

BENGALI CHRONICLE 260 OF MAECH 2022

OUR WORKERS CUM COOPERATORS



The majority is working at ICOD since 16-17 years and are local villagers

OUR FRIENDS FROM BHUBHUZELA, KOLKATA



This NGO of about some 80 families come several times a year by groups to offer our inmates, especially children, food, Puja clothes and various educative materials.



Small prayers for the deceased parents of ASHIM

KALI PUJA ORGANIZED BY THE 'MOHILA SAMITI' OF GOHALOPOTA.



This grandmother, ex-prodhan, is the organizer of this event since 15 years. She is worshipping our Secretary as a Devi and often comes to ICOD. As the villages' men always refuse to let women make a Puja alone, they are doing it with our ICOD Secretary



Since Kali-ma is coming to destroy Evil in the world, the female demons are begging not to be harmed. And the women also have to placate them.



My role is just to inaugurate it and say some words...



Gopa and the grandmother are mobbed by all...and all men remain in the back gallery.



Many people come to meet us, especially the newly married girl like this one with her mother and new husband.

HOLI, SPRING FESTIVAL OF THE COLOURS.



Binay is preparing the colors with his son. Hindu and Muslims will have to be painted, including the youngest spastic, mentally retarded or blind girls.



Binay and his wife Mampi came to understand the various colors of the buckets.



Both son and grandson of Gopa-ma are directing the 'color-shower' operations. But no one would try to completely overcome the Secretary with a bucket!



But eventually, the two 'sprayers' will become the two 'sprayed'!



...with the help of the girls who had promised to catch Devdut/Rana!



Some brakes have been put to our sick and demented boys, because when they are excited, they start to use claws, teeth, and blows, resulting in a new color: blood!

The old grandfather also is somewhat spared, because he is the head of five generations in ICOD:

1. Shopnomoy, 5 years, son of Binay and Mampi (daughter of Gopa)
2. Devdut/Rana, 17 years, adoptive son of Gopa since his birth.
3. Binay, 35 years, husband of Mampi, son-in-law of Gopa.
4. Gopa, mother of Mampi, Keka and Devdut, with her husband mentally-sick), calling Dadu her Baba.
5. Dadu, 85, legal 'guardian' of Gopa: hence all are either his daughter, grand-or great-grand-children and nephew/nieces. Without speaking about all the inmates and even staff of ICOD, all members at different degrees of this "extended family"!

This is OLD INDIA indeed! No wonder that ICOD has some difficulty to adapt itself to the 'NEW INDIA' of the government!



One Conference at Digha with 700 delegates of NGOs : Binay et Palash were present.



Binay with his trophy of AISDA

AT DIGHA , 55 ICOD INMATES HAVE ENJOYED ONE DAY OF FREEDOM



A wonderful beach of 16 km...



Nice huge waves... 'Casuarina' forest devastated by all last cyclones... And a small group decided to enjoy completely the surfing...



Grand-child is enticing...Grandfather is taken along, but came back completely crushed, half knocked out by the giant waves! How exhilarating it was!



Whereas those who were afraid of the agitated sea were waiting safely in a Chinese pavilion, ignorant of the sporting pleasure!

HAPPY WAS THE DAY WHEN OUR YOUNG BIHARI COULD LEAVE FOR HIS HOME!



Chotu, 17th, has been brought by the police several months before. It was very difficult to find his address in Bihar. Meantime, he was working with Binay for

the maintenance, always with smile. Finally, his family could be found and his brother-in-law ('red jacket) came to pick it back. It is a big loss for us!

Two new lost girls brought to us by police.



Both women were completely amnesic (by fear of previous trauma?).
The second was being able to tell just her name (Sitola) and nothing else.

TRANSFER OF SOME DIFFICULT PATIENTS TO OUR OLDER RENOVATED PAVILLON



Responsible (standing, in yellow:

- 1) local villager living alone: 18 years with us.
- 2) Young man physically and psychologically distressed.
- 3) Young autist unable to speak, although not dumb.
- 4) Hemiplegic and half dumb. Married, but his family cannot care for him.
- 5) Hemiplegic too old to live alone.

Several sliding windows have been added. Extreme left windows: two rooms to welcome those temporary sent by the Court and police: actually one deaf and dumb Muslim (impossible to find his address!)



Bas-relief of Buddha-



Hindu Bihari Dance

VARIOUS FRIEZES RENOVATED THIS MONTH



Old Bengali marriage with 'palki' , horses, musicians, sometimes even elephants , leading to the main entrance of the Gandhi Home, amidst palmettos-trunks.



Islamic scenery with two arabic calligraphies above.



Adivassis dances from Odhisha.

THREE NEW « SECURITY GUARDS »



Day and night, with a lady during the day for checking women.

