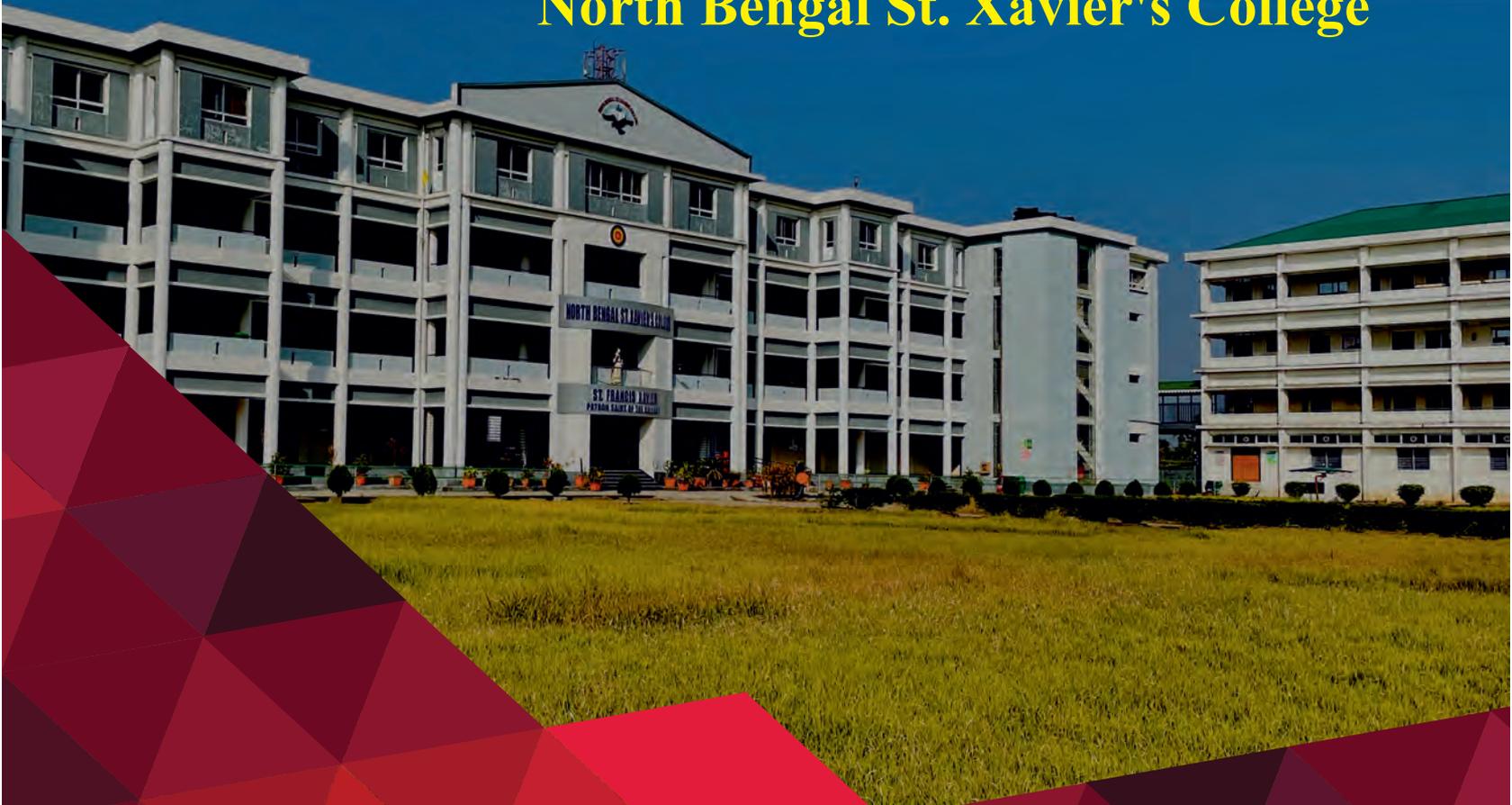




*College with Difference*

# North Bengal St. Xavier's College



# *Xpressions*

2020-2021

**Annual College Magazine**



# Xpressions

2020-2021

Annual College Magazine

~: Editorial Board Members :~

Mr. Soumyadip Ghosh (Chief Editor) • Mr. Rajarshi Bagchi  
Ms. Priyanka Chakraborty • Ms. Sanjukta Mitra • Ms. Shreya Majumdar





# Xpressions

2020-2021

Annual College Magazine

## NORTH BENGAL ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE

A Jesuit Institution

A CO-EDUCATIONAL CATHOLIC MINORITY COLLEGE | AFFILIATED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL | INCLUDED UNDER 2(F) AND 12(B) OF UGC ACT 1956

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# Darjeeling Jesuit Province

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## MESSAGE

The aim of education is to develop not only our thought, behavior and competency but also to contribute in building up of our society, country and world. With the development in the transport and communication network we have been brought closer to each other blurring physical and social boundaries.

The last two years the pandemic brought the entire world to a standstill. The biggest challenge for everyone was to be alive. During these times many people forgot their differences and cared for each other. They shared whatever they had with others. Everyone realized the need to depend on each other for their health and survival.

As the Pandemic brought us closer to our families and humanity emotionally, new avenues had to be created to reach out to students and opportunities had to be created for their mental health and education. Even the people who did not believe in God joined their hands in the presence of the creator. My prayer is that the education North Bengal St Xavier's College gives may help students to be more human and humane. May the Institution continue to nurture the institutional ethos for multicultural thinking, freedom to learn, to experiment, to question and to innovate through processes.

I congratulate the Editorial team for their hard work to bring out this copy of the College Magazine. I entrust the College Management, the editorial team, staff and students and all those associated with the Institution to the care of our Creator. During this Ignatian Year, a global celebration marking the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Ignatius' conversion, enable all of us to see God with new eyes in all things, in all of creation and in all persons in their struggles and joys, smiles and tears. May the Education being rendered by the Institution reveal to you God's dream for your lives and for your world.

Date: 22 December 2021  
Place: Matigara



  
Fr Wilfred Lobo, S.J.  
Provincial  
Darjeeling Jesuit Province



**Message for North Bengal St. Xavier's**

I am very happy to know that North Bengal St. Xavier's College is bringing out the next edition of its annual magazine "Xpressions". I am sure it will have a rich content of diversified area of interest. I wish all the best to the editorial team and all who worked hard towards this.

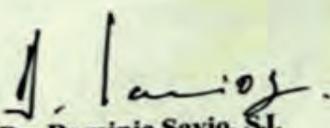
I congratulate the administration, staff, students, alumni members and all other stake-holders of the college for securing B+ grade in NAAC accreditation. I am sure you shall be aiming higher achievements in the coming days.

I would like to make a special mention of the Principal, Fr. (Dr.) Lalit P. Tirkey, SJ, who is leading from the front in order to achieve greater heights in the field of education. He is acting as the anchor of the ship and cruising along smoothly with all his associates. No word of appreciation is enough for him.

Institutions like ours always practice value based education and we try to cater to different segments of the society. Since the inception, North Bengal St. Xavier's College is continuing to work towards this goal and I am sure the College will secure good position in the educational scenario in coming years.

I am aware of the fact that like every higher education institution across the globe, North Bengal St. Xavier's is in continuous quest for upgradation in quality teaching - learning process in tune with the implementation of best practices which are necessary for holistic development. This noble endeavour is deep rooted in Ignatian pedagogy. The Ignatian pedagogy rests on collective responsibility of all the intellectuals through interplay of experience, reflection and actions. The underlying principles of such best practices aim for the holistic development of the institution and its contribution to the society at large. This is how Jesuit institutions strive for creating men and women for others.

I wish all the best to the institution.

  
**Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ.**  
**Principal**  
**St. Xavier's College**  
**(Autonomous)**  
**Kolkata-16**

# Principal's Message



It is really heartening to know that despite a long hiatus imposed by the year-long pandemic, the College is coming out with a collection of writings and reports in its annual magazine, *Xpressions*. The teaching-learning process on virtual platforms and the frustratingly limited interactions during testing times did not deter our staff and students from expressing their creative zeal and enthusiasm. In the academic sphere, particularly during college life, a platform such as a college magazine exemplifies the voyage transversed through exhibition of the literary skills of budding as well as accomplished student writers and poets. Besides, there are some amateur photographers among the students who are keen to publish photographs taken by them as they believe in the saying, 'a picture is worth a thousand words'. In this way, a college magazine plays an important role in the life of college students by providing them a forum to cultivate literary taste at the same time giving a great joy of finding one's work in print.

Our institution, fresh from achieving NAAC B+ grading in its very 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle, has once again embarked on a path of higher learning through critical thinking, while encouraging staff and students alike to inculcate creative human qualities such as drawing, writing and penning their ideas, thoughts and fond memories. Congratulations to all the staff and students who have used various forms of expression to present their inner thoughts, and narrating both their fond memories or not so memorable stories.

I congratulate the editorial team for their determined efforts for painstakingly editing, proof reading, and bringing out this magazine against all odds.

God bless all the readers of this magazine!

**Rev. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, SJ**  
**Principal**

# Message from The Dean of Students



**Mrs Nitya Rai,**  
**Dean of Students, NBSXC**

Dear students,

As the Dean of Students, I am extremely delighted to share few lines with all of you on this platform. I hope that you and your families are healthy and you have been able to find new ways to appreciate and care for one another during this unprecedented time.

The recent pandemic has made our life more challenging. We have entered into a new era, a 'digital era' in the education sector where both the students and the teachers struggled a lot at the beginning but gradually got familiarized with the various platforms for the online classes. But we managed everything with the support and cooperation from you all. Thanks to all of you and also to all our dedicated faculty members.

We all have lost many things and also our loved ones during this pandemic. Also we have learnt many things of which the most important one is being grateful. Be grateful for the fact that you are alive, healthy, and breathing. Be grateful for this extra time with family and friends, even though it may be through a virtual platform.

Continue to be positive and be there for your loved ones. Lend a listening ear to everyone; sometimes what someone needs is a person willing to listen. We all need to come together at this time and continue to check on your family, friends, teammates, roommates, and classmates. You never know the impact of what a simple, few minutes phone call could do for someone.

Whatever challenges come along your way, never give up and keep moving forward. All these challenges will make you wiser, stronger, and more resilient. You all have excellent faculty, administrators and staff who care about you and will assist you. Moreover, the door to my office is always open for you all.

The coming days are also filled with uncertainty. As long as the situation allows, be a part of the different student activities in the College. The College always organizes various events for the overall development of you all. Make use of all these opportunities and you all will excel.

As a concluding note, I want to quote, "You are Braver than you believe, Stronger than you seem, and Smarter than you think." (A. A. Milne Christopher Robin "Winnie the Pooh"). Stay positive, strong and healthy.

Love and regards.



It may not be an overstatement to say that human lifestyle started changing from mid-March, 2020. The unfolding of the Covid-19 pandemic scenario has literally made the year

a jinxed one. From losing our close ones to being deprived of normal social activities, we were forced to witness something which has been unprecedented. Undercutting any form of social intermingling or gathering, the nationwide lockdown alongside other Covid protocol have been undeniably inimical to our educational system. However, the pandemic has also tutored us to remain creative which helped us to combat the unforeseen circumstances with our indomitable spirit. Truth to be told, crisis always opens up new vistas. Realising and experiencing the reality, the conventional teaching-learning mode is replaced by online teaching. Various training programs on new techniques in online mode helped the teachers to quickly adopt the 'new normal(cy)' in teaching. The virtual mode, with all its updated features, enabled students and teachers to continue curricular and co-curricular activities. During this, the zeal among the students was not missing though all were, at heart, eagerly waiting to return to the real classroom scenario. I wholeheartedly thank them all on behalf of the entire Editorial Board for keeping the spirits high.

However, the College Magazine of North Bengal St. Xavier's College, *Xpressions*, has ceased to remain 'annual' in its strictest sense of the term due to various causes, especially the unforeseen Covid-19 pandemic scenario and its subsequent lockdown phase(s). However, it does not fail to make its presence, offering a platform to the students to express their passion for creativity. In fact, the current edition of the magazine can best be termed as an expression of 'The New Normal'-a chronicle of struggle and resilience. Reflecting the values and ethics of the college, *Xpressions* perpetuates its readers' interest and authentically pages the kaleidoscopic life of every Xaverian. Our annual college magazine offers a space in which our blooming students, administration

and staff join together for striving towards luminosity and lustre. Since its inception our college has been showing adherence towards its heritage by way of paying commendation to the spirit of tolerance and humanism.

Expression of any creation is instinctive. Hence, *Xpressions* authentically records the creative potency of the students of the college, abridges the memories of the past, and brings forth the spell of present. Despite all shortcomings, exterior or interior, *Xpressions* will ever remain a glossary of adventures of North Bengal St. Xavier's College. I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to Rev. John Wilfred Lobo, SJ, the provincial, Darjeeling Jesuit Province and the President of the Governing Body of the college, our principal Rev. Dr. Lalit P. Turkey, SJ, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, the Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, Fr. Xavier Alangaram, SJ (Former Vice-Principal, Administration, Rajganj Campus), Fr. Bijay Kirti Kindo, SJ, Vice-Principal (Administration), Rajganj Campus, Dr. Aparna Chatterjee, Vice-Principal (Academic), Rajganj Campus, Prof. Sanjukta Mitra, Vice-Principal, Siliguri Campus and Prof. Nitya Rai, the Dean of Students. This magazine would have remained a mere dream without their constant support. I convey my sincere thanks to all the members of the Management, Heads of the Departments, Convenors of different Clubs and Cells, Teaching and Non-Teaching staff members for extending their hands of cooperation. I would personally like to congratulate our editorial board members for turning the idea into a reality. Last but not the least, I express my hearty thanks to our affectionate Xaverians for all their efforts and attempts, especially amidst this prevalent crucial time. I dedicate this edition of *Xpressions* to all the members of our Xaverian family. Congrats to us!

I sincerely believe that the next edition of *Xpressions* will be a return to offline mode, reinforcing the zeal of human connectedness.

As for now, over to the readers!

**Mr. Soumyadip Ghosh**  
Chief Editor, *Xpressions*

# Principal's Annual Report: 2020-21

As we come to the end of the academic session 2020-21, I would like to place before the members of the Governing Body, administration, faculty members, non-teaching staff, students, Alumni and parents, the annual activities of the past year. I will not be true to myself if I claim that our institution witnessed overwhelming number of academic and non-academic activities. It is a known fact that Covid-19 created havoc impact with the lives of human beings, something unprecedented in the history of human civilization. However, it is also true that human spirit does not bend even in the face of adversities, human life has rolled on. The indomitable human spirit was exhibited in the field of education too. And the institution, like ours, had curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that ensured that the educational engine was operational and running at a certain speed. Given below are the activities that continued despite the pandemic:

## Academic Activities:

### Exam and Exam Results:

Perhaps for the first time, exams for the outgoing 3<sup>rd</sup> year were conducted on a platform that compelled them to write exams in assignment mode which meant that there was no chance of any failure, unless some students wanted to skip writing exams due to health issues or other reasons related to the pandemic. Of the 250 students who appeared for their final exams under CBCS, 7 secured 'O' (outstanding), 47 secured A+, 99 secured A, 89 secured B+ while 8 failed.

COURSE	STUDENTS	O	A+	A	B+	F
B.A. (H)	127	0	13	57	55	2
B.COM. (H)	42	0	3	23	16	0
B.COM. (P)	10	0	0	0	8	2
B.SC. (H)	71	7	31	19	10	4
TOTAL STUDENTS	250	7	47	99	89	8

### Under old (1+1+1) Annual System the result was as such:

COURSE		I CLASS	II CLASS
B.A. (H)	5	1	4
B.COM. (H)	1	1	0
B.COM. (G)	1	0	1
B.SC. (H)	9	8	1
TOTAL STUDENTS	16	10	6

## **Teaching-Learning Process:**

As the pandemic continued and a fear-stricken society refused to meet physically, the government and the health departments imposed stricter guidelines on educational institutions resulting in continuation of Online classes. Our college, using the virtual platforms, adopted various apps freely available to conduct online classes. Therefore, apart from audio online lectures, audio-video or live lectures, dissemination of notes through WhatsApp, video recorded lecture, YouTube, doubts clearing (clarification/question- answer) and other innovative methods were employed for new methods of teaching and learning.

## **Achievements by Faculty**

Three of our teaching faculty, after having successfully defended their doctoral thesis, received the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Degree in 2020-21:

Dr. Dipeeka Majumdar (Dept. of Microbiology) and Dr. Aparna Chatterjee (Dept. of Sociology) and Dr. Haimanti Barman (Dept. of Bengali, Part timer) successfully received their Ph.D Degrees, while about half a dozen of faculty members have submitted their doctoral theses and awaiting their report. About a dozen are either pursuing Ph.D at different stages or starting their course works.

## **Webinar / Workshop / Conference**

- Microbiology Dept., in collaboration with DNA Lab, Dehradun, organised a Webinar: “COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities in Clinical Knowledge Research.”
- On 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, the Dept. of Commerce & Business Administration organised a Webinar on “Revival of Economy & Tourism in North Bengal Region: Road Ahead” by inviting Expert Speakers.
- A Webinar on “Different styles of Art forms in the Indian Sub-Continent from Ancient to Modern Period” on 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec, 2020 was organised by Dept of History.
- Dept. of Sociology organised a Webinar on “Urban Sociology and Rethinking Development in India” on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2021.
- Dept. of Microbiology organised a Webinar on “Covid-19: Tools for its Containment and Management” in collaboration with DNA Labs-A Centre for Applied Sciences, Dehradun on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020.

- A Webinar on “Drug Discovery and Pre-Clinical Drug Development” on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.
- A Technical Workshop on “Computer Networking and CCNA” by the Dept. of Computer Science and Application on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2020.
- A webinar on “National Education Policy (NEP)-2020: Issues, Implications and Implementations” organised by Internal Quality Assurance Cell, NBSXC on 30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2020.
- A four-day Awareness Program by the Dept. of Geography on “RESOURCE, CLIMATE & CONSERVATION”, in collaboration with Dept. of Zoology, Cooch Behar PanchananBarma University, from 21<sup>st</sup> Sept, 2020 to 24<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2020.
- An International Webinar on “Tell-tale Signs: Making Stories, (Un) making Histories” was organised by the Dept. of English in collaboration with IQAC, NBSXC on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.
- Dept. of Zoology organised National Level Webinars on: i) “Induced pluripotent cells: A classic example of union of basic and translational research” on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2020. ii) “Genomics of endometrial cancer: A fresh look to an old disease” on 26<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2020.
- Dept. of Botany organised a National Level Webinar on “Role of Indian Traditional Medicines in Covid-19 Pandemic Situation” on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

### **Staff/Student Orientations**

- Using virtual platform one-day Faculty Development Program on “Becoming Virtual Teacher: E-Teaching and E-Learning in the Post Covid World” was organised by Commissions of Secondary and Higher Education of the Darjeeling Jesuit Province on 16<sup>th</sup> July.
- Teachers’ Orientation Program on “Educators for 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Integrating Changing Educational Scenario with Jesuit Education” was organised by North Bengal St. Xavier’s College on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2020. Junior teachers of two other Jesuit colleges, namely St. Joseph’s College, Darjeeling and Loyola College of Education, Namchi (Sikkim) also participated.

- On 19<sup>th</sup> August, an orientation programme was arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students wherein Principal, Vice-Principals and the Dean of students gave some motivational talks while some select students also shared their experiences under the pandemic.
- Using virtual platform which was relayed using YouTube and college Facebook platforms, the Freshers' Welcome and Orientation Programme for newest members of the college family was organised by the Cultural Committee, NBSXC on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2020.

### **Co-curricular Activities:**

- Pre-Christmas Celebration, combined with the Farewell of Fr. Xavier Alangaram, SJ and Welcome of Fr. Bijay Kirti Kindo, SJ as the new VP (Administration), took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 2020 in the Conference Hall where only the staff was present due to pandemic.
- Inaugural ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> batch of NCC, 4 Bengal Battalion took place on 21<sup>st</sup> January.
- Celebration of International Women's Day organised by Women's Cell, NBSXC on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.
- X-travaganza 2021 (Annual Cultural Program), organised by the Cultural Committee, NBSXC was steamed live on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Chief Guest, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata sent his recorded message for the viewers.
- Music Club, NBSXC organised "X-finity Music Fiesta", a sing-song competition, which was streamed on You Tube channel *The Xaverian Symphony* from 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.
- 'Manomita', an initiative by NBSXC, offered psychological counselling (virtually) to the students of the college during the pandemic scenario.
- Dept. of Commerce and Management organised the Annual Dept. Quiz Competition 'X-QUIZIT 2021' on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 at Siliguri Campus.

### **Social Outreach programme:**

- During the first wave of Covid-19 pandemic and its subsequent lockdown period NBSXC undertook the social outreach program by way of distributing dry food materials amidst the people of neighbouring villages. Relief Works were organised in 5 places : Balaigacch/Hatimore, Manuaganj (KMajhiali GP), Shikarpur tea garde, Kheripara (Nandan Tea Estate) and Pabnikheri
- During the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of Covid-19 pandemic scenario, NBSXC sanitized its neighbouring villages including Shikarpur and Sonmari, distributed masks, sanitizers, food materials and some common medicines prescribed by doctors among the villagers.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> June, College organised Covid Response programme in Dinbazar of Jalpaiguri Town and distributed dry ration besides masks, sanitizer and some medical check-ups.

### **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

The MoU between DNA Lab-A Centre for Applied Science, Dehradun and North Bengal St. Xavier's College, West Bengal was signed on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

### **NAAC Preparatory Process**

Academic & Administrative Process: An Audit Team comprising eminent academicians visited the college on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2021 as the college was going for the first cycle of NAAC and the grading. After the final group presentation on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 a Core Committee was formed in order to compile various documents. On 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the institution formally started the work for its 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of NAAC by uploading the IIQA. On 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. 2021, Self- Study report (SSR) of the college was uploaded towards its 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle.

### **Infrastructural Development:**

The following infrastructure and physical facilities were added in the college: (i) The classrooms on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the second block was completed. The second block which has been added after about 13 years of college existence is named Loyola Block. (ii) In order to conserve hydroelectric power, and to fulfil the college' motto of 'green and clean campus' off-grid rooftop solar panels were installed. (iii) Five tanks containing 2000 lt each was installed in the college as water collector for conserving water during non-rainy seasons. (iv) In 2021, June a bridge/ skywalk was constructed connecting the two buildings on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

### **Administrative Changes**

The following administrative changes took place during the year:

- Fr. Bijay Kirti Kindo, SJ replaced Fr. Xavier Alangaram, SJ as the new Vice-Principal (Administration). In the subsequent days as Br. Broney Chettri was transferred elsewhere, he also took charge as the Estate Manager.
- At Siliguri Campus, Mrs. Sanjukta Mitra replaced Dr. Asim Mitra as the Vice-Principal.

### **Looking Ahead**

In the words of Jean Piaget, "The goal of education is not to increase the amount of knowledge but to create the possibilities for a child to invent and discover, to create men who are capable of doing new things". We have a great mission ahead and it is to help our students learn the right thing and enable them to manifest what they have learnt. So, we pledge to seek for deeper knowledge and achieve greater things. In order to achieve that we must unitedly march towards the goal we have set to achieve with single-minded intention.

Thank you and God bless you all!

**Rev. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, SJ**  
Principal

## Special E-lecture on "Re-visioning History: A Postcolonial Perspective"

The well-timed Special E-lecture titled, "Re-visioning History: A Postcolonial Perspective", neatly arranged by the English Department of NBSXC, Rajganj, on July 13, 2020 was indeed a modicum of academic comfort for all in a prolonged phase of pandemic paranoia. With Dr. Amrita Banerjee, Assistant Professor of the Department of English of St. Joseph College, Bangalore, as the Distinguished Speaker, the Single-Speaker Webinar grew up to be a propitious symposium on the burning relevance of re-visiting history in a postcolonial context. Moreover, the fact that it was zealously egged by the Department to alleviate the mortifying impasse of confinement and alienation among its students made it more meaningful and adorable.

One of the most illuminating aspects of the lecture was Dr. Banerjee's nonchalant sense of humour - a far cry from the frequent pontificating pitch one usually expects on such occasions - that brilliantly livened up her lucid chronological tour through the tricky facets of the nuanced praxis of Postcolonialism.

Her non-idiomatic and elementary take helped immensely to flesh out the critique of Eurocentrism which is crucial for such historiographic approaches. Expectedly, Dr. Banerjee's measured theoretical arguments eventually engaged the invested faculty members into scholarly conversations and significant enquiries.

The event was especially important for the freshmen of the English Department for the apt critical guide it provided through the European heavyweights within the spectrum of Critical Theory. Traversing through the complications of the famous (or, 'in'-famous?) Hegelian "road of historical progress" and the contribution of the Annales School, the talk gradually inched towards the inception of an "inclusivist" historical approach adopted by postcolonial thinkers. The "inclusivist" approach, as it seemed to suggest in time, finally caked as a counter-argument to the discourse of Occidental historical linearity. In the course, the ideas of Gayatri Spivak, Michel Foucault and Hayden White among others were touched upon to build up the bedrock for an adequate conceptual understanding of the theoretical premise.

As a perfect denouement befitting the weight and grace of such a lively academic exchange, the event witnessed a spontaneous participation both from the teachers and the students in its Q & A session. The particular pertinence of the topic in the context of India's contemporary issues, like the politics of identity or different kinds of marginalization etc., were brought under the speculative lens through dialogues between Dr. Banerjee and the respected Faculty members. Notably problematic issues like the commoditisation of critical theory itself within academia across the globe and the scope for transcending it were met with equal discursive investment. In fine, the webinar has truly triggered avid interest in students to delve deep into the zone of Critical Theories with much eagerness and a systematic planning.

~Agnidipto Roy

5th Semester, Dept. of English



The Dept. of English  
North Bengal St. Xavier's College, Rajganj  
A Jesuit Institution

Presents

A special Web-Talk on "Re-visioning History: A  
Postcolonial Perspective"  
on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

Speaker: **Dr. Amrita Banerjee**, Asst. Professor, Dept.  
of English, St. Joseph's College, Bangalore.

