



# *perception*

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Department of Political Science  
**SHRI SHIKSHAYATAN COLLEGE**

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**SHRI SHIKSHAYATAN COLLEGE, KOLKATA**

## PERCEPTION

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## FOREWORD

It's been a brief journey so far, but one worth recounting with immense pleasure and abiding aspiration to evolve into a truly milestone platform for disseminating ideas, issues, narratives across social sciences.

As we bring out the fifth edition of "Perception" with ISSN accreditation, we humbly acknowledge the sincere and magnanimous contributions of our departmental students, present and former and our faculty members.

Since its inception in 2009, "Perception" is formally released on the occasion of the annual "Belarani De Memorial Lecture" hosted by the Department, every September. Distinguished, eminent speakers over the years have enriched us with their erudition and insight and provided roadmaps for the academic endeavours embodied in successive issues of "Perception". We deeply acknowledge their imprints.

The collection of writings have always reflected the myriad perspectives of free thinking, of tolerance of diversity and of empowerment.

Heartiest congratulations to the Editorial Team for its commendable efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aditi Dey', is written in a cursive style.



## EDITOR'S DESK

The Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College observes the tradition of releasing its Departmental Journal PERCEPTION Volume 10 - 2018-19, on the day of Belarani De Memorial Lecture, an event which holds pride of place in the Department. Like previous years, this year too, the present issue of the journal PERCEPTION is scheduled to be released on 06.09.2018, on the day of observance of the Twelfth Belarani De Memorial Lecture.

We deeply mourn the sad demise of our former Faculty Major Anjali Sarkar on 29.10.2018 who had served the Departmental from 1963 to 1994. The Department shall forever remain indebted to her for her involvement, dedicated service and innovative practices towards the College as well as the Department.

Ever since its inception, the Journal has been reflective of the changing socio-political milieu. Hence, the contributions are myriad in range, covering the divergent phenomena of our contemporary times and historical legacy in shaping the same. The endeavor has always been to incorporate scholarly research and notions as reflected via the young citizens, i.e. our beloved students.

This time, the Department decided to make PERCEPTION thematic. On request of the Head of the Department Debolina Mukherjee, our respected Principal Dr. Aditi De agreed to the theme of: *Politics in the Subcontinent: Domestic and International Trends*.

This apart, we have contributions from one of our Faculty members from the Department of Philosophy, giving the Journal an interdisciplinary approach, and from our students, both past and present in the form of articles, reports and a review, covering issues of both national and international importance.

We sincerely hope that this volume would be appreciated and be illuminating both for the young learners and the readers with a critical eye.

This Journal would not have been successful without the heartfelt contribution of all the members of the Department. On behalf of the Editorial Board, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our valued Faculty member, Dr. Aditi Dey, Principal of our esteemed institution Shri Shikshayatan College and the College Management. I am also extremely thankful to all others involved in the enterprise be it Faculty members, the students, those involved in the editorial process and 'Pratirup' press.

Wishing sincerely for the success of this journal.

14.08.2019

Debolina Mukherjee  
(debolna2006@gmail.com)

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**Major Anjali Sarkar**

**Shri Shikshayatan College : 1963-1994**

**Department of Political Science**

**DEMISE : 29.10.2018**





## DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES 2018-19

The Academic Session of 2018-19 commenced on 05.07.18. The year started with the introduction of Semester system for the B. A and B. Sc streams as well. The first batch of the B. A / B.Sc Semester I students had their orientation, a welcome to the new batch of students and their first formal introduction with the members of the Faculty on the previous day . i.e. on 04.07.18. Following the Orientation and the commencement of the classes, the College observed the **Foundation Day Programme** on 07.07.18. The programme of the Foundation Day witnessed a total of eight students of Political Science Honours being honored with Certificate of Excellence in various categories like Social Work, Academic Pursuits, Debates, Co-curricular activities and Art and Craft.

The **Departmental Calendar** came out on 17.08.2018 and, the **Departmental Freshers' Welcome** was held on 31.08.2018. The Convening of the first **Study Circle** took place whereby the Conveners of the Study Circle from First Semester were chosen along with the selection of a core group of five students.

**Belarani De Memorial Lecture:** The Belarani De Memorial Lecture is one of the most prestigious and eagerly awaited activities of the Department. A tradition starting in 2008 marked its eleventh anniversary on 08.09.2018. The honourable speaker for the session was Dr. Sanjeeb Mukherjee. Dr. Mukherjee is a former Professor of Political Science, University of Calcutta. Dr. Mukherjee spoke in detail about the notion of justice in contemporary times in his talk entitled "Towards Justice: A Political Philosophy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." His analysis illuminated various sides of the notion of justice and its significance in the modern age. The students responded warmly to the session and raised a range of interesting questions.

**Release of the Departmental Journal:** On the august occasion of the Eleventh Belarani De Memorial Lecture, the **Departmental Journal PERCEPTION—Volume 9 :2017-18 (ISSN :2454-4353)** was released by the honorable speaker, Dr. Sanjeeb Mukherjee, Dr. Adili Dey, Principal and Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, then Editor and Head of the Department.

**Library Books:** A total of thirty books related to various dimensions of Political Science and other social sciences had been purchased from College Fund which was utilized fully. Further, in keeping with the tradition of gifting books to the General Library of the College, the Department on Library Day, 07.05.2019, gifted three books. A special mention is to be made of the two books which were on and by Nelson Mandela commemorating his centenary.

**Active Learning Day:** The Active Learning Day was observed on 17.09.2018 graced by the honoured presence of Principal Dr. Adili Dey and Departmental Faculty members. Honours students of all three years participated in the said occasion with the First Semester, Second Year and Third Year

students. The students were grouped according to the theme. They made their presentations on the birth centenary of Nelson Mandela and his contribution in the field of Political Science. Another theme was Citizenship. Along with this book and film review was also done by keeping at par with the theme of the day. At the end of the programme, Sushmita Yadav (Third Year) Shireen Gupta (Second Year) and Stuti Mathur (Semester I) stood as winners.

**Institutional Visit:** On 28.09.2018, the Third Year General students, accompanied by Deboina Mukherjee, Departmental Faculty, went for a visit to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. The students had the opportunity to visit important chambers and archives. It was enriched by the interaction with important officials including the Commissioner. The arrangement of the visit was done by coordinating with Dr. T K Mukerjee, presently the adviser to the Health Department, KMC.

**Third Year Farewell:** On 27.02.2019, the Third year students were bidden adieu by the Second Year and First Semester students. The occasion was marked by the presence of departmental teachers. The students presented a cultural programme and both the teachers and the students shared their experience about the College and the Department. Selected students were conferred with the Departmental Awards 782016-19.

**Visit to Santiniketan:** On 01.03.2019 -02.03.2019, eighteen students from Third Year went to Santiniketan accompanied by departmental teachers: Dr. Mendar Mukherjee and Dr. Stuti Mukherjee. The students visited Upasana Mandir, to the six houses of Rabindranath Tagore. The names of the houses of Tagore are: Uttarayan, Udayana, Udichi, Shyamali, Punascha and Konark following which they visited the Museum. In the evening the students visited the Sonajhuri -Natali Haat in the evening and Amar Kutir Society for Rural Development which promotes self-employment for local people. They shared their experience in a Report.

**Summer Project Published In 'Impact':** In April 2019, the students of Semester II and one student of Second Year embarked on a field survey as a team to gauge the level of election awareness among the first time women electorates. On the basis of the questionnaire prepared, three hundred students were surveyed from three different streams of B.A, B. Sc and B Com of Shri Shikshayatan College. The survey-report was published in 'Impact: The Future makers' -Vol 5: 2018-19 of Shri Shikshayatan College.

**Graduates of the Department:** The final year students, having obtained their graduation degree, have been successfully placed themselves in Masters in many eminent institutions across India like Symbiosis, Narsee Monjee, Delhi University, St. Xavier's College(Autonomous). A few of them have joined services as well.

Due to the introduction of the Semester System, in the academic session (2018-19) the Departmental Study Circle and the Special Lecture could not be held. The department will frame the Departmental Calendar in accordance to the semester system.

