billroth Strasse, Vienna, congratulating him on being elected Mayor of Calcutta. On May 15, he informed Naomi Vetter that he was going to move to Sanatorium Westend, Purkersdorf b/Wien the next day. "I have been making steady through rather slow progress," he wrote. "At present I am able to walk about a little with the help of an abdominal belt. The old pain seems to have disappeared but I am not yet free from the post-



operative discomforts in the abdominal region. This will probably take some time.”

By mid-June 1935 Subhas was able to leave Vienna for the Czech resort town Karlsbad. He accompanied the ailing Kamala Nehru on the train from Vienna to Prague. “My stay here has done me good,” he wrote to Naomi Vetter from Karlsbad on September 6, 1935, “but I have not been able to get rid of the discomfort which appeared after the operation. Consequently I have to continue wearing the belt and avoiding strenuous exercise. I wrote to Professor Demel and he has replied saying that I should try the cure at Gastein.” The next day he set off for Badenweiler to see Jawaharlal and Kamala Nehru on his way to Hofgastein.

The cure worked and by early 1936 Subhas was able to undertake another European tour that took him from Austria to Germany, Belgium, France and Ireland. The high point was his February 1936 visit to Dublin where he had three meetings with President Eamonn DeValera. In March he was back at his favorite hill resort Badgastein in the Austrian Alps where Emilie joined him for an idyllic stay at Kurhaus Hochland from March 17 to March 26, 1936. Subhas then set off for home even though he had been warned by the British that he could not expect to remain at liberty if he returned to India. “I do not know what the future has in store for me,” he wrote to Emilie. “May be, I shall spend my life in prison, may be, I shall be shot or hanged. But whatever happens, I shall think of you and convey my gratitude to you in silence for your love for me.”

Immediately upon landing in Bombay, Subhas Chandra Bose was arrested by the British and lodged in Arthur Road Prison. He was then taken to Yeravda Jail in Pune and later home interned in Sarat Chandra Bose's bungalow in Kurseong during the latter half of 1936. In December of that year, he was brought down as a prisoner to the Calcutta Medical College Hospital. From the hospital Subhas wrote a letter in German (helped by corrections made by Emilie) to Sister Elvira, who had taken care of him after his surgery. “This is to inform you,” he wrote to Emilie on March 18, 1937, “that I was suddenly released last night. I returned home at 10 pm from the Hospital... My freedom means that I can move about freely and that my correspondence will not be officially censored – though, of course, it will always be secretly censored.” That same day Emilie had written, “Schwester Elvira is now again in Vienna. The other day I went to Rudolfiner House to pay her a visit.” And then on March 24, she wrote, “A few days back I read in the newspaper that you have been released. My congratulations. Sr. Elvira and myself took this as an opportunity of drinking your health today.”

My grandfather Sarat, my grandmother Bivabati, and my father Dr. Sisir Kumar Bose traveled to Vienna in November 1948 for an emotional meeting with Netaji's wife and daughter. During that visit they went to see Dr. Rudolf Demel in his apartment. A skilled surgeon, Professor Demel was also a virtuoso violist and entertained the Boses to an impromptu concert. “He proudly showed us,” Sisir Kumar Bose writes in his memoir, “an autographed copy of *The Indian Struggle* presented to him by Uncle Subhas.”

1. See Sugata Bose, *His Majesty's Opponent: Subhas Chandra Bose and India's Struggle against Empire* (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2011), p. 103.
2. Subhas Chandra Bose to Emilie Schenkl, December 31, 1934, in Sisir Kumar Bose and Sugata Bose (eds.), *Letters to Emilie Schenkl: Netaji Collected Works Volume 7* (Calcutta: Netaji Research Bureau, 1994, 2023), p. 9. On Emilie Schenkl, see Krishna Bose, *Netaji: Subhas Chandra Bose's Life, Politics and Struggle* (New Delhi: Picador, 2022), pp. 58-69.
3. Subhas Chandra Bose to A.K. Fazlul Huq, May 10, 1935, in Sisir Kumar Bose and Sugata Bose (eds.), *India's Spokesman Abroad: Netaji Collected Works Volume 8* (Calcutta: Netaji Research Bureau, 1994), p. 96.

4. Subhas Chandra Bose to Naomi Vetter, May 15, 1935, in Ibid., p. 97.
5. Subhas Chandra Bose to Naomi Vetter, September 6, 1935, in Ibid., pp. 105-106.
6. Subhas Chandra Bose to Emilie Schenkl, March 1936, in Sisir Kumar Bose and Sugata Bose (eds.), *The Essential Writings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose* (Calcutta: Netaji Research Bureau, 1997, 2022), pp. 160-161.
7. Emilie Schenkl to Subhas Chandra Bose, February 12, 1937; Subhas Chandra Bose to Emilie Schenkl, February 26, 1937; Emilie Schenkl to Subhas Chandra Bose, March 18, 1937; Subhas Chandra Bose to Emilie Schenkl, March 18, 1937; and Emilie Schenkl to Subhas Chandra Bose, March 24, 1937, in Sisir Kumar Bose and Sugata Bose (eds.), *Letters to Emilie Schenkl: Netaji Collected Works Volume 7* (Calcutta: Netaji Research Bureau, 1994, 2023), pp. 108-11, 115-118.
8. Sisir Kumar Bose, *An Intimate Memoir of the Bose Brothers* (New Delhi: Aleph, 2016), p. 254.



