

Report for the Website

Department of History

Event Name: Special Lecture by Prof. Dr. Amit Dey on ‘Judaean-Christian Tradition During the Emergence of Islam’

Organised by: Department of History, Shri Shikshayatan College

Date: 27 November 2024

Time: 2 pm onwards

Venue: Room 303, Shri Shikshayatan College

Duration: 2.5 hours

Total Number of Attendees: 75

Students: 60

Faculty Members: 05

External Participants: 10

Resource Person:

Professor Dr. Amit Dey, Asutosh Professor, Department of History, University of Calcutta

Learning Objectives:

1. Further the understanding of the Abrahamic faiths viz. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
2. Locate the originary moment of all three faiths through a close reading of sacred and scriptural texts.
3. Explore and analyze the role played by socioeconomic circumstances on faith and vice-versa.

Brief Description of the Event:

The monotheistic traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—three of the major world religions—were all born in the Middle East and are closely intertwined. Keeping this thread in mind and the relevance of the above both in the present world and the University curriculum, the Department of History organized a special lecture on ‘Judaean Christian Traditions During the Emergence of Islam’ by Dr. Amit Dey, eminent historian and Asutosh Professor of History, University of Calcutta. The event began with opening remarks on the theme by Ms Mallika Roy Choudhury, followed by a brief felicitation by the Head of the Department, Dr Devaleena Sinha. Dr. Dey was subsequently introduced by faculty member, Mrs. Shreya Ghatak.

Dr Dey employed the use of the chalk-and-talk method, to abate the limitations of PowerPoint presentations. At the onset, he laid out the importance of primary sources and secondary literature in understanding the theme. These three religious traditions shared a common foundation: a belief in monotheism, reverence for a shared pantheon of prophets—including Abraham, Moses, and Jesus—and the possession of sacred scriptures.

The professor commenced the lecture by jotting down a collection of sources to be referred to while studying the topic. Tafsir, Sirat, Quran, and Hadees are the best primary sources for understanding the complexity of the interaction between these faiths.

Professor Dey emphasized the importance of looking at the distinctions and commonalities of the three faiths, both through precept and practice. Citing instances from the Quran, he also mentioned that the revelation of the Quran can be divided into two parts- pre-Hijrat (time spent by Prophet Muhammad in Mecca) and post-Hijrat (after he migrates to Medina). Professor Dey delineated the flow of jurisprudence and authority through scriptural evidence which helps us understand idioms around the dispensation of justice, both in the past and present. His talk was concluded with an open house from members of the audience with a spate of questions that reflected the analytical bent of this discursive session

Learning Outcomes: The event ended on a high note as it upheld the spirit of critical inquiry and research on the relevant theme of the three monotheistic religious traditions in the Levant.

1. Engage students and faculty on the multiple texts that reveal the complexity within the study of religion, history, and jurisprudence.
2. Evoke multifarious discussions on the use and dis-use of traditions within existing religions.
3. Differentiate between theoria and praxis, precept and practice through a detailed lecture and discussion



Fig 1: Collective photo of faculty members, resource person Prof. Amit Dey, and students at the end of the special lecture ‘Judaео-Christian Tradition During the Emergence of Islam’