Time: 11am  
App: Google Meet

# An International webinar on

## 'Telltale Signs: Making Stories (Un) making Histories'

Educational events are avenues to garner expert knowledge on certain topics and those events usually give an opportunity for attendees to mix and mingle with a new environment. The massive outbreak of the global pandemic Covid-19 has drastically disrupted every aspect of human life and has created an unprecedented test on education. Webinars and e-conferences become normal methods for sharing expertise among students and scholars around the globe. The Department of English, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell, NBSXC, organised an International webinar titled, 'Telltale Signs : Making Stories, (Un)making Histories' on 20th November, 2020. The webinar was well-attended by the exuberant bright-eyed students and all the faculty members of our department. The webinar was designed to provide insight and understanding surrounding the key concept of the poetics and politics of narrative(s). Human beings are story-tellers from their early childhood. In turn, telling stories is a fundamental way of giving coherence to experience. The day's proceedings commenced around 6 p.m. with a cordial welcome speech by Dr. Pavanbir Kaur, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of English of NBSXC. Professor Aparna Chatterjee, the Vice Principal (Academic) of NBSXC, extended a cheerful welcome to the distinguished speakers and lauded the department for organising a webinar on such an interesting and relevant topic.

At the very outset of his session, Professor Lewis Ricardo Gordon, University of Connecticut made the environment a bit less formal by sharing his own experience of fighting the deadly virus and by sharing his wonderful experience of visiting India. From discussing the story of the theory to the importance of memory and post-memory in storytelling, he conjured up various intriguing aspects like the

history of colonisation, Plato's 'Allegory of the Cave', myths, decolonial reflection, and so on. On the other hand, he depicted how human beings began to build communities by story-telling and their hospitality. Professor Gordon accentuated the counter-narratives and highlighted the implication of collective and individual story-telling. This was followed by a pertinent and intellectual talk on the topic by our hon'ble speaker Professor Dwijen Sharma, North East Hill University (Tura Campus). His thought-provoking insights intensified our knowledge, triggered new ideas and made the session more vibrant. Breaking the monotony, Professor Prasun Banerjee, Professor Rajarshi Bagchi and Professor Soumyadip Ghosh engaged themselves into an active interactive session with our esteemed speakers and presented their respective views. The students also shared their own stances and raised their befitting questions and queries. The webinar also highlighted the Dalit writing that expresses the emerging identity of a group in society that has been socially and economically marginalised for a very long time. During the session, the speakers also talked about the Tribal literature and their stories of a search for Identity, of exposing the past and present forms of exploitation by outsiders, and of threats to Tribal identity, existence, and resistance. Hence, we got a vivid picture of the social discrimination and economic marginalization based on caste identity that is deeply rooted into Indian society. As they say, "Sometimes reality is too complex. Stories give it form." The webinar also touched upon the story of the North-East of India being a story of neglect. One of our organising committee members Dr. Asim Mitra, coordinator of IQAC, made the evening more colourful with his valuable presence. The webinar drew to an end at about 9 p.m. with a vote of thanks to all. And if there was any collective wish, it was to conduct such enlightening events further in the near future.

~**Debjani Bhowmik**  
3rd Semester,  
Dept. of English

 <b>An International Webinar</b> <b>On</b> <b>'Telltale Signs: Making Stories (Un) making Histories'</b>	
<b>Organized by</b> <b>Department of English</b>	<b>In collaboration with</b> <b>Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)</b> <b>North Bengal St. Xavier's College (Rajganj)</b> <small>A Jesuit Institution, affiliated to University of North Bengal          Included under 2(F) and 12(B) of UGC ACT, 1956          Post Box No. 01, Rajganj - 735134          Dist. Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, India</small>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 6:00 P.M. (IST) onwards</b>	
<b>Resource Persons:</b> • Prof. Lewis R. Gordon, University of Connecticut • Prof. Dwijen Sharma, North East Hill University (Tura Campus) • Mr. Gaurav Bhattarai, Tribhuvan University	
<b>Patron</b> Fr. (Dr.) Lalit P. Tirkey, S.J. Principal, NBSXC	<b>Organising Secretary</b> Dr. Pavanbir Kaur Assistant Professor and Head Department of English
<b>Organising Committee Members:</b> Dr. Asim Mitra, Coordinator, IQAC (NBSXC) Mr. Prasun Banerjee, Asst. Prof., Dept. of English (NBSXC) Mr. Soumyadip Ghosh, Asst. Prof., Dept. of English (NBSXC) Mr. Rajarshi Bagchi, Asst. Prof., Dept. of English (NBSXC)	
<b>Important Information:</b> Registration link: <a href="https://forms.gle/KY5xY582mq45duF66">https://forms.gle/KY5xY582mq45duF66</a> WhatsApp group link: <a href="https://chat.whatsapp.com/H4JjHweelhO7A3aZzmoM9x3">https://chat.whatsapp.com/H4JjHweelhO7A3aZzmoM9x3</a> Meeting platform: GoToMeeting Meeting Date: 20 <sup>th</sup> November, 2020 Login Time: 5:45 P.M. (IST) Session Time: 6:00 P.M. (IST) onwards Meeting Link: Will be notified later Contact Email: <a href="mailto:englishxaverian@gmail.com">englishxaverian@gmail.com</a> Mobile Nos.: 9832445964, 9475763348	
<small>E-certificates will be provided to the registered participants.</small> <b>Last Date of registration: 19<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	

# Poetry Recitation Competition

“Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings...”

— William Wordsworth

If words had to be articulated conspicuously in rhythm to portray our feelings, then, the words of poetry be it. Poetry enlivens our ideas and imaginations by the use of a distinctive style. Artistic writings, corroborated with our views, lead to the encapsulation of hearts. Recitation of a poem is a remembrance as well as a tribute to the poets for their unique artistic methods and profound writing skills. One such day of remembrance and acknowledgement was 15th January, 2021, when an



intradepartmental Poetry Recitation Competition was organised by the Department of English of NBSXC, via the virtual platform of Google Meet. It started with the Honorable HoD of English, Dr. Pavanbir

Kaur sharing her valuable tips and tricks with the participants. Professor Rajarshi Bagchi, teaching faculty from the Department of English, kindly agreed to do the toughest of jobs, which was judging the competition. There were 8 participants from the 1st semester who were cheered for by a large audience. The students came up with wonderful poems from the best poets of all times. Each participant made great efforts on their introduction, expression, modulation, pronunciation, diction etc. All of them put their best foot forward, thus making it a challenging job for the judge. Mr. Bagchi said, “Learning should be fun.” He also said, this event was held “to encourage the art of public speaking.” According to him, it had been a very closely contested event. Finally, the 1st position was bagged by Debogyan Nag, who recited one of the many prominent works of Robert Frost, ‘The Road not Taken’. The occasion with 5th Semester was graced by our Honourable judges - Professor Prasun Banerjee and Professor Soumyadip Ghosh, who explained the pertinent criteria of the competition to the participants. The participants were judged on the basis of the introduction to the poems they had selected, their presentation, pronunciation of words and intonation. The event was rendered memorable by the recitation of some wonderful poems. Name of the winner and the runner up was notified to us a short while after the competition. In the predicament of the new-normal which we’re facing due to the pandemic, the Poetry Recitation Competition via virtual mode, provided us with education and enjoyment. Being the students of English Literature, coming into contact with such a beautiful event is really poignant. It was not only remembrance of great works but also a cheerful moment for us.

All in all, this event was carried out very gracefully. All the teachers and students had a very wonderful experience, witnessing this first virtual competition of the session.

~Srijani Panigrahi

3rd Semester Dept. of English  
&

~ Hritisha Ghosh

5th Semester, Dept. of English

# E- Magazine 'Stories'

THE NBSXC  
LITERARY ASSOCIATION

presents

## S T O R I E S



### FEATURING

SCIENCE FICTION	MYTH
MAGICAL REALISM	HISTORY
TRAVELOGUE	NATURE
FILM ADAPTATION	PARTITION

2020-21

The ambitious departmental project — ‘Stories’ — by the Literary Association of the English department of NBSXC, witnessed its vibrant materialization on 17th June, 2021. Originally planned to be released as a wall magazine, the project fell under a despairing limbo of postponement from March, 2020, in the face of the unapprehended devastation ushered in by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the Association’s knack for novelty and creative zeal, coupled with the fastidious effort of the concerned students transformed the original vision into an E-magazine. The final actualization of the project serves as a testament of the dauntless support of the faculty’s illustrious professors and the tenacious collective effort of the Association’s members.

With its updated avatar of an E-magazine, ‘Stories’ aims to scrutinize the hidden inner machinations behind the age old elusive faculty of storytelling itself. Thus it digresses from the apparent titular undertone which insinuates mere narrations of tales. Instead, it serves as a tribute to the great leaps of imagination throughout history. In order to achieve such an endeavour it concatenates a series of literary genres, hoping to be as accessible as possible for readers of both literary and non-literary backgrounds. At its maiden attempt, the E-magazine starts as a unifying symbol. It represents the Literary Association’s latent dream of being an intellectually stimulating shared space in the future, signifying the institution’s capacity for creativity. ‘Stories’ 20-21, thus is at once a nebula of future potentialities, awaiting countless expansions and experimentations.

~ Agnidipto Roy  
Editor

# WEBINAR REPORT



Like every year, as per the curriculum concerns, the departments of our North Bengal St. Xavier's College have always been ahead in disseminating knowledge to all the students through seminars. The students are asked to cover various topics embedded within their syllabus and also to work as a team.

This year, due to the effects of Covid 19, physical interactions were not possible. So, the department decided to conduct an online seminar.

It was on 8th January, 2021, the Department Of Sociology organized a webinar on "URBAN SOCIOLOGY" AND "RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA" where we had discussions about urban perspectives, urbanism, development and other factors taking place in the society.

Our programme commenced with the introductory speech from one of our faculty members, Mrs. Sylvia Raha. In the interactive session there were 45 participants and out of that 26 were the presenters from 3rd and 5th semester and they were divided into certain groups i.e. the 3rd semester students combined together into 3 groups and 5th semester students into 4 groups and each group was given a specific topic from the concerned subject for the presentation.

The topics of presentation and the presenters were as follows:

- "Rethinking Development In India" (3rd Semester Students)
  1. 'Development and Its Characteristics' by Rajiv and group.
  2. 'Human Development and Its Indicators' by Fedrik and group.
  3. 'Human Development Index and Human Development Report' by Priyam and group.
- "Urban Sociology" (5th Semester Students)
  1. 'Urban Sociology, Nature and Scope' by Sristika and group.
  2. 'Urbanism As A Way Of Life' by Shivangi and group.
  3. 'Ecological Perspectives In Development' by Namana and group.
  4. 'Urban Policy In India' by Brandon and group.

The whole webinar was a successful and fruitful one as it witnessed maximum number of students and they gained a lot of knowledge regarding the topics they presented and with the ones they were not familiar with. Finally the programme ended with the vote of thanks by Ms.Persis Mukhia (H.O.D) and Mrs. Aparna Chatterjee (Vice Principal, Academic).

~ Ahona Chatteraj &  
Namana Das  
(Sociology Honours  
5th Semester)





Ghosh of 4th semester, History Department, who smoothly executed the programme. The webinar started sharp at 9: 30 am with the keynote address by our respectable HoD , Professor Samar Chakraborty. Secondly, a brief addition to the theme was given by Professor Sumita Roy Chowdhury. Every student was given ten minutes to speak on the select topic. Some spoke of the history of art and some about the changes that occurred during the different periods.

We also had a question hour where both the students and teachers equally participated and discussed the issues that rose during the disussion. Everyone got the chance to share their opinions and views on the different topics presented by the students.

Lastly, the vote of thanks was given by Arkolal Chakraborty of 4th semester, History Department which concluded our Webinar.

~ Simran Rai

5th Semester, Dept. of History

## Departmental WEBINAR

The year 2020 undeniably brought everything to a halt. Since nationwide lockdown was imposed on March, 90 % of the students in developed and developing countries are receiving classes online. Due to the pandemic, distance education has become a necessity. Previously, a departmental seminar used to be held in colleges for every semester but as for now it has been replaced by a Webinar. A Webinar is basically an interactive seminar conducted via the World Wide Web.

On 23rd of December, 2020, our History Department of North Bengal St. Xavier's College had organized a Webinar on the theme, " Different style of Art forms in the Indian Sub-Continent from Ancient to Modern Period". Some students, despite having a poor internet connection, somehow managed to attend the webinar. This showed that the students were really excited for their first ever Webinar.

Our emcee for the day was Miss Bhagyashree



# A Report on the session 2020-2021

The year 2020 was a new experience for both the students and the teachers. In the beginning of the year, in the month of January, the 4th semester and the third-year students assisted by two teachers of the department went for their field survey to Goa, India. In the month of February, the department organized a farewell for the final year (third year) students. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, the college was shut down from the month of March. The teachers had adapted with the online classes to continue with the session. Initially, everyone took time to adjust to the new and challenging situation but once everyone got adjusted, things started functioning smoothly.

Because of this new era of digitization, much planned activities of the department could not be organized yet the department did everything that was possible to be done using the digital platform. The online classes were held regularly and on 15th of September, the department organized an online orientation program for the fresh students joining the department. The department, in collaboration with Department of Zoology, Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, organized a three-day online awareness programme on “Resources, Climate and Conservation” from 21st September to 24th September where speakers like Isaac David Kehimkar (chairman & director of NATUREWATCH FOUNDATION, Navi Mumbai), Dr. Anita George (A marine biologist and scientist from National Institute of Oceanography, Goa), Dr. Dharmdeo Rai (director of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling), Dr. Rahi Soren (Assistant Professor,

**An Awareness Programme ON RESOURCES, CLIMATE & CONSERVATION**

**Jointly Organised by**

- Department of Zoology, Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University
- Department of Geography, North Bengal St. Xavier's College

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> September to 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2020  
(Title: 13 min)

**Meet link:** <https://meet.google.com/gio-xyvx-npc>

**ISAAC DAVID KEHIMKAR**, Full-time Fellowships (2001) Presently working as chairman & director of NATUREWATCH FOUNDATION, Navi Mumbai, and as partner in Ladybird Environmental Consulting, LLP. Presently Elected Member of the BNSD Governing Council. He also awarded Green Teacher Award, 2018, Sanskritya Awar. He edited various books and also consulting Editor of Doodhi, BMSD magazine.

**Dr. ANITA GEORGE** is a marine biologist, scientist, PhD Researcher, Environmental Education Specialist, Marine Biotechnology, Post-Graduate, Tamil Nadu and Research Fellow, Department of Zoology, University of Madras, Chennai. She has been active in the education and training community and has collaborated with scientists from several parts of the globe.

**Mr. DHARMDEO RAI** is the director of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling. The scope of his work includes conservation, research, education, awareness, and public relations in India. The content will be an challenge and very ahead.

**Dr. RAHI SOREN** is a community Assistant Professor at Jadavpur University, School of Oceanographic Studies. She is interested in understanding the effective use of scientific information for conserving biological diversity as well as cultural diversity in the face of growing threat of extinction. She is also keen on taking up documentation and preservation of endangered biodiversity and cultural heritage through preservation of indigenous knowledge systems and community conservation initiatives.

**Dr. RAHI SOREN** is a community Assistant Professor at Jadavpur University, School of Oceanographic Studies. She is interested in understanding the effective use of scientific information for conserving biological diversity as well as cultural diversity in the face of growing threat of extinction. She is also keen on taking up documentation and preservation of endangered biodiversity and cultural heritage through preservation of indigenous knowledge systems and community conservation initiatives.

**Department of Geography, NBSXC and Department of Zoology, Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University Cordially invites you.**

Jadavpur University), Soumitra Ghosh (Secretary of NESPON/National forum of forest peoples and forest workers (NFFPFW)) had presented their valuable knowledge to the participants.

As the session of 2020 ended, the pandemic is still not over and classes are in continuation via different digital platforms. Much couldn't be done or achieved in the session as no one was prepared for situation like this, yet the department with its entire family of students and teachers still stands strong.

~ **Mr. Subrata Roy**  
HoD, Dept. of Geography

# “Panacademia” amidst Pandemic: Webinars

organized by  
Dept. of Zoology

Dissemination of knowledge and exchange of thoughts are just like a flowing stream that could not be contained even during the ongoing pandemic that struck the humankind since December, 2019. Webinars i.e. seminars using web access and other modes of online transmission of knowledge have been popularized in the uncanny world of COVID-19 that led to a peculiar and precarious condition of social and physical distancing. Department of Zoology of North Bengal St. Xavier's College was no exception and continued its academic activities through virtual meetings with students on the online platform. In addition, the department also organized a couple of webinars for the in-house students to be delivered by two very young and highly spirited scientists from Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India on 19th and 26th September, 2020.

Dr. Debasree Dutta, scientist of Regenerative Biology Programme at RGCB delivered a speech on “Induced pluripotent stem cells – a classic example of union of basic and translational research” on 19th September, 2020. Right at the beginning, she nicely explained the relevance of stem cell studies for all students of Life Sciences belonging to Zoology or Botany or Microbiology. Dr. Dutta very lucidly explained the differentiation paths of stem cells into specialized cells. She also demonstrated the techniques to isolate embryonic stem cells with some exciting videos, photographs and diagrams. She revealed the

philosophy behind choosing induced pluripotent stem cells (IPSCs) as a therapeutic tool in modern era of biotechnological advances. The audiences were highly enlightened with the scopes of stem cell research and their potentials as therapeutic applications. According to Dr. Dutta, the most challenging part in maintaining the stem cell pool outside a living body i.e. through in vitro culture is the genomic instability in the DNA of the stem cells. Such instabilities not only reduce the therapeutic potentials of the stem cells but also can turn the cells into rogue ones that can induce malignancy or other fatal diseases in the patient's body when administered. Therefore, she chose to investigate the roles of canonical and non-canonical histone proteins in inducing such genomic instabilities as her research problem. Her team is presently working on one such protein, Aprataxin PNK like factor (Aplf), in genomic reprogramming of the IPSCs. Finally, the session concluded with an intense interactive session with Dr. Dutta and faculty members of different departments.

## NATIONAL LEVEL WEBINAR

Organized By  
**Department of Zoology**  
North Bengal St. Xavier's College  
SEPTEMBER 19 & 26, 2020

### SPEAKERS

#### Dr. Debasree Dutta

Scientist E-II  
Department of Regenerative Medicine,  
Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology,  
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

**Topic: Induced pluripotent stem cells: A classic example of union of basic and translational research.**  
Schedule: Sep 19, 2020; 3:00-4:00 PM

#### Dr. Ananda Mukherjee

Faculty Fellow (DBT-Ramalingaswami)  
Department of Cancer Research,  
Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology,  
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

**Topic: Genomics of endometrial cancer: A fresh look to an old disease**  
Schedule: Sep 26, 2020; 3:00-4:00 PM

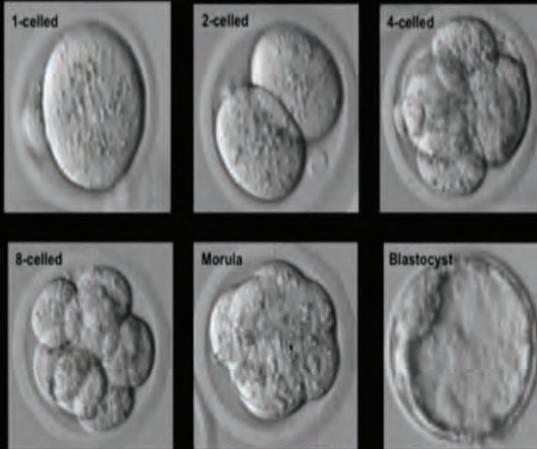
#### Organizing Secretary

**Dr. Tamal Mazumder**  
Asst. Prof., Dept. of Zoology  
North Bengal St. Xavier's College

Meeting Platform: GoToMeeting  
Meeting date: 19 and 26 September, 2020  
Session Time: 3:00-4:00 PM  
GoToMeeting Link: Will be notified later

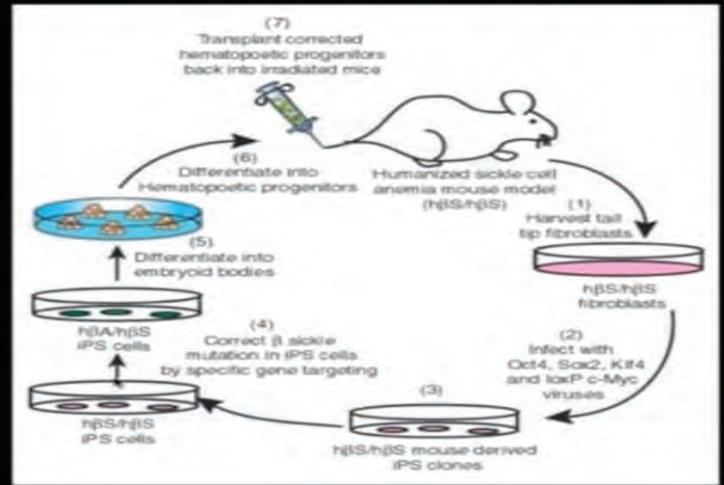
**Embryonic Stem cell**

First derived from mouse in 1981 by Evans & Kaufmann,  
Term coined by Gail Martin  
1998- First Human ESC generated by James Thomson



Development of a mouse embryo (0.5-3.5d)

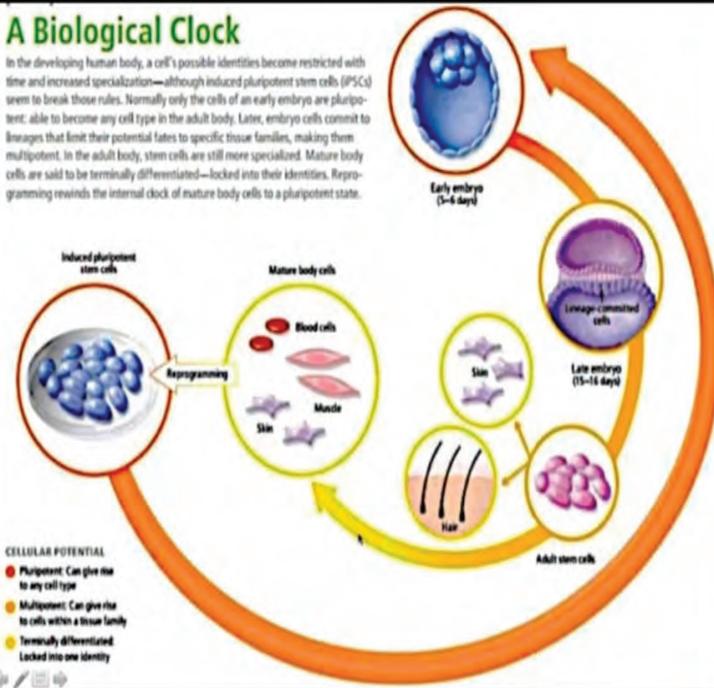
(Dutta 2013, Int dev Biol)



Dr. Ananda Mukherjee, a DBT-Ramalingaswami Fellow from RGCB presented his speech on 26th September on the topic entitled, "Genomics of endometrial cancer: A fresh look to an old disease". At the outset, Dr. Mukherjee explained the fatality, risks and trending incidences of endometrial cancers through out the globe. He mainly focused on the role of PTEN, a signaling molecule in the AKT pathway that leads to mutation in the endometrial cells and resulting in inducing malignancy in the tissue. Dr. Mukherjee has already investigated the relation between loss of PTEN and DNA damage response (DDR) pathway using knock out mice and published his findings in the some of the highly reputed international journals. He also explained the potentials of PTEN in protecting the endometrial cells from olaparib induced toxicity, a condition related to synthetic lethality. Summarily, the session was very interesting and engrossing for the students which was reflected in the interaction session.

**A Biological Clock**

In the developing human body, a cell's possible identities become restricted with time and increased specialization—although induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) seem to break those rules. Normally only the cells of an early embryo are pluripotent: able to become any cell type in the adult body. Later, embryo cells commit to lineages that limit their potential fates to specific tissue families, making them multipotent. In the adult body, stem cells are still more specialized. Mature body cells are said to be terminally differentiated—locked into their identities. Reprogramming rewinds the internal clock of mature body cells to a pluripotent state.



**Why should you know what about stem cells?**

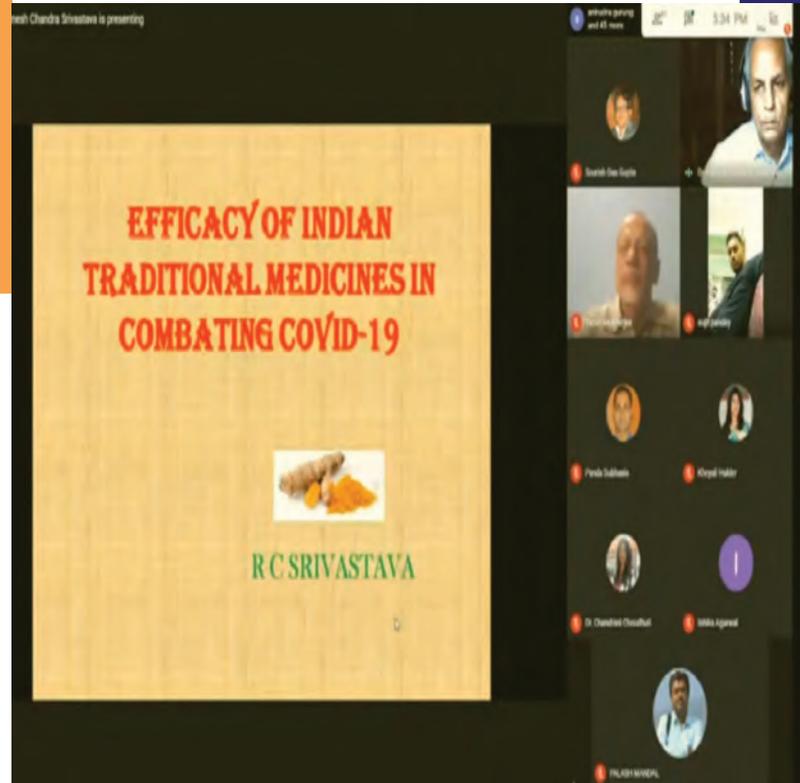
- Botany- a few cells within the meristems divide many times and their descendants make up all new tissues and organs
- Zoology- Chordates, animals/human
- Microbiology- Major source of contamination

~Dr. Tamal Mazumder  
Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology



# Departmental Webinar

Webinar is an online transmission of Seminars or presentation using video technology. Here knowledge can be gathered from any corner of the world. The Department of Botany organized a 'National Level' one-day Webinar on 11th October 2020 with the collaboration of IQAC. The theme of the Webinar was "Role of Indian Traditional Medicines in COVID-19 Pandemic Situation". The main objectives of the Webinar were to explore the importance and challenges of traditional knowledge and herbal medicines in the COVID-19 global crisis. The two eminent speakers Dr. Tapan Kumar Mukherjee and Dr. Ramesh Chandra Srivastava shared their valuable ideas in this Webinar.