**Sugata Bose**

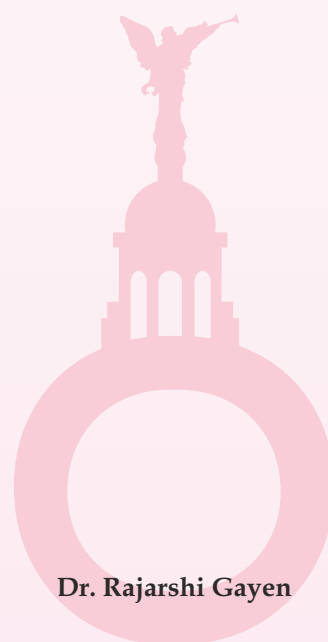
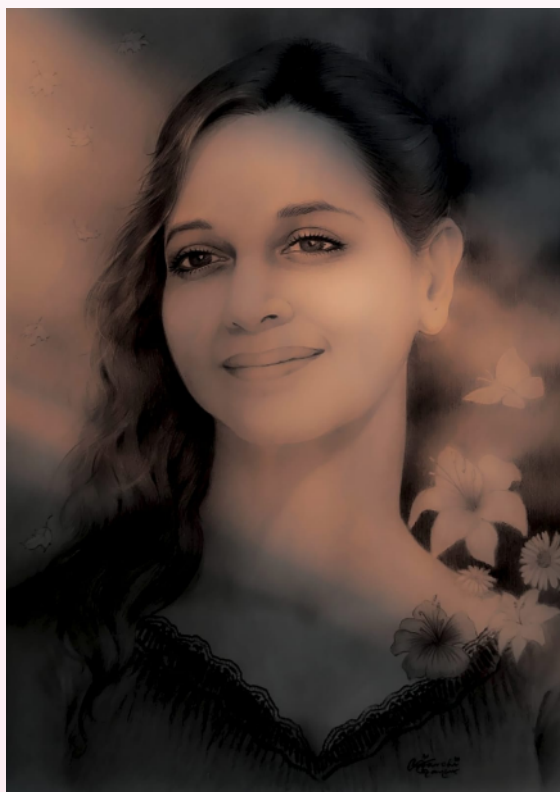
Gardiner Professor of History, Harvard University, and  
Chairperson, Netaji Research Bureau

## *The Scalpel* and *The Brush*



Dr. Partha Pratim Gupta

## The Scalpel and The Brush



Dr. Rajarshi Gayen

## A Memorable Debut

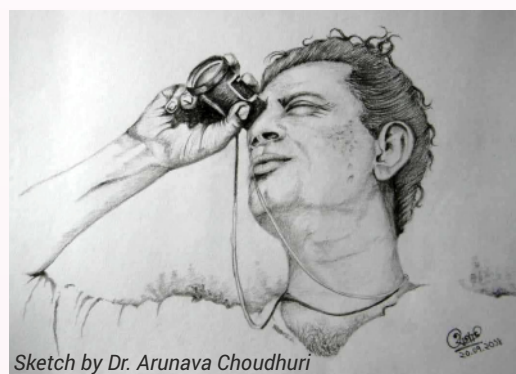
Sandip Ray

What made our household different from other Bengali households during that time? This is a question I've often been asked during interviews. Growing up, one of the things I remember quite vividly was the number of foreigners, from various countries, who came to visit and meet with my father. And all this started with '*Pather Panchali*', a labour of love that he envisioned while still working at the advertising agency, D. J. Keymers.

This was just the start. It was the catalyst that fueled a lifetime of filmmaking for my father. The Apu Trilogy, the Calcutta Trilogy, the Adventures of Goopy and Bagha and the Adventures of Feluda are just a selection of the movies he made.

The Adventures of Goopy Bagha, which comprises '*Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne*' and '*Hirak Rajar Deshe*', was when he decided to get into the unique and untapped genre of fantasy musicals.

The Adventures of Feluda, comprising '*Sonar Kella*' and '*Joi Baba Felunath*', were based on stories and characters he created for publication in the Bengali magazines *Desh* and *Sandesh*, the latter being a children's magazine started by his great-grandfather, Upendra Kishore Raychoudhury.



'*Pather Panchali*' was made under extremely trying conditions. The concept was so new and unique – nobody wanted to finance it. But father was determined. As he had a full time job as an Art Director at Keymers, he started shooting during the weekends. A large part of his salary went into it. He also had to sell his collection of books and records. And mother pawned her jewellery.

In the autumn of 1954, Monroe Wheeler, the Director of Exhibitions and Publications at New York's Museum of Modern Arts (MoMA), came down to Calcutta with the idea of putting together an exhibit of Indian highlights at the Museum. The great Edward Steichen, a pioneer of fashion photography, was to be the mastermind behind this affair.

Monroe Wheeler met father at Keymers. In his memoir '*My Years with Apu*', father writes – "I told him I was making a film. He showed considerable interest. 'Could you show me some stills?' He asked.

On looking at the stills, his interest doubled. He immediately made a proposal for showing the film as part of the exhibition which would open in May the following year. I made a quick mental calculation and said the film would be ready by then. He said that he would be delighted to hold a world premiere at the MoMA. The deal was clinched, although there was nothing on paper. Wheeler left, saying he would keep in touch."

And indeed he did. On the 7th of April 1954, he writes – "I'm thrilled to hear that the Government of West Bengal is going to sponsor your film. Please do continue to send us stills."

Yes, the Government of West Bengal did produce the film. But as they had no provisions for feature films, the funding of '*Pather Panchali*' came from the Road Development Project Division. We must not forget, the English title of the film was '*The Song of the Little Road*.'



During the last phase of production, American film director John Huston arrived in Calcutta. He was on his way to Kathmandu, to scout locations for Kipling's *'The Man Who Would Be King'*. Upon his arrival, he wanted to meet

father. Huston was a friend of Monroe Wheeler's, and it was he who asked Huston to get in touch with my father and inquire about the progress of *'Pather Panchali'*, and if possible to take a look at some of the footage. Father met him and showed him about half an hour of the rough cut. To his delight, Huston was deeply moved of what he saw and gave glowing reports to Wheeler.

Meanwhile, time was running out. The New York premiere was barely three months away when father completed the first cut with his editor Dulal Dutt. Recording the background score, the final cut, the laying of the tracks, the mixing, the negative cutting and the printing remained. Father was worried. He informed Wheeler that there would be no time for sub titling. Wheeler agreed to show the film without them.

