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NEWS



Coming up activities:

1. Kolkata Book Fair, 30 January - 10 February 2008

2. Arrival in Kolkata of the Ambassador of Romania, His Excellency Mr. V. Sofineti, for the releasing of the Romanian books published in Kolkata.

see page 3 for details

Mr. B.K. Poddar – The Honorary Consul of Romania in the following Indian states: West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkand, Orissa, Chattishgarh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Assam, Manipur & Arunachal Pradesh.



The Honorary Consul of Romania, Mr B.K. Poddar, Mrs. Sofineti, Mrs. K. Poddar, and the Romanian Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. V. Sofineti.



His Excellency Mr. V. Sofineti and Mrs. Sofineti with members of the Romanian community.

ROMANIAN DELEGATION

The International Seminar on HISTORY of RELIGIONS to mark the centenary of Mircea Eliade (1907-1986) organized in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, during 8-10 October 2007, brought together Indian and Romanian scholars in a highly rewarding academic atmosphere. The Romanian delegation: Dr. Sorin Alexandrescu, Professor, University of Bucharest; Dr. Andrei Oisteanu, President, The Romanian Association for the History of Religions, Centre for the History of Religions, Faculty of History, University of Bucharest; Dr. Eugen Ciurtin, Research Fellow, Centre for the History of Religions, Faculty of History, University of Bucharest, Dr. Gheorghe Stratan, Professor and Head, History of Science, Babes Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca; Dr. Stefan Borbely, Professor, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca; Dr. Traian Penciu, Professor, Targu Mures University of Theatre; Dr. Mihaela Gligor, Researcher, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca branch; Filip-Lucian Iorga from Romanian Cultural Institute (ICR).

see next page

ROMANIAN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

The first celebration of the Romanian National Day in Kolkata was observed on the 2nd December 2007. The reception was held in the Ball Room, Oberoi Grand, Kolkata, and was attended by a large number of dignitaries and the elite social crowd of the city. Over 250 guests attended the Reception. The Ball Room, specially prepared for the occasion with floral decorations, earned considerable praise from the guests.

The Chief Secretary of West Bengal Government Mr. Amit Kiran Deb IAS was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He shared the podium with the Ambassador His Excellency Mr. V. Sofineti and the Honorary Consul of Romania in Eastern India, Mr. B.K. Poddar. He spent considerable time at the party.

National Anthems of Romania and India were played.

The Ambassador of Romania, His Excellency Mr. V. Sofineti, was introduced to most of the dignitaries & prominent businessmen and had fruitful discussion with them during the party.

see next page



Ball Room, Oberoi Grand, Kolkata



Traian Penciu, Mihaela Gligor, Sabina Finaru, Mr. & Mrs. B.K. Poddar, G.Stratan, Dana Sugu, and Filip-Lucian Iorga

The visit of His Excellency the Ambassador of Romania, Mr. Vasile Sofineti, can be considered a curtain raiser for initiating future activities in the setting up of an Indo-Romanian Chamber of Commerce in Kolkata. A number of businessmen have indicated their keen desire to join this forum.

ROMANIAN DELEGATION

The Romanian delegation visited Kolkata during 12th-17th October. Various activities have been organized by the Honorary Consul of Romania in Kolkata. The Romanian delegation visited the following places: the Asiatic Society, Jadavpur University, the Greek Orthodox Church in Kalighat, Mother Teresa's Home, Victoria Memorial, Vedic Village, and a full day visit to Shantiniketan. They have attended a Cultural Programme at Eastern Zone Cultural Centre (EZCC) and have been invited to Cocktails & Reception at Mr. B.K. Poddar's residence. Maitreyi Devi's son, Mr. P. Sen and Mrs. Sen were also present to the Reception.



Cocktails & Reception at Mr. B.K. Poddar's residence

ROMANIAN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Considerable media coverage was arranged by the Honorary Consul. Reporters of The Telegraph, Times of India, Statesman & Ganashakti met the Ambassador and the Honorary Consul.

