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Department of Political Science
SHRI SHIKSHAYATAN COLLEGE

With Best Compliments to Urvashi Gupta .
06.09.2017.

perception

Department of Political Science

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SHRI SHIKSHAYATAN COLLEGE, KOLKATA

PERCEPTION

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FOREWORD

(Dr. Aditi Dey)

We are in the midst of exciting times in the Department of Political Science. Our collaborative academic projects have taken off. Perception has begun its onward journey as a journal traversing inter-departmental academic milestones, with an assigned ISSN (print).

We are delighted to record the enthusiasm and diligence of our students to participate in this academic exercise. Needless to say efforts of the faculty of the department as well as others in the college have contributed significantly to the encouraging evolution of Perception.

My best wishes always.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aditi Dey'.

September, 2017



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Dated: July 21, 2015

Principal,
Shri Shikshayatan College,
11, Lord Sinha Road,
Kolkata

Dear Sir/Madam,
महोदय /महोदया

We are happy to inform you that the following serial(s) published by you has been registered and assigned ISSN (Print)

हमें आपको यह सूचित करते हुए प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि निम्नलिखित प्रकाशन पंजीकृत कर लिए गये हैं एवं प्रिंट आई.एस.एस.एन. अर्बन्धित कर दिये गये हैं

ISSN 2464-4353

Perception

It is important that the ISSN should be printed on every issue preferably at the right hand top corner of the cover page.

प्रकाशन की प्रत्येक प्रति के ऊपर पेज के दाहिने ओर के ऊपरी सिरे पर आई.एस.एस.एन. उपा हीना आवश्यक है।

We will be responsible for monitoring the use of ISSN assigned to Indian Serials and for supplying up-to-date data of the same to the International Centre for ISSN, Paris. For this purpose we request you to send us the forth coming issue of your serial on complimentary basis.

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय केंद्र की जिम्मेदारी होगी कि वह भारतीय पत्रिकाओं को अर्बन्धित आई.एस.एस.एन की जांच करेगा एवं उद्यतन डाटा की जानकारी इंटरनेशनल सेंटर फॉर आई.एस.एस.एन. पेरिस को भेजेगा। अतः आपसे अनुरोध है कि हम कार्य हेतु प्रकाशन की एक प्रति आई.एस.एस.एन प्रिंट करके सम्मानार्थ भेंट हमें भेजें।

We solicit your co-operation in this regard.
आपके सहयोग के लिए हम आभारी रहेंगे।

भवदीय

G. Mahesh

For (G. Mahesh)

हेड

नेशनल साइंस संकेतरी एवं आई. एस. एस. एन.

EDITOR'S DESK

The issue of Perception Vol: 8 has been published on the prestigious occasion of the Tenth Belarani De Memorial lecture to be held on September 6, 2017. It is a preparation for one year to meet the quality of this journal assigned with an ISSN. This journal is also registered in the list of ISSN journals maintained by the central body.

With the last year we were accredited for three times by the NAAC. The team had expressed their immense satisfaction about the activities and output of the department. That was a great encouragement for the students as well as for the faculty members.

This year the feeling is a mixed one enveloped with both the pleasure as well as pain. Mahashweta Sen Roy, our beloved colleague Mahashweta di, is no more with us. She was the editor of this journal since its inception till her retirement. Her vibrancy, supportive and affectionate nature was magical. The Departmental practices owe a lot to her.

In an institution, a vacuum is easily filled up by a natural flow of replacement with ease and competence. Smt Urmi Gupta, the Associate professor of the Department of Political science has received the Faculty Development Fellowship for completing her doctoral study. Ms Debolina Mukherjee and Dr. Siuli Mukherjee the two Assistant Professors of the Department have taken up all types of academic and related responsibilities. Without their immense care and eagerness, the publication of Perception of this year would have been difficult. We have successfully carried out years of observed departmental practices. From this year, the Department has started with the practice of watching and reviewing a contemporary movie, socially relevant. The enthusiasm and spirit of the students are reflected in the pages of Perception and in the collages of the photo gallery. The Editorial Board of the Perception comprises of the faculties as well as the students. This additional responsibility equips the students to learn about the elementary techniques of editing, how to handle page and budget constraints and above all to work as a team to meet the target. Moreover this involvement is reflected in their studies too. They are more and more interested in higher studies as well as in professional courses. As a result our connectivity to many more institutions are getting enhanced day by day. Career opportunities are now not only restricted to handful number of universities or self financed post graduate studies in Kolkata but has extended to other universities like BHU, IISWBM and O P Jindal Global University. In near future we have a plan to open up a career counseling cell in our department motivating the students to avail newer avenues of studies.

I thank the Principal and the College Authority for extending their whole hearted support for the making of this issue.

Pratinup, the printer is to get the due credit from us.

Hope this issue will be appreciated and accepted.

Dr Mandar Mukherjee
(mmukharjee19@gmail.com)

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IN MEMORIAM

Smt. Mahashweta Sen (Roy)

(1954-2017)

Department of Political Science

(1980-2014)

Shri Shikshayatan College

The management, faculty, and staff of Shri Shikshayatan College deeply mourn the untimely and sad demise of Smt. Mahashweta Sen (Roy), an alumnus and former H.O.D (1999 to 2008) of Political Science, who left for her heavenly abode in the early hours of 30th January 2017.

After graduating from the Department of Political Science of this college in 1975, Smt. Sen joined the Department as a faculty in 1980 and served the institution till her superannuation in June 2014, contributing immensely to the academic and non-academic life of the institution. She also served the Institution as one of the members of the Governing Body, as NAAC Coordinator, as Teachers' Council Secretary, and as the Editor of the College Magazine – Shikshayatan Patrika.

A dedicated teacher and a perfectionist to the core, her cheerful nature, student-friendly attitude, eloquence and mastery over the subject endeared her to her students. As a colleague she was helpful, accommodative, understanding and open to new suggestions. Her passion for work and strong sense of duty made her live up to all the expectations and commitments.

We salute the determination, optimism and indomitable spirit of resilience and fortitude exhibited by her in overcoming both physical and personal adversities. She will be truly missed by all of us. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family. We pray to the almighty to give peace to her departed soul.

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES 2016-17

Dr. Siuli Mukherjee

The academic session of the Department of Political Science commenced with the scheduled **Academic Extension Activity Programme** from 30.7.16 to 31.7.16. It is a collaborative programme with the Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati, Sriniketan. Our Third Year students participated and presented a Report.

On 07.09.2016 (Wednesday), the Department celebrated the most important academic event of the College, **Balarani De Memorial Lecture** in collaboration with the Srja, the Alumni Association of the Shri Shikshayatan College. The Ninth Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Asok Kumar Mukhopadhyay, former Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Professor of Political Science, University of Calcutta. The topic of his lecture was 'Relevance of Kautilya in our time'. On the same day the Vol. 7 of the Departmental Journal '**PERCEPTION**' was released with the ISSN 2454-4353. The Report of the Academic Extension Activity Programme collaborated with the Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati, Sriniketan was released on that day. The programme ended with a lively interactive session.

The first year students participated in the Model United Nations (MUN) programme organized by the Bhawanipur Educational Society College from 24.8.16 – 26.8.16. The students represented themselves as delegates of different countries.

The NAAC Peer Team visited the college for re-accreditation for the Third Cycle from 15.9.16 to 17.09.16 and the Department of Political Science gave their presentation on 16.9.16 (Friday). All the necessary documents of the Department of Political Science under the guidelines of IQAC have been arranged and displayed before the NAAC Team. The Head of the Department Dr. Mandar Mukherjee gave the power-point presentation of the departmental profile before the NAAC Peer Team on that day. The team work of the teachers and the students for meeting the requirement of NAAC were really commendable and noteworthy.