Finally, working round the clock at a feverish pace, the final print of *'Pather Panchali'* came out late at night, the day before it was to be delivered to the Pan Am office in Calcutta. Father hadn't slept the last ten days and had no time to see the finished product. Along with his production manager Anil Choudhury, he took the trunk to the Pan Am office, and while talking to the receptionist there, fell fast asleep over the counter.

The premiere at the MoMA, as everybody knows, was a huge success. The papers in India carried the news of the event, and as a result generated a lot of interest amongst the people.

On the 26th of August 1955, *'Pather Panchali'* opened in Calcutta. For the first three weeks, sales were moderate. The middle-class Bengalis, who comprised the bulk of the cinema going public, stayed away from the film. They were used to the studio-based melodramas. But the positive reviews and the mouth publicity worked wonders. From the fourth week onwards, sales picked up and soon the film was running to packed houses. It ran for four months and was declared a box office hit.

The total budget of the film, in those days was roughly around one lakh rupees. And father's remuneration? Just under three thousand. As he said later – 'They got the money, I got the fame!'

2025 being the 70th anniversary of the release of *'Pather Panchali'*, I thought it would be a fitting tribute to mention this anecdote.

At the evening show of the first day of its release, I was there, sitting on my mother's lap, watching the film. I was barely two years old. I learnt from her, much later, that I was rivetted to the screen, and after returning home, begged her to take me back to the theatre again. She swore I had mumbled – 'I want to see Apu!'



**Sandip Ray**  
Eminent Film-maker

# The Scalpel and The Brush



Dr. Tamal Kanti Chaudhuri

## Remembering The 'Lady Doctors'

**Dr. Rosina Ahmed**

“Is the Lady Doctor seeing patients today?” Today, in the 21st century, a female surgeon working in a Kolkata hospital hears a snatch of a conversation at the reception desk. Another day it is a female paediatrician, who hears a mother say “when is the Lady Doctor coming”. Apart from those two English words, 'Lady Doctor', the rest of the sentence is in the patient's own language. What an archaic turn of phrase, something more than just a simple description!

Going back to the 19th century, there have been Indian women doctors who qualified in Western Medicine, and entwined in the story is a specific group with a proud and unusual history, the 'Lady Doctors'. To understand who they are, we need to turn back the pages and read a little about the struggles of women who wanted to commit their lives to service in the medical profession.

The story starts at a time when a woman had few constitutional rights anywhere in the world, when she was not allowed to vote, and when a sense of fulfilment was expected to come from looking after her husband and her home. The mid 1800s, however, was a time of massive social change. Women around the world were set on a determined struggle for equality and rights, and part of that struggle was for women to be entitled to study medicine. Teaching of the medical sciences was well established at several universities in European cities, but access was restricted to men. Women were considered either too weak for the rigours of the subject, or somehow mentally perverted for wanting to be doctors. In the USA some determined women took the route of establishing a separate medical college for women alone, and in the UK the first women doctor had to get around the existing restrictive rules by taking exams in one country and seeking medical registration in another. To be allowed to sit for examinations at all, women were forced to collect 'no objection' certificates from both male students and professors, and even after graduation many were only allowed to work as nurses. In 1869, Edinburgh University took the pioneering step of allowing a group of 7 women to enrol for a medical degree. They passed their exams with exceptional results but even so they were not allowed to graduate. In a fascinating about turn, 150 years later in July 2019, Edinburgh University awarded posthumous medical degrees to all seven women, a symbolic step that seems barely adequate in the face of their struggles during their lifetimes.

In India too, close on the heels of these pioneering activities, women started to take steps towards becoming doctors. This was probably an even greater challenge to the social norms of the time than it was in the West. The names of the 'firsts' have become quite well known, documented in literature and on screen. There was Anandiben Joshi from Mumbai who studied at the Women's Medical College in Pennsylvania, her contemporaries, Kadambini Ganguly and Chandramukhi Basu at Calcutta Medical College, and Abala Bose at Madras Medical College. Abala's ill health cut short her studies, Anandiben graduated, but ill health and an untimely death prevented her from working as a doctor. Kadambini was not allowed to take the regular university graduation exams, but the Principal of the College made special arrangements to award her Graduate of the Medical College of Bengal (GMBS). To prove her ability and qualifications beyond doubt and without question, she went to England, gained the Triple Qualification of Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh), Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) and the Faculty of



Physicians and Surgeons (Glasgow) and was the 2nd Indian woman on the British Medical Register, following Annie Jagannadham from Madras Medical College. She returned to work in Calcutta, and in spite of public condemnation and insults she eventually built a long and successful practice as a doctor. These women fought for their rights, no doubt every step of the way – but it is also clear that each of them was personally well connected, with support from families and progressive members of the wider society, who put considerable effort and funds into social reform.

Although Western systems of medical education were gaining ground, there was a perception that very few women from 'respectable' families would ever want to become doctors. At the same time, provision of improved healthcare for women was seen as an important social issue that must be addressed. In the opinion of the colonial administration, health provisions would have to take into account the 'oriental view' of women, where long established and deep-seated notions of decorum regulated the position of women in 'respectable' families. It is reported that diagnoses were made with patients hidden behind curtains, or with only what was considered a 'decent' part of their body being examined by the doctor. On the other hand, the medical establishment of the time was based on male doctors, many with British Army ranks, who treated male patients. Managing women's health was not their priority. These were significant barriers, and a solution was urgently needed.