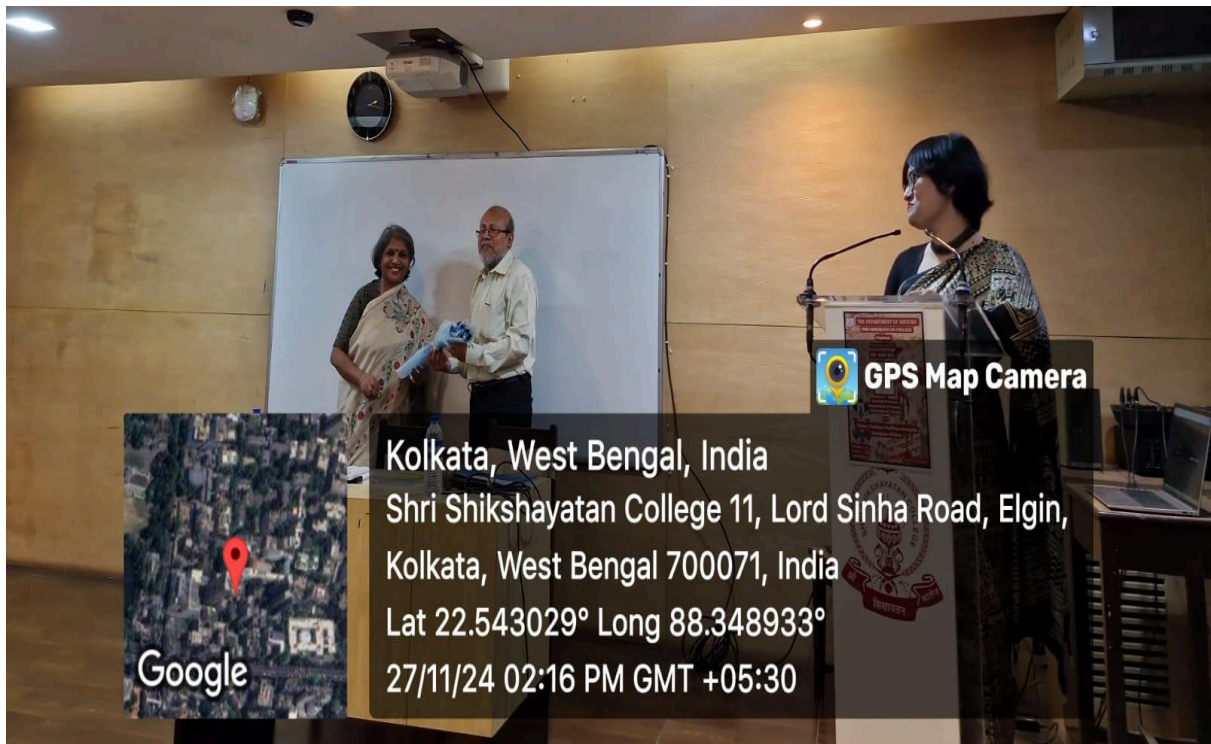


Fig.2: Professor Amit Dey being felicitated by Dr. Devaleena Sinha, Head of the Department of History, Shri Shikshayatan College