The second year students of the department under the supervision of Ms. Debollna Mukherjee were taken for an institutional visit to Kolkata Municipal Corporation on 3.10.16 and submitted the report later on. Dr. T.K. Mukherjee, retired Medical Officer of Kolkata Municipal Corporation coordinated the entire visit.

The students of the Department of Political Science celebrated the College **Active Learning Day** on 11.11.16 under the supervision of the faculty of the Department. The students formed different groups in reviewing articles, movie and give power point presentation on different issues.

The departmental faculty Dr. Urmi Gupta went for her Faculty Development Programme to complete her ongoing doctoral research from November 2016.

The author is Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College.

LIST OF NEW ARRIVALS (2016-2017)

1. Socialism: A Study; Mahavir Prasad Mevarka (2013)
2. Religion, Patriarchy and Capitalism: Jayanti Alam (2013)
3. Deteriorating Centre-State Relationships: Causes and Concerns. K.B.Kapoor (2016)
4. 'Pratyaha' - Everyday Life Worlds: Dilemmas, Contestations and Negotiations. Prasanta Roy (2016)
5. The writing of Rajni Kothari: Politics in India: Caste in Indian Politics: Rethinking Democracy: Rajni Kothari (2009)
6. India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy. Ramachandra Guha (2008)
7. Patriots and Partisans: Ramachandra Guha (2013)
8. Gandhi before India. Ramachandra Guha (2014)
9. Public Administration Today. B.K.Verma (2014)
10. Mapping Human Rights and Subalterns in Modern India: Jagannatham Began (2014)
11. Religion, Caste and Politics in India: Christopher Jaffrelot (2011)
12. Peet and the Plowman. L.K.Elmhirst (Reprint- 2008)
13. Calcutta Municipal Gazette. Subhas Chandra Bose Birth Centenary No: The Kolkata Corporation (1997)
14. Calcutta Municipal Gazette: Tagore Memorial Special Supplement: The Kolkata Corporation, (5th Ed) (2010)
15. Calcutta Municipal Gazette: Bipin Chandra Pal: The Kolkata Corporation (2010)
16. Forgotten Citizens of Calcutta: Monmohan Ghosh. The Kolkata Corporation (2013)
17. Gitanjali: S.K.Basu (Translated); (2003)
18. Spiral Binding of PERCEPTION (2008-2016)
19. Spiral Binding of the Brochures of Bela Rani Dey Memorial Lecture (2008-2016)
20. Round Volume-1- Reports of Institutional Visit (2005-2016)
21. CDs on Power-point Presentation by the faculty.
22. A Journey across the Indian Constitution. Amal Kumar Mukhopadhyay (2017)
23. Neighbours: Major Powers and Indian Foreign Policy: Aneek Chatterjee, (2017)

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITY 2016-2017



Speaker Dr Asok Mukherjee - Belarani De Memorial Lecture 2016
Inauguration and the release of 'PERCEPTION'



Release of PERCEPTION - 2016

ORIENTATION LECTURE
By
Kaushik Roy Bandhan
30.03.2017



PRK - AT BANARAN
Honour's Students
I, II and III Year
09.08.2016

Active Learning Day - 2016
Release of the Weekly News Letter
by
Dr. Aditi Dey, Principal

Tri-lingual - PERCEPTION
2016

An Academic Extension Activity
 In Collaboration with
 The Department of Social Work
 Visva Bharati
 30.07.2016-31.07.2016



An Institutional Visit to
 The Kolkata Municipal Corporation
 03.10.2016



COM-MUN-ICATION

The confluence of budding diplomats and policymakers over three days truly helped the delegates broaden their view of the world and understand multitude of problems faced by several nations.

24th-26th August 2016



SHARING THE EXPERIENCE
 ONE DAY ORIENTATION SESSION
 WITH THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



2014-2017
DEPARTMENTAL AWARD



Anika Das
Highest in C.U.
Exam-Part I&II



Marim Timal
Highest in
Selection Test
Three Years



Anana Jaiswal
All-Rounder



Ritika Baid
Highest Attendance



Ritika Das
Congeniality and helpful personality



Aparna Mitra
Technical Assistance



Bhobha Chatterjee
Best Artist



Rakata Paul
Congeniality and helpful personality



Priya Tiwari
Leadership

A REPORT ON
ACTIVE LEARNING DAY : 2016-2017

The Active Learning Day is a significant event in the academic calendar of the department as well as the college. In the academic session 2016-2017, the Active Learning Day was celebrated on November 11, 2016. The day started with a welcome address by the Head of the Department Dr. Mandar Mukherjee and was graced by the presence of the Principal Dr. Aditi Dey who illuminated the students about the relevance of the 'Active Learning Day'. Dr. Dey released the first Newsletter of the Session. The Day was celebrated by the positive participation of the students of First, Second and Third Year.

BEST YOUTH

The First Year students under the supervision of the faculty, presented a review of the article "Letters and the Man. Politics and Play" by Ramachandra Guha, published in the Telegraph on 1.10.2016. In addition to this, the first year Honours students made a presentation on their experience of MUN (Model United Nations).

The Second Year Honours students made a power-point presentation on their Institutional visit to Kolkata Municipal Corporation on 3.10.2016. The students shared their experience in a very lively manner.

The Third Year Honours students made a review of the movie 'Pink'. The Departmental Study Circle organized this programme on 29.9.16 when all the faculty and the third year students joined. In addition to this, the Third Year students made a noteworthy power point presentation on their academic extension activity with the Department of Social Work, Viswa Bharati held on 30.7.16 and 31.7.16.

This was followed by an interactive session where the teachers and the students very spontaneously opened their mind and exchanged ideas on the presentations of the day. The programme ended with a vote of thanks from the Head of the Department Dr. Mandar Mukherjee.

A Report on an Academic Extension Activity in collaboration with the Department of Social Work

VISVA BHARATI, SRINIKETAN

30.07.2016 - 31.07.2016

The Third Year Honours students of the Department of Political Science, Sri Shikshayatan College, were taken for an educational tour, as part of an Academic Extension Program to the Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, on 30th and 31st July, 2016. The trip was organised by the Department in consultation with Dr Prasanta Ghosh, the Head of the Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati. The students also visited other places of interest in Shantiniketan.

STUDY TEAM

Our study team consisted of 14 Honours students from Third Year accompanied by 3 teachers from the Department of Political Science.

PURPOSE OF VISIT

The purpose of the program was to help the students:

- Acquire information about the scope of doing further studies and making career in social work
- Direct interaction with the Department dealing exclusively with social work would also help in developing an academic approach to the understanding of the subject.
- Besides, the purpose was also to orient or tune the students for future collaborative project in the field.

PLACES VISITED: DAY I

Saturday: 30th July 2016

Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati: The study team visited the Department of Social Work to have an interactive session with the Dr. Joseph Varghese which was followed by a welcome address from the Dr. P.K Ghosh (H.O.D) and other Faculty members of the Department. The students were given a brief overview of the prescribed course and myriad rural re-construction projects undertaken by the undergraduate as well as post-graduate students of the Social Work Department, who are generally guided by their field instructor. Through multiple projects, their students provide social, legal, political and medical amenities to the deprived and marginalised sections of the society. Their work usually revolves around the selected villages in the district of Bolpur. We visited the villages Surul and Mouldanga for a field study. However, since Mondays and Fridays are the designated days in the week for field work, most of the students of their department were not available for interaction.