Distressed by widespread infections and deaths during childbirth, a few missionary women from the USA and Britain set up hospitals to provide care specifically for women., notably the hospitals that later became the Christian Medical Colleges in Ludhiana and Vellore. The Countess of Dufferin, wife of the Viceroy Lord Dufferin, also took a personal interest in this issue, and created what she wrote of as “my Female Medical Scheme” – the Dufferin Fund. It might be expected that the solution that would be to encourage women to enter the premiere medical colleges on equal footing with men. What was actually set up was somewhat overshadowed by these institutions, the interesting history of another cadre of women doctors, most of whose stories were never recorded – the women who came to be known as the 'Lady Doctors'. This community of women doctors would provide a parallel health system for women patients alone, mainly focused on maternity services.

The solution created under the Dufferin Fund was for female doctors to be trained separately, and differently, and after they qualified, treat only women patients. The scheme was grounded in the prevailing attitudes of colonialism and patriarchy, but shaped by newer progressive thinking which was beginning to gain ground – particularly among Brahmo reformers. The aim was to encourage women's education, and replace the traditional attitudes of the 'antarmahal' with social and workspaces where educated and Westernised women could flourish, though the expectation was most of their interaction would only be with other women.

The first college in this parallel women's scheme was the Campbell Medical School and Hospital in Calcutta, which later became the Nil Ratan Sarkar Medical College. Only women could apply, entry qualifications were made easier, the course was less rigorous, and all teaching would be in Bengali. Women who completed the course would get the Vernacular Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery (VLMS). This would qualify them to work as 'Hospital Assistants' in district hospitals, under the supervision of male Civil Surgeons and female doctors of European descent, mainly missionaries. Many of the women who entered this training scheme were widows or disadvantaged in some way, and struggled for social acceptance in spite of qualifications and skills. The course had many critics, who were

sure that the women being trained would emerge half-educated, and would degrade the medical profession. On the other hand, the scheme got going with exceptionally low costs, as vernacular-qualified 'Hospital Assistants' could be employed for a fraction of what European women were paid, and a tiny fraction of what a male doctor earned. Immediately a hierarchy had been set in place – women would do the same work as men, with lower pay, and 'native' women would be paid even less than Europeans.

Once the scheme was established, it was extended to district hospitals in many towns, and by the late 1920s there were almost 200 hospitals providing healthcare to women, and staffed by women. There was a curious anomaly in the care provided in these hospitals. The Civil Surgeon, who was nominally in charge, would not examine or treat women patients, for whom the hospitals had been set up in the first place. Female doctors with VLMS were called assistants, but they lived in the hospitals, and provided more or less all of the medical services, 24 hours a day. As their experience and reputation was established, patients who came for treatment sought out these female doctors. Women were examined, treated and supported until they were well enough to go home, providing a service with extensive social implications. As time went, on the 'Hospital Assistants' successfully took complete charge of many rural hospitals. They gained a title of respect, the 'Lady Doctors'.

As times changed, social development made it acceptable for any doctor, male or female, to treat female patients. With this, the unique phenomenon of women's hospitals staffed by 'Lady Doctors' gradually faded.

For many years, women have competed equally with men for places in high quality medical colleges, although a close look still highlights certain gender discrepancies. Data from the last 20 years shows a steady increase in the number of girls studying science at school and entering medical education, and in fact the intake of female students in some medical schools, including the highly competitive and prestigious AIIMS, is now reported to be close to 50%. In 2016, The Times of India even reported that, in the preceding 5 years, India had 4,500 more female medical graduates than male.

These figures seem to indicate that the medical profession in India today is an inclusive and equal opportunities space, but the situation in the workplace seems quite different. A WHO study in 2015 reflected gender inequality stretching back decades, with the number of male doctors outnumbering women by almost 5 to 1. A more recent publication from 2023 showed a situation that seemed static, if not somewhat worse – it estimated that only 14.2% of medical doctors working in India were female. In comparison, 53% of European doctors are women, although medical leadership all over the world continues to be male dominated.

In the 1990s, the Royal College of Surgeons of England set up a special working group called Women in Surgical Training (WIST), which later evolved to become Women in Surgery (WinS). Effort was put into looking into the reasons why women might not choose a surgical career, and why those who start as surgeons might not continue to work in this field. Active support was provided to overcome these obstacles, and learning points from this program may help to increase representation of women surgeons in India.

In India, it is interesting that Breast Surgery has become a popular career choice for young women starting out in surgical careers, perhaps with the perception that, even now, women patients are more comfortable with being examined and treated by women doctors. Representation of women in breast surgical training programs is certainly higher than in other fields of surgery. Of course women today have equal opportunities, with open competition for degrees and training posts. The decision to choose a specialty is mostly

personal. No doubt at some point in the future sociological studies will look back at this contemporary time, to analyse why there were so many female breast surgeons. For today, it is just interesting to observe how the story of the 'Lady Doctors' continues to evolve, almost 150 years after they started their journey!

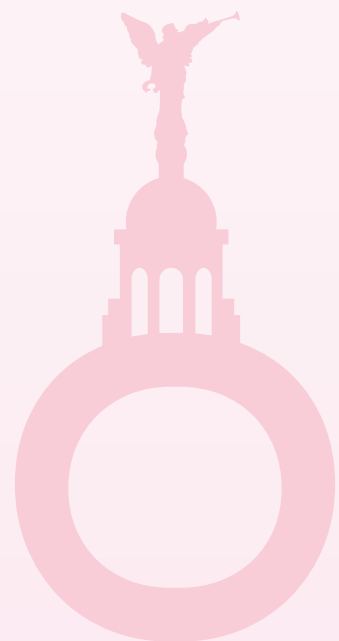
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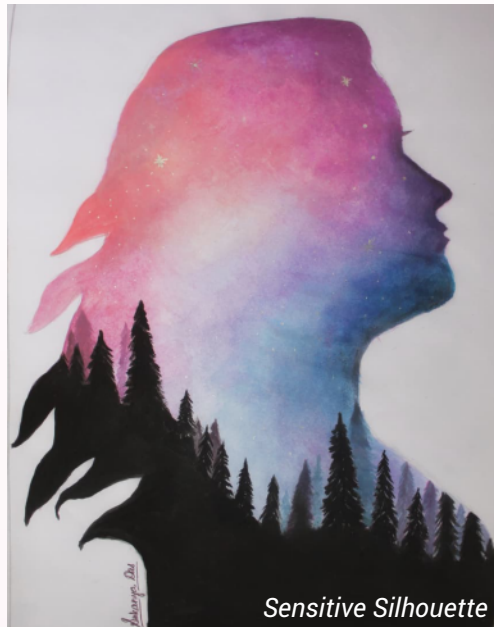
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Senior Consultant and Head of Department  
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# The Scalpel and The Brush



