



Government of West Bengal
Office of the Block Development Officer
Balagarh Development Block
Patuligram, Hooghly

1. The Balagarh panchayat samity hosted an archive in the conference hall and named it after Panchanan Karmakar as on 13th December, 2022, who first wood-crafted the Bengali alphabet and typeface for printing in the Bengali language. It is a tribute to the great inventor and Hooghly's son of the soil. Karmakar was born at Jirat in Balagarh block. It was Karmakar who in 1778 made it possible to print a book (*A Grammar of the Bengal Language*) using a Bengali typeface.

As BDO of Balagarh, I solemnly state that this archive had been conceived by the local historian and researcher Partha Chattopadhyay, a professor in the Department of Bengali of Balagarh Bijoy Krishna Mahavidyalaya. He donated his entire collections of scripts and other items related to Hooghly to the district administration with an appeal for their preservation.

2. The Hooghly district administration launched a pilot project to educate children of migrant laborers — mostly employed in brick kilns — in local schools so that they are not deprived of basic education during their stay in Bengal.

As most of these labourers are from Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, with their mother tongue being Hindi, the administration has approached voluntary organisations to help them overcome the language barrier, sources said.

In the first phase, 58 children in Jirat, whose parents work in local brick kilns, were admitted to the Ashutosh Smriti Mandir Primary School on January 9.

In the second phase, which began on January 30, the administration has so far admitted 521 children in primary schools under Jirat and Guptipara I Gram

Panchayat-Sources in the Hooghly administration said children of migrant workers of four brick kilns have been admitted to Natagarh Adivasi Primary School, Ashutosh Smriti Mandir Primary School and Char Sultanpur Primary School.

Of the 521 children admitted to schools in the two gram panchayats since January 30, around 30 students from a brick kiln at Somrabazar gram panchayat area have taken admission to Natagarh Adivasi Primary School on March 2. Similarly, 256 children have become students of Char Sultanpur Primary School.

Around 250 children, who are not yet grown up enough to seek admission to schools, are being sent to the Anganwadi centres of Balagarh ICDS Project, said an official of the Hooghly administration.

As BDO of Balagarh Block Hooghly I hereby state that the initial ground initiative to get children of brick kiln workers enrolled in schools was conceptualised under the NSS programme of Jirat Colony High School and Balagarh Bijoy Krishna Mahavidyalaya in Jirat, Hooghly. The NSS programme sought to inculcate literacy among children of brick kiln workers in the region.

Specially it was conceptualized by NSS Program Officer of Balagarh Bijoy Krishna Mahavidyalaya, Partha Chattopadhyay, who is also a teacher of the Bengali department. The NSS unit of this college under the supervision of him set up the Biplabi Bhupati Majumdar Aboitanik Pathshala, a free school under the open sky, on a field near a brick kiln in Jirat last year. Our aim is to provide basic education and food to these children. To broaden the scope of our work, we approached the administration for support and they responded favourably.

I hereby admitted that Partha Chattopadhyay and his students successfully motivated parents of these children and brought them into the realm of education.


Block Development Officer
Balagarh Hooghly
30.10.23
Block Development Officer,
Balagarh Development Block, Hooghly