From the Editor's Desk

'Celebrations' - the theme of this edition of our Deepshikha Annual 2019-20 - highlights the joys of life in IICP. Since June 1990, Deepshikha has proved to be an effective vehicle of communication and it will continue in this role, albeit in a slightly different format! It will be remiss not to acknowledge the role of ABP in this venture. We are very grateful for their generous support that has enabled sponsors, friends, and well-wishers to stay connected and keep abreast of happenings in IICP. Our sincere thanks to ABP for having facilitated our quarterly newsletter through decades.

An organisation with a heart, IICP has always adhered to the mantra 'Service for All'. Over the years, our team of multi-disciplinary professionals have guided and supported beleaguered parents and children with disabilities irrespective of caste, creed, or income group. Not only do we offer subsidised services to make them affordable, but also more than forty percent of our users receive services almost free of cost. IICP, therefore, remains a beacon of hope for a marginalised section of society.
Each day brings a new opportunity to start afresh, to achieve things we desire, to enjoy life's little pleasures but above all it heralds the spirit of optimism and hope. The term success can be interpreted in many ways and we take pride and joy in celebrating each one in IICP. The children and young adults who are the fulcrum of the organisation have earned the right to be valued as achievers. Every measure of success, however small, is laudable as it comes after much perseverance and in challenging circumstances. The efforts of our children and adults inspire us to raise the bar and explore new avenues to provide an even better service experience.

In keeping with the theme of this issue, we bring to you glimpses of special occasions and events during the year. Be it the joyous anniversary celebrations or the successful charity golf tournament; be it celebrating international linkages or the heart-warming success of low-tech assistive communication; be it the celebration of a gamut of festivals or bonds of friendship, there was a plethora of memorable moments. It has been a year filled with enthusiastic and meaningful activities.

With the support of our readers, the editorial team will continue to cover the journey IICP embarks on to achieve new and challenging goals in 2020. We hope this new decade will be conducive for inclusion, progressive performances, growth, and evolution.

The global pandemic caused by the Corona virus has irreversibly changed life as we knew it a few months ago. Measures taken to physically retreat and safeguard health will contribute to wellness. Our positive actions reinforced by mental strength will help us overcome this unprecedented crisis. Aamra korbo joy!

I take this opportunity to thank my colleagues Madhu Dar and Basabi Ghatak for their editorial assistance for contributions in Hindi and Bengali, respectively, and Shahana Chatterjee, our Editorial Consultant. I am indebted to our Editorial Advisors Subhra Chatterjee and Reena Sen for their guidance and advice. Thank you, one and all.

I end with some wonderful news – Dr Reena Sen, former Executive Director and now Honorary Secretary, IICP was felicitated by Loreto College on International Women's Day this year. She was presented the Lakshmi Chatterjee Memorial Award for Lifetime Contribution to the Empowerment of Women. Congratulations!

Sumita Roy
“When whole world is shut (sic) IICP still continues to support us. We as parents and students are very proud of you”
– Mamta Deb (Pratik Deb’s mother)

On a day when there is a 'Janata' Curfew and social media is solely obsessed about a virus, visible only under the lenses of powerful microscopes, Pratik Deb’s card and his mother Mamta’s message came as music to my ears and a balm for my eyes. It was an acknowledgement of the people who make IICP a unique organisation, who keep the institute open even as the rest of India shuts down. So today, for the first annual issue of Deepshikha on 'Celebrations', I write in celebration of IICP.

Why do we need to celebrate IICP? For me, there are five reasons — not in any order of priority but all equal in terms of what makes IICP special.

**One, IICP is ruled by the heart.** It feels and emotes and responds to feelings and emotions, sensibilities and sensitivities. It does not see this as a weakness but as untold strength. The heart of the matter is a priority and influences all policies and practice. Perhaps IICP would have been an economically more solvent organisation had it been any different but it is the heart that truly enriches the organisation and each person associated with it. I recall the time when as a freshly appointed teacher I dropped a child while dressing him. He had severe spasticity, his legs were crossed and he had no saving reactions. So when I yanked up his trousers, he felt flat on his face and broke his nose. Immediately two violently purple orbs surrounded his eyes. Not a pretty sight! When I faced his mother, she was visibly upset but all she said was, 'Thank you for looking after my child'. Her generosity was one of the most significantly enriching experiences of my life.

**Two, IICP brings out the ‘human and humane’ in people.** I have seen chief ministers and governors, vice-chancellors and principals, chief financial officers and CEOs, diplomats and senior bureaucrats, sports personalities and artistes
break into giggles, eyes crinkling with laughter or growing moist with tears, and the most reticent and dour personalities relax and, for a brief moment in time, become youthful again. Our children have an amazing quality of reaching out to people, making them feel loved and valued. As a friend remarked, “IICP emits the spirit of happiness though it serves people with severe disabilities”. I recall the many visits of ‘Jyoti Babu’, former Chief Minister of West Bengal to our organisation and taking our children to the Writers’ Building. During one of these visits, our student, the artful Chandi Bose standing across the CM’s official work table commiserated with Jyoti Babu about his busy schedule and advised him to take some rest and eat well! Shri Basu listened extremely carefully and seriously and at the end got up from his seat and shook Chandi's hand – not in a patronising manner but as a friend.

Three, IIICP does not just state but acts on its commitment to treat all service users with respect. When the organisation says it offers ‘Quality Services to ALL’ irrespective of caste, creed, or economic background, it means every word. Each service prioritises the forging of respectful relationships between professionals and personnel, families, and persons with disabilities. Thus, in the spirit of reverse inclusion, our services are meant not just for children and adults with disabilities—rich and poor alike—but also for those without any disability but disadvantaged due to poverty. When you enter our premises, however, economic disadvantage remains outside the door as every person is treated with the basic respect s/he deserves and valued as an individual. Sponsors have often remarked on the fact that unless you are privy to information in a child’s or adult’s sponsorship report about what their parents do for a living, there is no way of guessing income levels. Hence, we have so many children and adults from families categorised as existing ‘Below Poverty Line’ participating in fests and concerts, fashion shows, and performances organised by exclusive private schools for the rich.

