

St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College, Kolkata

Department of Bengali

Students' Seminar Report

March 6, 2026

1. Introduction

The Department of Bengali at St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College, Kolkata, organised a Departmental Students' Seminar on 6th March, 2026. The central theme of the seminar was Bengali cinema and its many dimensions – with particular focus on the artistic works and cinematic philosophy of some of the most celebrated directors in the history of Bengali film.

The seminar was held as part of the academic curriculum of the department and was conducted with the active participation of faculty members and students. Each presentation illuminated a distinct aspect of Bengali cinema's history and aesthetics.

2. Objectives

The primary aim of this seminar was to cultivate a research-oriented perspective among students regarding Bengali cinema, and to sharpen their aesthetic and critical sensibilities through analysis and discussion of the works of eminent directors. Alongside this, raising awareness about the historical and social context of Bengali cinema was another significant objective of the event.

3. Schedule of Presentations

A total of six presentations were delivered at the seminar. Each presentation focused on a distinguished director of Bengali cinema. A summary of the presentations is provided in the table below:

No.	Presenter	Topic	Films Discussed
1	Sudipta Mondal	Bengali Cinema Through the Eyes of Ritwik Ghatak	<i>Meghe Dhaka Tara</i> • <i>Bari Theke Paliye</i> • <i>Subarnarekha</i>
2	Muskan Ahmed	The Cinematic Journey of Mrinal Sen	<i>Raat Bhor</i> • <i>Neel Akasher Neechey</i> • <i>Baishey Shraban</i>

No.	Presenter	Topic	Films Discussed
3	Shukti Chakraborty	The Cinematic Life of Satyajit Ray	—
4	Moumita Dhali	Progressive Vision in Tarun Majumdar's Films	<i>Chawa Pawa • Dadar Kirti • Aalo</i>
5	Nisha Dey	Rituparno Ghosh in Cinema	<i>Paromitar Ekdin • Unishe April • Chokher Bali • Chitragada</i>
6	Bristi Mondal	Satyajit Ray and Feluda on Screen	—

4. Summary of Presentations

4.1 Bengali Cinema Through the Eyes of Ritwik Ghatak — Sudipta Mondal

Sudipta Mondal analysed three landmark films by Ritwik Ghatak — *Meghe Dhaka Tara*, *Bari Theke Paliye*, and *Subarnarekha*. She demonstrated how the trauma of Partition and the anguish of displacement recur throughout Ghatak's cinema and profoundly shape the inner worlds of his characters. Her presentation highlighted Ghatak's use of myth, music, and melodrama as tools for expressing collective grief.

4.2 The Cinematic Journey of Mrinal Sen — Muskan Ahmed

Muskan Ahmed explored Mrinal Sen's films *Raat Bhor*, *Neel Akasher Neechey*, and *Baishey Shraban*, tracing how Sen, through his parallel cinema movement, translated social realities into the language of art. Her discussion gave special emphasis to the Marxist underpinnings and cinematic experimentation that defined Sen's distinctive voice.

4.3 The Cinematic Life of Satyajit Ray — Shukti Chakraborty

Shukti Chakraborty offered a comprehensive overview of Satyajit Ray's cinematic career — from *Pather Panchali* to *Agantuk*. She examined his long and remarkable creative journey, his techniques of filmmaking, and his unique aesthetic philosophy, presenting a coherent portrait of one of world cinema's greatest auteurs.

4.4 Progressive Vision in Tarun Majumdar's Films — Moumita Dhali

Moumita Dhali discussed how Tarun Majumdar's films — *Chawa Pawa*, *Dadar Kirti*, and *Aalo* — express a commitment to social justice and progressive values. She gave particular attention to Majumdar's portrayal of rural life and the crises of the middle class, highlighting what makes his vision distinct within Bengali popular cinema.

4.5 Rituparno Ghosh in Cinema — Nisha Dey

Nisha Dey examined Rituparno Ghosh's gender consciousness, feminist perspective, and exploration of queer identity through four films: Paromitar Ekdin, Unishe April, Chokher Bali, and Chitrangada. She also drew attention to Ghosh's deep literary sensibility and the exceptional quality of dialogue that distinguished his films.

