



perception

ISSN : 2454-4353

Volume : 9
2017-2018



Department of Political Science
SHRI SHIKSHAYATAN COLLEGE

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Volume : 9 : ISSN - 2454-4353
2017-2018



SHRI SHIKSHAYATAN COLLEGE, KOLKATA

PERCEPTION

Volume : 9: 2017-18
ISSN - 2454-4353

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Published by :

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Shri Shikshayatan College
11 Lord Sinha Road
Kolkata-700 071
Phone: 033-22826033

Printed by :

PRATIRUP
35, Nandana Park
Kolkata - 700 034
Phone . 2403-7402



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FOREWORD

"Perception" has evolved from a departmental academic journal to one that has provided space and accommodated academic insights from other departments of the college too. We are not only enriched but also empowered by these exchanges in our efforts to make "Perception" truly interdisciplinary.

Every issue of "Perception" has provided a great learning and refined our understanding of the political realities of our times.

I extend my heartiest congratulations to the entire team of the Editorial Board of "Perception".

Great going. Keep it up.

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

September, 2018

EDITOR'S DESK

Like every year this issue of PERCEPTION - VOL. 9 will be released on the prestigious ceremony of the Eleventh Belarani De Memorial Lecture scheduled to be held on September 6, 2018

There are two fold challenges before us. One is to maintain the quality of this academic journal assigned with ISSN. The second is to be extremely focused and discipline-specific. As ours is a departmental journal, the contributors are to a large extent the undergraduate students who need motivation throughout their time in this department. Academic activities are planned in such a manner that they can at least collectively contribute in as many ways as possible.

Reports of many of their academic visits, projects, paper presentation on relevant issues etc are of big help. PERCEPTION is not only a journal of the department, but also a mirror reflecting the unique practices of more than last five decades.

In this issue, we are happy to include one guest-article from a noted scholar and another from a former student now pursuing higher studies. One more article from the present faculty is also there. Like every issue we are keen to include a review section in Vol : 9 where the contributors are students as well as faculty

This year we have added a special section on Sister Nivedita to observe her 150th Birth Anniversary. The rest of the sections remain the same.

The "Belarani De Memorial Lecture" and the release of our departmental journal PERCEPTION at the beginning of every session set the tune of celebration by adding special colour.

We hope this number will be well received and always be a source of pride and encouragement for all of us.

On behalf of the Editorial Board I am extending my heartfelt thanks to our valued faculty of the Department — Dr Aditi Dey, the Principal of the College. Thanks to our supportive College Authority and the Management.

I am sincerely thankful to the contributor of other institution, the former student and the present faculty. I am also thankful to the members of the Editorial Board.

Pratinip the printer is to get the due credit from us.

Hope this collective endeavour would work well in future as well in its true spirit and love.

28 08 2018

Dr. Mandar Mukherjee
(mmukherjee19@gmail.com)

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DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES 2017-18

The Academic Session of 2017-18 commenced from 3.7.17 and observed the Foundation Day of the college on 7.7.17. The First Year students were welcomed in the Department with the Orientation Programme held on 18.7.17. The Department gave the Fresher's Welcome to the First Year students on 30.8.17. In this session Ms. Anuja Saha and Ms. Sanchan Ghosh are also continued as the two Guest Lecturers of the Department. Mrs. Urmi Gupta, Associate Professor of the Department is presently pursuing doctoral research under FDP scheme for two years.

Belarani De Memorial Lecture: The Tenth Belarani De Memorial Lecture was held on 6.9.17. Dr. Bonita Aleaz, Retired Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta as well as a valued Alumna of our Department graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. She delivered her lecture on 'Revisiting the Legacy of Ayyankali'. The Department of Political Science collaborated with the Alumni Association of the College 'Shrijaa' for organizing this programme. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Aditi Dey, Principal, followed by a P.P.T by the Second Year (H) students on Departmental Activities. Along with the present faculty and the students, a good number of former faculty and students were also present.

Release of the Departmental Journal: PERCEPTION -Vol. 8 (ISSN 2454-4353) the Departmental Journal was released by the distinguished guest Dr. Bonita Aleaz, Dr. Aditi Dey, Principal, Sri Shikshayatan College and Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Editor and the Head of the Department of Political Science of this college. All the issues of the said journal published since 2009 were kept in display.

Library Books: Like every year a total of thirty seven text and reference books were purchased from the College-Book Exhibition to add to the resource of the General Library on 9.11.17. In the Library Day of the College held on 10.5.18 Department of Political Science gifted a list of books to the General Library.

The Active Learning Day: The Active Learning Day was celebrated on 10.11.17 and the students made a brilliant effort in giving their presentation. At the end of the programme, Awards were given to Arshi Hussain, Kritika Ahuja and Sarah Yousuf of Third, Second and First Year for their best presentation in the Active Learning Day by our Principal.

Institutional Visit: The Third Year General students accompanied by Ms. Debolina Mukherjee, a departmental faculty, visited Kolkata Municipal Corporation on 17.11.17 as a part of the programme of Institutional Visit. They had submitted the Report on their Institutional visit successfully. A Third Year General student Nafis Falma shared her experience about the visit to KMC briefly in the Study Circle.

Academic Extension Activity Programme: The Department of Political Science did the Academic Extension Activity Programme with the Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati, Sriniketan on 12.01.18 & 13.01.18 like previous years as a part of the departmental practices. Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Ms. Debolina Mukherjee and Dr. Siuli Mukherjee along with the students of Third Year went to Sriniketan for the said purpose. The collaboration with the Department of Social work, the extensive field work, the comfortable home stay at 'Khanika', the baul song at Sonajhuri, a little purchase from Amar Kutir gave a new essence to the Academic Extension Activity of the year.

Departmental Study Circle The First Departmental Study Circle (self financed) was held on 20.12.17. The opening weekly News letter was released on this occasion by the Principal. The concluding Study Circle meeting of the session was organized on 20.2.18.

Third Year Farewell: Principal Dr. Aditi Day delivered her address and released the Report of the Academic Extension Activity 2018. The Departmental Head, Dr. Mandar Mukherjee gave a Power-point Presentation on the issue of Women's Empowerment. The Third Year students were given farewell by the Department on this day. The First year students gave a wonderful power point presentation named 'Begins with a single step' followed by a cultural programme on the occasion of the farewell of their seniors. After the presentation, the Third Year students shared their memories and experiences with this institution for the last three years. The Department awarded the students of Third Year for their merit.

Summer Project: The Summer Project of 2017 was on the visit of First Year students (2016-2019) batch to 'The Little Sisters of The Poor' on 25.3.17. The report has been published in the Journal 'IMPACT', (Vol.4), published by the Central Research Committee of Shri Shikshayatan College, titled 'One Day Visit to 'The Little Sister of the Poor'.

Other Activities: The Women's Forum organized a programme in the College commemorating 150th Birth Anniversary of Sister Nivedita on 16.01.18. Dr. Mousumi Mukherjee, Assistant Director, O.P.Jindal Global University delivered a lecture titled 'Sister Nivedita's contribution for International and Inter cultural Understanding and Women's Education'. Dr. Mandar Mukherjee was the Coordinator of this programme. In the programme, the girls of the Department of Political Science showed their talent and received prizes in different categories. Madhura Sen, Kritika Ahuja and Sadiya Sultana were the winners in Creative Writing (English), Sushmita Yadav in Creative Writing (Hindi) and Laxmi Kumari got the First prize for painting. Our students of Department of Political Science had joined NSS and acted as volunteers for Women's Forum programme as well as Sports Committee. The Women's Forum celebrated International Women's Day on 3.4.2018. Dr. Mandar Mukherjee gave a Power Point presentation on 'A Dancing Woman'. Our First Year student Shireen Gupta who is also a member of Debating Society of the College put forward her argument in Exhibition Debate on 'Uncelebrate # Me too'.

Co Curricular Activities

The students of Third, Second and First Year (Honours) of the Department of Political Science have earned much to their credit. Debalina Biswas of Third Year Honours stood first in debate for Youth Parliament organized by Quidra. The Second Year students of the Department of Political Science namely Sushmita Yadav, Suchismita Bhattacharya, Nabodita Ganguly, Kristi Saha, Debarupa De Biswas have participated and secured position in QUIDRA Organized Extempore & Quiz Competition for Youth Parliament Affairs, Vidyasagar Diwas, Freshers Debate, Photography and Creative Writing (English) in Srijan, Sweden-India Nobel Memorial Quiz held in Medical College, XAVQTSAV, Inter College Spot Photography Competition, Samagam, BESC Assembly Of Nations, organized by Bhawanipur Education Society College, 27th IEM-JEM Annual Cultural Fest and MUN held at Jadavpur University.

The First Year students namely Shireen Gupta, Sakshi Tiwari, Madhura Sen, Sonali Gupta, Muskan Jaiswal, Anvita Ghosh have participated and secured positions in Vidyasagar Diwas, Freshers Debate, Debate Competition at Jogesh Chandra Choudhury College, Samagam 2017, Communiqué, Histona, Comercio Conclave & Verve, West Bengal State Karate- Do Championship, the Bhawanipore Educational Society College organized Assembly of Nations and 88th Republic Day Parade organized by Bidhanagar City Police. Kristi Saha a student of Third Year Honours is presently doing her internship in 'The Statesman' as photographer.

Pass out Students

Our students of Third Year Honours have completed their graduation course successfully and had got admission in Masters in many noted Universities in West Bengal as well as in other states.

Date: 27.06.2018

Dr. Siuli Mukherjee

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VIGNETTES OF LIFE FROM RURAL INDIA

Kumkum Bhattacharya, Professor,
Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati

It has been a rare privilege living in the vicinity of Rabindranath's Visva-Bharati. Opportunities to meet people following various livelihood patterns; from near and far villages and sometimes districts' dropping' in and sharing a bit of their lives abound. It makes one wonder if really life is not one journey but the interspersed journeys of many lives that enrich individual trajectories. These visitors are a reminder of our not too remote pasts when a lot of India meted out their lives through these human exchanges. These people appear richer, more at ease with their conditions of life and not burdened with expectations from others or even from what we understand the nation and state. Livelihood and the freedom to follow it are of prime concern and interest; and if in the process the pace is lengthened it does not cause anxiety. Let us not have any doubt about the physicality of the work or the arduousness involved – many of us would simply crumble under the strain too tired to see the face of another day.

Amal's¹ *chhena-ghee-milk* seller comes practically every day from a village situated 26 kms from Bolpur on his cycle, ever-smiling snatching at moments strains of the *kirita* songs of his groups in which he is a performer. While selling he would analyse the lines of songs that he particularly likes trying to convey his love for the songs. He hardly fails in extolling the virtue of his products as if his love will imbue into the quality of whatever he sells. He is not strong on commerce but knows how to stick to his guns if too hard a bargain is driven. His stoicism is admirable – life as chartered for him can never go wrong. The sight of him recovering enough strength and stamina to make the 26 km cycle journey soon after a fracture in his leg was a lesson that makes me count our countless blessings – surely our little misfortunes of having to wait our turn at the doctor or chaffing at home or losing money is only small change in life's trajectory.

The scroll painters or Patuas come from the neighbouring districts in pairs of husband-wife with a heavy bag containing their paintings and a few personal belongings. Their life is a continuous *jatra* from one house to another showing their paintings accompanied with the songs appropriate to the scroll. It is difficult to encounter any one Patua who will refuse an invitation to sing however tired, hungry, hot or cold he or she may be. Usually both husband and wife are painters and in their bags will be rare treasures dating from many years and some recently made even by their grandchildren who is learning the craft. During the cold of the Pous Mela and the heat of the Dol Utsav these Patuas can camp anywhere for the night without any expectation. We used to have two pairs of Patuas along with a few single ones for many years visiting us around the years on the many occasions in Santiniketan. These individuals justify in full measure the melas and fairs set up by Devendranath

¹Amal is the boy-hero of Tagore's *Dakghar*, 1910

Tagore in his very Trust Deed of Santiniketan. Their generosity is embarrassing for us city-bred who measure out our social courtesies on status and rank. Santanu Patua, dead recently one day took out a carefully folded newspaper cutting of an article on Picasso and he described how stuck he was with the photograph of the painting accompanying the article. We gave him our book on Picasso that he pored over engrossed forgetting the tea he was served.

