

ISSN : 2454-4353

Volume : 12 (Combined)
2020-2022



Department of Political Science
SHRI SHIKSHAYATAN COLLEGE

perception



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ISSN - 2454-4353



SHRI SHIKSHAYATAN COLLEGE, KOLKATA

PERCEPTION

Volume : 12 (Combined) 2020-2022
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Editor

Dr. Siuli Mukherjee

Editorial Board – Faculty and Students :

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Published by :

Department of Political Science
Shri Shikshayatan College
11, Lord Sinha Road
Kolkata - 700071
Phone : 033-22826033

Printed by :

PRATIRUP
35, Nandana Park
Kolkata - 700034
Phone: 033-24037402



DR. ADITI DEY
Principal
Shri Shikshayatan College
11, LORD SINHA ROAD
KOLKATA – 700 071
Phone : 2282-6033 / 7296

FOREWORD

'Perception' constitutes an important landmark in the academic journey of the Department of Political Science. In its twelfth edition now, it continues to carry forward the dialogues and narratives germane to the ever-changing, dynamic landscape of our society and politics. It has mirrored the transition that the discipline has made from a theoretical idealism to comprehending and engaging in the exciting possibilities of liberal and compassionate governance. In the process and over the years, Perception has made an indelible impression in our quest for an enriched understanding of the diversities in Political Science.

This edition of 'Perception' is an eclectic collection of articles and reviews. In addition there is a special space for our departmental ex students to recount their experiences. A unique feature of the Department has been the institution of Departmental Awards and we are elated to record the special achievements of our students here. 'Perception' is in its seventh year with an ISSN print. It has encouraged us to make this a platform for meaningful research work and related academic exchanges.

I congratulate the Editorial Team of students and faculty of my Department in this excellent endeavour.

Best wishes.

(Dr. Aditi Dey)
Principal

DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE
SRI SRI SRI COLLEGE
KOLKATA - 700 074
INDIA



FOREWORD

The Department of Political Science at Sri Sri Sri College, Kolkata, is proud to announce the release of the twelfth volume of the Departmental Journal Perception. This volume is a combined issue for the sessions 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. The Department has undertaken a lot of activities during these two sessions, mostly in online mode because of the unforeseen situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Faculty members and the present and former students have displayed great enthusiasm and spirit in supporting the new endeavours. While 'Handholding' is a platform for interaction between present students and the departmental alumnae, 'Harmony' is a cultural platform of the present students to exhibit their talents in such fields as art and craft, dance and music, photography and literary skills. The Department also started 'Studymate', a bank of internal and University question papers. New categories of lectures for Mental Health Awareness, Legal Literacy and Research Orientation have been introduced during the pandemic. We hope that these efforts in new directions would help the Department to grow from strength to strength.

This Volume of Perception is a rich collection of articles, students' reports, book talk, movie and web series reviews. Besides, the Journal also contains 'Words from the Departmental Alumnae' sharing their experience to inspire the present students for their future pursuits and the Departmental Awards given to the students who have excelled in certain categories in these two sessions.

I would like to convey a sincere apology from the then editor and editorial board for an inadvertent error that occurred in Volume 11 (2019-2020) of Perception. In that Volume, Alivia Ghosh, Sakshi Kanta Ghising and Swastika Chakraborty had been erroneously identified as reviewers of the web series 'Unorthodox : The Scandalous Rejection of my Hasidic Roots' in the text. The actual authors were Aastha Vikas, Vidhi Daga, Aditi Sarkar and Vedika Saraiwala as mentioned in the Content list of that Volume.

We thank the Management and respected Principal Dr. Aditi Dey of our College, who is also a valued Faculty member of the Department of Political Science, for their whole-hearted support and cooperation in bringing out the twelfth volume of Perception. The Faculty members of the Department have given untiring efforts to bring out this issue. We are thankful to Pratirup Press for printing our Journal.

We sincerely hope that this Volume would be appreciated by its readers.
27.08.2022.

EDITOR'S DESK

It is a matter of great pride and honour that Volume 12 of the Departmental Journal Perception is to be released on the occasion of the Fifteenth Belarani De Memorial Lecture to be held on September 7, 2022. This is a combined Volume for the sessions 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.

This Volume will speak of the plethora of activities that the Department has undertaken in these two sessions, mostly in online mode because of the unforeseen situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Faculty members and the present and former students have displayed great enthusiasm and spirit in supporting the new endeavours. While 'Handholding' is a platform for interaction between present students and the departmental alumnae, 'Harmony' is a cultural platform of the present students to exhibit their talents in such fields as art and craft, dance and music, photography and literary skills. The Department also started 'Studymate', a bank of internal and University question papers. New categories of lectures for Mental Health Awareness, Legal Literacy and Research Orientation have been introduced during the pandemic. We hope that these efforts in new directions would help the Department to grow from strength to strength.

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27.08.2022.

Dr. Siuli Mukherjee
siulimukherjee123@gmail.com



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION
AND INFORMATION RESOURCES**
(Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)
14, Satsang Vihar Marg, New Delhi 110 067



G. Mahesh, Ph.D.
Head, National Science Library
Phone: 91-11-26863759
E-mail: gmahesh@niscair.res.in website: <http://nsl.niscair.res.in>

NSL/ISSN/INF/2015/1549

Dated: July 21, 2015

Principal,
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ISSN 2454-4353

Perception

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प्रकाशन की प्रत्येक प्रति के कवर पेज के दाहिने ओर के ऊपरी सिरे पर आई.एस.एस.एन. छपा होना आवश्यक है।

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

भवदीय

S/Vij

For (जी महेश)

हेड

नेशनल साइंस लाइब्रेरी एवं आई. एस. एस. एन.

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DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Smt. Urmil Gupta, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee, Dr. Siuli Mukherjee (H.O.D)

2020-2021

The academic session 2020-21 has been a period of experimentation and adjustment with the 'new normal' that had set in as a result of the spread of Corona Virus pandemic. The Department along with rest of the College started classes and activities in digital mode. Online classes commenced from 20.08.2020 and 24.08.2020 for the Semester III and Semester V Honours and General respectively. Semester I classes commenced from 16.12.2020.

Around the beginning of the session, two faculty members – Dr. Debolina Mukherjee and Dr. Siuli Mukherjee joined online Refresher Course on 'Gender and Social Transformation' organized by the University of Burdwan.

The Department held its first online special lecture on '**Atrocities on Women with Emphasis on Dalit Women**' delivered by Dr. Debi Chatterjee, retired Professor of Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University. Dr. Chatterjee spoke about the various forms of vulnerability faced by women. She highlighted the three-fold oppression of the marginalized sections – being from the enfeebled gender, the enfeebled caste and being at the intersection of the enfeebled caste and gender.

The students of Semester III and Semester V spoke on the various tenets of Liberalism of Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Jeremy Bentham in a departmental programme organized online on 20.10.2020.

Following the end of the University exams in online mode for Semester II and IV in December 2020, the Department held an online **Research Orientation Lecture** on 06.02.2021 by Ms. Priya Singh, Associate Director, Asia in Global Affairs, a Kolkata based think-tank. Ms Singh elucidated on various aspects of research methodology and their applicability.

As the Semester I students never got a chance to acquaint themselves with the other departmental students till then, a virtual meet and greet was arranged on 09.02.2021 where they were informed of the multifarious activities undertaken by the Department.

March 2021 was again a time for online semester exams. In April 2021, with the commencement of the even semester classes, the Department organized a collaborative webinar with the Department of History, Shri Shikshayatan College, the theme being **Women's Position and Movement : Colonial and Independent India**. The students of the Department of History threw light on the colonial era and the students of the Department of Political Science shared glimpses of the women's movement in post-colonial India.

Believing in the holistic development of the students whereby not only would their academic inclinations shine through but also their passions and their special interests could be show-cased, the Department formed a digital cultural platform named **Harmony**. Harmony is a forum where the students, immensely talented as they are, get an opportunity to display their skills in art, craft, photography, poetry, recitation and dance. Since its inception in April 2021 to June 2021 the Department had organized three such Harmony programmes.

The Department, in keeping with its tradition of transmitting departmental legacy with the newcomers, devised a platform of Handholding where the departmental alumni could share their experience and thereby guide the newer generations. The first of such Handholding took place on 27.04.2021 with Priya Tewari, Nabodita Ganguly, Debarupa De Biswas and Kritika Ahuja shining in their respective fields of Public Policy, Journalism, Law and Business Administration. It had been an engaging session for the students who might have wanted to take divergent paths.

Owing to the ongoing lockdown the students had no way of accessing the library resource by physically visiting the library. The Department decided to hold an online **Library Orientation Lecture** on 04.05.2021. The programme was about the various ways in which the students can access digitized sources, an essential tool in modern times, particularly during the lockdown period. The invited speaker was Smt. Swati Bhattacharya, Librarian, General Library of Shri Shikshayatan College. Besides, **Studymate**, a digital question-answer bank for students was also created.

With the pandemic in the country going on and the second wave rising in the same year it was a period of melancholy particularly for young people. To help the students somewhat overcome the gloom that they had been experiencing, the Department organized a **Mental Health Orientation Lecture** on 11.05.2021 by Dr Bijoy Jacob, Superintendent of Antara Psychiatric Centre. In his extremely enlightening speech, **'Mind Your Mind'** Dr. Jacob shared how under the trying times and circumstances it was very easy to fall prey to depression, and how to identify and combat the same.

The next academic program the Department undertook was a Talk on **Intellectual Property Rights**, an essential area for future scholars but one where adequate consciousness is still lacking. The Department was graced by the presence of Dr. Prosenjit Pal, the Head of Department of Political Science, Diamond Harbour Women's University speaking on **'The IPR Regime and the WTO-An Overview'** on 18.05.2021. He familiarized the students with the concept of Intellectual Property Rights, the various regimes that govern and safeguard intellectual property rights and the remedies in case of possible violation of such intellectual property rights.

The **Active Learning Day Programme** was organized on 18.06.2021. It is an annual event of the College where the departmental students actively participate to express their views on various relevant issues and concepts. This year the selected theme was **Freedom of Speech and Expression**, and the presentations highlighted the various forms of such freedom or the lack of it.

With violence against women on the rise, the importance of legal awareness in connection to the same cannot be ignored since such crimes are often swept under the carpet owing to the fear of social ostracisation. The Department sought to encourage the students to know about their rights with a view to enable them to fight such menace. The lecture on **Legal Literacy I** was delivered by Dr. Debarati Sen, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Convenor of Legal Literacy Cell, Seth Soorajmull Jalan Girls' College the students and Faculty members had the opportunity to learn about the legal safeguards available in India against sexual atrocities suffered by women through her powerful presentation entitled **'STRI SHAKTI IN PERIL: An analysis of the endemic nature of violence against women in India'** on 18.06.2021.

On 13.07.21 the Department organized the most awaited departmental event, **'The Thirteenth Belarani De Memorial Lecture'** in the memory of Smt. Belarani De, the founder member and former Head of the Department of Political Science and also released the eleventh volume of the

Departmental Journal 'Perception'. The Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Shibashis Chatterjee, Professor, Department of International Relations and Governance, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR. (presently at Jadavpur University) He shared his insights on **'Indian foreign policy and the global order in pandemic times : some reflections'**. Starting off with a theoretical discussion of the trajectory of Foreign Policy studies under the rubric of International Relations, Dr. Chatterjee proceeded to discuss the factors of Indian foreign policy, including both structural and ideational elements.

August was the time for online University Examination again and on 07.09.2021, the outgoing students of Semester VI had their **Farewell**. Since then, many of them have progressed to higher learning and/or engaged themselves professionally.

The year though difficult, gave the Department another chance to push itself and test its resilience in the face of challenges.

2021-2022

Like the previous year, the academic year 2021-22 too started in an online mode. The classes of Semester III and Semester V started from 01.09. 2021 and that of the Semester I started from 01.10.2021. Soon after the commencement of their classes, the senior students made a presentation on 28.09.2021. Perhaps influenced by the then ongoing flux, both the groups chose to speak on contemporary issues. Hence, while the Semester III students zeroed in on "The Political and Economic Instability and the challenges faced by the Government of India since 2020", the Semester V students' spoke on "The Issue of Terrorism with Reference to Afghanistan Crisis."

The students of the Semester I had their first brush with the College Library via a virtual Library Orientation Lecture delivered by Smt. Swati Bhattacharya, Librarian, General library of Shri Shikshayatan College on 07.10.2021. Ms. Bhattacharya introduced the students to the various open access digital sources and also provided a virtual tour of the College Library.

The next day, 08.10.2021 was a day of a virtual **Students' Meet** of all Semesters. The event had a two-fold aim; to make the new joiners feel welcome in the Department and to introduce them to Harmony, the Departmental cultural platform.

Following the Puja holidays, the College started having classes in blended mode for Semester III and Semester V. The **Active Learning Day** for the year 2021-22 was held on 17.11.2021 with the programmes themed on issues of government, economy, caste and equality. On 27.11.2021, the Department was honoured to hold **'The Fourteenth Belarani De Memorial Lecture'** with Professor Pradip Basu, Faculty and Dean of Social Sciences, Presidency University, delivering his speech on Marx's Concept of Alienation : An Introduction. The event was the first Facebook Live for the Department. The internal examinations of the students were held and the Department had the last programme of the year, a **Mental Health Orientation Lecture** by Psychoanalyst Dr. Jhuma Basak on 23.12.2021. Dr Basak enlightened the students about the coping mechanism to be resilient in the wake of the restoration of "offline life."

The month of January commenced with the University Examination of Semester III and I. The offline classes of Semester IV and VI commenced from 07.2.2022 and Semester II from 15.03.22. From 02.03.22 Dr. Siuli Mukherjee became the Head of the Department of Political Science. On 29.04.22 a **Special Web Lecture** was organized on "The Ukraine Crisis and its impact on Global

Politics and India in the platform of Google Meet. Dr. Aneek Chatterjee, Professor, Department of Political Science, Hoogly Mohsin College delivered the lecture. An **Inter-Departmental Webinar** of Political Science and Sociology was held on 10.05.2022 from 6-7 p.m in the platform of Impartus. The theme of the webinar was **'Gender, Society and Politics'**. The students of the Department of Political Science presented a power point with a deliberation on 'Gender Inequality : A myth or a reality'. The Department of Sociology on the other hand made a presentation on the theme through the lens of Bollywood films.

Although the classes were continuing in the offline mode, but departmental programmes were all held in online mode. However, considering the upcoming University Examination, the **Farewell** of Semester VI and **Freshers' Welcome** of Semester II and IV were organized by the Department in an offline mode on 13.05.2022. Principal Dr. Aditi Dey graced the programme and the Departmental Awards were given to the students.

On 30.05.2022, the second meet of **Handholding** took place from 5.30- 6.30 pm in the platform of Google Meet. The invited speakers were the two alumnae of the Department, Ms. Kaushiki Roy Bardhan and Ms. Siddhi Baid who graduated from the Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College in 2015 and 2017 respectively. The speakers enlightened the students about their academic journey and career opportunities available after completing a bachelor's degree in Political Science. A **Special Lecture II** was organized on **"Research Methodology : An Interdisciplinary Approach"** on 22.06.2022 from 5.30-6.30 pm in the platform of Google Meet. Ms. Priya Singh, Associate Director, Asia in Global Affairs was the invited speaker. On 25.06.2022 a lecture on **Legal Literacy** was organized by the Department where Dr. Debdatta Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, University of Burdwan delivered a lecture on **"Human Rights and Women in India"**. On 08.07.2022, the **Foundation Day of the College** was celebrated where our former students were awarded for securing First Class in University Examination. Muskan Jaiswal got medal and Certificate of Merit for securing highest marks in Political Science (Honours) from the College in University Examination 2020. She was also given Certificate of Merit for securing First Class along with Mahek Didwania, Abha Mishra, Sakshi Tiwari. Abha Mishra also secured highest marks in Economics (General) in University Examination 2020 as did Tanisha Mitra in Sociology (General). The months of July and August were scheduled for the offline University Examination for Semester VI, IV and II. The classes of the new session commenced for Semester III and V from 22.08.2022. To be back to the College with offline classes gave a great deal of happiness to the students and Faculties alike.