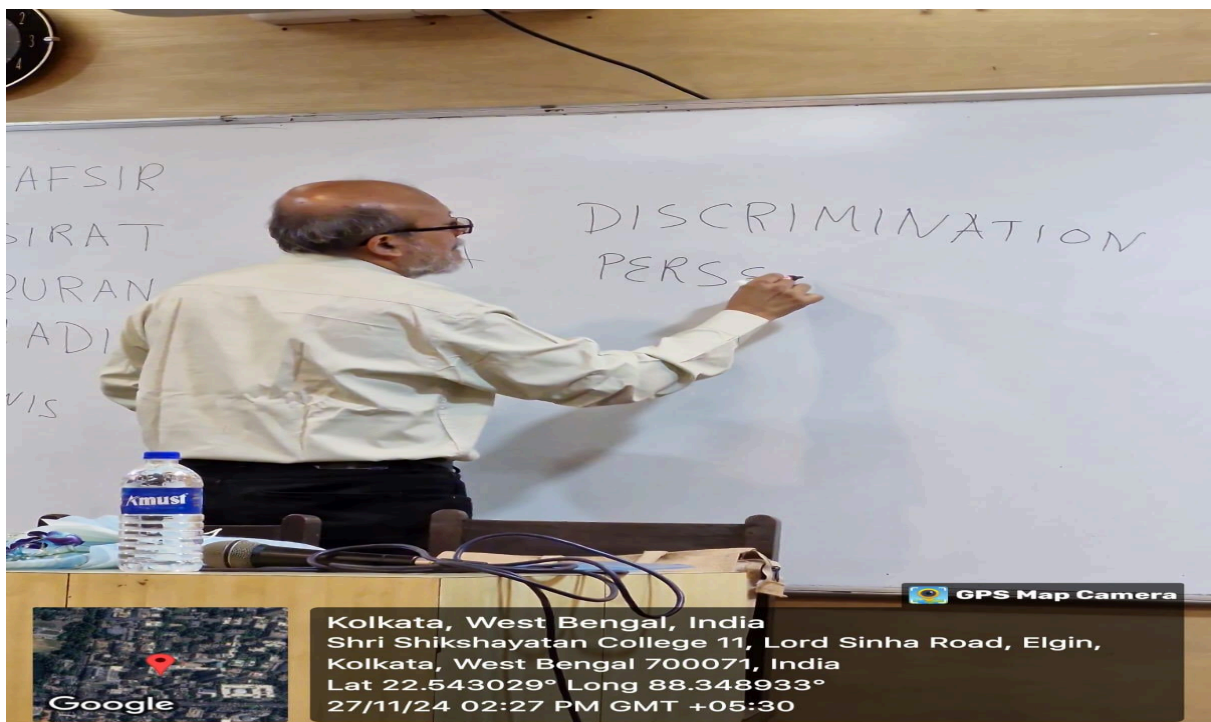


Fig 3: Professor Amit Dey in session



Fig 4 &5: Glimpses of Professor Dey’s special lecture on ‘Judaeo-Christian traditions during the emergence of Islam’