Our date-palm jaggery seller comes from Murshidabad and over the years we have become familiar with his family. He not only comes with the tastiest-surpiest *gur* but a strong flavour of the principles he lives by. He expounds on the values of hard work, honesty and *iman* as he understands and practices them. He gave us one of the most moving descriptions of marriage and husband-wife relationship that I have ever heard – for a moment his sensibilities opened up our eyes and believe me when I say that I witnessed was love as writers and poets celebrate it. Life is meaningful only when there is true love between husband and wife based on sharing, participation and respect for each other. He cannot conceive of going on any pilgrimage without his wife while we have been reared on the famous Tagore poem in which the husband is more content to go on his travels with his man-servant rather than by his wife for the reason that the husband's pilgrimage will bring *punya* to his wife at half the expense!²

Dinabandhu is another treasure – sharp edged rough stone with the wisdom imbibed from his daily life. He is adept at cleaning tall coconut trees and bringing down bunches of coconuts; he can prune and clean trees of any size and type. He knows how to make gardens look clean and ship-shape. He gives us a quite a monologue of his social understanding of the different communities full of bluster at how well he understands human kind and type. In his order of things his caste-group is hard-working, laborious and intelligent very much at the cost of other communities known for their prowess in agriculture. Of course our social and political 'correctness' stands in the way of championing his ideas wholeheartedly or even encouraging him to be more expansive but we miss out on understanding how prejudice and stigma work in real life.

Social relationships are forged on the basis of shared experiences and interactions and same goes for understanding society and culture. The richness of the social-cultural matrix of our country is astounding as if they are many worlds and many species of mankind in a limited space and yet inter-linked with each other as in the web of life as beautifully worded in the Upanishads and quoted so extensively in our *upasana* services in Visva-Bharati.

²Rabindranath Tagore's poem *Puratan Bhritya* in *Katha O Kabini*

REVISITING 'ONE CHINA POLICY' OF DONALD TRUMP

Dr. Smiti Mukherjee, Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College

Donald John Trump who is the 45th and present President of United States Of America has attracted the attention of the world not because of being the holder of most powerful office but because of the steps that he has taken. One noteworthy of them is his attitude towards 'One China Policy'. But before taking an insight into the action and reaction of Donald Trump, let us have an idea of what One China Policy is. The One-China policy refers to one where there is only one state called "China" as there is a duality of claim made by People's Republic of China (PRC) and Republic of China (ROC). There is an unwritten law which says that the countries which wants to maintain any diplomatic relation with the People's Republic of China (Mainland China) must break official relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan) and vice versa. Such rigidity of choice is because of the reason that Taiwan seeks independence from China and wants to establish a Republic. They claim for a territorial and political sovereignty as they could not overcome their bitter experience of being expelled by Communist Party of China in the Chinese Civil War in 1949. Since then, the relationship between PRC and ROC has gone through a roller-coaster ride. Hence, out of bitterness, enmity and authority both the party claims that they are the sole rightful Government of China. Against such historical background, let us peep into the episode of Donald Trump and his stand to the One China Policy.

Napoleon once said, "China is a sleeping giant. Let her lie and sleep, for when she awakens she will astonish the world." At the turn of the twenty-first century, the sleeping giant is fully awake. The world is witnessing a shift of the centre of political and economic power from the United States and China.¹ The words of Napoleon signify the gravity and significance of China as a power. The same was proved once again with the ascendancy of Donald Trump to power.

Beginning with President Richard Nixon, who visited China in 1972, a succession of American leaders have assured China of their goodwill and pursued what it calls a "One China" policy. This is because of the reason that Nixon saw China with a different lens, assesses the strength of the sleeping lion and made an attempt of forging a rapprochement with her. He began the process of returning China to the 'friend' category. Nixon argued that the United States should take the benefits and opportunities that China represented, rather than screwing her unnecessarily. In the 1979 U.S.-P.R.C. Joint Communiqué, the United States recognized the Communist leadership in Beijing as the sole legal government of China, acknowledging the Chinese position that there is one China and Taiwan is a breakaway province that is part of China.² Hence, this is the period when the formal relation between USA and Taiwan got sealed. However, that does not mean a complete cut off of

abrupt ending of the relationship between the duo. An ambiguous relationship between Washington and Taiwan was designed thereafter with the passage of time. Every US Presidential administration says that China's prosperity and stability are in the interest of the US. And in practice, the US has done more than any other power to contribute to China's modernization.³ If we turn the pages of history, we'll observe that China represents the most important bilateral relationship for the United States, but no policy has generated more consistent controversy for Presidents other than this. The Sino-US policy revolves around issues like security, trade and commerce, arms proliferation, human rights and Taiwan. Although both the countries have come closer at different point of time on the verge of the threat posed by Soviet Union but it would be an overstatement to say that the duo is an ally. The relation between China and USA has always been clouded with suspicion and uneasiness. In addition to this sweet and sour relationship, Beijing had set a constraint on other countries of the world including United States of America to choose either the relationship with Beijing or maintain a liaison with Taiwan. Although Taiwan has arbitrarily broken away from China and maintaining a separate identity but China firmly believes that there is only one China. Confirming to this ideological principle, US Presidents had maintained an unofficial relation with Taiwan by virtue of the Taiwan Relations Act. In this context we can recall the words of the historian Niall Ferguson who said that the bloody twentieth century witnessed 'the descent of the West' and 'a reorientation of the world 'towards the East'. Realists go on to note that as China gets more powerful and the United States position erodes....⁴ A fresh blood was however injected in the US-Taiwan relation with the coming of President Donald Trump to power in USA. Donald Trump started his foreign policy by turning this stone upside down. In spite of staunch criticism and pressure from the leading power China, the US President Donald Trump made an official communication with Taiwan. He defied all diplomatic protocol of unofficial recognition to Taiwan and took an unprecedented move to bring Taiwan closer. In December, 2016 Trump made a telephonic call to Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and discussed different priorities. This move is a perfect departure of President Trump from the policies of earlier President as no US President had spoken to the President of Taiwan for decades as they have all followed the 'One China Policy'. This move has fired China as Taiwan is a province to her and she should not get this status. The basic cornerstone of the Sino-US relation is the adherence of the One China Policy and China is very sensitive about it. China made it clear that the 'One China' policy is "non-negotiable" and "no one can change it", in a strong rebuttal to President-elect Donald Trump's plan to use American policy on Taiwan as a bargaining chip.⁵ Moreover, China is averse to Taiwan President Tsai-Ing Wen and his leadership as she suspects Tsai to organize a liberation movement against Peoples Republic of China. If any situation like this happens then China would retaliate militarily. China insisted that if USA wishes to maintain an official relation with Taiwan then that would signal the end of other engagement with China. "Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said, "We urge the relevant party in the United States to realize the high sensitivity of the Taiwan issue and abide by commitments made by previous US governments to the One China policy and the principles of the three joint communiqués," he said without directly referring to Trump"⁶

But in spite of such strong criticisms from China, USA under the Presidency of Donald Trump showed his reluctance to change his mind. Trump's drastic move has raised the eyebrow of different sections. A sudden telephonic conversation by US President Donald Trump with the Prime Minister of Taiwan sounds really astonishing. Donald Trump and Tsai Ing-wen are said to congratulate each other for coming to power and had a talk on economic, security and political issues. However, it is not clear whether Trump wants an upgradation of bilateral ties with Taiwan. Trump showed his different temperament regarding US relationship with Taiwan which was historically shaped by the dictates of Beijing Government. So, he showed his inclination to drift from the conventional note. There must be some calculations behind this. It can be assumed that China is in the first position of US trading list but Taiwan is also in the ninth position which can not be ignored or put out of consideration. USA has a long track record of selling weapons to Taiwan which is not accepted by China in good spirit. President of USA and Taiwan discussed the different contours of improving the bilateral ties and furthering economic co-operation between both the countries. It is an undeniable fact that Taiwan is a tempting market for the Americans. However, the episode of formal communication between the Head of both the countries guarantees a very rocky start of the U.S.-China relationship under Trump. Any support for Taiwan is constructed in Beijing as a threat to China's sovereignty... and while future Chinese actions towards the US may seek to avoid direct confrontation, the possibility of the two countries engaging in conflict over Taiwan can not be ruled out.¹ This situation took a worse turn when Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen while visiting Central America make a transit stopover in Houston on Jan 9, 2017. Tsai was supposed to visit San Francisco on Jan. 13, 2017 on her way back to Taiwan. Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen did not meet with President-elect Donald Trump or any members of his transition team during her stay on American soil. Though, as a consolation prize, Tsai did meet with former Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz. The Texas Senator has been one of the more vocal opponents of Beijing in the US Congress... In a brief statement concerning his meeting with Tsai, Cruz scolded the Chinese consulate for delivering a "curious letter" asking Congress members not to meet with Tsai and to uphold the "one-China policy." "The People's Republic of China needs to understand that in America we make decisions about meeting with visitors for ourselves," Cruz said.²

Actually, China showed her tremendous disliking regarding the close US-Taiwan relation. She made it apparent by instructing USA not to allow Tsai to enter or have formal government meetings under the one-China policy. "We firmly oppose leaders of the Taiwan region, on the so-called basis of a transit visit, having any form of contact with US officials and engaging in activities that interfere with and damage China-US relations," spokesman Lu Kang said.³ For the Chinese government, One China Policy is a sacred principle. It is not only about diplomacy or exercising authority, but it is about protecting her territorial integrity and legitimacy. She stands firm against anti-nationalists who want to break away from China and form a separate identity. China never wants her associates to maintain or pamper the authority in Taiwan. Coupled with that, China is deeply suspicious of Tsai, who is striving for the formal independence of the island.

USA on the other hand is assertive in style and selection of ally. America hates being dictated by any other country when it comes to shaping relationship with any third country. However, all these assumptions and presumptions came to an end with a telephonic conversation which took place between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Donald Trump on Feb 10, 2017. It was the first conversation between the two leaders since Trump became the President and had telephonic conversation with twenty countries before this. However, Trump extended his hand to China, by sending a letter to China stating that the US was looking forward to build "constructive relations" with her. China reciprocated USA's gesture by making a phone call and urging the President of USA to adhere the 'One China Principle'. The White House confirmed that Trump and Xi had a lengthy, wide-ranging talk that was "extremely cordial," and that both leaders invited each other for a visit. "President Trump agreed, at the request of President Xi, to honour our 'one China' policy." Washington urgently needs to initiate and sustain high level discussion with Beijing to explore a regional security.If China remains outside such architecture or becomes the expressed target of such alliances, the region will remain fundamentally unstable.⁴ The acceptance of One China Policy by Mr. Trump is a major diplomatic achievement for the Government of Peoples Republic of China. "The development of China and the United States absolutely can complement each other and advance together. Actually, one way of defining a nation's foreign policy is metaphorical: to perceive the interplay of nations as either a "chessboard" or a "jigsaw puzzle". The chessboard analogy is the more traditional one. It sees the world as a competitive place, with differing and often sees international relations as a matter of getting the world's nations to work collectively on shared problems such as economic well being, national security and human rights."⁵

II

The question that baffles the mind is why President Donald Trump took such a stern step towards China as soon as he came to power. While all the Presidents of United States of America till date have tried to strike a balance with this leading power of the world, Donald's treatment of not adhering to One China Policy can have a greater impact on Sino-US relationship. Let us now investigate what may be the probable reasons for this action of Donald Trump.