Four, IIICP has demonstrated its faith in partnerships and the wisdom of shared knowledge. Thus, over four decades of existence, IIICP’s Community Based Services have been working with a cross-section of organisations along the length and breadth of the country cutting across castes, religions, languages, locations, and target groups. We have had the good fortune of working with local field workers in tribal communities, visiting homes in remote and hilly areas with colleagues working in outreach areas, conducting training programmes with teachers in district schools, listening to families and facilitating parents’ groups speaking in languages other than what we understand, discussing early detection with doctors and nurses in primary health centres, and early intervention with ASHA and ICDS workers in urban slums and rural areas. Many a service has been initiated by youth volunteers; many a lesson learnt from mothers, grandmothers, fathers, and grandfathers.

Fifth, IIICP is humble and confident enough to keep on learning, reflecting, and not shying away from change. In my 45 years of association, I have been fortunate in my role as a ‘founding mother’ and ‘primary stakeholder’ in the birth and growth of IIICP. Today, in a less direct role, I am equally fortunate in witnessing the new leadership team come into its own, learn from the legacy, question age-old policies and practices, and come up with solutions that it believes will help serve those we serve better.

Finally, I truly believe IIICP is blessed. When times have been bleak, when hope and optimism seem a luxury, when resources cause major anxiety, and when those you depended on have had to leave, there have been individuals and agencies, public and private, coming forward to help, assist, and support. I end with my heartfelt gratitude to co-travellers on IIICP’s amazing journey and my fervent prayer that IIICP’s doors will remain open, forever, to each person who needs its services even if much of the world shuts down for whatever reason. Perhaps this is also the right time to acknowledge with respect, Sudha Kaul’s father Colonel B L Raina who shared with us the power of CARE: Chitt (Consciousness), Acharan (Attitude), Rakshan (Protection) and Esha (Desire - serve and learn), enabling a philosophy to emerge that has and will determine the ‘IIICP Way’.
Celebrating 45 years of IICP’s Journey

18 November 2019 was a red-letter day in the calendar as IICP celebrated its 45th Founder’s Day. The theme of this year’s anniversary exhibition focused on food and its intrinsic link to festive occasions and cultural traditions in different parts of our country. Displays explored current trends of sustainable and organic farming, ‘superfoods’, the ever popular street foods, and regional cuisines. The exhibition was inaugurated by Prof Ashok Ranjan Thakur, Vice-Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University. Guests of Honour during the three-day event included Mrs Sanjukta Bose, Director, IIHM Kolkata; Debabrata Chattaraj, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities; Dr Ronen Roy, President Tollygunge Club; Moon Moon Sen, cine artist and politician; Rakhi Purnima Dasgupta, owner of Kewpie’s Restaurant; and chess Grandmaster Dibyendu Barua. Students from several mainstream schools and visitors enjoyed the colourful and informative displays.

Top to Bottom
Prof Ashok Ranjan Thakur, Vice Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University inaugurates the exhibition
Rajni Ganeriwal introduces the Family Services Department to our special guests
Dipak Ghosh presents his short film on Rosogolla, the iconic Bengali sweet

Welcome to IICP
Top: Left to Right
Jyoti Kumari describes food that is specially prepared for Poush Sankranti
Festive delicacies of different states showcased by the Hindi and English Sections

Bottom: Left to Right
Guest of Honour Moon Moon Sen with students of the Life Skills Training Unit
Debabrata Chattaraj and Dolly Nag of IFB learn about biodegradable plates made of sugarcane waste from Pronoy De
Celebrating 45 years of IICP’s Journey...

Top : Left to Right
Piya Nandi & Dr Brahma of M Junction listen to Bittu Sen speak on reducing food wastage
Prabhashar Singh, HR Head, Taj Bengal interacts with Shubham Kundu and Bitasta Kar

Bottom : Left to Right
Students from Akshar School learn how food was prepared in traditional kitchens
Pt Vijay Kichlu gets information on organic farming from Soumen Bagdi
First Column : Top to Bottom
Creative crafts on display at the Life Skills Training Unit
Gift bags, envelopes and wrapping paper printed in the Vocational Training Unit were much in demand
Potted plants were very popular with the youngsters

Second Column : Top to Bottom
Mrs Thakur and Sandip Mukherjee with the Catering Department
Dr Ronen Roy is welcomed by Soumen Ray Choudhury to the Tea Packaging Unit
Anil Mukerjee and Dr Ronen Roy admire plants and colourful cards made by the trainees of the Adult Day Centre
Celebrating 45 years of IICP’s Journey...

Left: top to Bottom
Punam Bind talks to Moon Moon Sen about the benefits of ‘superfoods’
Deepanshu Paul explains the benefits of organic food to the students of South City International School
The Anniversary cake generously donated by Kookie Jar was cut by Sanali Nandi and Janet Ahmed; also in the picture are Reena Sen, Sudha Kaul, and Indrani Roy

Right: Top to Bottom
Maya Ghosh (extreme left) with the teachers of the Open School Unit
Relishing the lunch on the occasion of Founders’ Day
Celebrating Academic Excellence

Every year, students of the Centre for Special Education eagerly await the Annual Prize Day event.

The Guests of Honour in 2019 were Suvina Shunglu, Principal, Sri Sri Academy; Nupur Ghosh, Vice-Principal, Mahadevi Birla World Academy; and Ruma Dey, wife of Chandan Kumar Dey (Member of IICP's Advisory Committee). Thank you for doing the honours.