It is important to mention that the Department has started with the **Bridge Course** to orient the students of Semester I (Honours) who have not studied Political Science at High School level. Moreover, a **Mentor-Mentee System** has also been introduced under the guidance of IQAC of the College for counselling the students of Semester VI. Reports were submitted to the Principal Dr. Aditi Dey by each Faculty for providing feedback on the development of the Mentees. Another significant activity of the Department has been the opening of a **Facebook page** of the Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College. The page has been created to uphold the different activities and programmes organized by the Department, both past and present. It is also the platform to get connected with the former as well as present students of the Department.

Thus with all these feathers in cap, the Department is ready for another session of academic pursuit as well as achievement with all hope and optimism.

PHOTO GALLERY

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES (2020-2021)



**Special Web Lecture
Prof. (Retd.)
Debi Chatterjee**



**Research Orientation
Lecture
Ms Priya Singh**



**Legal Literacy Lecture
Dr. Debarati Sen**



**Mental Health Lecture
Dr. Bijoy Jacob**



**13th Belarani De
Memorial Lecture
Prof. Shibashis Chatterjee**



**Talk on Intellectual
Property Right
Dr. Prosenjit Pal**



**Inter-Departmental
Webinar with the
Department of History**



**Hand-holding Meet of
Departmental Alumni
Priya Tiwari - 2017
Kritika Ahuja - 2019
Nabodita Ganguly-2019
Debarupa De Biswas-2019**



**Farewell
2018-2021 Batch**



**Harmony Meet :
A Departmental
Cultural Platform**

**Active Learning
Day Celebration**



**DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES
(2021-2022)**



**14th Belarani De Memorial Lecture
Prof. Pradip Basu**



**Mental Health Lecture
Dr. Jhuma Basak**



**Special Lecture Prof.
Aneek Chatterjee**



**Legal Literacy Lecture
Dr. Debdatta Das**



**Research Orientation Lecture
Ms Priya Singh**



**Hand-Holding Meet of Departmental Alumni
Koushiki Roy Bardhan (2015) Siddhi Baid (2017)**



Active Learning Day Celebration



Students' Webinar



**Farewell & Distribution of Departmental Award
2019-2022 Batch**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENTAL AWARD
2018-2021**



**Sreeparna Rakshit
Academic Pursuit;
Art, Aesthetics & Photography**



**Nandini Rai
Academic Pursuit;
Writing Skills; Art,
Aesthetics & Photography**



**Muskan Goenka
Writing Skills & Public Speaking**



**Suvidhi Gandhi
Coordination & Leadership**



**Namrata Khound
Coordination & Leadership; Public Speaking; Art, Aesthetics & Photography; Music & Choreography**



**Olivia Roy
Public Speaking; Poetry**



**Stuti Mathur
Public Speaking**



**Yashwi Lath
Community Service; Poetry**



**Ummul Wara Ashique
Poetry**



**V H Ameena Nihar
Public Speaking; Art, Aesthetics & Photography**



Harshita Jaiswal



Ayesha Asif



Ambar Bhati



Nikhat Hussain



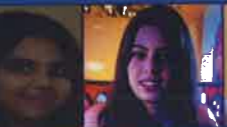
**Subhasree Mondal
Music & Choreography**



L to R - Debdatta Halder,



Madhu Tiwary,



Sriradha Saha,



Khushi Rungta,



Radhika Shaw,

**Tanisha Bhattacharjee, Anshika Pandey, Komal Kyal & Yashi Agarwal
Art, Aesthetics & Photography**

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENTAL AWARD
2019-2022



Suchita Manna
Academic Performance



Arjumand Bano
Attendance



Firnaz Khatoon
Coordination & Leadership



Swastika Chakraborty
Creative Writing & Public Speaking



Meghdyuti Ghosh
Graphic Presentation & Editing



Priya Chakravartty
Art & Aesthetics



Sakshi Kanta Ghising
Art & Aesthetics



Vidhi Daga
Art & Aesthetics

**THE REALIST 'ETHICS' OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS :
A CRITICAL ANALYSIS**

Sreeparna Rakshit
Former Student, Department of Political Science*

INTRODUCTION

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine shocks globe; dependence on Russian oil and gas has given Putin his grip on western politics, says UK" (Feb 24, 2022). "1,000 civilians inside shopping Centre hit by Russian missile" (June 27, 2022) – Is this the 'reality' of international politics today? Can states in anarchy **not afford** to be moral, or even consider the ethics of justice and injustice? Realism, the most dominant paradigm in IR would answer in affirmative. This is because political action of states, according to Realists, is not usually guided by moral objectives. They are determined based on the state's national interest, which is security and survival of its people, and struggle for power in the anarchic global state system. Thus, **ethics in its ideal form doesn't have any place in the realm of international politics**, according to the realist tradition. However, to what extent is this policy accurate and rational for surviving in today's interdependent world? This article seeks to answer this question by critically analyzing the realist standpoint on ethics in IR, and examining the relevance of such assumptions in context of the present globalized era.

REALIST ETHICS : THEORETICAL PREMISES

Realism puts forth a 'realistic' and insightful vision of international politics, which it regards as a **practical exercise**, and not a moral one. The origin of such perspectives in regard to ethics could be traced from the writings of Thucydides and Machiavelli to 20th century's most erudite and celebrated realist scholars, E.H Carr and Hans J. Morgenthau. All these realists uphold the view that **universal moral principles cannot be applied to actions of state** in their ideal form. They must be filtered and then applied depending on circumstances. Hence, in IR ethics is applied as **situational** ethics.

MORALITY V/S PRUDENCE

Ancient political philosophers like Thucydides and Machiavelli suggested statesmen to make cautious, prudent and well-informed political decisions while pursuing national interest; and 'not' consider ethical principles or moral sanctions in the process. This implies that rulers should carefully consider the probable consequences (both costs and benefits) of his decision, and strive to make the **least evil or least immoral** decision, as that would be the most prudent political action. The best example in this regard could be given from **Mahabharat**, where Arjun killed Karn, while he was unarmed and drawing the chariot wheel out of mud. It was a prudent political move by Arjun to win the Dharmyudh (the war of righteousness) and end the everlasting adharm of the Kauravas. Thus, **sometimes immoral political actions need to be taken for larger moral good**.

*Presently pursuing Masters of Arts in Political Science from University of Calcutta.

PRIVATE MORALITY V/S POLITICAL ETHICS

Morgenthau, often regarded as 'Father of Classical Realism' elaborated on the ethical dimension to IR by assigning one type of morality for private sphere, and another type of morality for public sphere. According to Morgenthau, individuals in their private sphere can observe moral practices; even choose to sacrifice himself for principles like liberty. However, the state cannot afford to apply 'private ethics' to its political actions, particularly when its **national interest** i.e. **security and survival of its people** is at threat. Therefore, in such situations the state adopts certain policies and means (like **spying** or **waging war**), which would be unethical and unacceptable to private ethics. But the state would have to implement such policies to secure the interests of its people.

For instance, **USA's** dropping of **atomic bombs** on two **Japanese cities** of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was no doubt unethical; caused millions of deaths, radiation sickness leading to cancer, even genetic defects in unborn children. However, many argue that it was a prudent political decision to acquire **unconditional surrender** from Japan and end Second world war fast. So, the American and Allied lives was saved from further destruction. Besides, it served USA's national interest by making it a nuclear armed superpower for the next fifty years.

Hence, it is evident that Realist ethics of IR involves **moral dilemmas** on one hand, and use of prudence, foresight and shrewd diplomacy on the other.

CRITICAL ARGUMENTS

On further analysis, it can be observed that the core assumptions of Realists in regard to ethics in IR is **actually at play** in the 'real' world. The most suitable example is that of the **ongoing Russia-Ukraine War**. According to Putin it would be a constant threat to the security of Russian territory if its next-door neighbour (Ukraine) would side with a Western military alliance. Therefore, Russia invaded Ukraine to end its desire of joining the NATO, and in pursuit of Russia's national interest. Impact of this invasion has been 'tragic' and 'inhuman' to say the least. Thousands of innocent civilians are being killed; women, children, handicapped – none spared, and Ukraine is on the verge of destruction. This shows **that states in international politics would not think twice before adopting unethical means, in order to serve its own national interest.**

However, the realist viewpoint has been criticized by the Liberal school of thought in IR. **Liberals** argue that ethical concerns are an important dimension in international politics, particularly in the present globalized world. States, today **don't adopt unethical and detrimental policies** towards other states; as they **seek cooperation with each other to maintain bilateral and multilateral relationships, and deal with global issues** like ozone layer depletion, terrorism and global warming. These issues can't be resolved by one state alone; nor can they be ignored because of the harmful impact on humankind (ex-rising cases of skin cancer, frequent occurrence of cyclones like Amphan). As a result, states try to formulate such foreign policies which would keep **moral dilemmas** away and thus maintain good relations between them.

Liberals further argue that **non-state actors** (whose role in IR has been undermined by Realists) also contribute in upholding ethical concerns (like refugee crisis, human trafficking etc.) at

the international level. Organizations like UNICEF, for example rescue child victims and survivors, get international funds and help them to lead a good life. Even states are **sometimes** seen to act out of moral concerns. For instance, the outpouring of international aid being provided to Sri Lanka amidst economic crisis. All these examples imply that states in today's interconnected world 'value compliance with ethical and humanitarian norms'.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above analysis, it can be inferred that Realist perspective on ethics in IR is **pessimistic**, but not obsolete. Having said that, in today's globalized world adopting aggressive-unethical policies towards other states can 'hardly' be regarded as a rational foreign policy. Russia-Ukraine Crisis is an apt example in this regard. On one hand this war has led to massive food shortage, fuel crisis and price-rise both in Ukraine and at the global level. On the other hand, Russia has been accused of war crimes, aggression and human rights violation. This implies that the plight of one state today, becomes the catastrophe of the whole interdependent world.

Therefore, states must strike a **balance** between moral objectives and political action, and adopt compatible foreign policies. Disputes, if any could be resolved through dialogues and negotiations. Most importantly, states should realize that in the present times the key to survive and prosper is coexistence, and not dominance. This is an era of multipolarity and interdependence, where ethics is as much a concern of IR as is national interest.

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WIRED VALLEY

Swastika Chakraborty

Semester VI, Department of Political Science

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, to some is a dream destination for a vacation, to some its a place of their new posting, to some an album of indelible memories, to some it's a place where they lost their loved ones. In its ironic beauty, J & K is an age old controversial region. To the politicians it is a political agenda, to the Armed Forces it is mission, to the residents it is still their home. In the grotesque multifaceted conflict, lives the picturesque valley of Kashmir.

The Union Territory has made it to newspaper headlines almost daily. Lately, the targeted killings in Kashmir valley have been making the headlines. The common targets are, Pandits, Policemen etc. This has resulted in an internal replacement of the residents of the valley. People are fleeing from the valley in search of peace to other states. From May 1 to June 2, 2021. Pakistan backed terrorists in J&K have shot dead 9 people in targeted killings. The victims have been local policemen, Hindu and Sikh government workers as well as non-locals working in the valley. Labourers from outside the village have also been targeted to stall various projects. Since the abrogation of Article 370, targeted killings have emerged as a massive challenge for the Government of India.

The word Kashmir is believed to have been derived from the name of the Vedic Sage, Kashyapa, who is believed to have drawn in people as settlers of this place. In the 1820, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Sikh king had annexed Kashmir and it was not until the defeat of the Sikhs in the Anglo-War, that the region was purchased under the Treaty of Amritsar, by Gulab Singh.

Jammu and Kashmir was the largest Princely State in 1947. Despite having a 77% Muslim population it was ruled by a Hindu King, Maharaja Hari Singh. There were five main regions :

- Province of Jammu, a Hindu dominated, largely plain area or low hills, bordering Punjab
- To the north of Jammu, the Sunni Muslims dominated the Kashmir valley with a significant population of Hindu Kashmiri Pandits.
- To the east of the valley, the hilly area of Ladakh was predominantly Buddhist.
- The last two are the regions of Gilgit and Baltistan. These two regions were very thinly populated with mostly Shia Muslims, this region shared borders with Afghanistan and Sinkiang province of China.

On October 26, 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession after which the Indian Army was sent in, thereby was successful in driving out the Pakistani invaders out of Kashmir. The controversy had just begun when Lord Mountbatten suggested Jawaharlal Nehru to take up the Kashmir matter with the UN. A Ceasefire Line was established with the intervention of the UN which came to be known as the Line of Control or LoC.

Militancy in Kashmir is a low intensity war or proxy warfare, which has been adopted by Pakistan

to cause fear in India after losing to India in two noteworthy wars (1965 and 1971). It first supported the terrorist movement in Punjab and then started a separatist and militant insurgency in Kashmir in the late 1980s.

Low intensity war can be in the form of –

- Armed revolt
- Guerrilla warfare
- Political revolution
- National war or independence

Modus Operandi of Proxy War in J&K

1. To run a malicious campaign from Pakistan and PoK to mar India's image in print and electronic media
2. To facilitate infiltration of terrorists from across the border and keep Indian security forces constantly engaged in fighting terrorists.
3. To attack the secular foundation of the state and support fundamentalist Islamic activities and ensure exodus of Hindus from the Valley.
4. To internationalise the Kashmir issue at every forum and paint India as persecutor of Muslims
5. To bleed India into a thousand cuts.

The valley after the abrogation of Article 370

On August 5 2019, the Government of India abrogated Article 370 and Article 35 A of the Constitution of India, thereby created the two Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir (with Legislature) and Ladakh (without Legislature).

People from outside J & K can buy land there. In a gazette notification, the Central Government omitted the phrase "permanent resident of the state" from Section 17 of Jammu and Kashmir Development Act that deals with the disposal of the land in the union territory. However, the amendment did not allow transfer of agricultural land to non-agriculturists except in few cases.

Non-local spouses of J&K women get domicile status : the rules were changed in July this year to allow domicile certificate to be granted to husbands of local women married to people from outside J&K. The move will allow them to buy land or property in the Union Territory or apply for government jobs. All people who have resided in the UT for 15 years, or have studied for seven years and appeared in Class 10 or 12 examinations in an educational institution in the region, and their children, are eligible for grant or domicile status.

The formation of Gupkar alliance : in the early hours of August 5, 2019. Hundreds of political leaders and workers- including three former chief ministers Mufti, Umar Abdullah and his father Farooq Abdullah were detained. The Abdullahs were released in March 2020, and Mufti was freed in the second week of October last year. Since then, the leaders have come together- along with four other parties in Kashmir- to forge an informal alliance that aims to work for the restoration of the region's special status.

Conflicts once again overwhelmed the valley. There is a religious conflict in its initial phase in the valley. The strife over which script the Kashmiri language will be written- Devanagari or Nastaliq- fuels the dreams and aspiration of those who communicate in it.

In 2020, the Narendra Modi government passed the Jammu and Kashmir Official Language Act, making Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi the official languages of the UT of J&K, in addition to speak English and Urdu. Ascribing official status to Hindi caused discontent amongst non-Hindi speaking masses. The Government also ordered a validation of Kashmiri written in Devanagari in the digital repository of the Common Locale Data Repository.