Firstly, Donald Trump wanted to bring a pressure on China. China is the largest national economy and the greatest trading partner of the United States of America. It is extremely powerful in terms of economy and military might and can overtake the economy of the United States or any leading countries of the world. It is said that the 19th C belonged to the British, 20th C belong to the Americans and 21st C belonged to the Chinese. Fu Ying, a former Chinese ambassador to the UK, has said: "The US-led world order is a suit that no longer fits."⁶ Although it is hard for United States of America to digest this fact but she has no other option. It is sorry that he forgot PRC participates in multilateral organisation like the World Trade Organisation and the Association of South East Asian Nations, China increasingly seen as a 'status quo power' that takes a less confrontational, more sophisticated,

more confident and at times more constructive approach towards regional and global affairs.¹³ Donald Trump showed his aggression and tried to put pressure on China by playing the Taiwan card. Actually, Taiwan has been used as a pawn for bargaining by the United States so that it can gain leverage with China and get the best deal out of her. However, it can be said that it is really dangerous to gamble with China as China can be never bought or sold. China is firm on her adherence to 'One China Policy' so it will not shift from this basic fundamental and adjust with USA or any other country for any commercial interest.

Secondly, Trump wanted to change and break from the foreign policy designed by the past Presidents of USA. Every US president from Richard Nixon to Barack Obama came to power in USA by making tough comment on China but with the passage of time they understood the complexity of the situation. It would be very challenging and dangerous to put a stroke on the Sino-US relationship that was rolling so far. For instance, Ronald Reagan had a pro-Taiwan bias and said that he would normalize the relation with Taiwan in 1980 but ultimately made a retreat. None of the President after this could make any substantial move against China after they got elected. In spite of having such a clear history, Trump however initially upset the whole arrangement and had a terrific start. He exhibited his own style by declaring that the United States did not necessarily have to stick to the policy of past Presidents of maintaining the One China Policy. America has a choice of her own and she can reverse the policy that USA had adhered to for more than four decades. There are various reasons for this disliking or apathy towards China. Trump considers China as a currency manipulator, tax USA heavily at the borders while USA doesn't tax China, building a fortress on South China Sea and not helping USA anyway in the issue of North Korea. Coupled with all these factors, USA has a large trade deficit with China and the former's dependence on the latter is increasing day by day which irks Donald Trump. The action and interaction of all these factors might have irritated Trump to take an unprecedented move in its foreign relations with Peoples Republic of China. Fareed Zakaria has argued persuasively, the issue is not so much the decline of the US, but the rise of the rest.¹⁴

Thirdly, Donald Trump is the wealthiest person who has become the President of the USA. He is an industrialist tycoon with a profit making mind. It is said that Trump wants to build new hotels in Taiwan which will further his personal interest. Weeks before President-elect Donald Trump's controversial phone call with Taiwan's president Tsai Ing-wen, a businesswoman claiming to be associated with his conglomerate made inquiries about a major investment in building luxury hotels as part of the island's new airport development. She said she was associated with the Trump Corporation and she would like to propose a possible investment project in the future, especially hotels," said an official familiar with the project, who spoke on condition of anonymity.¹⁵

Fourthly, although Trump has been briefed about the US foreign policy but Trump's style of diplomacy is different. He is noticed of his haphazard and isolated way of dealing with foreign countries. The unusual nature of Trump's campaign has followed him into the transition phase and his apparently

unsystematic technique for speaking to world leaders has raised eyebrows. "It's all a bit haphazard as far as I can see. It doesn't seem to follow any logical order," former British ambassador to US Christopher Meyer told CNN. "I wouldn't attach much importance to it except that it's all part of the learning process for him as well ... It's all part of getting used to being President-elect and then President." "It is short-sighted not to turn first to the United Kingdom," said Vinjamuri, who also serves on the council of Chatham House. "Inevitably, any president of the United States will eventually recognize the absolutely essential role of the UK-US relationship."¹⁶ Trump made a telephonic conversation with Russia and Ireland but forgot about Britain who is an old ally of USA. This ignorance of Trump has consequently hurt the British sentiment who are associated with the Americans for a long period of time. Likewise, Trump exposed his ignorance and folly by making an official conversation with Taiwan and ignoring the great power China. Even though China is in the first position of trading, Trump forgot or overlooked to pay her the importance. Another complication that has been created by Donald Trump is his rough and inconsistent behaviour to the Prime Minister of Australia Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. It was expected that America and her staunch ally would have a congenial call but it actually proved out to be different. President Trump blasted Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull over a refugee agreement and boasted about the magnitude of his electoral college win, according to senior U.S. officials briefed Then, 25 minutes into what was expected to be an hour-long call, Trump abruptly ended it.¹⁷ This has infuriated the latter who is again an old ally of the United States of America. Hence it can be said that Trump changed and damaged the relationship that was well established between nations for a long period of time. Likewise his relation with Mexico too suffered a setback. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto cancelled a meeting with President Trump that was scheduled for next week, as tensions between the two countries rise. The move came after Trump announced plans ... to expand the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico—a wall Trump has repeatedly said he would force Mexico to pay for. On Thursday, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said the U.S. would impose a 20 percent tax on all goods imported from Mexico and use the proceeds to pay for the expanded border wall. He is overexcited to find victory in the scores of foreign policy but his calculations are proved wrong every time.¹⁸

Fifthly, even if it is argued that Trump wanted to give the foreign policy a new shape by officially engaging with Taiwan and sending China to the backseat, but he could not maintain his stand for long. The attitude and arrogance which he exhibited in the beginning vanished with the telephonic conversation with President of China. Hence it can be said that Trump is more like a paper tiger who initially roared but became silent with sound of the sleeping giant who has awakened. In one sense, China is a better market than Taiwan, which has only twenty two million people, many of whom already have a good level of economic development. China by contrast has a population of 1.2 billion with plenty of scope for development. It offers far greater potential profits. US Corporations with Chinese business interests make the best ambassadors for China in the US. They will discourage the President from upsetting Beijing.¹⁹ Moreover, if China and USA can cooperate with each other in the field of

trade, investment, technology, energy and infrastructure, then that would be beneficial for both the countries to ensure world stability and development. On the other hand if Trump presses the Taiwan issue too far then that might result to a military catastrophe.

Sixthly, it is actually not much clear that why Trump took such a risk-prone step in the very initial period of his presidency which has upset a powerful nation like China. Actually, Trump tried to put a pressure on China but aligning with Taiwan. Taiwan is a good destination of US manufactured guns and weapons. From President Jimmy Carter to George Bush, the United States has made upwards of \$24 billion in arms trades according to the Arms Control Association. In the last eight years, President Obama has made \$14 billion in weapons available for purchase.² The sale include some of the most advanced weapons such as AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, Patriot Advance Capability-3 missiles, F-16 fighters and advanced munitions. Though the U.S. had officially turned a cold shoulder to Taiwan in 1979, but continued to foster a relation between Taiwan under Taiwan Relations Act. Precisely, there is a good scope of US in Taiwan. But economic calculation can affect the political equilibrium that has been created between USA and China by the efforts of statesmen of both the countries. Trump showed extraordinary guts to antagonise US closest allies but had to retreat from his position especially in the case of China. Many have accused Trump as being naive in foreign policy and promoting child like diplomacy as he should have never raised the "One China Policy" in the first place.

Against this situation, what we can say is that Donald Trump has to accept the problems and prospects of the Sino-US relation. It is good to bring a fresh approach and unconventional style while designing the foreign policy of United States of America. But it is important to take care of the historical boundary line which should never be crossed. At a pragmatic level, China as a rising power cannot be contained or ignored. Even those who initially emphasized Taiwan relations or the need to take a hard line with China eventually recognized that stable US-China relations were integral to promoting US interest in East Asia. It is not an easy relationship, but our integrated economies, shared interests, and even disagreements make it essential to maintain a cordial working relationship. ...maintaining stable relations has not been an easy task. Periodic crises and the potential for future crisis over issues such as Taiwan make the relationship volatile and unpredictable. The greatest danger comes from policies based on single issue agendas that emphasize differences rather than shared interest. As long as Taiwan remains a flashpoint, the US-China relations remain on a slippery ground.³

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BREAKING THE GENDER BARRIERS: MAN, WOMAN AND TRANS

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In India, the transgender community has been marginalised for centuries and still fighting for their right to identity. Transgender politics is one of the escalating issues in our contemporary Indian society which challenged the age long concept of gender dichotomy as well as the legitimacy of the State.

Gender studies involve the concept of gender binaries that is male and female, where the former dominates over the latter in a patriarchal society. In this respect it is important to understand the basic difference between 'sex' and 'gender'. The former refers to the biological characteristics whereas the latter refers to the social and cultural characteristics. Sex is what we all are born with but gender is constructed by the society (Srivastava 2014, 369-370). Thus, our body gets gendered as either male or female according to our assigned sex at birth. All characteristics associated with masculinity are considered as superior and those associated with femininity as inferior. This is how sexual politics developed its roots by controlling over sexuality. Both male and female are used as primary category in all societies but with time there have been changes in the perception of the people with regard to their gender identity. In this respect, the concept of 'transgender' emerged, which is relatively new, dating from the late 1980s and it was not until the mid-1990s that it was used in its current popular sense.

'Transgender' is an umbrella term that describes many people who transcend "normative" embodiments of masculine and feminine, including transsexuals, cross-dressers, drag queens and kings, gender queers, and other gender variant people (Wess 2009, 27-28). There are a misconception about the term 'transgender' which does not only refers to persons whose genitals are intermixed but term is applicable to a range of individuals who express their gender in non-traditional ways. In general, transgendered people find their sense of self as female, male, or other to be in conflict with their assigned gender role (which was based on genital anatomy at birth). The term transgender can be accurately applied to self-identified bigenders, gender radicals, butch lesbians, cross-dressing married men, transvestites, intersex individuals, transsexuals, drag kings and queens, gender-blenders, queers, gender queers, two spirits, or he-she's. These individuals may form their own social networks, hence the term "transgender community." The term transgender is used to refer to people who claim the term on the basis of feelings that their assigned gender role is incongruent with their sense of self. This includes the category of MTF (male to female) and FTM (female to male) group of transgenders. Many people deviate from traditional gender norms. In the broadest sense, perhaps we all do, but most do not self-identify as transgendered. Sexual orientation refers to one's

emotional and sexual attractions, whereas gender identity refers to one's sense of self as being female, male, or otherwise gendered (Burdge 2007, 243-244). Transgendered individuals are targeted for mistreatment when others attempt to enforce conventional gender boundaries.

The relationship between transgender and politics has gathered momentum in our modern politics. Our Constitution in its Part-III mentions about the fundamental rights of the citizens of India whereas these rights does not apply practically for the transgenders on the ground of their lack of gender identity. In this context transgenders not being able to exercise their right to vote which implies non-recognition of them as the citizen of India at the same time a portion of their vote is wasted even though they are sexually minority group in India. Thus, this challenges the concept of democracy which our Indian State claims to be. Transgender community in India were treated with much respect in the past but with the coming of the British rule, it introduced anti-sodomy law as a measure of Puritanism. This law criminalises the act of homosexuality which has reached its peak and 'unnatural fornication' was routinely punished by hanging or garrotting both men and women as a result 'transgender' as an identity got threatened (Wilhelm 2003, 169-171). Since then, transgenders remained in a closet, hide their identity for the fear of punishment and treated no less than an untouchable. The entire transgender community, activists and the journalists have been challenging the alien law, Section 377 of the IPC for decriminalising homosexuality so that the gender deviant individuals can also enjoy a relational life according to their choice. This is how transgender politics emerged claiming their rights before the Government on the ground of being 'human' and 'citizen of that country'. Rights claimed on the basis of problems faced by them are as follows-

1. **Identity:** This is the biggest challenge that they face in every step of their life. They constantly fight for their identity as a 'trans-gender' and also for their existence as a 'human being' and not as an 'alien'. Identity crisis is the major hurdle that they face because of lack of recognition from the society which recognises the binary division of gender of 'male and female.' Trans people is stigmatised because their gender identity is questioned at every possibilities of their life. They are still fighting for their gender recognition as 'transgender' which has been legally recognised as the 'third gender' by the NALSA declaration in 2014 [Writ Petition (Civil) No 400 of 2012].