Dr. Sukanya Das



Dr. Gourab Roy



Dr. Kartick Saha



Dr. Kartick Saha

## Cricketing Achievements in a Football-Crazy State – West Bengal

Pranab Roy

On a winter morning in Kolkata, the Maidan wakes early. The mist still clings to the grass, softening the outlines of goalposts, white picket fences, and the giant silhouette of Eden Gardens in the distance. Boys in mismatched whites jog across dew-soaked fields, the thud of leather on willow echoing faintly as coaches shout instructions. In one corner, a group of girls take high catches, their breath forming small clouds in the chill air. The scene is chaotic yet harmonious, as if the city's sporting soul has been condensed into these few green acres. For over a century, this is where Bengal's cricketing dreams have begun — from barefoot boys who would one day play for India, to girls who now see themselves in the footsteps of Jhulan Goswami.



It is an unlikely cradle for a cricketing culture in a state where football has always claimed the loudest cheers. From the packed stands of the Kolkata Derby to the legends of Mohun Bagan's barefoot victory in 1911, football's stories are etched deep in Bengal's heart. Yet, tucked alongside those tales is another — quieter perhaps, but no less remarkable — of a cricket tradition that began before Indian cricket had even taken shape, nurtured in colonial clubs, sharpened in the Maidan, and carried forward into the grand arena of Eden Gardens.



If you were to stop an ordinary Indian cricket lover on the street and ask where their favourite sport originated in the country, the answer you would almost certainly hear is Bombay, now Mumbai. For decades, Mumbai has been celebrated as the cradle of Indian cricket, home to the most Ranji Trophy titles, the breeding ground of legendary players and Test captains, and the administrative seat of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. Yet, like so many stories told too often, this one is incomplete. The history of cricket in India does not begin and end on the grounds of Bombay. The erstwhile city of Calcutta, now Kolkata, has an equally compelling, and perhaps even earlier, claim to being the birthplace of organised cricket in India. While Parsees and British traders first introduced the sport to Bombay in the early 1700s, it was in Calcutta, the capital of British India until 1911, that cricket took root in an organised form. The Calcutta Cricket and Football Club, founded in 1792, predates most sporting institutions in the subcontinent.

Despite this pedigree, Bengal's sporting identity has long been dominated by another game: football. From the moment Mohun Bagan's barefoot heroes defeated the East Yorkshire Regiment to win the IFA Shield in 1911, football has occupied a place in the Bengali psyche that cricket has never fully matched. Victories on the football field — especially against colonial teams — became potent symbols of nationalism. Cricket, in contrast, was seen as a game of collaboration between Indians and Europeans, and for much of the early twentieth century it struggled to ignite the same emotional fervour. But to ignore Bengal's cricketing story would be to overlook a rich, layered history that spans more than two centuries, producing players, teams, administrators, and moments that have shaped not just the state, but Indian cricket itself.

Cricket arrived in Bengal with the British East India Company in the late eighteenth century. It was the game of officers, merchants, and administrators, played for leisure in the colonial capital. The Calcutta Cricket Club, which would later merge into the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club, opened its doors in 1792 and quickly became the centre of the game in the city. Matches were staged on the Maidan, the sprawling open space in the heart of Calcutta, which at the time served as the city's green lungs and social stage for the colonial elite. For decades, cricket in Bengal remained an exclusive pursuit. Club membership was restricted to Europeans, and the game's image as a colonial import meant it failed to capture the imagination of the wider Bengali public. While British officers used it to replicate a slice of home, for locals it was a distant spectacle, watched perhaps with curiosity but rarely participated in.



Sarada Ranjan Ray

The first shift towards local involvement came through the passion of one man: Sarada Ranjan Ray. A mathematics professor and the maternal grand-uncle of the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray, Sarada Ranjan was both a scholar and a sportsman. Recognising the need to make the game more accessible to Indians, he compiled the first cricket rulebook in India and founded the Town Club — one of the earliest teams composed entirely of Bengali players. By the mid-1890s, Town Club was bold enough to take on the Europeans at Eden Gardens, a match in 1895 creating an unusual buzz in the city. Although the balance of power remained firmly in the Europeans' favour, the game marked a turning point: cricket was no longer a spectacle for locals to observe from the sidelines; it was becoming a game they could play, and play seriously. Folklore, though unverified, even claims that Swami Vivekananda joined in casual matches along the Ganges — a reminder that the sport's reach was beginning to extend into the fabric of Bengali society.

As the new century began, the seeds planted by Sarada Ranjan Ray and others began to grow. Cricket found a home in Calcutta's elite colleges such as Presidency, St. Xavier's, and Scottish Church, where students began to organise matches and form teams. Wealthy zamindars lent their patronage to clubs, and inter-club competitions became more frequent. Cricket was slowly moving out of the shadow of exclusivity. In 1928, the formation of the Cricket Association of Bengal gave the game its first formal governing body in the province. Though the association still bore traces of British influence in its early years, it created a structure for competition and development. When the Ranji Trophy — India's premier domestic tournament — was launched in 1934–35, Bengal was among its founding teams. The state's debut match came against Bihar in December 1934, and within two years, Bengal had reached its first final, losing to Nawanagar, captained by K.S. Duleepsinhji. Yet cricket's growth in Bengal was tempered by the irresistible pull of football. The nationalist movement was in full swing, and football — especially when played against English teams — was seen as a symbolic act of resistance. Cricket, which often involved Indians playing alongside Europeans, did not carry the same emotional charge.