The departmental faculty Smt. Urmi Gupta is on her FDP leave. ■

## VISITING THE WOMEN-FRIENDLY WELFARE STATE: GENDER BALANCE IN POWER POLITICS

Dr. Sushobhona Pal, Assistant Professor,  
Department of Philosophy, Shri Shikshayatan College

### INTRODUCTION

The transforming role of women from solely as beneficiaries to decision makers in control over resources and agenda has changed the face of women at all levels, creating non-translatable and non-divisible rights for them in the process. Feminism as a movement has had far reaching impacts across all borders, changing the roles of men and women, politicizing the relations governing social connections and over all power. Yet women still retain responsibility for the majority of domestic chores and child care. Women tend to organize their work in the public domain in accordance with their domestic commitments even if it requires acceptance of lower than normal wages or not optimum health conditions at the work place. This dual functioning calls for welfare policies primarily aimed at reducing the role of women as care-givers. The diversity of women's experiences needs greater sensitivity on the part of state policies keeping in view the local conditions and needs of individual women. Women's political and social empowerment happens through the state and with the support of state policies and it is a matter of providing choices to them by the state.

### WOMEN FRIENDLY STATE

The concept of women - friendly state has been introduced by Norwegian political scientist, Helga Hernes in 1987. It implies a welfare state where gender equality has a fundamental value in politics. Hernes connects issues of welfare with issues of power and shows power relations between men and women as an amalgamation of power as domination and power as self-determination. She writes:

A woman-friendly state would not force harder choices on women than on men, or permit unjust treatment on the basis of sex. In a woman-friendly state women will continue to have children, yet there will also be other roads to self-realization open to them. In such a state women will not have to choose futures that demand greater sacrifices from them than are expected of men. It would be, in short, a state where injustice on the basis of gender would be largely eliminated without an increase in other forms of inequality, such as among groups of women.

(Hernes, 1987, 15)

Hernes emphasizes the importance of reproduction together with the choices available to women. She insists on a system which will enable women to have a 'natural' relationship with their children



and public life together. She shows the difference between women being outside decision making and being a part of it as leading to a shift in the balance of power between men and women. Hernes points out that women are notably underrepresented in the public decision making bodies. Gender quotas as a political measure is something she takes credit for, which she says has had the best effect. Gender quotas are a means of providing women access to power. Moderate gender quota which has been implemented implies that if a woman and a man are equally qualified for a position the underrepresented sex, should be appointed to the position. Radical gender quota which is a distant dream implies that as long as a woman is qualified for a position she should be appointed. Hernes opines that feminism does not solely have to call attention to women's policy machineries pursuing social and economic policies that benefit women. For Hernes the approach is to connect welfare and power. In *Welfare State and Woman Power*, Hernes shows an inter connection between social equality and political representation. She advocates the political mobilization of women together with the reassurance of their personal autonomy.

#### THE SCANDINAVIAN BENCHMARK

The front runners in terms of gender equality are undoubtedly the Nordic countries (Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Iceland). To add to that the countries in the Nordic region are one of the most prosperous areas in the world, standing out globally at 72 percent of employment rate for women. Egalitarianism started in the Nordic society with Norway being the first independent country to allow women to vote in 1913 followed by Iceland and Denmark in 1915 and Sweden in 1919. Though such egalitarianism can be traced to their Viking history, yet the role of the government in shelling out generous welfare provisions to the women have helped such nations become a paradise for women. The provisions these welfare states offer in terms of education, healthcare, political participation, equality in pay are mostly unheard of elsewhere.

In 1939 Sweden walked the extra mile and forbade employers from terminating women employees on the grounds of engagement and marriage. Sweden now has a 480 days parental leave policy with paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child. Swedish women occupy ministerial positions as much as men and they hardly have any gender gap in terms of education.

Norway had its first Gender Equality Act in 1978. Norway has a high female participation in the workforce with 49 weeks of parental leave at full pay or 59 weeks at reduced pay. Norway was the first country in the world to introduce the paid parental leave for the father, 'daddy quota' in 1993. Norway also provides the right to paid leave to care for sick children. Women's health is an important area of government policy with women having the right to free health services during pregnancy and childbirth. Norway introduced the quota system in 2003 whereby 40 percent of Board Members of firms are required to be women.

Finnish women got the right to vote for the electoral process as early as 1906. Finland provides all pre-school children day care facilities which allows mothers of small children to participate in the labour market.

Iceland has attained the enviable status of being the best place in the world to be a woman. On 24 October 1975, more than 25,000 women in Iceland took 'a day off' to emphasize the importance of women's contribution to the economy, both in paid and unpaid domestic work resulting in a halt in society at large. In 1960 Iceland became the world's first country to democratically directly elect a female president, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, thus redefining power and politics for generations to come. The country had already approved equal inheritance rights for men and women way back in 1850.

Denmark has one of the lowest pay inequalities between men and women in the world. It has rolled out flexible working hours and a flexible leave scheme for women with children. In Denmark, leisure and family time are a priority. Every worker in Denmark is entitled to five weeks of paid vacation plus 11 paid holidays.

The policy makers of these countries support gender equality through forward-thinking targeted initiatives which include advanced and supportive child care policies with access to subsidized and within reach child care provisions, gender quotas ensuring presence of women in the public domain and in the political framework, generous parental leave policies, equality in pay etc. The Nordic countries are striving forward to meet the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development where no one is to be left behind. With a 'bottom-up' oriented model and institutionalizing and politicizing gender equity as a 'top-down' method, the targeted policies have not been difficult to achieve by the governments of these countries, although gender gap in respect of pay equity is a reality in also these countries. The International Labour Organization's Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) targets 2030 to achieve equal pay for work of equal value permeating all levels and throughout all countries in consensus with the United Nations target 8.5 of Sustainable Development Goals. However the United Nations is of the opinion that equity in respect of pay cannot be achieved before 2085.

Helga Hernes points out that Nordic nations embody a combination of 'state feminism from above' and 'feminization from below'. The former refers to institutionalization while the latter is mobilization of women in political activities. The Scandinavian progress towards being women-friendly states has been actuated by providing women the opportunity of participating in the political process and systems and thereby balancing the role of power between men and women. Hernes describes such countries as 'corporate redistribute state' meaning thereby that the method of politicization and mobilization has been different for men and women. She argues that while for the men mobilization came first and politicization later, for women it has been the other way round. Women's mobilization is a result of politicization. Women have primarily been the recipients and men the participants, women being the objects of public policies. This is what she calls 'feminization from above'. The power relations between men and women began to have a new significance with this turnaround. According to Hernes, the lives of women are comparatively more conditioned by state policies than that of men's. The transition of women into the public domain and political sphere has changed the status of women from 'being powerless to having little power' displaying the huge gap in terms of power between men and women.



## EMULATING THE NORDIC EFFECT

Certainly the Scandinavian model is impressive and a source of inspiration for the rest of the world. In this part of the world, though India has not yet faced de-acceleration in terms of economic growth (phenomenal growth in Indian Economy from 1991), the battle for gender equality is tougher. India being the largest democracy in the world has to cope with extensive poverty issues and diversity in religious and cultural practices. Primarily the Indian population is not as homogeneous as the Nordic population. The fact that India has always had acceleration in terms of economic growth, though slow, gives hope that it can emulate the Nordic experience in a more targeted and tangible manner. Women friendliness can be practiced both at the individual level and institutional level. Organizations which are non-governmental can come forward in providing the benefits to its women employees. In the public domain the onus rests with the government to bring about substantial changes in the policies like:

• Making gender equality a fundamental issue in politics.

• Female employment has to increase both in the public and private sector because it is one of the most effective means to combat social exclusion and poverty.

• The policy makers need to be more responsive to the needs of women

• Women in the low wages sector and informal economy need to be provided with substantial provisions.

• Women need to be provided with choices and should not lose control over their lives when they are in the family way, give birth or care for children.

• Ascribing a central role to women's political presence, increasing the participatory role of women in politics and integration of women in the party system. Representation of women by women in the public sphere ensures decisions at the high-table in consonance with women-issues.

• A stronger effective social protection system in force for women.

• Public spending on investments in human capital that includes education, child care, health care, care for the ageing population have to be prioritized.

• Ensuring individual autonomy and self-determination for all.

## INDIA AS A WELFARE STATE:

Generally considered a welfare state fosters the economic and social well-being of its citizens. In such a state equality of opportunity, equitable distribution of wealth and state responsibility of those who are lagging behind in availing the basic necessities of a healthy life is prioritized. The state takes on the primary responsibility of ensuring welfare to its citizens. A Welfare State has two broad models according to Bo Rothstein. The non-universal model calls directing resources to people who require it most with a bureaucratic control over them like in the US. The other universal model distributes welfare to people who fulfil the criteria needed for receiving benefits with minimum bureaucratic

interference. This model is dominant in Scandinavia. It is mainly funded by taxation. The Indian welfare system primarily adheres to the former model.