Top
A colourful performance of ‘Tuntunir Golpo’ by the students at the Annual Prize Day 2019

Middle Row : Left to Right
Deep Dalui receives the award for Outstanding Student of the Year
Suvina Shunglu presents the award for General Proficiency to Sana Khatoon
Nupur Ghosh presents the award for progress in Physical Management to Diganta Nag

Bottom : Left to Right
Ruma Dey presents the All Rounder Awards to Subhangi Mitra, Bittu Sen, Sneha Das, and Debojyoti Roy
Celebrating Achievement

The 3rd convocation of the Vocational Training Centre was held in July. The Guests of Honour were Nisheeth Srivastava, Principal, Institute of Hotel Management; Sandip Mukherjee, Director, Hotel Management Institute, Sister Nivedita University; and Subhra Varma, wife of Vinay Varma, MD, M Junction.

Rakhi Sarkar, Chairperson, IICP had a motivational message for all the trainees:

Distinguished members of IICP, trainees, faculty members, and friends,

We are here today to celebrate a very important moment in the lives of our young trainees. We are here to celebrate a moment when our trainees are going to embark on a new journey. It is obvious, in spite of all the happiness and excitement involved, there is a certain degree of trepidation as well. What does this convocation mean after all and what kind of unknown future are you confronting?

No worries my young friends. You are extremely fortunate to have got this opportunity and from today onwards you can explore and utilise this knowledge for achieving excellence, self development, financial sustenance, and fulfilment! While excellence comes with hard work, dedication, and intent, fulfilment entails humility and a little bit of 'giving' and sharing 'selflessly'. When your intent is fair, just, and genuine, then there is no room for fear and trepidation. Go ahead and work hard, develop yourself, achieve self-reliance, and share the experience with the world while trying to uplift a few others along the way and you shall be fine.

When we acquire knowledge, skills, and wisdom ourselves without spreading it amongst others, that knowledge or wisdom is soon lost. It stops with you; it fails to trickle down. Let’s come to the most critical aspect of your journey. While journeys are meant to be exciting they also entail umpteen hurdles, failures, deep disappointments, and profound mistakes. All this is part of life – without which we will not learn or be able to correct and overcome and better ourselves. Success and failures are two sides of the same coin. The education and training we receive helps us to confront them with courage, equanimity, and confidence. The rest you may leave to life itself. Come to IICP whenever you need help and guidance. We are always there for you.

Thank you for making me a part of this wonderful day and much blessings on behalf of this great family that is also very much yours from today!

Left to Right
Rakhi Sarkar presents the VTC All Rounder Trophy to Hindol Das
Nisheeth Srivastava presents Best Trainee (Computer) to Anirban Sinha
Sandip Mukherjee presents Best Trainee (Catering) to Samik Sen
Subhra Varma presents Best Trainee (Printing) to Niraj Prasad
Celebrating the Right to 'Speak'

Swati Chakraborty
Head, IT, disseminates the use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) in rural Bengal

The National Resource Centre for AAC is running a project for manufacturing, distribution, and training of Kathamala, a Voice Output Device for children with complex communication needs in the assembly constituencies of Basanti and Gosaba under the parliamentary constituency of Joynagar. These areas are part of the Sunderbans where people commute by being ferried in boats across rivers.

IICP organised camps to assess the needs of probable users before distribution of the device. Ten-year-old Rafika Banu is one of these beneficiaries who was assessed in a camp at Gosaba in March 2019. Rafika is the eldest of two children and belongs to a family of landless labourers residing at Rangabelia. She has hemiplegia and cannot use speech to express herself. Rafika knows the Bengali alphabets and can read some words. She also uses gestures to communicate with others. A student of Class II in a local school, Rafika (as well as her mother) were trained to use the Kathamala and record speech messages, so that she could use it as a medium of communication.

By November, she was using up to sixteen messages on the device to participate in conversations at home and in school. As class monitor, she even uses these messages to effectively control unruly students.

This may be a small measure of success for Rafika Banu but it is a giant leap forward in our mission to help children with complex communication needs in the remote and often inaccessible areas of the Sunderbans.

A New Venture in the Offing

Online certificate course on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and Assistive Communication Technologies

Communication is a powerful tool that helps one connect with others, expresses thoughts, and builds better relationships. It is a basic human right. AAC is a term used to describe a broad range of communicative behaviours and methods that support and enhance speech attempts of people who are unable to talk. AAC includes methods ranging from simple techniques to complicated technical devices (assistive technology or AT). Hence, it is crucial for people with complex communication needs (CCN) to be able to access all these methods to fully participate in life. It is important for professionals and support staff to learn and apply these methods to ensure facilitation of their right to communicate. It is also important for technologists to understand their requirements and develop appropriate AT.

Currently, there are no online courses in this area although there is a dire need to train professionals and technologists in the understanding and facilitation of AAC methods for users. The introduction of a basic course in AAC and AT for AAC will be a step forward in addressing this need.

The eight-week online course is jointly developed by IICP and Center for Educational Technology, IIT-Kharagpur, a reputed national institute for engineering and technology in India, approved under Swayam NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning), a project of the HRD Ministry, Government of India.

The target groups, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, are aimed at speech and language therapists, special educators, teachers from inclusive schools, social workers, community workers, occupational/physiotherapists, technical professionals, app developers, researchers of Assistive Technology and designers for User Experience.

Swati Chakraborty and Madhumita Dasgupta of the IT Department visited IIT Kharagpur to understand the technical logistics of the course.
Celebrating Advocacy

'We stand for equal rights in education, health facilities, and employment. We want to be heard and, hence, raise our voices for the benefit for ALL irrespective of physical and mental challenges, caste, creed, language, and wealth.'

