



Making New Friends

Regional Bengali Conference 2010

Hosted by Bengali Association of Greater Nashville

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Welcome to Regional Bengali Conference 2010 (RBC 2010)

Bengali Association of Greater Nashville (BAGN) is excited to host the first **Regional Bengali Conference**, the **Ancholik Banga Sammelan**, from July 16-18, 2010 at Embassy Suites in Franklin, Tennessee, a southern suburb of Nashville.



The Music City, Nashville

The Music City USA will see glimpse of "**Ruposhi Bangla**" through our cultural extravaganza at the Ancholik Banga Sammelan in 2010. Bengali music will join the ranks of country, jazz, blues, and other music genres that call Nashville

Our Youth Forum team will provide a vibrant program package for children, teenagers, and youth. They will have opportunities to participate in debates on current topics, discussions on career paths, and future networking, talent shows, and many more such agenda items.

For first the time, Soumit's World Foundation will sponsor and organize a unique Regional Music Contest during this conference.

A Business forum will bring together business personnel and entrepreneurs from both sides of Bengal, and their American counterparts, for collaboration and possible joint ventures.

For corporate sponsors and vendors, this event will provide an opportunity to promote their businesses. With an anticipated few thousands attendees from every walk of life, sponsors can aim for successful exposure of their business.

Lastly, food is an integral part of any Bengali gathering. We welcome you to enjoy a variety of Indian/Bengali food specially catered for you.

A note from the Publication Committee

Greetings from the Publication & Publicity Committee members of RBC 2010!

This is our first newsletter focusing on the proposed program and other related topics of the upcoming RBC 2010 in July. However, our next issue onwards, we do plan to provide you a mix of information, along with some literature and similar things of Bengali culture.

We will publish your articles and also news matters, both written in Bengali and English, and also print small artwork, etc. We will also have columns dealing with contemporary issues, important and interesting to most of us. We also plan to advertise your specific business matters, for a minimal cost. Please contact us for further details on that.

Please send us your article/artwork/advertisement, so that all Bengalis around the United States can have a glimpse of that.

Contact Information

Publication & Publicity Committee

Arup Bandyopadhyay
arupb@hotmail.com

Editorial Board

Amitabha Chakrabarti, Arijit Basu,
 Debajyoti Biswas, Niharika Ojha,
 Ranjan Ganguly, Sharmistha Ganguly

Committee Members

Amitabha Chakrabarti	Niharika Ojha
Arati Bhattacharya	Pamela Chaudhury
Arijit Basu	Ranjan Ganguly
Ashok Choudhury	Saikat Sengupta
Debajyoti Biswas	Sharmistha Ganguly
James Hawkins	Shelley Choudhury
Kimberly Choudhury	Shilina C. Brown
Koel Chatterjee	Tapan Mukherjee

Goals of RBC 2010

Bengal is a land of rich cultural heritage. The Bengalis living anywhere in the world nurture them. They blend it with the culture of the land, creating many new horizons in their social and personal life. BAGN is no exception. The most benefited ones of these awesome mingling processes are our kids, the second generation living here in the United States.

However, this special upbringing needs special care. One of these processes is arrangement of conferences, that present the cultural spectrum from Bengal, both West Bengal and Bangladesh. BAGN is going to do that right here in Greater Nashville, TN i.e., the Music City USA.

About Nashville

Many movies have been made about Nashville, the capital of Tennessee. Enough books about the Music City have been written to fill a bookcase. And, of course, scores of songs are dedicated to this city of music. While music is the lifeblood of Nashville, visitors will also find here a city of culture and history, haute cuisine, professional sports, outstanding academics, natural beauty,

and pure Southern charm. Nashville is a place where the past and the future peacefully coexist and build, one on the other, to create a destination that appeals to the interests of every visitor. This city is alive. Bengali music will join the ranks of country, jazz, blues, and other music genres that call Nashville home, at RBC 2010.

