

Best Practices – (2018-19)

Introduction

The name, 'Dantan' is remnant of the name of the centre of the Dandabhukti kingdom which lasted from the early medieval to the 12th century AD. Naturally, Dantan and its surrounding areas inherited a rich cultural, historical and archaeological past. The college has always been very active in understanding and preserving the heritage. As a part of this, the college actively sponsored the excavation of the biggest Buddhist monastery of West Bengal, the Moghalmari Buddhist Monastery in 2012. As the participation of teachers and students in field surveys, documentation and discussion grew, the college felt the necessity of establishing a cultural museum from the resources collected so far. Thus, in 2014 Dandabhukti/Bhatter College Cultural Museum was established in the Central Library with some documented photographs and cultural materials as a multi-departmental initiative.

Aims and objectives:

- To explore and find out potential archaeological sites at and around Dantan and the attention of the scholarly communities to the importance of the sites.
- To explore and document local history starting right from the prehistoric to the present times.
- To build up a visual archive and a museum containing the cultural artefacts.
- To create a scholarly archive with publications of research on Dandabhukti and Dantan.
- To include the cultural heritage of the tribal people of the area.
- To collaborate with other organizations and help individual researchers with the resources.
- To create consciousness about conservation of cultural heritage among students and the local people against the onslaught of globalization.

Activities

- The Museum was created in 2014 with the documented visual materials from the teachers and students, folk materials, maps etc.
- A tentative chronology of the history of Dandabhukti was prepared by the teachers.
- The Museum collaborated with Dantan Public Library in 2014 and brought 30 odd archaeological materials for display in the Museum for 2 yrs.
- The enrichment process of the research archive in the museum containing the scholarly researches on the area continues.

- In the years 2018 and 2019 the Department of English took up a hard task of finding out the prehistoric cultural materials and sites. In the process valuable cultural materials were recovered and archived in the museum. Many new archaeological spots from the prehistoric to the early medieval periods were found and marked.
- During the same study certain valuable data on the physical changes caused by the shifting course of the river Subarnarekha in the region were collected.
- Electronic displays of featuring the cultural materials and places were made.

Future Plan

- To expand the scope of the museum to the intangible cultural heritage.
- To publish a comprehensive collection of original researches on Dantan.
- To host and document intangible cultural heritage of Dantan and
- To create documentaries on the various aspects of the cultural heritage of Dantan.
- To create an Online Museum by digitizing the materials.