The Welfare State is enshrined in the Indian Constitution - the Preamble and the Directive Principles of State Policy. Article 38 provides a framework for the establishment of the Welfare State ideal. Article 38 of the Indian Constitution reads:

1. The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice - social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life.
2. The State shall, in particular, strive to minimise the inequalities in income, and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations

(Kumar, 2018, 556)

To achieve these the Government of India provides Welfare Schemes to targeted sections of the society from time to time which are either Central, State specific or joint ventures between the two. The Five Year Plan Program since 1951, laws abolishing untouchability, laws relating to health, education, social security laws like Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952, the PDS system of food distribution are some of the initial measures initiated by the government. Later it adopted measures like The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, the Beti Bachao Andolan, the establishment of public health units (PHU), the execution of vaccination campaigns, the granting of gas subsidies, The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA), which is the world's largest anti-poverty scheme and many others. The National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 which includes the Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services and the Public Distribution System is aimed at providing food to the poor who cannot buy their food. These schemes validate the fact that India is dealing with achievable targets in the domain of public welfare. Yet some of these schemes have had only limited success like the MGNREGA. The major problem is that India has to tackle diversity aspects in religion, culture, caste. The government also has to deal with corruption that causes pilferage of the benefits along with red tapism. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992, is aimed at addressing gender equality in politics with reserving at least one third of seats in local government institutions for women. The Women's Reservation Bill or The Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill, 2008, proposes to reserve 33% of all seats in the Lok Sabha and in all State Legislative assemblies for women. It is still pending although the Rajya Sabha passed the bill on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010. So certainly India falls short when it comes to power and representation politics.

## CONCLUSION

For any forward moving society it is imperative that the state should consider how each of its policies affect women at large. Whatever the state brings into force, its consequences on women

need to be analyzed. Carole Pateman has correctly pointed out that democracy never existed because women have never been admitted as full and equal members in any country known as democracy. Considering this, women's access to the state in terms of political institutions is an important goal. There is a low rate of women occupying positions with the most power. Women's equal participation in politics and decision making is a key factor for women's interests without which the equality dimension in government policy-making cannot be realized fully. More than twenty years since The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) came up with the most progressive blue print ever of women's entitlements, the world has still to see each woman and girl exercising her freedom and choices, realizing her rights to education, to live free from violence, to earn equal pay for equal work,

A feeling of trust has to be in operation both at the individual and institutional levels, so that the primary objective that of well-being of the citizens is not lost in the game of power. Men need to be assured that provisions for women or more participation by women in the public decision making bodies does not entail oppression of men or taking away their entitlements. Women on the other hand need to be ingrained with the strength and confidence to break new ground in order to overcome the barriers of sexism and prejudice. There is no substitute for self-help no matter what the help from other sources be. Women need to help themselves as being agents of self-help, as single-agent actionists bringing about a change in performance with an epistemic public character. I conclude with a quotation:

*"...women-friendly policy is, simultaneously family – and society – friendly. If it yields a private return to individual women, it also yields substantial collective return to society at large. It should accordingly be defined as social investment."*

(Esping – Anderson, 2001, 94)

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## HUMAN TRAFFICKING: AN OVERVIEW OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INDIA AND WEST BENGAL

Rituparna Mukherjee

Pursuing M. A. in Political Science from Benaras Hindu University

Human Trafficking refers to the trade of humans, basically for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery or commercial sexual exploitation for the traffickers or others. Human Trafficking is a global crisis that is linked with globalization in the sex industry involving women and children (Hogue, 2010). The consequence of which is that, the rate of human trafficking has increased with the growth of urbanization and industrialization. It is considered as the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. It is the third largest organised crime after drugs and arms trade across the globe (Nirmala, 2013)

Human Trafficking is referred to as the movement of victims usually women and children, across borders legally or illegally (Rahman, 2011). According to the UN Palermo Protocol – "The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or the use of force or other form of coercion, of abduction, of fraud or deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or of the giving or receiving of payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation of prostitution of others or other form of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."

It is a matter of great concern as well as disgrace on the part of every individual as innumerable women and children are being trafficked on a day-to-day basis in India. The problem of trafficking in India in general, and West Bengal in particular, is the most crucial social issue in recent times (Ghosh and Kar, 2008). Nowadays it has become a facile task to sell children and woman as well as to traffic them to other countries. It is an unvarying incident happening from state to state, from region to region, and sometimes from district to district. The rackets to trafficked women and children make their way to India from neighbouring countries violating the laws of the country and this crime has become one of the most detestable activities, which is a matter of grave concern.

This article is an attempt to explore the causes and mode of human trafficking mainly women and children globally with special reference to India and West Bengal. This paper deals with some measures to stop this social crime.

### OBJECTIVE

The crux of this article is as discussed below

<sup>1</sup>Former Departmental Student (2015-16)

To emphasize on the causes and mode of human trafficking globally with special reference to India and West Bengal.

To inspect the present condition of human trafficking in the world, in India as well as in West Bengal.

To investigate the measures taken by the Govt. to stop this social crime.

To find out ways out to resolve the problem.

To analyze the role of NGO to combat human trafficking.

To focus on the role of society and their views regarding the same.

### CAUSES

The main causes of human trafficking are the following:-

**Poverty:** Poverty is one of the most primary factors in human trafficking industry. The victims look for means which will help them to get rid of the curse of poverty. The helpless condition of the victims gives ample scope to the traffickers to entrap the victims in their nets. The traffickers lure the victims with better life facilities by way of moving to foreign countries. Large populations of Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Nigeria, Thailand and Ukraine are affected by extreme poverty and exploited by Traffickers (Wright, 2015).

**Political Condition:** Political instability, militarism, generalized violence or civil unrest can be traced as another factor contributing to trafficking as well. The destabilization and scattering of population increase their vulnerability to unfair treatment and abuse via trafficking and forced labour.

**War:** A large number of children who have lost their family members in war are vulnerable to trafficking. Armed conflicts lead to massive gross displacement of people.

**Social and Cultural Practices:** Most of the women and girls are generally exploited and abused due to social and cultural practices and are forced to live in perilous condition. They are more vulnerable to human trafficking as they get little opportunity for upward mobility. In our society a single mother, divorced woman, widowed and sexually abused woman and young girls are easy prey to the traffickers because of the social stigma.

**Demand Of Cheap Labour:** Demand of cheap labour particularly in today's modernized society help traffickers to exploit employees who are often initially promised a safe work space and a steady salary, though they are paid less than minimum wage and are forced to work on overtime. As the victims of trafficking are unable to protest for having very few alternatives, the business owners never cease to practise these illegal norms. According to ILO there are more than 11.7 million people working as forced labour in Asia for specific reason (Nirmala, 2013).

**Mutilation:** People are trafficked for their organs, particularly kidneys. It is a rapidly growing field of commercial activity. The life of the victim is at risk as operations are carried out in clandestine

conditions with no medical care at all. According to NCRB (2015), 15 cases were registered under the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994 in India.

**Sex-Tourism:** In recent time globalization has played an important role for the growth of tourism business and entertainment industries. As a result, sex related trades like sex tourism have grown rapidly. At the same time rising male migration to urban areas as well as stressful working of the BPO sector workers have also contributed to growing demand for commercial sex in the cities. Statistics say that many women are trafficked from Philippines, Thailand to Netherland and Spain for sex tourism. The communication revolution occurred with the development of Internet, increases the growth of sex tourism industry (Jefferys, 2010)

**Child Labour.** Child labour means work performed by a child under the age of 14 for economic purpose. Children are deprived of their childhood and regular attendance to school. Though all the work done by children is not detrimental or exploitive, but this practice is hazardous and harmful to the physical and mental health of a child. Across the globe, traffickers supply child for use in forced labour activities. Some of the children are trafficked into the commercial sex industry. In Ghana about one in every six children ages 4-17 is engaged in child labour (Kudlac, 2015).

#### EFFECT

The immediate consequences of human trafficking can be traced as the following.

**Psychic Effect-** The victims who are trafficked into the commercial often tend to develop low self-esteem and a feeling of severe guilt, depression, anxiety leads them to attempt suicide.

**Physical Effect-** Victims are physically abused by traffickers. They generally tend to develop several Sexually Transmitted Infections like HIV/AIDS. Physical torture and deprivation are applied on the victims for taking charge of them and preventing them from escaping.

**Social Consequence-** As the victims of trafficking, are unable to lead a family life for a long period and are cutoff from normal social activities possible adjustment for them would be difficult. Their progress is delayed even when all is in place for their rehabilitation and reintegration because of the stigma put on them by the society.

