



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata



Activities of the Institute

- ❖ Research- Internal & External
- ❖ Documentation Centre
- ❖ Museum
- ❖ Publications
- ❖ Library

Foundation, Status, Organization

- MAKAIAS, Kolkata is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, GOI established in January 1993. The Institute was set up at the joint initiative of the Government of India, Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Government of West Bengal. It was registered as a Society under the West Bengal Registration of Societies' Act of 1961, with Prof. Nurul Hasan, the then Governor of West Bengal, as the President of the Society on the 4th of January 1993. The Institute became operational in November 1993 with Professor Barun De as the Founder Director.
- The Institute maintains a Maulana Azad Museum at 5, Ashraf Mistry Lane, Kolkata 700 019, the residence of Maulana Azad
- Institute functions from Azad Bhavan, IB- 166, Sector III, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 106.
- President of the Society is ex-officio, His Excellency, Shri. Keshari Nath Tripathi, Governor of West Bengal
- Day to day administration under a staff headed by the Director and is supervised by an Executive Council
- The Institute worked from rented premises in Behala up to 2006. It was housed at 5, Ashraf Mistry Lane since 2006, and at present operates from the new premises at Azad Bhavan, Salt Lake.

Objectives

- To be a centre for research and learning with focus on
- (a) social, cultural, economic and political/administrative developments in Asia from the middle of the 19th century with special emphasis on their links with India
- (b) the life and works of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- To maintain collections of books and other material having a bearing on the secular traditions of Modern India
- To undertake a range of activities (organization of seminars, publications, projects), bearing in mind the priorities of the Institute
- To foster ties with institutions abroad to promote the objectives of the Institute

The objective was to contribute to the understanding of the ways in which the Asian regions transform their internal turmoil and attain viable social and economic as well as political structures for eschewing violence. Issues of geopolitical notion of Asia, intellectual history of Asian Studies, decolonization in Asia, economic restructuring in the continent, development of women's studies, borders and border related problems in the region religion and social formations in Asia and Asian relations. Over the years the researchers have also extended their studies from that of individual states to that of larger regions. To be more specific studies have focused on

- The study of nations and nationalisms
- Borders and Identities
- Demography and migration
- Transition economies
- Histories and historiographies
- Security and Transnational Issues
- Governance and regional cooperation
- Gender
- Sports and Culture

A brief overview of the activities undertaken by MAKAIAS, Kolkata during April , 2014 – March 2015 follows:

Research Projects— Internal & External

■ **Internal Fellows:**

- ❖ *The Performative State: A Comparative Study of the Transformation of the 'Image' of the Kazakh and Uzbek States since 1991 and its Policy implications for India.* - **Dr. Anita Sengupta.**
- ❖ *Image of Post-Soviet Kazakhstan: A Cosmopolitan Space with Borderland Anxieties.* - **Dr. Suchandana Chatterjee**
- ❖ *Afghanistan in the Regional Security Framework: Charting a Workable response for India.* - **Dr. Arpita Basu Roy**
- ❖ *Expressions of Resistance: The Language of the Arab Spring.* - **Ms. Priya Singh**
- ❖ *Revival of Buddhism in Russia- Role and Place of India in the Process* - **Ms. Susmita Bhattacharya**
- ❖ *Revisioning India's North East Through the Look East Policy-* **Ms. Sayantani Sen Majumdar**
- ❖ *Cyclone and Societies in South Asia: Bengal 1737- 2009-* **Ms. Mili Ghosh**
- ❖ *Tasawwuf and Maulana Azad –* **Dr. Rafique Anwar**
- ❖ *Media and Citizenship in India's Modernization Project-* **Dr. Tapas Ray**
- ❖ *India's Relation with Myanmar: Paving the Way for Constructive Engagement* - **Dr. Amrita Dey**
- ❖ *South China Sea and India's Future in East Asia-* **Mr. Subhadeep Bhattacharya**
- ❖ *Re- thinking Conceptual Understanding of Learning Society with Special Reference to Maulana Azad 's values on Education.* - **Sk Aktar Ali**
- ❖ *Rethinking the Concept of Democracy: A Comparative Study of Bangladesh and Pakistan-* **Ms. Srimanti Sarkar**
- ❖ *Reconstruction of a Marginal Culture: The Mangar community in the Eastern and North eastern Himalayas-* **Dr. Nandini Bhattacharya Panda**
- ❖ *Towards a Holistic Conservation of Indigenous Knowledge System-* **Dr. Satarupa Dutta Majumder**
- ❖ *Internal Displacement in Contemporary Nepal: Causes, Protection and Dilemmas-* **Dr. Monika Mondal\North East India: Towards a Cultural mapping in respect of arts and Crafts- **Ms. Arpita Basu****
- ❖ *Afghanistan: Music, Multiculturalism and Play of Power (the 20th and beginning of the 21st centuries)-* **Dr. Dilorom Karomat**
- ❖ *Nature of New Social Movement, New social Media and Evolving Ideas of Freedom with special reference to West Asia* - **Ms. Suhita Saha**
- ❖ *Sino – Indian Cultural and Academic Interface as seen through the Activities of A New Chinese Intellectuals in Visva- Bharati* - **Mr. Chanchal Mukherjee**
- ❖ **Maulana Azad Fellows:**
- ❖ *Europe's engagement with Emerging Asia –***Mr. Krishnan Srinivasan**
- ❖ *International Terrorism* - **Professor Jayanta Kumar Roy**