MOULDANGA

Group A

- Apurba Hazra
- Siddhi Baid
- Priya Tiwari

Accompanied by Baishali Ghosh from the Department of Social Work

Group B

- Agnna Jaiswal
- Mariam Timol
- Ankita Das
- Amisha Raj

Accompanied by Utpal Deb from the Department of Social Work

FIELD VISIT

The students were divided into four groups. Each student was handed a few sets of general questionnaire that had questions related to active participation in voting, health, sanitation, education and family planning. The following is the findings of the village by the groups.

Findings in Mouldanga

The village drew attention on the following.

- The life and culture of the people there was very different from what we experience here in a metropolitan city
- The children do get education but the dropout rate after primary school is quite high, especially for the girls.
- The rate of child marriage is extremely high. Girls are generally married at a sensitive age of 16.
- On enquiring we got to know that the villagers received help from the government authorities for various purposes like health and sanitation, moreover they were provided shelter under the Indra Awas Yojana and employment under MNRGA.
- This village surprised us with the existence of a dog farm and few high class breed of dogs
- Almost every house in the village has a toilet built in their backyard. This provision is a part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- The village seemed to be religiously tolerant as we found a small 'mazaar' and a small temple alongside.
- There is clean ambience in the village. Bengali is the main conversing language.
- Cordial relations between village dwellers and outsiders.

of Second Year who showed us and explained the multifarious techniques and art forms. They also showed us various ceramic work, glass designs and sculptures.

Central Library: The Central Library of Visva-Bharati was instituted in 1901, under the supervision of Rabindranath Tagore, who emphasized the use of books for the educational development of the students. The library is located in a sprawling campus. Though the library was temporarily inaccessible to the visitors during our tour, we nevertheless got a chance to visit the premises.

CONCLUSION:

- The trip to Shantiniketan was very insightful and memorable.
- It made us aware about the social welfare programs undertaken by the Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati.
- Overall the trip made us experience many new things and gave us many new opportunities.

The cooperative efforts of the students and teachers of our Department made everything possible. We would also like to thank our Principal Dr. Aditi Dey, H.O.D Dr. Mandar Mukherjee and the Departmental teachers for organizing such an interesting and memorable college excursion.

Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College
Academic Extension Activity with the Department of Social Work
Sriniketan-Visva Bharati on 30.7.16 & 31.7.16

TEAMS FOR THE FIELD VISIT ON 30.7.16 TO SURUL AND MOULDANGA

TEAM	STUDENTS (Dept. of Social Work)	STUDENTS (Dept. of Political Science)	NO. OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED MALE & FEMALE
A	Baishali Mondal	Apurba Hazra Siddhi Baid Priya Tiwari	10
B	Utpal Dalui	Ankita Das Amisha Raj Ashna Jaiswal Manam Timol	15
C	Sidra Shamshad	Diasha Datta Neha Kumari Jha Riddhi Dave	15
D	Amrita Datta	Raksha Pandey Chandni Jha Sanchita Gunin Rituparna Mukherjee	15
Total	04 Students	14 Students	55 Persons Interviewed (approx)

A REPORT ON

THE VISIT TO THE KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

03.10.2016

On 03.10.2016, a team of 16 members from the Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College went for a visit to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. The organization of the one day tour had been made possible by the Principal, Dr. Aditi De and Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Head of the Political Science Department.

> STUDY AREA

Composition and functioning of KMAC

> STUDY TEAM

The team comprised of all the students from Second Year Political Science Honours, departmental faculty Debolina Mukherjee, official staff Jayeeta Das and official photographer Kundan De. The team started from the College and came back to the same spot.

> PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

The purposes of the visit were to make the students aware about the importance and working of Kolkata Municipal Corporation and harbor a sense of team spirit among them to prepare them for similar visits in future.

> METHOD USED

- We used references before conducting our institutional visit. We conducted a detailed research on the working of the Corporation.
- We forwarded our individual research reports to our departmental faculty.
- We got the approval and guidance of our faculty.
- We finally wrote the report as per her guidance.

> THE KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION : EVOLUTION

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation, known as Calcutta Municipal Corporation till 2001, in varied forms has been serving the city since 1726. On 4th September 1726, the first Corporation was set up by a royal charter.

PRE- INDEPENDENCE ACTS

Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act, 1876: Corporation was created consisting of 72 Commissioners with a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Mackenzie Act, 1899: Administration of Kolkata came to be vested in the hands of three coordinate Authorities - the Corporation, the General Committee and the Chairman.

Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923: Women were enfranchised. Deshabandhu Chittaranjan Das was the first elected Mayor and Subhas Chandra Bose its first Chief Executive Officer. The city was ruled under the Act till March 1948 when the state government superseded the Corporation.

POST-INDEPENDENCE ACTS

The Calcutta Municipal Act, 1951 Provided for an elected Mayor having tenure of 5 years, a deputy Mayor and 5 Aldermen elected by the Councillors. In 1962 Adult Franchise was introduced in Municipal Elections.

The Calcutta Municipal Act, 1980: The office of 'Mayor-in-Council' with all the attributes of a Cabinet form of government was introduced.

Seventy-Fourth Amendment Act, 1992: Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992: Obligated the state legislatures to devolve power to the three-tier local government section and provided for reservation of seats for backward classes and women.

➤ SERVICES PROVIDED BY KMC

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation has the myriad responsibilities which has been categorised under Obligatory Functions and Discretionary Functions. Under Art. 29 of the Kolkata Municipal Act 1980, some of the **Obligatory Functions** are supply of drinking water, laying and maintaining public streets, Health and welfare functions, provision of public lighting, sewerage and drainage provision in KMC area naming and numbering of streets and premises etc.

As per Art 30 of the same Act some of the **Discretionary Functions** are -; Furtherance of education, establishment and maintenance of libraries, museums, zoological collections, survey of buildings and lands, providing music and entertainment in public places or public resorts, organization and management of fairs and exhibitions, acquisition of movable and immovable property, construction of rest houses, poor houses, infirmaries, children homes, house of deaf and dumb and disabled persons etc.

➤ DEPARTMENTS WE VISITED AND DIGNATORIES WE MET

➤ 'AMAL HOME DIGITIZED ARCHIVE'

Upon entering we were very cordially greeted by Smt Chandrani De, KMC official. Our institutional visit begun with the 'Amal Home Digitized Archive' under the Information and Public Relations Department. Very efficiently managed by Shri Tapash Chakraborty, OSD, this is the department where all the necessary historical information, old pictures of Kolkata during the British Raj, all the issues of the 'Calcutta Municipal Gazette' (some in digitized form) till now are maintained. Modern techniques have been used to create this archive in a digitized manner as a tribute to Amal Home, the legendary editor of the 'Calcutta Municipal Gazette' (from 1924-1949).

The Audio-Visual wing is another part of the archive, which deals with screening of documentaries, films and advertisements based wholly or partially on Kolkata which have been filmed by eminent directors, photographers. In the section where audio-visual records are kept, we were shown a short documentary feature depicting the history of Kolkata and other events of national importance. Here, listening to Rabindranath Tagore recite *Jana Gana Mana* in his own voice was truly exhilarating.

➤ CENTRAL RECORD ROOM

Our next stop was the Central Records Section which maintains and issues birth and death certificates. A tableau of a list of burial grounds meant for different communities is on display in this section. Over the last few years, the Corporation has started digitising the death records of the citizens of Kolkata or people whose last rites have been observed here. The same agenda for maintaining birth records is also in the pipeline. Here we had a chance to see digitised death records of Rabindranath Tagore, Ramakrishna Paramhansadev and Upendrakishore Roychowdhury.