Addressing these demands, the disability rights activists of IICP's Ankur Advocacy Group conducted an awareness programme at 8B Bus Stand in front of Jadavpur University, Kolkata on 5 November, 2019. The participants with complex communication needs and physical and cognitive challenges independently used sign language, gestures, picture communication boards, voice output devices, and smart phones to communicate their needs, desires, preferences, and dislikes to the large audience. This live show was not just proof of their immense abilities to talk, dance, sing, and raise slogans for themselves but also of their right to communicate with everyone else. Dipak Ghosh, a computer trainer who works with his feet, used his phone with voice output software and spoke of the need for an inclusive society in the country with a healthy and vibrant community where everyone is respected for their abilities. Mumpy Singh used sign language to say that she believes signing is easy to learn and is a very powerful means of communication. She demonstrated a simple gesture to indicate 'I am your friend' and the audience signed with her. Sayani Dutta reminded everyone of a popular quote by Swami Vivekananda: “Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached.” Shampa Ghosh used her voice output device to say “This is a fight to the finish, a fight for demanding the right to talk, to express myself, which we shall continue to do through dance, music, and plays. We ask for patience and empathy to understand the needs of another. And we shall win this battle!”

There were brilliant role plays, vocal music, and dance performances that were applauded by the enthusiastic crowd. Everyone present came forward to unanimously express their solidarity and support. Well known playwright, director, and actor Soven Ganguly shared the platform to perform for the crowd, putting forth his views and personal experiences that were in sync with IICP’s advocates. This street programme conducted by Sudipendu Dutta and Dipak Ghosh was a resounding success as was evident from the response of a hundred-strong crowd who swayed to the tunes and voices of the performers in unison.
Celebrating Democratic Rights

It was time for the people of the country to elect their leaders and form the Government during the General Elections. Punam Bind and Shraddha Khator, members of IICP’s Ankur Advocacy Group and Media Lab share their respective experiences at the polling booth:

"I spent time contemplating on who to vote for and I decided to cast my vote for a political party that had never won before in my constituency! On the day of the polls, I found long queues at the booth and wondered how I would ever make my way through. To my surprise, the people cleared a path for me as if I was a celebrity! Unfortunately, there were difficulties that came in my way. Although there was a ramp, the approach to the voting machine was very cramped. Since I was unable to access the EVM in my wheelchair, I had to take permission from the polling officer to enable my brother to cast the vote on my behalf. Once he had done so, people applauded that I had exercised my right as a citizen to vote.

It was disappointing that I could not cast my vote myself. This time the Election Commission had promised to make arrangements that would allow people with disabilities the opportunity to cast their vote independently. Sadly, this did not happen! As a dutiful citizen, I went to cast my vote and got the customary ink mark on my finger but I wish I could have done it myself. I hope these problems are rectified in the future.'

Shraddha Khator
Media Lab
Celebrating Inclusion

A sensitisation programme organised by SAP India Pvt Ltd for its employees was held at the Oberoi Grand Hotel on 1 March 2020. At the interactive session, twenty-four members of the company teamed up with ten students from IICP to participate in games and group activities. The colourful collages made by each group are featured here.
Celebrating Freedom

India’s 73rd Independence Day was celebrated in IICP with pride and honour. The tricolour was unfurled and the air resounded with patriotic songs. Amidst the joy, however, was solemnity when a short film prepared by the IT department was screened marking the 100th year of the Jalianwala Bagh tragedy. The Guests of Honour were Retired Justice Ruma Pal and Dr Saibal Banerjee, CMO, Swasthya Bhaban, Government of West Bengal.

Left : Top to Bottom
The National Anthem is sung
A dance performance by the trainees and staff commemorating India’s freedom struggle
Independence Day Celebrations imbued with the spirit of patriotism

Bottom
Guests of Honour Ruma Pal and Dr Saibal Banerjee address the audience
Celebrating International Linkages

Asis Kumar Ghosh, Deputy Director, Therapy Services, reports on IICP’s participation at international meets on Early Intervention for Infants at risk of Cerebral Palsy

Over 700 delegates from across the globe attended the 73rd Annual Meet of the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDM) and the 3rd Meet of the International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disabilities (IAACD) at the Anaheim Convention Centre in Los Angeles, USA.

Dr Cioni from Pisa University, a legend in the field of early detection and intervention, shared his research findings on how bimanual functions of children with unilateral hemiplegia can be improved through constraint-induced movement therapy. Dr Arnab Seal voiced the need to initiate a national cerebral palsy register in India to document detailed information on the prevalence of cerebral palsy (CP), age of detection, and whether children with CP can access early intervention services in India. He cited examples of national registers that currently exist in UK, USA, and Australia. Dr Linda Lawrence, an American ophthalmologist, emphasised mandatory screening of vision for every child to manage cortical vision impairment.

It was a privilege to give a presentation on LEAP-CP (Learning Everyday Activities with Parents-Cerebral Palsy), a collaborative research project with the University of Queensland, Australia. Leap-CP is a community-based intervention of active goal-directed strategies and environmental enrichment delivered in a home setting. The project was undertaken to determine the proportionate rate of infants at ‘high risk’ of cerebral palsy (CP); factors associated with ‘high risk’ classification; and the replication and feasibility of screening. It presented a viable solution for accessible and scalable intervention based on the principles of parent coaching. A cross section of 828 infants with birth risk factors were screened with General Movements Assessments (GMA) and the Hammersmith Infant Neurological Examination (HINE) during a two-year clinical trial at three sites in West Bengal. This multi-domain trial included activity-based motor and cognitive skills training based on goals identified by parents; enhancement of cognitive, motor, and multi-sensory learning within the home using readily available local resources; and parent educational modules covering three broad areas – active play, nutrition and health, and responsive parenting. The outcomes of the trial showed that community workers and therapists can be trained to accurately screen for CP. There is a need to increase access to training opportunities for both GMA and HINE. These are relatively cost-effective methods to detect and prioritise infants requiring further support, which is particularly useful in contexts where health-seeking behaviour is low like in slums and rural settings. Some of the challenges faced included correct gestational age often being unknown; poor lighting in homes; no access to smart phones and internet; getting parents to agree to screening when no disability was apparent; and frequent migration in urban slums.