The Principal Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, S.J. was the Chairperson and Dr. Chandrani Choudhuri was the Convener of the said programme. Dr. Asim Mitra, Joint Convener, inaugurated the programme with his welcome speech.

Dr. T.K. Mukherjee was the first speaker of this Webinar. He is former Chief Scientist and Editor of 'Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge', CSIR-INSCAIR from New Delhi. Dr. Mukherjee efficiently pointed out the importance and application of traditional herbal medicines as well as challenges of preservation of traditional knowledge through patent. It was a nice and informative presentation. Second speaker of the Webinar was Dr. R.C. Srivastava, former Joint Director of Botanical Survey of India, New Delhi. He highlighted some effective medicinal plants and their role to improve body immunity during this COVID-19 situation. He also pointed out that the plant identification crisis could create drug adulteration in herbal medicine system which ultimately hampered the potential effectiveness of herbal medicine. The topic was well explained with nice and informative audio-visual presentation.

**Role of Indian Traditional Medicines in COVID-19 Pandemic Situation**

Organized by  
**DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY**  
in collaboration with  
Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)  
**North Bengal St. Xavier's College**  
A Jesuit Institution, affiliated to University of North Bengal  
Included under 2(F) and 12(B) of UGC ACT 1956  
Post Box No.01, Rajganj -735 134  
Dt. Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, India

**11th October, 2020: 4:00 P.M. onwards**

**Resource Persons**

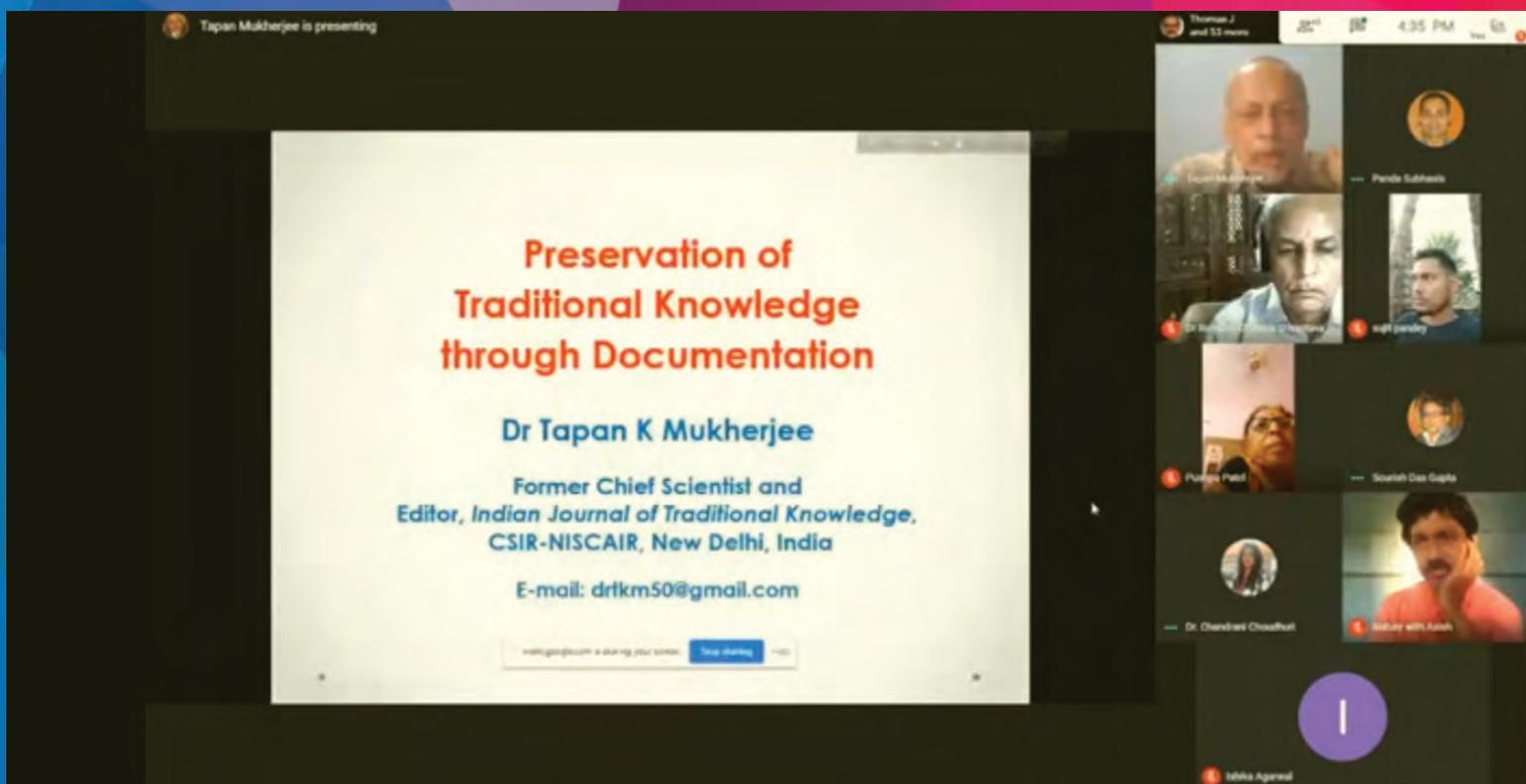
**Dr. Tapan K Mukherjee**  
Former Chief Scientist & Editor  
Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge  
CSIR-INSCAIR, New Delhi  
"Preservation of Traditional knowledge through Documentation"

**Dr. Ramesh C. Srivastava (FLS, FBS, FAPT)**  
Former Joint Director, Botanical Survey of India  
MOFF & CC, New Delhi  
Presently Honorary Director, Cascaebel Institute of Training & Development, Allahabad  
"Efficacy of Indian Traditional Medicines in Combating COVID-19"

<b>President</b> Fr. (Dr.) Lalit P. Tirkey, S.J. Principal NBSXC	<b>Convener</b> Dr. Chandrani Choudhuri Assistant Professor and Head Department of Botany NBSXC	<b>Jt. Convener</b> Dr. Asim Mitra Co-ordinator, IQAC NBSXC	<b>Organizing Secretary</b> Dr. Sourish Dasgupta Assistant Professor Department of Botany NBSXC
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Organizing Committee Members	Important Information
<b>Dr. Bikram Saha</b> Assistant Professor of Botany <b>Ms. Kheyali Halder</b> Assistant Professor of Botany	Registration Link: <a href="https://forms.gle/zkEAW9MY8AX3eLVA">https://forms.gle/zkEAW9MY8AX3eLVA</a> Whatsapp group link: <a href="https://chat.whatsapp.com/NB1tGCSFV0TtE9Zmz8t1">https://chat.whatsapp.com/NB1tGCSFV0TtE9Zmz8t1</a> Meeting platform: Will be notified later Meeting Date: 11th October, 2020 Login Time: 3:45 PM (IST) Session Time: 4:00 PM (IST) onwards Meeting link: Will be notified later Contact Email: botanydepart2020@gmail.com Mobile: 9434682604, 9434886122

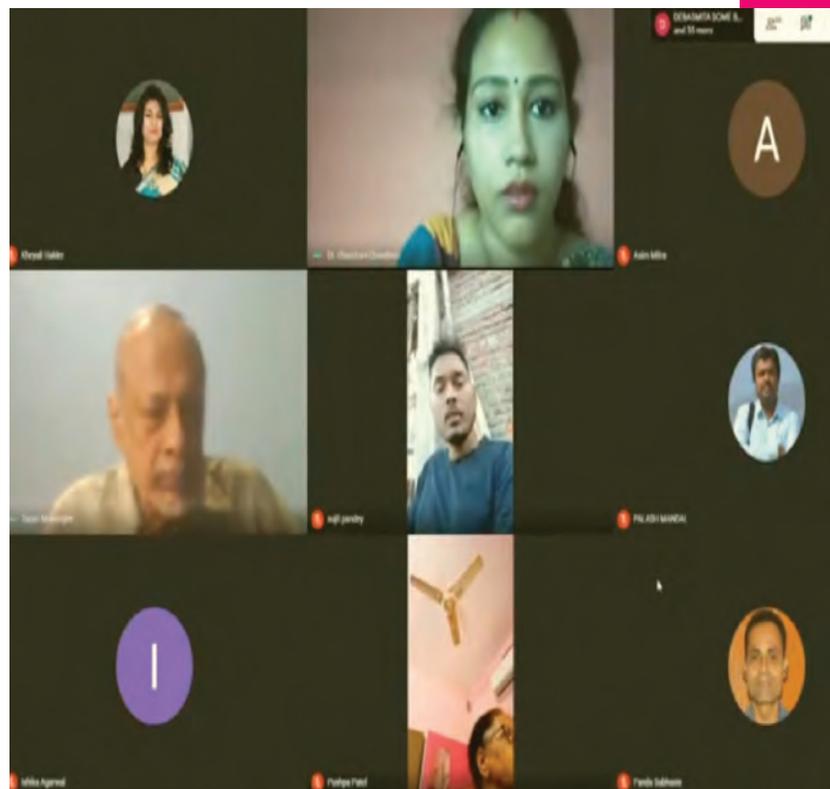
E-certificate will be provided to the registered participants after filling the feedback form.  
Last date of registration 8th October, 2020.



Convenor of the programme, Dr. Chandrani Choudhuri anchored the programme and gave an introductory speech explaining the significance of herbal traditional medicine in COVID-19 situation. Dr. Sourish Dasgupta gave a formal introduction of the resource persons. Each presentation was followed by an 'Interactive Session' which was very efficiently conducted by Ms. Kheyali Halder. The session was concluded by Dr. Bikram Saha with a 'Vote of Thanks'.

The feedback of the Webinar reflected the active participation of maximum number of students, teachers from different Colleges and Universities as well as Scientists from Research Institutes. Participants gathered a lot of knowledge from this Webinar which would help them to remain aware and motivated for future study and research.

Botany Department will continue to arrange such Webinars by inviting eminent and knowledgeable resource persons to encourage, motivate and inspire students and the intellectual community towards nature and the natural system.



~ **Dr. Chandrani Choudhuri**  
Assistant Professor and Head,  
Department of Botany

## Webinar on 'COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities in Clinical Knowledge Research'

In the present situation of lockdown when the whole world is trying to fight against coronavirus, Department of Microbiology, North Bengal Xavier's College conducted a one-day Webinar on 'COVID-19: Challenges and opportunities in clinical knowledge research in collaboration with DNA Labs- A center for Applied Sciences (DLCAS), Dehradun, Uttarakhand on 4th May, 2020.

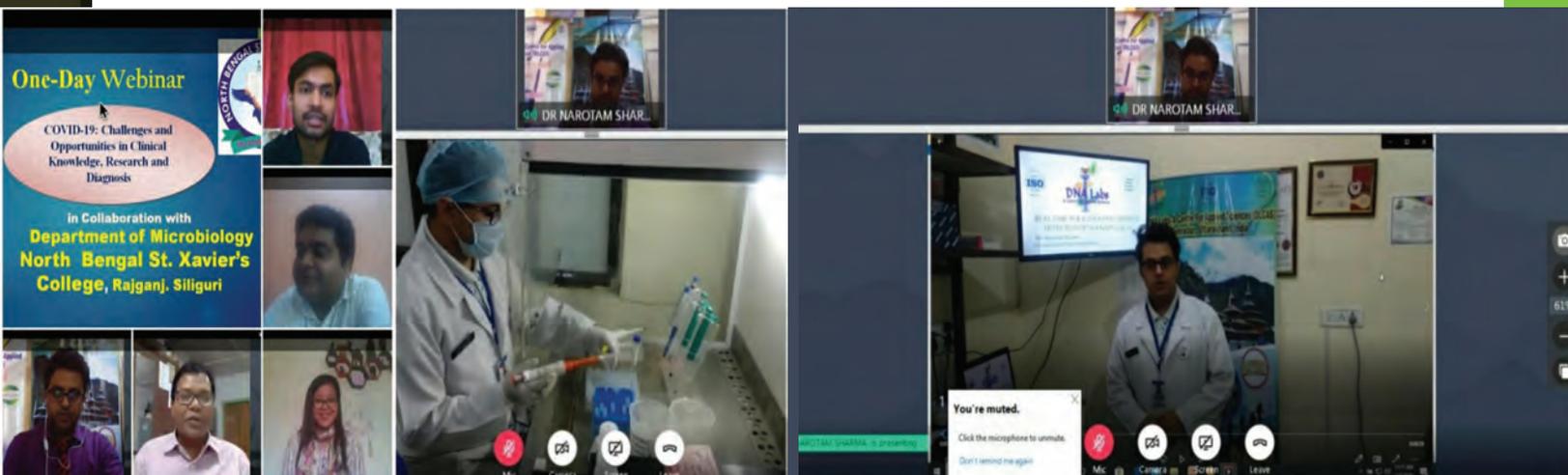
The session started with the welcome speech of Father Dr. Lalit Tirkey, S.J. Principal, North Bengal St. Xavier's College. He said that our college has always striven to disseminate knowledge and amidst the lockdown this webinar would definitely help students to understand the microbiological and medical perspectives of COVID-19. The technical session was led by Dr. Narotam Sharma, Senior Scientist, DLCAS. He delivered lectures on the basics of microbiology, evolution diagnostic methods and possible treatment strategies of COVID-19. Further, he also demonstrated

the techniques of RNA isolation and RT-PCR used in the diagnosis of COVID-19. Mr. Rishabh Garg, Junior Scientist, DLCAS explained the synergy of vedic science and modern science to fight COVID-19. Apart from this, the job and placement opportunities in present and post pandemic era were also discussed. The students interacted with the panel and discussed the different aspects of COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Biprakash Kumar Tiwary, Head of the Department, was convener of this webinar. Dr. Tiwary said, "Now in COVID 19 crisis the world is looking at students and researchers in microbiology. The microbiology students and researchers could contribute a lot to combat COVID-19. In future there would be a scope for more inventions and innovation in Microbiology". Ms. Nitya Rai coordinated this webinar and also discussed the current scenario of pandemics.

The purpose of the webinar was accomplished with the active participation of 90 students. Barsha Dey and Deepika Mazumdar, Department of Microbiology also took part in panel discussion. Further, Dr. Tiwary assured to come up with some other such informative and innovative programmes in the future.

~ **Abriti Rai**

5th Semester, Dept. of Microbiology



# Webinar on Drug Discovery and Pre-clinical Drug Development

On the 6th of June, 2020, a webinar on the “Drug Discovery and Pre-Clinical Drug Development” was organized by Department of Microbiology North Bengal St. Xavier’s College, Rajganj. It was a one day event.

We all are amid an extraordinary situation emerging out of the global pandemic and the consequent lockdown. With this unprecedented lockdown everything has come to an abrupt halt including our academic world. Yet our college North Bengal St. Xavier’s College never fails to encourage the departments to organize workshop, webinars and conference, for the students and faculty and helps them to not only increase the amount of knowledge but also create new opportunities and develop them.

Not only our students but also faculty members including Father Principal Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, S.J., Vice-Principal Father Xavier Alangaram, S.J., Dr. Tamal Mazumder, Asst. Professor and many others had joined the webinar virtually. The convener of the webinar was Dr. Bipranch Kumar Tiwary. Special lectures were delivered by the resource person Somas Das who spoke on different aspects of Drug Development. He explained the steps required to develop the drugs, testing steps, its designing and also the steps to make vaccines and its safety measures. He emphasized that a career in Drug Discovery and Development can be an outstanding and growing opportunity for a young scientist. At last, a question and answers session was held for the better understanding of the participants.

The webinar was successfully accomplished with the active participation of 50 participants and was a great experience for all the participants as they discussed a topic which needed urgent addressal in this pandemic.

~Preksha Lama

5th Semester, Dept. of Microbiology

The screenshot shows a webinar interface. At the top left, a small video window shows a speaker with the text "Lalit Tirkey is talking". The main area displays a presentation slide titled "Drug Discovery & Pre-clinical Drug Development" with a molecular structure image. Below the slide is a "Typical Program Flow Chart" with the following steps: Hits; Search Compound Archive; Chemistry: Build SAR; Primary Assay: Biological (Target) Activity; Secondary Assay: Functional assay to measure target modulation; In vitro ADME; In vitro Safety; In vitro efficacy; In vivo PK: rodent; Rodent efficacy: in vivo disease models; Lead nomination: two different scaffolds. There is also a small video window at the bottom left.

# Summer Training Programme

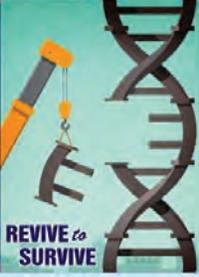
organized by **DNA LABS CAS, Dehradun**

North Bengal St. Xavier's College signed up a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with DNA LABS CAS, Dehradun, on 16th December 2019. In continuation with the MoU, a 15-day Summer Training programme was organized by DNALABS CAS through E-LAB, starting from 27 May, 2020 to 10th June, 2020. 18 students from the department of Microbiology along with the students from other colleges in India had taken part in the training programme.

The main objective of the training programme

**KEY FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM:**

- A** Live / Demonstrations / deliberations and conduction of the various experiments for the students.
- B** Training manual cum book, concerned presentations, Project preparation formats along with the guidelines (for compiling the project) and matter for Project report will be provided to the student via mail before the start of the program by DNA Labs and will be guided during the programs.
- C** After successful completion of the program, DNA Labs will provide Project Certificate to each candidate
- D** Guest lecturers from National and International Professors, Scientists, Industrialists, Entrepreneurs and Motivational speakers.
- E** Survival of the fittest; Special emphasis on :
  1. Scientific personality development, startups formulations and revival plans.
  2. Jobs and Placements in current scenario and in post dynamic era.
  3. Assistance for future in the fields of Biomedical and Life Sciences Professions.
  4. How to apply in Labs, Institutes, making of resume and covering letter.
- F** Enterpreneurs to Successpreneures



- O Industrial Microbiology, Applied Botany and Fermentation Technology  
Screening of antioxidant profiling and antimicrobial activity of medicinal plants.
- P Clustering and sequence alignment of DNA by using bioinformatics tools
- Q Isolation and characterization of Vesicular Arbuscular Mycorrhizal (VAM) spores from soil
- R Alcoholic Fermentation (Production and chemical content analysis of the prepared product)
- S Enzyme production (cellulose, protease, pectinase) and Enzyme assay from the microorganisms

Project Code	Summer Training topics/ Projects/ Dissertation	Duration 15 Days
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- 15 A DNA Fingerprinting and profiling of the suspected cases.
- 15 B Practical demonstrations on Gradient PCR, Nested PCR.
- 15C Post Amplifications Technologies and its applications.
- 15D Identification and Characterization of Human Growth Hormone gene.
- 15 E Insilico analysis of genomic DNA of medicinal plants.
- 15F Nucleic Acid Isolation from different Clinical Specimens.
- 15G Enumeration of microorganism isolated from clinical specimens.
- 15H Importance of Clinical Biochemistry in disease diagnosis.
- 15I Practical Demonstration of Thyroid Function Tests by ELISA Reader.
- 15J Isolation of bacterial colony from varjous samples.
- 15K Biochemical characterization of Bacteria: Oxidase, catalase, coagulase, MR-VP.
- 15L Enzyme production test for bacteria: Amylase, lipase, cellulase.
- 15M Isolation of rizobactria from root nodules.
- 15N Bacterial cell immobilization process.

Technical Partner  
**Techno Hub, Dehradun**



was to take the students out of the box to the environment and expectations of performance where they can develop their skills, such as research aptitude, teamwork, communications and also to enhance and expand the students' knowledge on important areas of Microbiology and Biotechnology.

Topics, such as, DNA fingerprinting, amplification by PCR based method (RAPD), and non PCR based methods (RFLP), Agarose Gel Electrophoresis pathology-blood tests for disease, molecular diagnosis, biochemical tests and biochemical characterisation of bacteria, enumeration of bacteria, biosafety measures, covid19 containment through synergy of vedic science, and modern technology were discussed during the training programme. The team



had organised classes for the benefits of students and involved informative discussions about writing CVs, personality development for interviews, and importance of preparing reports and journals on research work. Lectures on personality development for job interviews, dos and don'ts for better job opportunities and the importance of compiling Reports and research journals were also organized by the Head Scientist, Dr. Narotam Sharma and by other members of DNA team, Dehradun. During the informative sessions, DNA LABS CAS provided well edited and composed Scientific Lab Manuals cum books related to the scheduled topics for the E-Class. The manuals entitled “Basics and Applied Aspects of Biomedical, Cellular and Molecular Diagnostics: Bench to Bedside, Pathological Investigations and their Clinical Relevance in Human Wellness and Industrial Microbiology” provides a complete guidelines about how small scale practices can be done on large scale platform. It also includes experiments along with procedures and possible result interpretations with conclusion.



As part of the programme, DNA LABS CAS successfully organized a small E- programme on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5th of June, 2020. All the trainees were encouraged to come up with video clips, posters, or speech on this auspicious occasion. It was a healthy competition among the participants which ended up with a beautiful message on saving nature. One of our 5th semester students, Preksha Lama, was awarded with the first position in the competition.

Students were encouraged to prepare reports based on the things they learnt (topics from any one major) during the whole training programme and submit the same at the end, for which each of the participants was provided with e-certificates by the DNA LABS CAS.

The training programme was successfully completed making the participants more competitive in the job market. In addition to gaining knowledge and experience in the field, they were also provided with the opportunity to see if the particular career field is the right one or not. The friendly nature of the mentors was also commendable as they provided the participants an environment where they can come up with views and express those without any hesitation. Such type of environment really boosted the confidence of the participants.

Based on the feedbacks obtained from the students the training programme had been an excellent, exciting, approachable experience which helped them to learn about different things. During COVID 19 lockdown situation, such type of programme was very productive. It was a two-way interactive session and the students were all free to clear their queries at the end of each class.

~ Argharupa Saha & Abhigya Chettri  
3rd Semester,  
Dept. of Microbiology

# Industrial Trip 2020

## Department of Microbiology

In the mid of February, 2020 the Dept. of Microbiology had gone for an industrial trip to Shimla-Manali in Himachal Pradesh. A total of 24 students (3rd year and 4th semester combined) were included in the journey accompanied by two of our professors, Dr. Biprانش Kr. Tiwary, the HOD of Microbiology and Professor Nitya Rai. This trip was in accordance with the academic syllabus which mentions “A visit to any educational institute or industry to see industrial processing operations”.

It was a ten-day trip, from the 12th to 21st February, 2020. We started the journey on the 12th of February from the New Jalpaiguri Station. It took us 2 days and 2 nights by train to reach Ambala, Haryana; after which we boarded a bus to Shimla. Upon the arrival to our first destination our excitement knew no boundaries. We were mesmerized by the views and



beautiful landscapes surrounding the place. Out there we first visited the famous Shimla Mall Road which, during the evening hours, was radiant with the setting sun, the street lights, the beautiful people, horses, and the small shops.

The very next day (13th of February) we visited the industry: Minchy's Food Products, which is located in Solan, Himachal Pradesh. It dealt with the processing of foods such as pickles, jams, sauces, fruit drinks and beverages and is one of the leading sellers of the products. Over there we learnt about all the processing methods of the products such as the preparation, fermentation, packaging and storage. The guide gave us quite a detailed picture of the preparation factors. We were also given a tour of the industry where we visited all the sections like the fermentation unit, packaging area, storage rooms, laboratories, washing area, etc. The guide explained to us how the industry works as a whole, like where the waste water is treated, how the products are cleaned, prepared and stored, the fermentation processes and the working mechanism of the machines that are used in the production of pickles, juices, jams, etc. Since the industry was located in the heart of the forest far away from the city area the risk to air pollution was minimized by the huge trees present. At the end of our industrial visit each of the students were allowed to taste a bottle of juices too.

Since our industrial visit had ended on that day itself the remaining days of our trip were mostly



adventurous. After the industrial visit we went to Kufri Snow Point, a hill station in Shimla, surrounded by snow in every corner. We had to take a horse ride to reach the top of the hill that had scenic environment and snow-capped landscapes. This was our last stop in Shimla.

Then on the 16th of February we arrived at Manali a town in Himachal Pradesh also known as



the Valley of the Gods. We were greatly astounded by all the beautiful views the place had to offer with the huge snow peaked mountains, beautiful villages, the Beas River and the stretched out valleys. As soon as we reached there the first place we visited was the Hadimba Temple, a unique shrine of the Goddess Hadimba. It is also a tourist place where local villagers owned beautiful shops of handmade crafts and tourists could rent the local attires to click pictures. Next we also visited the Vashishtha Temple near Manali, a place where a hot spring was located. In the evening we visited the very famous Manali Mall Market. It was vibrant with different colours of light, beaming faces of the shopkeepers, and even more colourful items that were being sold. Then on the 17th of February, we visited the famous tourist spot of Manali; the Solang Valley. It is a side valley at the top of the Kullu Valley, 14km northeast from the town Manali. Giant slopes of lawns filled with snow comprise the Solang Valley and is well known for its summer and winter sports like parachuting, paragliding, rapling, skiing, etc. Since it was late winter when we visited the place we had to wear all the snow gears to protect ourselves from the cold.

Everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly out there, playing with the snow, clicking pictures and trying out the sports mentioned. The place was filled with happy faces in every corner. It was an alluring place that was surrounded by mountains, beautiful mountain yaks and glistening snow.

18th of February was the last day of our trip. On that day we had a trek to another famous spot, the Jogini Falls, around 7.5kms from the Manali Bus Stand. The route was enjoyable with narrow lane, apple orchards, pine trees and water streams. It provided us with the best view of the Beas River and the Rhotang Snow peak mountains. The waterfall cascaded down from a certain height through multiple levels. At the base there was a pool formed by the falling water, which had turned to complete snow due to the cold. The waterfall then merged in to the Beas River. A sacred Jogini temple is also located at the base of the waterfall. The whole trek route was very mesmerizing and scenic through beautiful villages aligned with sprawling valleys. The trek was also one of the best short treks that made us enjoy the local beauty and village life in Manali. On the evening of 17th February we also had a bonfire where we enjoyed to our hearts content, singing on top of our voices and reminiscing about all the days spent there. In the early morning of 19th February we travelled all the way to Manikaran located in the Parvati Valley River. This town is an attractive tourist spot due to its hot water springs, beautiful landscapes and pilgrim centers with many temples and gurudwaras. There we visited the Manikaran Sahib Gurudwara along with the hot water springs and the Temple of Lord Shiva.