2. **Employment:** Non-acceptance from society resulted in lack of employment opportunity for the transgender community in India. Thus, they are left with the only option of begging and the ceremonious performance they do for a new born as a form of blessing, for their survival. They even earn money through sex work. Though such practices are condemned in society, they receive the money but people never fail to abuse them.

3. **Education:** Transgender people are hardly educated. The family of the transgender people hardly send them to school out of the fear of social harassment and their child will be taken away by the Hijra community. Though this is not the case with all the families, this is the case found mostly in relation with the intersexed child. Even in the cases with those MTF and FTM transgender people,

to pursue education they either had to hide their real gender identity or had to give up studies. There is no provision for 'third gender' or as 'other' in educational institutions except recently this category has been added in Jadavpur University and Presidency University. But no school has this provision and neither the colleges.

4. Public Facilities: This is the area where they face immense problem and harassment. Public toilets either categorised as 'gents' or 'ladies' but no provision for the transgender people. So when they use either of the toilets they face with resistance from that section of the gender group. Transgender community continuously have to fight for their basic rights and use of other public facilities like- travelling in public transport they have to deal with public taunts, teases and gaze that signals rejection towards them. Similar condition they face while visiting restaurants, in hospitals and other places.

5. Family Life: Under section 377 of Indian Penal Code marriage between same sex people or any deviation from heterosexual relationship is not legally recognised and considered as not normal. Thus, transgender people in such situation take resort to social marriages with their partners and live secretly with them or they are compelled to opt for SRS for leading a 'normal' family life. They do not receive help for free medical check up. It is only through few NGO's or community based groups.

6. Politics and Decision making: Hardly any transgender individual is represented in any political party and their interests are given prominence. Neither at the grassroot level nor at the national level that they are adequately represented. There are number of transgender activists, journalists and scholars that recently made their existence felt in the conservative Indian society.

7. Medical Benefits: Transgenders are sexually exploited, harassed and susceptible to diseases like HIV/AIDS. No special wards are there in hospitals whether private or public. Here the transgender individual face discrimination in which ward they are to be admitted whether male ward or female. Other than this, they have to bear the full cost for SRS if they wish to opt for.

Thus, the community of transgender in India are discriminated and exploited; their condition of living is considered to be worse than the beggars who are at least treated with respect or pity by the people. The transgender people are looked-down as a curse due to their sinful activities in their previous birth or for their Karma. In the colloquial language, people often use the term 'Hijra' or 'chakka' in an abusive sense which threatens the identity of the third sex people. It shows disrespect towards them. The clapping of hands, their particular style of speaking, using languages which are considered to be 'vulgar' and their typical tone, the way they dress-up and walk all these are looked-down by the Indian society. In other words it can be said the pattern of living of the community is considered to be boorish and all possible ways have been undertaken by the people who ostracised them. So, the 'gaze' of the people requires change in order to make the orthodox society 'Inclusive' by accepting the third gender as a valuable part of it. If the third sex people are nurtured and inculcated with adequate skills, they can even contribute towards the development of the society.

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SOCIAL MEDIA AND LYNCHING

Nabodita Ganguly, Third Year Honours

In recent years, the grim threat of mob lynching has cast a terrifying shadow in many parts of India. According to Cambridge Dictionary, mob lynching means a group of people who want to attack someone who they think has committed a serious crime. Thus the mob takes law in their hands and goes to the extent of killing people. According to India Today, rumor on social media has led to sixteen cases of lynching in the last two months.

Karbi Anglong in Assam, Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh, Thiruvananthapuram in Tamil Nadu are some of the districts that witnessed violence from the hands of irate mobs and the victims were mostly outsiders who were left to die. The reason for the triggering of violence was a piece of information that was circulated via social media platform (mainly messaging from ("Whats App").

In certain districts of Tamil Nadu, WhatsApp posts were spread about 200 criminals from north India entering the state to kidnap children which infuriated the mob and led to numerous mob attacks and killed three lives. The first victim was a mentally deranged man who was in his thirties and he was killed on 28 April, 2018.

Similar incidents have been reported in West Bengal, Tripura, Odisha and Karnataka. On June 9th, Nilotpal Das, an Engineer and a businessman were lynched in the tribal dominated Karbi Anglong district on rumor that the duo had abducted a child in their car. While the Law and Order Cyber Cell Department of Police are trying hard to control the situation, the rumors seem to be endless. Even WhatsApp is trying to control the situation by rules such as the creators of WhatsApp groups are liable for false content spread on WhatsApp, there seems to be no stop.

We are in an age where we have replaced our conventional warning systems that are newspaper, televisions and the radio with social media accounts and we have reclaimed information and its circulation. While the mob is being active digitally and trusting the WhatsApp forwards, one cannot deny the fact that the number of lynchings are spreading also due to lack of social cohesion.

To address the profusion of increased fraud news which is being spread through WhatsApp, the messaging platform has decided to experiment with limiting the number of forwards to a limit of five chats as against 20 for the rest of the world. Earlier the company also launched a test of a feature that would label forwarded messages as such. According to Nikhil Pahwa (the founder of MediaNama.com), WhatsApp needs to change its platform to enable messages to be either public or private. Messages between individuals should remain private and if the message creator wants to enable the forward ability of the message, the chat should be treated as public and attributed with a unique ID link which will ensure accountability and allow the platform to remain neutral.

However, only reforming social media will not help stop lynching. While the Supreme Court has asked the Parliament to consider passing special law on lynching so as to protect the masses, the first thing that needs to be done is to educate the masses and make them have faith in the law and order.

According to Jaijit Bhattacharya, President, Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research, it is necessary for the government to urgently educate aware the public. Similarly, enforcement agencies should also develop standard operating protocols to handle such conditions.

Public Order is an issue that falls under the state subject. However, to stop lynching in the country the centre and state should working cooperation attempting to eliminate this. It is only the collective effort of the Centre, State, Social Media Platforms and law abiding society, the ugly reality of lynching can take a backseat in India. On our part, we as the citizens can do the simple work of spreading positive awareness against lynching and read twice and check the facts before forwarding any message on social media.

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**SPECIAL LECTURE
ON
THE THEORIES OF THE STATE (ABSTRACT)**

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The modern state has been explained by a number of theories of which liberalism, pluralism, and Marxism deserve special mention. The present lecture is an attempt to understand the state through these theoretical approaches. I also argue that the historical trajectory of the state is crucial to our understanding. While the European state has been the canonical model, care has to be taken to resist easy simplifications. The European state was not one. The states that grew up in the west were very different from those that emerged in the east. The postcolonial states were mostly created by the colonial powers though they seldom achieved the effectiveness that the west European states did. The application of western political theories to make sense of the post-colonial state must be handled with care. In general, states are an aggregate of institutions manned by public personnel, a complex organization of legitimate violence, and a territorialized entity, which binds citizens in common loyalty to shared national imaginaries. States vary in their extent of monopoly of the instruments of coercion and some are able to forge better national unity than others.

Liberals have explained the state contractually and functionally, and were central in abrogating the long dominant idea of divine origins of states. While most liberals are wary of the state and advocate a resilient civil society and a multiplicity of groups to keep the state in check, social liberals accept a more expansive role of the state in the interest of welfare. Additionally, liberals also advocate democratization and commercial interdependence as strategies to make peace between states. The classical Marxist position on the state defines it as a form of class rule, one that enables the dominant class to rule over the dominated. Marx also formulated the idea of the relative autonomy thesis that sought to relax the connection between state and class rule, though the central thesis remained unchanged. Marxist thinkers in the 20th century have written more directly about the role of the state. In line with Marx's relative autonomy argument, theorists like Miliband, Poulantzas, Offe and Jessop, their mutual differences notwithstanding, have broadly argued that in modern democratic states no one class dominates and complex heteronomous coalitions of predominant interests provide the state an opportunity to gain relative autonomy vis-à-vis these classes. Ultimately, the modern state faces the dilemmas of economic profit and democratic legitimacy on one hand, and those of liberty and security on the other in a transformed context of a globalized economy that has both curbed many of its traditional powers while creating several new opportunities that were unavailable in the past.

Date: 19.12.2017

150th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SISTER NIVEDITA : A TRIBUTE

Papers presented on Active Learning Day - 11.11.2017

➤ **CONTRIBUTIONS OF SISTER NIVEDITA : SADYA SULTANA : THIRD YEAR HONOURS**

INDIAN REVOLUTIONARIES AND SISTER NIVEDITA : On October 20, 1902 Sister Nivedita met Sri Aurobindo Ghosh in Baroda and discussed about the political developments in Bengal. She stressed the need of Aurobindo to give effective leadership to the nationalists and revolutionary forces in Bengal. She was the secretary of the five member revolutionary committee organised by Aurobindo Ghosh which later merged into Anushilan Samiti.

She undertook the task of amalgamating various revolutionary organisations, operating in Bengal. She came into close contact with Brahmabandev Upadhyaya. In 1905, she addressed mammoth public meetings condemning the British Government's decision of Bengal Partition. She strongly supported the resolution moved by Ananda Mohan Bose, condemning this unwise move. From 12 March 1906, Aurobindo Ghosh, Barindra Nath Ghosh and Bhupendranath Dutta started a weekly called YUGANTAR. In 1907, she went to England to set a favourable atmosphere for Indian independence. She organised the publication of revolutionary journals. On 28th September 1908, she went to USA where she met Bhupendra Nath Dutta, Tarak Nath Dutta and other revolutionaries. In 1909, when she returned to India most of her associates were in jail. After Aurobindo's arrest she took the responsibility of the journals DHARMA & KARMA YOGIN. Her place of residence was a meeting place for the revolutionaries especially the Sunday get-togethers. More among her eminent contemporaries were Rabindranath Tagore, Rash Behari Ghosh, G.K. Gokhale, Bipin Chandra Pal, Romesh Chandra Dutta and Abanindranath Tagore. She was a source of inspiration and a role model to the young revolutionaries.

SISTER NIVEDITA'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE: Nivedita was a great champion of the Tata Institute which later became in Bengaluru - Indian Institute of Science. When the British government under Lord Curzon skirted J. N. Tata's proposal of founding a research institute of science and humanities in India, Nivedita came to the forefront. She wrote about it intensively in the Indian as well as English press, meeting high officials and rallying the support of some of the world's best minds. Her more direct contribution was to the career of the pioneering Indian scientist Jagadish Chandra Bose. Indeed, she often referred to him as 'bairn' (child). She helped him more than a decade, organising a steady stream of fund for his research. She edited his articles and assisted him in the writing of his four important books. The books took his explorations to the world-audience at a time when he faced serious discrimination from the British Scientific Community. She was fascinated by the theme of his work which was in line with the Vedantic ideas of 'oneness of the entire existence'. It was Nivedita's dream that India should have its own high-class research institute

and very much wanted Bose to set up one. She had even arranged for a continuous stream of funding for Bose's work

➤ BENGAL SCHOOL OF ART : ARSHI HOUSSAIN : THIRD YEAR HONOURS

Nivedita played a crucial role in inspiring Indian artists to rediscover the roots of their own art and aesthetics. It was a time when their practice was largely informed by the tradition of the west. In this, her efforts, along with those of Ernest Benfield Havell, Principal of the Government School of Art in Calcutta and Abanindranath Tagore, that led to the flourishing of what came to be known as the Bengal School of Art. Bengal School especially in painting was called the Renaissance School as well as the Revivalist School because this movement endeavored for revival of the Indian ancient and medieval traditions. Also known as Indian style of painting in its early days, it associated with Indian nationalism (swadeshi) and was led by Abanindranath Tagore.

Nivedita was a mentor to the young painters of the school like Nandalal Bose, Asit Haldar, M.A.R Chugtai, Sunayani Devi, Kshitiranath Tagore and Suren Ganguly. The Bengal painters have made best possible efforts to bring in the rhythm, linear gracefulness and poise of Ajanta in their paintings. Influence of Mughal and Rajasthani school of art (folk form) can also be seen. She urged them to discover the soul of India and express it through their work. The trio of Nivedita, Havell and Ananda K Coomaraswamy played an important role in defining the function of art schools in India like those in then Madras, Lahore and Bombay which were informed by Western techniques. Abanindranath Tagore's painting 'Bharat Mata' (Mother India) became a landmark in the days of the nationalist movement. Nivedita was the inspiration of this painting.