The valley has been an age-old battle ground for numerous causes. There have been reports of human rights violation, shutdown of internet services, and detention of the regional leaders and innumerable loss of lives. India has been in continuous discussion with its neighbours and the international community regarding the Kashmir conflict. It is a multi-faceted conflict manipulating the beauty of the valley. The fight between militancy and military ravages the UT. The educational institutions must take the initiative to impart proper education to the children. The youth of the valley must be provided with adequate employment opportunities. Families must be made aware of the initiatives that they can take in case their children get involved into the Jihadist groups. Infrastructure must be modernised to avoid any backlog of the UT in comparison the other states or UTs of India. Tourism in the valley must be promoted to boost up the economy. Government must endorse Kashmiri art and culture not only in the national market but also in the international market which will add impetus to its economy. Development and modernisation are the twin objectives to usher in progress in Kashmir.

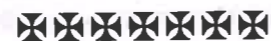
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ETHNICITY AND POLITICS

Moumita Singha

Semester IV, Department of Political Science

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character."

– Martin Luther King.

In the second half of the twentieth century a new type of politics came into existence which is 'Ethnic Politics'. Ethnicity refers to physical characteristics as well as social traits that are shared by a human population including : nationality, tribe, religious faith, shared language, culture and traditions. The phrase "ethnic politics" refers to a situation in which politicians tend to mobilize support on the basis of an appeal to ethnic identity and people tend to support leaders from the same ethnic group. Ethnic politics is often regarded as a problem when different groups come to see each other as competitors for power and when members believe that they will be excluded from the benefits of state assistance and protection if "one of their own" is not in power. The reason is that such politics often promotes interethnic tension and violence, leading many to argue that ethnic politics needs to be eradicated or managed through tailored institutional arrangements.

"All human beings bear God's image and must be respected for what each person is. Therefore, no external description of one's being, whether based on race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, can properly be used as the basis for either rejection or discrimination." – John Shelby Spong

For many people, ethnic categorization implies a connection between biological inheritance and culture. They believe that biological inheritance determines much of cultural identity. In 1871, English anthropologist Edward Tylor wrote that cultural traits are entirely learned. Subsequently, a baby can be placed into another culture shortly after birth and can be thoroughly enculturated click this icon to hear the preceding term pronounced to that culture, regardless of their skin colour, body shape, and other presumed racial features. Several political scientists consider that political movement centred on ethnic identity. It is a major source of discordant conflict in the world today. Some researchers argue that the world is in the process of an ethnic revitalization that threatens to wrench apart established systems of order. The apparent increase in ethnicity-based solidarity and political activity is most often attributed to the opportunity presented by recent shifts in the nature of political, economic, and moral authority. There are two ways in which the idea of ethnic identity is used. One, it insiders the creation of identity on the basis of single attribute – language, religion, caste, region. Secondly, it considers the formation of identity on the basis, of multiple attributes

cumulatively. Though, it is the second way formation of identity on the basis of more than one characteristic such as culture, customs, region, religion or caste, which is considered as the most common way of development of the ethnic identity. The one ethnic identity is shaped in relation to the other ethnic identity. The relations between more than one ethnic identities can be both harmonious and conflictual. Whenever, there is competition among the ethnic identities on the real or imaginary basis, it uttered in the form of autonomy movements, demand for session or ethnic uprisings. There are different ways to eliminate an ethnic group. Genocide is massacre organized by the state with the goal to totally eliminate the members of a certain ethnic group. In the 20th century, the world witnessed the holocaust and the genocide in Rwanda. Other forms of confrontation are less violent, such as cultural genocide, which is still used to destroy a group culturally. It involves the destruction of the churches, monuments, documents, and houses connected with the existence of a certain ethnic group. Ethnic cleansing is a combination of cultural genocide and forced relocation. In certain cases, ethnic cleansing is accompanied by genocide, as it was in Yugoslavia.

Ethnic politics has been vehicle for political liberation. Black Nationalism is an example of how ethnicity has profoundly influenced politics. In many parts of USA and Canada there were manifestations of ethnic assertiveness. The Negroes of Canada and America were the progenitors. Their main demands included all round progress of the black people, equal rights and privileges with the white people. During 1960s and 1970s ethnic minority in Canada, France, and Britain revolted by demanding political decentralization and right to self determination. Many ethnic groups such as Afro-Caribbean and Afro-American demanded for political independence. The disintegration of Yugoslavia also caused political turmoil and destabilization in the arena of politics. In India the Gorkha people in Darjeeling demanded a separate state of Gorkhaland. Rising disparities in COVID-19 is affecting communities, and the major disproportionate impact it is having on ethnic minorities, including people of African descent, have exposed alarming inequalities within our societies. In Brazil's Sao Paulo city, people of colour are 62% more likely to die from COVID-19 than white people. In France's Seine Saint-Denis department where many minorities live, higher excess mortality has also been reported. In the United States, the COVID-19 death rate for African Americans is reported to be more than double that of other racial groups. Similarly, government data for England and Wales shows a death rate for black, Pakistani and Bangladeshi people that are nearly double that of white people, even when class and some health factors are taken into account. These disparities likely result from multiple factors relating to marginalization, discrimination, and access to health, although more information is needed to fully understand and address the situation. Economic inequality, overcrowded housing, environmental risks, limited availability of healthcare and bias in provision of care may all play a part. People from racial and ethnic minorities are also found in higher numbers in some jobs that carry increased risk, including in the transport, health and cleaning sectors. "The International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) also provides an important framework and an opportunity to address historical injustices that have undeniably contributed to the present day racial disparities".

CONCLUSION

The Ethnic politics was never confined to a short term agitation or demand for certain concessions. As more and more people are showing their loyalty to ethnicity or ethnic groups, national politics is getting more and more complicated. For example – this tendency has given rise to neo-fascist movements in some countries of Europe, France and Belgium. Ethnicity divided Italy's industrial and rural areas into two portions. Political stability sometimes assumes dangerous form due to ethnic politics. The advocates of ethnicity demand regional administration for better decentralization of power weakens the stability in politics. Moreover, ethnic politics has encouraged parochial tendency to develop, which invites intervention of foreign countries, though in clandestine form. Ethnic politics threatens the unity and integrity of a nation and threatens the harmony and friendship among many ethnic groups.

"Indians are the Italians of Asia and vice versa. Every man in both countries is a singer when he is happy, and every woman is a dancer when she walks to the shop at the corner. For them, food is the music inside the body and music is the food inside the heart. 'Amore' or 'Pyar' makes every man a poet, a princess of peasant girl if only for second eyes of man and woman meets." – **Gregory David Roberts**

In conclusion, ethnic conflict is not the result of diversity. Poverty and fear for the future provides a fertile ground for ethnic conflict. Politicians (from the far left and the far right) use scare tactics to achieve their personal goals. They are the true instigators. They will try through all means, including propaganda in the media, to rally people to their cause and to polarize the nation. As their message succeeds, tension increases between groups, communication between the groups fails, and fear dominates the minds of the people. Taken to an extreme, morality does not apply any more to society. People may begin to react with the belief that self-defense is justified and this requires annihilating the other group first. Violence, cruelty and inhumane acts are accepted. That is the beginning of genocide.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." – **Martin Luther King.**

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INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY AND THE GLOBAL ORDER IN PANDEMIC TIMES : SOME REFLECTIONS (THE THIRTEENTH BELARANI DE MEMORIAL LECTURE ABSTRACT)

Shibashis Chatterjee*, *Professor, IRGS, SNU*

Abstract :

Most standard tracks of Indian foreign policy takes the form of agential analysis of some kind. While the specific attributes of the state constitute a vital ingredient of any standard foreign policy analysis, attention must also be turned to structural factors that condition the direction of a state's foreign policy choices. In this lecture, I wish to highlight three issues; first, why foreign policy analysis has emerged as a vital sub-field of international relations; the material and ideational facets of our contemporary international order as the basis for India's foreign policy choices; and the identity narratives through which our foreign policy has navigated. My argument is that neither power distribution nor domestic attributes are sufficient conditions for explaining Indian foreign policy. I propose a historically sensitive, granular, and constructivist approach to understand the way India's idea of the world and its role in it has evolved. This lecture, therefore, is not an accounting of India's rise as a great power or its fraught neighbourhood. It is an attempt to make sense of how we have arrived where we find us today and the need to pay attention to both the domestic and the international order as sources of our foreign policy choices. My contention is that the hype on systemic transformation due to the ongoing pandemic is largely misplaced. International orders do not change very rapidly. The post 1945 order is predicated on the ideas of modernity, capitalism, nationalism, liberalism and democracy; while some of these elements are deeply contested, the cry of the present order being replaced by something new has no empirical basis. Changes in distribution of powers is not equivalent to a transformation of the order itself. Hence, India's foreign policy narratives are also in a flux and they reveal contestations over identity than mere calculations of interests.



*Presently, Professor, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University

REPORT ON STUDENTS' WEBINAR I

Suchita Manna, Priya Chakravarty, Sakshi Kanta Ghising, Alivia Ghosh
Semester III*, Department of Political Science

As a theoretical concept, Liberalism remains ever pertinent in the domain of Political Science. With an intention to re-discover the roots of this tradition, the Department of Political Science organized a Students' Webinar with the Semester III and Semester V students on October 20, 2020. The themes chosen by the Department were, Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Jeremy Bentham by the Semester III and Semester V students respectively, thus exploring significant contributions made to liberal thinking and practice, both in the oriental and occidental world. The aim of the event was to enable the students to analyse the thoughts of prominent social thinkers, Jeremy Bentham and Raja Ram Mohan Roy that have led to the development and formation of the concept of liberalism.

The event was graced by the Head of Department, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee and the three Professors of the Department of Political Science of Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Smt. Urmi Gupta and Dr. Siuli Mukherjee who had kind and encouraging words.

The program started off with Suvidhi Gandhi of Semester V welcoming the Faculty members, participants and the audience followed by introduction of the Semester III girls. The students of Semester III were asked to present their speech and powerpoint presentation first and their topic was liberalism in the context of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. They talked about the life and contributions of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, his political and educational ideas, his social reforms and how he promoted liberalism through his beliefs. The speakers from the Semester III were, Alivia Ghosh, Dishani Mukherjee, Swastika Chakraborty and Firnaz Khatoun. Technical support was provided by Sakshi Kanta Ghising, Suchita Manna, Dishani Mukherjee and Meghdyuti Ghosh.

Next, the students of Semester V made a presentation and spoke on the concept of liberty according to Jeremy Bentham. They spoke about his life, and explained and critically analysed his theory of utilitarianism, the functions of the government and concluded their speech by comparing Bentham's theory of liberalism with John Stuart Mill's theory of liberalism as the latter had made significant modifications to Bentham's ideas. The speakers from Semester V were, Khushi Rungta, Yashwi Lathi, Olivia Roy and Stuti Mathur.

Harshita Jaiswal, Nandini Rai and Namrata Khound of Semester VI had assisted with the technical work. The programme was an interactive one and the students were encouraged to raise questions and share their views. The programme finally concluded after the Vote of Thanks delivered by Vedika Saraiwala of Semester III. Overall, the programme was a grand success as all the students participated and could learn a lot about the lives, political thoughts monumental role of two of the most imminent personalities, Raja Rammohan Roy and Jeremy Bentham in the development and buttressing of liberalism.

*Presently in Semester VI

REPORT ON THE WEBINAR ON CRIME AGAINST WOMEN WITH EMPHASIS ON DALIT WOMEN

Sakshi Kanta Ghising, Suchita Manna, Priya Chakravarty
Semester III, Department of Political Science*

On the 15th of October, 2020; The Department of Political Science of Shri Shikshayatan College had conducted a Webinar on the 'Crime Against women with Emphasis on Dalit Women'. The programme was conducted on an online platform of Google Meet. The programme started at 4 p.m. in the afternoon. We were graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Debi Chatterjee, former Professor, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University who was our esteemed Guest Speaker for the day.

The aim of the event was to learn about the problematic nature of the Indian society wherein women are believed to be inferior to men and face numerous discriminations in the Indian society. The lecture emphasised on the Dalit women who experience endemic, gender and caste discrimination and violence as a result of imbalances in the socio-economic and political sphere. The Head of the Department, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee and the three Faculty members of the Department of Political Science, Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Smt Urmi Gupta and Dr Siuli Mukherjee, and the students of Semester III and Semester V attended the event.

The programme began with the opening speech given by the Dr. Debolina Mukherjee, Head of the Department welcoming the students and introducing the Honorable Speaker. This was followed by the speech delivered by Dr Debi Chatterjee where she elaborated on the failure of the Indian Government and administration in protecting the interest of women especially women belonging to the Dalit community. The discrimination that they have to face in society, educational institutions and how wrongfully they have been victim to different atrocities and the gradual increase in sexual abuse and violence during the time of the pandemic.

Following her speech, the house was open for questioning and a lot of questions were raised by the students and the Professors of the Department. Dr. Chatterjee was patient and very kind to cater and respond to each and every question raised in a simple yet elaborate manner making it easier for the audience to understand.

The programme came to an end with the teachers and the students thanking Dr. Chatterjee.

*Presently in Semester VI

REPORT ON THE LECTURE ON RESEARCH ORIENTATION

Suchita Manna, Sakshi Kanta Ghishing, Alivia Ghosh, Priya Chakravartty
Semester III*, Department of Political Science

On February 6, 2021, the Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College had conducted an online Research Orientation Lecture on the "Role And Relevance Of Social Science Research In Contemporary Times" The programme was conducted on the online platform of Google Meet. It started at 4pm in the afternoon and lasted for a duration of one hour. We were graced by the esteemed presence of Ms Priya Singh, Associate Director, Asia in Global Affairs, a Kolkata based research think tank, who had been an alumna of Shri Shikshayatan College.

The purpose of the event was to understand the definition of research, types of research and particularly the importance of research in social science. The Head of the Department, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee, the three Professors of Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Smt. Urmi Gupta and Dr. Siuli Mukherjee of the Department of Political Science and the students of Semester I, Semester III and Semester V attended the event.

The event began with the opening speech given by the Dr. Debolina Mukherjee, Head of the Department welcoming the students and introducing the honourable Speaker and thanking the students for their attendance followed by the introductory speech by Namrata Khound from Semester V. Ms. Priya Singh then gave a thorough elaboration explaining and presenting to the students the definition of research in social science subjects and its objectives and merits. Further, she also gave a brief description of her own organization and an enlightening session like this, having the potential to bring about positive changes in the life of learners and researchers attracted questions from the audience, by the Professors and the students which Ms. Singh answered in a lucid manner. The seminar was an enriching experience for the students and the programme came to an end with Stuti Mathur of Semester V thanking the lecturer on the behalf of all the students and teachers.



*Presently in Semester VI

REPORT ON AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL STUDENTS' WEBINAR BY DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY

Priya Chakravartty, Sakshi Kanta Ghishing , Suchita Manna
Semester IV*, Department of Political Science

An inter departmental webinar held jointly by the Department of Political Science in collaboration with the Department of History took place on April 6, 2021 on Women's Position And Movement : Colonial And Independent India in the digital platform of Google Meet. The programme was hosted by Stuti Mathur of Semester V. Our Head of the Department Dr. Debolina Mukherjee began the programme with a welcome address and the students were then asked to present their papers. The Department of Political Science presented their papers on post-colonial context and the Department of History on colonial context.