The trip then ended on the 19th of February; on the same day we then left for Chandigarh to board our train back to NJP. We were back on the 21st of February with hearts full of memories of all the times spent in such amazing places. The trip that was filled with happiness, beauty, knowledge and experience will always be remembered, cherished and very memorable.

~ Priyanjali Pradhan  
5th Semester,  
Dept. of Microbiology

# Department of Computer Science and Application (CSA)

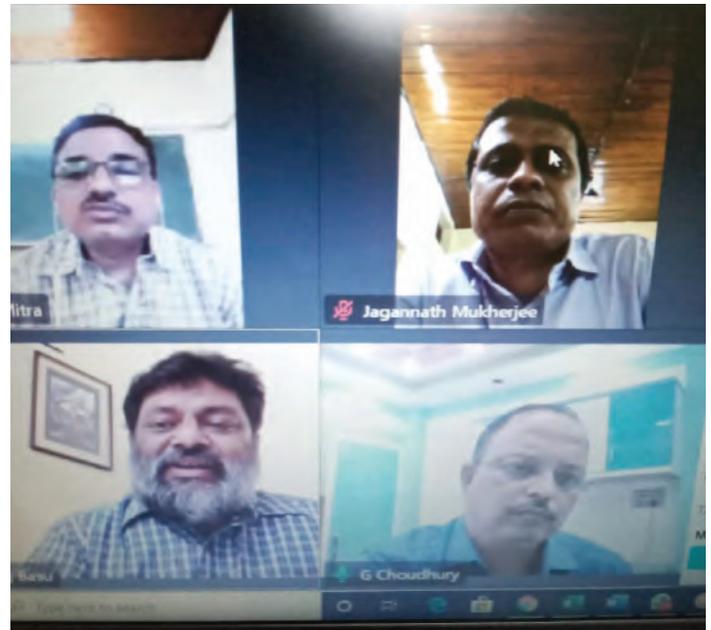
A technical workshop was organised on “Computer Networking and CCNA” with Mr. Kamal K. Prasad, HOD, Computer Science and Application (NBSXC), along with Mr. Somdeb Chakraborty, a Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) and Information Security Analyst, ISOEH, Kolkata, and Mr .Sagar Neogi, Faculty member & research analyst, ISOEH, Kolkata. The discussion was on the challenges and opportunities of computer networking, configuring IP addressing, setup of a basic network in packet tracer, firewall, how to configure access control list and providing a live demo.

~ **Kamal K. Prasad**  
HoD

Dept. of Computer Science & Application

## **A Webinar on 'Economic impact of COVID 19 pandemic in North Bengal', Department of Commerce & Business Administration.**

A departmental webinar was organised on 16th June, 2020, a time, when the pandemic and its aftermath were driving towards an uncertain future. A very relevant topic was chosen by the esteemed faculty members of Department of Commerce and Management titled "Economic impact of COVID -19 Pandemic in North Bengal" to throw some light on the incumbent situation. Two eminent speakers were invited, one from Academia and other from Industry. Dr Govinda Chowdhary, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of North Bengal, shared his expertise on the current economic impact of the Pandemic on the international, domestic and regional domain. He gave a very precious, well documented, and empirically supported verbal documentation speaking about the future of employment, gross state domestic production, growth potential and revival of economy on regional perspective with special emphasis on North Bengal area. The other speaker, often said as the face of tourism industry of North Bengal, Mr Raj Basu, an expert in tourism industry, gave a bird's-eye view of the past, present and the future of North Bengal tourism and the impact of Pandemic on tourism. As it was evident from the onset of pandemic and lockdown norms gradually implemented by different nations and Govt, tourism sector was and is the worst affected sector on the onset of COVID 19. Mr Basu shared a very enlightening



view of different sub-sectors of the industry who are directly and indirectly dependent on tourism sector in north Bengal, both in the hills and Dooars region, and the strategies needed from both the public and private participants, to revive the industry to pre-COVID time. It was a two-hour webinar session participated by more than 70 participants. The session started at 11am with an introductory speech by respected Principal, Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, S.J, followed by a formal introduction of our respected speakers by Dr. Asim Mitra, Vice Principal, Siliguri Campus. It was taken over by Dr. Govinda Chowdhury, who continued his discussion for an hour followed by Mr. Raj Basu who took nearly another hour for his discussion. After the conclusion, a question-answer session was done, where students and faculty members from the department asked different questions related to the topic. Finally, with a concluding speech by the convenor of the webinar Mr Jagannath Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, the webinar drew to a close. The webinar was very enlightening and the respondents were equally benefited by the knowledge bestowed by the valuable discussion.

~**Mr. Aritra Kundu**,  
Asst. Professor,  
Dept. of Business Administration

# Departmental Activities, Department of Business Administration

1. Name of the programme – Classroom Corporate

Date – 6th and 7th March, 2020

Objective:

“Classroom Corporate” A two days workshop was conducted at NBSXC with joint collaboration from Xavier’s’ Business School (XBS), Kolkata with an objective to understand the students’ behavior towards an interactively structured training activity with specially created conditions, which aim to reproduce those of a working situation in a successful business.

Duration of the Programme – Two-day workshop

Total No. of Participants: Above 150

Description:

‘CLASSROOM CORPORATES’ is a workshop which is designed in a way that enabled students to participate in some activity-based corporate games in a competitive format and to get exposure to various decision-making situations. The programme comprised of events like Panel Discussion and other forms of management games to inculcate the students with corporate behaviour and a professional mindset.

At the end of the session, the participants were awarded and individually given feedback about their discussion points, on areas of improvement



as well as their nonverbal communication. The observers also gave their feedback on each participant, discussing how each of them could have improvised their points.

2. Name of the programme - Online FDP on ‘Tally ERP 9 and GST’

Date - 01st June 2020

Objective:

Tally ERP9 software is being used by individuals and business corporate to maintain their books of Accounts. It is important to maintain record of all monetary transactions. To record such transactions it is necessary for an individual to learn tally from an Institute offering Tally course. Tally software is used so widely that it has become imperative for the students seeking jobs in the Accounts department of any Company to learn Tally up to the advance level. Goods and Service Tax (GST) is collected

at each stage of sale or purchase of goods or services based on the input tax credit method. GST implementation in Tally ERP 9 covers an in-depth knowledge to meet the accounting requirements of the industry.

The primary objective of the FDP being:



Duration of the Programme – One day

Total No. of Participants: 60

Description:

Tally ERP 9 is a perfect business management solution and GST software. With an ideal combination of function, control and customizability built in, Tally. ERP 9 permits business owners and their associates to do more. It is a complete product that retains its original simplicity yet offers comprehensive business functionalities such as Accounting, Finance, Inventory, Sales, Purchase, Point of Sales, Manufacturing, Costing, Job Costing, Payroll and Branch Management along with compliance capabilities for GST too. Tally.ERP 9 Release 6 is packed with rich capabilities for quick and easy GST return filing, helping business owners and tax consultants to minimize rejection of returns in the GSTN portal.

This software is highly configurable and can be easily setup to suit for educational institutions also. This will help the accounting staff on reducing accounting errors and preparation of statement of accounts easily. The Auditor's version of Tally.ERP9 available to registered chartered accountants helps them to perform the audit of accounts very easily.

~**Sekh Raunak Mondal**,  
HoD, Dept. of Business Administration

- Hands-on training on major aspects of Tally
- GST and its Accounting process.
- Participation Certification on successful completion of the program
- Free 7 days Tally.ERP9 licensed version.

# X-QUIZit 2020

On 9th April, 2021, the yearly quiz competition by the Department of Commerce and Management, North Bengal St. Xavier's college, X-QUIZit, was organised. A total of 8 students participated in the main quiz event. There were 5 rounds in the comprising of a Preliminary round having Q & A in MCQ format. The event started

North Bengal  
St. Xavier's College  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT  
CORDIALLY INVITES FR. PRINCIPAL, VICE PRINCIPALS AND ALL  
TEACHING AND NON TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS TO ATTEND  
OUR ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL QUIZ COMPETITION

**X-QUIZit 2021**

TO BE HELD ON 9TH APRIL, 2021 (FRIDAY) AT NBSXC, SILIGURI  
CAMPUS (HALL 1) FROM 10AM ONWARDS.

REGARDING  
STAFF MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT



and the last round was a specialization round, where teams were to choose from four given options which were accountancy, advertising/marketing, business, and sport business. Three teams qualified for the final round and one team was eliminated from the 3rd round, where the best 3 from 4 teams were selected for the grand finale. Finally, the team having member Subharti Nandi and Harsh Gupta became winners. At the end of the event, all the team members were felicitated with prize and medals. A certificate was also provided to all participating teams by a respected faculty member. At the end of the event, a vote of thanks was delivered by faculty member, Prof. Sagar Sharma.

~**Mr. Aritra Kundu,**  
Asst. Professor,  
Dept. of Business Administration

with a brief speech by the respected Vice-Principal of Siliguri Campus, Prof. Sanjukta Mitra. All the participants were qualified for the main round. Teams were formed, each team having 2 participants. In the main event, there were four rounds. The event started with the energetic question delivery by quiz master Jagannath Mukherjee. The first round had two straight questions having 10 points. The second round was a picture recognition and logo identification round. The third round was a rapid-fire round, each team having to answer 5 questions with no negative marking

# A Preparatory Report for the 1st Cycle of NAAC Assessment and Accreditation

certification given by NAAC which is valid for a period of five years.

North Bengal St. Xavier's College took the decision to apply for 1st cycle of Assessment and Accreditation in the academic session 2020-21. A Core Committee for NAAC was constituted under proper guidance and supervision of Dr. Lalit P Turkey, S.J, the Principal of the college. The NAAC Core Committee consisted of members, Mr. Partha Sarthi Dutta, Ms. Priyanka Chakraborty, Mrs. Nitya Rai, Ms. Shradha Rai, Mr. Saikat Roy (Assistant Coordinator) led by IQAC Coordinator Dr. Bipranch Kumar Tiwary. The entire College community got engaged in the rigorous process of preparing Self-Study Report (SSR). All the faculty members, non-teaching staff, stakeholders, members of Alumni Association and other important Cells/Committees took active parts in the entire process of assessment and accreditation. Here, the IQAC of the College played a significant role in covering and fulfilling all the norms/parameters of NAAC.



The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of North Bengal St. Xavier's College was duly constituted in accordance with NAAC stipulated guidelines on 20th April, 2019. The Cell assists and advises the Principal to closely monitor and administer quality assurance and quality enhancement activities keeping in view of the academic and administrative issues of the College.

NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) is an autonomous body set up by UGC. Assessment and Accreditation is broadly used for understanding the "Quality Status" of an institution. In the context of Higher Education, the accreditation status indicates that the particular Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) – a College or any other recognized Unit therein, meets the standards of quality as set by the Accreditation Agency, in terms of its performance, related to the educational processes and outcomes, covering the curriculum, teaching-learning, evaluation, faculty, research, infrastructure, learning resources, organization, governance, financial well-being and student services. Accreditation refers to the

The process of NAAC accreditation for 1st cycle is divided into three steps (i) Submission of IIQA (ii) Submission of SSR (iii) Peer Team visit at the college. Our College submitted the IIQA on 22nd December, 2020 which was approved by NAAC on 12th January, 2021. After approval of IIQA, the next step was SSR preparation. Under the supervision of the Principal, NAAC core committee worked day and night compiling the SSR and finally submitted it on 23rd February, 2021. The SSR got approved on 3rd June, 2021. Thus, our College pre-qualified the assessment process and became eligible for NAAC Peer Team visit. The Principal congratulated all the stakeholders of the College and encouraged each member to participate in preparation of Peer-Team visit. He aspired that the infrastructure and service of the College meet the standard of NAAC in all aspects and he was very much confident to attain a high grade in the 1st Cycle of NAAC.

~ Dr. Bipranch Kumar Tiwary  
Coordinator, IQAC

# AICUF - North Bengal St. Xavier's College

The ALL INDIA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY FEDERATION (AICUF) is a movement of university students, and is indicated by the abbreviation, AICUF. It draws its ideology from the liberal Praxis of the teachings of Christ. Liberation (Moksha) of the human being is the core teaching of all the Sacred Scriptures. The movement was initiated in the year 1924 at St Joseph's College, Tiruchirappilly by Fr. Carty S.J. with an aim to live up to the AICUF motto- "We are born into an unjust society and we are determined not to leave it as we have found it".

AICUF provides a platform that will enable university students to develop a critical awareness and genuine concern of the human condition that negates the fullness of humanity to flourish. AICUF conducts various exposure and immersion programs for the student in the nearby villages and organizes social outreach activities for children. This gives motivation to become involved in studies, research and activities linked to the broader social issues and engages with a view to become a creative and critical member of the society.

AICUF also aims to motivate students mentally and spiritually and guide them along the path of universal human brotherhood through service.

The session 2020-2021 was extraordinary and exceptional because of the pandemic which kept



all our activities on hold except for a couple of online meetings. Despite all these we managed to organize a seminar and farewell for outgoing AICUF members. Dr. Pavanbir Kaur (HoD, Dept of English) and Fr Xavier Alangaram, S.J (Former Vice-Principal) gave input on Christian leadership and Ignatian Examen. To inculcate the quality of leadership based on core spiritual values is the ultimate goal of Jesuit education. With the arrival of the first year students in the campus, many new faces have joined the AICUF. Hence, we look forward to a creative and progressive year ahead.

~Fr. Bijay Kirti Kindo, S.J.  
Vice-Principal (Administration),  
Rajganj Campus



# Relief Supply during Covid-19 by North Bengal St. Xavier's College

All of us were aware that the pandemic had put an abrupt pause in our academics as well as in our co-curricular activities. It was a crucial time to build concepts and perspectives on various aspects as we were panicking about the deadly disease when the college was closed. It was the time you know most of us experienced like what to do, how to keep ourselves engaged and began to worry. However there was no sign of resuming of our college as the lockdown was extended repeatedly by the government.

However, the pandemic had brought us two very important aspects: one that made all to pause and be ready to cope with any other catastrophe in future, not wholly depending on modern technological developments. The other aspect was to share with others in whatever way one could. Like most of other institutions and organisations, our college, despite not having students in the campus, never failed to move forth and extend relief materials for the poor and needy. Under the leadership of Principal Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, S.J., assisted by Vice Principals Fr. Xavier Alangaram, S.J. and Prof. Aparna Chatterjee, Fr. Deven and the teachers and all the non-teaching staff of our college, distributed relief supplies in three different phases.



Unnamed Road, Shikarpur, West Bengal  
735 133, India

Latitude

Longitude

26 09 20 02

88 57 14 48



Following all the necessary precautions and rules released by the government, the first phase of relief supply camp was held on 11th of April 2020 where our college distributed groceries for about one hundred families residing around the campus. The food supplements which contained rice, dal and vegetables, were distributed to the people by Dr. Fr. Lalit P. Turkey, S.J., Fr. Xavier and Fr. Deven. College non-teaching staff was present to help out in distribution as well. The relief supply camp was held all through the day and ended in the evening. The program was very successful one which could be experienced by looking at the glowing face of the people. They were very happy to receive the relief items.



The second phase of food distribution took place on 14th of April 2020 which was arranged in Manwaganj village. This camp covered many villages. The groceries were distributed for two hundred and fifty households and which contained rice, vegetables and other materials. Some local villagers were selected for volunteering together with the local Pradhan. The groceries were distributed by our Principal Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Turkey, S.J. assisted by the local Pradhan as well the village volunteers. People who were selected to get the relief supply were asked to maintain the rules set by the government. The college relief committee was very strict on this aspect. All were asked to put on masks.



After receiving the food supplements the people were very happy and thanked the college. Smiles were seen on their faces.

The third phase of relief supply camp was held on 1st of May 2020, in Shikarpur. We distributed groceries to three hundred and fifty households. The MLA, the local police officer, and the local Pradhan were present to witness the camp. This was the last camp held by the college. The relief supplements were presented to people by the MLA and our Principal Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Turkey, S.J. People's reaction was very positive. All the recipients thanked the college for the service.

## SOCIAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Eventually all the three programs were very successful. The recipients of the entire three places were glad to receive food supplements and were very cooperative with the college staff. Moreover, during the second phase of lockdown, the college also extended

covid relief works for its neighbouring people. The college also organised a campaign named 'Covid Response' on 14th June, 2020 for distributing dry ration, sanitizer and necessary medicine among the people of Jalpaiguri.

~William Tirkey,  
3rd Semester, Dept. of English



Dinbazar Bridge, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal 735101  
 Longitude 88.723346°  
 Latitude 26.5297688°  
 Altitude 36.45 meters  
 Local 11:18:39 AM  
 GMT 05:48:39 AM  
 Monday, 14-06-2020



Unnamed Road, Balai Gachh, West Bengal 735135, India  
 Longitude 88.506350°  
 Latitude 26.581941°

# Teachers' Orientation Programme 2020

Orientation programme for the teachers is an important tradition at North Bengal St. Xavier's College. The programme aims at introducing the new teachers to the Jesuit educational and value system and to make them understand how they are expected to conduct themselves as members of the Jesuit family. In the year 2020 due to the corona pandemic and sudden changes in the way of teaching and teaching methods, the education system faced a lot of difficulties. So, in order to provide teachers with some guidance on how to adapt to the new changes, an orientation programme for the teachers was held online on 27th August 2020. Keeping in mind the scenario around, the theme for the programme was 'Educators for 21st Century: Integrating Changing Educational Scenario with Jesuit Education'. The programme was organized under the initiative of our Principal, Fr Dr Lalit P. Tirkey, S.J. The programme began from 10.30am with the welcome address by

the Principal. Father Dr Daniel Bara, S.J., from St. Xavier's Nepal was invited as the chief speaker and the resource person for the day.

Resource person for the day, Fr. Dr. Daniel Bara, S.J. began his presentation by pondering on the impact of the corona pandemic on the world as a whole and educational institutions in particular. He spoke about how teachers are expected to perform their roles as the members of Jesuit family and why there is a need for the teachers to go beyond their conventional roles of just text book teaching. He stressed that teaching of values and character is the very basis of Jesuit education and thus the emphasis of teaching should be towards the teaching of values rather than just imparting knowledge. Another point that was emphasized during the session was the importance of passion and belief in teaching. He also spoke about the paradigm that underlies Jesuit education which emphasizes, "context, experience, reflection, action and evaluation". He stressed on how at the critical juncture of the corona pandemic, it is very important for the teachers to explore the context in which students are learning and help them to understand it in a better way and cope with it. He also talked about the ways in which faculty members can be creative in designing and implementing their virtual courses so as to impart deeper learning to the students. He also spoke on why there is a need to recall and retain the dimension that is at the heart of Jesuit education: Cura personalis- 'personal care for the students', even more in the communally anxious time where there is a sudden change in the way of our lives. He spoke at length about how in the rapidly changing times the faculty members of the Jesuit Institutions should work towards integrating changing educational scenario with the Jesuit values. He stressed that teachers with a strong belief could easily accomplish this task and he stated that every member of the Jesuit family should imbibe this belief so that we can create a better place for our students and for others as well.

The session provided the teachers with guidance and direction about how they should conduct themselves as members of the Jesuit family and as a responsible teacher to the students. The staff were inspired by the session and were charged up to begin the new academic year with a new mindset and a futuristic vision of dealing with the students entrusted to them.

~Miss. Ambika Chettri

Asst. Professor, Dept. of Political Science

**Resource Person**  
Fr Dr DANIEL BARA, S.J.  
St Xavier's, Dharan, Nepal  
Former Principal, Loyola College of Education (Mumbai)  
Former Principal, St Xavier's College, Alkhal (Mizoram)

**Organizer**  
Fr Dr LALIT P. TIRKEY, S.J.  
Principal, NBSXC

# National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: Issues, Implications and Implementations Challenges in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

The Indian Government replaced the 34-year-old National Policy on Education, which was framed in 1986, with the New Education Policy of 2020. The National Education Policy (NEP), which has been approved by the union cabinet, has made revolutionary reforms in the Indian education paradigm. To understand the new education policy, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of North Bengal St. Xavier's College had organized a national webinar on "National Education Policy (NEP) - 2020: Issues, Implications and Implementation Challenges in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)" which was held on 30th September 2020 through GoTo meeting app.

Dr. Tamal Mazumder, Assistant Professor of North Bengal St. Xavier's College gave a speech on 'India's New Education Policy: A Rhetoric Approach Towards Excellence and Internalisation'. He highlighted the changes that will be implemented on the age group of mandatory education, language selection, regional language studies to promote diversity, liberty to choose subjects, vocational education, return of the FYUP Programme, Certificate and degree distribution, multidisciplinary mode. Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, S.J., Principal of North Bengal St. Xavier's College presented

a speech on 'Opportunities and Challenges: A Critique of NEP 2020'. He enlightened us about the decisions of the government and its implications. The Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will now set up a single overarching umbrella body for entire higher education excluding medical and legal education. The same set of norms for regulation, accreditation, and academic standards to be applied to both public and private higher education institutions. The Government aims to phase out the affiliation of colleges in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges.

Dr. Satyadeep Chhetri, Associate Professor of Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, gave a speech on "NEP 2020 and Higher Education: Beyond perceptions and Implementation plans". Instating a single regulator for higher education institutions, the scheme of multiple entry and exit options in degree courses, the low stakes board exams, and common entrance exams for universities, these are some of the key takeaways from this exciting new policy. Each of these aspects reforms and reflects on how India has evolved as an economy, and how we are prepared to be recognized as a force to reckon with. The Education system of a country is a true indicator of its

**NORTH BENGAL ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE**  
Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

**DR. BIPRANISH KUMAR TIWARY**  
Organizing Secretary  
(Assistant Professor- NBSXC)

**MRS. APARNA CHATERJEE**  
Moderator  
(Vice- Principal Academic NBSXC)

**DR. ASIM MITRA**  
Co-ordinator, IQAC  
(Vice- Principal NBSXC Siliguri Campus)

**FR. DR. LALIT P. TIRKEY (SJ)**  
Principal (NBSXC)

Call/WhatsApp : 8670725693/9474516932  
Website: [www.nbxc.org](http://www.nbxc.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NBSXC](http://www.facebook.com/NBSXC)

economic strength, and the reforms of the NEP 2020 will certainly help India break into the top three economies of the world in the next 10 years.

The National Education Policy has taken measures to have a holistic outlook. It is important to note that education is a continuous process, and that is why it is essential to put more emphasis on connecting education to the environment. The recognition of the importance of life skills was long overdue, and the NEP has given more attention to developing life skills in the educational process. NEP has addressed the social and gender gap in the education system. The policy has stated that there is an evident gap in the representation of the various social groups in the education system. It has emphasized on the need to overcome the same with regulated interventions. Quality of teaching is one of the primary agendas of the policy as well. Teachers are integral to the education system, and without improving the way teachers are trained, it will be difficult to improve the quality of education.

National Education Policy-2020 is an attempt to address most of the grievances of the education system, which have been pending for decades. This is certainly

a historic moment for all the stakeholders involved, be it the teachers, students or parents. It is intriguing to see how the norms of this policy will be implemented, but we can be sure that this is a new age for the Indian Education landscape.

~Miss. Ananya Das  
Asst. Professor, Dept.  
of Zoology

## Towards New Beginnings – the Orientation Program for Freshers

As individuals we sure have varied perspectives and notions of our own. However, one thing we can all agree on is the very fact that the year 2020 was unlike every other year, with everyone isolated inside their homes. However, the Xaverian family did not let the testing times hinder its pre-existing warmth of togetherness. As the new session brought new additions to the Xaverian family, the institution ensured that they were welcomed in the warmest way possible on the 14th of September, 2020. The Orientation program failed to take place in the college auditorium like every other year this time, neither was it possible to usher them inside with khadas. Instead, the program was streamed as a YouTube live event where Xaverians from both the Siliguri campus as well as the Rajganj campus united to make it an eventful one.

The Program began sharp at 11 in the morning and was smoothly and gracefully emceed by Professor Rajarshi Bagchi and Professor Sanjukta Mitra. The college prayer song backed up by beautiful visuals from the college, ignited nostalgia among many. Then, Dr.Pavanbir Kaur embraced the freshmen with her warm words. “Share your unique ideas, your dreams, your talents, we are here to mentor you, to guide you, to help you become the best version of yourselves”, she said. To mark the beginning of the auspicious occasion, the lamp was lit bright. Samanway Das from the 3rd semester moved all hearts with his soulful musical performance. The honourable principal of the institution, Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey SJ delivered an informative, yet encouraging speech where he not only

A National Webinar  
on  
**Education Policy INEP- 2020:  
Issues and Implementation Challenges  
in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**

### SPEAKERS



DR. SATYADEEP CHHETRI  
Associate Professor,  
Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College

DR. TAMAL MAJUMDER  
Assistant Professor (NBSXC)

**Date: 30th September**  
**Time: 11:00 AM**

## CULTURAL COMMITTEE

talked about the legacy and beliefs of the institution but also about the holistic development of students into better humans. Amid distant possibilities for the newcomers to meet the staff and faculty members of the college in person, a Power Point presentation made sure they were

of the college, clubs and cells, hostels, transportation availabilities and many more. Ambalika Das from the 3rd semester dazzled the viewers while she danced swiftly in a rather contemporary rendition. Later, Dr. Asim Mitra, the Vice Principal of Siliguri campus



introduced to all the staff members and acknowledged them in the best way possible. This was followed by the kind words of the Vice Principal (Academic) Prof. Aparna Chatterjee who did not fail to point the viewers towards the light at the end of the tunnel, “I sincerely hope that the sunshine days are not very far away”. At the same time, she familiarised students with the academic hierarchies and evaluation processes that the college follows. Sohini Das from the 5th semester enchanted the viewers with grace as she danced to the rhythm of the ghungroo while Amrita Rai had a special heart-warming message for the juniors. Dhiya Sengupta from the 3rd semester on the other hand stroked the guitar into melodious notes while she sang songs that made hearts warm. As newcomers who do not know much about the college, one can only guess the amount of doubts they must have had in mind that remained unanswered. Fortunately, the speech delivered by the Vice Principal (Administration), Fr. Xavier Alangaram SJ cleared it all. He walked the viewers, especially the new comers through the various administrative set ups

emphasized on the vision of the college, its diversity, inclusiveness and the sheer Xaverian spirit to keep doing better. Finally, to mark the end of a wonderful event, the Dean of Students, Prof. Nitya Rai delivered the vote of thanks.