Television channels have also covered the visit of His Excellency the Ambassador including the National Day reception. An important Bengali News Channel 'Chabbis Ghante' interviewed Mr Poddar during the reception on 2nd December'07. The reporter put forward various questions depicting interest in Romania on business as well as cultural aspects. Mr. Poddar indicated a desire for an ongoing interaction between the two countries in the form of business-cum-tourist groups, performing arts as well as academics.



Chabbis Ghante, a Bengali News Channel, interviewing Mr. B.K. Poddar



Cultural Programme at Eastern Zone Cultural Centre (EZCC)

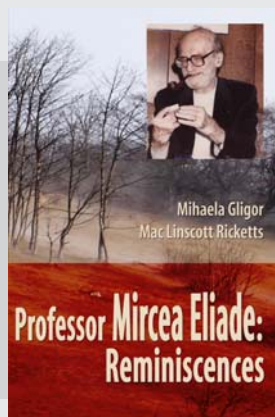
Dr. S.K. Kar, Secretary General, Indo-Romanian Cultural Society – West Bengal also was present in Kolkata during the visit of His Excellency. He will act as a catalyst in initiating favourable response from the West Bengal Government in connection with various activities to commemorate the Birth Centenary celebration of the noted Romanian philosopher Mircea Eliade in Kolkata. Naming of a park and a street in his name as well as installing a plaque on the house where he lived will be some of the activities carried out in coordination with the Government of West Bengal.

A number of Romanians, at present in Kolkata, studying or staying, were also invited to the reception on Sunday, 2nd December'07 evening and thereafter an exclusive luncheon meeting with the Ambassador and the Honorary Consul on Monday, 3rd December'07. They were immensely happy at the prospect of having an exclusive meeting with the Ambassador and also at the setting up of a Honorary Consulate office in Kolkata. Mr. Poddar has been in touch with them during last few months and has promised them all help and cooperation in their effort to promote bilateral ties between the two countries.

33rd KOLKATA BOOK FAIR 29 January – 10 February 2008

Professor Mircea Eliade: Reminiscences

Edited by
Mihaela GLIGOR
and **Mac Linscott
RICKETTS**
Foreword by
Mihaela GLIGOR
Preface by **Mac Linscott
RICKETTS**
Published by
**CODEX Publishing
House, Kolkata**



Tagore's Garden by

Petre TANASOAICA
Translated by
**Muguras Maria
PETRESCU**
Published by
**CODEX Publishing
House, Kolkata**



2008 Kolkata Book Fair - Releasing of Romanian Books

The Ambassador of Romania, His Excellency Mr. V. Sofineti, on 6th February 2008, will release the book "Professor Mircea Eliade: Reminiscences", edited by Ph. D. Mihaela Gligor, present at the Book Fair.

"Tagore's Garden" by Petre Tanasoica is as well released by His Excellency.

Meetings of the Honorary Consul of Romania, Mr. B.K. Poddar

Mr. B.K. Poddar, the Honorary Consul of Romania, visited Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata and Indian Institute of Management, Joka.

■ Mr. B.K. Poddar met, in the Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Karunasindhu Das.

There have been discussions regarding cultural cooperation between their University & Romanian Universities. Prof. K. Das said that they would be very keen to have students from Romania, who wish to get a good idea about Indian philosophy, art & culture with special focus on the teachings and compositions of Rabindranath Tagore.

■ In the Indian Institute of Management, Joka, Mr. B. K. Poddar met the Director, Mr. Shekhar Chaudhuri. They are very much willing to receive students from Romania, of course after they pass through the entrance examination. They are also keen to know what special study and research facilities Indian students can look forward to in Romania.

■ A Tourism Fair has been organized by the West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Ltd in Kolkata from 9th to 13th January'08. Mr. Poddar was invited as Chief Guest for the inauguration by the Managing Director, Mr. Rao.

■ Mr. B.K. Poddar met the Hon'ble Minister for Tourism of West Bengal, Mr. Manabendra Mukherjee, and requested him to consider how Romania could be associated with this annual event. He promised to consider the same and instructed Mr. Rao for a feed-back on the issue.

Please visit the website of the
Honorary Consulate of Romania at
<http://romanian-consulate-kolkata.blogspot.com>
for news related to the Consulate's
activities.

FLORAL EXHIBITION

November 2007

Photo

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Newsletter

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