**Economic Effect-** Although human trafficking is a high profit and low risk adventure, the perpetrators mortgage the life of adults and children for their selfish gains. Human Trafficking ruins the future of any society for which a large number of people cannot work effectively. The situation worsens when women and children are most affected.

#### LEGAL APPROACH

There are several Legal Framework to address Trafficking in India. They are discussed below:

**Article 23 of the Constitution:** Guarantees right against exploitation, prohibits trafficking human beings and forced labour and makes their practice punishable under law.

**Article 24 of the Constitution:** Prohibits employment of children below 14 years of age in factories, mines or other hazardous employment.

**Indian Penal Code (IPC):** There are 25 provisions relevant to trafficking; significant among them are: Section 366A- Procurement of a minor girl (below 18 years of age) from one part of the country to the another is punishable.

Section 366B- Importation of a girl below 21 years of age is punishable. Section 372- Selling of girls for prostitution.

Section 373- Buying of girls for prostitution.

Section 374- Provides punishment for compelling any person to labour against his will. Human Trafficking (Section 370 and 370A IPC) after enactment of the criminal law (amendment) Act, 2013, the Bureau has also started collecting data under this section.

**Major Act to prohibit trafficking in India**

**Trafficking in Women and Girls Act in 1956** popularly known as SITA. SITA is broadly defined prostitution as selling of sex by a female in return of money.

**Child Labour (Protection and Regulation) Act, 1986.** Prohibits employment of children in certain specified occupation and lay down conditions of work of children.

**Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA):** Punish those who are engaged in the business of trafficking in women and girls for immoral purpose.

**Information Technology Act, 2000:** Penalizes publication or transmission in electronic form of any material which is lascivious or appeals to prurient interest or if its effect is such as to tend to deprive and corrupt persons to read, see or hear the matter contained or embodied therein. The law has relevance to addressing the problem of pornography. India also adopted a code of conduct for Internet Service Providers with the objective to enunciate and maintain high standard of ethical and professional practice in the field of Internet and related services (Khan, 2011)

**Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act, 2000:** Enacted in consonance with the convention on the Rights of the child (CRC) Consolidates and amends the law relating to juveniles in conflicts with law and to children in need of care and protection. The law is specially relevant to children who are vulnerable and are therefore likely to be inducted into trafficking.

**Karnataka Devdasi (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982.** Act of dedication of girls for the ultimate purpose of engaging them in prostitution is declared unlawful-whether the dedication is done with or without consent of the dedicated persons.

**Andhra Pradesh Devdasi (Prohibiting Dedication) Act, 1989:** Penalty of Imprisonment for three years and fine are stipulated in respect of who performs, promotes, abets or takes part in Devdasi dedication Ceremony.



Goa Children's Act, 2003: Trafficking is specially defined. Every type of sexual exploitation is included in the definition of sexual assault. Responsibility of ensuring safety of children. Bonded labour is specially prohibited under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

#### CURRENT SCENARIO OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN INDIA AND WEST BENGAL

India is a source, destination and transit country of men, women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. Some NGOs and media report that girls are sold and forced to conceive and deliver babies for sale. Some children reportedly as young as six years old are forcibly removed from their families and forced by separatist groups such as the Maoists in Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Odisha to act as spies, couriers, plant improvised explosive devices and fight against the govt. (Department of States, USA 2016).

Experts estimate millions of women and children are victims of sex trafficking in India. 80% of human trafficking across the world is done for sexual exploitation and rest is for bonded labour and India is considered as the hub of this crime in Asia (Nimala, 2013).

West Bengal is the centre of human trafficking for domestic slavery in India today. With no law pertaining to placement agencies in West Bengal, children and women continue to fall prey to illegal recruitment agencies that entice them with false job offer and then trap them into domestic slavery. Prime source for human trafficking victims include Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Meghalaya and prime destination for human trafficking victims include Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, Nepal, Bihar, Delhi, Tamil Nadu etc. regarding human trafficking in West Bengal. Out of total 8,132 cases of human trafficking recorded in 2016 in India, West Bengal has topped the list in the state. In West Bengal 3,576 cases were registered. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Assam and West Bengal account for 40% of all crime related to Human Trafficking. The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime states that out of over 19,000 children and women who went missing from West Bengal in 2011, only 6,000 have been traced. Poverty, domestic violence, abuse and the absence of opportunity and freedom, breeds conditions for the growth of such rackets. Recent report says that The Kidnapper or 'chele dhora' has been a device used by generation of families in West Bengal to scare wandering children into coming back home at a certain time or from straying. The other narrative that has survived generation of relating is the snatching of unattended babies by sanyasis. In popular imagination, the suitably clad ascetic is both anonymous and dangerous. (Mukherjee, 2016) In recent year, there have been too many exposes on how badly shelters and homes are run. In 2012, there was the Gurap home in Hooghly, for women who were mentally ill and had been rescued. The home's backyard and adjacent open spaces were used to bury inconveniently dead inmates. In 2016, there were reports of the painfully humiliating treatment of the mentally ill in West Bengal best known hospital, Lumbini Park. Tanuja Khatun, 18 years old, threatened action against a man after it was revealed that he was trying to lure a girl for a job in the

national capital. She has helped save as many as 32 girls from trafficking, enabled reunification of more than 15 trafficked girl children with their families and prevented seven child marriages. Saluting her spirit, Tanuja was given a special award for her bravery. Sonagachi, Kolkata's infamous red light area, keeps growing even though it is monitored and is the work site of an internationally acclaimed NGO run by women who once worked in the sex trade, the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee. Clearly the trade in women and girls has not declined. The supply chain and the demand are clearly more robust than the capacity of Durbar to control the trade. West Bengal's share of the trade in humans is now about one-fifth or 20% of the detected cases in India. The geographical location of West Bengal therefore makes it a vulnerable location for trafficking. (Ghosh and Kar, 2008).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Role of State-Govt.** and local level and source areas should create compulsory high quality education, employment opportunities and income generation programme. Govt. should establish Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU)s in all districts to prevent trafficking. Improve Central and State Govt. Implementation and protection programmes and compensation scheme certificates, and rehabilitation funds. Develop and implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) to harmonize victims' identification and repatriation and the prosecution of suspected trafficked. Steps to be taken to eliminate all recruitment fees charged to workers and raise awareness among potential migrants on the no fee policy training or guidance for diplomatic personnel to prevent their engagement or facilitation of trafficking crime.

**Roles of NGOs-** The community should be sensitized about trafficking. The community member should be motivated to keep a watch in the community for irregular movement of child victims to and from area their possible traffickers and hideouts.

**Role of Media-** The media should transmit appropriate message to ensure the victims learn they are not alone. Victims can be made aware to places and institution where they can seek help. Create awareness that human trafficking is inappropriate and illegal and has negative consequences. Wide publicity should be given regarding the legal, penal, provisions against trafficking and the modus operandi of the traffickers through radio, television.

**Role of Society-** Taking measures to raise levels of social protection and to create employment opportunities. Taking appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure on a basis of gender equality; the right to equal pay for equal work and the right to equality in employment opportunities. Developing programmes that offer livelihood options and include basic education, literacy, communication and other skills and reduce barriers to entrepreneurship. Encouraging gender sensitization and education on equal and respectful relationships between the sex, thus preventing violence against women. Ensuring that policies are in place that allow women equal access to and control over economic and financial resources.

**Legislative Measures-** Adopting or strengthening legislative proper law enforcement, uncorrupt officials, educational, social, cultural or other measures and where applicable, penal, legislation

through bilateral and multilateral cooperation to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons especially women and children and those leading to trafficking.

**Awareness and Advocacy-** Awareness as well as advocacy is required at the policy level i.e. bureaucrats, politicians and the elite of the society. Awareness of the local level in the community through workshops, songs, drama, poems, meeting, leaflets and posters especially in the rural areas is also required. The role of gender in daily life, and training programmes and activities for gender sensitization must be conducted by NGOs. The key to prevent trafficking in children and their exploitation in prostitution is awareness among the children, parents and school teachers. The Government must launch media campaigns that promote children's rights and elimination of exploitation and other forms of child labour.

#### CONCLUSION

Human Trafficking seriously affects lots and lots of people as an epidemic, and therefore, it may be termed as a crime epidemic. This crime happens quietly in our society as the victims are unable to raise their voices due to fear and extreme poverty. The traffickers deliberately take this opportunity and try to materialize their evil motive of criminal activities. Human trafficking in India is a widespread phenomenon. Awareness is essential to combat this crime and the perpetrators must be brought to justice as criminals. The moral fiber of India as well as other Policy advocacy playing an important intervention to be tuned fine. Countries are gradually being destroyed due to human trafficking. The problem can be solved if strong steps are taken according to the laws of the country and if there be any loopholes, laws should be made corrected or more stringent.