The first paper was presented by Jagadhatri Gupta of the History Department from the Semester VI and she was assisted by Ahana Chowdhury who belongs to the same Department is from the Semester IV. Their paper shed light on the condition of women during the colonial period how they were an entity of exploitation. It talked about child marriage, devdasi system, polygamy, sati and so on. Women started to raise their voice and fought for their rights. They mentioned the names of some notable reformers during this period included Raja Rammohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and Keshab Chandra Sen who advocated rights for women and also discussed about several important acts that were passed such as the Bengal Sati Regulation of 1829, Female Infanticide Act of 1870 among others. Their presentation ended with an informative power-point slideshow.

The second paper was presented by Debanjali Acharya from the Semester VI of the Department of History and Sidra Nadeem from the Semester IV of the same department had assisted in the making of the power-point presentation. The lecture shed light on women's position in colonial Bengal. It talked about women in the 19th and 20th century, how they stood up and participated in the women's movement along with their male counterparts. Womanhood in those days was showcased in the form of goddesses like Durga and Kali which signified Nari shakti. The women stood for their rights and their were origination of educated women. After the History Department had completed presenting their papers, Namrata Khound assisted by Sreeparna Rashit from Semester VI from the Department of Political Science had presented a paper on "Women's Movement in Post Independent and Contemporary India." Their presentation highlighted on major incidents that have taken place in independent India such as the Chipko movement, the Athiya rape case, the Me too movement and also focused on the grave crimes against woman that are still practiced in India such as marital rape

*Presently in Semester VI

but do not offer any effective legal protection against the same. They also highlighted the differences between the colonial and post colonial women's rights movements. Their speech was concluded by presenting an informative Power point presentation.

Khushi Rungta and Nandini Rai from Semester VI of the Department of Political Science of Shri Shikshayatan College, then presented their paper on "The Government Reforms and Legal Actions on Women's Movement" that they had co-authored. The paper shed light on various measures and policies that have been implemented focusing on the safekeeping of women and protecting their rights. For example, they talked about and explained the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, Vishaka Guidelines, the Triple Talaq law etc. They concluded by presenting a powerful powerpoint Presentation. Meghdyuti Ghosh from the Semester IV of the Department of Political Science had assisted in the making of the power-point presentation for the speakers.

The presentations were then followed by an interactive session between the audience and the speaker'. Dr. Mandar Mukherjee and Smt. Urmi Gupta, thanked the girls for the informative webinar that they had conducted, The programme then came to an end with the Vote of Thanks by Vidhi Daga from Semester IV of the Department of Political Science.



REPORT ON HANDHOLDING (MEET I)

Suchita Manna, Priya Chakravarty, Sakshi Kanta Ghishing, Alivia Ghosh
Semester IV*, Department of Political Science

Handholding is a platform conceived by the Department of Political Science with a view to create a bridge between the former students of the Department and the present. The Handholding Meet was organized by the faculty of the Political Science Department of Shri Shikshayatan College on the 27th of April, 2021 on the digital platform – of Google Meet.

This event aimed to encourage the students and help them in the planning of their careers by inviting the past students of the college to speak about their life and experience and ask them for valuable advice. The Department had invited four speakers – Priya Tiwari, Kritika Ahuja, Nabodita Ganguly and Debarupa De Biswas.

Priya Tiwari graduated from the college in 2017 and completed her Masters in Public Policy from O.P. Jindal Global University. Then, Kritika Ahuja completed college in 2019 and did MBA in Marketing from NMIMS, Mumbai. Moving on we had Nabodita Ganguly who graduated from the college in 2019 and completed her Masters in Journalism from Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication, Pune. We also had Debarupa De Biswas who completed her graduation in 2019 and pursued Law from Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

The event began with a welcome speech by Namrata Khound of Semester VI. The Head of the Political Science Department Dr. Debolina Mukherjee then proceeded to give a short address. Dr. Mandar Mukherjee then introduced the speakers and shared the beautiful memories that she has with the speakers when they were students in the College and showed photographs of the speakers. Before every speaker spoke, Dr. Mandar Mukherjee presented pictures relevant to them. Every speaker expressed how happy they were to remember the happy memories from their college days.

The first speaker Priya Tiwari spoke about her journey from a student to a successful working member of Aakhya India as manager of research and policy advocacy. She explained how to pursue her field and other relevant aspects in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

Next, Kritika Ahuja spoke on how she was an introvert and inspired the students to break the bubble and step out of their comfort zones and pursue a career as she did. She also said that she was awaiting joining as a management trainee at Vodafone Intelligent Solutions.

Our third speaker was Nabodita Ganguly who advised the students to prepare for entrance exams at various universities according to their field of relevance. She explained how her love for reading books and the print media helped her significantly in pursuing journalism.

*Presently in Semester VI

Through a presentation, she enlightened the students on what to keep in mind if they decide to join the media sector.

Following Nabodita Ganguly, Debarupa De Biswas spoke about her career in law. She shared her experience of participating in several Model United Nations Conference, debating competitions etc; and how her active participation in political discussions at College helped her to pursue a career in Law. She also highlighted her speech through a presentation that had important points on how the students should move forward after graduation if they wanted to study law.

After the completion of the speeches by all four speakers, an interactive session was held and various relevant questions were asked both by the students and the teachers.

The programme came to an end with a Vote of Thanks by Suvidhi Gandhi from Semester VI of the Department of Political Science.



REPORT ON LIBRARY ORIENTATION LECTURE I

Suchita Manna, Priya Chakravarty, Sakshi Kanta Ghishing, Alivia Ghosh
Semester IV*, Department of Political Science

The Library Orientation Lecture was organized by the Department of Political Science of Shri Shikshayatan College. The meeting took place on May 4, 2021, on the digital platform of Google meet.

The Head of the Department Dr. Debolina Mukherjee, our professors – Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Smt. Urmi Gupta and Dr. Siuli Mukherjee, along with all the students of the Political science Department from Semester II, IV and IV were present in the programme.

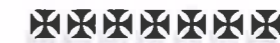
We were thankful for the gracious presence of Smt. Swati Bhattacharya, the Librarian of Shri Shikshayatan College who helped the students to access the Library of the College, virtually.

The programme started with a welcome speech by Firnaz Khatoun of Semester IV, preceded by Smt. Swati Bhattacharya explaining the working of a virtual library through a power-point presentation. She elaborated on how our College has taken a wonderful initiative to help out the students by setting up a virtual Library with access to a large number of journals and e-books relevant to the students course work.

Through various informative slides, she taught the students how they can access the online library through the College portal. She gave instructions on how to access the necessary materials via the portal. She also mentioned websites like N-List and egyptkosh which provide students with e-books and journals available.

After she completed explaining the process, there was an interactive session where many relevant questions were asked by our teachers, which Smt. Swati Bhattacharjee answered in detail.

The programme came to an end with a Vote of Thanks by Moumita Singha of Semester II. We are grateful to our Professors and our College for giving us the opportunity to access a virtual library with ease during these difficult times. It will surely be very helpful and beneficial for the students.



REPORT ON LECTURE ON MENTAL HEALTH ORIENTATION

Priya Chakravartty, Sakshi Kanta Ghishing, Suchita Manna, Alivia Ghosh.

Semester IV*, Department of Political Science

In the wake of the second wave of the pandemic COVID 19, and an environment of gloom prevailing around, the Department of Political Science of Shri Shikshayatan College had arranged for a Mental Health Orientation Lecture on the May 11, 2021 on the digital platform Google Meet for the students of Semester II, IV and VI. The invited Guest Speaker of the programme was Dr. Bijoy Jacob who is the Medical Superintendent of the Antaragram Psychiatric Treatment and Mental Rehabilitation Centre. Dr. Jacob expounded on 'Mind your Mind' and the aim of the programme was to help students understand mental hazards and illness and take care of their mental health during the pandemic.

The programme began with a welcome address by Moumita Singha from Semester II. Followed by an address by our Head of the Department Dr. Debolina Mukherjee who welcomed the Speaker and talked about the repercussions that the second wave of the pandemic has brought about especially on the mental health of people. This was followed by an address by Dr. Mandar Mukherjee who introduced the Speaker and talked about his background, contributions and achievements with the help of a very informative power-point presentation.

Dr. Jacob then proceeded to deliver his speech with the help of an informative power-point presentation on how the COVID 19 virus has affected our lives and mental health, about the ways by which we can tackle and live with the disease. He defined and talked about the symptoms of various mental health issues such as adjustment disorders, depressive disorders, substance abuse, anxiety disorders etc. And also told us the various ways by which we can cope with and prevent these mental illnesses from negatively affecting our lives. Alongside, he informed the students about the dangers of spreading false information about the virus and ended the session by talking about the safety measures that they can take if they are affected by the corona virus. The lecture was followed by an interactive session in which Dr. Jacob clarified the doubts and questions placed before him by our Professors and students. The programme came to an end with a Vote of Thanks by Chandosi Bhattacharya of Semester II.

This virtual programme was a great success and proved to be very beneficial for the students.



*Presently in Semester VI

REPORT ON TALK ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Priya Chakravartty, Suchita Manna, Sakshi Kanta Ghishing, Alivia Ghosh

Semester IV*, Department of Political Science

With a view to raise awareness about creative control and ownership, the Department of Political Science of Shri Shikshayatan College had organized a talk on Intellectual Property Rights on the 18th of May, 2021 on the digital platform of Google Meet. Dr. Prosenjit Pal, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science of the Diamond Harbour Womens University graced the occasion as the invited Speaker. He was invited to speak on 'The International Property Rights Regime and the World Trade Organization-An Overview'. All the Professors of the Department and the students of Semesters II, IV and VI were in present.

The programme began with a Welcome Address by the Head of the Department of Political Science of Shri Shikshayatan College, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee followed by an address by the compere of the event Namrata Khound from Semester VI. Dr. Siuli Mukherjee, Assistant Professor of the Department of Political Science of our college then proceeded to give a brief introduction of the honourable guest Speaker talking about his contributions, his work and achievements.

Dr. Prosenjit Pal then proceeded to deliver his speech with the help of an informative power-point presentation. He defined and talked about intellectual property and also covered various topics in his lectures such as patents, industrial designs, geographical indications, trade secrets among other concepts. Further, he elucidated about the organization and function of the World Trade Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, and also talked about the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights by the World Trade Organization.

Dr. Pal concluded his speech by explaining about the current debate on the Intellectual Property Waiver for COVID 19 vaccines and the World Trade Organization. This was then followed by an interactive session where Dr. Prosenjit Pal addressed all the queries raised by the Professors and the students present. The programme came to an end with the Vote of Thanks from Firnaaz Khatoon from Semester IV. Overall it was a very informative and enlightening lecture for all the participants.



*Presently in Semester VI

REPORT ON ACTIVE LEARNING DAY I

Suchita Manna, Sakshi Kanta Ghising, Priya Chakravarty and Alivia Ghosh
Semester IV*, Department of Political Science

The Active Learning Day 2021, a practice of taking learning beyond the classroom, took place on the 18th of June 2021, on the digital platform of Google meet. All the Professors of our Department : Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Smt. Urmi Gupta, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee and Dr. Siuli Mukherjee along with the students from all the three semesters were present.

The program was hosted by Sidra Haider from Semester II. It flagged off with a Welcome Speech given by the Head of our Department, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee. The program proceeded by beautiful power-point presentations made by the students.

The first presentation was made by the students of Semester VI Honours on George Orwell's book 1984. Olivia Roy of the Semester VI made the entire presentation and stated how the book was an attack on the totalitarian form of governments, censorship by the government and infringement of privacy.

The next presentation was by Semester IV Honours students who spoke on freedom of speech in the Indian context, the three speakers – Sifa Khan, Mritikka Das and Alivia Ghosh spoke about the origins of freedom of speech, how it had evolved in India and three case studies on how the right to freedom of speech is losing its value at present.

Moving on, the Semester II Honours students presented their views on discrimination with the LGBTQ community : pre and post decriminalisation of Section 377. The speakers : Ditipriya Roy, Arundhati Buriuli, Chandosi Bhattacharya and Moumita Singha elaborated on the definitions and origins of LGBTQ and highlighted various important cases where prejudice occurred.

After that, the BA General Semester VI students showed their presentation on secularism and free speech in France where the speakers : Bhavana Jalan and Debapriya Roy spoke about French secularism, attack on freedom of speech : Charlie Hebdo Controversy and issues similar to the same.

The final presentation was made by BA General Semester II, their topic was Freedom of Speech and Expression. The speaker Nayaab Rahim spoke on various issues regarding global recognition of freedom of speech and expression and its relevance.

Then the house was open for questions, various questions were asked and answered by the students and teachers. It was an interactive session. The program ended with a Vote of Thanks by Arundhati Buriuli from the Semester II.

In total, the Active Learning Day 2021, was a success. It was an informative and interactive program. We would like to thank our respected Principal Dr. Aditi Dey and our Professors for giving us such a wonderful opportunity to express ourselves.

**Presently in Semester VI*

REPORT ON LECTURE ON LEGAL LITERACY I

Priya Chakravarty, Semester IV, Department of Political Science*

With a view to empower the students against the ever growing violence against women, the Department of Political Science endeavored to make them aware about the dangers lurking for women, the strategies to combat them , particularly via the legal way. To effect the same , the Department on June 18, 2021 arranged for a Legal Literacy Lecture delivered by Dr. Debarati Sen, Head of the Department of Political Science and the Convenor of the Legal Literacy Cell of Seth Soorajmull Jalan Girls' College. The topic of Dr. Sen's speech was "STREE SHAKTI IN PERIL: An Analysis of the endemic nature of violence against women in India." The attendees consisted of Dr. Debolina Mukherjee, Head of the Department and other faculty members Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Smt. Urmi Gupta and Dr. Siuli Mukherjee alongside students of all three even Semesters. The programme was aired through the platform of Google Meet. It started off with the Head of the Department, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee welcoming the honorable Guest Speaker and the audience.

The first part of her presentation consisted of the perils that women in India, and elsewhere have to face the world over. It was descriptive, corroborated with statistical data and analytical. The analytical part started with the trajectory of violence, it being all pervasive from the cradle to the grave. As Dr. Sen explained, being all pervasive, violence against women can assume myriad forms like sexual abuse, domestic violence and social and emotional violence like economic deprivation, surrendering and succumbing to social pressure. She elaborated on the same with special light on domestic violence, the supposedly 'safe' terrain. Special legal provisions compliment the penal provisions started in her lecture.

Such violence has legal remedies and is covered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. After elaborating about the extent of violence against women, Dr. Sen proceeded to expound about the women centric legislations like Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act 2005, the Vishaka Guidelines and consequently the Prevention of Sexual Harassment 2013, ensuring a safe cyberspace and the various helplines available for women.

The house was then opened for an interactive session by drawing critical questions from the audience and the programme came to an end with the Vote of Thanks by Chandosi Bhattacharya of Semester II. The event was competently compered by Swastika Chakraborty of Semester IV. Overall, it was an enriching experience for all concerned.



**Presently in Semester VI*

REPORT ON THIRTEENTH BELARANI DE MEMORIAL LECTURE

Priya Chakravarty ,Suchita Manna , Sakshi Kanta Ghishing
Semester IV*, Department of Political Science

One of the most awaited events of the Department of Political Science, the Thirteenth Belarani Dey Memorial Lecture was conducted by the Department of Political Science of the Shri Shikshayatan College on July 13, 2021. This auspicious programme was held virtually on Google Meet due to the ongoing health crisis owing to the COVID 19 pandemic. The programme was attended by the respected Principal Dr. Aditi Dey , the Professors of the Department of Political Science Dr Mandar Mukherjee, Smt. Urmi Gupta, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee and Dr. Siuli Mukherjee, as well as the students from Semester II, IV and VI. The honorable invited Speaker was Professor Shibashis Chatterjee from the Department of International Relations and Governance from Shiv Nadar University in Delhi N.C.R. Alivia Ghosh, a student from the Semester VI was the Convener of the programme.