External Research Projects (Ongoing)

- ❖ **Ms. Shreya Ghosh** *"HAATS, FENCES AND CHECKPOSTS: A STUDY OF INFRASTRUCTURAL ARCHITECTURE AT THE BORDERS OF THE INDIAN STATE"*.
- ❖ **Dr. Ramkrishna Mandal:** *"ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF HANDLOOM AND HANDICRAFTS OF THE ADIS IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH: A CASE STUDY IN EAST SIANG DISTRICT"*
- ❖ **Dr. Philip Modi:** *"IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL GINGER CULTIVATION ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LOHIT DISTRICT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH"*.
- ❖ **Dr. Kashshaf Ghani:** *"BREAKING THE MONOLITH: EXPLORING MUSLIM WORLD(S) IN SOUTH ASIA AND BEYOND "*
- ❖ **Dr. Iman Kalyan Lahiri:** *"PEACE, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY: THE LOOK EAST IMAGINATION OF INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NORTHEAST INDIA "*

Presentation by Internal Fellows

- ❖ *Afghanistan in the Regional Security Framework: Mapping the Interests and Policies of the Regional Actors* by Dr. Arpita Basu Roy, Fellow, MAKAIAS on April 11, 2014. External Expert for the presentation was Mr. Rajat Bachi, formerly associated with the Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI.
- ❖ *The Cyclone of 1737* by Ms. Mili Ghose, Fellow, MAKAIAS on April 25, 2014. External expert for the presentation Professor Arun Bandyopadhyay, University of Calcutta.
- ❖ *Re- examining the New Social Movement in Egypt* by Ms. Suhita Saha, Research Assistant on June 6, 2014. External expert for the presentation Professor Kavita Panjabi, Jadavpur University.
- ❖ *Religion, Faith and Beyond: Uneasy Transition from Hindu to Tribal Identity* by Dr. Nandini Bhattacharya Panda, Fellow, MAKAIAS on June 20, 2014. External expert for the presentation Dr. Anuradha Chanda, Jadavpur University.
- ❖ *Russian ' Afghan ' song as a phenomenon* by Dr. Dilorom Karomat, Fellow, MAKAIAS on July 11, 2014. External expert for the presentation Professor lakhshmi Subramaniam, CSSSC, Kolkata.
- ❖ *Future of India – Myanmar Relations: A Proposition* by Dr. Amrita Dey, Fellow, MAKAIAS on August 22, 2014. The External expert for the presentation was Lt. Gen John Mukherjee.
- ❖ *The Concept of Man, Sufism and Maulana* by Dr. Rafique Anwar, Fellow, MAKAIAS on August 29, 2014. The External expert for the presentation was Dr. Jamshed Quamar.
- ❖ *Indigenous Knowledge: Epistemology, Sustainability and Conservation* by Dr. Satarupa Dutta Majumder on October 14, 2014. The External expert for the presentation was Dr. Kanchan Mukhopahyay.
- ❖ *The Development of Maulana Azad's Educational Vision* by Sk. Aktar Ali, Senior Research Assistant, MAKAIAS on October 17, 2014. The external Expert for the presentation was professor Nilanjana Gupta.
- ❖ *India and South China Sea: Historical and Cultural Dimensions* by Mr. Subhadeep Bhattacharya, Fellow, MAKAIAS on October 31, 2014. The External expert for the presentation was Professor Rabindra Sen.
- ❖ *The Heart of Eurasia and the Ancient Land of the Kazakh* by Dr. Anita Sengupta, Fellow, MAKAIAS on November 17, 2014. The External expert for the presentation was Professor Gautam Kumar Basu.
- ❖ *Pre – Independence Naga Artifacts present in British Museum* by Ms. Arpita Basu, Senior Research Assistant, MAKAIAS on November 21, 2014. The External expert for the presentation was Professor Sachindra Nath Bhattacharya.
- ❖ *The Kazakh Conscience: Regional Variants* by Dr. Suchandana Chatterjee, Fellow, MAKAIAS on December 5, 2014.
- ❖ A Comparative Study on the Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of India and bangladesh: Constitutional Approaches and Preliminary field findings by Dr. Mrinal kanti Chakma, Fellow, MAKAIAS on December 12, 2014. The External expert for the presentation was Dr. Paula Banerjee.