In 1904-06, Sister Nivedita made a red and yellow flag with '*bande mataram*' written in Bengali at the centre. Gaganendranath Tagore added a new facet to Bengal School of Art. He explored the Japanese drawing techniques of ink wash and "wash" techniques.

In all their endeavour the inspiration of Sister Nivedita is discernible.

➤ NIVEDITA AS A SOCIAL WORKER : ASMITA DAS : THIRD YEAR HONOURS

Sister Nivedita is remembered in the history of India as an Anglo-Irish social worker and one of the great disciples of Swami Vivekananda. In the Indian Renaissance, Sister Nivedita played the role of an architect as in her mind was drawn in firm line the whole plan for the reconstruction of the nation. Her role as the KARMAYOGIN, where she inspired the Indian youth as the editor of *Karmayogin*, a nationalist newspaper found by Aurobindo Ghosh. Her contribution towards the Indian nationalism was reflected in her prolific writings on the India's culture and religion. Sister Nivedita opposed the British rule and concluded it was necessary for India to regain independence.

During the plague epidemic in Calcutta 1899 Sister Nivedita nursed and took care of the patients, cleaned rubbish and inspired youths to render voluntary service. She inserted appeals for help in the English newspaper and requested for financial support for her plague relief activities.

Her utmost contribution was the foundation of a Girls school at Bagbazar. She introduced the song 'VANDE MATARAM' in her school to inculcate the spirit of nationalism among her students. The school is currently known as SISTER NIVEDITA GIRL'S SCHOOL. Her immense contribution towards the empowerment of women was inspired by her own guru Swami Vivekananda. She improved women's education especially the Hindu widows whose life had turned miserable under the orthodox society. She also took part in the scores of altruistic activities for the upliftment of mankind.

In her last days Jagadish Chandra Bose along with his wife Lady Abala Bose used to take Nivedita during the puja holidays to Darjeeling and sometimes to Mayavati in Uttarakhand, where they stayed at the Advaita Ashram of the Ramakrishna Mission. As fate would have it, it was in the company of the Boses that Nivedita spent her last days and breathed her last in Darjeeling. As early as 1904, Nivedita had prophesied that she will probably die in 1912. Broken in health due to years of strain and hardship, she felt sick and spent her last few days waiting for the final departure. She died on 11th October 1911.

Nivedita was cremated in Darjeeling and her last funeral procession was of the kind seldom witnessed before in the hill station. An inscription at her cremation spot says:

"Here Reposes Sister Nivedita Who Gave Her All To India".

Few have ever deserved that description more.



“নিবেদিত সে মেয়ে”

মন্ডার মুখোপাধ্যায়, রাষ্ট্রবিজ্ঞান বিভাগ, শ্রী শিক্ষায়তন কলেজ

আমার সোথে নিবেদিতা একজন মানবতায় মানুষ।

তাঁর সন্তার সবটুকুই উজাড় করে নিয়েছেন আমাদের জননাই। সেই পথে তিনি একক এবং অনন্য।

উনবিংশ শতকে জ্ঞান, ভাষা, প্রতিষ্ঠান, বিজ্ঞান এসবকে ঘিরে জন্মানায় যে জাগরণ হয়েছিল তার মূলে ছিল বন্ধুত্বের জাগরণ।

নানা বিপ্লবীতমুখী মানুষ স্বাক্ষর বজায় রেখে পাশপাশি পথ বুঁজেছেন। সম্মতি-অসম্মতি দুইই খুঁজি মেনে এগোতে চেয়েছে।

কিন্তু সবটাই ছিল মূলত পুরুষকেন্দ্রিক। সেখানে ব্যতিক্রম নিবেদিতা।

এই মানুষটি শুরু মেনেছেন স্বামীজীকে। স্বামীজির চিন্তা থেকে উড়ে আসা উত্তরীয়টি জড়িয়ে গিয়েছিল তাঁরই গলার। বাকি

জীবনের কাটিয়েছেন নানা ভাবে নানা কাজে নিজেকে জড়িয়ে। আর আমরা দেখেছি বন্ধুতার আলো কখনও রবীন্দ্রনাথের

সংস্পর্শে। কখনও অবনীন্দ্রনাথ, কখনও জগদীশ চন্দ্রকে ঘিরে। তাঁর চারুকলাবোধ ও শিক্ষার কাছে খন্দী আমাদের ভারতীয়

চিত্রকলা। অঙ্কনা-ইস্কেয়ার পৌছোলেন মন্ডলাল তাঁরই উৎসাহে। অবনীন্দ্রনাথ তাঁকে দেখেই তাঁকালেন ভারতমাতার ছবি

তিনি নিজেও একে গেলেন অনেক ছবি যে কোনও চিত্রীর মতোই তাঁর আবেগে।

এভাবেই স্বজন বোধে টেনে নিলেন সশস্ত্র বিপ্লবীদেরও। শুরু হল বাড়ি বাড়ি গিয়ে অভিজাতবন্দের বুকিয়ে মেয়েদের

শিক্ষার জন্য ইঙ্গুল নির্মাণ। তাঁর ইঙ্গুলের প্রতীক হল বহু। উদ্দেশ্য হল স্বামীজির আদর্শে সমাজমনস্ক হওয়ার পথ নির্মাণ।

সন্ন্যাস তাঁকে দিল প্রেম, সংযুক্তি দিল শিষ্টবোধ, সেবা দিল শক্তি, আর সংগঠন দিল মন। যন্ত্রিত সন্ন্যাসে নরেন্দ্রনাথ, মা

সারনা, অবনীন্দ্রনাথ, জগদীশ বসু আর একটু দূর থেকে রবীন্দ্রনাথ - কী অব্যাহা অর্থাৎ তাঁর সন্ন্যাসে প্রেরণা রং

থাকলেও মাঝে মুড়িয়ে আগুনি নেই। নিজস্ব শিল্পবোধে, কলিবোধে নিজেই যেন বা নিজের দীক্ষণক। আর এই বহুটিকে

ধারণ করলেন মা সাবদা। যেন নরেন্দ্রেরই অংশস্বরূপ।

বড় সহজ ছিল না পরিবারহীন, “মিশন” উদ্ভূত একটি বিদেশি মেয়ের এই ঘুরে দাঁড়ানো। সহজ ছিল না জগদীশ বসুর

আতিথেয় নিশ্চিত মূল্য এবং হিন্দু মতে দাওকাজ। বস্তুত মনুষ্যত্বের স্বীকৃতি হওয়ার থেকেও কঠিন ছিল নিবেদিতার হিন্দু

হওয়া। আমরা কখনও সেভাবে মাথা ঘামাইনি যে কেমন ছিল তাঁর সেই একার জীবন। শূন্যতা। হেনস্থর মোকবিলা কিভাবে

কয়েছিলেন। কত বিনিস রাত, কত দক্ষ দিনমান কিভাবেই বা কাটিয়েছিলেন তিনি।

আমার ভাবনায় তিনি সরস্বতী-চতুর্ভুজা। বহু, কন্দল, তুলি আর কলম-চারহাতে ধরে।

অন্তর জুড়ে গ্রন্থম আর প্রতিবাদ। দৃষ্টিতে স্বয়ং।

অস্তিত্বে যেন এক বিশাল বনভূমি। ধ্বংসের মতো।

অ’ওন কালিয়ে দিলেও তা সবুজ-ফুল। ফসলান।

(বক্তব্য সংক্ষেপ)

Dr. Mukherjee was invited to present a paper on Sister Nivedita in a State level Seminar.

It was organised by Nivedita Brati Sangha in collaboration with The Rcimakrishna Mission

Institute of Culture, Golpark on June 20th, 2018.

STUDENTS' REPORTS : 2017-2018

● ACTIVE LEARNING DAY 2017: Debarupa De Biswas Second Year

Words have an interesting way of trapping our minds on the way to our tongues. The Active Learning Day Programme on the 11th of November, 2017 was a gentle reminder to it. It needs to have integrity of mind, effort and a huge amount of courage in public speaking.

The Active Learning Day programme touched on issues such as 'Citizenship', 'Clean Hygiene and Sanitation' Maintained by the Corporation of Blohannagar and the role of Sister Nivedita towards the Indian society.

These issues were talked about through several power point presentations by the Honours students of all batches of our Department.

The programme took off with an inaugural speech by the respected Principal, Dr. Aditi Dey who is also a departmental faculty, followed by a speech by our respected H.O.D, Dr.Mandar Mukherjee. They enlightened us about the importance of the Active Learning Day programme in an age where thoughtful content as well as public speaking is becoming an essential part of our life.

The programme proceeded with a power point presentation by the Third Year on the inspiring role of Sister Nivedita towards the society. It was an interesting insight in illuminating her courageous role.

'Book Talk' by the students of the Second Year was also informative. The Second Year presented a movie review on a Hindi film, named, 'Toilet, Ek Prem Katha,' emphasising the necessity of proper sanitation for women.

The programme ended with an insightful power point presentation by the students of First Year on 'Citizenship and its Crisis'.

● TENTH BELARANI DEY MEMORIAL LECTURE 2017 ; Raport Writing Committee: BOML

The Department of Political Science celebrated the 10th Béla Rani De Memorial Lecture this year on 6th of September, 2017. The programme started with an welcome address given by Debalina Biswas, Third year Honours. A minute of silence was observed in the loving memory of our former Professor of the Department Smt. Mahasweta Sen Roy who left for her heavenly abode in January, 2017. The programme was graced by the presence of Special Guest Dr.Bonita Aleaz, Retired Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta and an Alumna of this Department. The programme was led forward by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by our respected Principal Dr. Aditi Dey, Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Head of the Department & the Chief Guest Dr.Bonita Aleaz.

The programme was conducted by Debarupa De Biswas, Second Year. A power point presentation was done by the Second Year students highlighting the different activities of the Department. This was followed by the release of the departmental journal 'Perception' (Vol 8, 2016-17). The release of the Departmental Journal was followed by the release of two other Reports. The report of the Academic Extension Activity of 2016 which was held in collaboration with the Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, was released along with the Report of the Institutional Visit to Kolkata Municipal Corporation in 2016. A News Letter which was specially prepared by the First Year students of the Department was also released on this occasion.

The Guest Speaker delivered a lecture on "Revisiting the legacy of Ayyankali" which was very enlightening to us. The House was then opened for an Interactive Session.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Sakshi Tiwari, First Year Honours. Special thanks were given to the Alumni Association of the College 'Shrijaa' for collaborating with our Department. The memorial lecture ended in a bonhomie nature with joy and mirth.

◆ **SELF-FINANCED DEPARTMENTAL STUDY CIRCLE: 2017: Nabodita Ganguly: Second Year.**

We have a Self Financed Departmental Study Circle since 2008. It is one of the unique practices of our department. All the three years of the Honours students of our departments attend this academic meet on a regular basis. At the beginning of each session the Conveners from each year are elected. One of our faculty as a Convener of the Study Circle has shouldered the entire responsibility in organising the matters. The team of contributors for the weekly News Letter has also been decided here. It is an activity where the students of all the respective years have to come up with a speech or talk followed by a power point representation about the topic. The main aim of 'Study Circle' is to make the students active in the field of public speaking and make them research oriented. It acts as an organised platform for our academic pursuits under the guidance of the faculty.

On 20th December 2017 the programme started with the selection of conveners from all years. Muskan Jaiswal from the First Year was elected unanimously. Sadiya Sultana from Third Year and Nabodita Ganguly from the Second Year continued as already elected candidates. The Conveners of the three years, each gave an introductory speech about the importance of the topic 'Media' in respect to Political Science.

The respective topics for the First Year and the Second Year students were 'Trends in Media' and 'Media and Socialisation'. Shireen Gupta and Muskan Jaiswal of First Year spoke about the way the media has influenced every sphere of activities, especially the election coverage.