The orientation program was undoubtedly a big success despite being conducted on an unusual medium. The comment section of the live event was definitely a delightful sight where applauses turned into comments after each performance and speech. Students across various departments and semesters kept pouring love and gratitude towards teachers and a warm welcome to the juniors. The alumni of the institution enthusiastically enjoyed the event as well, as they reminisced upon the good old days altogether creating an environment that only translates into love and the warm bond of togetherness.

~Koyena Choudhury  
3rd Semester, Dept. of English

# Career & Placement Cell

Career and Placement Cell organised a two-day 'RICE TALENT SCHOLARSHIP TEST' on 20th and 21st February, 2021. The objective of the programme was to make students understand that whoever qualifies the test will be able to avail a certain percentage of discounts in their respective course fees offered by the RICE institute. A total of 50 students attended the programme. The cell in collaboration with Xavier's Business School also organised a webinar on "MBA as a Career Option" on 20th May, 2021. The objective was to make



students aware of the benefits and career prospects after undergoing a professional PG programme within the MBA Curriculum. Dr. Saugata Ghosh, Assistant Professor - Marketing, Xavier Business School, was the keynote speaker of the programme. A total of 30 participants attended the programme.

~ **Sekh Raunak Mondal**  
Coordinator, Career & Placement Cell

# Celebration of International Women's Day Organised by Women's Cell

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on the 8th of March to "commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women". This day also focuses on women's right movement. It also draws attention towards issues like gender equality, violence against women, reproductive rights and so on.

The Women's Cell of North Bengal St. Xavier's College celebrated International Women's Day 2021, through social media platforms, due to the prevalent pandemic scenario. The event started off with a brief but informative as well as insightful introductory speech by Shivangi Lama, student of 5th Semester, Sociology Honours. She spoke on International Women's Day- what it celebrates, on what aspect it focuses upon, why it is significant, and so on.

She also mentioned that the theme for the International Women's Day, 2021, was 'Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in Covid-19 world', and spoke about what the theme stood for, what it highlighted, and so on and so forth.

This was followed by a strong and touching Bengali poem recitation by Mrs. Mitali Mazumder, which celebrated the role of women and also protested against the violence against women. It made a plea to humanity to respect women, to acknowledge her identity, that she was somebody's mother, somebody's sister, somebody's daughter, somebody's lover, but first and foremost she was a human being.

After this, a beautiful and lively dance performance by Shragdhara Dey, student of 5th



Semester, Sociology Honours came forth. It cheered up the spirits with its rhythm and spread joy in the air.

After this came an enlightening address by Prof. Soumyadip Ghosh on 'Womanism', referring to "women in performance". He said what gives woman womanhood is the essence, whose presence is necessary, and which is a constant open-ending process, and never a product, and which cannot be limited. This was followed by a delightful and melodious song by Rohan Dural, student of 5th Semester, Sociology Honours. The song made the air lively and pleasant.

This was followed by a recitation of a self-written poem by Apsara Dasgupta, ex-student, English Honours. The poem questioned the stereotypes that are referred to as 'femininity'. Professors, students, ex-students all actively and eagerly participated by sending in their pictures with the pose of International Women's Day, 2021. The theme of International Women's Day, 2021, was #Choosetochallenge.

The event celebrated women, their role and human identity, spread awareness about gender equality and many such issues, and brought together a beautiful combination of enjoyment as well as insight.

~Apsara Dasgupta  
Ex-student

# **X-Plorations: An Inter-School Speech Competition, 2021 Organised by the Quiz and Debate Club**

## **'X-PLORATIONS'** *The Inter-School Speech Competition*



*College with Difference*

Organised by  
**QUIZ & DEBATE CELL OF  
NORTH BENGAL ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE**  
*A Jesuit Institution*  
**SILIGURI CAMPUS & RAJGANJ CAMPUS**

### **INVITATION**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We cordially invite you to be a part of the Inter-School Speech Competition 2021, 'X-PLORATIONS', organised by North Bengal St. Xavier's College. Due to the pandemic situation, we are holding this competition in the form of recorded video clipping which the student-participant will submit to us. After receiving all the clippings within the given date, these will be evaluated by our in-house jury and the winners will be declared. The entire event will be later uploaded online by the college for public viewing.

We sincerely believe that you will support our humble endeavor to bring some cheer to the student community in this pandemic gloom. We hope you will encourage students (Std. IX-XII) from your esteemed institution to register for the competition. Besides awards in different categories, all the participants will be provided with certificates.

We hereby request you to kindly provide your official consent of participation and details of the student-participants (name, class, email id, contact number, etc.) by mailing to [debate.nbsxc@gmail.com](mailto:debate.nbsxc@gmail.com) on or before 12th of June, 2021. The students must submit the recorded video of their speech to the above e-mail id by 17th of June, 2021. Please find the guidelines and other information below for your convenience.

We look forward to your active support and enthusiastic participation.

### **GUIDELINES**

- ❖ Topic of the speech: *Is online education the best mode of education?*
- ❖ The participant has to deliver the speech in English.
- ❖ The pre-recorded speech should have good clarity of video and audio. To ensure that, the participant is advised to record in a well-lighted and quiet place. Check your phone/camera setting before recording and set it to 720p HD. Record the video in landscape mode and use microphone/headphone. Do not move the camera.

The Quiz and Debate Club, NBSXC, took the initiative to organise 'X-Plorations' – an Inter-School Speech Competition (2021) for students (Std. IX-XII) from various schools of Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, and the adjoining areas. Due to the pandemic situation and the subsequent lockdown, the competition was held in an online format where each participant submitted the video-clip of their speech (of a fixed duration) on the given topic. The topic of the speech competition was, "Is online education the best mode of education?". Following the overwhelming response of the student-participants from reputed schools like G. D. Goenka (Siliguri), Nirmala Convent (Siliguri), Holy Child School (Jalpaiguri), and others, the competition was split into two groups—Group A (Std IX-X) and Group B (Std XI-XII). The video-submissions of all the participants were evaluated by the college's in-house jury comprising Dr. Pavanbir Kaur (Dept. of English, NBSXC) and Dr. Tamal Mazumder (Dept. of Zoology, NBSXC). The winners from Group A (Std IX-X) were Srija Dutta (1st), Swastika Roy (2nd) – both from Nirmala Convent, Siliguri – and Manjima Paul (G.D.Goenka School, Siliguri) & Prapti Sarkar (Holy Child School, Jalpaiguri) (joint 3rd). All the winners from Group B (Std XI-XII) were from Nirmala Convent, Siliguri – Sneha Agarwal and Riyana Chatterjee (joint 1st), Diya Agarwal (2nd), and Raily Pal Chowdhury (3rd). On 9th of July, 2021, the entire event was uploaded by the Quiz and Debate Club (NBSXC) on YouTube and other social media sites for public viewing. 'X-Plorations' proved to be yet another successful attempt by North Bengal St. Xavier's College to reach out meaningfully to the academic communities in and around North Bengal. The event thereby became a part of the college's noble mission to bring good cheer to all amidst the pandemic gloom.

~Ms. Payel Saha  
Convener

&

Mr. Rajarshi Bagchi  
Jt. Convener, Quiz & Debate Club

# The Inaugural Ceremony of 4 Bengal Girls Battalion, NCC

The defence of our country demands that all youngsters of the country should undergo a military training so that their services may be utilised when needed. Keeping this in view the National Cadet Corps act was passed in the year 1948. Since its inception, NCC has evolved into the foremost youth organization in the country. It plays a very important role in nation building and imbuing selfless service, discipline and leadership qualities among the youths. Over the years, it has been established as a variable auxiliary to the education system. True to its motto "UNITY AND DISCIPLINE", NCC strives to be and is one of the greatest cohesive forces of the nation, bringing together the youths hailing from different parts of the country.

A special program was organised in our College on 21st January 2021 to mark the inauguration of 4 BENGAL GIRLS BATTALION, NCC unit and also to felicitate the first batch of the Cadets. It was inaugurated under the guidance of commanding officer Col. Basant Singh by Hon'ble Chief Guests Subedar Major Ranjit Singh and Hav. Amrit Singh. The program began with the welcome note by Mrs. Nitya Rai (Convenor), ANO, NCC followed by a motivating speech by respected Principal Fr Dr Lalit P Tirkey, S.



J .Two cadets Priyoshi Das and Namrata Das shared their views and experiences related to NCC through a beautiful speech, followed by a melodious patriotic song by one of the cadets Ms. Kezia Portel. Mrs Mitali Majumder graced the program by reciting a beautiful patriotic Bengali poem.

The Chief Guest encouraged the Cadets with his enlivening speech mentioning how NCC aims at developing character, comradeship, discipline, amongst the young citizens. He also briefed about the various benefits of joining NCC.

The program came to an end by a concluding message from the host.

~Kezia Portel

1st Semester, Dept. of Political Science



International

# Yoga Day, 2021

Yoga is an ancient art which was originated in India almost five thousand years ago. Yoga is not a singular entity. It is synchronization between the body, mind, and one's spiritual self. Yoga was originated in India during the Indus Valley Civilization. Yoga first appeared in Vedic texts between 500 BCE to 200 BCE. The act of yoga has immeasurable benefits for both body and the mind. The practice of Yoga is the ultimate act of harmony between one's physical existence and spiritual essence. The perfect synchronization between the mind and the body is known as yoga. More than a physical form of exercise, it is considered as a spiritual act that makes us feel connected to our inner selves. In India, Yoga has been adopted as a way of life rather than a form of exercise.



International yoga day is celebrated every year on 21st June as a global event. International yoga day started from the year 2015. It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who proposed this day at United Nations in 2014. A draft resolution on “International Day of Yoga”, introduced by India’s Ambassador to the UN, received support from 177 nations, the highest number of co- sponsors for any UNGA resolution. Thereafter, the United Nations declared June 21 as the ‘International Day of Yoga’. The aim of the World Yoga Day is to make people aware of the benefits of Yoga in the world.

We celebrated the 7th International Yoga Day on 21st June 2021 via online mode because of the global pandemic that has forced everyone to stay indoor. To bring the people together, everyone to stay connected globally while inside their homes and spread the message of traditional Yoga far and wide, for the betterment of both physical and mental health, the Ministry of Ayush launched the “Be with Yoga, Be At Home” video campaign. The Ministry of Ayush seeks

to raise awareness about traditional yoga, and inspire people to prepare for and become active participants in the observation of International Yoga Day 2021.

Cadets of Bengal Girls Battalion NCC, North Bengal St. Xavier’s College, Rajganj actively participated in the campaign- “Be with Yoga, Be At Home”. Cadets shared their images and videos doing yoga from home. Some Cadets also shared their one-minute videos where they were seen practicing Yogasana. The morning yoga with family members was much exciting and fun. The day was filled with positive energy and freshness. The practice of yoga and its benefits are to build a healthy family and strengthen bonds by bringing everyone closer the family.

~ Ankita Sarkar

1st Semester, Dept. of English



# Activities of Nature Club Celebration of National Science Day

Nature Club of North Bengal St. Xavier's College organized the National Science Day on 29th February 2020. The objectives for celebrating National Science Day were to encourage and motivate the students to pursue their higher studies and research in Science for the welfare of people and protection of Nature. Dr. Piyush Mathur, Assistant Professor of Botany from North Bengal University, was invited to deliver a Special Lecture to encourage and motivate the students towards Science and Technology. The programme was inaugurated with lighting of the lamp and welcome speech of the Honourable Principal Fr. Dr. Lalit Turkey, S.J. Dr. Mathur, in his lecture, pointed out that everything is present in the nature and we need to observe nature closely and explain the observed things with logic. This is the only way to improve our thoughts and it will create new dimensions in the scientific world.

To create awareness among students and staff, a Poster-making competition was organized along with a skit. The skit was performed enthusiastically by the student- members of Nature Club with the Theme of 'Nature Protection'. The topics of the Poster Competition were: 1) Modern





Technology vs. Nature; 2) Recent Epidemics and 3) Biodiversity Crisis. Total forty students actively participated in this competition from different Departments. Resource Person Dr. Piyush Mathur evaluated the Posters and three Posters were selected for the Prize. All student participants were encouraged by Participation Certificates. The programme was conducted and guided by the Teacher Members of Nature Club Ms. Kheyali Halder, Assistant Professor of Botany, Ms. Barsha Dey, Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Dr. Tanmay Mukherjee, Assistant Professor of Zoology. The programme was concluded with a 'Vote of Thanks' given by Vice-Principal Fr. Xavier Alangaram, S.J.

Successful celebration of the programme was possible due to active participation of students and teachers as well as encouragement from College Administration. The enthusiastic approach of students was really appreciable during this event.

~Dr. Chandrani Choudhuri  
Convenor, Nature Club





# Pre-Christmas Celebration

On the eve of Christmas, North Bengal St. Xavier's College ushered in the festive spirit with a get-together of the college administration and staff on December 22, 2020 at the Rajganj campus. The day witnessed a small pre-Christmas celebration as well as a change of guard at the institutional level of the Vice-Principal (Administrative, Rajganj Campus). The proceedings began at 10.30 a.m. in the Conference Room with a Christmas message delivered by the respected Principal, Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, S. J. In his thought-provoking address, Fr. Tirkey looked back at the extraordinary challenges and revelations of the year brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. He pointed out that this Christmas-eve assumes a greater and not lesser significance because it brings the message of hope amidst despair. Fr. Tirkey concluded his speech by underlining the value of transcending narrow, selfish bounds in a spirit of cooperation and compassion.

The Christmas carol which followed the Principal's message was performed with a lot of gaiety and gusto by a group of female staff members, bringing alive the Christmas spirit for all. The next speech by Dr. Tamal Majumder (Asst. Prof. Zoology Dept.) marked a mellower moment—bidding adieu to the former Vice-Principal (Administrative, Rajganj Campus), Fr. Xavier Alangaram, S. J. In his speech, Dr. Majumder thanked Fr. Xavier for being a constant support and wished him well on behalf of the entire college staff. This was followed by the Principal's thanksgiving



speech in which Fr. Tirkey singled out the Jesuit principle of 'purity of intention' while commending Fr. Xavier's selfless service as an administrator, counsellor and guide to the institution. Fr. Tirkey concluded by congratulating Fr. Xavier for being promoted to the high post of 'Socius' at Jesu Ashram (Matigara, West Bengal) and by welcoming the new incumbent, Fr. Vijay Kirti Kindo, S. J. Small tokens as farewell gifts were subsequently handed to Fr. Xavier on behalf of the college.

In his farewell speech, Fr. Xavier thanked the college administration, staff and students for allowing him to make wonderful memories and new acquaintances in his tenure as the Vice-Principal. As a mark of his gratitude to the college, he offered the traditional khada to the Principal. He also offered one to the new Vice-Principal by way of welcoming the latter to the institution. The day's programme, ably emceed by Dr. Pavanbir Kaur (HoD, English Dept.), concluded with another Christmas carol and the customary cake-cutting ceremony.

~ Mr. Rajarshi Bagchi  
Asst. Professor, Dept. of English

## "X- Finity Music Fiesta": A sing song competition Organised by Music Club

"Music is.....A higher revelation than all wisdom and Philosophy"- Beethoven

The ongoing pandemic has locked us in our homes and put our activities almost to a standstill. The students are unable to enjoy their student life as much. Therefore, in order to bring the enthusiasm and vibrancy back, the music club organized a sing song competition- "X- Finity Music Fiesta", and keeping the present situation on mind, it was held on an online mode. The competition was open for every student from every department and semester. The students had to send their recorded performance videos to the concerned teachers. The selected performances were then uploaded in the YouTube channel – 'The Xavierian Symphony' - meant for the college music club. The videos of each category receiving maximum number of likes and views were declared winners and the participants were provided with e-certificates. The responses that the videos received were overwhelming. The maximum view that a video received was 2901 while the lowest was 701, and others were in between.

The event was well supported by all the teachers and students alike. The event encouraged the students to come at the front irrespective of the platform. The event also proved that the students are always ready to participate in the co-curricular activities in whichever form; hence, this reveals their willingness to grow notwithstanding the current situations.

~Miss. Rosemary Subba  
Coordinator, Music Club

NORTH BENGAL  
ST. XAVIER'S  
COLLEGE  
MUSIC CLUB  
INVITES YOU TO

### "X- FINITY MUSIC FIESTA"

*a sing song competition*

WESTERN, INDIAN FOLK, INDIAN  
BOLLYWOOD, INSTRUMENTAL

Date- 22.05.2021  
PLATFORM-The Xavierian  
Symphony (YouTube Chagnel)

Please refer to the provided  
guidelines for further information.

# MANOMITA

## Manomita

An Initiative by North Bengal St. Xavier's College

Dear students and friends,

*We are all going through trying times, fighting an invisible enemy in every breath. All of us have lost loved ones in this battle with the pandemic. All of us have felt weak and exhausted while staring anxiously into the abyss of an uncertain future. Our normal lives have come to a grinding halt with the 'new normal' of lockdown, physical distancing, and domestic confinement. It is not easy to outrun the lengthening shadow of depression and despair during times like these. And yet, we must. We cannot afford to lose hope while we live. After all, if Winter comes, Spring cannot be far behind. So let us invoke and welcome the spring of renewed hope and vigour in our lives. Let us talk freely, let us share our joys and sorrows, hopes and fears. Let us walk hand in hand into the new dawn of a better tomorrow, let our hearts become lighthouses to every weary soul who feels lost and hopeless today. With this pledge in mind, we have decided to undertake this initiative, \*Manomita\*, an interactive platform through which*

- ✓ we will share with you all relevant details regarding online classes, syllabus, exams and results;
- ✓ we will listen to your doubts, queries, or problems during these pandemic times and try to resolve them to the best of our abilities;
- ✓ you can share your thoughts and emotions with us, be they of hopes or worries, joys or fears, moments of elation or depression;
- ✓ we can exchange creative ideas or positive vibes with one another.

*\*We are just a call away on every Thursday evening from 7-9 pm\*/Any other day any one can talk to any particular teacher.*

*\*We can also meet online on every Sunday morning from 11 am-1 pm\*.*

### OUR TEAM

Ms. Sanjukta Mitra : 9593744409  
Mr. Prasun Banerjee  
Dr. Sourish Das Gupta  
Dr. Pavanbir Kaur  
Ms. Priyanka Chakraborty  
Mr. Saikat Roy

With COVID-19 being declared in India on March, 2020, we have seen a rise of cases in physically affected people; psychologically, if not physically, it has taken us through a rollercoaster of emotions. The fear and restrictions of COVID-19 has triggered immense anxiety, stress and insecurity in the minds of people. Act of counselling has turned out to be very important to restore emotional balance. This phase is not only difficult for adults or professionals but for young adult students too. With students and parents now living together, constant monitoring has led to ennui and boredom which demands more patience

from both ends. MANOMITA is an initiative taken by our college to help students during their emotional stress and also with doubts regarding online classes, syllabus and examinations. Emotions and ideas are to be exchanged in the hope that we shall overcome these difficult times and MANOMITA, we believe, looked forward to inculcating feelings of oneness among students and teachers.

~ Dr. Aparna Chatterjee  
Vice-Principal (Academic),  
Rajganj Campus

# X-travaganza

With a yearlong mark of the COVID-19 lockdown, North Bengal St. Xavier's College celebrated its online annual fest on April 12, 2021 encapsulating a plethora of cultural activities and a gamut of emotions. Although the online preparation for the event was made a few days in advance, the virtual function took place in the college auditorium.

The event unfolded with the prayer song followed by the lighting of the lamp by the Principal of the college, Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, S.J. and other dignitaries. This showed the beginning of the program with a classical music performed by one of the students and the Principal extending a warm welcome, sharing a few words with all. The chief guest of the event, Reverend Father Dr. Dominic Savio SJ, Principal of

St. Xavier's College, Kolkata took time off his busy schedule and gave a message.

This was followed by an array of cultural events where students gave impeccable performances through multiple dance forms, folk songs, classical and regional songs and poem recitals. To add cherry on the top, two alumni, Miss Kaushani Mandal shared her beautiful experiences with the institution and Mr. Satyaki Chakraborty added more colour to the beautiful event by his graceful performance.

The event came to a close with a vote of thanks from the Dean of students, Prof. Nitya Rai who thanked everyone for being instrumental and putting up the event successfully. It was indeed a day worth remembering.

~Kritanjali Ghosh  
3rd Semester, Dept. of English



NORTH BENGAL ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE X-TRAVAGANZA 2021



NORTH BENGAL ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE



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## The Question

~Abhik Das Gupta,

5th Semester, Dept. of Commerce (Acc. Hons.)

Daughter: Am I that bad that the world looks at me  
as if I am a creature to play with?

As if our clothes are meant to be torn.

Are we so helpless that we are meant to quench the  
manly lust?

Mother: You are born to Fly and not to Cry...

You are born to Build and not be Killed.

Burn the Fire and let the World admire.

You are neither Weak nor Meek.

You are a Mother like none other.

Bring out the power and let it shower.

Just close your eyes and dream your dreams.

Don't be a Whisper but Scream.



## Phantoms Without an Opera: An Attempt in Reading Kim Ki Duk's *3-Iron*

~Agnidipto Roy,

5th Semester, Department of English

Frequently branded as the “enfant terrible” of South Korean second cinema, the recusant cineaste Kim Ki Duk heaved his last breath on December 11, 2020. For informed cinephiles across the globe he is understandably yet another giant of World Cinema lost to the harrowing chaos of the COVID pandemic. At 59, his immature passing marks an irremediable loss to the *avant-garde* scene of South Asian art-house cinema. Kim’s cinematic subversions have always served as a rebuttal both to the plebeian fetishization of American big-screen bashes in the name of blockbusters and the so called European cult often pigeonholed under various “waves”. Known for his films like *Time* (2006), *Pieta* (2012) and *Moebius* (2013) his oeuvre is usually prized as transgressively thuggish, voyeuristic and elliptically surreal. Kim however earned his special name for violent aestheticization worldwide with his solemnly poetic 2004 release, *3-Iron*. As his *sui generis*, *3-Iron* indeed stands out as Kim’s signature campaign in bizarre experimentations. A somewhat preliminary reading of the visual text might well serve as a humble tribute to the contributions of the great director per se.

The primary narrative of *3-Iron* centers around a mute loner called Tae-Suk. Tae-Suk compulsively breaks into apartments while their owners are gone and attends to the undone chores and broken possessions. On one of his pathologically voyeuristic excursions in the movie, he accidentally stumbles upon a depressed and abused model and eventually ends up fleeing with her as an accomplice to engage in their ritual of reparation.

What might constantly be an issue of contention during the reading of the film’s narrative is the question concerning positionality of the two central protagonists. This is further accentuated by the fact that what translates to be the quintessential filmic language in *3-Iron* is in itself happens to be the language of an ineffable “lack”. The film deliberately subverts the conventional methodology

of communication itself. The overwhelming silence of the protagonists is artfully strung together through lack of words, lack of a voice and the lack of a comprehensible motivation. Such a series of multiple “lacks” unendingly amounts to a bizarre and alien medium of articulation, more expressive than any verbally saturated film.

Despite being symbolic and opaque in its process of meaning formation, the language of *3-Iron* ironically proves to be readable enough. This rarefaction is complemented by the couple's deviations from the conventional discursive formations germane to “normal” South Korean bourgeoisie existence. The “lack” in this instance is that of an inability to attach oneself with the conventional methods of the society and is purposively conveyed by the nomadic “otherization” of the couple



in question. This otherness renders their positionality as apparitions.

The film is haunted, but not in a way which the populist parlance of the term insinuates. The spectral presence of the awkward duo is the result of their being totally unperceived as their bodily existences are not affirmed until the end of the film. In one instance Tae-suk's discomfited presence is not even registered by the abusive husband of Sun-hwa, the latter being lost in the frenzy of domesticating his wife. Tae-suk while in prison learns to shadow his opponents and literally turns into a ghost. Kim tactfully encloses the audience within his spectral realm with the camera changing into a subjective narration from Tae-suk's point of view. He even deters police surveillance. The masterstroke lies at the film's closing shot where the weighing machine, supporting

both Tae-suk and Sun-hwa locked in embrace, reads “0 kg”. The weighing fulcrum affixes the two “different” characters as phantoms blissfully apart from the cold “opera” of a “sane” society and its coercive demands for coherence.

Kim Ki Duk's quick engagement with the complex anxieties of life, underpinning all the trades between an individual and her/his society in many ways, often lure his audience/readers to enter the polemical premises of high end theories. It has often been suggested theoretically that human beings rely on the empirical corroboration of their memory through their attachment to sentimental objects. This prosthesis, or the technological fragments, necessary for remembering, was much famously called “tekhne” by the ancient Greek philosophers. The exploration of this “tekhne” perhaps becomes the singularly defining parameter for Kim Ki Duk's *3-Iron*, if followed minutely.

In *3-Iron*, both Tae-suk and Sun-hwa engage in an act of ritualistic “mending” of broken objects and attending to pending tasks, of the abandoned houses they break into. They often photograph their own acts as means of personal memento. This participation further materializes their hauntological status, as the owners after returning to their apartments suspect the uncanny alterity of their personal space but cannot locate it due to the absence of the vanished protagonists. On the other hand, what finally remains there are the newly defined versions of the once discarded objects, existing as the only witness to the temporary sojourn of the “ghosts”.

The elaborately treated “lack” of their presence in the narrative ironically chances out by now to be the exact factor which exaggerates it beyond the point of mundane perception. In fact the film's title itself perfectly encapsulates this ethos of chimeric existence. “*3-Iron*”, the film's English title refers to the archetypal golfing club borne by Tae-suk, throughout the film, by which he also punishes Sun-hwa's predatory husband. However, the film's original Korean name — “Bin-Jip” — opens up a new dimension to its meaning formation, as it signifies “empty houses” in English. The golfing club is analogous to the aforementioned “tekhne”, the object of memory, and it synchronizes

well with the Korean title which signifies “absence” — the two elements tantamount for the haunting existence of the couple.

Kim Ki Duk’s specialty as an avatar of violent aesthetics receives a different degree of political urgency by his tactful handling of close shots and easefully shifting focuses. In line with that, one of the crucial facets of imagerial communication in *3-Iron* also happens to cook up with the cinematic focus geared up on the character’s face. The cinematic face is not simply an empty table for emotions to play out and, according to Kim himself, it represents the character’s inner thoughts. The more subtle telos of a cinematic face in Kim Ki Duk’s films is that it acts as an area of potentiality for countless un-actualized affects. At once, it becomes an open interpretative text to exorcise different possibilities of potential emotions. Thus there always lies a lapse between the face and the affects it bespeaks.