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## DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SKIN TONE

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'I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin tone but by the content of their character'. - Martin Luther King. ('MLK's "content of character" quote inspires debate', 2013)

Martin Luther King was an American Minister who was also one of the most important leaders of the civil rights movement and fought for the end of racism and discrimination based on the color of one's skin tone. Further, he even initiated the Montgomery bus boycott where a boycott was done to end racial segregation on public buses at Montgomery, and hence, became an international figure after that.

King was assassinated in 1968, and till the end of his life, he fought against discrimination on the basis of skin tone.

While it has been years since King's assassination, the dream that he saw is yet to be fulfilled. While liberal democratic societies, including India has guaranteed politico-legal equalities, social evils continue to plague the Indian society. In India, the Right to Equality happens to be a fundamental one.

The Constitution of India was enacted on 26th November, 1949 and Article 15 of the Constitution guarantees that

- 1) The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.
- 2) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to
  - (a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment; or
  - (b) the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of the general public;

However, the reality that we live in, is pretty different from the Constitution which was made.

While making the Constitution, the Constitution makers had a dream to end discrimination in Indian society on the basis of all artificial indices. Surely that incorporates non-discrimination on the basis of one's external appearance as well. Unfortunately, in modern India, textbooks somehow

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justify the demand of greater quantum of dowry on the basis of 'ugliness'. (Dowry helps ugly girls get married: The horrifying contents of sociology notes at a top Bengaluru college, 2017)

India thus failed to live up to King's dream that one day his four children will not be judged on the basis of the color of their skin tone. Despite the dreams they dreamed, we are yet to fulfil it. Still today, discrimination on the basis of skin tone is a reality in India and people with fair skin tone are often preferred to people with dark shade skin tone. One of the main reasons as to why people have different complexions is, that while we all have same number of cells to make melanin, it depends on our gene as to how much we are producing, and, people who have dark skins have more melanin.

Having dark skin in India is seen as an end in itself, special for women in India and hence, it is not unnatural to see that "Fair and Lovely" is one of the most famous cosmetic in India. The implicit and not too implicit demand for fairer women compel some women to splurge unnecessarily. People in India spend a huge amount of money on skin lightening cream every month (even though some skin lightening creams contain steroids, people go on using it), use laser treatment to get a fair skin tone, at times they go the extent of using pills to protect their skin from getting tanned. Hence, according to The Guardian, "global spending on skin lightening is projected to triple to \$31.2bn (£24bn) by 2024, according to a report released in June 2017 by the research firm Global Industry Analysts." ("Dark is beautiful: the battle to end the world's obsession with lighter skin", 2017). The problem of skin tone segregation appears to be a perennial problem in India and while the Indian state has guaranteed political and legal equality, social evil in the form of such discrimination continues to persist.

Social treatment augments a feeling of alienation among many people having darker skin. It is pretty common for a woman with a dark skin tone to hear comments such as "You are ugly", "Wish you had a fair skin tone" by people since childhood.

The comments, at times affect people so much that there are three outcomes of it

- 1) People stop going out all together or stop attending any social get-togethers because they do not feel confident enough about themselves, they choose to not click pictures of themselves and decide to remain aloof because they feel that's what they deserve, and often, people fall into depression because of it as they feel that they do not fit in the social order which is exclusive only for people with a fair skin tone.
- 2) There are certain people who religiously use creams and every kind of possible treatment to get a lighter skin tone to get rid of the stigma of the darker skin tone. According to the BBC, the market for fairness product has outstripped those of Coca Cola and tea. ("You have so beautiful white skin": India and its problems with skin colour", 2019)
- 3) There are some who protest and try to make the Constitution a living reality by preventing discrimination on the basis of your skin tone. In 2014, the Advertising Standards Council of India,

banned ads which depicts people with darker skin as inferior. Further, there has been several campaigns to curb this social evil

There are campaigns such as #unfair and lovely (It is named after India's fairness cream Fair and Lovely), "Dark and Divine" which tries to fight against the inequality that exists in society.

#### CONCLUSION:

According to Martin Luther King, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

One of the main ways to stop discrimination on the basis of your skin tone is to, firstly, embrace your own beauty, secondly, to protest against the inequality which exists and fight for a better world where the constitution becomes a living reality, and we can make Martin Luther King's dream turn into a reality.

In India, there has often been a tendency to categorize people's looks on the basis of their geographical location. South Indians are often generalized as people who are dark, while North Indians are referred as someone who are of fair skin tone. Recently, Tarun Vijay, a former BJP MP and ex-editor of the RSS publication Panchjanya, defended India against racist charges by saying that "If we were racist," he said, "why would have all the entire south [India] which is complete... you know Tamil, you know Kerala, you know Karnataka and Andhra... why do we live with them? We have blacks, black people around us." ("Let's talk about Racism": Indians are 'gora-chitta', dark skin is for the South, 2017)

The statement as mentioned above shows the importance we, as a country give to skin tone and this emphasis is reflected in every aspect of our life. For the ordinary hapless masses this discrimination caused by natural selection and certainly owing to no fault of theirs appears to be fait accompli and generations after generations inherit the acquired idea that darkness equates unattractiveness.

Even in the entertainment industry, prominent actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui spoke about the color bias that exists in the Bollywood industry by tweeting, "Thank you for making me realise that I cannot be paired along with the fair and handsome because I'm dark and not good looking, but I never focus on that." ("Nawazuddin Siddiqui calls out colour bias in Bollywood", 2017)

While talking about discrimination on the basis of skin tone, one should recall certain great souls who made it a point to fight against racism and make a world free from discrimination, Nelson Mandela is one of them.

Mandela was not only the former President of Republic of South Africa, but also a very crucial figure in struggle against apartheid in South Africa for which he was in jail for more than twenty five years (twenty seven years to be precise). He was a member of the African National Congress and his determined fight to end apartheid, ultimately became a reality when in 1994, the African National

Congress won the elections and the new government dismantled apartheid and installed a new Constitution of Africa. (Colasurdo and Marin, 2014).

His journey wasn't easy. The treatment he received at Robben Island (the prison where he stayed) was harsh and inhuman. However, he didn't give up hope.

One of the most important ways in which we can win a battle is by not losing hope. As Mandela said, "I always knew that deep down in every human heart, there is mercy and generosity. No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

Let us learn to love and perish discrimination on the basis of skin tone.

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## US-IRAN RELATIONS AND ITS EFFECT ON INDIA.

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### US-IRAN RELATIONS: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The United States of America and Iran have shared a tumultuous relationship since the alleged CIA involvement in the overthrow of Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister, Mohammad Mossadeq in 1953. The years that followed led to an escalation of situations with the Iranian revolution of 1979, where the United States (US hereafter) backed Shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, was forced to flee Iran and the Islamic Republic of Iran was established on 1<sup>st</sup> of April, following the return of religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini. This was followed by the US embassy hostage crisis where American hostages were held inside the US embassy in Tehran for 444 days. More issues such as the Iran-Contra scandal and the US shooting of Iranian passenger plane kept the situation tense throughout the 1980s. Throughout the first decade of 2000s, Iran was constantly under the radar of the United Nations, the United States and the European Union when Iranian opposition revealed the news of Iran developing nuclear facilities, including a uranium enrichment plant. Iran's rise as a supposed nuclear power raised a lot of red flags which led to diplomatic intervention when USA accused Iran of leading a secret nuclear weapons programme. The sanctions forced upon Iran by the United Nation, the European Union and USA led to the collapse of the value of Iranian Rial from 2002-2004 by almost two-thirds. Iran was included in the 'Axis of Evil' alongside Iraq and North Korea by US President George Bush in 2002, which only raised the discontent among the US-Iranian relations.

Diplomatic ties between the two countries was somewhat strengthened in the September of 2013, when Iran's President Hassan Rouhani took office and spoke to US President Barack Obama, such top-level conversation taking place for the first time in over three decades.

A middle ground regarding the nuclear issue was reached in 2015, when Iran agreed to sign an accord known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with other world powers (P5+1) – the US, United Kingdom, France, China, Russia and Germany, which was a long term deal which limited Iran's nuclear activity and allowed for international supervision in return for the removal of the economic sanctions on Iran.