➤ THE COUNCILLOR'S CHAMBER

From the Records section, the next point on our itinerary was the Councillors' Chamber or The House. We were taken to the Councillor's Chamber by Shri Shabir Ahmed, Deputy Manager, Department of IPR, who showed us the specific seating arrangements in the House both for the majority and the opposition party. There are also seating arrangements for the visitors and media people in the House. We further came to know that the session is usually held once every month and is presided over by the Chairman.

➤ CONFERENCE ROOM

We then visited the Conference Room where we had an interactive session with Shri Harihar Prasad Mondal, Municipal Secretary, Shri Shankar Lal Mukherjee, Additional Secretary and Dr Tapan Kumar Mukherjee, Health Secretary. While Shri Mondal introduced us to the concept of civic governance, Shri Shankar Lal Mukherjee gave a detailed overview about how the functioning of the Corporation and mentioned that it has become so much ingrained in our system that we notice it only once it stops functioning properly. Next Shri Tapan Kumar Mukherjee illuminated us about the various health services provided by Kolkata Municipal Corporation. It was from him that we came to know that the unit conducts vaccination programme every Wednesday for every ward. Here we had an interactive session with the officials and they patiently explained every query that we had.

➤ MAYOR'S CHAMBER

Shri. S. Ahmed, accompanied us to the Mayor's chamber. The walls of the Chamber are adorned with photos of previous Mayors. We had a very brief stay in his room since the Mayor, Shri Sovan Chatterjee was not in his seat.

➤ SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Our last stop was the Social Welfare and Poverty Allevation Department where Shri Sujan Kumar Gain, Manager (Headquarters and Borough IV) enlightened how the Corporation is contributing its

part in helping the urban poor via the national Urban Livelihood Mission. Its major projects in this direction are Social Mobilization, Self-Employment Program, Skill Development Training Support to Street Vendors and Shelter for the Urban Homeless.

> FINDINGS

The visit was truly a memorable one. After the visit, the team became aware of various hitherto unknown facts, both about Kolkata's history and the quintessential role of the civic body in our daily life. Some of our findings are

- The important documents particularly the birth and death records are well-maintained
- We were unable to meet Mayor Shri Sovan Chatterjee or any of the Elected Councillors. We merely interacted with the bureaucrats. Meeting the popular representatives would have been more enriching.
- The staff members are cordial and cooperative.

> ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- We are obliged to the officials of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation for making necessary arrangements for our visit and guiding us during our visit.
- We would like to thank our Principal Dr. Aditi Dey for her support in granting permission and making necessary arrangements for the visit.
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- We thank our H.O.D, Dr. Mandar Mukherjee for her valuable guidance.
- We extend our thanks to departmental faculty Debolina Mukherjee for arranging and accompanying us to KMC.
- We thank our photographer Kundan De for taking the photographs during the visit.

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A REPORT ON STUDY CIRCLE : 2016-17

A self financed Study Circle of the Department of Political Science was formed as a platform for deliberation and exchange of views among students in the year 2005. The topics covered by the students have been myriad form. This year, the students had their first meeting on 20.09.2016 whereby the accounts of the last session i.e. 2015-16 were presented. The name of the Convenors of three years were announced. On the same day, it was decided that the students would organize a felicitation for departmental faculty Urmi Gupta who was then about to leave for her Faculty Development Programme. The said programme was held on 04.10.2016.

The first activity of the Study Circle in 2016-17 was to organize a trip to Nandan to watch the movie *Pink* on 29.09.2016. The team comprised of the Second and Third Year Honours students along with the departmental faculties.

Following the Puja Vacation, owing to the tight academic schedule the students could not present papers in the Study Circle as they usually have done in the previous years. Instead, this session the Department has arranged three lectures delivered by Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Smt Debolina Mukherjee and Dr. Siuli Mukherjee on 21.04.17, 28.04.17, and 04.05.2017 respectively. While Dr. M. Mukherjee elucidated the artistic aspect of the Indian Constitution titled '*Pictorial Essay of the Constitution*', Smt. D. Mukherjee presented on '*Feminism in the Wake of Globalisation*', Dr. S. Mukherjee's was on '*NGO and Tribal Development in India: Issues and Concerns*'.

This apart the Study Circle had also organized for an orientation lecture by Kaushiki Roy Bardhan, a former student of the Department and presently pursuing Masters in University of Calcutta.

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A REPORT ON MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN)

The Model United Nations which is commonly known as MUN was organized by the The Bhawanipur Educational Society College from August 24-26, 2016. The 'Assembly of Nations' was attended by two hundred delegates of schools and colleges all over India. Our college was represented by the First year students of the Department of Political Science namely Debarupa De Biswas, Nabodita Ganguly, Suchismita Bhattacharya, Unmesha Chanda, Shiwani Agarwal, Kritika Ahuja and Amisha Gupta. The participation of our students were funded by themselves. This initiative and organization of the Bhawanipur Educational Society College had helped the students from the Shri Shikshayatan College to plunge themselves into the beauty of knowledge. They represented themselves as delegates of various countries like Russia, Lithuania and Bolivia.

This confluence of budding diplomats and policymakers over three days truly helped the delegates to broaden their view of the world and understand multitude of problems faced by several nations. Our students have gained an understanding of the working of United Nations and the dynamics of International Relations. They played the role of representatives of the different countries and placed their opinion in the forum. For achieving this purpose, our students had to do an in-depth research on geography, history, commerce, science, economy, foreign policies and gained understanding on alarming global issues that need to be dwelled upon. Such representation encouraged the students to play a leadership role so that they can debate and discuss over world issues. The students learned how the policy-makers take decisions and try to find a solution to the problem that the world is encountering. The Model United Nations helped the participants to develop social skills such as team work and group cooperation. The Bhawanipur Education Society College has immensely supported the students of Shri Shikshayatan College to put forward their ideas in the field of policy making and public speaking. It is noteworthy to mention that some of our students also participated in the MUN held at Calcutta Medical College as delegates in different committees. Shiwani Agarwal from our team represented the Federation of Russia and bagged the high recommendation award.

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FOREIGN AID: A TOOL FOR ACHIEVING FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES

Smt. Umi Gupta (Mehra)

Foreign aid is one of the most original political innovations of the post second world war international order. It is understood as an assistance that an individual country or multilateral agency or non-governmental organisation extend to another country in the form of grants, loans, technical assistance etc. As per *Britannica Encyclopedia*, Foreign aid involves 'the International transfer of capital, goods or services from a country or international organization for the benefit of the recipient country or its population' (Williams: 2015). Aid may flow from three sources- bilateral, multilateral and from private philanthropic organizations. It can be given in the form of cash or kind or debt relief (Lancaster 2007) although it is subject to certain terms and conditions where the term may be short or long and the conditions may be soft or hard depending on the situation and rapport between the donor and the recipient.

The beginning was made when USA decided to provide military and economic assistance under Marshall Plan to the war-torn countries of West Europe and later extended help to the newly emergent Third World countries. As soon as the war-affected countries acquired strength, they decided to develop their foreign aid program for the poor countries of the Third World.