Things to do in Nashville

The downtown area of Nashville features a diverse assortment of entertainment, dining, cultural, and architectural attractions. The Broadway and Second Avenue areas feature live music venues, country music joints, night clubs, and a plethora of restaurants. North of Broadway FEATURES Nashville's central business district, Legislative Plaza, Capitol Hill, and the Tennessee Bicentennial Mall. Cultural and architectural attractions are abundant and can be found throughout the city.

The very name of Nashville evokes vivid images—a single spotlight illuminating a microphone, skyscrapers towering protectively over the Mother Church of Country Music, stately Southern mansions, a Greek temple sitting serenely

on a grassy knoll. The area's many attractions paint a picture of this unique Southern city and leave an indelible impression on all who visit.

An unparalleled experience is to be had by visiting the Grand Ole Opry (www.opry.com), long claimed to be the ultimate destination stage for musicians. A performance at this historical auditorium is a sign of accomplishment and a major milestone in any musician's career.

Beyond music, Nashville also hosts numerous professional sports teams. The Tennessee Titans professional football team (www.titansonline.com) and Nashville Predators professional hockey team are just an introductory sampling to liven your sports spirit.

For a scenic itinerary, treat yourself to a walk through the beautiful campus of the prestigious Vanderbilt University. Then head over to the nearby Parthenon – an awe-inspiring replica of the original monument in Athens, Greece. An impeccable example of the plantation life awaits at the historic Belle Meade plantation and garden. Stroll through breathtaking gardens and scenery at the nationally renowned Cheekwood Botanical Garden.

Nashville is also home to the Sri Ganesha Temple (www.ganeshatemple.org), regarded to be one of the most beautiful Hindu temples in the southeastern United States. Find serenity and calm as you experience this mystical temple adorned with intricate carvings and sculptures.

Things to do Outside Nashville

Although Nashville boasts a lengthy itinerary of activities for any desired undertaking, the surrounding areas are abundant with multiple opportunities.

Not sure what your experience palate fancies? Take an excursion and visit some incomparable leisure locations around Nashville. Relieve the summer heat and hike to the bottom of Fall Creek Falls (www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/FallCreekFalls) and Burgess Falls for a refreshing swim. Visit one of the largest freshwater aquariums in the world in Chattanooga, Tennessee (www.tnaqua.org). Travel back in time and down to the cooling depths of the Mammoth Caves (www.nps.gov/macaca) near Bowling Green, Kentucky. Immerse yourself in space travel at NASA (www.msfc.nasa.gov) in Huntsville, Alabama.

When you visit us at the RBC 2010 in Nashville, prepare to indulge in a unique and unrivaled Southern cultural experience.

About Franklin

The City of Franklin was founded by Abram Maury, Jr. (1766-1825), a State Senator, and named after Benjamin Franklin. This quaint suburb of Nashville has grown from a very small, agricultural community into a strong blend of residential, commercial, and corporate citizens. Franklin, Tennessee currently blossoms with upscale restaurants such as Bonfish Grille, Carrabba's Italian Grille, Sperry's Restaurant, Stoney River Grille, and Bucca di Beppo, etc. The area is also abundant with favorite American food chains, like Red Lobster, Famous Dave's, Ruby Tuesday, Wolfgang Puck, Chili's, TGI Friday's, and PF Chang, etc.

Embassy Suites is located in the popular Cool Springs area of Franklin, home to Nashville's best and most upscale shopping mall, Cool Springs Galleria Mall (www.coolspringsgalleria.com).

Franklin Downtown is a well-preserved historic area. Guided tours of the downtown

center are available by foot (www.franklinonfoot.com). The Factory (www.factoryatfranklin.com) is also a favorite place to visit for variety shopping and dining. The area is notably popular for Franklin's Main Street Festival, a street festival that brings more than 200 artisans, four stages, and two carnivals to the historic Franklin Square and Downtown District.



Embassy Suites Hotel
Nashville-South/Cool Springs

Events

RBC 2010 warmly invites you to explore the cultural richness of Bengal in a distinctive approach during three event packed days. You will enjoy performances of top class artists from variety of genres from both sides of Bengal.