The students of Second Year were divided into two teams for the same topic. Group -A made a power point presentation on 'Media and Censorship'. The speakers of this group were Debarupa De Biswas, Suchismita Bhattacharjee and Kritika Ahuja who described about censorship and the way how it tends to suppress the facts and the public reactions. Further, they discussed about the way how censorship affects the media too. 'Padmavati' controversy over the release of the film was also referred to.

The speakers of the Group - B Zarina Mamsa, Susmita Yadav, Nabodita Ganguly, Shazeen Sania and Anuja Das made a power point presentation on 'Media and Socialisation'. They spoke about the importance of mass media and its role as the agent of socialisation.

This time students of Third Year had no presentation because of their forthcoming final examination. The programme was coordinated by Debarupa De Biswas of Second Year and the concluding speech was given by Debalina Biswas, the Class Representative of Third Year. She spoke about the overall involvement of the students and the importance of media in today's world.

It is the valued guidance of our teachers throughout which makes it a fruitful practice.

● **News Letters:**

Series of weekly 'News Letters' were made by the First Year students throughout the year on regular basis covering the International, National and Local news in poster form.



AN ACADEMIC EXTENSION ACTIVITY : IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, VISVA - BHARATI

THIRD YEAR HONOURS: 12.01.18-13.01.18

The Third year honours students of the Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College were taken on an educational tour, as a part of an Academic Extension Programme to the Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati, Sriniketan, on the 12th of January 2018. The trip was organised with the cooperation and assistance of Dr. Kumkum Bhattacharya, Head of the Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati.

STUDY TEAM : Our study team comprised of five Honours students from the Third Year who were accompanied by three teachers from the Department of Political Science – Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Head of the Department, Debolina Mukherjee and Dr. Siuli Mukherjee.

PURPOSE OF VISIT: To enhance the understanding of the students and help them

- To get a greater insight about social work as an academic discipline and learn about the various career prospects in this discipline
- Interact directly with the Department dealing with Social Work and developing an academic approach to the proper understanding of the subject.
- To know about different courses offered by the Department.
- To acquaint and train the students towards similar future collaborative projects in the field.
- To develop a knowhow of offering assistance to the problems of the indigenous inhabitants.

STUDY AREA : BINURIA IN BOLPUR

DAY I: Friday 12th January 2017

VISIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK: SRINIKETAN -VISVA BHARATI

The study team visited the Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati for an interactive session with the Department Prof. Kumkum Bhattacharya, Head of the Department of Social Work introduced the faculty members of her Department to our team. She illuminated us about how it is essential to give back to the society. Her orientation lecture illuminated the vision of Rabindranath Tagore relating to social work and the reconstruction of the rural life. This endeavor of Rabindranath received supports of various personalities from India and abroad. The collective efforts with rewarding reforms and changes helped in the growth and development of Sriniketan. Later on it bloomed into a full-fledged academic centre.

She was followed by Moumita Laha, Faculty, Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati who gave us a brief introduction about the working of the department. She discussed on how the students

go about with their field work and the nature of the interview which they conduct with the people of the concerned villages. She also gave us an insight about the course of Social Work both at the graduation and the masters level, the assignments they have to deal with during their course. She was followed by Sushmita Patel who discussed about the primary and secondary methods of field work. They also informed us how the students of under and post-graduation are given field works on Mondays and Fridays with 8 hours of field work. The main aim of the field work is to bring the students in direct contact with the villagers and to work for their welfare. Through multiple projects their students provide social, legal, medical amenities to the deprived and marginalized sections of the society. Their work usually centres around the selected villages of Bolpur. Another faculty Dr. Nilmoni Jaiswal also shared his thought on the different activity of the Department of Social Work and his ideas of making model villages.

After the introductory programme, Dr. Mandar Mukherjee the Head of our Department highlighted the purpose of this collaborative venture and presented our last year report of the Academic Extension Programme held on 30.7.16- 31.7.16 along with the departmental journal *Perception* to Dr. Kumkum Bhattacharya. Dr. Mukherjee highlighted the importance of urban-college students to come to the rural setting and know the different facets of life. She expressed her hope that few students of Third Year Honours of Shri Shikshayatan College will come to the Department of Social Work for attaining their Master Degree. The welcome received by our team by the Department of Social work was warm and cordial.

Following the introductory orientation speeches, we started on our visit to the village Binuria guided by the Bachelor and Masters level students of the Department of Social Work.

FIELD VISIT: BINURIA

The students were divided into two teams. Each one of them was provided with a questionnaire which had questions related to their voting behavior, health, sanitation, education, sources of income and family planning among other queries.

TEAM - A MEMBERS:		
Shri Shikshayatan College	Asmita Das	PLSA 3 rd Year
	Arshi Hossain	
	Rishika	
Visva-Bharati	Saheli Chandra	BSW 2 nd Semester
	Sipathi Sultana	BSW 4 th Semester
	Sidra Samsad	BSW 6 th Semester
	Somali Mukherjee	
	Soni Roy	
	Ajanta Sarkar	MSW 3 rd Semester

Team - A visited Adibasipara, Korapara, Metopara, Malpara and Goraipara of Binuria village.

FINDINGS: TEAM - A

- The girls and boys of the villages do get education as there are a number of primary schools in the locality. Not much discrimination amongst girls and boys from the family side is noticed till primary level. However, the drop-out rate after primary school is quite high, especially for the girls.
- The male members of the family are mostly daily earners. Women are engaged in domestic chores. From the interaction it appeared that men were lazy while women as enterprising.
- In some of the families men earn their livelihood as daily labour, goldsmith, artist and snake charmers. Even a family of Chitrakar was introduced to us but they are not continuing with their traditional vocation.
- In most of the families, early marriage is noticed and on an average each family has three children. Family planning is not practiced.
- The villagers receive aid from the panchayats but they need a mediator for this.
- Civic amenities like electricity, concrete roads are present but the non-availability of clean drinking water is a serious concern.
- About health and sanitation both men and women are less aware. The women are hardly aware of the use of sanitary napkins.
- Use of tube wells for drinking purpose and ponds for domestic work is common.
- Health camps are organised every Thursday with a local doctor. A homeopathic clinic is present in the vicinity. However, hospitals are far away from the village and the local residents have to travel to a place named 'Sian' to get help. But the medical facility available there is also not satisfactory.
- Families are aware of various Governmental schemes such as Kanyashree, Mid-Day Meal, Health Card and other facilities.
- Tuitions are available for the students and the local club organisers play a role for such arrangement.
- Poverty is rampant and the villagers expressed their anxiety for money.
- Houses made of mud are present on a large scale and they were decorated with traditional designs.
- Caste system is highly prevalent among the villagers with separate residential areas for different caste members. The higher caste enjoys their superior position and even follows the ill practice of untouchability.

- Cases of domestic violence are prevalent but the villagers were not willing to open up on this.
- Villagers actively participate in voting and nearly all of them have Voting and Aadhar card but they are not the active members of political parties. They do not have any interest in contesting election as well.
- The villagers interviewed have no such grievance against the law and order situation in their village and are fairly satisfied with the working of the authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Encouragement to child education.
- Abolition of child marriage.
- Avail the toilet facilities provided.
- Removal of caste based segregation.
- Dwellers should be made aware of the different banking schemes and facilities.

Team B visited Adibasipara, Korapara, Metepara, Malpara and Dhatripara of Binuria village. The following are the findings of Team B

TEAM - B MEMBERS:		
Birla Shikshayatan College	Debalina Bhowas	PLSA 3 rd Year
	Nisha Srivastva	
Visva-Bharati	Setu Mondal	BSW 2 nd Semester
	Sagnik Bakali	BSW 4 th Semester
	Shamali Mukherjee	BSW 6 th Semester
	Sidra Shamshad	
	Smi Roy	
	Swamendu Mukherjee	
	Abir Chatterjee	MSW 3 rd Semester

FINDINGS: TEAM B

The village has drawn our attention on the following aspects:

- On enquiring it was found out that most of the villagers were inhabitants of the same village throughout generations but lack of adequate means of livelihood has compelled many to migrate to other states of India.
- Poverty and houses made of mud are present on a large scale.
- In all the above areas local pets like dogs, cows are present.
- A general lack of awareness about hygiene was noted.

- Unlike villages in other districts of Bengal, agriculture is not the primary source of earning here. Every family earned their livelihood from daily labor, one of them even owned a saloon as a source of his income
- The villagers were aware and beneficiaries of the facilities available from the authorities (Health Card, AADHAR Card, BPL Card, MNREGA, Prime Minister AWAS Yojana) most of them were fairly satisfied with the efforts of the authorities.
- The children are given education; there are sufficient number of schools in the vicinity which try to ensure holistic development though higher education is difficult to avail.
- The village has some civic amenities like electricity, concrete roads, and library though health care service and inadequate availability of potable water are serious problems. A positive phenomenon noted was that almost all homes use personal sanitary toilets
- The villagers complained of the insufficient health facilities, absence of hospitals or ambulance. To avail the hospital facilities they had to travel miles to the main city Bolpur. Health camps are organized every Thursday and a local doctor is also available
- Every member is politically aware and they were active voters though very few contest in the elections
- Peaceful environment and law and order prevailing everywhere.
- The villages are caste based. Social stratification was particularly visible in each of the villages with the upper castes being based in the centre of the village and the people belonging to the reserved castes being peripheralised to the margins.
- Television sets are the asset in almost all the houses. They also actively participate in other forms of entertainment available like music and local plays.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase in the number of hospitals in the village and also increase the number of ambulances to save lives of the villagers.
- Increase in the awareness among the people to reduce stratification on the basis of caste.
- Steps should also be taken to increase the number of taps for better drinking water facility

POST FIELD VISIT: SONAJHURI HAAT AND AAMAR KUTIR

Every Saturday there is a local fair in Sonajhuri. This place is one of those areas which attract tourists from all over. As we went there on Friday, we witnessed some of the stalls selling the indigenous Shantiniketan goods. To add to the serenity in the ambience there were local bands imparting freshness and melody. The visit on the first day was concluded by a visit to Aamar Kutir a Society for Rural

Development run merchandise shop specialising in products created by local people. After the visit we came to our home stay and after a hi-tea, we all sat for discussing our field visit. The students overwhelmingly expressed their emotion and insights about the families they met in the village. Our Head of the Department Dr. Mandar Mukherjee prepared a sketch of the day's visit and the data which came out from the questionnaire.

Day II Saturday 13th January 2018

Rabindra Bhavana : We visited the museum 'Rabindra Bhavan' on Saturday 13th January. The museum was founded in July 1942 shortly after the poet's death. In Rabindra Bhavan we saw various manuscripts, artifacts, certificates of honor and the personal belongings of the poet. The pictures of his family, a replica of the Noble Prize which he had received were all displayed. Besides this it also has contemporary letters and translation of Tagore's work in various languages.

Kala Bhavana : Next we visited the campus of Kala Bhavana. Owing to the paucity of time we could not interact with the faculty members at Kala Bhavana. We visited their open air classes and saw the making of various sculptures.

CONCLUSION

This trip to Shantiniketan will remain etched in our memories for a lifetime.

- We learnt the value of cooperative work which in the end yielded wonderful results.
- It has made us aware about the discipline of Social Work and the programmes which the Visva Bharati University undertakes.
- It made the students come in direct contact with the reality of the Indian villages. The students have really enjoyed the visit and was thankful for this opportunity.
- The visit inculcated a new zeal among the students to pursue higher studies in Social Work

A Note of Appreciation from Dr. Kumkum Bhattacharya

January 12

Dear Faculty, Sri Sikshayatan College, Department of Political Science,

Thank you for bringing your students to visit our Department as part of your Academic Extension Programme. For us these are experiences of reaching out to larger student communities from urban backgrounds.