This was the beginning of 'North-South' flow of foreign aid, particularly ODA (Official Development Assistance). Aid flow became systematized and institutionalized with the formation of DAC (Development Assistance Committee) in OECD (Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development) in 1960. During 1950s and 1960s aid flow was 'capital intensive economic growth' oriented where the focus was high capital accumulation, increased use of capital intensive technology, developed means of transport, high national and per capita income, improved standard of education and standard of living, high level of literacy and employment, elimination of poverty. 'Meeting Basic Human Need' approach was adopted in late 1970s which was productivity-oriented wanting to increase the productive income of the poor and make development self-generating. The decade of 1980s came to be dominated by adjustment strategies. In the immediate post cold war era aid declined due to the absence of strategic rationale behind aid giving and also due to aid fatigue and aid-ineffectiveness (Griffith 2005, Kharas 2009). However, in the 21st century there was renewed interest among DAC donors to provide aid due to discontentment with globalization and due to consensus in the global economy to improve the quality of aid and aid effectiveness. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of 2000 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 2015 shifted

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the focus on 'Participatory Development' and 'Environmental Sustainability'. However, the most interesting trend in the 21st century is the increasing interest among Non-DAC countries or the traditional recipients (also called 'new donors' or 'emerging donors') to provide aid under the banner of 'South-South Cooperation' as they graduated from low income to middle income group e.g. India, China, Brazil, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait etc. Their aid programme is generally driven by the urge to strengthen their regional influence by giving assistance particularly to neighbours; to gain access to market and natural resources; to improve international standing by showing to the world that they are responsible members of the world community.

Foreign aid as a tool to achieve multiple foreign policy goals or objectives: Foreign Aid is not only understood as a foreign policy program that has evolved over time but also as a significant policy tool that can be used by donor states to achieve various policy goals. Liberals like Lancaster (2007) labeled foreign aid as a 'tricky concept'. It may be thought of as a policy but it is actually a tool of policy. That foreign aid is an important tool has been conveyed by several scholars in their analysis of foreign aid -

a) **Tool of Cooperation, Welfare and Development:** Promotion of cooperative relation and welfare of the needy people are important foreign policy goals of countries in this interdependent world. Both as a part of the cooperative strategy, it is expected that the countries would have the urge to help each other in need. Rich countries over the years have offered help in the form of foreign aid program (by transferring capital goods and services at a concessional rate) to the poor countries of the Third World considering that they have the moral obligation to assist the poor developing countries in reducing poverty and overcoming their problems over and above any consideration of self-interest. Lumsdaine (1993) and Zimmerman (2007) defined foreign aid as a kind of assistance that reduce poverty and improve human conditions. Thus, foreign aid is one of the most prominent policy tools that high income countries use for assisting low income countries to increase economic growth, improve population well-being and facilitate institutional development' (Qian, 2014; 2). In fact it has been of great help also in relieving distress and suffering resulting from civil war, conflict and natural disasters e.g. aid is extended to supplement the capacity and resources of disaster-affected countries to accommodate victims.

b) **Tool to pursue self interest:** Realists (Morgenthau) believe that countries in international relations are guided primarily by their self-interest e.g. USA, the largest donor state has essentially been guided by its self-interest in providing aid to others. The 'main objective of foreign assistance, as of many other tools of foreign policy, is to produce the kind of political and economic environment in the world in which the United States can best pursue its own social goals.' (Chenery in G. Ranis: 1964; 81, Griffin & Enos: 1970, 313-327). President Nixon had once said, 'remember that the main purpose of American aid is not to help other nations but to help ourselves' (Hancock:

1989, 71). It is an important tool to achieve policy goals based on self interest. Such goals can be clubbed under two categories--

i) **Commercial, Diplomatic, Political**

ii) **Power, Prestige, Status**

i) **Commercial, Diplomatic and Political:**

Promotion of export is an important policy goal of any country. When a donor state assists in infra-structural development in the recipient country, not only does it gain better access to the raw material market but also is able to protect its trade and commercial interest. Aid-funded investment increases the demand for new equipment compatible with the investment made. There is often pressure from the donor country to buy equipments from them and this boosts the export of the donor country. Thus if the flow of capital from the donor to the recipient helps in promoting growth and development in recipient country, the flow of capital in the form of payment for buying equipment and services helps in serving the commercial interest of the donor country as well. US gave aid to finance its export. Japan gave aid for commercial gain. Foreign Aid has after all been the bulwark of diplomatic effort', said Vandana Abrol. It is an important tool for political bargaining where the donor is able to influence the government decisions in favourable manner. Marshall Plan was a tool to help USA win friends in Western Europe to fight Soviet expansionism. In 1960s France gave 57 percent of its foreign aid to former French colonies and the objective was to continue its hold and control over the decisions of the former colonies. Such action could also be interpreted as an effort to keep political commitments to their former colonies. Some of the specific policy goals for which foreign aid has been used include - build sphere of influence during cold war; influence the voting in the United Nations; improve standing in the world; war against terrorism; purchase diplomatic recognition; promote democracy.

ii) **Power, Status and Prestige**

Aid has always been an active foreign-policy tool to enhance power. During cold war it was an important tool in the hands of the two super powers, USA and former USSR to enhance their power and influence in the world. Joseph Nye considered it be an important tool to enhance 'soft power'

1. "ODA consists of flows to developing countries and multilateral institutions provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies each transaction of which meets the following test: a) it is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective and b) it is concessional in character and contains a grant element of at least 25% (calculated at a rate of discount of 10%)" (DAC: 2006)

2. Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of OECD is the most important forum set up in 1960 for coordinating, collecting data and reporting official development assistance from bilateral donors. DAC is open to countries that have appropriate strategies, policies and institutional frameworks for development co-operation, have an accepted measure of affluence, have established a system of performance, monitoring and evaluation. As in April 2017 there are 30 DAC members in OECD.

which he defined as the ability of a state to get what it wants through attraction rather than coercion or payments. (Nye 2004). Economic and technological inducement may be useful in building up positive image and gain in terms of better deal or favourable decision from recipient country and improve status. Besides, foreign aid is an important means to acquire prestige and status in the world. (Gilpin:1981:30, Shunsuke 2009, 267-275). Morgenthau, in the paper prepared for the Public Affairs Conference Center, University of Chicago, mentioned six types of foreign aid including aid based on prestige. The other categories are humanitarian foreign aid, subsistence foreign aid, military foreign aid, bribery, and foreign aid for economic development. 'According to the German sociologist, Max Weber 'Status refers to one's place in the hierarchy of prestige or honour' (Allen: 2004). 'Aid Giving' is looked upon as an act that enhances the prestige or the status of a country.

Thus the study of foreign aid as a tool of foreign policy has added a new dimension and perspective to the understanding of this complex concept. As together with traditional DAC donors, the non-traditional non-DAC donors are emerging as active players in the field of 'foreign assistance' in the 21st century, there is bound to be far greater number of instances in future to strengthen the argument that foreign aid is an important policy tool. New York, 2004.

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INDIA'S PUBLIC DIPLOMACY : CHANGING DIMENSIONS

Sadiya Sultana, Third Year (Honours)

Diplomacy is the basic means by which a nation seeks to achieve the goals of its national interest. The term 'Public Diplomacy' was coined in 1965 by former US diplomat Edmund Gullion. The official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of India has given the definition that 'Public Diplomacy is regarded as the framework of activities by which a Government seeks to influence public attitudes in a manner that they become supportive of its foreign policy and national interests'. Public Diplomacy cannot be practiced in a static society but is the product of dynamic environment where popular voices play a significant role in the formulation and conduct of foreign policy. The Mission Statement of the Public Diplomacy division of India reads, 'the division seeks to create a better understanding of India and its foreign policy concerns. We intend to put in place a system that enables us to engage more effectively with our citizens in India and with global audiences that have an interest in foreign issues'.