The LEAP-CP program initiated in West Bengal has fulfilled part of the promise through its early detection and intervention program giving ‘at risk’ infants a better chance in life.
SAARC Symposium on Early Detection and Intervention for Infants at High Risk of Cerebral Palsy: 29 November to 6 December 2019

A week-long symposium organised by the University of Queensland took place at the Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research and SSKM Hospital, Kolkata. The symposium was held in partnership with the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy, the Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research and SSKM Hospital, the Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur), Asha Bhavan Centre, Child In Need Institute, and Dr BC Roy Post-Graduate Institute of Paediatric Sciences. The symposium was a focal point that united five SAARC nations to discuss strategies for disability based on the evidence of trials conducted. Dr Kath Benfer spent two years in Kolkata (on an Endeavour Scholarship) piloting the Learning through Everyday Activities with Parents of Infants with Cerebral Palsy (LEAP-CP) programme in collaboration with local partners across academic, government, private, and non-government sectors.

The thrust of the symposium was to build on this research, strengthen existing Indian partnerships, expand partnerships with additional organisations across SAARC countries, and enhance global connections under the banner of the University of Queensland.

It was attended by forty clinicians, neonatologists, and rehabilitation professionals from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka. Prof Roslyn Boyd and Dr Kath Benfer from the University of Queensland, Australia; Dr Andrea Guzzetta from Pisa University, Italy; Dr Debashish Bhattacharya, Director of Medical Education, Government of West Bengal; Dr Suchandra Mukherjee, Head of Department of Neonatology, SSKM hospital; and Ms Carly Dickinson were some of the key speakers. Sessions were held to provide 32 clinicians with the knowledge and skills to implement the Clinical Practice Guideline adapted for low to middle income settings in the LEAP-CP programme.

Here are the main points:

- Highlight the importance of early detection for infants at high risk of cerebral palsy using standard screening tools (HINE, GMA).
- Fast track them into targeted early interventions optimising opportunities for neural development.
- Hold workshops for practical implementation of LEAP-CP in participants' institutes.
- Conduct collaborative research to further explore findings of the LEAP-CP trial.
- Finally, an urgent need was felt to collaborate with government health agencies for critical follow-up and intervention services to be provided for children with disabilities.
Celebrating Health and Well-Being

Ensuring optimal health and well-being of the children and adults is of paramount importance in IICP. Diagnostic and medical clinics, conducted by a panel of doctors, are organised on a regular basis by the Family Services Division during the year. Social workers coordinate medical clinics, facilitate the distribution of anti-epilepsy medicines, conduct home management programmes, and ascertain the well-being of absentee service users. In collaboration with IFB Agro Industries Limited, the Community-Based Research team held health checks and eye camps in South 24 Parganas. Cataract surgery was facilitated at the Nihar Munshi Eye Foundation for 16 (among 64) persons with vision problems. Therapeutic interventions facilitated by the professionals in the Therapy Department helped to elevate physical, functional, and postural management for children and adults with neuro-motor disabilities. The mothers of children aged three to five years who attend the Jugnu Play School were counselled on improving health and hygiene.
Community visits
Home visits by social workers
A counseling session for mothers
Eye camp screenings in progress
Celebrating Empowerment

Trainees of the Vocational Training Centre, members of Self-Help Groups, community health workers, and potential caregivers were empowered through knowledge and training. This promoted self-reliance, self-confidence, and independence in the target groups.

A two-day training programme initiating services for persons with disabilities was conducted by IICP’s Rabi Ghosh for ASHA health workers at the Jindal South West Foundation in Salboni, West Midnapore.
Members of IICP’s Self-Help Groups were assisted in getting bank loans for their small business ventures. Firoza Bibi makes shopping bags with supplied fabric and recycled materials. These are attractive and environment-friendly alternatives to plastic packets. Paromita makes a profitable income selling provisions and operating a coffee vending machine from her small shop. Nargis does some tailoring work from home and contributes to the family business.

Certificate courses trained potential caregivers in the area of home help for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

After completion of training at the Vocational Training Centre, four trainees are now successfully employed at MS Enterprises, Folk India, and Gati KWE.
Celebrating the Right to Sustainable Livelihood

A two-day Job Fair (Rojgar Mela) organised by the office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, West Bengal was inaugurated by Dr Shashi Panja, Minister for Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal. This initiative was taken to provide employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. Trainees and staff performed excerpts from Tagore's dance-drama Chandalika at the event. Thirteen trainees of the Vocational Training Center (VTC) appeared for interviews with prospective employers.
Celebrating Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

The CSR team from Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineering Ltd (GRSE) who support three classes at the Centre for Special Education celebrated the festival of Raksha Bandhan with the students. The officials led by Chairman and MD Retired Admiral VK Saxena and his wife appreciated the innovative and eco-friendly friendship bands made by the students of the Life Skills Training Unit.
Celebrating Creative Writing

Writer’s Workshop facilitated by Madhumita Dasgupta, 
Senior Professional, IT Department

Every child has something to say and is a potential writer! The Writer’s Workshop aims to empower users of Augmentative and Alternative Communication in building communicative competencies and skills of self-expression. It encourages children to think ‘out of the box’. The workshop entails expressing these thoughts into the written word as well as sharing content with peers allowing for applause or criticism. It lets participants choose what they want to do for the session from a range of activities attributed to writers.

That the Writer’s Workshop is a popular session with students at the Centre for Special Education is reflected in the photographs given below.
Celebrating the Magic of Stories

It was a wonderful experience for students Mohamed Aryan, Upashruti Jana, Sampa Ghosh, Sayani Dutta and Ankur advocate Barsha Bhattacharya to attend the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2020.

A report by Madhumita Dasgupta

At the session titled 'Nabaneeta Dev Sen revisited', students of The Creative Arts presented a dramatised version of The Foolish King, a children's story by Nabaneeta Dev Sen. Her daughters Nandana and Antara Dev Sen, both authors in their own right, held an interactive session with the audience to honour their mother's tremendous contribution in the fields of literature and academia. When introduced to them, Barsha mentioned that she had enjoyed reading their mother's poem Najma and wondered if they knew what had inspired her to write it.