4.6 Satyajit Ray and Feluda on Screen – Bristi Mondal

Bristi Mondal analysed Satyajit Ray's Feluda films – particularly Sonar Kella and Joi Baba Felunath – exploring how Ray brought the literary detective to vivid life on screen. Her presentation examined how Ray wove the cultural landscape of Kolkata and the physical geography of Rajasthan and Banaras into a distinctly cinematic experience.

5. Discussion and Question-and-Answer Session

Following each presentation, faculty members and fellow students raised questions and participated in lively discussions. Topics that drew particular attention included the reflection of social realities in Bengali cinema, a comparative analysis of the cinematic philosophies of different directors, and the continued relevance of Bengali cinema in the contemporary moment.

6. Conclusion

Overall, the seminar was considered a great success by the faculty of the department. The diligent research and well-structured presentations of the six student presenters effectively illuminated the multifaceted character of Bengali cinema. Events of this nature inspire students to pursue independent inquiry beyond the prescribed curriculum, and deepen their appreciation of Bengali literature and culture.

The Department of Bengali expresses its hope that such student seminars will continue to be organised in the future, fostering a spirit of academic inquiry and cultural engagement among students.

Head of the Department

Department of Bengali
St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College, Kolkata
6th March, 2026



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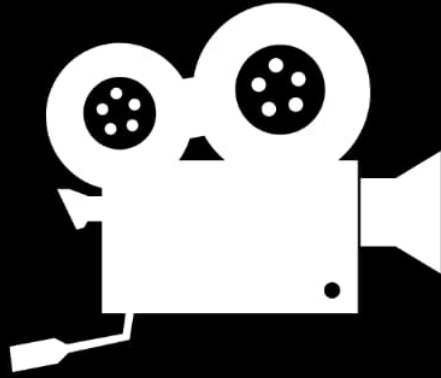


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বাংলা ভাষা ও সাহিত্য বিভাগের আয়োজনে

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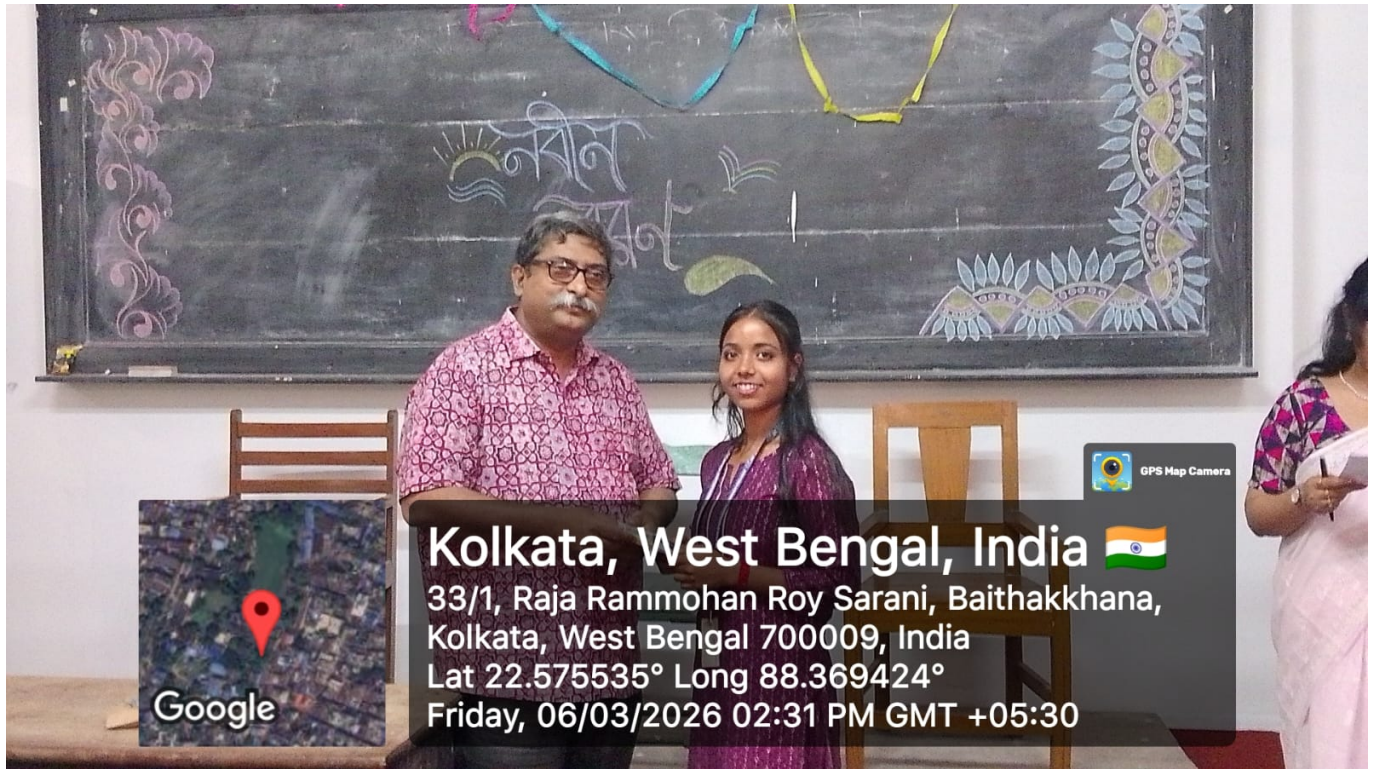