Here is a glimpse of the cultural nights:

"INDIA NITE": Friday, July 16, 2010

Friday night will spotlight the rich cultural heritage of India. The cultural program will incorporate artists who are well established to Indian audiences, as well as Bengali audiences, to promote a cohesive celebration of Indian culture.

"DUI BANGLAR MILAN": Saturday, July 17, 2010

Bengal may be divided geographically, but culturally and socially they are more together than apart. On this day, the event lineup will focus on union of Bengali cultures and "sankskriti". You will enjoy

programs by artists that will represent the best of Bangladesh and India.

"SALUTE TO AMERICA": Sunday, July 18, 2010

One common factor among all of us is our connection to America and the unique experiences of being Bengali-American. First and Second generation participants of RBC 2010 will bring forth the talent and creativity of their global culture with a modern/fusion approach.

Soumit's World Foundation will organize a Regional Music Contest, which will begin in spring of 2010 and will conclude with the finale at our RBC 2010. Specific information will be provided soon THROUGH OFFICAL RBC 2010 WEBSITE.



Overseas Events: The RBC Committee or its delegates visiting Kolkata and Dhaka will invite celebrities/promoters/overseas coordinators to generate a unique entertainment program for you. Names will be published in the near future.



Domestic Events: Cultural organizations across the United States are welcomed to participate in RBC 2010. Groups with 6 or more participants will be allotted a 30 minute time slot free of charge. All other groups will be asked to purchase their time slots. The Cultural Committee of RBC 2010 reserves the right to allow certain well established groups to perform without charge. Specific information will be released shortly.



Youth Forum

Over the years, a lot of young voices of Bengali origin were heard saying that the generation growing up in America does not connect with the Bengali culture. They feel alienated in large gatherings, like these Bengali Conferences. The Bengali Conferences are full of famous and glorious performers coming from Bengal and elsewhere and performing to our heart's desire. The nostalgic feelings evoked by these programs come from our background, the days and years we spent where we grew up before we came to this country. We connect with it and enjoy it, because we lived in that culture and heritage, and were a part of it. However, it is indeed very true that our children who are either born here or came here at a very early age do not and cannot feel the same way as we do, and that is for obvious reasons. They do tend to remember their and their parents' roots; however, they correlate more with contemporary American culture than anything else.



The Youth Forum at the RBC 2010 is targeted to achieve a full involvement and participation for the youth, who are typically referred to as the "second generation" here. We would like to invite all of the younger generation to come forward and join and celebrate the festivity in their own way. We would like to design tailored programs of their choice that will be entertaining as well as educational. We will welcome new ideas from the youth and will encourage leadership from the youth to execute such ideas. There will be two wings of the Youth Forum in the upcoming



RBC 2010, one geared towards the youth participants who are below 18 years of age, and another one targeting the youths who are above 18.

Below 18 Youth Forum:

The following are a few suggested events to start with. The success of each event will depend on the level of enthusiastic participation. We would love to have one or two volunteers from the younger generation for each event, who will be responsible for the event from start to finish. Needless to say, we will be there to help.

- Suggested events
- Wall Magazine for the

Youngsters

- Talent Show
- Fashion Show
- Social Programs/Dance
- Karaoke Sessions
- Breakout Sessions with Celebrities
- Age-appropriate Movies, Games, and other Fun Activities
- Debate
- Seminar
- Career Panel Discussion and Networking with Other Professionals in the Community for Future Career Goals

Above 18 Youth Forum:



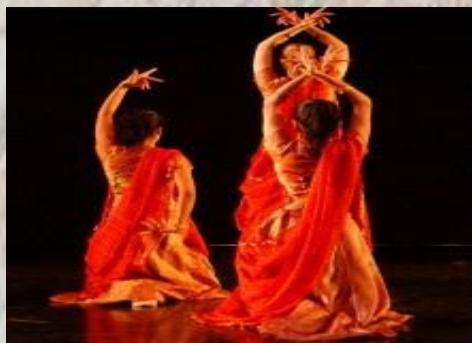
Articles and writings received from participating youths will be printed in the youth section of the RBC 2010 magazine. A separate registration center will be placed for participants over 18 in order to facilitate networking. This event will provide an opportunity for young adults to talk about/discuss their own experiences of being second generation youths of Indian origin growing up in America, while also giving them a platform to give advice and answer questions about college selection or careers.