Bengal's breakthrough moment came in the 1938–39 Ranji Trophy season. Led by Englishman Tom Longfield, the team defeated Southern Punjab in the final to claim its first



national title. The opposition's ranks included the legendary Lala Amarnath, making the victory all the more significant. Yet the Bengal side that day included only four Bengali players — Kartick Bose, Kamal Bhattacharya, Tara Bhattacharya, and Jiten Banerjee — the rest being Europeans. Kartick Bose's gritty 48 and Kamal Bhattacharya's haul of eight wickets were decisive, but the win did not spark public celebrations on the scale of Mohun Bagan's 1911 football triumph. The mood of the times meant that cricket, still entwined with colonial participation, could not stir the nationalist heart in quite the same way. Bengal cricket in this period benefited from an unusual source: the tea and jute industries. Both were thriving under British management and attracted skilled professionals from England, including county cricketers. Many of these players, like Longfield, took part in the local cricket scene, raising the standard of play. Within five years of their maiden title, Bengal were in another Ranji final, this time losing to Bombay. But there was a noticeable change — the number of Bengali players in the team had grown, reflecting the slow but steady localisation of the sport.

The years leading up to independence produced a number of talented cricketers whose stories have been largely forgotten outside cricketing circles. Nirmal Chatterjee, often called the “Mushtaq Ali of Bengal,” was known for his aggressive stroke play and could draw spectators simply by walking to the crease. Over an 18-year career, he amassed 2,933 runs at an average of 30.23, but the coveted Indian Test cap eluded him. Shute Banerjee, another gifted player with roots in both Bihar and Bengal, managed just one Test appearance. Part of the reason for their limited recognition was the political climate. Cricket was still perceived as a sport where Indians and Europeans played together rather than against each other, and so it lacked the nationalist symbolism of football.

The partition of 1947 reshaped Bengal, and with independence came a new outlook on sport. The Cricket Association of Bengal became fully Indian-run, and Eden Gardens began to take on a new life as one of the nation's premier venues. Cricket was no longer burdened by colonial associations, and players could aspire to represent India on merit and be celebrated for it. The first Bengali to make a mark in international cricket after independence was Prabir Sen, a stylish wicketkeeper-batter who toured Australia with the Indian team in 1947–48. Though India struggled on the tour, Sen etched his name into history during the second Test at Sydney, where he stumped the great Sir Don Bradman — a feat that remains fondly reminisced by older generations. That single dismissal became a matter of pride in Bengal, symbolic of a local player matching wits with the game's greatest batsman.

Shortly afterwards, Bengal witnessed the rise of its most enduring cricketing dynasty: the Roy family of Kolkata, which produced no fewer than five national and international players. At the centre of this remarkable lineage was Pankaj Roy, a stocky, bespectacled man, whose accomplishments made him a household name. But he was far from the only talent in the family — his family carried the Roy legacy into both Bengal cricket and Indian cricket more broadly, giving the family a reputation for producing cricketers almost by tradition.



Pankaj Roy embodied the promise of Bengal's post-independence cricket. Born in 1928 into a zamindar family, he brought solidity and technical assurance to India's batting lineup. Making his Test debut in 1951 against England, he went on to play 43 matches, scoring 2,442 runs and five centuries. His most celebrated achievement came in 1956, when he and Vinoo Mankad put on a world-record 413-run

opening partnership against New Zealand — a record that stood for 52 years. In 1959, Roy became the first Bengali to captain India in a Test match, leading the side at Lord's. For his contributions, he was awarded the Padma Shri in 1975 and remains rightly regarded as one of the greatest legends of Bengal.

This post-independence period also produced other important names. Dilip Doshi, though born in Rajkot, moved to Kolkata early in life and played much of his domestic cricket for Bengal. A left-arm spinner of great guile, Doshi made his Test debut for India at the age of 32 and went on to take 114 wickets in 33 matches — an impressive feat given the fierce spin competition of his era, dominated by the famous Indian spin quartet. Doshi's discipline and consistency made him a Bengal stalwart and a respected figure in Indian cricket.

By the 1960s and 70s, Bengal cricket was consolidating its place in Indian domestic cricket. Administrators like Amar Ghosh and B. N. Dutt played important roles in strengthening the structure of the game in the state. The most influential administrator of all, however, was Jagmohan Dalmiya. Starting his journey within the Cricket Association of Bengal, Dalmiya rose to become one of the most powerful figures in world cricket. As BCCI President and later ICC President, he transformed cricket's financial landscape, pioneered the globalisation of the sport, and was instrumental in bringing the Cricket World Cup to the subcontinent. His tenure also strengthened India's clout in cricket politics, and his work with CAB ensured Bengal cricket benefited from modern infrastructure and resources.



Despite the high standards set in the pre-independence years, Bengal endured a long wait for another Ranji Trophy title. It was not until the 1989–90 season, under the leadership of Sambaran Banerjee, that the drought was broken. In the intervening years, Bengal reached the final numerous times, often falling to Bombay. Yet the persistence paid off, and the victory was celebrated as proof that Bengal remained a force in domestic cricket.



No account of Bengal cricket is complete without the Maidan. This vast, open expanse in central Kolkata is both a sporting arena and a cultural symbol. Originally a British parade ground, it evolved into the beating heart of the city's sporting life, home to football and cricket clubs alike. Historic institutions such as Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Mohammedan Sporting, Aryan, Kalighat, Town, and Bhowanipore have their roots here, and the CAB's league system still plays out on these grounds. The Maidan is more than a venue — it is a nursery. For generations, it has been the place where boys in mismatched whites have turned raw talent into skill, where coaches have spotted unpolished gems, and where club rivalries have honed competitive instincts. From Pankaj Roy to Sourav Ganguly, Wriddhiman Saha to Manoj Tiwary, almost every major Bengal cricketer has passed through its pitches. Saha, in particular, stands as one of the finest wicketkeeper-batters in India's Test history, earning praise for his athletic glove work, patience at the crease, and match-saving innings. His journey from the Maidan to being India's first-choice Test wicketkeeper for more than a decade is emblematic of Bengal's ability to nurture world-class talent.