Resources of India's Public Diplomacy

India's rich cultural tradition laid emphasis on peace, non-violence, toleration and harmony which are essential for global peace and security. India's unstoppable fight against colonialism and racialism under her non-alignment policy and the leadership of NAM during cold war has enabled her to enjoy soft power merit in Asian and African countries. India's record in strengthening democracy and social diversities in a multicultural society remains unmatched in the world. With the economic liberalization in early 1990s, India has achieved almost 8% growth per annum. Lastly the Indian Diaspora plays a major role in the development of their host countries and enjoys a degree of respect and admiration. So, the government has started Pravasi Bharatiya schemes to involve them as our cultural ambassadors of India.

New Dimensions

Public Diplomacy in India received great encouragement when the UN General Assembly adopted Gandhi's Birthday October 02 as the International Non-Violence Day and declared June 21 as International Yoga Day. India has also set up cultural and Gandhian study centres in foreign countries which drew global attention towards Indian ethics and heritage.

India's current Prime Minister, Narendra Modi with his personalized diplomatic skills gave new vigor to the practice of Public diplomacy. The Indian Citizenship Act, 1955 has been amended to provide certain social and economic rights to overseas Indians. India also requires foreign markets for its products and foreign investment for the success of new development programmes like 'make in India', Digital India, Smart City programmes, etc. Modi's penchant for foreign visits has suffused

new enthusiasm to India's public diplomacy by developing personalized friendship with leaders of other countries and by directly addressing the Indian Diaspora through meetings in abroad.

These meetings have side effects as well. Suhasini Haider remarks that there are traces of some tensions from the host countries over any 'show of strength' or 'muscle flexing' during such rallies abroad. Too much of unity with the Diaspora may lead to ruining of India's ties with the foreign nations and may generate counter backlash for the Diaspora living in those nations. Still, this personalized integration is likely to generate support for India's flagship development programme.

CONCLUSION

Indian public diplomacy is a comprehensive and cohesive strategy adopted by the Indian government which needs to be integrated into Indian foreign policy-making process. It has become a vital instrument which can be used to leverage India's imprint in the world. Thus, for India to become a great power in the world, the government needs to exploit all resources of soft power, of which public diplomacy is a crucial aspect.

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GENDER INEQUALITY

Arshi Hussain, Third Year (Honours)

Inequality and discrimination suffered by women due to the social attitude of males are still prevalent all over the world. In Indian culture since the very early periods, women have been dominated by men and their status has been low in the family and society.

In Ancient India some lofty ideals about women have been repeated in the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Women were held not only as the centres of domestic life but also of the social organisations. This is one side of the picture. On the other side women were referred to as weak minded and unworthy of being trusted. They were not given a dignified status in the society.

In the British Rule, a number of changes were made, improving the quality of life of women. Some substantial progress was achieved in eliminating inequalities between men and women in terms of education, employment and social rights. In the end of the nineteenth century, women in India suffered from disabilities like child marriage, practices like polygamy, sati, severe restrictions on widows etc. Reformers and leaders like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda, Annie Besant, Gandhi, and more fought for the freedom of women. They succeeded in arousing social consciousness among the masses for the liberation of women. They propagated the idea of equal rights to women and therefore empowered the victimized section of the society. It was during this time that the growth of women organisations was seen at a national level. These organisations took up issues like women education, abolition of social evils like purdah system and child marriage, progress of women and equality of rights. The low status of women had stemmed mainly from illiteracy, lack of awareness, religious prohibitions, restrictions and selfish attitude of males. However, after all the struggle faced by women since the ancient period and the different movements undertaken to empower them, the question commonly put up is:

'WHAT IS THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIA TODAY?'

Women have been fighting for its existence since time immemorial though the means of putting up resistance has been different in every period. With the rise of education and awareness, women in India have been greatly influenced and inspired by the West. There were different groups of women who regarded themselves as the 'Feminists'. They differed from each other based on the causes and goals of every feminist. Feminism first appeared in France in 1872, United States in 1910 and Great Britain in 1890s. This movement was known as 'Feminism'. Simone De Beauvoir, a French feminist said, "One is not born, but rather becomes a woman".

These feminist ideas encouraged the Indian women to take similar steps against the male dominance and female oppression. Indian feminist have not been as bold as the West feminists, yet

they came out in the streets to hold mass protests demanding their rights. Women not only rose for gender related issues but also for some significant socio-economic movements in the country. The Chipko Movement in the state of Uttarakhand, Jagmati Sangwan's movement against khap panchayats, naked protest of Manipur's mothers, anti-liquor movement in Andhra Pradesh etc bears the testimony of the fact.

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SHARE THE EXPERIENCE: VISIT TO THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR ON 25.03.17

The First Year students of the Department of Political Science of Shri Shikshayatan College had visited 'The Little Sisters of the Poor' as a part of their Academic Extension Activity on 25.03.17. In this section, the students have opened up their minds to share their experience. The Coordinator of this Academic Extension Activity Dr. Siuli Mukherjee has showcased some of their experiences.

HOME

Home is where the heart is ~ Pliny the Elder

What distinguishes a 'house' from a 'home' is,

A home possess love and elation.

A home is where there is a bonhomie smile on everyone's face.

A home is where we can tame our soul with love.

A home is where our spirit feels maverick and cozy

A home is where we share our happiness and sorrows together.

A home is where we make memories every moment and embellish ourselves with

A home is where we find ourselves

This place has been a perfect example of 'home',

where people from all walks of life, of similar age group decide to stay together

and what unites them is the reminiscent love they possess,

the sorrow they feel for each other, the love everyone shows

This institution has been a perfect example of

what is called 'home'

Nabodita Ganguly, 1st Year Hons., Roll No 121

It was a wonderful experience to get the golden opportunity to interact with such genial and compassionate personalities. An attempt should be made to visit the place again so as to achieve peace and invoke happiness to the life of the aged people residing there.

Suchismita Bhattacharjee, 1st Year Hons., Roll No 24

There is so much of injustice and suffering crying for our attention: victims of hunger, racism and elderly people being forced to absorb the oppression of their so-called families. What all these victims need above all is to know that they are not alone.

Debarupa De Biswas, 1st Year Hons., Roll No 69

The pictures that I have taken on the 25th of March truly showcase what life is all ABOUT. What saddens me is the fact that most of them have lost hope and they have accepted the harsh reality of life. I believe it's our job to rebuild that hope for them. Nonetheless I'm grateful that I got a chance to capture all these special moments.

Kristi Saha, 1st Year Hons., Roll No 83

The inmates were very hospitable and friendly and they welcomed us with their beautiful smiles. To break the monotony of their lives we presented a few songs and a dance for them. We also made them sing and dance along with us. Some of them broke into tears.

Priya Agarwal, 1st Year Hons., Roll No 189

On entering the auditorium, we were greeted by warm smiles and shining eyes. The tired eyes and faces cheered up on the sight of the 'not so little girls' who resembled a lot to their own granddaughters. I came home learning one of the biggest lessons of life- to respect and love our parents and to live life happily no matter what the condition is.

Zarina Mamsa, 1st Year Hons., Roll No 177

It was my first experience to visit an old age home. Here I came to know that they have made up their own small world without their family members, a new Home.

Old Age is somewhat like a gardener who spent his entire life by planting the seed, caring the plants, pouring water, providing required food and protection. When it grows into a beautiful tree he wishes to have its sweet fruits and the cool shades but sometimes he gets nothing other than disappointment.

I feel it is better to be in an old age home with such a good care rather than a life in isolation and neglect.