The event began with a welcome address by our Head of the Department, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee, who welcomed Principal, Dr. Aditi Dey, the Professors and the students and talked about the various departmental events that had taken place during the past academic year. The Departmental Journal "Perception" (Vol. 11) was also released. She congratulated the editorial board who had worked immensely hard for this journal. Dr. Siuli Mukherjee then proceeded to give a brief introduction of the invited Speaker of the evening and his accomplishments. This was followed by an extremely erudite speech by Professor Shibashis Chatterjee on the topic "Indian Foreign Policy and the Global Order in Pandemic Times : Some Reflections". He elaborated on the necessity for foreign policy analysis, the nature of international order and talked about some of the paradigms that govern the directions and strategies of foreign policy of India.

After his insightful exposition, Ameena Nihar from the Semester VI opened the house for questions, the Professors and the students asked lots of relevant questions that the honorable Speaker brilliantly addressed. The programme was extremely informative and interesting and the students and Professors was enlightened by the lecture. The programme came to an end with a Vote of Thanks by our respected Professor Smt. Urmi Gupta.



*Presently in Semester VI

REPORT ON STUDENTS' WEBINAR II

Anisha Tiwari, Ishika Singh, Muskan Singhi
Semester III*, Department of Political Science

In the second half of 2021, as the world and India was adapting to the long-term effects of the pandemic COVID -19, the Department of Political Science organized a webinar with the students of Semester III and Semester V on 28.9.21. Being conscious citizens and affected by the currents and phenomena transpiring around the world in the home front, the students embarked on "The Political and Economic Instability and the challenges faced by the Government of India since 2020, and "The Issue of Terrorism with Reference to Afghanistan Crisis" presented by Semester III and Semester V respectively.

The programme was flagged off by the Head of the Department, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee following which the Semester III students presented their observations in the context of the pandemic COVID-19 and its impact on India. Hence some of the major themes that dominated their discourse was various forms of political, economic and psychological instabilities manifesting themselves in internal displacement, rising hesitancy and indecision, acerbic centre – state relations, governance lacunae and consequent public protests and the like. But while the presenters recorded the crises witnessed by the country, their presentation also took into account the resilience of the Indian society and the endeavors on parts of the ruling elite to reverse the negatives and return to normalcy. The speakers were Sidra Haider, Bageshri Banerjee, Muskan Singh and Mounita Singha. Ishika Singh provided support to the presentation with technical assistance.

After the presentation by the Semester III students, the Semester V students shared their ideas on terrorism menacing the community even amidst a global pandemic. Their presentation started with defining terrorism, the roots of terrorism, the value system that informs and inspires the terrorists and the various types of terrorism. Following this, they delved into the impasse created in Afghanistan owing to the recapturing of power by the Talibans and it's possible impact over their domestic society and over the rest of the world. After informing the audience about the grim reality of terrorism, they offered certain positive recommendations which had the potential to prevent terrorism. The speakers from this semester were Priya Chakravarty, Vidhi Daga, Ritoshree Ghosh and Swastika Chakraborty. The technical assistance for team Semester V was provided by Suchita Manna.

The discussions led to critical understanding on part of the audience. The level of consciousness, the positive spirit and hard work of the participants were lauded by the teachers. The programme came to an end with the Vote of Thanks offered by Anisha Tiwari of Semester III.



*Presently in Semester IV

REPORT ON ACTIVE LEARNING DAY II

Priya Chakravarty & Suchita Manna, Semester V*

Arshe Sharma, Semester I*

Department of Political Science

Like every year, but in online mode owing to the still ongoing pandemic, the students and the teachers of the Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College had conducted an Active Learning Day Programme on the 17th of November 2021 on the virtual platform of Google Meet. 'Active Learning Day' is conducted to encourage the students to research and speak about issues beyond the syllabus. It is a programme where students from all the semesters express their issues of interest through presentations, review of any book, movie or, as in recent times web series etc. This year, the theme was Government, Economy, Caste and Equality as these are some of the pertinent issues frequently faced by the citizens of India.

In the event, the Head of the Department Dr. Debolina Mukherjee along with the Professors, Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Smt. Urmi Gupta and Dr. Siuli Mukherjee were present along with the students of Semesters I, III and V. Moumita Singha from Semester III was the compere of the event. The programme began with a Welcome Address from the Head of the Department Dr. Debolina Mukherjee after which the students from each semester proceeded to share their ideas on various topics of political relevance with the help of attractive powerpoint presentations and videos.

Students from the Semester III were the first to speak and present on the topic 'Indian Economy'. Many surveys, interesting facts and pictures were shown comparing the economic development and issues before and after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governing on India. They also compared the economic development during former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh. Anqua Enam, Chandosi Bhattacharyya and Ditipriya Ghosh were the speakers.

Moving on, the students of Semester I presented on the topic of 'Gender Equality'. The presentation was shared by Tanisha De. The presentation began with a video where children were explaining what gender inequality is according to them. Issues of women, even of men and transgenders in the work space, outside world and even domestic sphere were covered. Another video was shown where adults were discussing gender inequality. There was also a survey conducted by them and was shown to the audience. Ushnika Basu, Naillah Moiin, Roshni Mehta, Isha Verma, Tanisha De, Zarine Khan and Oindrila Roy were the speakers from Sem I.

The final presenters of the day were the students of Semester V. They reviewed a Tamil film called 'Jai Bhim' which shows the brutal reality faced by belonging to the lower castes. They

Presently in Semester VI and Semester II respectively

discussed the plot of the movie and talked about the various honourable awards it has received and talked about the relevance of this film in the Indian society citing various incidents from real life. Speakers from the Semester V were Priya Chakravarty and Anuvabi Kundu. Aastha Vikas, Vedika Saraiwala and Aditi Sarkar had helped with the research.

After the students had completed their presentations the students and the Professors took part in an interactive session where the teachers asked valuable questions and provided meaningful insights to the students. All the Professors congratulated the students for their hard work. The programme ended with a vote of thanks given by Ambiya Muzaffar from Semester I.

In conclusion, the Active Learning Day 2021 was a success. It was a very informative and an interacting programme.



REPORT ON FOURTEENTH BELARANI DE MEMORIAL LECTURE

Moumita Singha, Semester-III*
Arshe Sharma, Semester-I*, Department of Political Science

The Fourteenth Belarani De Memorial Lecture organized by the Department of Political Science Department of Shri Shikshayatan College took place on the November 27, 2021 on the digital platform of Facebook live from the official page of Shri Shikshayatan College.

The Belarani De Memorial Lecture is observed in the memory of the founder-teacher and the first Head of the Political Science Department 'Smt. Belarani De'. This lecture provided the Faculty members and students the opportunity to broaden the horizon of knowledge emanated by eminent scholars. The faculty members this time had invited the honorable guest speaker Dr. Pradip Basu, Faculty and Dean of Social Sciences, Presidency University. Other invited guests included Professor Rakhahari Chatterjee, Dr. Bithi Sarkar (former Principal), Smt. Bandhana Chatterjee and many others.

The event began with Firnaz Khatoon of Semester V, the first compere. The Head of the Department of Political Science Dr. Debolina Mukherjee gave the welcome address and read out the blessings of respected Principal Dr. Aditi Dey. This was followed by enlightening all about 'Relevance of this day' by Smt. Urmi Gupta.

The second compere of today's programme, Muskan Singh of Semester III proceeded further. Then, Dr. Siuli Mukherjee introduced the honorable invited Speaker Prof. Pradip Basu, Dean of Humanities & Social Science, Presidency University, Kolkata, who shared his insights on the topic "Marx's Concept of Alienation: An Introduction".

Professor Basu highlighted Karl Marx's famous book 'Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts' of 1844 that had a very dense meaning and provided a general philosophical analysis of the basic concepts of political economy: capital, rent, labour, property, money, commodities, needs, and wages. He further proceeded with Marx's alienation where the worker was alienated from the means of production via two forms: wage compulsion and the imposed production content. He added that the workers were bound to unwanted labour as a means of survival, labour was not "voluntary but coerced" (forced labor). The workers were only able to reject wage compulsion at the expense of their life and that of their family. Prof. Basu further explained Marx's view on alienation where the working class were alienated via the product they produce, the act by which they produce the product. Moreover, he spoke that the relation of the worker to the objects of his production was the primary cause of impoverishment and dehumanization. The object produced by a worker's labor stood as an alien thing, a power independent of its producer. The more the workers produce, the more they approached loss of work and starvation. Lastly, he quoted one of the famous lines by Karl Marx- "Capital is a gigantic power".

After the completion of the speech, an interactive session was held by Chandosi Bhattacharya of Semester III and various relevant questions were asked both by the students and the teachers. The programme came to an end with a vote of thanks by Dr. Mandar Mukherjee.

**Presently in Semester IV and Semester II respectively*

REPORT ON INTERACTIVE SESSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

Arshe Sharma & Tanisha De
Semester I*, Department of Political Science

An interactive session on mental health was conducted on the topic "Post-Lockdown: Reflecting and Reclaiming". All the students of Semester I, III and V of Department of Political Science of Shri Shikshayatan College were present. It took place on December 23, 2021 on the digital platform of Google meet.

The program started at 4 in the evening and continued until 5. It had been conducted for both the teachers and students. This session provided the Faculty and students to emphasize the importance of mental health during this pandemic of covid-19. It was conducted by one of the most well-known Psychoanalysts, Dr. Jhuma Basak Ma'am, who was the Guest Speaker. She did her MA in Jadavpur University and Ph.D. in Psychology in Japan from Kyushu University, Fukuoka.

The event began with Moumita Sinha of Semester III, the compere. The Head of the Department, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee Ma'am gave a welcome address and read out the blessings of Principal Ma'am Dr. Aditi Dey. Meghdyuti Ghosh of Semester V presented wonderful slides.

Muskan Singh of Semester III introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Jhuma Basak saying, she is one of the members of the International Psychoanalytical Association in London. Dr. Jhuma Basak is a Training Analyst, and member of the Council of the Indian Psychoanalytical Society. She is also the Assistant Secretary of the Indian Psychoanalytical Society which is from Kolkata. She is the Mentor of the Psychoanalytic Study Group of the Department of Psychology, and Visiting Faculty of Christ University, also a Visiting Faculty in the Department of Psychology, West Bengal State University. Apart from this, she is a member of the Board of Examiners at the School of Human Studies Ambedkar University located in New Delhi.

Psychoanalyst, Dr. Jhuma Basak discussed how mental health condition is important and the impact. How difficult it was for both the teachers and students to deal with their mental condition after this pandemic and how difficult it was to cope with the situation. The teachers faced difficulty with online classes and teachings and the students had difficulty to understand certain topics.

After the completion of the speech, an interactive session was held by Muskan Singh of Semester III and various relevant questions were asked by both the teachers and the students. The programme came to an end with a vote of thanks by Arshe Sharma of Semester I.



**Presently in Semester II*

REPORT ON SPECIAL WEB LECTURE I

Moumita Singha & Bageshri Banerjee, Semester IV, Department of Political Science

A special web lecture was organized by the Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College on April 29, 2022, on the digital platform of Google Meet. The Department had invited Guest Speaker Dr. Aneek Chatterjee, Professor, Department of Political Science, Hooghly Mohsin College to speak on an extremely relevant topic of the contemporary times, i.e., "The Ukraine Crisis and Its Impact on Global Politics and India."

The programme started at 6 p.m. and continued till 7 p. m. This lecture provided the Faculty and students the opportunity to broaden the horizon of our knowledge regarding ongoing global international relations, politics, perspectives and theories.

The programme began with Chandosi Bhattacharya of Semester IV, the first compere. The Head of the Political Science department, Dr. Siuli Mukherjee gave the welcome address. The second compere of today's programme, Muskan Singh of Semester IV who proceeded by introducing our speaker, Dr. Aneek Chatterjee.

Dr. Chatterjee started by talking about the position of the countries, Russia and Ukraine globally and the impact this war is having on them individually. The invasion of Ukraine is causing a massive humanitarian crisis. The role of Russian oil and natural gas globally brings into focus the importance of access to energy. He added that food security is on the agenda. The concentration of wheat, fertilizer, and related production in Russia and Ukraine would strain food supplies globally and also the competition for critical materials, equipment, and commodities are intensified. Financial-system ripple effects are occurring. Moreover, he highlighted the main causes of Russia-Ukraine war – one being Ukraine part of former Soviet Union, second Ukraine being rich in minerals, resources, medicines as well as educational infrastructure. Dr. Chatterjee spoke on how the relationship between Russia and India goes long way back; Treaties were signed between India and Russia, "Indo-Soviet pact", which was the reason for India to maintain a neutral stand point in the UNO. At last, he added Crimea was occupied by Russia and how the new government immediately increased nuclear threats in the region to maintain status quo.

After the completion of the speech, an interactive session was held by Muskan Singh of Semester IV and various relevant questions were asked both by the students and the Professors. Anmol Sharma of Semester IV asked that how USA could be benefitted from the Ukraine-Russia war; Naillah Moiin of Semester II questioned about the possibility of Ukraine joining NATO; Ankoshree Banerjee of Semester IV wanted to know whether this war is the possibility of another Cold War; Muskan Singh of Semester IV questioned of any possibility regarding the closure or end of Russia-Ukraine war. Professors also raised questions as to how, India's neutral position now, owing to the long history with Russia, will have impact on the country's future, as well its position globally. "A peace negotiation can only be conducted by a country which is very strong in itself" Dr. Chatterjee added. The programme came to an end with a vote of thanks by Swastika Chakraborty of Semester VI. ■

REPORT ON AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL STUDENTS WEBINAR BY DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY

Anisha Tiwari

Semester IV, Department of Political Science

Classroom knowledge is incomplete without committed participation of the students in different kinds of activities. Shri Shikshayatan College organised an inter-departmental students' webinar by the Department of Political Science and Sociology on 'Gender, Society & Politics', where the students of both the Departments presented their own ideas and observations on the topic.

In the year 2022 the event was organised on 10th of May. The opening speech was given by Tanshi Walia, a Semester IV student of the department of Sociology. A welcome speech was given by the HOD of Sociology Dr. Udit Mitra and Political Science, Dr. Siuli Mukherjee.

The students of the department of Sociology made a presentation on Gender, Society and Politics: Understanding the image of women through the lens of Bollywood Films. The compere of the Department of Sociology was Swetnisha Jha who gave an introduction to the topic. The speakers include Sukanya Roy, Subhangi Bhattacharya & Jaenia Mukherjee, all from Semester IV Honours. They based their analysis on interpretive methodology and chose two popular Bollywood films – Pink (2016) & Raazi (2018) which portrayed extremely contradictory images of women.

The department of Political science made a presentation on Gender Inequality : A myth or a reality. The topic was collectively chosen by the students of Semester II and Semester IV of the Department. The compere of the department of Political science, was Oindrila Roy, a student of Semester II who gave an introduction to the topic. The myth of gender inequality was introduced by Roshni Mehta, Ushnika Basu and Sneha Rakshit. All are students of Sem II. They highlighted how Indian society is patriarchal and also reflected the real life situations.

The reality of gender inequality was presented by Sidra Haider, Sumaiya Shahid, and Anmol Sharma, students of Semester IV. They highlighted the laws and provisions which empowered women and also gave examples from the case laws regarding gender inequality. The technical assistance was done by Arshe Sharma, student of Semester II and Anisha Tiwari, student of Semester IV. The programme ended with great appreciation by the Professors of both the Department of Political Science and Sociology followed by the delivery of 'Vote of thanks' by Nafisa Aslam, a Semester IV student of the Department of Political Science. Overall the programme was a grand success as all the students participated with great enthusiasm.