বিষয়: বাংলা চলচ্চিত্রের ইতিহাসে কিংবদন্তি
চলচ্চিত্রকার

তারিখ : ০৬/০৩/২৬ , শুক্রবার , দুপুর ১২ টা

স্থান: ১ নম্বর রুম

॥ সকলকে সুস্বাগতম ॥



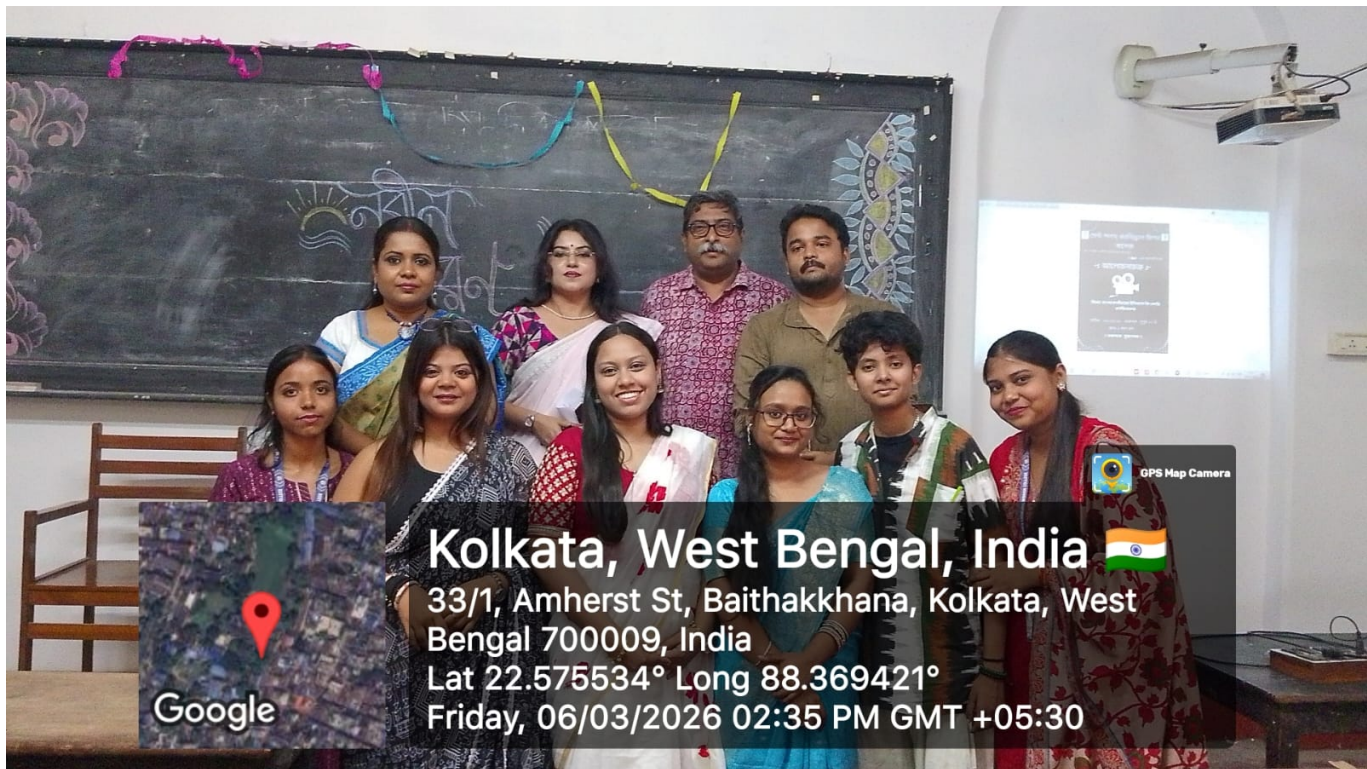