The late 1990s brought forth Bengal's most influential cricketer since Pankaj Roy: Sourav Ganguly. Making a dream Test debut in 1996 with a century at Lord's, Ganguly would go on to become one of India's most successful captains. Under his leadership from 2000 to 2005, India shed its image as poor travellers, winning overseas Test series, reaching the final of the 2003 World Cup, and playing with a new aggression. His success inspired a generation of cricketers in Bengal and across India.

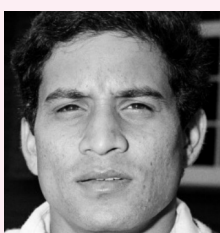
The history of women's cricket in Bengal began taking shape in the 1970s and 80s, long before it entered mainstream conversation. The Women's Cricket Association of India (WCAI), formed in 1973, provided a national framework, and Bengal fielded teams in early inter-state competitions. Matches were often played on smaller grounds with sparse crowds, but they carried immense significance for the players, who balanced training with jobs or studies. Names like Mithu Mukherjee and Gargi Banerjee emerged in the 1980s, both representing India at the highest level. Banerjee, a stylish batter, captained India in Test cricket and inspired many young women in Bengal to see cricket as a viable sporting path despite limited resources.

By the 1990s, women's cricket in Bengal was producing steady talent for national age-group teams, but facilities lagged behind the men's game. Practice nets were often shared, kits were self-funded, and travel for tournaments required personal sacrifice. Yet, the passion never dimmed. Out of this environment emerged Jhulan Goswami, born in 1982 in Chakdaha. Initially playing tennis-ball cricket with boys, she was spotted for her natural pace and, after joining the Bengal women's team, quickly rose through the ranks. Making her international debut in 2002, Jhulan went on to become the highest wicket-taker in Women's ODIs, captaining India and winning the ICC Women's Player of the Year award in 2007. Her discipline and longevity transformed her into a role model not just in Bengal, but globally.

In recent years, Bengal's women's team has become one of the strongest in the domestic circuit. Players like Deepti Sharma, though originally from Uttar Pradesh, have represented Bengal in domestic cricket, adding depth to the side. Richa Ghosh, the wicketkeeper-batter from Siliguri, has already made her mark in international T20 cricket with fearless batting and is part of the new wave benefiting from the Women's Premier League. The CAB now runs structured women's leagues, age-group tournaments, and dedicated coaching programmes, with Eden Gardens itself hosting women's fixtures. The visibility of the women's game has grown, and young girls practising in the Maidan nets are now a common sight — something unimaginable just a few decades ago.

Standing adjacent to the Maidan, Eden Gardens is one of cricket's great stages. Hosting its first Test in 1934, it has been the scene of unforgettable matches — from India's miraculous comeback against Australia in 2001 to the 1987 World Cup final and the 2016 World T20 final. With its vast capacity and passionate crowds, Eden Gardens embodies the spirit of Bengal cricket. For any player from the state, walking out to bat or bowl here is the fulfilment of a childhood dream.

Bengal may be known as a football-mad state, but its cricketing story is one of depth, resilience, and influence. From Sarada Ranjan Ray's efforts to bring cricket to the local population, through the Ranji Trophy win of 1939, Pankaj Roy's world record, Jagmohan Dalmiya's global leadership, Sourav Ganguly's captaincy revolution, the trailblazing of Gargi Banerjee and Jhulan Goswami, the rise of Richa Ghosh, and the Maidan's unending supply of talent, Bengal has been integral to the growth of Indian cricket. The sound of bat on ball may be drowned at times by the roar for a football goal, but it still echoes across the Maidan and Eden Gardens — a reminder that in Bengal, cricket is not just a game, but a tradition more than two centuries old.



**Pranab Roy**

Ex- Indian all-round cricketer. Presently, director of Pankaj Roy Cricketing Academy.



## RUN UP TO ASICON 2025



### January, 2025

Clothes donated by members of ASI-WB state chapter was handed over to Goonj, a renowned NGO working actively for the poor and disaster struck population, on the occasion of Republic Day.



### February, 2025

On the occasion of Saraswati Puja, books, copies, stationery, drawing books, colours and of course, sweets were distributed at New Light India, an organisation on the banks of the Ganges, running from a terrace of a temple deep inside a red-light district of Kolkata.



### March, 2025

As part of the celebration for Holi, the festival of colours, and the ongoing social activities in the run up to ASICON 2025, ASI-West Bengal State Chapter conducted a health camp at St. Joseph's Home for the Aged, on Sunday 16th March 2025.

## RUN UP TO ASICON 2025



### April, 2025

As part of the celebrations for Poila Baishakh, the Bengali New Year, members of the ASI-West Bengal State Chapter visited Dakshin Kalikata Sevasram, a 100year old orphanage started by Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.



### May, 2025

On the occasion of World Environment Day, members of ASI-WB, pledged to keep our surroundings green in our own small way, so that we handover a greener, cleaner, healthier planet to our children.



### June, 2025

As part of the celebrations for Surgeons' Week, ASI-West Bengal State Chapter stepped beyond the walls of operation theatres and academic halls, carrying our skills and compassion to the very heart of society, where healthcare is a distant dream.



## RUN UP TO ASICON 2025



### July, 2025

As part of Doctors' Day celebrations, members wore a different shade of service — the deep red of life itself. Across West Bengal, the ASI-West Bengal State Chapter came together to organise multiple blood donation camps, each one a silent yet powerful act of compassion.