Furthermore, publicity through Facebook for regular updates and pre-networking through Facebook the event-RBC 2010 is underway.



Suggested events:

- Cultural programs
- Talent shows
- Fashion shows
- Seminars
- Youth night's dance and mixer



Last but not the least, all the youth registered independently (above age 18) or registered with their parents (below 18) will have access to all the cultural events outside the Youth Forum specific activities.

Business Forum:

The purpose of the business forum is to bring together business personnel and entrepreneurs from both sides of Bengal (West Bengal, India and Bangladesh) and their American counterparts in an informal, relaxed and an appropriate cultural setting for networking and possible joint ventures. As an outcome of this forum, a network of businesses and entrepreneurs will be established and tangible collaborative efforts will be forged to further business opportunities in India, Bangladesh, as well as in the United States.



Themes for the forum:

1. Establishment of research parks in West Bengal with specific focus on Bio-technology, Nano-technology and Green Industries.
2. Enhancement of collaboration among higher educational institutes for more on-line, e-learning and collaborative research.
3. Opportunities for increasing bi-lateral trade and commerce.

4. Financial planning and opportunities for Indian Americans to invest and profit from growing capital markets in India.
5. Establishment of one-stop shop for various services (to include health and education) needed in both lands.

Format of the forum:

1. Each theme will run concurrently, where speakers will present their views and exchange ideas with the help of moderators.
2. Following the conclusion of the breakout sessions, a plenary session will be conducted, where summary of each session will be presented with follow-up actions.

The forum will start at 10.0 am on Saturday July 17, 2010 (tentative) and will conclude with its plenary session at 4.0 pm the same day.

To participate in this forum as a presenter or as an interested party, please complete the Business Forum form and mail to the address provided there.

Corporate Sponsors:

Corporate Sponsors at the event will generate goodwill with the community at large, and enhance opportunities for business. People of multiple ethnicities are expected to attend. Please seize this opportunity to promote your business.

Vendors:

This will be a platform for the Vendors to present a unique marketing opportunity to showcase business possibilities for three consecutive days. The exclusive booths of clothing, jewelry, handicrafts, books, music, etc. will be attended by affluent individuals and families, who will be eager to spend. Please take advantage and promote your business at very reasonable price.

Please visit the website www.rbc2010online.org for detailed information and to download necessary forms.

LINKING DIFFERENT INSTITUTES TOGETHER:

One integral part of the cultural heritages of Bengal deeply roots in the history of trade and commerce. Saptagram, Tamralipi, Hooghly are the famous ports of Bengal from the ancient days. In the modern world, all the units of a society are closely interlaced. The success of an event depends on the participation of different institutions. We are thankful to all the business houses and vendors who are coming to RBC 2010. RBC 2010 will feature booths, exhibiting clothing, jewelry, handicrafts, books, music, etc..

Environment:

One important responsibility of modern day parents is to educate their kid(s) on the environmental matters. They need to participate in maintaining an ecological balance. There will be presentations on the protection of the environment in RBC 2010.

Healthcare and Wellness:

Many healthcare professionals on both sides of the Ocean are eager to transfer and share their experience and expertise among them. RBC 2010 will feature several renowned personnel with expertise in this specialized field.

Photography:

One essential feature of modern life is the presence of cameras everywhere. Many of our kids and young adults take awesome photos. RBC 2010 is an excellent place to showcase their photographic talent.

Soumit's World Foundation and RBC 2010:

Soumit's World Foundation (SWF), a private non-profit organization registered in Tennessee is dedicated to fulfill dreams of gifted and talented less fortunate children and young adults for better academic, musical, artistic, and economic opportunities all over the world. SWF's motto is "LOVE LIFE AND HELP OTHERS."

What SWF has planned for the young Bengali Generation is a great one. SWF will organize a Regional Music Contest, which will begin in spring of 2010 and will conclude with the finale at the RBC 2010. Please visit the website <http://www.soumitworld.org> for more information.