The space presented by the face itself, as a singular de-contextualized zone, is known better by the name of “physiognomic dimension”. In the case of *3-Iron* the singular emotion exhibited by the two protagonists is bound by a rigorous phlegmatic stoicism. Thus the physiognomic dimension in this context becomes un-readable as the preliminary expressions of the characters are left ambiguous except for a few instances. Instead the overt blankness of Tae-suk and Sun-hwa seems to reflect the expressions of those they encounter.

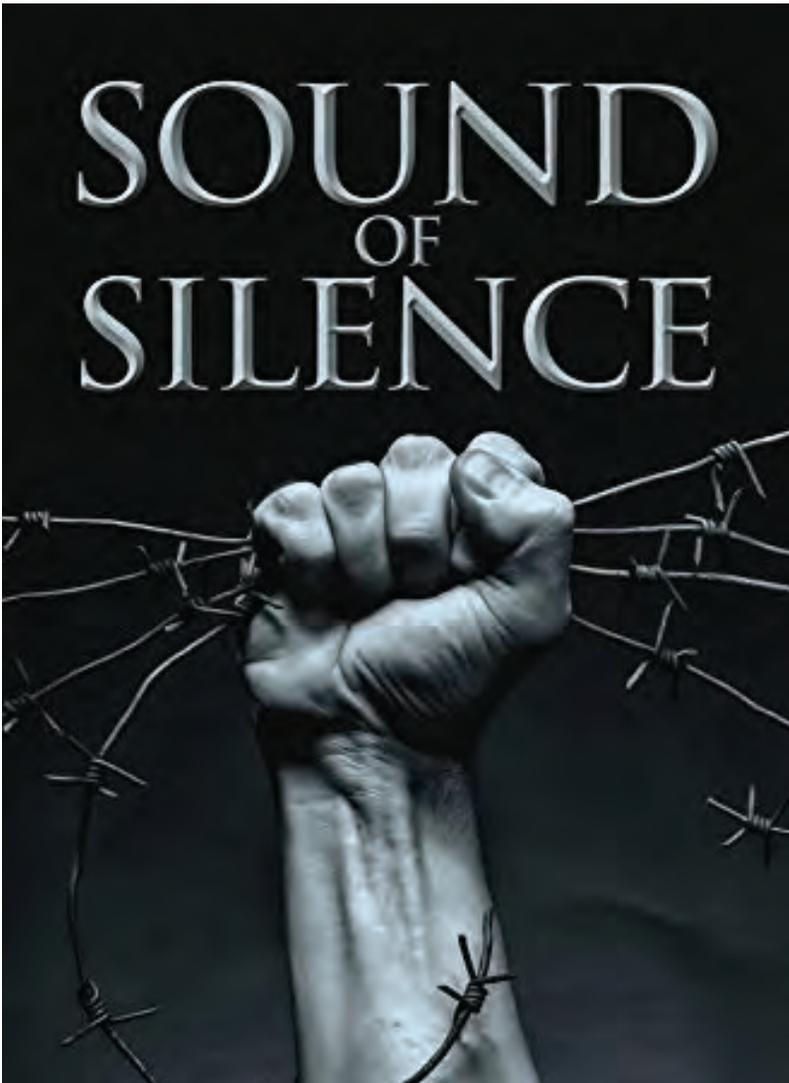
This inevitably leads to the central theme of the film — its portrayal of the affect of empathy. The couple embarks on a quest to offer non-reciprocal hospitality to complete strangers, and in turn through their blank visage, reflect the way they are received by these “hosts” of the apartments and society as a whole. These receptions prove to be varied as at times they are met with ruthless cruelty and, sometimes, with unmitigated hospitality. In one instance Sun-hwa enters a residence with the owners present and her muteness reflects the husband and wife’s tacit acceptance of the stranger’s visit. The multilayered depiction of the various contours of empathy by *3-Iron*, fashions out to be ironic as well, through the

employment of match-cut shots. The poster of the film insinuates a grotesquely adulterous *menage a trois* between Tae-suk, Sun-hwa and her husband, typical to Kim’s penchant for violent sadism. But the actualization of the image which mirrors the poster proves to be heart-warming with Tae-suk empathetically consoling Sun-hwa’s predicament within the inescapable cycle of marital abuse.

In many ways, along with its heated critique of patriarchy, *3-Iron* serves a latent politico-social subversion to the capitalist concept of private ownership, meritocratic globalization, and self-actualization which are so rampant in contemporary South Korea. It might as well be read as Kim’s attempt at a contemplative self-subversion of his own well-established auteurship so fixated on brutality, comparable only to the elegiac narrative treatment of yet another of his masterpiece *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring* (2003). Likewise it also mirrors other films outside his oeuvre like Hou Hisao-Hsien’s *Millennium Mambo* (2001), or the popular works of Wang Kar Wai. In the characteristic manner, *3-Iron* ends with the screen card “It’s hard to tell that the world we live is either a reality or a dream”. The one liner also sums up Kim’s journey in a way, as his premature farewell invariably fuses his authorship and his remarkable roster of works into one dream-like synthesis more real than reality itself.

## The Sound of Silence

- Alivia Ghosh, Ex-Student



The sunset trapped in the maze of dried boughs,  
 Filling in inked nostalgia of a past Autumn.  
 The river flowing through  
 The turbulence of silence,  
 And the Autumn sets at the exit door.  
 Fallen desires have grown tiny buds on trees,  
 In heavy luster of pink and green,  
 Love's granary is full till the mouth.  
 Colliding shadows on the half-barren streets,  
 Disappearing into the falling winter,  
 Of an unprecedented death.  
 The last drizzle of Autumn yellowness  
 Covers the mountain top,  
 Like love covers you  
 In a luxurious melancholia of suicide notes.  
 The retirement of Autumn,  
 Is soon to bring you mist-clad clouds,  
 Of an unseen winter,  
 When the November sun leaves you at a semicolon.  
 Some October when Autumn crept inside you,  
 Inside me,  
 I learnt that,  
 Love happens in fall,  
 At the pause of a coffee sip.  
 Since then many winters have passed by,  
 Bringing dream laden springs,  
 But I knew death was another Autumn away.  
 This year, when seasons changed  
 Stamping over dead bodies like a colonial master,  
 I knew it was time to post my dead letter,  
 Where I had sealed my Autumn  
 To send across the tides of an eternal winter.  
 Love and death collided in a falling meteor,  
 And I,  
 Lived like a pause.

## BROKEN-BOLD- BEAUTIFUL

~Ambalika Das, 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of Zoology

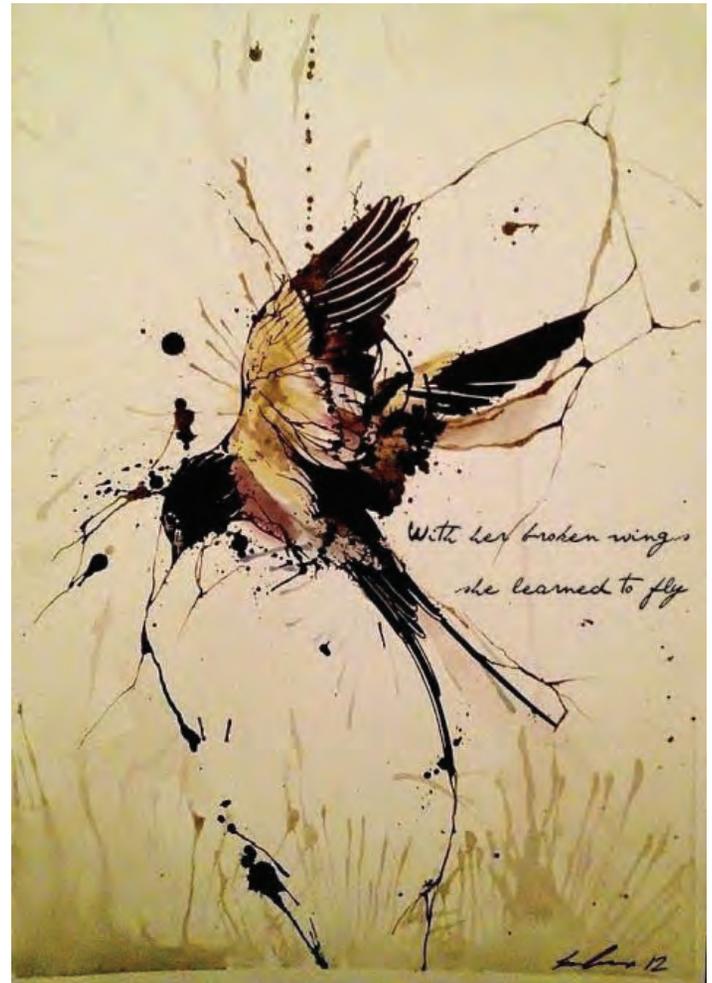


She's invincible.  
She carries a pair of white wings  
Broken, Bold and Beautiful.  
With bleeding feathers, she flies,  
To the farthest corner of the skies.  
She has a heart of wax, too easy to melt,  
Still struggled and smiled through all she dealt.  
With the universe on her shoulders,  
She carries herself light.



Well, she's a woman worth to fight.  
Misinterpreted, Mised, Mistreated.  
She was enchained by maniac minds.

She fell. She rose.  
She fought. She broke.  
She smiles and smiles,  
Smiles though choked.  
The world inside her; arduous to reach



By the ordinary turtle in her vast beach.  
Not an angel. Not a demon.  
She's an anonymous being.  
You'll look for her, look across the room  
With eyes unseeing.  
Unknown to all, she sheds diamonds not tears,  
She's a solace but often lives in fears.  
She's a breath-taking mosaic of Poems,  
With a soul too old for words.  
She's a bird with a broken wing but a woman with wonder,  
Yet left undiscovered.



## Commitment

~Anamika Paul, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

Because I believe all religion is for good's sake,  
There is no religion who does not appreciate love,  
Like and dislike make our choice, but  
I am committed to religion of my faith.

Lamas have their own style to liberate sentient beings,  
Some mock to preach, some question to preach,  
I value and respect all the Gurus, but  
I am committed to my Tsawai Lama (root teacher).

Parents are of many types,  
Some are adorable and others strict,  
How bad or good they are,  
You must not forget you are their child.

When I see beautiful objects,

I am not the perfect lord,  
I may fall on them to hurt your feelings, but  
I am committed to you my love.

I have hundred of friends in social media,  
Some might be true and dedicated,  
Some might have befriend to be spies,  
Commit yourself to true friends to share your data.

I am not a good writer,  
I am not a good story teller,  
I don't have creative imagination, but  
I promise to write whatever I can think of.

I want to commit to say,  
I will help everyone the best I can,  
I will do all goods and leave all evils,  
I won't walk on the mistaken paths.

## Music: The soul of life.

~Ananya Sarkar, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of English



A friend once told me, "Music speaks, when words fail," and I can't seem to emphasize enough on the accuracy of the statement. Music acts as a vent, and an outlet for our emotions. A couple of random words wrapped in harmony are what we often fall in love with. How amazing is that! Be it a heart-warming, classic retro or contemporary, upbeat pop, music has accompanied us through it all. Like an umbrella held above our head on a rainy day or that one streak of sunlight through the clouds on a dark, gloomy day, music has not only been a permanent savior but also a constant radiator of love, joy, optimism, agony and several other human sentiments. This timeless art has

played a significant role in establishing emotional attachment among individuals, has lend us a helping hand in acknowledging how beautiful is a world with rhythm and melodies in it.

A musical work ages like fine wine. With every passing day it gets so much better. The more we listen to it, the more we get affectionate towards it. A piece of music belonging to the Black & White era or to the 80s & 90s has made it to our playlist; the new generation's playlist indeed is a clear-cut example of how music is capable of working wonders.

From renowned Bollywood music personalities like Kishore Kumar, Alka Yagnik, Kumar Sanu, Arijit Singh, Armaan Malik, Shreya Ghoshal to splendid pop solo artists & bands such as Charlie Puth, Selena Gomez, Shawn Mendes, Camila Cabello, One Direction, Why Don't We, One Republic, also mention worthy K-pop, Spanish and Latin tracks, music has come a long way.

Putting on our headphones and listening to our favorite artist is a feeling like no other. Music can be addressed as an anti-depressant, a happy place, a source of relaxation and so on. Some songs work as an optimistic, exalting, some manifest the concept of friendship, love, some makes us reminisce the good times and the bad ones & apparently some will remain as our all time favorite, close to our hearts now and forever. Grateful to music for being by my side through thick & thin, for offering a shoulder to rest my head on. Thus, music will continue to live on till the end of time. That's the inexplicable beauty music holds.

## Homes

~Apsara Dasgupta, Ex-Student

What do you call a home?  
 A sofa, a television set, few beds, and a kitchen?  
 Oh, and a strip of balcony too!  
 My homes have funny looks,  
 And funnier stories to tell  
 My homes roar laughter over lunches  
 And rush eagerness at the bell.  
 I call those places homes,  
 Where I find myself most me  
 Where the classroom breathed joy  
 And the blackboard sang life.  
 Those cloudy mornings  
 With a chirp of "Hellooo sweetie! How have all you  
 been doing? It is time to pull up your socks now!"  
 To make the day bright again!  
 Or a performance and a concern,  
 "I am not here to give you summaries,  
 I am here to trouble your mind with thoughts and  
 questions- learn to think, learn to think critically!"  
 Or some great puns, and swift advices,  
 "Dash the difficult word to the ground, and the mean-  
 ing would reveal itself!" Or witty comments, and  
 reflective insights,  
 "Emma....wow, how thoughtful about Harriet....poor  
 Harriet, though!"  
 "The tableness of a table makes it a table—  
 Why are you closing the windows? Let the rain  
 come....you are the students of literature, have some  
 feeling in yourself!"  
 Homes.  
 Homes.  
 The grassy field, bathed in sunlight  
 The hundreds of flowers, with difficult names  
 But simple namings  
 The sitting lazily at some afternoons  
 Chatting away things that came nowhere near to mak-  
 ing any sense,  
 Or we thought so then,

That crowding at food stalls,  
 With fans not working, but somehow, never making it  
 felt,  
 That buying biscuits, and being surrounded, by the  
 four legged angels on the street....  
 By the library books,  
 And the canteen meals  
 By the exam schedule,  
 And the result charts  
 By the paper and glue,  
 And the quizzes and seminars  
 By freshers and farewell,  
 By the student, and the ex-student  
 I walk past these rooms...  
 They embrace me.  
 They are mine.  
 My homes.



## Life must go on...

-Barnali Biswas,  
5<sup>th</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

If you must go, then go for a while  
Remember that first step is a hard travelled mile.

To learn what lessons life has in store,  
You must be willing to open each door.

Don't be afraid to experience something new  
For each experience will be a benefit to you.

Never live your life in the past  
Enjoy every day as if it were your last

Mistakes you will make along the way  
Learn from them, and you'll be okay

Set your goals high and strive for them  
As long as you try, you'll never be condemned

Be kind and respect the people you meet  
For they may be the ones to make life complete

Be sincere in everything you do  
And treat others as you wish they would you

Whatever you do, make sure you're content  
For the last thing you want is something to resent

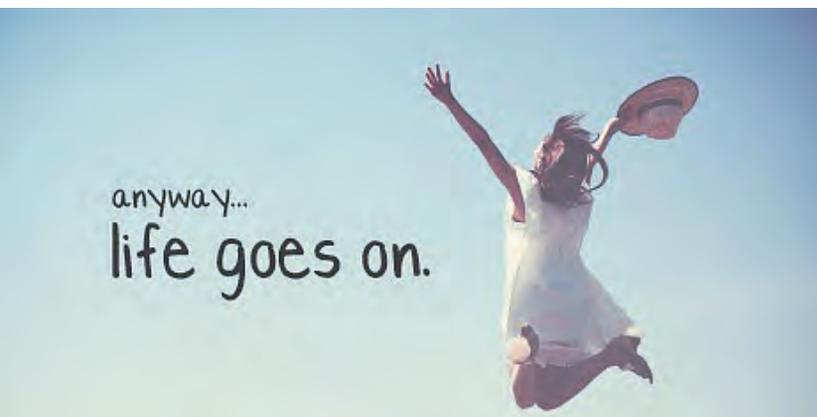
So if you must go, then go for a while  
And when you return, return with a smile.



## Art of Living

~Debdut Sen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

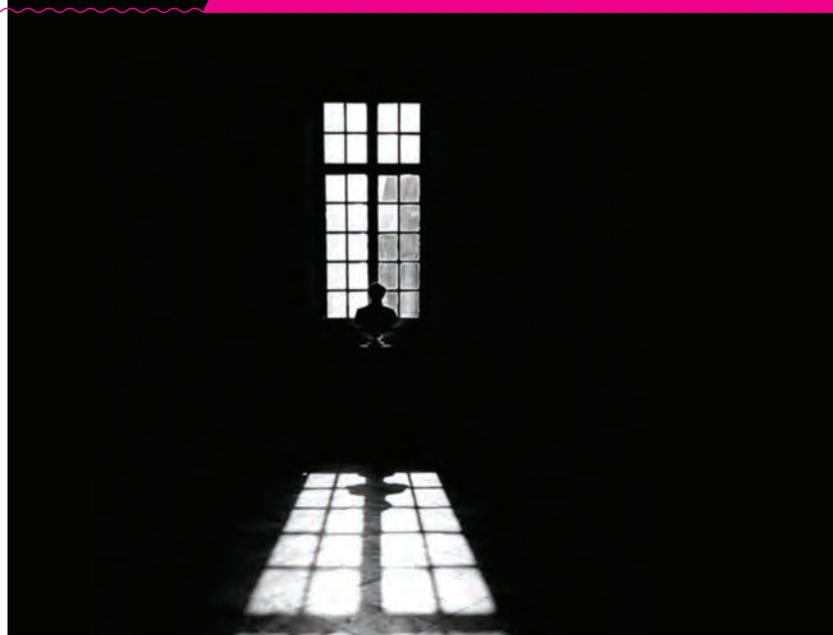
They say never settle,  
Don't subdue your voice.  
But we find contentment in little things too,  
Because happiness is a choice.  
The limit is the sky, they say,  
Endless and vast.  
But you can only grow and prosper,  
If you learn to forget the past.  
Live today to the best you can,  
Let future be ruled by your deeds.  
Life is not about Fb and Instagram,  
There's no delight in scrolling feeds.  
They say, money is the fuel,  
Important and dear.  
There are thousands of millionaires, filthy rich,  
Living anxious, sorrowful and uncheered.  
Life changes every moment,  
Permanence is a farce.  
Don't waste a single second,  
Each day - a new journey starts.  
Love is the charming flavour of life,  
That alleviates all the strife.  
I again say, happiness is a choice.  
An eternal smile obscures a thousand cries.



## Growing up being the Child

~Debjani Bhowmik, 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

Imagine the child is not grown.  
 It believes your eyes are fishes,  
 It paints your walls as canvas!  
 The tiny hand plucks off your glasses, giggling.  
 A tear rolls down your cheek, and it goes wondering!  
 It looks into your eyes, throws an unuttered confusion ...  
 You add, "my child, don't worry, I'm not crying ..."  
 You look up to the sky and ruminates and take a deep sleep...  
 All the scattered clouds on the ground,  
 Perhaps, mere shadows of leaves!  
 The child asks you why they're not pouring!  
 It knows your demise is a voyage!  
 Now the dream is gone.  
 Remains only the evocative lyric...  
 A roaring plane or a soaring bird?  
 Left 'your child' flummoxed all over again!



## The End of Something

~Debogyan Nag, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

At specific time periods, something ends which can either be the most beautiful thing or the worst thing. It is not your everyday routine that gets completed or your daily weekends, well, you can consider that. We live in an introspective world. Take for example, New Year, the most festive time; at this time the world is considered to be enjoying because a year has ended. Zoom in the world, you will observe, someone is going through hard times or in the worst case someone's journey of life has come to an end (This might be the most clichéd line). But on the same end, some little fellow might have been welcomed to the world which had brought a light of joy to some parents or someone has achieved his/her dreams. What I want to say is, if you take these moments of happiness, sadness, hard times, best times, enjoyment and mix it together, that will be called 'life'. You can either end it or start with hopes and compassion.

Bad Times do not last long and it will never decide what will dawn upon you. It is all up to you how you will end it. Even the moments of life doesn't stay forever it is up to us how we act on it.

## The Unexplored Bengal

Dipjeet Roy, 5<sup>th</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

It was 2nd November, 2020. Winter had just struck North Bengal, and it was evident as I hopped on my motorcycle that morning. The clear sky and the great luminary flagged off my journey that day at 6:00 AM. The journey began from Hamiltonganj, a small town in Alipurduar district, and was to end at Siliguri. As a motorcyclist, and most importantly as an individual who loves exploring offbeat locations, the route designed was an unusual one. The weather was pleasant, but surprisingly, I didn't find many faces on the road that morning. Since the road was empty, I did not hesitate maintaining triple digit speeds, keeping in mind the fine line between riding fast and riding rash. It was just 12 minutes into the ride when I reached Torsha River.



The view from the bridge was spectacular: the bluish Bhutan heights on my right, with the mighty watercourse flowing beneath it, and the view of the vast stretch of Jaldapara National Park as I pulled the throttle.

The smooth tarmac of NH31C coupled with perfect riding conditions was such bliss. Having clocked 50 kms, I took the right from Binnaguri Cantonment. This route is comparatively less crowded than the regular highway, and is adorned by the beauty of Dooars. What a treat it was to glide over such a beautiful road with the morning sun right above and behind me! It was fun and engaging! With an average speed of 73

kmph, I managed to reach Gorumara National Park by 7:00 AM.



This vast stretch of forest has its own story to tell each time I pass through it, and that day it was no exception. The national park makes you feel very insignificant, but in a good way. The outskirts of the forest is as attractive as the forest itself: the view of the golden grassland with the backdrop of deep green thicket never fails to amuse you.

After crossing Malbazar, I encountered an unexpected downpour, not strong enough to abort the journey. The view of everything around me changed dramatically as it stopped drizzling. Everything looked so fresh and new as the rain had washed all the dust and dirt away. Riding in the rain evokes a different feeling altogether.



The lush green tea gardens, the wet road and the overcast conditions accompanied me till Gorubathan,

from where the ascending started. Celebrating my solitude and gliding through the narrow mountain road, I was having a great time. After few odd miles and many steep hilly turns, I reached this beautiful scenic spot, where I took my first halt to hydrate myself and to recharge the batteries of the action camera that was mounted on my helmet. The next halt planned was Lava.



Distance between Gorubathan and Lava is some 40 kms. This particular road is constructed and maintained by Border Roads Organization. This road is wide, smooth and full of scenic beauty.



The view of the landscape changes with every

turn. As I moved ahead gaining some altitude, the terrain demanded me to ride through the clouds. The view of the tall pines enveloped in the clouds together with rather long off-road stretches made for a very beautiful ride.



Distance remaining to Lava was less than 10 kms when I was welcomed by the Neora Valley National Park. This huge thicket covers an area of 88 square kms and is one of the richest biological zones in the entire Eastern India.



Covering a total distance of 140 kms, I reached this beautiful town of Lava at 10:00 AM. The next objective was to reach Kalimpong, but little did I know what awaited me on the way.

The road from Lava to Kalimpong was literally non-existent. There were landslides after almost every odd mile. The road was eroded and full of slush, and hence, demanded a lot of attention. I still remember how I shuffled between the 1st and 2nd gears to tackle the dirt trail. This was the most dangerous stretch of the entire journey, but whatever I had witnessed made everything worth it.

Kalimpong, which once was a gateway for trade between Britain and India welcomed me with a bumper to bumper traffic. This hill station which is famous for its educational institutions sits on a ridge overlooking the Teesta River and is much favored by tourists because of its temperate climate and natural environment. The heavy traffic of Kalimpong killed a lot of time. Left with only the last leg of the journey, distance remaining was only 66 kms. The outskirts of Kalimpong give you the vibe of a typical hill station: narrow road with human settlements on both sides and semi circular turns at regular intervals. Being on two wheels is always fun and convenient, and in the hills, this very fun and convenience multiplies itself. On the way, I had to take a mandatory halt to appreciate the beauty of the Teesta River.

The bike was laden with dust and dirt, and so was my riding jacket. The entire journey was completed by 1:30pm without a scuff. I was very hungry and ate like a horse once I reached Siliguri. With the landscape changing after almost every 50 kms, the total distance covered was 230 kms. Although it was a one-day ride, but it gave me the true vibes of this unexplored part of North Bengal.



# Overlooking the Truth

~Dipsikha Tamang, 5<sup>th</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

We, the human beings, have made many amazing technologies and outstanding achievements over the course of time, but even with all these feats we still aren't perfect. We still have many flaws in us, in our governments, in our education and in our hearts and ideas. Around the world, there are secret wars being fought over stupid reasons, millions of lives being lost due to poverty, children committing suicide due to depression and toxic thoughts and we are yet to prevent such things from happening.

We are in the 21st century, and we just entered a new decade, and this start hasn't been much good to us, whole of Australia was on fire, Kobe Bryant and his daughter alongside 7 other beautiful souls perished in a horrible helicopter crash, a global pandemic has occurred due to the Corona virus, the stock markets have crashed. We are all stuck and have been quarantined at home. The first 5 months were really bad.... Gosh! Who knows what might happen next? But in between all this, people still get the wrong ideas to share. December, 2019-there was the outbreak of the Corona virus in China, it spread fast and in a few months' time the entire world was shut down, and some people had the stupid idea to blame every Asian they see as the reason for the spread of the disease regardless of where they are... 'Racism' started making its way back. Like for real, just because you see an Asian doesn't mean that he or she has the virus and the entire nation of China has been suffering too, they know how everyone is feeling right now.

Recently, it was this racism against Asians; before that it was Racism against Muslims, calling each and everyone of them a terrorist. Not everyone who is a Muslim is a savage who doesn't value life and enjoys killing people, a lot are trying to make an honest living and live a peaceful life, but who will

make these racists understand that not every Muslim is a murderer, nothing gets past their thick skulls. Now apart from Muslims, another community who has been going through Racism for a much longer time is the Black community, they were made slaves by the Whites, they weren't even given the rights that every human was born with in the late 60s. This went on for ages, they faced those glares from the Whites for such a long time, but even as the times changed some people never changed their opinions on the Black community. Black people are getting killed for absolutely no reason in America- Trayvon Martin, George Flyod, Sandra Bland, Ahmaud Arbery and so many more had lost their lives because some people still think that anyone who is black is a criminal, like from where do people even get these ideas or thoughts. If every black person on this planet is a criminal, why do those same racists pay hundreds or thousands for front row tickets to watch NBA, NFL, and Baseball Leagues, Football matches to watch players who are black too. We go crazy over them; was I loving them? You have the guts to call some normal black person the 'N' word and on the other hand be head-banging to the beats and songs made by black rappers. Why can't these people just respect and treat everyone equally? Everyone working on this planet has a purpose and their lives matter. It is so simple to understand yet so many just can't accept it.