Along with the several teachers and students present at the venue, both Nandana and Antara Dev Sen were appreciative of the inclusive practices followed at IICP giving students the opportunity to participate in such events.

News of an award for her story prompted Barsha Bhattacharya to poetically express her joy.

With Antara and Nandana Dev Sen

Attending the Apeejay Literary Festival
Celebrating Our Natural Resources

Anshu Chowdhury from our Administration Department has been concerned that the depletion of the underground water table that has led to a shortage of water in many states will become a severe crisis if immediate and appropriate measures are not taken. He has written an appeal on behalf of all students and staff of IICP requesting all sections of society to prevent the wastage of water – our most precious resource.

'We take water for granted, don't we? Yet, an urgent need of the hour is conservation of water. Records state that India is the largest extractor of groundwater worldwide. In order to meet this challenge at the grassroots level, communities need to take immediate action to restore, conserve, and augment existing local water bodies including ponds, lakes, tanks, and wells. State governments need to initiate watershed management and provide incentives to farmers in water-stressed villages to grow crops that require low consumption of water. Advanced technology should be utilised to monitor ground water levels and improve water efficiency. Our ability to manage our water resources will not only improve quality of life for us but also ensure environmental sustainability.'

He also puts forward some practical suggestions:

- Leaking taps must be attended to immediately. We have to make people understand that every drop of water is precious.
- In the case of leakage in water supply pipes, local authorities should be informed to take immediate action.
- At home, people can avoid taking a shower and have a bucket bath instead. Cleaning of utensils and washing of clothes should be done with limited water.
- Cars/vehicles should not be cleaned with potable water; instead recycled grey water should be utilised.
- We must be alert while running electrical pumps to fill overhead tanks so that we can switch them off in time to prevent the overflow of water.
- All hotels/hospitals/schools/colleges/offices should be made aware about water wastage.
- Everybody should be educated on practical and innovative ways to conserve, reuse, and recycle water.
- Active and intense campaigns need to be held at all levels to make people in both urban and rural areas aware of the present grave situation. Pamphlets with relevant information should be distributed.
- Wastage of water should be avoided at social events like weddings, birthdays, or festivals.
- Rainwater harvesting should be promoted and schemes implemented for water conservation.
- All our rivers and water bodies should be preserved and not used to dump trash.
- Local bodies and government agencies should build rainwater catchments.

We all need to do our bit to conserve water. It is imperative to keep in mind that we have to protect our environment for future generations.

Every Drop Counts. Let us save our natural resources for the next generation.
Celebrating Hope

Three hundred and twenty golfers teed off the greens at the 9th IICP Hope Cup on 24 and 25 January. This golf tournament was organised in collaboration with the Tollygunge Club celebrating their own milestone of 125 years. Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan, GoC-in-C, Eastern Command was the Chief Guest at the prize distribution ceremony. He presented the coveted Hope Cup to the winning team. The Guest of Honour was David Panter from UK, the visionary who had initiated the idea of ‘sports for a cause’ in 2012. We thank Dr Ronen Roy, President; Anil Mukherjee, CEO and Managing Member; the Golf Captain; members of the Organising Committee; the golfing fraternity; our donors and sponsors; and all those who contributed to make it a successful event.
Hope Cup...

Right
Chief Mentor Uma Ahmad thanks friends of IICP for their support

Middle
L to R: Anil Mukerjee, Dr Sudha Kaul, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan, Dr Ronen Roy, Vivek Varma, and David Panter

Bottom: Left to Right
Mrs Chauhan gives away the prizes to the youngest female golfer Petra Law, youngest male golfer Sloke Guha Majumdar, and eldest male golfer Subimal Bose
From Top: Left to Right
Atul Asthana, MD, Goodricke Group Ltd with the 3rd Runners Up: Col Feroz Khan, Col Kapil Sharma, Col Tapas Mondal, and Barnik Bardhan
Dr Ronen Roy with 2nd Runners Up: Jai Kejriwal, Rahul Pasari, Nikhil Poddar, Viraj Khanna
David Panter with the 1st Runners up: RP Hazra, Asit Kar, BP Banerjee, and AK Khan
Lt Gen Anil Chauhan presents the IICP Hope Cup 2020 to Devrata Poddar, Ayush Khaitan, B Mittal, and Sunil Sobti
We thank all our Corporate and Individual Sponsors
Celebrating Special Visits

Among the several visitors we welcomed during the year were John McDonough, Global Chairman, Vesuvius, UK; Virginie Corteval, Consul General of France; Andrew Ford, Deputy High Commissioner of Australia; Michael Feiner, Consul General of Germany; and Rajat Gupta, American businessman and author.

From Top : Left to Right
Naman Pandey of Pre-Primary recites a poem for John McDonough • Md Aryan impresses guests with his presentation on 'Use of Mobile Phones'
• Barsha Bhattacharya interacts with the visitors in the Media Lab • Rishi Mondal welcomes the guests to the Education and Development Unit II
• Niraj Prasad, Trainee in the Printing Unit demonstrates making of paper folders to Rajat Gupta
• Virginie Corteval receives a plant from Rasika Arzoo
Celebrating Old Friends

Former students and trainees and the current members of the Ankur Advocacy Group came together at the Alumni Reunion in IICP. They shared information, reminisced about old times, and enjoyed some snacks over a cup of tea.
Celebrating Nature

The Ankur Advocacy Group conducted a puppet show to emphasise the importance of trees at the Flower Show organised by the West Bengal Forest Directorate at the Eden Gardens.

Celebrating the Spirit of Sports

Aiming to inspire and promote an active lifestyle through sports, the Tata Steel Kolkata Marathon included five categories to encourage participation. Pranab Chatterjee, Abhishek Sarkar, and Md Aryan represented IICP in the 'Champions Run' segment of the Kolkata Marathon.
Celebrating Volunteers

An annual event is organised to express our gratitude to the several dedicated volunteers who willingly give their time to IICP. We thank them all for their invaluable contribution.