REPORT ON HANDHOLDING (MEET-2)

Arshe Sharma & Priyanka Kumari
Semester II, Department of Political Science

The "Handholding (Meet-2)" took place on May 30, 2022, on the digital platform of Google meet. The programme started around 5:30 p.m. in the afternoon and lasted till 6:30 p.m. in the evening. All the professors of our department : Dr. Siuli Mukherjee, Dr. Debolina Mukherjee, Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, and Smt. Urmi Gupta along with the students were present.

The notable invited alumnae of the programme were, Ms. Koushiki Roy Bardhan and Ms. Siddhi Baid. They shared their journey and experiences while and after doing graduation from the Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College.

The programme was hosted by Bageshri Banerjee from Semester IV and it started with the introductory speech by our Head of the Department, Dr. Siuli Mukherjee. Our invited guest speakers were introduced by Dr. Mandar Mukherjee Ma'am. We got to know about the inspiring stories of both our invites. Their schooling, extracurricular activities, exciting time spent in Shri Shikshayatan College, their degrees and job profile was introduced to us by Dr. Mandar Mukherjee through selected photographs. It made the students really motivated and excited about their own journey ahead.

Ms. Koushiki Roy Bardhan shared her experience of her time spent in the Department of Political Science and motivated us to work harder and be consistent towards our goal. She told us about the various career prospects after our graduation like going for Law Studies, doing masters, studying for competitive exams. Presently she is working as a Guest Lecturer in Kolkata Police Law Institute in the Department of Political Science as well as Pursuing Ph.D. from the Symbiosis International University, Pune in the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in International Relations. She had qualified West Bengal State Eligibility Test (SET) in 2018.

Ms. Siddhi Baid was also praised by our Professors for being studious, as well as physically fit. She worked hard and secured good marks in her graduation and afterwards did her L.L.B from ILS, Pune. She worked with multiple firms and excelled in business and contract law. She did various internships and encouraged us to be prepared for our future. She too enlightened us about our future.

The program ended with a Vote of thanks by Ishika Singh from the Semester IV.

In all, the Handholding event of 2022, was a success. It was an informative and interactive programme. We would like to thank our Principal Dr. Aditi Dey and Professors for giving us such a wonderful opportunity to express ourselves.



REPORT ON HARMONY (MEET-2)

Anisha Tiwari
Semester IV, Department of Political Science

Classroom knowledge is incomplete without committed participation of the students in different kinds of activities. The Department of Political Science has been organising a Harmony meet where students showcase their talents in different forms of art, craft, photography, dance, music, drama and poetry. Students from all the Semesters take part in this wonderful talent embracing event. The programme took place in the platform of Google Meet on June 10, 2022.

The introduction of the Second Harmony Meet was given by the Head of the Department of Political Science Dr. Siuli Mukherjee along with the other Professors. The introductory speech was given by Nafisa Aslam, a Semester IV student of the Department of Political Science. The compering of the art and photography field was done by Nafisa Aslam, a Semester IV student. The presentation and technical support was given by Anisha Tiwari, a student of Semester IV.

The students from all the Semesters showcased their wonderful arts like madhubani, mandala, scribbles etc. They also made wonderful crafts out of waste products. They also presented life-like photographs clicked by them.

The art and photography presentation ended with great applause by the Head of the Department and all the Professors. The professors as well as the students embraced the art and photography and the efforts made by the students.

The compering of the dance and music was done by Smriti Chakraborty, a student of Semester II. There were mesmerizing performances by the students of all the Semesters.

The programme was very much enjoyed by the Professors and the audience and ended with the delivery of 'Vote of Thanks' by Ushnika Basu, student of Semester II.



REPORT ON SPECIAL WEB LECTURE II

Anisha Tiwari

Semester IV, Department of Political Science

The Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College organized the Special Web lecture II on "Research Methodology : An Interdisciplinary Approach" for the students with the Guest Speaker Ms. Priya Singh, Associate Director, Asia in Global Affairs.

In the year 2022, the event was organized on 23rd of June. It was compered by Bageshri Singha, a Semester IV student. The welcome address was given by the Head of the Department, Dr. Siuli Mukherjee.

The presentation and technical support was given by Anisha Tiwari, a Semester IV student. The introduction to the Speaker was given by Bageshri Singha. The guest speaker for the Special lecture Ms. Priya Singh, an alumna of the Department of Political Science of Shri Shikshayatan College.

The Guest Speaker gave a detailed introduction to the meaning and types of the Research Methodology used and how useful they are getting pertinent information on a specific topic. The various steps involved should also be followed carefully to get the true information.

The guest speaker also gave a detailed explanation on the definition of interdisciplinary studies and interdisciplinarity and also gave Karl Popper's three methods of theoretical ethics. She explained how a theory to be considered scientific it must be able to be tested and conceivably proven false.

The programme was very informative and enlightening as the students could relate it to the subject. The programme was followed by an interactive session where all the Professors and the students came up with interesting questions and compliments.

The programme ended with interactive session and was followed by delivery of 'Vote of Thanks' by Ishika Singh, a Semester IV student. Overall the programme was a huge success as the students were highly responsive and the speech was approachable and appealing to students.



REPORT ON LECTURE ON LEGAL LITERACY II

Moumita Singha

Semester IV, Department of Political Science

A special web lecture on Legal Literacy by Dr. Debdatta Das was organized by the Department of Political Science of Shri Shikshayatan College which took place on June 25, 2022 on the digital platform of Google Meet.

The programme started at 5.30 p.m in the evening and continued till 7. This lecture provided the faculty and students the opportunity to broaden the horizon of our knowledge to understand our Human Rights particularly in the context of our Gender and rights of women in India. The faculty members had invited guest speaker Dr. Debdatta Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, University of Burdwan to deliver a lecture on Literacy Lecture on the topic "Human Rights and Women in India".

The programme began with Muskan Singh of Semester IV as the compere of programme. The Head of the Department of Political Science, Dr. Siuli Mukherjee gave the welcome address. Muskan Singh proceeded by introducing our speaker Dr. Debdatta Das. Dr. Das focused on human rights of women with special emphasis on economic abuse and reproductive rights. She started by defining human rights. She further highlighted the main features of Human Rights and mentioned the international recognition of human rights for women underlined in the United Nations charter. Also, added Section 2(d) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 and other several legislation acts such as Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1989, Maternity Benefit (MBA) Act, 1961, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 etc. Dr. Das pointed some forms of economic exploitation on women like demand to know how money was spent, convincing to lend money but not pay it back, forcing to give money or let him use cheque book, ATM and several others. She referred to certain consequences of deepening poverty, tension resulting in physical violence, social in equality and promoting sexual exploitation of girls, physiological emotional abuses. Further explained Economic Abuse and Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and lastly ended with the description of Article 21 i.e. the right to live with dignity is inclusive of women's reproductive rights containing the right to become pregnant, to bear children, to use or not use contraceptives, right to have an abortion, to be or not to be a parent etc. After the completion of the lecture, an interactive session was held where questions being asked by our respected faculties. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Chandosi Bhattacharyya from Semester IV.



BOOK TALK

Jaydeb Sarkhel and Anirban Banerjee (eds).
History, Heritage and Religion : Problems and Perspectives,
Kolkata : Book Syndicate, 2020, Pages 213, Price Rs. 550.

Reviewed by : Partha Pratim Basu, Professor,
Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

The year 2022 marks the bicentenary of Raja Rajendralal Mitra, an early stalwart of Indological studies who strode effortlessly from the field of history and archeology to the arena of literature and linguistics, and more. I take this opportunity to pay my homage to this polymath by sharing my observations on a volume titled *History, Heritage and Religion : Problems and Perspectives*, the outcome of a national seminar bearing the same title and organized in 2019 by the Bharat Vidya Charcha Kendra, a society for interdisciplinary research based in Burdwan, West Bengal. The central theme of the book can be divided into several sub-categories : art and architecture; science and technology; social history encompassing indigenous communities and religious practices; socio-political movements pivoting around caste identities and practices; complex legal tangles handed down from the past; economic development with reference to agriculture, trade and commerce; and environmental concerns with an accent on biodiversity management. The span of history for this purpose has been delineated with a broad brush taking into account developments since ancient India right up to 1947 and beyond.

Anirban Banerjee's overview of the various sub-themes of the book, based on his valedictory address in the said seminar, begins with an intriguing poser : 'Did Indians have any sense of history?' He quotes the eminent Indian sociologist D. P. Mukherjee who in a Hegelian vein perceived Indian culture with its 'humanistic' core as an essential chapter of universal history. This assertion, however, does not seem to directly address the question raised by Banerjee who in any case agrees with this statement only partially, and argues that the many reported instances of Indian kings and regional satraps ordering demolition of monuments of historical and architectural significance shed a poor light on their appreciation of and respect for the relics of the past. His emphasis on the importance of exploring the past through the lenses of social sciences to eradicate misconceptions and misinterpretations – arguably open to political manipulations – seeks to address a major contemporary concern.

A set of papers deal with survey and conservation of architectural heritage in the backdrop of religious traditions, popular culture, and royal patronage. Rupendra Kumar Chattopadhyay, Swati Roy and Shubha Majumdar undertook a study of the religious heritage of central and eastern Burdwan by examining religious relics located in a representative cluster of sites dating back to the early medieval period. The authors report that while historical sites are customarily associated with particular religious ideologies, the evidence gathered by them pointed to coexistence of diverse

religious traditions spawned in different historical periods (Brahmanical, Buddhist and Jain) which appeared collectively responsible for the growth and survival of the concerned settlements. Their findings also indicate assimilation/appropriation of cults (Saiva-Shakta assimilation or incorporation of local goddesses into the Brahmanical mode) which at times could be attributed to patronage of local rulers. Surajit Rauth's article pays attention to the architecture and inscribed sculptural motifs of terracotta temples of East Burdwan built between 16th and 19th centuries. In terms of architectural patterns, the surviving temples represented five different types : *Shikhar Deul*, *PeetaDeul*, *Chala*, *Ratna* and *Dalan* which featured exchanges between Hindu and Islamic styles. The sculptural decorations, further, reflected vernacular idioms derived from the socio-political and cultural revival witnessed in Bengal since the 14th century including political unification, Hindu revivalism of the Gaudiya Vaishnavite variety, development of Bengali language and various literary forms under Sultani patronage and so forth.

In an allied chapter, Gourav Lama asserts that the practice of heritage conservation in India goes back to ancient times, and the rulers played a leading role in maintaining particular monuments or sites which gave them a sense of identity. The British set up the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) but, the author contends, the focus was not on discovery or preservation of the past but serving the needs of the colonial government's grand project of survey and investigation. Post-Independence, the performance of a similarly structured ASI was marked by serious shortcomings beginning with lack of database concerning monuments under its jurisdiction. In this connection, the author hails the efforts of various teams of archeologists in conserving historical sites and monuments, but sounds sceptical about 'adoption' of heritage sites by corporate operators apparently motivated by revenue generation with little sensitivity to the historicity of the sites. Bhumika Ghosh's sole entry on the history of science and technology in (ancient) India traces the developments from pre-historic stage through the Harappan, Aryan, and Mauryan periods till the Gupta era covering the journey across stone, bronze-copper and iron ages. It produces an interesting account of the advances in science – including mathematics and medical sciences – as well as their use or application in a wide range of fields and activities – from agriculture to warfare, with pottery, coins, painting and musical instruments in between. The essay however ends rather abruptly: a few words about the contemporary significance of these developments – for example, their implications for India's soft power diplomacy – would have resulted in value addition.

A couple of articles examine the genesis, features and mutation of socio-religious traditions of Bengal along with their implications for social stability and change. Rohidas Mondal inquires into the surge of the Namashudras – who shared many upper caste features but were reportedly downgraded by Raja Ballal Sen – as a protest movement against the Hindu gentry originating in 19th century Bengal. However, instead of a head-on confrontation, their response took the form of a social reform campaign based on a counter-cultural religious creed (Matuaism) inspired by the transformative ideas of Chitanya Mahaprabhu. Starting with the assumption that liberal religious thought was instrumental in promoting social justice and economic prosperity of the community, it stressed social equality – especially gender parity; rejected idolatry, *Sannyas* (renunciation) and *Guruvaadi* thinking; and propagated single-minded devotion to *Hari* or the universal god. The author

concludes that while its efforts to carve out an identity outside the frame of Hinduism did not quite succeed, the Matua movement was able to fire the imagination of a sizable section of the backward communities, and Matuas managed to establish themselves as the most influential of the depressed castes of Bengal. The article is informative and interesting, though how the rise of the Matua ideology contributed to bolstering Hindu-Muslim solidarity in Bengal (p. 77) could be elaborated a little; interaction of the Matua movement with social reform initiatives launched by the upper caste leaders is worth pondering; and some remarks on the growing influence of the Matuas in West Bengal politics in the present millennium also seem to be in order. Of course, **Bidhan Chandra Roy's** piece looks at caste-politics interface but is too brief and general to capture the dimensions and nuances of this highly volatile issue.

However, **Saurav Ghosh** and **Anirban Banerjee's** joint take on tribal religious beliefs and practices-- with the Santal religion as a case study and clear statement of its theoretical perspective and research questions -- is certainly one of the more cogent entries of the volume. The Santals remained worshippers of nature and ancestors, with conceptions of gods and goddesses absent in their Sari religion which has of late received recognition by the government of West Bengal. Moreover, religious rituals and festivals often stemming from the life cycle of the community and also as occasions of collective rejoicing strengthened intra-community bonding. While no part of the mainstream religious beliefs and practices, the Santal religion did not remain impervious to influences from the neighboring Hindu society either as is affirmed by participation of the community members in Hindu ceremonies such as *Saraswati Puja*. But this element of syncretism also at times entailed communal tensions, e.g. between Christian and non-Christian Santals, arguably instigated by growing propensity towards religion-based polarization in today's Indian politics.

The distinctiveness of the two essays penned by **Damarupani Bhattacharya** and **Suddhasattwa Banerjee** lies in their attempt to access social history through the artistic and literary genre. Bhattacharya adopts a combination of subaltern and local history approaches in studying small towns as mirrored in three classics of 20th century Bengali literature -- *Dharaicharitanas* (Satinath Bhaduri), *Hasulibaker Upokatha* (Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay), and *Nakshi Kaathar Maath* (Jasim uddin). Each captures in great ethnographic detail the lives and livelihoods of a socially marginalized category -- indigenous people or women -- engaged in age-old professions and yet long invisible in mainstream history. This chapter draws pointed attention to the challenge faced by contemporary historians in negotiating 'history-from-below'. **Banerjee** concentrates on analyzing films and plays : John Osborne's period drama *Look Back in Anger* (1950s), Vijay Tendulkar's play *Kanyadaan* (1980s), and Saeed Mirza's movie *Albert Pinto ko Gussa Kiun Ata Hai* (1980s), all representing revolt against orthodox class/caste-based social distinctions. The young protagonists -- Jimmy Porter, Arun Athwale and Albert Pinto -- are one in their deep discontent towards the prevalent social hierarchy, and their alienation finds expression through visceral anger. The source of this anger is a persistent feeling of social rejection, of being an outcast -- whether due to working class origins or Dalit lineage -- and a sense of frustration born out of the failure, despite best efforts, to change their social stations. This chapter makes an interesting attempt to draw a parallel between the 'Angry Young Man' movement of UK in the 1950s and the 'Dalit Panther' movement in India of the 1970s/80s.

