

You may soon be able to go on literary tour of your city

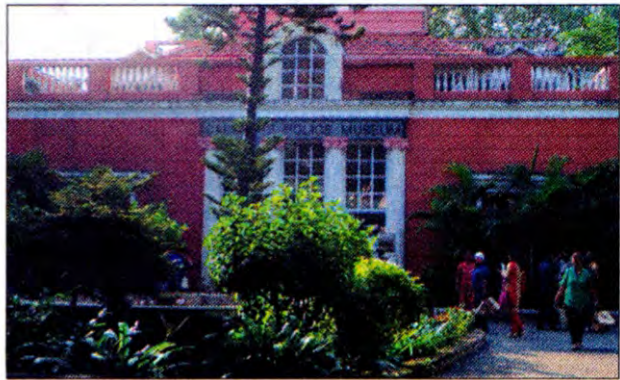
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KOLKATA: Did you know Calcutta Police Museum was among the many houses of Raja Ram Mohan Roy where he met his friends from Europe?

In 1830, in preparation for his departure for England, Raja Ram Mohan Roy had auctioned this house. And Sandesh, the popular Bengali children's magazine, was published from a two-storeyed building on 100 A Garpar Road. Satyajit Ray lived in that house till 1926. Well, Kolkata has always been known for its rich heritage. The city is also home to some of the most celebrated authors. But how many of us really know about their residence or the way they used to work? In order to evince interest among young readers of Bengali literature, a literary heritage tour (including residence of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Rammohan Library, residence of Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury and Sahitya Parishad, among others) was conducted on Sunday as part of the Apeejay Bangla Sahitya Utsob 2016.

And if everything goes according to plan, then next year onwards more such heritage tours will be part of the literature festival to attract readers of Bengali



■ The Police Museum was Raja Ram Mohan Roy's house. PRATEEK CHOUDHURY

literature. "It's our responsibility to spread the treasure trove of Bengali literature to more readers. Nowadays, many youngsters are not hooked onto Bengali literature. But more literature festivals and literary heritage tours will help revive our association with the Bengal literary legacy," said Swagat Sengupta, chief executive officer, Oxford Bookstore. Sengupta also said that the bookstore plans to organise more such heritage tours.

That's not all. This year, the lit fest, which will be held on October 21 and 22, will also organise cosplay and graffiti of Bengali literary characters. Quiz sessions, short essay and poetry writing contests will also be held.

Bengali literature has also largely contributed to Tollywood films. In fact, in the last few years, some of the biggest Bengali films, which have raked in the moolah at the box office, are based on Bengali literature. Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay of Patra Bharati Group of Publications said several seminars on Bengali cinema and theatre will also be held as part of the upcoming lit fest.

Authors Sanjib Chattopadhyay, and Nabaneeta Dev Sen will be present at the inauguration of the lit fest on October 21. Other popular authors such as Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay, Bani Basu, Samaresh Majumdar and Krishnendu Mukherjee will also grace the occasion.