Celebrating Knowledge

At the Saraswati Puja celebrations, homage was paid to the Goddess of Knowledge. The Guests of Honour at the event were Ina Bose, HR Head, Techno India Group and Mithu Banerjee, Assistant Head Mistress, Kamala Girls’ School.

Mithu Banerjee offers prayers to the Goddess of Knowledge
Saswati Mohanti performs the rituals while Aitreyi Dutta chants the prayer
We include a selection of paintings and writings based on the theme of this issue. Students share their thoughts on various festivals and special occasions celebrated during the year.
Celebrating Expressions

Amongst the plethora of celebrations in the Indian calendar, the Spring festival of Holi is a major event and the most colourful. The profusion of Palash (Flame of the Forest) and Krishnachura (Gulmohar) in full bloom and the strains of the cuckoo’s calls wafting in the southern breeze herald the arrival of Spring. In Bengal, Basant Utsav is celebrated with enthusiasm especially in the university town of Shantiniketan. The day before Holi, a ritualistic bonfire marks the triumph of good over evil. A popular legend associates the fun and frolic of the festival to Lord Krishna. In many homes, colour is first applied to the idols of Radha and Krishna and elders in the family before playing with friends. The festival of colours is enjoyed by one and all irrespective of caste, class, or status.

Subhangi Mitra
Middle & Senior Academics

Holi is my favourite festival. I had great fun playing with colours and smearing them happily on my friends and family. Everyone enjoys celebrating this festive occasion with special food items made at home.

Ranjan Kumar Shaw
Class V, CSE
स्वाधीनता दिवस

१५ अगस्त सन् १९४७ को हमारा देश आजाद हुआ था। इस दिन को स्वाधीनता दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है। भारत को आजाद करने वाले लोग बहुत महान थे। गाँधी जी, जवाहर लाल नेहरू, भगत सिंह जैसे नेता हमें ब्रिटिश राज से आजादी दिलाने में सफल हुए। उस दिन से हम आजाद हैं। आज भी हम उन सब को याद करते हैं जिन्होंने हमारे देश को आजाद करने के लिए अपनी जान गंवाई थी।

जय हिंद।

श्रेया सिंह

Class V, CSE

Our country gained freedom on 15 August 1947. We celebrate this as Independence Day. Many leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Bhagat Singh helped to liberate us from the British. We remember all those who sacrificed their lives for the country.

Shreya Singh

Class V, CSE
Janmashtami

India is a country where festivals are celebrated all throughout the year. Janmashtami marks the birth of Lord Krishna and is celebrated with much fanfare and enthusiasm. Offerings at the puja generally include a wide selection of traditional sweets and a variety of fruits that are later distributed as prasad. Devotional songs in praise of Krishna are sung in homes and temples.

Subhangi Mitra
Middle and Senior Academics

Rabindra Jayanti

The birth anniversary of the much-loved and revered poet Rabindranath Tagore (Rabindra Jayanti) falls on the 25th day of Baisakh, the first month of the Bengali calendar. Aside from his vast contribution in the fields of literature, culture, education, and art, Tagore has the unique honour of having written the National Anthem of two countries – India and Bangladesh. Rabindra Jayanti is celebrated with great enthusiasm especially in all educational institutions. Respectful homage to the bard is paid through performances of song, dance, and poetry at various cultural programmes.

Debojyoti Roy
Middle and Senior Academics
रक्षाबंधन

युवे सभी त्योहारों में रक्षाबंधन का त्योहार सबसे प्रिय है क्योंकि इस दिन सभी बहनें अपने भाईयों को कलाई पर रंगबिरंगी, ज्वार से भरी हुई राखियों बौंधती हैं, आरती उतारती हैं, भिडाई खिलाती हैं और फिर उनका आशीर्वाद लेती हैं। इस राखियों भाई-बहन के रूप में का प्रतीक होती है, साथ ही एक प्रकार का बच्चा भी होती है, जो भाई अपनी बहन को देता है, कि चाहे कोई भी परेशानी हो, वह अपनी बहन का साथ कभी नहीं छोड़ेगा। उसके साथ हमेशा खड़ा रहेगा ठीक उसी तरह जिस तरह एक ईसान को परखाई उसका साथ निभाता है।

पुनम बिंद

Open School Unit

Raksha Bandhan

Among all festivals, I like Raksha Bandhan the most. This day celebrates the bond between siblings. A rakhi is a symbol of a brother’s promise to always protect his sister from any untoward circumstances.

Punam Bind

Open School Unit

शिक्षक दिवस

शिक्षक दिवस ५ सितम्बर को मनाया जाता है। उस दिन डॉक्टर सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णन जी का जन्मदिन है। वह एक बहुत अच्छे शिक्षक थे। हम लोग अपने शिक्षकों से आशीर्वाद लेते हैं। उन्के लिए नाचकर गाकर उनका मनोरंजन करते हैं।

शिक्षकों से हमें बहुत कुछ सीखने को मिलता है जैसे - ज्ञान देना, हमारे साथ दोस्त जैसा व्यवहार करके हमें जीवन में चलने का सही रास्ता बताना। इसलिए हम उन्हें धन्यवाद करते हैं।

हमारे शिक्षक सदा हर में न्याय से सिखाते हैं। उस दिन हम उन्हें अथायापक दिवस की शुभकामनाएं देते हैं।

माँ अर्यन

Class VIII, CSE

Teachers’ Day

5 September is celebrated as Teachers’ Day. It is the birthday of Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan who was a great teacher. Our teachers give us knowledge and guide us. We thank them for their love and sing and dance to entertain them on this day.