It is not just in America that Racism happens, India is another country where there are thing worse than racism. A young boy gave up his life when he couldn't handle the pressure of having been falsely accused by a girl and many others trolling him for it on Instagram; girls sometimes use their advantage of being a girl and trap innocent boys over false accusations and try to ruin their lives. We use social media as a platform to voice our thoughts and keep up with the daily life of our friends and family but there are still people who use it for such things. The voice of people who are affected and seek to destroy such racism is going around the world but there will always be a few people who will try to silence this voice. In the end all they need to realize is that no matter what color, religion or race we are, we were all born as a 'Human Being', so why have racism, why can't we all just live together in peace and learn that every life on this planet matters?

## Bastion of Liberty

~Ditsha Majumder, 5<sup>th</sup> Semester, Department of Sociology



This steppe lies free  
 Where the skyline melts into the infinite.  
 A rhythm-less void and binding string formed of micro  
 granules of glass.  
 In that decisive instant carrying yet another attraction,  
 A far off cry from a place I call home; vehemently have  
 I chanted the hymns,  
 Torn apart and thrown off with brute force, offerings of  
 some esoteric ritual,  
 Crimson rose, and the essence of sandal paste in the  
 garb of vermillion.  
 I have wished ardently to disintegrate into celestial dust.  
 I have released the bane of fret, having arrived at the  
 secret root  
 Of the serene foliage that thrives inside this being.  
 I have desired to perish under the soothing benevolence  
 of its evergreen canopy.  
 I am aware though, that it is not impermanent-these  
 strings which bind;  
 That the discus sustains its spin with sparks of genesis  
 and shroud of demise.  
 The heavenly beams of the moon and the sun, which  
 gently touch my crown,  
 Bind me as well with shackles of arrear.  
 They leave me, having impressed upon my forehead the  
 icon of exile.  
 An itinerant am I.

## Fear

~ Hritisha Ghosh, 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of English



Her pace moves on,  
No matter how far,  
Some surreptitious eyes,  
Keep stalking her.

Age doesn't matter,  
They aren't going to spare,  
Travelling alone at road,  
Has become a nightmare.

Glory of her beauty,  
So stunningly mesmerizing,  
But staring of some lustful eyes,  
Has left her embarrassing.

Passing beside hungry wolves,  
With a feeling of repulsion,  
Safety of women's on road,  
Has become a considerable question.

## What is Happiness?

~Hritisha Chowdhury, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

Dept of English

'Happiness' is such a common word, right? A word we use in our everyday conversation. But trust me, when I tried to give it a definition, perhaps in my own, I failed miserably. I won't say that I didn't search it on Google as people would probably say, "Oh! Come on is it a word worthy of searching? It's a well known word to everyone". I wonder how?

Whenever I face any obstacles in my daily life I try to convince myself by telling that it will go away very soon and everything will be fine once again. But that rarely happens in my case, I often find myself entangled in that situation, rarely hoping to get any "Ray of Happiness ". How much I have understood in my 18 years of life is that Happiness ain't something that you sit back and wait for. And if you do so, you ultimately get frustrated by that never ending wait. And at last say aloud, "why me? Even I deserve a happy life". And then we start cursing ourselves.

I stopped for some time and then started introspecting as this can't go on, there must be a way out of it. At that point of time I realised that there must be an ingredient called, "SELF APPRECIATION" within me. I literally think that I must appreciate and be grateful for the things I have, rather than complaining about what I don't. I must get over this disease called, "INFERIORITY COMPLEX", which never allows me to achieve my desired happiness in life. The long and short of the matter is – I need to love myself before anyone else, and also must accept myself the way I am, irrespective of what others perceive of me, and that is when I can be eternally happy in my life.

Well, I would like to wind up this by telling that my definition of happiness is undoubtedly SELF LOVE. Never think that you are the only vulnerable creature on this planet or the unhappiest one because there are millions like you. I learnt the most vital lessons of my life which says, "You are happy only when you choose to be happy". Never underestimate yourself because "You are RARE ".

## A love like no other

-Hritrisha Chowdhury, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of English



From the time I was born,  
Always have considered you  
As the "Best Man in the World"  
Little did I know that  
You'll be gone so soon

You never said I'm leaving  
You never said Goodbye  
You left us forever  
And I wonder why?

A million times I needed you  
A million times I cried  
You were a love like no other  
I ever have felt.

A part of me has gone with you  
And a part will always keep you alive  
Will always remember your kind words  
Through every tough time.

Heaven has received another angel  
The night sky another star  
Your life has become a loving memory  
I know you will never be far.

## Child Labour

~Kezia Portel, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester,  
Dept. of Political Science

Child labour refers to the exploitation of children through any form of work that deprives them of their childhood. Nearly 1 in 10 million children across the globe are subjected to child labour, and almost half of whom are in hazardous forms of works. According to the reports of UN, there are around 30 million child laborers in India between 5-18 years age group. This striking figure represents a gloomy picture of the "state of childhood". Child Labour takes away the kids' opportunity of having a jubilant childhood, a proper education, physical and mental well being. Many countries have forbidden it and made it illegal, but it is far away from being eradicated. India being an agriculturally dominant country, it is very natural that more than 50% of child labour is concentrated in the farm sector with industrial sector being the next. Families, with both parents working, often employ girls to do daily chores and care for the other children at time. These girls rarely get proper nutrition and are often abused or beaten. How would a child feel, if they are treated this way? A closer look shows that just 5 states in India contribute to nearly 50% of incidents of child labour. These states include Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.



Why do these children work? This is a question we must keenly ponder upon. The Child labour hotspot is the places which find a close resemblance to areas where chronic poverty persists. Indeed, poor households are the first to send their kids to work. Poverty, sudden illness of a caregiver, or job loss of a primary wage earner are some very eye catching reasons. Whatever the reason, the consequences are staggering. 30 million children live outside their country of birth, increasing their risk of being trafficked for sexual exploitation and other work. By 2025, an estimated 121 million child will be in child labour, with 52 million enduring hazardous work. Global organisations like UNICEF have been steadily working to prevent and respond to child labour, especially by strengthening the social service workforce. But what have we done on our part to prevent such a heinous crime? The Government has taken several steps on its part- the Anti-Trafficking Legislation establishes a stringent framework to nab the perpetrators and rehabilitate the victims. The child labour law in India, amended some time back, prohibits all kinds of work for 5-14 years. Also many Government institutes and NGOs like CRY (Child Rights and You), Bachpan Bachao Andolan work towards alleviating the conditions. But will this suffice for a problem that is so deeply rooted in our sociopolitical milieu? A temporary provision cannot be a long term solution.

Schemes like MNREGA, employment for women should be implemented properly. Awareness for family planning needs to be inculcated in the minds of people. Households with more kids are more prone to sending the elder child for work. The perpetrators must be found out and punished. The Government must come ahead with strict provision in dealing with the perpetrators. Education must be made available to rural children. Hence, only a collaborated effort cannot help rein in the evil of child labour. We need active participation at the level of family, community, provinces, to defeat the root of this evil. Let us join our hands to eradicate this evil and to place a pencil not a tool in the child's hand. When the lives and the rights of children are at stake, there must be no silent witnesses, "Education is their birthright, so against child labour we must fight."

## Motivation

~Komal Kumari, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of Commerce

Before writing, I want to thank my college authority, Father Principal and all the teachers for giving me a golden opportunity to share my views with the readers of our annual college magazine.



As moving forward to my selected topic, I wish to share my views on 'Motivation'. 'Motivation' is an essential factor that changes positive thought into instant action. It switches a great idea into action and can undoubtedly affect the world around you. However, not all are born with motivation. People sometimes have lack of self-belief in themselves; they often say, "I can't do that" or "the timing is not right." Being 'unmotivated' means living a life as a worn-out machine. One's life will become dull without any spark. So, to gain inner peace and satisfaction in life, one must always stay motivated.

Motivation is a force to push you closer toward your dream. If Steve Jobs lacked the motivation to launch Apple, one would not get an iPhone or iPad. It gives us a purpose to live with a permanent smile on our face. Thus, realizing and working on your self-motivation skills will make us capable of taking control of different aspects of life. The critical elements of self-motivation are resilience and optimism. The former will help you bounce back during difficult times, whereas latter will show you a brighter side ahead. This way, you will be able to control your emotions that are holding you back.

You need to locate the right motivation for you to get your spark back. You can find motivation from

a wide range of effective sources, for example, from quotes, books, videos, parents, teachers, and even nature. Ultimately, you will learn rational thinking to overcome negative emotions when you are motivated in life.

Motivation also helps in making us active in life. One will strive more to fulfill their goals. A self-motivated person always discovers a way to understand the issues hindering the path to complete a task. Moreover, they do not require other people's support to accomplish a challenging task at hand.

Motivation is something that cannot be understood with words but with practice. It means to be moved by something so strongly that it becomes an inspiration for you. It is a discipline that helps you to achieve your life goals and also helps to be successful in life. It can be defined as our inner strength which helps us to be successful in life, builds our character, enhances our personality, brings us a step closer to turning our dreams into reality, etc.

Being teenage-students, we are always instructed by everyone to stay positive and have patience to pursue our dreams. As we grow up, we hesitate while sharing our doubts or problems with others or we hesitate to take new steps due to fear of failure or the fear of being judged. Due to this, we get frustrated and take wrong opinions or decide to step back. This is all because of lack of motivation.

In order to maintain motivation in a constant manner, we need a goal or a firm dream that keeps us focused and motivated towards it. It helps in being progressive both physically and mentally. Motivation is an important ingredient of our success. You need the right mindset to stay motivated. We need to push ourselves towards our goal; no one can push us to our limits. We should be willing to leave our comfort zone because our true potential reveals as we leave our comfort zone.

To conclude, I want to say that when our hard work pays off, we realize how proud we are for ourselves and being proud of ourselves is the best thing one wants in his/her life. Do everything we can do now to live a life with no regrets. I want to conclude my write-up with a line, "Burn like fire, to shine like a star".

## Mornings

-Koyena Choudhury, 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of English



Those three trees still dance  
 To the swift songs of breeze,  
 The birds start chirping, sharp at five.  
 The only thing missing are the long walks, you and me.  
 I still walk by houses, some still asleep,  
 Some smell of hot toast and tea  
 And some of sweet cologne they spray before rushing out,  
 For they have jobs to keep.  
 Those parks you love are still fresh and green,  
 With children running to school  
 And people like you and me, grasping  
 Every ounce of fresh air while it lasts,  
 For you can't let the chaos steal your cool.  
 Bare feet giggle at the wet dewy grass,  
 Fragrant jasmines, some fall, some still hold on,  
 That artist you like still sketches by the road,  
 He does not like moving on.  
 Old, broken houses now look brand new,  
 That old shop still smells of toffee,  
 "Five rupees each", the sign reads,  
 But none to share with you.  
 I still walk by the same old lanes,  
 Some quiet as a void, some smell of talk,  
 Some lead me to places unknown, as I walk,  
 And some guide me back home.

## Days in the life of a Banker

~McNally Das, 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

"You must NPA this" said the auditor.

Hugging my toddler, stretching my arms to push the curtains away to the other end from their actual projections to let the morning sunlight shimmer and brighten up the entire room I gaped my mouth wide open.

But wait?



I do this almost every day when there are less of working staff, merely similar to accepting cheques and receiving complaints.

I have had registered myself in the Cult fit forum where I attend my live yoga and meditation classes even before my little one was born.

And yes, Hi! My name is Nishant, and I am a relationship manager at an investment bank where I am considered to be a slave and my wife calls me a foolish slave, oh, worst. Also, I hate waking up early.

I presently reside at the Silicon Valley of India, with my wife and my baby, Shaina. We got married in the year 2016 and moved to US for a year for Ritu's job.

Ritu is my wife; she works in a construction company as an OPS manager. Accordingly, I had to carry myself along with her the next day after marriage where we blissfully painted our town red

and made sure to enjoy the post marriage ceremonies as well.

But then, I felt as a croupier at my workplace. I was still superior to most of them.

I have to reach my office exactly by 9:00 Am to avoid encumbering by day further from my boss.

Getting out of the bed by 7, I spruce myself up to get hold of the breakfast and grit my teeth for the continuous and uninterrupted frenetic day at work. We drop Shaina to her pre-school and then Ritu, on the way. I still remember how Shaina had enjoyed her very first week at her school. We as parents thought she'd cry off as other kids do but she retained our reverence. Ritu had taken a maternity leave for a year since the day Shaina was born. Also, she has to deal with clients over the call and attends meetings mostly so her company granted her part time work from office and home. Poor me! I am jealous of her. I reach the office by 9:00 AM (focusing much on the time) and my seat by 9:15. My team initiates with the production by 8:00 AM. Walking every corner of the table starting from 10am when the market hits the pinnacle price of the stock to funding the approvals for the traders. From working on pitch-books to running financial projections, doing the most challenging job the entire morning and afternoon



and evening and at the end of the day, listening to boss's professionally corporate jargon. By 1, Ritu leaves her office, picks up Shaina and gets back home. On the way, she calls me up and I take a 15 minute break (which is possible in the rarest of cases) speak to them seeking how their day was until my boss shouts

"Nishant, do you get paid for talking over the phone"

I wish I could tell him the reason why he's 50 and

still single.

But then, he makes such a pretty ostentatious face out of nowhere, I just lose my sense.

Sitting on the chair until 10 PM, until the production for the day is over, not merely over but over for me.

And if someday, I ask my boss to permit me if you could allow me to go back home early, he'd question me of how am I being different from others.

I get back home by 10:30, first thing I do is freshening up myself and hug my daughter and wife.

Soon after dinner, I play with the Shaina, Ritu joins us too. We continue this until she goes off to sleep.

This continues for the entire week. I get one week off. A Sunday! A Sunday where we go initiate the day in the afternoon by going out for a long drive. Shaina loves the open roof of the car, we then conclude it by either

visiting a restaurant or out for party. We take Shaina too.

"Nishant, Nishant! Do you hear me?"

"Where is your mind tossing?"

I looked at the Professor; he was staring at me with his eyes wide open.

"Has your balance sheet matched?"

No....., no sir I'm still doing, I spoke politely.

"Nishant you very well know your parents have high expectations from you, you've your board exams ahead. Stop whatever you're thinking. Concentrate on the present."

I nodded.

And since then, I knew how Professor George's lectures make a deep impact to students who are free to think but not free to act.

## Plight of the Blue-Collared chain during the Shutdown Phase

~Monalisa Dutta Chowdhuri,

1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

Tribulation, impecuniousness, affliction echoed through the lives of manual laborers when the first ever lockdown was enforced in independent India on account of health exigency. Millions of laborers got dismissed from their respective jobs at a short notice. Their means of livelihood was taken away, shoving them into blankness.

Migrant workers, who dwelled, for employment, in distant places, far away from their town or village found themselves in a maze, bewildered and befuddled. With no sign of support and service from management, they were left with a single choice, to take to the roads and "walk" back home, miles away from their place of work. Destiny was so unkind, that it even took away lives from numerous hapless victims while they were getting back.

A mass exodus through arduous walking with bag and baggage took place, which is undeniably one of the greatest human tragedies. From youngsters to oldsters everyone endured agony. Little did they know, the malicious virus would be for a long time and will uncover its more darker, ruinous and harrowing side in the upcoming days.

Excruciation defeated them decisively and torment towered high in front of them. Gradually, their meager eating changed into critical starvation, their little sleep changed into insomnia and their modicum happiness into wretchedness.

A portion tried their luck by opening up small business works and the other portion tried to engage themselves in cultivation and livestock farming. When these means of earning did not take off for some, in less than no time, despondency choked few of them to death. Some took their lives through suicides and some by slaying their own family members along with them to do away with the distress which became too intense to bear.

A pestilence brought by the rich, but made the poor worst sufferers. Estimated results, say people died more from starvation than from attack of the invisible enemy. These days of gloominess and glumness would be engraved in episodes of history to bemoan the deaths of innocents without a fault of theirs.



## Hometown

~Priyanka Gupta,

3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of Commerce

At the end of noon  
When it's Dusk,  
I'm keen to go to my favourite place  
To relax and chill with my fellow mates.  
Sitting beside the window  
Feeling the thrill of cold wind and mesmerizing view,  
Our lives are evanescent as morning dew.  
Summers in hills are mild  
Tea and coffee are preferred here all time.  
We enjoy every sip of cappuccino with heartfelt  
Conversation,  
Happiness is to live the reality and imagining a beautiful  
Destination.

## I will be there

-Pallabi Sarkar, Ex-Student

When I say this, I might sound cliché  
As you have heard this around  
So many times, infinite times  
And people haven't really stayed after that.  
But here's something different  
Something none of us expected  
Assumed, predicted or imagined of.  
I have a terrible back/black story  
Of heartbreaks, tears and lust  
I don't know if you carry the same,  
I won't bother to discomfort you  
It feels suffocating, I know.  
There's a voice inside  
Trying to speak same old words,  
But I won't, it's moronic.  
I will be there, I say it  
Loud enough to awaken my whole body  
I will be there, but I won't say out loud  
I won't make you feel shrunk  
I just want to be there this time  
Without saying anything.  
Because I know how it feels  
When promises are broken,  
So I will not promise anything  
Nothing such to agitate you.  
All I'll be just doing  
Sudden and delicate enough  
To cheer both of us more every time  
And astonish our own selves  
With the fact that  
We can be in love so much more  
Without pretensions, and aiming for a goal.  
I guess now we are the dream  
The ambition, the intentions  
Why to chase anything again  
When we were meant to  
Walk together throughout.

## Does She really exist?

~Parna Dutta, 5<sup>th</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

For “many women the locus of control is ‘other-directed’ versus ‘self-directed’. When the focus is more on the ‘other’ the ‘self’ is missing and in some cases lost.”

We say that the world is progressing and getting better but the still surviving discrimination of women and of minorities makes it questionable. Even though banners are raised with the title of Women Empowerment, there are still problematic areas. The idea of expressing oneself seems to be quite simple but, it is not so in case of women. This is because women are so bogged down with external commence and are so influenced by the widely accepted notions of ‘what we ought to do’ and ‘what we ought to be’. The weight of expectations influenced by the age-long traditions and belief makes it quite difficult for the ‘self-flower’ of women to bloom.

Despite the factor of the society being open-minded and unprejudiced, it is hard to overlook the fact that the world is still knitting the society with the threads of binaries and still making it hard for woman to exist in the prison of patriarchy. Men have always got the limelight. It is needless to say how easy it is for men to express their self and existence and live with their individuality unlike women. For women the sail has never been so smooth and somewhere somehow is still not that uncomplicated.

Women have always tried and are still trying to look for a space to vent out whatever was suppressed within. Their self is always overshadowed. They have been always the receiver of vigorous attacks by the society starting from Sati Pratha to Dowry Practice, restricting education and basic rights, to being the victims of phallogocentric lust- women are always subject to oppression.

It stirs me from within that in this modern, unbiased world. The birth of girl child is still considered to be a curse. The bitter reality is- women in turn have become enemies of women as they are passive onlookers



while their tribe suffers. In some parts of the society, women have tested the fruit of empowerment by sowing and reaping for a long time. Yet, the major part of the society presents to us woman who have taken their roles for granted as per the tradition. They are submissive, inexpressive, overburdened. They feel insecure to speak out and express their ‘self’ for the fears of being mocked, rejected, criticized and ostracized by the patriarchal society.

As Beauvoir observes “If I want to define myself, I first have to say, ‘I am a woman’: all other assertions will arise from this basic truth.” This certainty within women is encouraging and admirable but at the same time enviable. As we all are concerned with the base of our existence, the question for women is even more relevant ‘Do women exist?’ ‘Does she really exist?’

## Global Warming

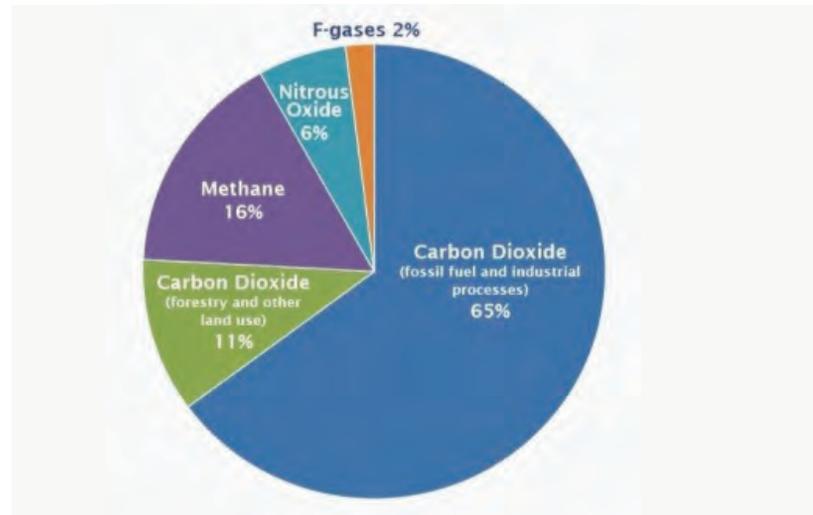
~Pratik Sen, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

What we all actually understand when we speak about Global Warming? Global Warming is an increase of average world temperature due to increased levels of carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) and also pollutants as a result of what is known as the 'Greenhouse Effect'. As the greenhouse gases build up in the atmosphere the Earth gets hotter. This process is leading to a rapid change in climate, also known as climate change. We all know that this current issue is not only leading to climate change but also leading to the change of the biodiversity.

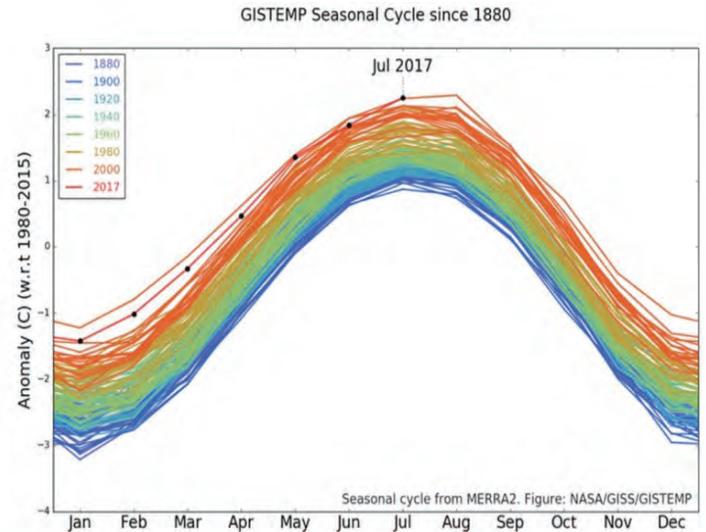


Change in nature due to global warming

When we speak of Global Warming, then, we must know what causes global warming. When carbon dioxide and other air pollutants and greenhouse gases collect in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight and solar radiation that have bounced off the earth's surface, this radiation would escape into space. But these pollutants which can last for years to centuries in the atmosphere, trap the heat and cause the planet to get hotter. That's what's known as the greenhouse effect. The burning of fossil fuels to make electricity is the largest source of Heat-trapping pollution that produces near about two billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> every year. Coal burning power plants are by far the biggest polluters. The second-largest source of carbon pollution is the transportation sector, which generates about 1.7 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions a year. Hence, we can say that global warming is totally a result of human disasters.



Factors majorly contributing global warming.



The GISTEMP monthly temperature anomalies superimposed on a 1980-2015 mean seasonal cycle.

Increase in global warming in the past yrs

- Y axis-years from 1980-2015
- X axis-months of a year

The next question that arises is that 'How is Global Warming linked with climate change?' It is scientifically proven that the earth's rising temperatures are fueling longer and hotter heat waves, more frequent droughts, heavier rainfall, and more powerful hurricanes. The earth's ocean temperatures are getting warmer, too—which means that tropical storms can pick up more energy. Global warming could turn, say, a category 3 storm into a more dangerous category 4 storm. In fact, scientists have found that the frequency of North Atlantic hurricanes has increased since the early 1980s, as well as the number of

# A Powerful Being

~Priyoshi Das,

1st Semester, Dept. of Political Science

storms reach categories of 4 and 5. Floods of all kinds-riverine floods, those due to snow melt and coastal flooding due to sea level rise-are increasing, and are projected to increase further. Both the intensity and area affected by floods due to extreme rains and melting snow contribution are projected to increase over India. For instance, if we speak about the cyclone Amphan, in 2020, India, then we all can remember how tremendous and horrifying it was. Experts say that Amphan took 40 hours after its formation to become a super cyclone. The main reason behind this was the high sea surface temperatures of 32-34 degrees celsius in the Bay of Bengal. General long-term warming of the Bay of Bengal was the leading cause of rapid intensification. Hence, it is pretty clear that this was one of the effects of global warming. Not only Amphan but there are many more in the past years, such natural disasters (although natural yet an ultimate result of human activities) are surely going to increase in the upcoming years if we individuals don't change our lifestyle.



Huge cyclone of 2020, amphan

Lastly, I must say that Global Warming cannot be solved easily if people do not practice well lowering of carbon emissions, law and regulation's implementation and effective forests and agriculture management. The solution of this issue will be more effective when individuals will change their lifestyles. Individuals can contribute to reduce the changes in the global climate through changing their habits. We must try our best to solve the problem and strive as much as possible to reinstate our Earth for the sake of future generation.

In this era of 21st century where most of us are running towards something for self satisfaction and security, its good though to be a centralized and focused person. But decade passes we forget to look and think about our inner beauty and inner growth. An inner growth is the blend of love, power, giving-ness, peace and harmony.

So, from where actually we can get this beautiful experience of self is by investing our time and charging up of our mind by connecting ourselves with the almighty God. Either I'm a Hindu, Muslim or Christian, Jain etc; we all have that one powerhouse of supreme God where we all are same without any comparison and discrimination.

Moreover, when we started creating joy within ourselves by the help of just a habit of good thoughts, we can create our Destiny too, because once the great Swami Vivekananda said:- "A character is a repeat of habits and habits which form a character alone itself..." So, this is the total conclusion when from compulsion you come into conscious mind which do things according to present sense, you create miracles then.