Again, the present-day legal and constitutional systems thrive under the shadow of the past which prompted **Rakhi Chowdhury** to take into account the cases for and against Article 370 of the Indian Constitution which bestowed special status on Jammu and Kashmir in an attempt to address a most contentious legacy of the Partition of the subcontinent. The criticality of the issue can hardly be exaggerated but it also called for a more systematic and in-depth analysis : thus, the author's claim (p 163) that the provision came in the way of the state's economic development deserved more detailed treatment. Moreover, the dimensions of the problem underwent a sea change after abrogation of the Article in August 2019, and insertion of an appropriate note at the time of the publication of the volume (February 2020) was only in order. **Sudeshna Bandyopadhyay** revisits the concept of *Strreedhana* or women's property which as per the pronouncements of the *Smritikaras* was enjoyed as a fundamental right in ancient India. She notes the changes brought about in this regard by the Hindu Succession Act of 1956 and draws attention to cases where the rights of male and female owners/heirs still vary considerably. While this remains yet another intriguing topic, illustrations based on relevant court cases and judgments would have been highly effective in buttressing her points. Also, the author -- being a top functionary of a women's organization -- could have considerably enlightened the readers by relating some of her field level experiences.

To turn to the economic segment of the volume, **Susanta Mondal** ably summarizes the story of the transition of Indian agriculture from its subsistence orientation into a commercial proposition during colonial rule which sets the stage for the chapters of **Rangana Dey** and **Ranjan Paul**. Dey's paper argues that while introduction of rubber plantations in India by the colonizers was driven by profit motives, the rationale behind extension of rubber cultivation in northeastern India after Independence was distinctly different. As a conservation initiative, it sought to wean away the poor tribal populace from environmentally damaging *jhum* cultivation; simultaneously, it aimed at opening up fresh eco-friendly employment opportunities for improvement of their economic conditions. The benefits, though considerable, remained limited by uneven productivity levels, poor training facilities for the cultivators, want of eco-friendly fertilizers and pesticides among others. **Paul's** assessment of the consequences of tea plantation in the *plains* of North Bengal reveals a reverse pathway as the traditional environment-compliant bamboo grooves and betel nut gardens gave way since 1970s to cash crop production and mushrooming of small tea gardens encouraged by the Tea Board. This in course of time not only reduced marginal landowners into paid workers in their own land but also took a heavy toll of the environmental conditions such as soil fertility, groundwater levels, and state of biodiversity.

If these chapters looked at the interface of economy and environment in the post-Independence period, **Uday Shaw** explores forms of environmental consciousness in the Vedic era which reflected the senses of both awe and wonder. People in those days were enchanted by the multifarious and magnificent expressions of natural forces such as sun and rain, and developed ample awareness, for example, of water cycles and their effects on human lives. However, the furies of nature posed a huge existential challenge which in turn shaped their religious vision and encouraged worship of nature gods as a possible counterpoise. **Bishnu Goswami's** article seeks to draw pertinent lessons from ancient texts for biodiversity conservation and management in present day India. Thus, the chapter on classification of forest produces and explication of their medicinal properties in Kautilya's *Arthashastra*

could be an invaluable guide to modern scientific analyses of floral and faunal diversity. Similarly, the notion of 'sacred groves' nurtured through centuries has been effectively utilized for bio-conservation purposes such as maintenance of local aquifers and providing vegetation covers in urban areas.

In sum, the themes flagged by the volume – the Indians' sense of history and commitment (or lack of it) to its conservation, the tradition of cultural confluence and ideological assaults on this composite cultural fabric, or linkage between the 'economic' and the 'ecological', to name a few – are salient, and topical too. Resort to literary and artistic sources to analyze social dynamics, and examination of potential contributions of ancient Indian texts to understand and address contemporary socio-political problems should also count among its noteworthy features. Of course, some of the usual limitations of seminar-based publications are noticeable here as well : ensuring uniformity in quality and treatment remains difficult; weaving the presentations made during separate sessions of the seminar along a seamless thread also poses a challenge though the editors could have been a little more mindful of this aspect at the time of the final compilation. Still on the whole the book represents a commendable effort to take a holistic look at India both at the ideational level as well as the ground reality from a multidisciplinary perspective, thus staying wedded to the essence of classical Indological inquiry.



BOOK TALK

**Rakhahari Chatterji : Gandhi and the Ali Brothers –
Biography of A Friendship : SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd : 2013 : Rs. 695**

Dr. Mandar Mukherjee

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College

Mahatma Gandhi became a legend in his life time. The research on his life continues to draw serious attention in spite of his death several decades ago. While some scholars viewed him as a world leader and a non-violent humanist, others have attempted to see him as a mover of liberal thought in addressing the conflicts and dilemma with all his shortcomings and limitations. However, there are also several blunt critiques of Gandhi too. Hence both holistic and compartmentalised types of studies are in persuasion with sustained efforts.

The present book authored by Dr. Rakhahari Chatterji is a very interesting and noteworthy work on Gandhi. The author is keen to study the relationship between Mahatma Gandhi and the Ali brothers- Shaukat Ali (1873-1938) and Mohamed Ali Jauhar (1878-1931), the leaders of the Khilafat movement in a particular perspective. While on the one hand he makes extensive reference to the already documented historical facts, he also attempts to introduce a novel and logical approach to review the friendship between Gandhi and Ali Brothers which did not last forever. Unlike the other type of analyses that generally elaborate descriptive details, his work is an eye opener for the readers. It makes invaluable contribution to Gandhian literature. His intention is clearly and logically stated in the given remark, "This book is an attempt to unravel the way in which this intense relationship, indeed rare in India between the leaders of the two major communities, was forged and how it came to a dead end so soon." (Preface -ix)

The Ali brothers, Shaukat Ali (1873-1938) and Mohamed Ali Jauhar (1878-1931), were leaders of the Khilafat movement which started in protest against the treatment met out by the British government to the sultan of the Ottoman empire who was recognized as the Caliph, the leader of the Islamic world. Ali Brothers were the torch bearers in rallying support among Indian Muslims during that movement. They merged their movement with Gandhi's Non-cooperation movement, which made Hindu-Muslim unity the cornerstone of the national movement. Chapter divisions of the book, contain – 'The Theory : Communitarianism, Multiculturalism and Gandhi'; 'The History; The characters: The Ali brothers'; 'Love at first sight'; 'Troubled alliance'; 'Journey downhill'; 'End of the road' followed by a 'Conclusion: Multiculturalism before its time'. Among many factors that he highlighted, the two most noteworthy factors are regressive nationalism and the civil strife which bind together the culturally diverse people living within a territorial unity. The author referred to several writings right from that of Ardent Lijphart-Netherland 1917 to Gunner Myrdal (Negro problem in America 1944). His main concern is to see the disparity in mainstream nationalism represented by the majority. The line of thinking that existed, according to the author was that any attempt "to

differentiate was to discriminate” and 'assimilation or coercion' In this context, he writes that “there was no claim for rights by cultural minorities or colonised peoples and since right depends on claiming it, they became complicit in denying themselves their right.”(P-3).

His days in South Africa inspired Gandhi, according to the author, to value Hindu- Muslim unity as essential for any movements demanding 'Rights' in India. Here, the author tends to take Gandhian principles of rights beyond the borders of nationalism. According to him, Gandhi was struggling for unity but not for assimilation or union in friendship. For that matter there is no impossible fusion but harmonious collaboration based on trust and respect to each other. In analyzing Gandhian frame of mind and applications, the author uniquely referred the discourse of Rabindranath Tagore, Romain Rolland, Manabendranath Roy, Bipan Chandra, Partha Chatterjee along with the thinkers of their western counterpart like Barrington Moore (Jr) and others. He also cautions his readers about the misconception of 'sanatani' as Gandhi described himself. He also mentions that this declaration of sanatani in no way has been connected with the RSS. In contrast to the European concept of mono cultural nationhood Gandhian approach reveals the strong imprints of communitarianism – “celebrating the community as a natural entity” (P-9).

The chronological development of this tie of leadership and crises faced by them has been explained in a number of chapters. Among them the most striking one is 'Journey Downhill'- chapter 6. Not only the views and perspectives of the prominent leaders but also the police records and the media coverage are highlighted by the author in researching the subject. The end result was far from settlement. In fact, there was a great deal of confusions, conflicts, disagreements, prolonged fasting, possibility of government intervention and even riots. Severity of the situation compelled Gandhi to confess in writing publicly that “There is no fight left in me” (p-162). The unity and trust between the two communities became a remote dream and both expressed their discomforts against Gandhi. Communal representation and hostility became inevitable instead of harmony between them.

Finally, it sets the way for the author to reach the conclusion – 'Multiculturalism before Its Time' in chapter 8. This infact is the treasure of the entire discussion. Author applies his logic in writing that, “like many communitarians of today, Gandhi would probably have said, 'the nation was a community of communities'”. (P- 211). But it failed because Mahatma Gandhi's “heart unity” has been counter challenged by material interests like reservations, weight age, and share of jobs and so on. But according to the author it is also true that “(T)owards the end of 1924 and in the face of Hindus and Muslims 'fighting like cats and dogs', Gandhi could declare with brimming confidence –as he still had faith in his alliance with the Alis – that he was 'striving to be the best cement between the two communities'; within three years he had to beat a retreat, for a time at least, saying, 'I dare not to touch the problem of Hindu-Muslim unity. It has passed out of human hands and has been transferred to God's hands alone.’(P- 221). Leaders and the people could understand very little how Mahatma Gandhi affirmed the scope of choice to alter the periphery of the society – nation – world through his 'passion of politics'. Hence in every respect it is a “Biography of Friendship”although it did not last forever.

This book has been reviewed in many prestigious journals like 'Indian Historical Review' : Vol 41: Issue 1 : 2014 and others. It has also been translated in Hindi as well as in Marathi in 2018.

Web Ref :

- The Print : 6 October, 2019 (Gandhi goal behind courting Hindu leaders & groups was to make them more malleable to Muslims: Rakhahari Chatterji
- <https://theprint.in/pageturner/excerpt/gandhi-courted-hindu-groups-to-make-them-malleable-to-muslims/301113/>
- Gandhi@150: Ali Brothers' Fraught Relationship with Gandhi: Syed Saad Ahmed
- <https://www.outlookindia.com/magazine/story/india-news-bbrothers-in-arms/302176>.

Author's profile –

Dr. Rakhahari Chatterji (retd.) Professor of Political Science and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Calcutta is currently an Advisor to Observer Research Foundation, Kolkata. He was a Visiting Fellow at University of Chicago (1986-87); University of Michigan (1988-89); University of Virginia (1996-97) and was the UGC Emeritus Fellow (2009-11). He has several books and scholarly articles to his credit.



BOOK TALK

George Orwell, '1984', Spark Publishing, 2003, Pages 304, Price Rs. 195

Olivia Roy

Former Student, Department of Political Science*

George Orwell's '1984' is a timeless satire that remains alive through the structures of the socio-politico-historical framework because of the robust vocabulary that only foreshadows a future obscured in darkness and ominosity.

The dystopian novel opens with hints of foreboding : a bright cold day in April; the clocks are striking thirteen, and our protagonist, Winston Smith, a member of the Outer Party consisting of the middle class, working for the Ministry of Truth, is in the clutches of a dystopian future. Set in Oceania, one of the three intercontinental superstates that divided the world among themselves after a global atomic war, the story unfolds in the year 1984, in London, the chief city of Airstrip One, governed by the party headed by the Big Brother. The fiction is a chilling peep into what a country like England look like under totalitarianism. Every inch of available public and private space in the city is cluttered with Posters screaming, "Big Brother is Watching You". Every street corner, every lamp post, and every wall has life-size pictures of Big Brother face, his eyes following the wary citizens as they walk past it.

The Orwellian text is revolutionary because although it had been written in the past century, it remains an essential signifier of autocracy symptoms that are often projected by the hierarchical administrations of governments across borders. A heartbreaking yet eye-opening work of art, this book is an excellent satire on the totalitarian tendencies of governments. The most crucial question it poses before its readers are whether the foreshadowed status quo would ever come into existence or would we meet an ending like Winston Smith, puppeting through the ubiquity of Big Brother.

The Orwellian vocabulary is powerfully infectious in the sense that the words we come across reveal the mires of dirt that garb governments. The chilling slogans : War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength, besides words like thought crime, memory hole, doublespeak, telescreens and so on hauntingly suggest an autocratic environment where Desire is Thought crime, Thought crime is death, where a fascination with the true past is an offense punishable by death, where the past is altered and disfigured every second.

In an environment like this, our protagonist Winston Smith sits at a desk and scribbles on his notebook at an angle discreetly away from the telescreen, journaling his frustration and a burning urge to revolt against the all-powerful Big Brother, the only one with the privilege to think. Winston's struggle for liberation from the practice of thoughtlessness and his innate hunger to critically analyze the way of life burdened upon him, makes him a lone warrior as he is surrounded by men like Mr. Parsons who swallows it easily with the stupidity of animals. In his tendency to think independently,

*Presently studying in Department of English and Cultural Studies, Christ University, Bangalore

Winston cannot believe he is isolated from the common masses, yet his desire to metamorphose his existence makes him act on his impulses; he trusts men he should not and hence is destined to fail.

However, in this political set up the Proles (a short for proletariats) are free from such oppression because : so long as they (the Proles) continued to work and breed, their other activities were without importance. Left to themselves, like cattle turned loose upon the plains of Argentina, they had reverted to a style of life that appeared to be natural to them, a sort of ancestral pattern...heavy physical work, the care of home and children, petty quarrels with neighbors, films, football, beer and above all, gambling filled up the horizon of their minds. To keep them in control was not difficult.

All this seems eerily familiar when we have already lived in an era of rampant internet shutdowns, raids across Twitter and other social media platforms, politicians covering up the truth in the name of alternative facts, marking students with banners as anti-nationalists, construction of detention camps, air strikes in Gaza and such gatekeeping in the name of nationalism. Orwell's '1984' is not a fiction but rather a political statement. It is a warning that history repeats itself, that is a vicious cycle of acceptance and suppression. The significance of foreshadowing and a chilling warning drawn from this polemic text is justified by Orwell from his statement : The moral to be drawn from this dangerous nightmare situation is a simple one : Don't let it happen. It depends on you. At the end of the book when Winston is converted to transform his mindset into believing in the popular propaganda imposed by the ruling government, it only shows the birth of another slave in the machinery of hyper-nationalism and performative politics.



A MOVIE REVIEW ON : MARDAAANI 2

Anisha Tiwari

Semester IV, Department of Political Science

Mardaani 2 is a 2019 Indian Hindi-language action thriller film and a sequel to the 2014 film Mardaani. It is directed by Gopi Puthran who wrote the previous film, marking his directorial debut, and backed by Aditya Chopra through Yash Raj Films, with Rani Mukerji reprising her role of police officer Shivani Shivaji Roy from the previous film. The plot follows her attempts to catch a 21-year-old rapist and murderer, played by newcomer Vishal Jethwa.

The filming began in March 2019 and was extensively done in Rajasthan. It was released on 13 December 2019 to generally positive response.

The opening credits show Shivani Shivaji Roy (Rani Mukerji) clearing the UPSC exams in 2015 to become an Indian Police Service officer.

In Kota, Rajasthan, a 21-year-old psychopath, Sunny (Vishal Jethwa), kidnaps an outspoken young woman, Latika. He brutally tortures and rapes her, then murders her. Shivani, who has been appointed as the new Superintendent of Police of Kota, arrives at the crime scene and clashes with her misogynist subordinate DSP Brij Shekhawat (Sumit Nijhawan). The brutality of the murder disturbs Shivani and makes her more determined to catch the killer.