Md Aryan

Class VIII, CSE
एक नया त्योहार दुर्गा पूजा है। माँ-पापा हमें नए कपड़े खरीद कर देते हैं। फिर हम माँ, पापा, और दीदी के साथ घुमने जाते हैं। बहुत सारे नए पट्टाल देखते हैं। पट्टाल बहुत सुन्दर साने होते हैं। हम आइसक्रीम और चायमीन भी खाते हैं। बहुत सारे रंग-बिरंगे खिलोने, गुड़ियों और गुलाब खरीदते हैं। दुर्गा पूजा तीन चार दिन तक लगती है। इन दिनों हम खुश मस्ती करते हैं।

प्रिया कुमारी

Durga Puja is my favourite festival. Our parents buy us new clothes and take us on outings. We visit pandals to view the novel and beautiful decorations. We enjoy eating chowmein and ice cream and buy toys from the fair. We have great fun during this festival.

Priya Kumari

A poem to welcome the Goddess Durga by Shreya Singh, Jyoti Kumari, Priya Kumari, and Aman Sahani.
**Durga Puja**

One of the major Autumn festivals is Durga Puja, the worship of the Mother Goddess, celebrating the triumph of good over evil. Beautifully moulded clay images of the ten-handed Goddess show her surrounded by her four children standing atop the demon slain by her trident. Festivities continue for four days ending with the immersion of the idols. There is an atmosphere of great merriment and joy as everyone enjoys eating special food, wearing new clothes, and watching or participating in various cultural entertainment.

*Soumen Bagdi

*Middle and Senior Academics*

**छठ पूजा**

मेरा प्रिय त्योहार छठ पूजा है। मेरी माँ, नानी, मामी और बड़ी मामी छठ पूजा करती हैं। सब मिल कर प्रसाद बनाती हैं। जैसे ठेकुआ, खस्ता आदि। वे सुख-सुख तालाब में गीत गाती हुई जाती हैं और स्नान करती हैं। हम सब मस्ती करते हैं। ममी आदि सभी ओरस्त तीन दिन उपवास करती हैं और अमले दिन भात, दाल, सब्जी, पापड़, चाट बहुत सारा खाना बनाती हैं। जब तीसरे दिन वे घाट से आती हैं तो हम प्रसाद खाने को मिलता है। जो पूजा नहीं करते उनको भी हम प्रसाद देते हैं। ममी, नानी, बड़ी ममी और मामी पहले खाना खाती हैं क्योंकि वो तीन दिन से शुक्र रहती हैं।

*छठ पूजा राज़*  
*Class IV, CSE*

**Chhath Puja**

My favourite festival is Chhath puja. The ladies in my family observe rituals that entail fasting, bathing in the river and worshiping the sun. They make special delicacies like thekua and khasta to be given as prasad.

*Puja Raut*  
*Class IV, CSE*
Diwali is the festival of lights. The glow from lamps lit in every home can be seen all over. Sweets are prepared at home. We wear new clothes and go for outings. We offer prayers to the Goddess Laxmi. At night we burst crackers and have great fun.

Ranjan Shaw
Class IV, CSE

बड़ा दिन

पच्चीस दिसम्बर को बड़ा दिन या क्रिसमस डे के रूप में मनाया जाता है। उस दिन ईसाई धर्म को मानने वाले सुबह-सुबह चर्च जाते हैं, और ईशान के साधन के रूप में प्रार्थना करते हैं। सभी भारतीय इस दिन को भूमध्यसा रंग के मनाते हैं।

चौथी दिसम्बर की रात को बच्चे सात्ता की जोड़ी को बांट करके रोते हैं ताकि सुबह उनकी इच्छा पूरी हो जाए।

नीरज प्रसाद
Open School Unit

25th December is celebrated as Christmas. On this day, Christians go in the morning to offer prayers in church. People eat cake and enjoy this special occasion. On Christmas Eve, children go to bed thinking of the gifts Santa Claus will bring them.

Niraj Prasad
Open School Unit

नया साल

नए साल का मतलब नया जीवन। उस दिन सुबह हम भगवान से प्रार्थना करते हैं। शायद नए साल यानी पूर्ण जीवन में हमारी रक्षा की, हमारी इच्छाओं की पूरा किया। उसके लिए भगवान को धन्यवाद देते हैं और प्रार्थना करते हैं कि हमारे गुनाहों को ईश्वर क्षमा करें। नए साल में, नए जीवन में हमारी रक्षा करें।

मों अर्चन
Class VIII, CSE

The New Year is a fresh beginning. We pray to the Almighty to give thanks for having kept us safe and fulfilling our wishes. We also ask pardon for our wrong doings. I extend my good wishes to everyone on the first day of the New Year.

Md Aryan
Class VIII, CSE
Celebrating Christmas Cheer!

The term ended on a cheerful and festive note. With Janet Ahmed on the keyboard, members of the IICP band sang Joy to the World and the hugely popular Jingle Bells much to the delight of all the students packed into the IICP hall.

From Top: Left to Right
Waiting for Santa to appear
Sonali Nandi and Deepa Mukherjee with the enthusiastic performers.
Janet Ahmed on the keyboards leads the carol singing
We wish you a Merry Christmas: sing Sneha Das, Upasruti Jana, and Subhangi Mitra
Deep Dalui - Our Santa with his assistant Arijit Patra
Celebrating Excursions

Students and trainees were taken on educational outings to places of interest in the city.

From Top : Left to Right
Visit to the Birla Planetarium by students of the school and trainees of the Vocational Training Centre
Students of the Centre for Special Education at the St Paul’s Cathedral
Trainees of the Tea Packaging unit pose at the entrance of the St Paul’s Cathedral
Celebrating Excursions...

- A visit to the South City Mall
- Students enjoy the profusion of flowers at the Horticultural Gardens in Alipore
- At the playground in the Nature Park
- Attending the Shishu Mela at St Xavier’s College
Celebrating Colour!

Students celebrated Holi at IICP using vibrant herbal colours with gay abandon. Even the little children of the Jugnu playschool had a good time playing with the eco-friendly powder colours.

Happy Holi!
We shall overcome!

Jui Sardar, Open School Unit