Do keep up this exchange of mutual benefit

With best wishes and warm regards from me and my faculty

From
Dr. Kumkum Bhattacharya

The Full Report was released by the Principal Dr. Aditi Dey on Library Day of the College, 2018

SUMMARY REPORT: VISIT TO THE KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

THIRD YEAR- GENERAL on 17.11.2017

In accordance with the programme organised by our college in consultation with the Kolkata Municipal authorities, on 17th November 2017, the Third Year General students of The Department of Political Science, Sri Shikshayatan College went for an institutional visit to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation located at 5, Surendranath Banerjee Road, Kolkata.

STUDY AREA: The composition and functioning of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

STUDY TEAM: The study team comprised of 14 Third Year students who are all from the General course. The students were accompanied by departmental faculty Dabolina Mukherjee and office personnel Mrs. Jayeeta Das.

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT:

Municipal Corporation is a part of the Political Science curriculum under the University of Calcutta. With an intention to gain more thorough insight about the civic body, the students visited Kolkata Municipal Corporation to gain practical knowledge about the organisation, and about the various details of the functions and activities of the concerned departments of the organisation. Moreover, since our college falls within the jurisdiction of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, the visit aimed at direct discussion of major and relevant issues of the area.

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION:

Kolkata Municipal Corporation or (formerly Calcutta Municipal Corporation), established in 1876, is responsible for the civil infrastructure and administration of the city of Kolkata. The jurisdiction of the civil administrative body has increased to 200.71km from 185sq.km after the addition of Joka I and Joka II in 2012. The city is divided into 144 wards, grouped in 16 boroughs. Each ward has a Councillor and each borough has a committee. The Corporation through the borough maintains government aided schools, hospitals, municipal markets and road maintenance. The present ruling party of KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION is Trinamool Congress. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation is headed by the Honourable Mayor, Shri Sovan Chatterjee and Deputy Mayor Shri Asif Iqbal. Its motto, "Purosree Bibardhan" is inscribed on its emblem in Bengali script.

RECENT AMENDMENTS: In recent times, two significant amendments have been brought about. The West Bengal Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2017 has been passed in the Assembly in August 2017 which empowers the state government to appoint the offices of the Corporation to extend the term of their office without consultation with the Mayor-in-Council to prevent delay that may be caused by administrative reasons.

The KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Second Municipal (Amendment) Bill) 2017 was also

passed in the assembly for the extension of benefit of exemption of property tax to an extent of certain classes of people which include citizens, widows, deserted women and physically challenged people.

STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES: The Kolkata Municipal Corporation is modelled on the parliamentary form government and the procedures followed in are similar to the procedures of the Parliament. It has a three-tiered structure, with the ward Councillors at the base, borough Chairmen at the intermediary level and headed by Mayor and Mayor-in- Council. Of the 144 Councillors, 40 are women.

Some of the procedures are Motion, Resolution Calling Attention. The Corporation holds a monthly meeting wherein the Chairman acts like the Speaker. Presently, the Opposition is led by Ratna Roy Majumder while the ruling party Chief Whip is Ratna Sur.

DIGNITARIES MET :

- Shri Harihar Prosad Mandal- Municipal Secretary,
- Shri Shankarlal Mukherjee-Additional Municipal Commissioner.
- Shri Bijay Biswas- Chief Manager of the License Department.
- Shri Sanjay Mitra- Officer on special duty in the Solid Waste Management Department.
- Shri T.K. Mukherjee- Honorary Advisor to the Health Department.
- Sourabh Adhikary- Junior Assistant

DEPARTMENTS VISITED: INTERACTIONS:

Conference Room: We started the visit in the Conference Room wherein we had an interactive session with Shri Harihar Prosad Mandal, T.K. Mukherjee and other dignitaries attached with various departments whereby we got an impression of the structure and working of the organisation as a whole and some of its departments. Various serious issues related to dengue, springing up of hookah bars in the vicinity of etc. were raised in the question answer session.

Mayor's Chamber: Shri Shankarlal Mukherjee and Sourabh Adhikary, accompanied us to the Mayor's Chamber. In the Mayor's absence, Shri Mukherjee showed us the photographs of all the past Mayors adorning the walls of the Mayor's chamber and the various awards which the corporation has received in the course of the discharge of its duties.

Councillor's Chamber: Shri Shankarlal Mukherjee and Sourabh Adhikary accompanied us to the councillor's chamber. He showed us the seating arrangements in the House and informed us that as per conventions, the Opposition sits on the left hand side of the chamber while the ruling party, which he referred to as Treasury bench sits on the right. We came to know that the session is usually held once every month and is presided over by the Chairman. We also came to know that the Kolkata Municipal Corporation is the first municipal authority to be ISO certified in 2004.

Central Records (Birth Wing): Our next phase of visit to the record rooms where we saw an exclusive room for keeping birth records and also an adjoining room wherefrom people were collecting their birth certificates. Here Shri T.K. Mukherjee also showed us how the Kolkata Municipal Corporation

android-app could be used to trace the birth details of any person. In the Birth Wing of the Record Room, innumerable records of births are being maintained and one of the team members was shown the handwritten details of her birth record.

Central Records (Death Wing) : In the Death Wing of the section, like the Birth Wing, death certificates are maintained. Here, a tableau mentioning a list of burial grounds meant for people belonging to different communities is on display.

Licence : Our next stop was the Licensing department where Shri Bijay Biswas, Chief Manager patiently explained to us about how the idea that Corporation issues trade license is a misconception and what it does in reality is the issuance of Certificate of Enlistment. We were also shown how most of the applications and communications could be done online.

Amal Home Digital Archive : Our final stop was Amal Home Digital Archive, which is a gallery named after Amal Home and maintained by Information and Public Relations Department of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, a preeminent editor of "Calcutta Municipal Gazette". This section maintains old records from the bygone and efforts are being made to digitise all the issues of the Calcutta Municipal Gazette, some of which have already been digitised. Here, we were also shown a documentary feature about the history of Kolkata as a city and other events of national importance. We also had the rare opportunity of listening to Rabindranath Tagore recite *Jana Gana Mana*

OBSERVATIONS:

- In the Central Record Section, the wires were not properly kept so far that reason short circuit can happen and the records can be destroyed.
- In the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, there should be more visible rest rooms for the visitors.
- The officials and the staff were cordial and cooperative but they were not properly answering to the questions asked by the students.
- The food stalls in the way to the report room should be shifted outside to keep the area clean and hygienic.
- The Kolkata Municipal Corporation is responsible for the maintenance of health and sanitation of Kolkata, but to our observations when we entered the Kolkata Municipal Corporation premises a huge pile of garbage was lying right in the front of the entrance gate which gives a wrong impression on the visitors. That area as well as the whole of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation premises should be clean than only the common people will believe that Kolkata Municipal Corporation practises what it preaches to.

CONCLUSION: The visit to the KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION helped us to get familiar to the various departments of the corporation. We discussed several issues with Deputy Secretary and got quite evasive answers to our queries. Despite that, the visit was very fruitful and gave us an opportunity to get familiar with the working of such a huge institution.

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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE BELARANI DE MEMORIAL LECTURE INVITED SPEAKERS : 2008-2017

Speaker	Designation	Year	Topic
Prof. Rakhabari Chatterji	Eminent Professor of Political Science, University of Calcutta	2008	"Multiculturalism's Promises: Gandhi's Experiment"
Prof. Sohanlal Datta Gupta (Retired)	Surendranath Banerjee Professor of Political Science, University of Calcutta	2009	"Rethinking Democracy: the majestic and the masses."
Dr. Uma Dasgupta	Noted Scholar and Academicians	2010	"Rabindranath Tagore & His India"
Prof. Apurba Baruah	Dept. of Political Science, North-East Hill University	2011	"Ethnic Movements & Indian Democracy: a case of North-East"
Prof. Anup Sinha	Dept. of Economics, IIM, Joka	2012	"Climate Change: The Complex Interface Between Science, Philosophy & Politics."
Prof. Debi Chatterjee (Retired)	Dept. of International Relations, Jadavpur University	2013	"Natural Disasters and Human Rights."
Prof. Partha Pratim Basu	Dept. of International Relations, Jadavpur University	2014	"Federalism and India's Foreign Policy."
Prof. Samita Sen	School of Women's Study, Jadavpur University	2015	"My Daughter's Mothers: Women's Education, BENGAL, 1870s TO 2000s"
Prof. Asok Kumar Mukhopadhyay (Retired)	Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Professor of Political Science, Dept. of Political Science, University of Calcutta	2016	"Relevance of Kautilya in our time"
Proffor Bonita Aleaz	Political Science, University of Calcutta	2017	"Revisiting the legacy of Ayyankali"

EXCELLENCE AND AWARD : 2017-2018

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Highest Marks in the College Examination	Asmita Das
Highest Attendance in the Class	Do
Spirit of Cooperation	Saima Parveen Rishika Subhangi Priyadarshani
Comper and Announcement	Debalina Biswas
Art and Aesthetics	Nisha Srivastva

CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

The recipients of the CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2017-2018
The outgoing students of Third Year of the Department of Political Science
On The College Foundation Day Programme held on 7th July 2018

Debate	Debalina Biswas
Academic Pursuits	Asmita Das Arshi Hossain Debalina Biswas Rishika Sadiya Sultana Salma Parveen Shubhangi Priyadarshani
Social Work	Asmita Das
Arshi Hossain	Arshi Hossain
Debalina Biswas	Debalina Biswas
Nisha Srivastava	Nisha Srivastava
Rishika	Rishika
Nisha Srivastva	Co-curricular-Art and Craft

Book Review

ANONYMOUS SOLDIERS- THE STRUGGLE FOR ISRAEL 1917-1947

Bruce Hoffman: New York: Vintage: 2016 (Paperback): Rs. 999 : pp: 672

Winner of National Jewish Book Award 2015

Winner of the Washington Institute Book Prize 2015

Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

Bruce Hoffman, a contemporary political analyst is specialised in the study of terrorism, counter-terrorism, insurgency as well as counter-insurgency. He is a Tenured professor at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. From 2010 till 2017 he was the Director of the Center for Security Studies as the second longest-serving Director. He is also the visiting Professor of Terrorism Studies at St Andrews University.

Whether terrorism is an effective weapon to achieve fundamental political change is the main question of Bruce Hoffman. In his book "Anonymous Soldiers" we came across in detail how terrorists encompassed the scenario in Israel and he gave a huge range of logical justification in its favour. Consequently, he described how 'War', 'Attack', 'Threats', 'Death' – had become a day-to-day practice in the cultural history of Israel especially of Jerusalem. It is also about how Jewish terrorists defeated British rule in the late forty's and earned their independent homeland.

In this work Bruce Hoffman, America's leading expert on terrorism, very brilliantly re-creates the crucial thirty-year period that led to the birth of Israel. Drawing from the previously untapped archival resources in London, Washington-DC, and Jerusalem, this book shows how the efforts of two militant Zionist groups brought about the end of British rule in the Middle East. Hoffman has thrown light on the bombing of the King David Hotel, assassination of Lord Moyne in Cairo, the leadership of Menachem Begin, the life and death of the revolutionary leader and poet Avraham Stern and so on. Moreover he has shown how Irgun and Lehi, the underdog "anonymous soldiers" defeated the British and set in motion the chain of events that resulted in the creation of the nation-state Israel. This is a towering accomplishment of narrative and research. The book is one of the most scholarly documented historical evidence on terrorism; a sustained account of terrorist and counter-terrorist campaign. Hoffman said in an interview taken by reporter Sarah Maksoud, published in "Security" on 30th March 2015, that his main mission was to discover the actual role of the Government in negotiating terrorism. He found that publicly - 'they' (the Government) denied but actually 'they' (the Government) dealt terrorism as a means with tact and deals. His purpose is to assess whether terrorism is operational at a broader, systematic and strategic level. Hoffman is curious to know what the role of terrorism in history was.

Out of the total nineteen chapters, the first six throw light on the period between 1917 to 1939. The next four speak of the two World Wars. The concluding nine chapters covering half of the book

is about the last three years of the British domination in the contested land. Terrorism is the signature of the confrontation as claimed by Hoffman. The most significant slogan he cited is, after the first outbreak of terrorist attack against the British Colonial power in Jerusalem - "We fight, therefore we are!" Hoffman concludes that the rise of Israel was the product of many powerful forces in addition to terrorism. Hoffman convincingly shows us how terrorism is neither irrational nor desperate but instead entirely rational and often carefully calculated and choreographed.