### THE TWIST & TURNS IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONS

The 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, who has constantly revoked the Obama-era policies, brought USA out of the nuclear deal with Iran in May of 2018 calling it 'defective at its core'. This move was followed by reinstating the economic sanctions on Iran in August. This caused tensions between the two countries to escalate further. The sanctions started

out by aiming at Iran's trade in US dollars, cars and gold. President Trump then went on to warn other countries about doing business with Iran. He said that the countries doing business with Iran would not be able to do business with the US. The economic sanctions were further strengthened in November, the White House declaring it as "the toughest sanctions regime ever imposed" on Tehran. It targeted Iran and the countries that traded with it but exceptions were made for eight countries importing Iranian oil. This heavily affected Iran's already struggling economy.

Iran hit back by suspending two parts of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) deal in May of 2019, threatening to resume the production of enriched uranium and wanting to keep their surplus uranium reserved rather than selling it internationally. President Rouhani gave the European countries, Russia and China a 60-day time period to decide their stand on the deal, all of the countries ultimately backing Iran refused to agree to the US terms, which led US into isolation. Iran also threatened to not let any oil tankers pass the Strait of Hormuz, which is the only sea route into and out of the Gulf, if the oil sanctions are not lifted.

### EFFECTS OF THE CONFLICT ON INDIA

India has a very strong bilateral ties with both the United States of America and Iran. India has strong historical and cultural ties to Iran and both the countries have maintained good diplomatic relations since the 1990s. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Iran in 2016 had promised to strengthen the relations based on historical significance and geographical proximity. President Rouhani also visited India in February of 2018, just months before the US-Iran feud began. At the very centre of the India-Iran relations is bilateral trade, crude oil import from Iran and the development of the Chabahar port. India not only buys crude oil from Iran but also natural gas. Trading in energy forms almost 80% of India's business with Iran and it is extremely crucial for Indian security. Iran accounts for nearly 2% of India's foreign trade and 10% of all the crude oil imports.

With USA re-introducing the economic sanctions and issuing a warning against the countries trading with Iran, India landed in a fix, being one of the major importers of crude oil from Iran. During the Obama administration India had waivers for buying oil from Iran during the pre-JCPOA period. The waivers known as Significant Reduction Exceptions (SREs) were not reissued under the Trump administration, which forces Indian companies either to stop buying oil from Iran or to buy it on a Rupee payment mechanism like in the past. Iranian Foreign Minister, Javad Zarif, visited New Delhi to discuss the bi-lateral ties with the then Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj, who assured that the matters would be looked into after the General Elections in India. Though no official statement has been issued by the government it is speculated that Indian companies have stopped placing orders for oil from Iran for the time being. The Indian Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan tweeted to say that India has "a robust plan for an adequate supply of crude oil to Indian refineries. There will be additional supplies from other major oil-producing countries; Indian refineries are fully prepared to meet the national demand for petrol, diesel & other petroleum products." ["India's Growing Iran Dilemma", 2019] This states that despite Iran being the third-largest exporter of crude oil for India, India can afford to minimize its imports as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates UAE and even the United States can act as replacements for Iran.

The main reason however for India to keep buying oil from Iran is more strategic. For India, Iran is a gateway to access most of Central Asia and is very strategically important. India has heavily invested in the construction of the Chabahar Port and a number of roads and highways in Iran which will allow India to access Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan and help to keep an eye on Chinese activities in the area. Therefore despite having very cordial relations with USA, India finds itself to be in conflict to accept the economic sanctions on Iran.

The India-Iran relationship remains as an irritant for USA, who increased tariffs on goods being imported from India and in turn India increased taxes on American goods. This has led to the souring of US-India relations very recently.

Also, with shooting down of the US military drone and Donald Trump issuing a statement on the stand down of a military attack, a lot of countries including the USA have stopped using the Iranian airspace and diverted the airplane routes. While India is yet to take a decision on whether or not passenger carriers should be allowed to fly over Iran, the conditions of the area are being observed carefully. If India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) bars the Indian airplanes from flying over Iran, it would be a great ordeal for airplanes to fly to the West.

India is looking to balance its ties between Iran and USA, while asserting strategic autonomy by continuing its partnership with Iran.

The US-Iran deteriorating relations therefore has been a worrisome matter in the global politics. India happens to be one of the countries that is directly affected by any new changes in the situation. India is allies with both Iran and US but currently the pressure from the US to side with them is immense. Though India has been trying not to engage itself directly into the conflict, it is a diplomatic dilemma on India's part. If India decides to support US, chances of China, which is already supporting Iran, ruining India's ventures with Iran is probable and a huge strategic loss for India.

Iran had issued a statement saying, "We expect from a friend...that we understand each other, follow our national interest and Iran is ready for being the protector of energy security of India." [Expect a friend to understand: Hope India will act in its national interest, says Iran on oil imports", 2019]

India is also under talks with Tehran about the release of 18 Indians among the 23 people on board on the British oil tanker seized by Iran earlier in July 2019.

Although going directly against USA also will have its consequences given that USA by far has been one of India's strongest allies. India has to tread the waters extremely carefully, taking decisions that balance India's relations with both the countries, while hoping that the conflict is diffused fast enough, so that India is not forced into choosing sides.

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STUDENTS' REPORT

**ELEVENTH BELARANI DE MEMORIAL LECTURE:  
06. 09. 2018.**



The Department of Political Science, in sincere gratitude to its founder Smt. Belarani De observes Belarani De Memorial Lecture every year in the first week of September to mark the birth-anniversary of Smt. De. The objective of the programme is two-fold to uphold the values held forth by Smt. De and the Department over the years and to kindle the minds of young learners with the spirit imbibed from departmental culture.

Since the inception of the programme in 2008, the Department has been graced with the presence of several academic luminaries belonging to various branches of social sciences with their insights ranging from political philosophy to contemporary politics. The endeavor has always been to bridge tradition with modernity.

Last year, the Department held the Eleventh Belarani De Memorial Lecture on 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. The Chief Guest Dr. Sanjeeb Mukherjee, former Professor of Political Science, University of Calcutta Spoke at length about the notion of justice in contemporary times in his talk entitled 'Towards Justice: A Political Philosophy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'. It was an intellectually captivating session marked by queries and responses from the audience comprising students and faculty.

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**ACTIVE LEARNING DAY 2018  
17.09.2018**

Muskan Jaiswal, Third Year  
Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College

"You educate a man ; you educate a man. You educate a woman, you educate a generation". With such impetus our Political Science Department organized the Active Learning Day on 17th September, 2018.

Students in an intellectually stimulating gathering discussed and presented ideas about various issues like Secularism, Apartheid, Citizenship (Assam) and the impact of World War I on civilians and women population in Great Britain.

The programme took off with an inaugural speech by Nabodita Ganguly (Study Circle Convenor from Third Year) who spoke about unity and integrity of the Department and among the students of all the three batches.

Our honourable Principal and Faculty member of the Department, Dr. Aditi Dey conferred her inspirational words and shared her personal experience with Nelson Mandela who was a true gentleman in flesh and blood. The programme was graced by the presence of our Head of the Department, Dr. Mandar Mukherjee and other Faculty members.

The programme proceeded with a power-point presentation by the Third Year Honours students on the birth centenary of Nelson Mandela and his contribution in the field of Political Science.

A power-point presentation on Citizenship and Assam Crisis in India was presented jointly by the Second Year and First Semester students which emphasized the contemporary socio-political situation of Assam and Assamese people along with its historical significance.

Thereafter, a 'Book Talk' was presented on "Secularism: Politics, Religion and Freedom" by one of the Second Year students, Shireen Gupta. The book has been penned by Andrew Copson which stressed on the conceptual basic understanding of the term "secularism" in western societies and Asia (Turkey), its conflicts and future.

Furthermore, an alluring movie review was done by Stuti Mathur, a First Semester student on a 2014 British drama film - "Testament of the Youth" which has been acclaimed as a classic feminist literature for its description of the impact of World War I, as it depicted a women's path-breaking struggle to forge an independent career in a society and a grudging tolerance of educated women.

The best speakers were awarded with prizes - Sushmita Yadav (Third Year,) Shireen Gupta (Second Year) and Stuti Mathur (Semester I) stood as winners.

The programme ended successfully with the concluding remarks by Muskan Jaiswal (Second Year)

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## VISIT TO KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 28.08.2018

Department of Political Science, Third Year General

### REPORT ON VISIT TO KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

In accordance with the program organized by our college in consultation with the Kolkata Municipal authorities on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the Third Year General students of the Department of Political Science Shri Shikshayatan College went for an institutional visit to Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC, hereafter) which is located at 5, Surendra Banerjee Road, Kolkata.