### September, 2025

On 1st September 2025, the ASICON 2025 organizing committee in collaboration with District Health and Family Welfare Samiti of North 24 Parganas, conducted a program to train about 400 people in BLS, first aid and preliminary methods to handle accident victims.



### October, 2025

Breast Cancer Awareness Month was observed by the Comprehensive Breast Services, IPGMER & SSKM Hospital on 25th October with an impactful awareness and training programme.



### November, 2025

The ASICON organizing committee along with WBASI and Ramkrishna Mission Nimpith distributed shawls, blankets and mosquito nets to about 400 people in a village in South Bengal.



## Learn

### Dr. Sarfaraz Jalil Baig

Whoever you are  
Whatever situation you are in  
There are two ways to solve things  
You can plot or you go within

You can plot  
And you can win people on your side  
You can bend the rules  
That others abide

You can believe what you want  
By your cunning mind  
To your conscience and love  
You can be deaf and blind

Or you could take a deep breath  
And close your eyes  
And take a look at your wound  
And uncover its disguise

You could take a closer look  
And find the source of the pain  
There is an unfinished problem there  
There is a treasure to gain

You may not heed this advice now  
But remember my friends  
The problem keeps coming back  
Till you make amends

There is much to learn  
From every cry  
It is how we mature  
Before we die



Dr. Sarfaraz Jalil Baig



Photograph - Dr. Sarfaraz Jalil Baig

## Tedizolid as an effective treatment in MRSA-infected burn wound with Linezolid induced anemia

**Dr. Supriyo Saha**

MBBS, MD, DGM (Geriatric Medicine), FCCM (Critical Care Medicine), PG Diploma in Cardiology (Royal College of Physicians, UK), PGC Diabetology (University of Boston, USA), Consultant Physician & Geriatrician, Nibedita Polyclinic and Pharmacy, Kolkata

### Background

Severe burn wounds in patients with diabetes often predispose to persistent multidrug-resistant infections. Prolonged linezolid therapy, while effective against MRSA, may cause hematologic toxicity, limiting its clinical use. Tedizolid, a novel oxazolidinone, offers comparable efficacy with fewer adverse effects, making it a valuable substitute in such high-risk scenarios.

### Case presentation

A 60-year-old diabetic female with 60% post-burn injury presented with severe anemia (Hb: 5.3 g/dL). On admission, she was hemodynamically stable but symptomatic with increased pulse rate and breathlessness. The wound swab confirmed MRSA infection. She received four units of packed red blood cells over six days along with IV meropenem and IV linezolid and was transitioned to oral tedizolid 200 mg once-daily, which was continued for 30 days. Wound care included povidone-iodine irrigation, and silver-based dressings to promote healing and prevent secondary colonization

### Results

Progressive improvement was observed with reduced exudate and re-epithelialization by week three. Complete wound healing was achieved within six weeks without recurrence or any hematologic, or gastrointestinal adverse events.

### Discussion

Tedizolid offers distinct advantages over linezolid, including superior potency against MRSA, once-daily dosing, high bioavailability, and a lower risk of myelosuppression and gastrointestinal toxicity. This case highlights the potential of tedizolid as an effective and well-tolerated alternative for prolonged therapy in complicated burn wound infections, where linezolid intolerance or resistance limits treatment options. of further clinical evaluation in complicated diabetic wound infections.



## Successful use of tedizolid in a non-healing diabetic ulcer infected with MRSA

**Dr. Ardhendu Sahana**

MBBS, MD, MACP, Post graduate diploma in clinical endocrinology and diabetes(RCP, UK), CCEBDM, CCMTD, PG Diploma in clinical cardiology. Certified in Advanced Diabetes management (Harvard Medical School)

### Background

Chronic non-healing ulcers in diabetic patients represent a therapeutic challenge due to impaired wound healing, poor vascularity, and multidrug-resistant pathogens such as *Staphylococcus aureus*. Tedizolid, a next-generation oxazolidinone approved for acute bacterial skin and skin structure infections (ABSSSI), has shown potential beyond its approved indications because of its enhanced potency and tolerability.

### Case presentation

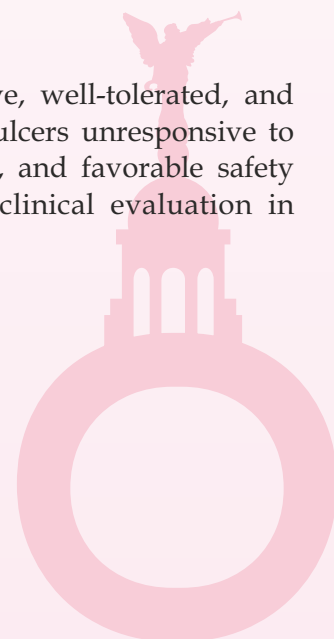
A 46-year-old female with long-standing uncontrolled type 2 diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and dyslipidemia presented with a large, painful, non-healing ulcer over her left forearm persisting for over a month despite multiple oral antibiotics. Laboratory results showed HbA1c: 9.2%, elevated TLC (12,300/mm<sup>3</sup>), and raised inflammatory markers (CRP: 62 mg/L, ESR: 58 mm/hr) and culture shows MRSA. After optimizing her glycemic status using a basal-bolus insulin regimen, oral tedizolid 200 mg once-daily for 12 days was initiated alongside regular wound care using fusidic acid dressings and saline cleansing.

### Results

Even after post 12 days of treatment, marked clinical improvement was noted by day 18, with a significant reduction in erythema, discharge, and crusting, along with visible new epithelialization. By one month, the ulcer had completely healed with minimal scarring and without systemic or hematologic adverse events.

### Discussion

This case demonstrates the potential of tedizolid as an effective, well-tolerated, and convenient oral option for managing MRSA-associated diabetic ulcers unresponsive to conventional therapy. Its high bioavailability, once-daily dosing, and favorable safety profile make it a promising alternative deserving of further clinical evaluation in complicated diabetic wound infections.







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