Seminars/ Conferences/ Lectures/ Workshops at the Institute

- ❖ The 1st Professor Barun De Memorial Lecture was organized by MAKAIAS on April 2, 2014 at Azad Bhavan, MAKAIAS. The lecture was delivered by Professor Irfan Habib and chaired by Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya.
- ❖ The Institute in collaboration with the University of Calcutta, dept. of Arabic and Persian organized an International Seminar on *Arabic and Persian poetry in India* during February 24- 25, 2014.
- ❖ Stakeholder's Consultative Workshop on *The BCIM (Bangladesh- China- India- Myanmar) Economic Corridor* was held during May 1- 2, 2014 at Azad Bhavan, MAKAIAS.
- ❖ Ms. Zebuniso Malakhova, Visiting Fellow at MAKAIAS affiliated to Rudaki Institute of Oriental Studies, Dushanbe, Tajikistan delivered a lecture on *Contemporary Tajik Literature* on May 8, 2014 at Maulana Azad Museum.
- ❖ Dr. Rakseh Kumar, Assistant Professor, Centre for Chinese & South East Asian Studies, JNU, New Delhi delivered a lecture on *Changing trends of Youth Culture and its Implications on the Communist Youth League in Post- Mao Era* on May 19, 2014 at Azad Bhavan, MAKAIAS.
- ❖ The Institute organized the *Research Methodology in Asian Studies* at Azad Bhavan, MAKAIAS during June 23- 27, 2014.
- ❖ A Lecture was delivered by Dr. Farinaz Etminan on *Introduction to Pahlavi, The Middle Persian Language* at Azad Bhavan, MAKAIAS on July 16, 2014.
- ❖ The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies & B. P. Koirala India Nepal Foundation organized an International Seminar on *Water Resources Cooperation between India and Nepal* during June 17- 18, 2014.
- ❖ A Brainstorming Workshop on *India- Bangladesh economic Cooperation: Trade and Investment, Prospect and Challenges with references to West Bengal and Northeast India* at Azad Bhavan on July 18, 2014.
- ❖ The Institute in collaboration with the Iran Society, Kolkata organized an International Seminar on *Nationalist Ideals of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Their Relevance in the Sub- continent Today* during September 12- 14, 2014. Hon'ble Vice President, Shri. Hamid Ansari inaugurated the Academic Event.
- ❖ The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata, a Seminar on *Ecology and Progress in North East India: Anxiety, Hope and Belonging in the literary Consciousness* in North Eastern Hill University, Shillong during September 9- 10, 2014.
- ❖ The Institute in collaboration with University of Calcutta organized an International Conference on *Europe and Emerging Asia* on September 13- 14, 2014.
- ❖ The Institute organized an International Seminar on '*An Appraisal of India's Neighbourhood Policy: Way Forward*' during November 6- 7, 2014 at Azad Bhavan, MAKAIAS.
- ❖ The Institute observed and celebrated the 126th Birth Anniversary of Maulana Azad by organizing an International Conference on "*Visions of Indian Modernity and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad*" during November 10- 11, 2014. Also staging a play '*Azad Maulana*' at Maulana Azad Museum.

