



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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Economics Society of the Department of Economics, Maulana Azad College, Kolkata: A Brief Profile

Economics Society, a venture of the students of Economics Honours of Maulana Azad College, Kolkata, is a unique feature of the Department of Economics of the college. This is perhaps the only such society not only in the college, but also in the world of economics in the state (at the college level, at least).

The formation of the society – brainchild of the 2018-19 CBCS first batch of students – took place sometime in early 2022 and since then the Society has smoothly been functioning (during the Covid period, the Society mostly ran its activities through on-line mode). The Society started its journey after having received the go-ahead signal from the Principal of the college. The objectives of the Society are to encourage the students' involvement in the academic discussions related to the current affairs, especially economic and social issues, through regular debates, seminars and webinars, symposiums, quizzes, inter-college competitions etc. and also to inculcate among the students' extra-curricular activities.

The Economics Society though is yet to formalize its legal existence, efforts are on to register the Society under the Society's Registration Act (of West Bengal) so that it may enjoy legal status and as well as ensure some sort of durability and financial transparency. Accordingly, till date, the governance structure has mostly been informal. While the Principal of the college is the Chief Patron, the Head of the Department is the Patron of the Economics Society. The members of the Society – primarily comprising of the representation from all the three years of the Honours stream – elect a President and two Vice Presidents through a voting process, who act as the office bearers of the body; the tenure of the office bearers is of 1 year. Apart from the office bearers, there are two Core Committees – Social Media Team (SMT) and Public Relations Team (PRT) – and a Treasurer and a Co-Treasurer. The team members are selected through mutual discussions and based on the inclination of the members (e.g. while someone may be more interested in social media, another person may enjoy assignments related to public relations). Both the SMT and the PRT have a Director and an Assistant Director to coordinate the activities of the respective teams. It needs to be mentioned that membership of the Society is not mandatory; further, the membership is open to students from other disciplines/departments in the college. Each year at the beginning of the new session, the senior students address the new comers by briefing about the Society and its activities so as to motivate them to join the body. An aspiring new member faces an interaction meeting with the seniors of the Society which facilitates the existing members to judge the expertise or interests of the new member and, accordingly, he/she is assigned to a particular core committee.

Every year, the Society organizes **Ecopolemics** – an inter-college competition which consists of several events: essay writing, extempore speech, debate, online trading etc. The event attracts young participants and teams from different colleges and universities in Kolkata, including teams from the host college; the judges and speakers come from various academic institutions in the city and also persons from other fields, e.g. bankers. It needs to be mentioned that the first edition of the Ecopolemics, incidentally, had been held in September 2019, i.e. earlier than the (in)formal creation of the Society and through the organization of this event the seeds of the Economics Society were sown. The event has been organized annually since 2019 barring the Covid years of 2020 and 2021. Apart from hosting the Ecopolemics, the Society has organized webinars and also career counselling sessions. The creation of the **Economics Society** marks a high point of the Department of Economics and it is hoped that the activities of the Society will flourish once it acquires the legal status in the near future.


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