### STUDY AREA

Composition and functions of Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

### STUDY TEAM

The study team comprised of 7 Third Year General students. The students were accompanied by department faculty, Professor Debolina Mukherjee.

### PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

The purpose of the visit was to make the students aware about the organisation and functioning of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, the primary civic body responsible for the infrastructural and administrative maintenance of Kolkata. This is a part of the academic curriculum which helps the students to grow a sense of team spirit and prepare them for similar curriculum in their academic and professional fields.

### ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

The KMC was established in 1876. Under the guidance of the first Minister of local self-government in Bengal, Sir Surendranath Banerjee, the Calcutta Municipal Act of 1923 made provision for the enfranchisement of women and the election of a Mayor annually. Presently, the city is divided into 144 administrative wards grouped into 16 boroughs. Each of these wards elects a councillor to the KMC. Each borough has a committee consisting of the councillors elected from the respective wards of the boroughs. The Corporation, through the borough committees, maintains government-aided schools, hospitals and municipal markets, and partakes in urban planning and road maintenance. The corporation as the apex body discharges its function through the Mayor-in-Council, consisting of a Mayor, assisted by a Deputy Mayor, and ten other elected members of the KMC. The Mayor is responsible for the overall functioning of the KMC and has a tenure of five years.

### HISTORY OF KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Kolkata finds mention in the Ain-E-Akbari, an encyclopaedic work compiled by Abul Fazl, Prime Minister of Akbar. The zamindari rights of Kolkata and the adjoining lands from Barisha to Halisahar were conferred upon the Savarna Ray Chowdhuri family of Barisha by Emperor Jahangir. In the British era, with the battle of Plassey followed by the grant of Dewani to the Company in 1768, the English were able to establish their suzerainty over the province of Bengal. Kolkata was made a

separate presidency as early as 1707, the administration being entrusted to a council of four members headed by the President.

By a royal charter, the first Corporation was set up on 4th September, 1726, consisting of a Mayor and 9 Aldermen. An Act was passed in 1840 to involve the rate payers in the assessment of taxes. However, the move was almost still-born. So, a fresh enactment came in 1847 providing for a Board of seven members, four of whom were to be elected.

With the passing of the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act, 1876, a Corporation was created consisting of 72 Commissioners with a Chairman and Vice-Chairman; 48 Commissioners were elected by the rate-payers and 24 appointed by the Government.

Democracy was ushered into the Municipal Government of Kolkata by making provision for election of a Mayor annually, by Sir Surendranath Banerjee, who as the first Minister of Local Self-Government in Bengal was the architect of Calcutta Municipal Act of 1923. A major reform was the enfranchisement of women. C. R. Das was the first elected Mayor and Subhas Chandra Bose his Chief Executive Officer. The city was ruled under the Act till March 1948 when the State Government superseded the Corporation.

A new chapter was opened on 1st May, 1952 when the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1951 came into force. The Corporation was envisaged as a policy-making, directive and rule-making body, with three Co-ordinate Authorities were (i) the Corporation (ii) the Standing Committees and (iii) the Commissioner.

Despite a series of amendments over two decades, the 1951 Act could not provide an effective framework for the governance of a problem-ridden metropolis. The Calcutta Municipal Corporation Act of 1980, which came into effect in January, 1984 marked a bold departure from the beaten track in shaping a Corporation that is truly autonomous and directly responsible to the electorate. In combined features of a "Strong Mayoral" concept with a cabinet form of Government in the Mayor-in-Council. Apart from the provision of full-time political executive, the Act created three authorities in keeping with the widely accepted democratic norms (i) the Corporation, (ii) the Mayor-in-Council and (iii) the Mayor.

### STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation is modeled on the parliamentary form government and the procedures followed in are similar to the procedures of the parliament. It has 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 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 a Speaker.

### FUNCTIONS OF KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation has both obligatory and Discretionary powers in according to Article 29 and Article 30 of Kolkata Municipal Act 1980 respectively. Some of them are



#### **OBLIGATORY FUNCTIONS**

- Provision of new lighting.
- Furtherance of Education.
- Planting of trees on roadside and elsewhere.
- Supply of drinking water in KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AREA.

#### **DISCRETIONARY FUNCTIONS**

- Survey of building and lands.
- Welfare of employees.
- Any measure to promote public safety health and sanitation.
- Survey of building and lands.
- Welfare of employees

This apart, the organisation is also involved in discharge of Collaborative functions which is performed jointly with other public bodies.

#### **DEPARTMENTS VISITED**

- AMAL HOME DIGITAL ARCHIVE
- CONFERENCE ROOM
- MAYORS CHAMBER
- COUNCILLORS' CHAMBER
- CENTRAL RECORDS( BIRTH WING)
- CENTRAL RECORDS( DEATH WING)

#### **DIGNITARIES MET**

- SHRI SHANKARLAL MUKERJEE, ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER
- SHRI T K MUKERJEE, HEALTH SECRETARY
- DIVAKAR BHATTACHARYA-, HOD OF FOOD DEPARTMENT
- TAPAS CHOWDHURY, SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

#### **INTERACTIONS**

The students, as conscious citizens, engaged in a series of interesting questions on neglected condition of antique buildings, role of the Corporation in ensuring food safety measures, controlling land and air pollution particularly those caused by burning ghals, waterlogging problems and measures taken by Kolkata Municipal Corporation to address the same, about National Urban Health Mission, some of the services offered by the Institution and procedure related to make use of them. The session was indeed enlightening for the students.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

##### **POINTS REQUIRING ATTENTION**

1. Restrooms for external visitors must be constructed.
2. Unkept wires could lead to fatal accidents.
3. Food stalls in the corridors must be shifted to a separate area like a canteen, to keep the area clean and hygienic, and to make it look organised.
4. A huge pile of garbage was kept at the entrance gate of the KMC which gives a wrong impression to the visitors and also makes it unhygienic.

##### **POINTS OF APPRECIATION**

1. Staffs were cordial to us and welcomed us warmly
2. The records were well organised. They had records of birth and death certificates of people dating back to even 100 years.
3. There was a separate dept. 'Amal Home Digital Archive' which deals with the digitalisation of the central records kept manually.
4. The old British patterned buildings of KMC are well maintained.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The visit to Kolkata Municipal Corporation helped us to know so many things about the departments of the Corporation. We discussed a lot of things with the Deputy Secretary and received impeccable answers to our queries. It was very fruitful and gave us the opportunity to get familiar with the working of such institution

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## VISIT TO SANTINIKETAN

Debarupa De Biswas,  
Pursuing Three Years LL. B from Symbiosis Law School, Pune

It has been a convention of the Department of Political Science at Shri Shikshayatan College to go for a college excursion to Santiniketan. This year, eighteen students from Third Year went to Santiniketan accompanied by our respected teachers: Dr. Mandar Mukherjee and Dr. Suli Mukherjee. Visva-Bharati University is a public Central University located in Santiniketan, West Bengal. It was founded by Rabindranath Tagore who called it *Visva-Bharati*, which means 'the communion of the world with India'. Until independence it was a college, but after independence, in 1951, the institution was given the status of a university and was renamed Visva-Bharati University.

### I

We started our journey at 6:05 am by boarding Ganadevta Express from Howrah Station and reached our destination by 9:30 am at Bolpur. We had taken our accommodation at Amar Kutir which is located in close vicinity of the University. After taking rest for a few hours, we decided to explore Santiniketan and gain knowledge. At first, we saw the Prayer Hall made up of glass named Upasana Mandir which is situated at the heart of Santiniketan. We also saw the Central Library on our way, also known as the Visva Bharati Library. It contains old and rare documents, which includes multi-lingual and multi-discipline books, reports, manuscripts, etc. We eventually made our way to the six houses of Rabindranath Tagore. The names of the houses of Tagore are: Uttarayan, Udayana, Udichi, Shyamali, Punascha and Konark. All the houses together is referred as Uttarayan Complex.

If one looks at the six houses of Tagore, one will find that Tagore was impressed not only by Mughal architecture, but also by the architecture of other countries, and hence he believed in the concept of interconnectedness and a combination of traditional and modern sculpture. Uttarayan Complex has nicely maintained the heritage buildings, sculptures, trees and plants. The antique car of Rabindranath is also kept in a glass house.