NEW MATERIAL FOR ALL INMATES



New mattresses for all, new shoes etc...

OUR OFFICE IN MARCH



Director Committee, from left to right :

One member (Animesh Poddar), the President lady (Subarna Bera), the vice-president (Sunit Sarkar), Binay, the Lady (Sahely Mondal) Treasurer and the Lady Secretary Gopa. (I am here only for a short introduction of a meeting)

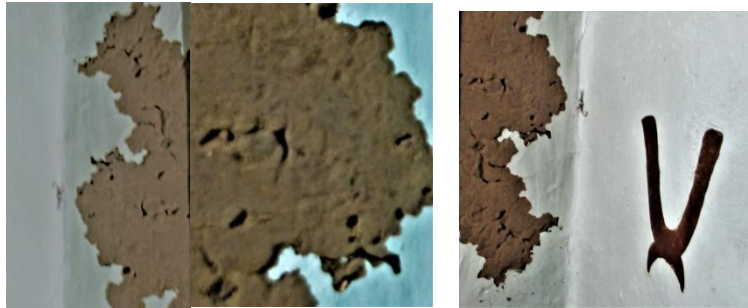


Daily Office work : Binay, Palash, Debojyoti (Office-Assistant and files responsible) and an old MA/COM man (Samir Kumar Banerjee) of an extensive NGOs experience. These last two half-time.



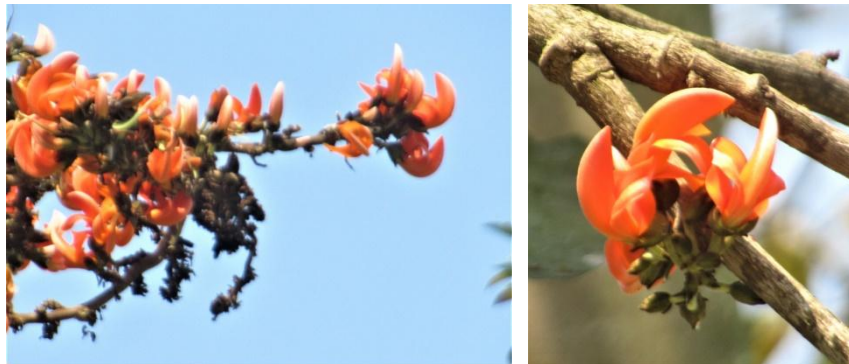
- 1) Pinki and her delightful daughter (P. is a Pilkhana orphan who remains 10 years at ICOD. We helped for the marriage.
- 2) Helping our acrobat Shop-shop (my surname for the son of Binay)
- 3) Sharing the problems and desires of our school children, fanatics cricket fans!

Invasion of white-ants in my oratory.



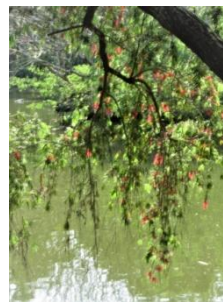
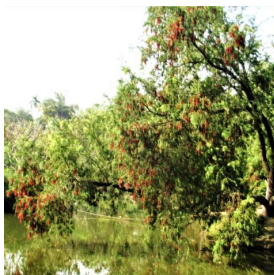
These tiny ants are making their tunnels under the walls, and can destroyed all the wood structures and bamboos in some months.

AT LAST. SPRING HAS ARRIVED ...BUT FINISHED AFTER DAYS!



Finally, even if very late, the 'Flames of the Forest-Palash-tree' showed us their beautiful and original flowers, beloved by birds and insects.

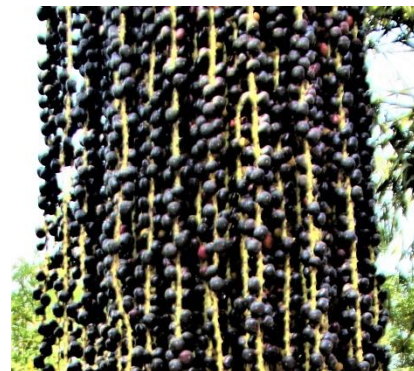
The previously so beautiful Callistemon: only 1/3 branches resisted the cyclone. And the flowers are quite more subdued.



GANDHI BHAVAN'S GARDEN HAS SO FEW FLOWERS THIS YEAR!



Dahlias and others were due to bloom by Christmas! Four months late!



Bougainvilleas are again blooming, although four times destroyed by three cyclones and one storm! On the opposite, Fish-tailed palm-trees have never seen so long bunches!



The keyas-Pandanus is growing extremely quickly this year. But without saline water, they are not bearing their beautiful flowers (See one flower pic from Internet!) This year also, exceptional fall of dead leaves during three times...



Kheya 'Pandanus' flower...



Two kinds of Philodendron with lianas.



Our only out-of-season orchid.