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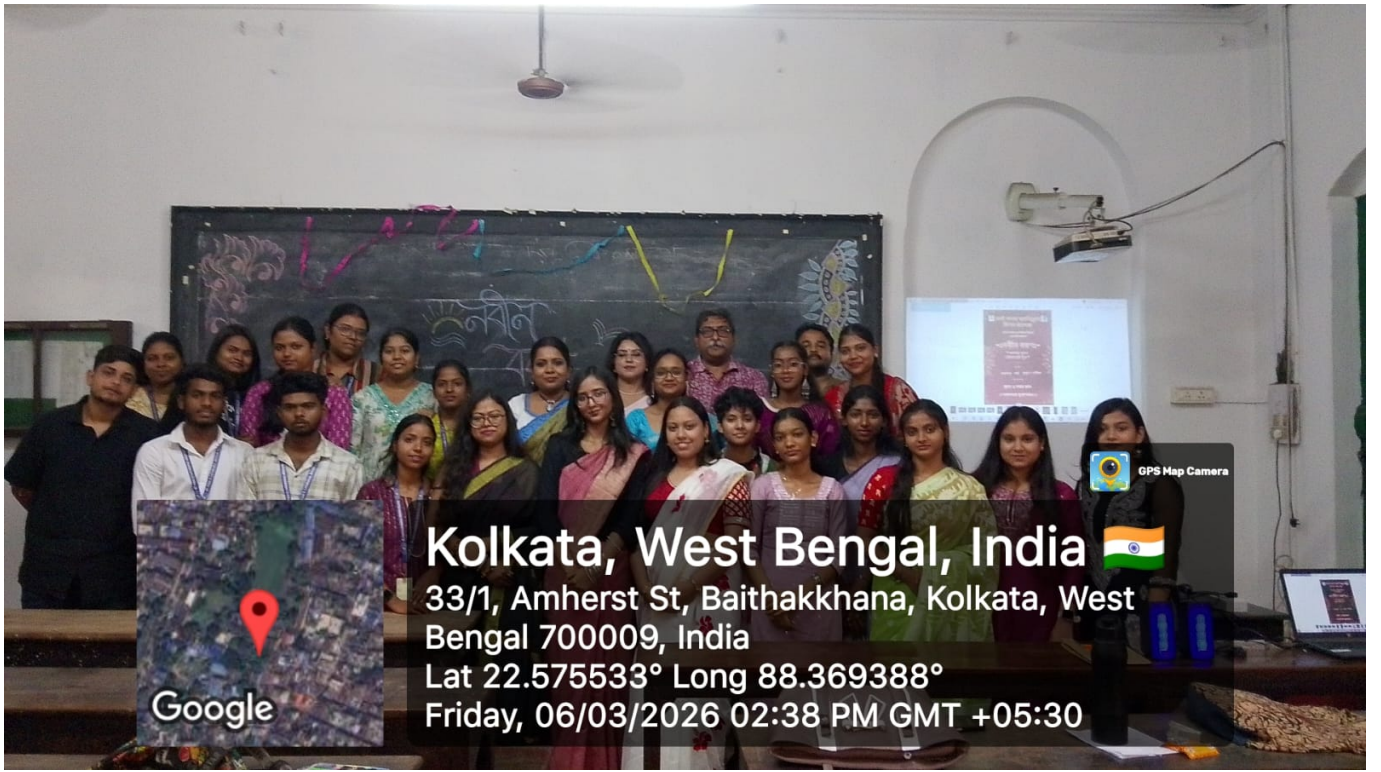
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