After seeing the six houses of Tagore, we made our way to the Museum. The museum was built in 1961 and it houses not only some of Tagore's letters, documents, paintings, clothes, certificates, photographs, manuscripts, certain utensils and but also a replica of the Nobel Prize Medallion which was received by Tagore in 1913.

### II

After visiting all the above mentioned places, we went to Sonajhuri-Natun Haat in the evening. It is situated on the bank of a canal and surrounded by the tribal villages. This open air Haat is thickly crowded and very popular amongst all walks of people, especially the tourists. The Haat is noteworthy for its tribal jewellery, ethnic items of home decoration, clothes designed by local weavers and other handicrafts made by the local people. Bauls singing folk songs, tribal women dancing are common sights which one gets to see in Sonajhuri Natun Haat and all these reflect the local flavour of the place.

### III

In 1922, Rabindranath Tagore invited Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Just releasing after the imprisonment for political activities, Gandhiji visited Santiniketan. Sushen Mukherjee, a young man, met him there. Mukherjee had been associated with the revolutionary movement for Indian Independence for some years. His meeting with Gandhi led to the setting up of Amar Kutir in 1927. The next day, we went to Amar Kutir Society for Rural Development which promotes self-employment for local people.

Sushen Mukherjee, the founder of Amar Kutir, born late in the eighteenth century imbibed with Ramakrishna Vedanta Culture had the yearning to ensure a dignified livelihood for people committed to the cause of freedom movement. Then he gradually established the rudiments of cottage industry. And he named the place 'Amar Kutir' (my abode).

After India gained independence from the British, Amar Kutir became a cooperative to rejuvenate and develop rural handicrafts, reflecting the ideals of self-help and sustainable rural development. Amar Kutir Society for Rural Development was formally registered in 1978. Eventually it became a self-sufficient organisation which is benefiting the local population. Local people bring their merchandises such as needle works, leather handicrafts etc. and sell them to the above society who in turn sell them to the tourists visiting the society or export them to foreign countries.

### IV

The excursion broadened our horizon about the contribution of Tagore not only in the field of education and art but also his hope that, "Perhaps the new dawn will come from the horizon, from the East..." The trip also made us understand about Tagore's contribution towards the grass-root levels. After being sent to East Bengal by his father to look after the estates, Tagore focused more on decentralisation and lives of the ordinary people at the grass root level. It is important to reach the down troddens for the democracy to survive and hence Tagore's contribution made us aware about the power of the masses. Here, we came to know about the significance of the 73rd amendment to the Indian Constitution and connect it to the theory that we have studied as a part of our course curriculum.

Further, the trip also made us aware, that education is not confined only in the books; but also outside. As Tagore himself said, "I taught them all I could, I played with them. ...I trusted to the presence of the spirit of freedom in the atmosphere." Thus the trip helped us to gain knowledge and helped us to know the significance of rural reconstruction.





**A SURVEY REPORT  
ON  
'AWARENESS ABOUT ELECTORAL ISSUES AND AGENDA OF  
NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES  
IN THE 2019 LOK SABHA ELECTION'**

In April 2019, with the Lok Sabha Elections around the corner, the Political Science Honours students of Semester I and Muskan Jaiswal of the same Department embarked on a field based survey on 'Awareness about Electoral Issues and Agenda of National Political Parties in the 2019 Lok Sabha Election and a Graphical Representation' of the same. The participants were 300 students with 100 each selected randomly from BA/B.Sc./B.Com of Shri Shikshayatan College. The reports consisted of an overview of elections in India, an analysis of manifestoes of major national political parties followed by the survey. Some of the questions asked were Which Lok Sabha election is being held in 2019?, Which of the following parties is not a national party? Do you think the use of VV-PAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) in this election will make the elections fair? Can Code of Conduct be effective in preventing the incumbent from misusing their power? Are you aware that the Election Commission has made it mandatory for the contesting candidate to declare their criminal records through public platform? Is the Third Gender community adequately nominated by political parties to contest in the ongoing elections? Which source of communication do you access the most to procure information regarding the current election? Which issue do you think is being highlighted the most by the political parties?

After the survey, the students had the following observations:

- ◆ Several eligible respondents are yet to receive their voter Id card.
- ◆ They access different sources to get information about the working of political parties. But students have a preference for the digital platform for procuring information.
- ◆ More awareness is required for the knowledge of national parties and women candidates contesting the election.
- ◆ 49% of the respondents think that NDA has a higher chance of winning 2019 Lok Sabha elections.
- ◆ They were reluctant in giving their opinion in some matters and have not specified other options when they were asked to



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS 2018-19**

Category	Name
Academic Performance	Nabodita Ganguly
Art and Aesthetics	Laxmi Kumari
Attendance	Shazeen Sania (Total Three Years)
Creative Writing	Nabodita Ganguly
Leadership	Unmesha Chanda and Zarine Mamse
Photography	Kristi Saha
Public Speaking	Amisha Gupta Debarupa De Biswas Kritika Ahuja Nabodita Ganguly Suchismita Bhattacharjee Sushmita Yadav
Team and Community Spirit	Entire class

## CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2018-19

The recipients of the CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2018-2019  
The outgoing students of Third Year of the Department of Political Science  
On The College Foundation Day held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Sl. No.	Category	Candidates
1.	Leadership Qualities	Anuja Das Sushmita Yadav Zarine Mamsa
2.	Academic Pursuits	Debarupa De Biswas Kritika Ahuja Laxmi Yadav Nabodita Gangoly Suchismita Bhattacharjee Sushmita Yadav Zarine Mamsa
3.	Co-curricular Activities	Kristi Saha (Photography) Laxmi Yadav (Painting)

## FILM REVIEW URI: THE SURGICAL STRIKE

Sushmita Yadav

Director and Writer: Aditya Dhar

Starring: Vicky Kaushal, Mohit Raina, Paresh Rawal, Yami Gautam,

**Story:** The film is based on 2016 Indian Army's surgical strike on terror launch pads in Pakistan as a retaliation for the Uri attack that claimed the lives of 17 army personnel. The film features Vicky Kaushal in the lead role and Vicky Kaushal and debutant director Aditya Dhar have delivered a bold, impactful and a demanding film. The film is about a soldier, fighting for his country and leading a highly- secretive mission to eradicate terrorists is bound to have heavy doses of patriotism.

The film opens depicting Indian soldiers being ambushed in Manipur, followed by retaliation by the forces on terror bases across the India – Myanmar border in North- East. From there, the story follows Major Vihaan Shergill (Vicky Kaushal), who seeks retirement owing to his mother's ill health as she suffers from Alzheimer's disease. In the meantime, Pakistani terrorist outfits carry out an attack at Uri Army Base camp in Kashmir. Vihaan's childhood friend and brother-in-law Captain Karan Kashyap (Mohit Raina) along with some other fellow army mates are martyred in this attack. Following this, Vihaan is forced back by emotions to extract revenge by leading the strike force. Vihaan puts together a team to conduct the surgical strike under the guidance of PMD bigwig Govind Bhardwaj (Paresh Rawal) with special orders from PM (Rajit Kapur) himself. Special Agent Pallavi (Yami Gautam) helps Vihaan to detect the location of the launch pads and details of the target, and what follows is the execution of the surgical strike across POK.

This film is similar to the Oscar – winning Hollywood film, 'Zero Dark Thirty' (2012), where the special unit was seeking out a single individual (Osama bin Laden), here the troops are targeting groups of militants hiding out in safe houses. The Uri: The Surgical Strike is fashioned as a different kind of a Bollywood war film; one whose ambitions are closer to Zero Dark Thirty. One of the biggest victories of this film is that it almost does away with jingoism. Yes, it does feature what might be construed as crowd-pleasing dialogues yet this is rather a mature film and it somehow knows that it is catering to the viewers who are tired of watching the men in uniform who thump their chests to show their love and passion for the country.

Although, the film is based on highly- publicized event, the director manages to keep us on tenterhooks, right from the moment the army starts its mission in the second half. Your heart pounds

Former Departmental Student (2018-19)



with tension as small teams of army men venture into unknown, foreign territories to take on the terrorists. Add to that, *Vikhan's* promise of 'no casualties' and you end up rooting for team's safety. The film is intense, entertaining and ends up being a war film with a difference. This movie is not about what this cross-border mission achieved for the Indian government; it is about their duties nonchalantly. Uri succeeds in humanizing the military and it deserves all the laurels because no matter how cynical one is about the military values, when Major Vikhan Singh Shergill asks, "How's the josh", the audience is sure to join his boys in the chorus of 'High, Sir!'. In a word it is insightful without being melodramatic.

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