Anuja Das, 1st Year Hons., Roll No 172

The event turned out to be an experience I would never forget. What was most enriching to know was the life experiences of the people who lived there. While some had no resentment and were happy, the others seemed to be saddened about not living the last few years of their life with their family members. The one thing that the visit definitely made the students realise was the importance of our parents in our lives. While some wanted to share their own experiences, others found satisfaction in watching us singing and dancing. Every story and every emotion shared by them touched us to such an extent that it will definitely leave a lasting impact on the lives of all of us. For the two hours we spent there, the students joined hands and put their best efforts to make them happy. What we loved was realising that the members wanted us to come and meet them again and again and spent time with them. We felt like we were a family.

Kritika Ahuja, 1st Year Honours, Roll 43

BOOK REVIEW

Neighbours, Major Powers and Indian Foreign Policy by Aneek Chatterjee, Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan Private Limited, 2017; ISBN: 978-81-934157-5-7, pp. xvii+250 pp. Rs. 225.

Ms. Debolina Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

With India's steadily improving stature in the international community, a text book on Indian foreign policy is something every reader of International Relations would benefit from. While the academic market is flooded with books on the same, one which is informative and analytical, highlights the recent "tectonic shifts" and is, at the same time, written in a lucid manner is not a very common find. These are some of the gaps Aneek Chatterjee hopes to plug with his latest book titled '*Neighbours, Major Powers and Indian Foreign Policy*'.

Schematically, the book is divided into two parts – '*India and her Neighbours*' and '*India and Major Powers*'. The author has given a general overview about the changing philosophy of Indian foreign policy in the *Introduction* and then traced the evolutionary journey of Indian foreign relations, tracing the historical roots as well as the recent shifts in the foreign policy behaviour of India towards them and vice versa. The powers included are (in that order) Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Myanmar in the first part and the United States, China, Russia, Japan, European Union, Britain and ASEAN on the second part. Separate chapters on Maldives and SAARC are conspicuous by their absence.

The book has meticulously recorded minute details of major achievements in the field of India's foreign relations. Each chapter, barring one or two starts with an introduction which is basically a short history of the relations between the two powers and then presents the sub-sections under the rubrics 'Political Relations', 'Economic Relations', 'Security Relations', 'Cultural Relations' and on the basis of his discussion, he concludes the chapter with 'Recommendations for the Future'. A thorough *Index* with statistical charts and tables have been used generously to help the readers. Unfortunately, maps are missing. Contentious issues that act as irritants have been identified precisely. Here the author has followed a style of linear descriptive narration rather than opting for a critical analysis.

All in all, the present work has surely added to the International Relations corpus. However, one cannot help but notice a few glitches like cursory mention of the two-nation theory, One Belt One Road (OBOR) highlighting primarily Sinhala nationalism and plight of the ethnic Tamils in Sri Lanka at the expense of post-civil war reconstruction, the absence of the investigation of possible impact of BREXIT on future Indo-E.U relations, etc.

The mode of expression could have been better in quite a few places. In fine, a young learner would surely get insight of major developments in course of the bilateral relations. Though the book has not opened new horizons, the involved reader would find most of the happening discussions under one roof. ■

ARTICLE REVIEW

Ramachandra Guha: 'Letters and the Man', *The Telegraph*, Oct 1, 2016

Debarupa De Biswas, Nabodita Ganguly and Zarine Mamsa, First Year (Honours)

For a man born into the obscurity of a remote village in western India, in 1869, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who died at the hands of an assassin in 1948, still enjoys a remarkable and vigorous posthumous reputation. He has inspired several exponents like Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi, and even the Dalai Lama.

This being said, Ramachandra Guha too, one of the most influential historians of the Indian Subcontinent has set himself the revisionist task of challenging the Indo-centric self-portrait of the Mahatma, not merely cleaning the family portrait, but uncovering various backdrops and giving the whole restoration a new frame. Guha's impressive review, on *The Telegraph*, Kolkata dated October 1, 2016 brings to light the life of Gandhi as a legend. The very title of the article 'Letter and the Man' has compelled readers to bring into attention, the attribution of the author towards the bittersweet mesmerism of letters that makes a leader like Mahatma Gandhi keep up with cultural exchange. It is important to mention that his works on Gandhi's biographies for the past couple of years appears strange to some, considering his first ever biographical novel that spoke of a man who grew tired of being a Gandhian ideal. Some of the books authored by Ramachandra Guha include, *A Corner Of A Foreign Field*, *The Unquiet Woods*, *India after Gandhi*, and *Gandhi before India* which was recently recognized by *New York Times*, as one of the notable books written by him.

Between 1915 and 1941, Mahatma Gandhi had exchanged a series of letters with several eminent leaders debating subjects such as truth, freedom, democracy, courage, education, and the future of humanity as India struggled for its independence. The eloquent articulation, with which these letters have been made this worthy, has compelled Gandhi's followers to compile them into the archives of *Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad*, in English, Gujarati and Hindi.

The correspondence — *The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi*, published between 1958 and 1994 is more than a mere addition to history's notable epistolary exchanges. These letters are unique in a way that they were private in nature but public in manifestation — Gandhi had himself mentioned in his own political journal, *Young India* — the spirit of mutual respect and measured response that is antithetical to several debates that might unfold today, if carried out in the public forum of blogs and online commentary. In the age of globalization, these letters offer a poignant example of what it means to be both friends and intellectual adversaries, to stand by one's convictions with equal parts dignity and respect for others, to seek above all else to advance the public good rather than the private ego.

Whilst he reposed his wholehearted faith in Gandhi as a leader, Guha opens each "chapter" of his missive — for the description of the letters written to him, indeed, puts in glaring perspective the nuance less and hasty op-eds of the time we live in, contrasting the truly reflective with the merely reactive — by saying that he was particularly struck by the inequities of caste in two letters by K.R. Daplhery and J. R. Lazarus which were to later bring forward Guha's political, moral, and humanistic arguments on the same. One of the most surprising, most obscure, yet most incisive of Gandhi's experiences peers into the world's neurotic role towards *untouchability* that makes the author consider how the return of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, from South Africa compelled him to notice and bring forward the abolition of this sheer problem as a political and social difference in Indian politics. Ramachandra Guha's words bear extraordinary prescience today as we face a swelling tide of political unrest, ethnic violence, and global conflict.

Letters and the Man by Ramachandra Guha is a sublime read in its entirety. He was, in fact, a proponent of rational thought and a champion of the liberating capacity of modern Indian history, as witnessed in the article that brings to mind the emboldening power of a human soul of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

ARTICLE REVIEW

Bishnupriya Roychowdhury, 'And Quiet Flows the Teesta: River Linkages and Imperative Goals for Indo Bangladesh Cooperation', p- 85-98: 'Socialist Perspective', Vol. 43: ISSN 0970-8863: Council for Political Studies, Kolkata; Sobhanlal Datta Gupta.

Debalina Biswas, Third Year (Honours)

"International politics from time immemorial has been held hostage to the vagaries of western nation states, dominated by imperialist politics." Bishnupriya Roychowdhury in her writing, 'And Quiet Flows the Teesta, Linkages and Imperative Goals for Indo Bangladesh Cooperation', opened by bringing forth the condition of the under developed world. The author refers to the twentieth century as the era of 'Asian Resurgence'. Efforts were made for promoting regional collaboration in South Asia. India's relations with her neighbors have emerged as serious impediments to the progress of the regional associations.