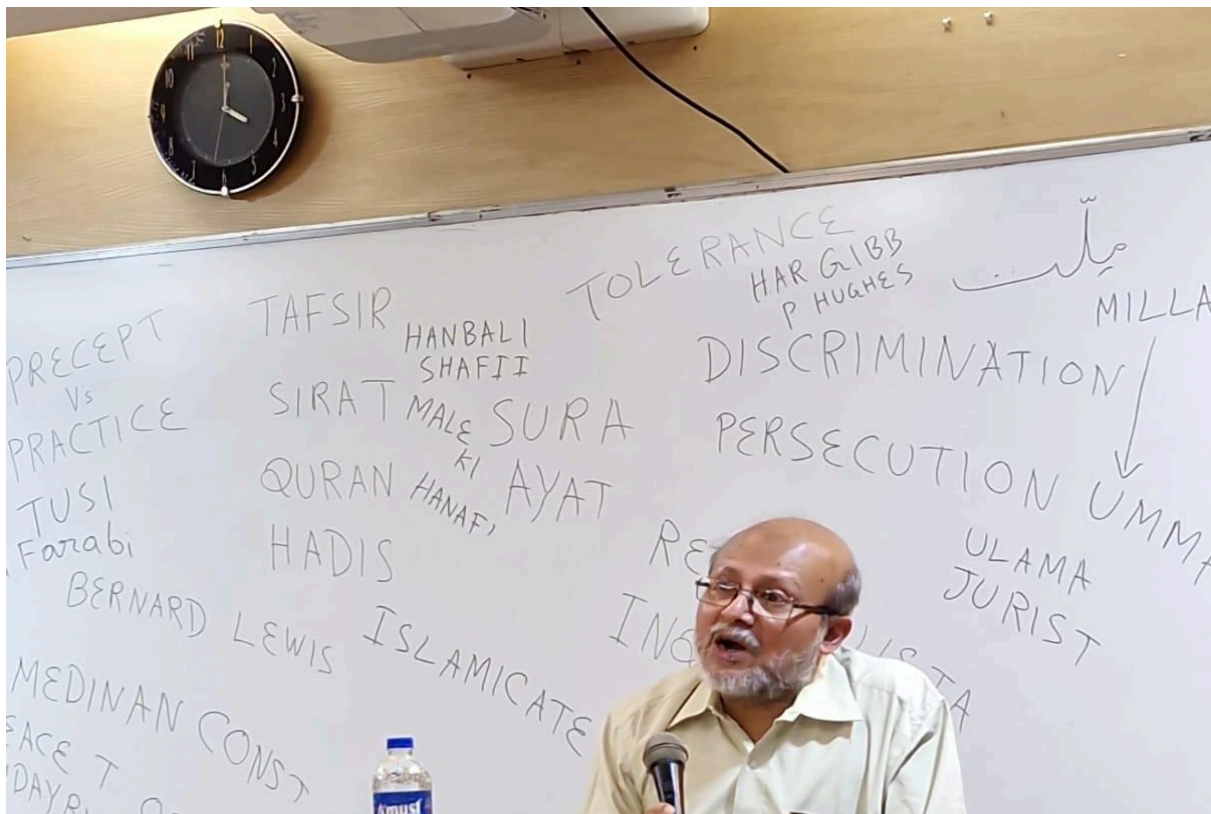


Fig 6&7: Q&A session at the end of Professor Dey's talk

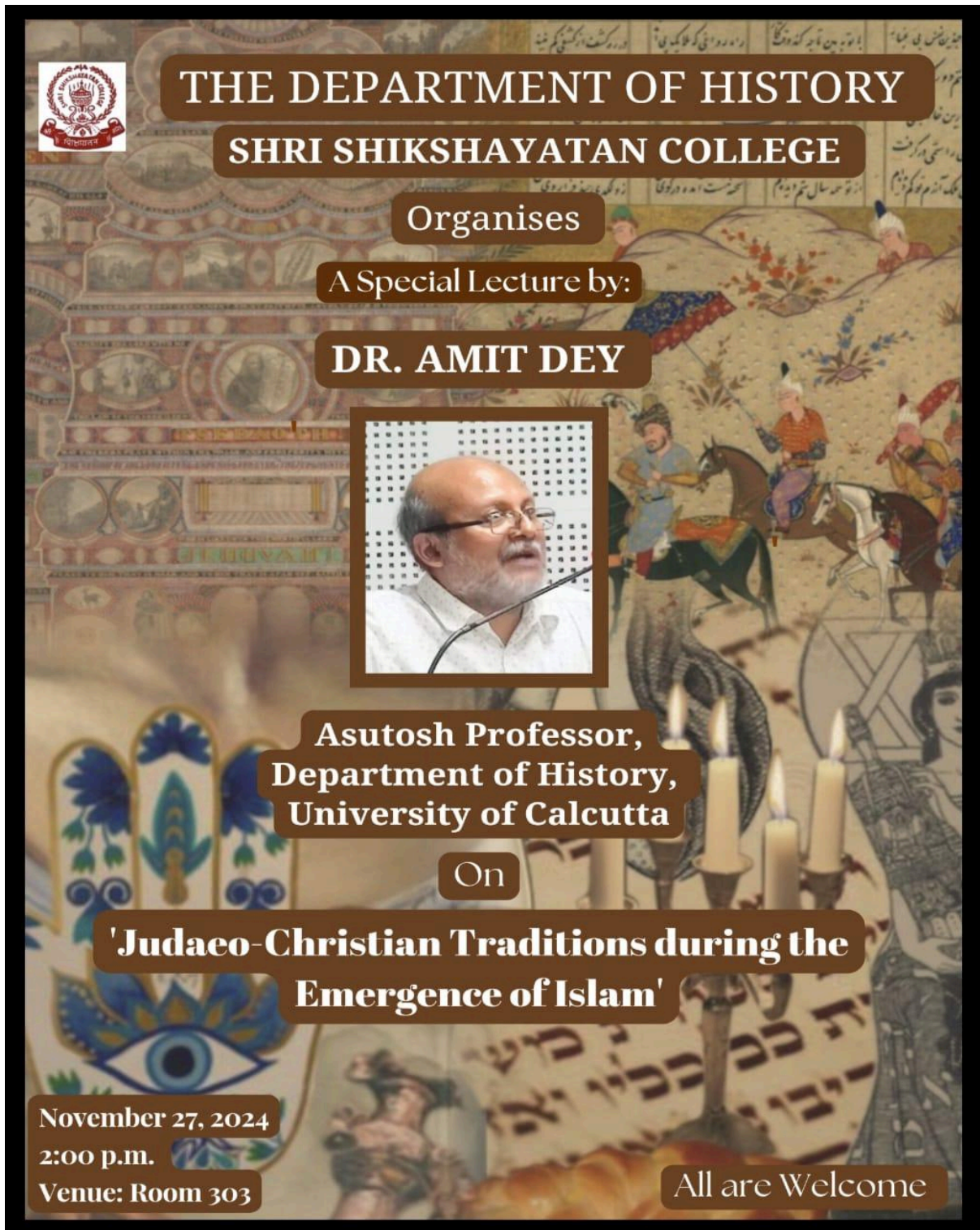


Figure 8: The programme's creative

Video Link:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DC7FdiJzb5H/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==