As a reviewer I have got two dimensions to proceed. First the readers can get an analytical view from an insider's research and an experienced overview with a newer approach. Hoffman has reviewed the Arab - Jew crisis in Israel, especially in Jerusalem; the ongoing attacks, imprisonment, terrors of colonial power and finally the survival of Ben Gurion (1948-1954)- the terrorist leader who became the first Prime Minister of independent Israel. Twists and tales of international politics and the role of the experts and analysts in highlighting the matters are interesting to note. History says that no communist or socialist movements had reared their head either in U.S.A or in Jew dominated Israel. It is indeed noteworthy that neither U.S.A nor Israel have projected any ideological justification for their support to terrorism. They have given their unpretentious approval to insurgency and counter-insurgency as a means of domestic and foreign policy.

Moreover, as a student of Indian political system, the situation stated above can be compared with the Indian situation. Surprisingly Hoffman maintained silence about Mahatma Gandhi and his determined attempt to apply "Nonviolence" as opposed to terrorism, insurgency and militancy. It was in the same period that the same colonial ruler i.e. the British played their time-tested instrument of 'Divide and Rule' policy in another subjugated country i.e. India. It is almost identical what they planned in fomenting the Arab - Jew rivalry and identically Hindu-Muslim tensions in India for encouraging insurgency and counter-insurgency. In this context, Mahatma Gandhi was not silent and reacted to the Arab - Jew homeland issue in Israel much before his return to India from South Africa. But the fact remains that when the British Power was fully successful in Israel, it faced severe resistance in India because of Gandhi and his policy of "Boycott", "Passive Resistance" and "Non Violence". Criticism on Gandhi is still voluminous but the very word 'Non-Violence' has saved us from terrorism, counter-terrorism and militancy in politics. Parallel to Gandhi, the role of Rabindranath Tagore also has widened our knowledge on "Religion of Man". Finally I got a definite answer to my queries and disjointed findings from one of my Kolkata based Jew friend Joel Siffimon. From her I came to know that in the Prime Minister's office at Jerusalem, a photograph of Rabindranath Tagore has been displayed and one of the main roads of Jerusalem is named after 'Mahatma'.

In this context, the statement given by the Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu is also noteworthy. On 17th January, 2018 Benjamin Netanyahu during his visit to India described Mahatma Gandhi as the promoter of peace and wrote in the guest-book that 'Mahatma Gandhi was one of humanity's great prophet of inspiration'.

I should conclude my findings by quoting selected lines of a poem written by the revolutionary leader Avraham Stern. His journey was unfinished but the words are still treasured as one of the national assets of Israel. Possibly the title of the poem worked as an inspiration for the writer too.

"Unknown Soldiers"
Yair (Avraham) Stern (1907-1942)

Anthem of the Fighters for the Freedom of Israel (LEHI)

"We are unknown soldiers,
uniforms we have none,
In death's shadow we march, in its terror,
Volunteering to severe
to the end of our days,
Only death from our duty can us severe.
In days red with slaughter,
destruction and blood,
Nights black with pain and despair,
Over village and town our flag we'll unfurl,
Love and freedom the message 'twill bear
Not like slaves brought to heel were we dragged to the fight,
In strange lands our life's blood to squander,

.....
By fate cruelly sent to entrap us,
Neither enemy, prison or miserable spy
Will we ever permit to divert us.

.....
And our homeland will surely be built
In days red with slaughter, destruction and blood,
Nights black with pain and despair,
Over village and town our flag we'll unfurl
Love and freedom the message 'twill bear.

.....
With the tears of bereaved mothers
And with the blood of innocent babies
Like cement we will use our bodies a building block
To establish the structure of the homeland."

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EXCERPTS

"VERONIKA DECIDES TO DIE"; PAULO COELHO: HARPER COLLINS :1998 : RS. 350/- : PP 210

Nabodita Ganguly, Second Year: Honours

The Brazilian author Paulo Coelho was born in 1947 in the city of Rio de Janeiro. He is best known for his widely translated novel *The Alchemist*. Choosing career as a writer was not easy for him. Upon telling his parents about his dream, at 17, his parents committed him to a mental institution from which he escaped 3 times before being released at the age of 20. It was his determination towards his dream which made him a writer. As Coelho himself said: 'Remember that wherever your heart is, There you will find your treasure.'

The book 'Veronika decides to die' is based on Coelho's encounter in mental institutions in his youth and there is a character named 'Edward' in the book which is supposedly Coelho's own character. The very title of the story is quite morbid and makes the reader question: Who is Veronika? Why does she decide to die?

Veronika is a twenty four year old young woman with a happy life. She has caring parents, a good job. She lives in Ljubljana, the capital city of the newly formed country of Slovenia (after the Yugoslavian civil war). The geographical setting of the book is also one of the reasons for Veronika's suicide and one should know about the history of Slovenia to know the turmoil that Veronika is going through. In 1918, Slovenia joined Yugoslavia, while the west of the country was annexed to Italy. Between 1945 and 1990 Slovenia was under the Socialist Federation Republic of Yugoslavia. However, after the disintegration of USSR, the Eastern European countries one by one started declaring independence and socialism as an ideology started falling. On 1991, the country gained independence from Yugoslavia, with the result that thousands of people, soldiers, civilians were killed. This is the social and political context in which Veronika decides to end her life. The violence of the world makes her intolerant and restless. This 'wrongness' done to her nation makes her feel helpless and she contemplates about the utility of life. Veronika tries to commit suicide by having four packs of sleeping pills. As Veronika waits for death to touch her body, she gets provoked to read a magazine article. In the article, the journalist began his article by asking: 'Where is Slovenia?'

The fact that no one knows where Slovenia is, makes Veronika abysmal. She knows that there is no point in getting indignant with a world that knows absolutely nothing about the Slovenes. It is a world which doesn't value her own country, "But Slovenia existed nonetheless, and it was outside, inside, in the mountains around her."

The reason for her committing suicide is simple, 'She would gain nothing by continuing to live; indeed, the livelihood of suffering only increase.' Veronika knows that one day old age will strike her and her beauty will be lost, hence it will be better to die at the present. It seemed her euphoria to die was more than her will to live. However, she wakes up in a mental hospital named Villele with the prognosis that due to the drugs that she took, she'll die within a week. It is an awareness of death that encourages us to live more. This is what happened to Veronika. Having only a week to live and staying at a mental hospital, made her value life, her emotions, her passions even more. It was the thought of impending death which made Veronika live life in her own way, and adore the aura that life possess. It was during her stay in the mental hospital, Veronika thought about her desires. She had given up many desires so that her parents would continue to love her as they had when she was a child even though she knew that real life changes with time and discovers new way of expressing it. She had loved playing the piano, but couldn't make it her career because of her parent's disapproval. Now that death was near, Veronika realised that it is our passion, dreams in our life which makes us live.

While at the institution, she meets a number of patients. As Veronika interacts with these patients, slowly, she starts knowing herself and discovering her own self more. One such patient is, Zedka who is depressed. In spite of having a loving family, Zedka is obsessed by an old lover and she still thinks that he is looking after her. Zedka lost contact with her old lover when Slovenia was separated from Yugoslavia and he was called up into the army. On being questioned what exactly madness is, Zedka answers that madness is the inability to communicate your ideas; and all of us, one way or the other, are mad. Then there is Mari a successful lawyer who suffers from panic attacks and is almost cured. However, the moment her husband gave her a divorce; she decided to return to the mental hospital and be about her mental health. Veronika also meets Edward who later becomes her love interest. Edward is the son of an diplomat and supposed to be an diplomat. However, after an accident; he decides to start painting. Despite being forbidden by his father to stop painting, Edward goes on painting and loses a grip of reality. Being diagnosed with Schizophrenia, his parents leave him on the mental hospital.

As Veronika approached the last days of her life, she realised that when she took the pills, she wanted to kill someone she hated, she didn't know that other Veronikas existed within her. '...Veronikas that I could love'.

She had replaced her life, her passion, love, her hope with fear. It was her eternal fear of being wrong, of not doing what others expect which made her suppress herself. Now that she knew that death would soon knock her door, she had finally realised her grand dream: to play the piano with heart and soul.

When she has only twenty four hours to live, Veronika decides to leave the institution and feel the myriad of life. She says to Dr Igor that she has many things to do during her final hours such as to see the Ljubljana castle, feel the rain on her face, kiss her mother and love her. As the readers grow

with Veronika, they feel pity for the poor soul. The fact that she will die makes the readers feel sordid. However, there is a twist in the story which makes the story more interesting.

Coelho concludes his writing with Veronika and Edward celebrating their life and future together. It is the amiable language and the fluent way in which the book is written, captivates the reader to go on reading the book. With the example of Veronika, Coelho asks us to follow what our heart desires. It is the awareness of the mortality of man, which asks us to live and hold on to what we dream for. The book also highlights the concept of 'madness'. We do not have any right to categorise someone as mad. We are all different in our own way and this is something which should be respected. Hence, we have come up with terms such as 'differently abled' rather than 'disabled'.

The main theme which is highlighted is: "We all live in our own world. But if you look up at the starry sky, you'll see that all different worlds up there combine to form constellations, solar system, galaxies." While reading the book, one will connect with the mixture of emotions that Veronika faces and relate to her. Further, the book also reflects the pain, depression and inner turmoil after a war. It was the morbid circumstances in the political scenario, the identity crisis of her own state which made Veronika hate her own existence. Hence, the book tries to show the readers the impact on the mental health after war. It is the important message of the book which makes the book connect with the mind of the readers and makes it a must read.

This was presented on Active Learning Day 2017

EXCERPTS

**"A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN": VIRGINIA WOOLF:
PENGUIN CLASSICS : 2002 : RS. 224/- : PP 361**

Debarupa De Biswas, Second Year Honours

"The future enters into us," Rilke wrote in a 1904 letter, "in order to transform itself in us long before it happens." But the past also penetrates the present long after it has happened. How to tread this slippery fluidity of past and present is what Virginia Woolf (January 25, 1882–March 28, 1941) wrote in *A Room of One's Own*, a novel that could safely be regarded as the finest, sharpest thing ever written on the question of gender in creative culture! A woman whose writings were of extraordinary intellectual beauty and penetrating prose that turned problems over in the wave of her own elegant mind. And whoever loves art, literature and the act of writing, reading or drawing, knows how hard it is to keep the deep concentration necessary to achieve something of relative creative value. If you are constantly in company then 'casual interruptions' as Woolf calls them, will eventually make you give up and do something challenging. A quiet space and time are fundamentally important and women have been denied both over the course of history.

As Woolf is a storyteller, even when she writes nonfiction, she demonstrates the creative process by evoking an afternoon on the riverbank, where she catches a thought just like a fish. A man interrupts and the thought disappears, never to be found again.

As she cannot accept the idea that men are stronger than women both physically and mentally (an explanation she hears and finds in reference literature) there evidently is a different reason, she sets out to discover. She analyses the traditional gender roles and points out that men have three advantages, money, space and education. To prove her point she invents a *brilliant sister of William Shakespeare*, and assumes that she is equally talented. Eventually Woolf proceeds to create a storyline for her quest to conquer the literary world of the 16th century, just like Shakespeare did in real life and shows the various stages at which her access to the world are blocked.

Virginia Woolf's *'A Room of One's Own'* is a timelessly rewarding read in its totality. And it's only because this is a novel that should be read by every woman, only because it is her homage to the spirits of those unsung heroines of the distant past who may have written poems, songs and ballads but were forced to adopt anonymity simply because it was unacceptable for a woman to write. Those unimaginative souls who may have wanted desperately to write but could not because society thrust gender specific roles of the 'mother' and 'wife' and did not even bother educating them.

This was presented on Active Learning Day 2017