The author focuses mainly on the relations between India and her neighbor Bangladesh. India and Bangladesh are integral parts of the Asian Subcontinent as they share a long and eventful cultural, political and economic legacy.

The author very skillfully starts with the historical legacy of Bangladesh and its gradual evolution after it was partitioned from India. Initially Bangladesh was called East Pakistan. After a period of severe reprisals and bloody conflicts, new independent state of Bangladesh was born in 1971 with the help of India. East Pakistan, gained independence in 1971 with the help of India. However, after gaining independence India's relation with her neighbour Bangladesh resembled a whirlwind. The relationship reflected more inconsistencies than stability. India's inability to deliver on the Teesta River Accord and regression on the ratification of the Land Boundary Agreement had cast a dark shadow over the bilateral relationship.

On a historic note, Indian government in 1950 had decided to erect the Farakka Barrage. The construction of the barrage had a number of negative effects from the point of view of Bangladesh. Both the countries struggled in terms of the equitable sharing of the Ganges.

On 16th May 1974 the Prime Ministers of both the countries, Sk. Mujibur Rehman and Mrs. Indira Gandhi had declared that the Farakka Barrage would not be commissioned until the two sides arrived at a decision regarding the allocation of water during the lean flow of the Ganges. However, India, without a boundary agreement with Bangladesh, began the operations for the construction of the Barrage in 1975. Finally in 1978, negotiations between the two governments were concluded on the water sharing issue. A permanent solution was reached and on 12th Dec 1996, as the historic 30 years agreement on the sharing of the Ganges was signed.

Since 2008, India's relations with Bangladesh had stabilized with the Awami League coming to power. The year 2014 marked a watershed year in the bilateral relations between the two countries. However, in spite of the heightened sense of achievements, the Teesta water sharing disputes continue to be the major stumbling block in bilateral cooperation.

About two decades earlier, Teesta flowed swift, fast and strong, sustaining millions of lives in Bangladesh. The author writes that India had released only 10% of Teesta's water flow, in usual dry season. According to a Joint Rivers Commission in Bangladesh, this activity of India has resulted in the drying up of Teesta in Bangladesh. In 2010, the Teesta water sharing situation made some headway when Sk. Hasina visited India and signed a Joint Communiqué. The bilateral nations had entered a prosperous phase in 2010. The year 2015, was indeed a watershed in Indo Bangladesh relations. Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, accompanied by Bengal's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee visited Bangladesh and opened a discussion on June 6-7, which indicated a desire on the part of both the countries to resolve the conflict. The 2015 visit indeed set the benchmark in future evolution of Indo Bangladesh relations.

However, in spite of reaching such watershed arrangement, no agreement on Teesta River water distribution has been made. As water resources and the dependence on it is a sensitive issue, it continues to be the constant irritants of the Indo-Bangladesh relation. Both India and Bangladesh are vital cogs in the wheel of regional cooperation in South Asia. South Asia can truly emerge as the most vibrant region of the world only when the differences between the member states are resolved. India and Bangladesh would have to play a vital role in the fulfillment of this dream.

The article throws a good deal of light on the water sharing dispute between India and Bangladesh. The convulsion of relationship is recorded both historically as well as in present scenario. The article ends with detailed list of reference which will motivate us in further study and research.

TEESTA

Dr. Mandar Mukherjee

Translated from Bengali by Dr. Soumya Chakravarti

So little water, how will it get divided?

Swarms of silvery fish

Of all kinds -

Boroli, Sheal, Shol, Chitol, Bowaal -

Dead, almost extinct.

Dams galore made the river silent.

Brought to a standstill

Here and there shiny water.

Stretched out to the horizon, white forever,

Pebbles, sand, the river's skeleton.

No respite even then - men's business, men's settlement

Water diverted to canals

Trucks carrying rocks.

The rulers of the two lands have raped the river.

People are killing the river too.

Devoid of sense, dripping with greed,

Perhaps

somewhat stupid as well.

IMPRESSION

Half the Sky: Nicholas .D. Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn, Knopf Doubleday Publishing, 2009

Salma Parveen, Third Year (Honours)

The book 'Half the Sky' by Nicholas .D. Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn throws light on the oppression of women on a planetary scale. The authors set out to investigate the most brutal situations of women in three major arenas like woman trafficking, gender based violence and female mortality. The issues are raised through the testimony of a few women. The authors handled this grim situation by telling us just a handful of horrible stories based on their own extensive interviews. They showcased few of the sad tales of women who have been the victim of rape, beating or medical affliction. These stories are electrifying and have the effect of breaking down the morale of a person. 'Half the sky' is a call for help, a call for contributions and also a call for volunteers. It asks us to open our eyes to these enormous humanitarian issues. It provides us with a list of individual hospitals, schools and small charitable organizations so that we can contribute to or at least inform ourselves about this largely unknown world. The need is to be open minded and change the old mindset about women. They should acquire the knowledge of constitutional and legal provisions carved out for the protection of women. Women have set examples in every spheres of life and in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goal we must broaden our horizons. In this context, we can think of a famous quotation made by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, which is 'To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves and ultimately the nation moves.' There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of the women is improved.

'PINK' DIRECTED BY: SHOOJIT SIRGAR, SHOW AT NANDAN, KOLKATA, 29.9.16

Siddhi Baid,

Outgoing student of the Department of Political Science in 2017

In *Pink*, the focus is on the ordeal of three single girls, Meenal Arora (Taapsee Pannu), Falak Ali (Kriti Kulhan) and Andrea (Andrea Tarang), whose night out at a rock concert sets off a terrifying chain of events. The first half is like a thriller as the audience bites nail for the girl Meenal Arora (Taapsee Pannu) who was under the threat of molestation from Rajveer (Angad Bedi).

Ostensibly, it might be a film about three women but besides their fears, frustrations, anger, helplessness and vulnerability, what we see most are the men around them with their attitude. There are all kinds in their universe: from the loving, caring landlord who won't evict them despite threats from the nosy neighbours who suspect them of prostitution. Then there is an estranged boyfriend who says he can either be truthful or liberal (never helpful). The character of the cop who wants to deter them from filing a complaint and the lawyer who asks intrusive intimate questions to humiliate them in front of all. Even the biased Haryanvi woman cop is like a toy in the hands of the powerful.

The film addresses the men and uses the figure of Deepak Sehgal (Amitabh Bachchan), a respected person with the voice of reason who acted as the girls' lawyer. The three girls make for an utterly believable slice of working women's life in the Capital. The camaraderie and sorority between the trio is effective because the three actors play off very well against each other. But a special mention must be made for Kulhari (as Falak), who acted brilliantly with her breakdown scenes. Efficient turns from veterans like Amitabh Bachchan and Dhritimaan Chatterjee (the judge) are a given, but it's the not-so-known faces who make an impression. Vijay Varma as Rajveer's friend Ankil, was very impressive with his air of masculine entitlement. Mamta Malik, the Haryanvi cop with her accent, gestures and attitude was very real. The courtroom drama of the second half with the boy's lawyer Piyush Mishra deserves applause. *Pink* is a relevant film, in a day and age when there are many such cases in the news, despite the fact that so many women don't even have recourse to the procedure of justice. Against this backdrop, it is good to have a film with the famous dialogue that a 'No is a No is a No'. The film has a social message that single working women are not a catch and girls are not promiscuous. A shared drink doesn't mean a woman is available. That it all boils down to a woman's choice and consent.

Organized By [The self-financed Study Circle of the Department of Political Science organized a trip to Nandan to watch the movie *Pink* on 29.09.2016. The team comprised of the Second and Third Year Honours students along with the departmental faculties.]