Seminars/ Conferences/ Lectures/ Workshops at the Institute

- ❖ MAKAIAS, Kolkata organized an International Conference on '*Protest and The State in Eurasia and West Asia*' during November 26- 27, 2014 at Azad Bhavan, Kolkata.
- ❖ A meeting was held with the BCIM Delegation on December 1, 2014 at Azad Bhavan, MAKAIAS.
- ❖ An International Seminar on '*BRICS and a New Information Structure*' was held at Azad Bhavan, MAKAIAS on January 5, 2015.
- ❖ The Institute organized an International Seminar on '*Northeast India in the Cultural Imaginations: History, Land and People*' during January 7-8, 2015.
- ❖ MAKAIAS, Kolkata organized an International Seminar on '*History of Global Climate Change: Water, Ecology, Politics and the Management of Nature*' at Azad Bhavan during January 21- 22, 2015.
- ❖ The Institute organized an International Conference on '*Myanmar: Moving towards Elections 2015*' during February 19- 20, 2015 at Azad Bhavan, MAKAIAS.
- ❖ The Institute welcomed H.E. Mr. Abdul Basit, High Commissioner of Pakistan in India to his visit to MAKAIAS, Azad Bhavan, campus on March 18, 2015.

Documentation Centre

The Institute has a specialized library that is a useful reference point for the study of relevant subjects on Asia. This includes not just secondary material and journal but also some significant primary materials on regions of Asia.

The Documentation Centre on Asia also focuses on the Partition of the eastern territories of the British Empire in India in 1947, and Material pertaining to the contemporary history of India post 1947.

In the recent past a Documentation Centre on Maulana Azad has also been created within the Library at Azad Bhavan.

The Institute has launched a research programme on India's North East region to increase the interaction between scholars from the north-eastern states with scholars from other regions of India.

The Institute has established the Maulana Azad Centre for North East Studies in 5 Central Universities in the North East region – Mizoram University, Sikkim University, Rajiv Gandhi University (Arunachal Pradesh), Tezpur University, North- Eastern Hill University (NEHU, Meghalaya).

Maulana Azad Museum

MUSEUM:

The Maulana Azad Museum was established in 2006

The Museum has a collection of memorabilia, photographs and documentary film on and of Maulana Azad. The Institute has acquired a collection of memorabilia from the family of late Nooruddin Ahmed, nephew of Maulana Azad. The collection includes possessions of Maulana Azad's books, photographs, and clothing. INTACH and the School of Cultural Text and Records, Jadavpur University has taken up the work of conservation and preservation- accession, documentation of the memorabilia collection. The Museum continues to add to the memorabilia collection of papers and library sources related to the life and work of Maulana Azad.

The Institute is in the process of collecting and documenting materials relevant to Maulana Azad from national and International sources.

The Institute produced an Audio Visual on The Maulana Azad Museum & on the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies.



Publications

- ❖ Image of the region in Eurasian Studies. Suchandana Chatterjee, ed. New Delhi, KW Pub, 2014. 820.00
- ❖ (It is the proceedings Fourth East Asian Regional Conference on Eurasian Studies on Image of the Region in Eurasian Studies on September 4-5, 2012 at MAKAIAS, Kolkata)
- ❖ West Bengal in perspective : politics and government. Amiya K Chaudhuri. New Delhi, Shipra, 950.00
- ❖ Reconsidering Inner Asia : shared spaces, shifting identities. Suchandana Chatterjee. New Delhi, Manohar, 2014.850.00
- ❖ Muslim women in Kerala : tradition vs modernity. K K N Kurup and E Ismail. New Delhi, Shipra, 2014. 750.00
- ❖ The Silchar language movement and 19th May 1961 : a personal response. Soheli Mirza. New Delhi, Shipra, 2014. 550.00
- ❖ Survey of SinoIndian artistic discourse : a twentieth century framework. Amitava Bhattacharya. Kolkata, Towards Freedom, 1595.00
- ❖ Indo-Nepal relations. Monika Mandal, ed New Delhi, KW Pub, 2014. 480.00
- ❖ Myth and rhetoric of the Turkish model : exploring developmental alternatives. Anita Sengupta. New Delhi, Springer, 2014.
- ❖ In its initial years (1993-1998) the Institute published a quarterly newsletter, the *Maulana Abul Kalam Azad institute of Asian Studies Newsletter* that focused on contemporary pieces on various regions of Asia. The Institute has revived the publication of its Newsletter from April 2014. The Volume 3 – July- September, 2014 of the Newsletter is *Asia Connect*.
- ❖ The Volume 4- October- December, 2014 of Asia Connect (the Newsletter) Focus on Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Library

- ❖ The Library of the Institute has 15888 books.
- ❖ 78 International Journals till October 2014
- ❖ 5 National Journals acquired till October 2014.
- ❖ MAKAIAS publications is 850.