Sunny, who has actually come to Kota from Meerut on a killing contract given by politician Govind Mishra a.k.a Panditji (Prasanna Ketkar), sees Shivani on TV when she publicly promises to find Latika's killer. He taunts her by sneaking into her home and stealing her sari, he then dresses up as a woman tricks the journalist and kills him; he also hires Pravin, a tea-seller near the police station, to kill the journalist's wife, Aabha Parihar, in a suicide blast, then takes Pravin's place as tea-seller to keep an eye on her, introducing himself as a mute boy named Bajrang.

When Shivani brings in Lahanya, a child from the slums who had witnessed the blast, Sunny kills him. Following the media uproar on the failure of the police to catch the murderer, Shivani is set to be transferred from Kota. Since the new officer will come after two days, Shivani, along with her teammates, decides to catch Sunny within the two days. Shivani makes peace with Shekhawat since his network of informers is very strong in the city, and he leads them to his contact, who reveals that the real mastermind behind the killing of Kamal Parihar a slum child is the youth politician Viplav Beniwal (Sunny Hinduja). Shivani arrests Beniwal's right-hand man Kunwar who is brutally tortured into revealing the whereabouts of Sunny. Sunny kidnaps another outspoken woman but the police track him down. They discover her already raped and tortured but still alive and manage to save her.

Sunny, acting as Bajrang, gets a lift from Shivani. Before he can strangle her, Shivani stops him, having realized that Bajrang is Sunny. The two fight but Sunny escapes. The police find a video of Sunny taken by a bystander, and Shivani has it made viral on all social media platforms. Sunny kidnaps Pandit's granddaughter Priyanka and threatens to kill her unless Shivani apologizes to him.

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Shivani and the police manage to save the girl. Shekhawat mends his ways and agrees to help Shivani. Shivani discovers that Sunny's next target is the female politician Sunanda. That night, amidst the Diwali celebrations, Shivani and her team search for him. She discovers him in the house of a local couple, having taken their daughter and Sunanda hostage. Shivani is knocked unconscious and tied up.

When she awakes, Sunny is strangling Sunanda; to distract him, Shivani talks about his mother and his past, which she learned from Sunny's father, who is imprisoned in Meerut. As a child, Sunny's father had tried to murder Sunny's mother, who had been an outspoken woman. In terror, Sunny's mother had hidden on the terrace, but Sunny told his father where she was hiding; his father then killed her. The guilt of his mother's death has since caused Sunny to become unhinged and take that anger out on other confident girls.

Shivani signals Sunanda and the other hostage to toss the nearby buckets of paint on Sunny, as he is asthmatic. She then gains the upper hand, beating Sunny with his own belt. She kicks him outside and continues beating him as the neighbourhood gathers to watch.

A sequel to Pradeep Sarkar's Mardaani (2014), that highlighted the issue of human trafficking, Mardaani 2 takes it a notch higher and duly delivers on the fact that cinema is the reflection of our society. It's real, relatable and succeeds in evoking the desired angst in you.

Even when it comes to the pace, the film doesn't waste time building up subplots or introducing needless twists. It straightaway comes to the point and leaves you not much time to evaluate or analyse the right or the wrong. Perhaps that's why, at 105 minutes, its length is one of its biggest plus points. Also, Puthran doesn't leave his grip over the story at any moment. There are no forced songs in the film to kill its tempo; the background score also allows the story to be the real hero.

A socially-relevant film, Mardaani 2 is designed as a thriller to keep the audience involved, but it could have avoided showing the faces of sexually assaulted girls – this is surely not for the weak hearted.

Mardaani 2 is a story that everyone knows about, but it still needs to be told again. There are moments that make us cringe, but if we can watch 24-hour news cycle then this film is certainly the need of the hour to make our voices heard.

Mardaani 2 is disturbing, chilling, heart-wrenching and makes you uncomfortable; and perhaps that's what the makers intended to achieve through this edge-of-the-seat crime thriller. Written and directed by Gopi Puthran with Rani Mukerji in the lead role, Mardaani 2 highlights the gruesome crimes against women, but also delves deeper into issues such as women safety, gender inequality, misogyny and toxic masculinity.

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A REVIEW OF WEB SERIES : PANCHAYAT (SEASON-1)

Priyanka Kumari

Semester II, Department of Political Science

Panchayat is an Indian Hindi-language comedy-drama web series created by The Viral Fever for the Amazon Prime Video. The series scripted by Chandan Kumar, was directed by Deepak Kumar Mishra, which features Jitendra Kumar, Raghubir Yadav, Neena Gupta, Chandan Roy and Faisal Malik. It chronicles the life of an engineering graduate who joins as a Panchayat secretary in a remote fictional village Phulera of Uttar Pradesh due to lack of better job options.

PLOT – Abhishek Tripathi, a fresh engineering graduate after failing to get placed in his final year is left with an only job option of a Panchayat Secretary in a remote village. With no other choice he joins the job thus unfolding a series of daily struggles as he tries to juggle between his job and CAT preparation, in a hope of improving his life.

Tripathi, a confused soul is caught between the tussle of bearing the brunt of remaining jobless or choosing an unwanted job which does not suit his lifestyle.

He takes up the job reluctantly though not being completely aware about the differences in the lifestyle of the urban and rural Indians. Abhishek reaches Phulera with a surprise awaiting him that the Panchayat office is locked with the keys missing. He further gets disappointed seeing the condition of the office which is also his residence. It is then he realises that he desperately needs to switch his job. He seeks advice from his seemingly successful friend and gets the suggestion of preparing for the CAT examination which is the gateway to the prestigious IIMs which can change his life. Thus, begins his journey in Phulera with a hope in his mind to change the current scenario.

We are introduced to the other important characters of Vikas, his office assistant, Brij Bhushan Dubey, former Pradhan and 'Pradhan-Pati' who handles all work on behalf of his illiterate wife, Prahalad Pandey, Up-Pradhan and Manju Devi, Pradhan. They play important roles in the daily life of Abhishek.

We get to see the problem of superstitions in villages which run on the basis of rumours. Abhishek solves the mystery of the haunted tree and successfully installs a solar lamp in his office. Then, we get to see the power struggle between him and Pradhan-Pati regarding a revolving chair which sheds light on the small details that are important to the villagers. He ultimately has to give it away as form of apology to the groom party after a small argument.

We encounter funny instances of him getting stuck between strict family planning slogans and the anger of villagers having more than two kids; getting drunk and sleeping with the office doors open resulting in the theft of the computer monitor. He is seen helpless when a couple argue over naming their son.

There are also sweet moments like all his colleagues throwing a small party to cheer him up and standing up for him when he engages in a fight.

The issue of dowry is also highlighted during the discussion of marriage of Pradhan's daughter. Due to Abhishek's rejection of the dowry system Pradhan-Pati sees him as a perspective groom for his daughter.

We learn that Abhishek's exams have not gone well due to which he becomes depressed. However, an incident related to Manju Devi motivates him and he decides to give it another try. At last, he climbs on the water tank, a trick suggested by his colleagues in order to fall in love with the village where he spots Rinky, village Pradhan's daughter and seemingly gets attracted to her thus hinting at a probable romance.

REVIEW – "*Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication*" a quote by Leonardo Da Vinci gives a one-line summary of the whole series. The story acts as a breath of fresh air in the era of modernism and glamour within the entertainment industry. It showcases a gap between the urban and rural India. Simple casting, relatable dialogues, beautiful picturisation act as catalyst for the great writing.

Panchayat is a sweet and simple drama which aims at providing moral life lessons along with comedy. The audience will feel a connect to the story as it is highly relatable to larger masses of Indian society.

Jitendra Kumar successfully portrays the complex character of Abhishek Tripathi. His apt expressions at crucial scenes seem real. Brij Bhushan Pandey makes us believe that he is a village dweller in real life with his natural acting. Chandan Roy engages us with his performance as an actual support and friend of Abhishek. Faisal Khan as Up-Pradhan impresses us with his apt village accent and dialogue delivery. Neena Gupta fits in the role of an average village woman who is unaware of her capabilities and is dependent on her husband for everything.

Apt direction and solid storyline are also to be praised for the creation of this beautiful tale. Funny punchlines like "Gajab bejjati hai" and "Aadhar Card nahi beta ek repat me sudhar card bana denge tumhara" give us the needed dose of humour.

The only glitches are the sound score which could have been better given the intense emotions and short screen timing of Neena Gupta. Manju Devi could have had a better part and more engaging dialogues.

It proves to be an apt family entertainer with no use of abusive language, larger than life characters and unrelatable scenarios. Whereas it is filled with short stories contributing to huge life lessons for the protagonist as well as the audiences.

In short *Panchayat* is a binge worthy entertainer which caters to the needs of each category of audiences. Filled with humour, intense emotions, problems of youth and sweet scenes it is a complete package altogether worthy of anybody's time.



WORDS FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL ALUMNAE

I have completed my graduation, Masters and M. Phil. in Political Science under the University of Calcutta. Presently, I am pursuing Ph.D. from the Symbiosis International University, Pune. I am presently also working as a guest lecturer in the Department of Political Science in Kolkata Police Law Institute. It has been quite a journey in choosing this career option. Starting from securing first class to qualifying competitive exams like National Eligibility Test (NET) or State Eligibility Test (SET), for being eligible to continue into this career prospective, the process has been amazing and still continuing. The career ladder into this field starts from the post of guest lectureship to Assistant Professor to Associate Professor and lastly Professor. The career prospects in the academics field is very long and requires rigorous continuous process of knowledge acquisition. It demands for continuous academic involvement like article publication, participating as well as attending seminars and webinars, paper presentation and other academics related work. It also requires diligent focus in fulfilling essential criteria's for this career choice. This career choice also involves getting recruitments under Government colleges, through qualifying Public Service Commission (PSC) or College Service Commission (CSC) interviews and into government universities. It also leaves room for recruitments into private colleges and universities as well. Apart from recruitments in colleges and universities, it also gives career options at school level as well through enrolment in B.Ed. degree courses. Though the subject leaves very little room for recruitments in schools having the subject in very few and only at higher secondary level, it has been now making greater opportunities into this field as well. Other than academic career option, the subject also opens up future career choices like preparing for government jobs like UPSC and WBSC, in the field of law, mass media, and working in Think Tanks and in International Organizations as well.

Koushiki Roy Bardhan
Former student, 2012-2015 batch

Presently, Guest Faculty in Political Science in Kolkata Police Law Institute
& pursuing Ph.D from Symbiosis International University, Pune

I, Siddhi Baid, am currently working as a Legal Associate in a FinTech Company which is a developer, creator and a proprietor of a web-enabled software as a service hosted B2B platform. The Platform acts as an intermediary communication tool for Private Banking / Wealth Management business; where the Buyers (mostly the private banks, brokers, asset managers) and the Sellers or Market Makers (mostly the investment banks) subscribe to the Platform in relation to certain OTC financial products.

I have been working extensively on drafting, vetting and negotiation of commercial contracts including Licensing Agreements, Master Subscription Agreements, Master Technology Agreements,

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etc. with leading Banks all over the world. I have also worked on NDA's, Consultancy Agreements, Teaming Agreements.

Our day-to-day responsibilities also included engaging in any legal matters that concern the company.

Before completing my LL.B from ILS Law college Pune, I completed my graduation in Political Science Hons from Shri Shikshayatan College. I then appeared for competitive examinations for entrance into LL.B colleges including Delhi University Entrance, MHCET for colleges in Maharashtra. After clearing the same I joined ILS Pune. The LL.B course is a three year course which deals with various important procedural and substantive laws. Throughout these three years I did various internships in District Court, High Court, Law firms, and legal department of a Bank. The internships helped me decide which field I wanted to establish my career in. I got placed in a Fin Tech as a Legal Associate and from here on I intend to go ahead and develop expertise in Technology Law.

Siddhi Baid
Former Student, 2014-17 Batch
Presently working as a Legal Associate in a Fin Tech Company

I graduated from the Department of Political Science, Shri Shikshayatan College in the year 2017. This college provided me an opportunity to focus on both academics as well as co-curricular activities thus enabling a holistic growth. At Shri Shikshayatan College, I developed an astute theoretical understanding of the politics that define the regulatory environment and learnt to operate respectfully and collaboratively through various group tasks that we were assigned.

To explore the intersection of politics with government policies, I moved to do my Masters in Public Policy from OP Jindal Global University. The multi-disciplinary course-work coupled with focus on research made the course work more interesting and challenging. During my Master's, I interned with research scholars and not for profit organisation on different policy issues.

With a keen interest in understanding how stakeholders influence policy, I worked with a policy consultancy in New Delhi. At this job I learnt the skill and importance of advocacy and research. I focused on policy issues related to labour, sustainability and infrastructure. My work allowed me the chance to interact with both government and non-government stakeholders and develop a nuanced understanding of public policy.

Currently, I work with Amazon in their Public Policy Team where I monitor and report relevant legislative and regulatory activity, develop positioning and mitigation/engagement strategies and coordinate external advocacy efforts, outreach programs, and key initiatives.

Priya Tiwari
Former Student, 2014-17 batch
Presently Working in Amazon as Manager, Public Policy

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It has always been about passion

Shifting from a total theoretical background to media wasn't easy for me. After completing my course in Political Science, I went to Pune with a passion to do good work. Along with my suitcase, I carried my love for Political Science.

The course has grounded me as a person and made me understand life, for what it is and beyond. Staying in the media industry for a while and shuffling between jobs, made me realise that the right temperament, sincerity, and knowledge about what is happening around, can do wonders.

I started as someone who had no idea about the Internet of Things, about the utility of different platforms. With time, I understood the need to have an open mind while going ahead. Media is a mixture of everything you come across. Make sure to consume content from everywhere and make the most out of it. Because print or digital doesn't exist in isolation. This interpersonal role is demanding.

That surely can get overwhelming at times. As I write, I have a deadline to meet. Amid the hustles of different deadlines, it becomes important to give space to your hobbies, to who you are as a person. Do not succumb to the pressure. Learn from it. Breathe. Dance. Laugh. Read. Do anything that makes you happy, and in the end, don't forget why you are choosing a particular field. Do justice to your field by clinging to your roots and beliefs, but at the same time, be open to evolve.

Nabodita Ganguly
Former Student, 2016-2019 batch
Presently working as Sub-Editor, The Hindu Business Line



DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS 2020-21

	Category	Recipient
1.	Academic Performance	Sreeparna Rakshit Nandini Rai
2.	Writing Skills	Muskaan Goenka Nandini Rai
3.	Coordination And Leadership	Namrata Khound Suvidhi Gandhi
4.	Public Speaking	Muskaan Goenka Namrata Khound Olivia Roy Stuti Mathur V H Ameena Nihar
5.	Community Service	Yashwi Lath
6.	Music and Choreography	Ambar Bhati Ayesha Asif Namrata Khound Harshita Jaiswal Nikhata Hussain Subhasree Mondal
7.	Photography, Art and Aesthetics	Anshika Pandey Debdatta Halder Khushi Rungta Komal Kyal Madhu Tiwary Namrata Khound Nandini Rai Radhika Shaw Sreeparna Rakshit Sriradha Saha Tanisha Bhattacharya V. H. Ameena Nihar Yashi Agarwal
8.	Poetry	Olivia Roy Ummul Wara Ashique Yashwi Lath

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS 2021-22

	Category	Recipient
1.	Academic Performance	Suchita Manna
2.	Attendance	Arjumand Bano
3.	Creative Writing	Swastika Chakraborty
4.	Coordination And Leadership	Fimaz Khatoon
5.	Graphic Presentation and Editing	Meghdyuti Ghosh
6.	Public Speaking	Swastika Chakraborty
7.	Art And Aesthetics	Priya Chakravartty Sakshi Kanta Ghising Vidhi Daga

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