Nowadays busy schedules & busy lifestyle are so hectic that we even do not get time for family, but what makes us environmental friendly is our relationships. This teaches us the exact meaning of kindness, adjustment, to face ups and downs together and being in a bond of accepting each other flaws in each circumstances of life.

One step for good karma can create thousands of goodness to others for everyone most important to you, spreading love, kindness, humanity to each and every divine souls in this our mother earth. We all are filled up with happiness and joy, we do not need to extract joy from anyone, our soul should have its emotional remote control to itself, vibrations of positive vibes are way more up than a negative thought, so from today take a decision for inner self growth by doing goods to others without expecting anything in return.

Good deeds are always paid off, and it does not have any fixed date or time, it just comes to you.

## THEY DON'T RAPE

~Purnasha Kundu,

1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept of English

She cried, she howled, she screamed, she yelped  
It wasn't black enough,  
Yet nobody helped.

They, the three ugly faces, with six vile hands  
Clutched a grip on her...  
The little frame like that of a dove's feather was  
engulfed, leaving those weaponless eyes which were  
motionless and retired.

She wasn't raped at all  
She wasn't raped!!  
Her life was hung alive and her soul remained un-  
draped.



## The Best 3 Years

~Rainy Kalden, 5<sup>th</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

As a freshman, I was nervous about college. Being introverted only added more anxiety. But I have found St. Xavier's to be more than just a college. Now, in my last year, I can assert that my college life has been golden.

It is at college that I have met some of the best people in my life. I could not have asked for better friends. A shout-out to my 'GG Gang'. I have had so much fun and made memories which always make me smile.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to my dear Professors. I have enjoyed learning very much with you. Thank you for making me feel so accepted, comfortable and confident to explore new horizons.

Indeed, North Bengal St. Xavier's is much more than just a college. It is a family which nurtures you to bloom, enriched with knowledge and values. A big "Thank You" to you, North Bengal St. Xavier's College, I have had the best three years with you.



## Rainbow

~Rainy Kalden, 5<sup>th</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

Once I was a child  
 Life was plain black and white  
 Now I am an adult  
 I see life in crazy rainbow colors.  
 Some colors wound me,  
 Some tire me out,  
 But my! What a pretty rainbow it is!

I want to hide from the sun  
 Drown my smile in the rain  
 Will all the change  
 Deem my rainbow the prettiest?

Let's hope it shines bright.  
 Let's hope the storm won't blow it away.  
 Wait for me!  
 I'll see you when I make it  
 To the other side  
 Of that pretty rainbow.

## Scariest things that exist (in my opinion)

~Resh Bhattacharya,  
 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

Bright light/sun.  
 Words like 'forever' and 'bye'.  
 Broken promises.  
 Phrases like- "You aren't enough",  
 "You should try harder",  
 "You disappoint me/us/them" People growing old.  
 Being forgotten/abandoned.  
 Text messages that seem sweet but intend to be  
 sarcastic and hurtful.  
 Looking in the mirror and not liking what others might  
 have thought seeing that face all day.  
 Meaning nothing to someone,  
 for whom I want to be somebody.  
 Flat lines on ECG.

## Where Are We In This World?: Questioning the Answers with Chekovian Madness

~ Ria Chowdhury, Ex-Student

Where do I/We stand in the binaries? Like being unaware of the super posed state of Schrodinger's cat from outside the box, how can we tell if the other is sane or insane when we are all inside our metaphorical boxes?

This dilemma revisited me while reading Anton Chekov's short stories. In two of his short stories, 'Ward No. 6' and 'The Black Monk', Chekov with his majestic proficiency tunes into the aporia between Sanity and Insanity. Professionally a doctor and the short story genius that he was, he "dealt insanity as inspiration" which is why he first creates a psychological profile of his characters and then throws them into philosophical discussions.

In 'Ward No. 6', Gromov is cognitively disoriented while Ragin, the doctor, is just the opposite and intellectualizes almost everything including Pain. While Gromov whose existence relies on his agonies tells us about Pain from his lived experiences, how do we, then, derive a conclusion to who is mentally

fit or not fit in the society when we already have an institutionalized answer, that, "Once prison and lunatic asylums exist someone has to live in them."

The Black Monk mirrors hallucinations. Kovrin's harmless; non-intrusive hallucinations which even being harmless solidifies as a reason why his wife Tanya feels that they are to be treated. In a conversation between Kovrin and his imaginary apparition of the Black Monk, the monk tells him "I exist in your imagination, and your imagination is part of nature, so I exist in nature too." This convinces me and I tend to ask, why is something so natural needs an ailment?

There can be two ways to live. Either by letting our memorized intellectual faculties paves a way for us or by rebelling to exist in one's own in-sane way. Chekov has made me ask two simple yet complex questions to myself. The first being, 'Who Am I?' The epistemology that constructs me or my phenomenological journey that constructs and deconstructs me? And second, 'Where Am I in This World?'



## Happiest Days Of Life?

~Rohan Rana,

1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of Political Science

School days should be a happy time in a young person's life. How can people's lives be miserable during this time? In my opinion, there is one word which answers to this question – 'Bullying'.

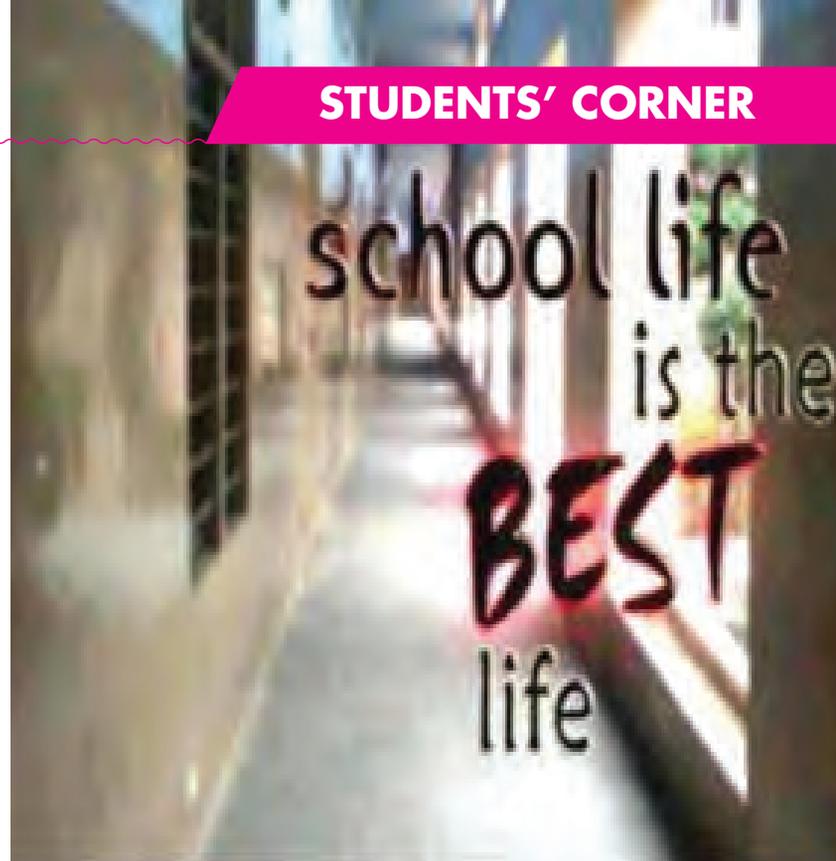
Unfortunately, bullying is quite common in schools where I live. It can affect students of any age and both boys and girls. A friend of mine had a very negative experience in the school last year as a senior student had been continuously taunting him by various names since many days and sometimes used to post nasty messages about him on Facebook. Obviously, my friend felt very upset about this and it affected his self-confidence. Moreover, he stopped coming to the school due to this for few days.

School bullying is a type of bullying that occurs in any educational setting and can happen at any class or standard. Victims of schools bullying are primarily targeted for their sexual orientation, stereotype, race, learning disabilities, and sexual behavior among others. Bullying can be exhibited through physical, verbal, or social hurt. Sometimes kids have bad days and may be mean to others but that do not necessarily mean that an act of bullying to be occurred. 'Bullying' usually happens out of three factors:

1. The behaviour is unwanted and aggressive.
2. There is an imbalance of power (e.g. physical strength or popularity).
3. The behaviour happened more than once or there is potential for it to happen more than once.

### Where does bullying happen?

Bullying can happen anywhere, but the highest occurrence tends to be places where there are lots of children and less adult supervision – for example; the playground, lunchroom, bathroom, bus or other areas where there is less structure. The bus is a prime example, as drivers have limited ability to observe children and condemn acts of bullying. This is also the reason that Cyber-bullying is an increasing problem – it can be difficult to monitor and



supervise children when they're online.

Bullying can happen at any age and at any time. At the primary and secondary school, bullying most frequently happens in between the classes, on the bus or online. At the College level, it can happen between classes, in dormitories in labs, and online. Unfortunately, bullying can happen anywhere: In public or private settings, in school, in the home or office. Bullying can manifest in many ways, but from a psychological perspective the main symptoms are : increased anxiety, depression, insomnia, heightened vigilance, persistent fear of re-experiencing the bullying and sharpened sensitivity to feeling or seeing others bullied.

### What can people do to stop this problem?

Personally, I think teachers need to be aware that bullying may be happening in their classes and be very strict when they have a case of bullying. Another thing teachers can do is preparing lessons to talk about the problem with their pupils, which might make bullies realize how badly they hurt their victims. As for students, if they find out a classmate is being bullied; they should morally support him or her as much as possible and let a teacher know.

## Best Practices in the Prevention of Bullying and Responses:

- Focus on the social climate as bullying Prevention requires changes on social climates-changes in attitudes, norms and behaviours take time and commitment.
  - Creating safe and caring places for youth involves a comprehensive effort on the part of everyone.
1. Seek out support for Bullying Prevention.
    - Early and enthusiastic support is critical from leaders of schools and youth programs.
    - Commitment from a majority of the staff is also important.
  2. Coordinate and integrate prevention efforts.
    - Bullying Prevention should be coordinated and integrated with other efforts.
    - A coordinating group or committee will help inform decisions on ways to combine, coordinate or adopt strategies.
  3. Provide training in bullying prevention and response.
    - Adults must understand the nature of bullying, its effects and how to prevent bullying, which includes effective policies and rules.
    - They also need direction and the skills to stop bullying on the spot and follow up routinely with youth involved in bullying and, if warranted, with their parents.
  4. Spend time talking with children and youth about bullying.
    - Talking about bullying and its prevention helps youth to read social cues, appreciate differences, be understanding, and self-respect.
    - Discussing bullying also help staff gain insights and build trusting relationships with students.
    - Lessons about bullying, positive behaviour, and social-emotional skills can be incorporated in a school's curriculum.

In passing, 'Bullying' can be a nightmare but these are the things we can do to prevent it. Hopefully, one day all students will be able to go to their schools without fear of being bullied.

## The Rule of the World

~Rounik Ray,  
3rd Semester, Dept. of Commerce



The world never stops  
Endlessly revolves  
That's the rule-  
The rule of the world  
Along with the world, we  
All move,  
Without stopping for one single moment.  
Though at times life seems  
to have frozen, while the clock  
Keeps ticking.....non-stop.  
Sometimes that pause in between tries to last  
forever.....but a failed attempt that is!  
Again we keep going  
Our life starts flowing  
Smoothly..... non-stop  
That's the rule-  
The rule of the world,  
It has been like that-  
Always,  
It will be like that-  
Always.  
A mere pause in between may  
Sometimes last long  
But not forever  
That's the rule-  
The rule of the world  
Rules can be broken-  
But not those made by mother Nature  
Herself.  
The world still moves,  
Till eternity  
It will move.  
So never stop  
Just keep moving  
And the earth too  
Will move.  
Do not be afraid  
If life pauses,  
Do not stop  
You keep going  
And the world will move.....

## Love Yourself, Speak Yourself

~Sagnika Mitra, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

“Tell me your story. I want to hear your voice and your conviction. No matter who you are, where you are from, your skin colour, your gender identity: Speak Yourself.”

“Find your name; find your voice by speaking yourself. I have many faults and I have many fears, but I am gonna embrace myself as hard as I can, and I am starting to love myself, little by little”.

-RM(BTS)

In the present world, where each person strives for perfection and tries to be the best, we forget the most important value of our lives, i.e., to love ourselves. Loving ourselves, irrespective of all our faults and failures, should be our first priority. We should never forget that if we don't love ourselves



first, the world won't value us. In order to be loved by others, we have to love ourselves first. We are like roses and the thorns are our imperfections and flaws. Instead of hating ourselves for it, we should embrace them as our flaws make us who we are. Situations may not fall in our favour every time and unexpected things may happen but we shouldn't be disheartened by those temporary incidents. The most constructive

way of loving ourselves is to stop comparing ourselves to others. Some people may be better than us and we maybe better than some people, but that shouldn't stop us from prioritizing ourselves above all. We are the one we should love. Look for what you love to do and develop within it something special for yourself. We should comfort ourselves everyday and tell ourselves that we are doing well.

The next most important thing is that we should always speak for ourselves instead of waiting for others to speak for us. After all our problems are our own and the only one who can solve it is the person we see in the mirror every day. Our main objective should be to stop blaming ourselves for the minor faults we make and love ourselves for being who we are. We should always listen to our own voice and believe in our galaxy and stop viewing ourselves from the viewpoint of others. We all are artists performing on the stage called 'life' and expressing ourselves in this journey can be through various methods may it be music, art, writing or whichever field we are interested in.”Maybe I made a mistake yesterday, but yesterday's me is still me. I am who I am with all my faults and mistakes. These faults and mistakes are what I am, making up the brightest stars in the constellation of my life. I have to learn to love myself for who I was, who I am and who I hope to become.”

Loving ourselves should be our first priority. Then we should urge the voice within us to speak for ourselves. We have every right to put forward our opinions and there is nothing that can stop us from doing so. We are who we are with all our imperfections and there is nothing to be ashamed of because the best gift from us to us is the gift of “Loving ourselves”. Your greed to become perfect should not be the weapon to suffocate you and become a leash around your neck. Loving ourselves is tougher than loving others because the standards we make is stricter for ourselves. Don't fall in pieces in order to take the place of the countless stars and become the target of thousand of bright arrows alone. Our attitude towards us should be always positive because that is the happiness we need for ourselves. Believe in yourself and love yourself.

## Living Life

~Sangeet Sing,  
1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept of Microbiology

Work seamlessly like the river.  
As hard work never goes in vain,  
Be stubborn in your goals,  
As you have to reach your aim.  
Be gentle like the raindrops in a desert,  
Good words and good principles always make a man  
better.  
Always be honest and stick to the truth,  
Lies and treachery are always of no use.  
The lion and the fox never bury the hatchet,  
Both know that they may put each other's life at stake.  
Avoid the foxes in a lamb's hide  
for they are often found in your own side.  
Broaden your mind, avoid narrow-minded persons  
Think out of the box; look for ideas in all directions.  
Lastly, do things that excite you,  
Life is short; it gets over in a moment or two.

## Late eve call

~ Sankha Deep Dey,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

So pleasant was the eve, blue and moody  
Echoing was the house with chatter  
She runs down the stair pounding on each step  
Following the tunes of the melody coming from the  
radio  
Noise of cutlery and glasses as time for the meal was  
ascending  
The clock hit 7 as they sit for the dinner every face at  
the table was having a smile  
All of a sudden the telephone rang  
Gone was their chatter and laughter  
As her dad was called for the war  
Which was been fought  
Beyond the border and far  
Its been long time he left  
Longer than a year  
In the long wait she sat  
Filled her with despair  
Grey to white it turned  
Lost the hue of her hair  
All what was left in the end  
Was her old mom's empty chair...

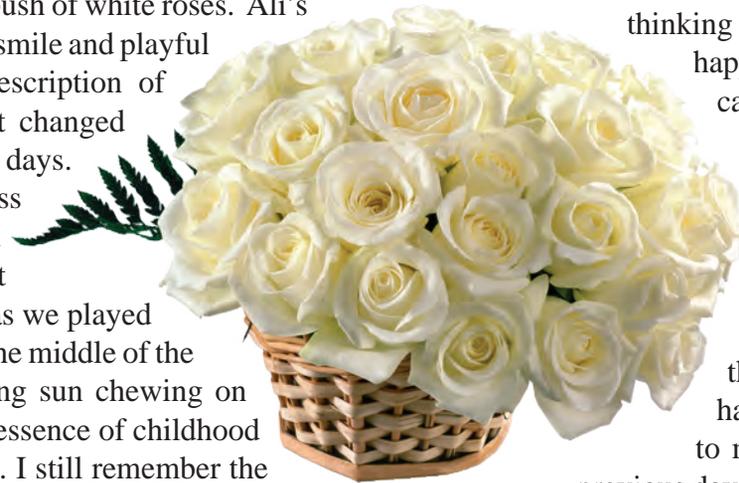


## A Bunch of White Roses

-Shania Paul, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

As the sun rose on a changed landscape, the new day witnessed a new beginning, but for the worse. It was 1947 and the landscape lay battered by political ambitions. The wings of the “Golden Bird” had been cut off and she was groaning with agony and pain. Her strength was being broken into several parts; Her eyes, perhaps lost the strength to shed tears; but my sorrow was no less to me and brimming tears in my eyes, tears of “Fear – the trembling hope”.

A green meadow between Ali’s house and mine, served as a playground for the both of us. The meadow had beautiful lush green grass and several flowers and trees. The center of the meadow had a huge old Black Plum tree (locally known as jamun) under which we would sit and eat the fallen fruits. Although our favorite plant in the meadow was a bush of white roses. Ali’s innocent face, mischievous smile and playful nature were the perfect description of my best friend who hadn’t changed a bit since the childhood days. The meadow stood a witness too many happy and mischievous memories that were made by us together, as we played cricket or football or sat in the middle of the meadow under the scorching sun chewing on some raw black plum. The essence of childhood is not a thing for us to miss. I still remember the fun we had in the rainy day holidays , we used to go for fishing or we would make paper boats and float them away or even go for collecting mangoes or black plums that would get detached from the branches , due to the storm, the previous night. Sometimes we would play football mudding ourselves up from head to toe. We would also get wet in the rain together. Whatever we did, was done together, for Juno’s swan we were, inseparable from each other. We were spending happy days together, life seemed impossible for the both of us without one another. The slightest sorrow I had was known to Ali and the slightest joy he had was shared



with me. Well, that’s how best friends are supposed to be , right?

Our little mind being quiet satisfied with the small world we created for ourselves, were totally unaware of the changing political scenario leading to the partition of India. One fine morning, I saw some policemen supervising a construction on the meadows. The sight and the Chaos made my body numb and my face pale. Before I could ask my Father, he himself called out to me and said, “Ram, you must not go near the border, this side of the border is India and that is of the border is Pakistan, a different country with different authority, rules and people. You shall be punished if you cross the border. Keep my words in mind. Under no consequences shall you cross the border. Ali will be told the same by his parents “, saying this father went back inside the house. The words of my father hardly made any sense to me, but that I couldn’t cross the border was enough

to rock me to ruins. I stood in the veranda thinking to myself, “Why did this happen?” “Does this mean I cannot play with Ali ever again?” “This is the worst day of my life!” Tears rolled down my cheeks. Beyond this demo, lay my childhood best friend’s house and half the green meadow which had been a common friend to me and Ali, until the very previous day. I was too young to realize the weightage of the situation – “Partition of India”, “Different Countries” , or “legal punishment” were too heavy for our young minds. The barbed wires that dissected the land into two were enough to break Ali and my heart into thousand. The next afternoon I met Ali on the other side of the border. Oh! How I wish this demon that separated us had just vanished that moment! Ali’s innocent face was wet with tears, his mischievous smile had vanished. In that very second we realized that everything had changed forever. Our innocence was burdened with disillusionment. We should be

playing by then in the afternoon but our desire were too unworthy to outweigh the greater “well-wishes” of our country. We stood there in silence, gazing at each other while tears rolled down our cheeks. The sun neither set as usual – in his land and mine, for they were the same. The birds chattered the farewell for the day and they sang for both the lands. After all the blue sky, the birds and the sun neither belonged to India nor to Pakistan for they belonged to Mother Earth, “to the spirit of life that was everywhere the same” and above all they belonged to each other.

Days passed by and the two of us grew more and more remorse, our happy days had come to an end. The afternoon that used to witness their togetherness and mischievousness now stood as a witness to their helpless tears, sadness and loneliness. The rainy days seemed no more fun to them, they would close their windows and doors and sit quietly at home. The green meadow looked rough and the plum tree had died, it seemed as if the world came to an end for them. Such was the depth of their friendship, such was their love for one another and such was their immense pain without each other.

Yet India had to be partitioned. Yet two nationalities had to be established. Yet Muslims and Hindus had to be treated differently. Yet communalism had to show its ugly face to satisfy the evil ambition for some.

It was afternoon. Since the morning that day, the thick black clouds had kept the blue sky enshrouded; the depressed sky and drop dead calmness of the nature seemed to synchronize my feeling. I was standing in the courtyard gazing at the border, suddenly when I turned to go into my house my eyes fell on Ali and my favorite plant in the meadow, the sight of the fully bloomed white roses growing on my side of the border. These flowers loved by the both of us, were often collected by us on happy days that we had spend together. It started drizzling; my heavy heart could no longer hold my emotions behind. I rushed to the plant and picked up as many roses as I could with my firmly clenched fist. I called out for Ali. Ali was there behind a tree in no better condition than I. Ali then appeared Infront of me. I tried to pass the flowers to him from between

the two barbed wires. The wires hurt me and my hand started bleeding, but that did not make me give up. I pushed one of the wires down widening the gap so that the flowers could pass with great care. Ali did the same from his side to the upper wire, yet after a strenuous effort of will and by the strongest determination, I had passed my bleeding hand through the two wires and Ali's hand, in no better condition than mine awaited the little gift. As we held hands, the rain gained force. They were the tears of joy shed by Mother Nature. The white roses which were stained by blood were washed off and were white as ever in the rain again. The drops of blood on the ground could hardly be distinguished from one other.

### Society: She

~Sonali Patikar,

3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

They say, “she was raped”  
Because she wears an odd outfit  
Or, she went to a night treat  
So, she got raped.

Boys to go to night treats  
Roaming around with bare tricks  
Drinking like a mephitic chit  
Nobody is going to see them bit.

A girl is only considered as a rape victim  
With a broken spine and a cut off tongue  
Burnt alive with no justice  
Society is still sleeping after seeing all these.  
Marching with placards can never stop raping girls  
Putting status on social media  
will never give justice to the girl  
Because it is humanity that comes from the heart.

## Primordial Meditation (The True Name Of God)

~Sishir Bhagat,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

The Bible says, "In the beginning was the word, the word was with God and the word was God." Here, 'word' does not refer to products of the alphabets of any language, because all languages came into existence after the creation. St. John is referring to the Primordial Vibration, which is the First cause of creation. Indeed, all words are vibrations of varying frequencies, but the Holy word is fundamental, or source vibration of constant frequency. It does not oscillate.

All vibrations are emitted by the word and ultimately merge in it. This is the real Name of God. All other descriptive names that are dependent on alphabets for their existence are attributors' names—they are not the real name because they are not all permeating. The other names are written within the range of time and space, whereas the holy word is beyond time and space.

In the Vedas, it is said, "God was certainly alone before this universe. The word was His only possession. He then desires, 'Let Me emit this word' and this word pervaded the whole universe. It rose upwards and spread as a continuous stream of life."

All the alphabetical and linguistic names for God are not stream of life flowing in the man, but it is the word due to which the body is living. Glorifying the word, Guru Nanak said, "with the one word the whole creation manifested."

The whole creation has evolved from the word, from the shabd-Brahm, with the interplay of sound vibrations, giving rise to matter. So, the word is the power through which the Almighty manifests and creates. Lao-Tsu called it 'Tao'. He said, "Eluding sight, eluding touch, within it are hid the plans of all created things. The Name, which can be named, is not the true Name. The Tao which can be expressed is not the everlasting Tao."

## Feelings and Views as a student in the present unprecedented Pandemic situation

~Sonali Patikar,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

A noble Corona virus was first identified in Wuhan, the capital of China. It is been said that corona-virus was first found at Wuhan in September. Due to occasions, such as Christmas and New Year's Eve, many people from that place had migrated into many other places of the World for the celebration. This is how noble Corona virus had start spearing around the World. This virus is a family causes fever, common cold as per WHO. As this pandemic started spreading around the globe, almost all schools, colleges are forced to close their doors as result 89% of World's students.

Students were clearly panicked by the virus which does have the potential of stopping schools and college and push major the academic calendar back. But it is always been said that 'Difficulties are the primary stage of recovery'. In this lockdown period many we learned many new things which will help us in other ways. Some has learnt how to cook, some had found interest in music, some has learnt gardening, and some tried to do household work. In this way we have learned so many things. Online classes helps us in our studies, as well as attending many webinars has also assist us in doing new things. Online preparations for administrative services are very beneficial. Lockdown period is stale for some people who has not exploit it decently. This pandemic has brought the economic crisis which is becoming a principal issue. Doors of incoming money were totally close for so many days. Many workers have lost their work due to the huge pandemic which is a very thoughtful matter. Those who have lost their work are now jobless and had no proper lifestyle. But, after all these problems people are still happy because of home coming. Coming back to home is a blissful time for

those who stays far away from their parents. Staying together in this time is important.

Overall this pandemic has made people together as well as harmed so many ways. As a student

we had learned so many things in this pandemic time which will help us in our works. Thanks to all the doctors, nurses and police those who take care and protect us from this situation by risking their lives.

### Times

~Sonam Laden Tamang, 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

Embedded in the power of rain

and such are the times I'd like to reflect on myself,

such are the times when the falling raindrops mean much more than just rain itself.

Such are the times that wash away the rigidity, the pain, bringing softness and harmony.

Such are the times when love is in full bloom and the joyful raindrops splash against the still puddles.

Such are the times when all the dullness is washed away and a new aura of freshness and tranquility resur-face.

Aren't you thankful for such times?

For the rain ?

Such are the times when you find the air so fresh and when you breathe you take in the serenity inside your being thus cleansing your soul.

Don't you feel like your whole soul is rejuvenated with newness and energy so pure?

Such are the times when I am truest to myself.

Such are the times when I appreciate all that i have.

Such are the times when even a simple cup of coffee tastes better.

Such are the times for fresh starts and new beginnings, for courage and dedication.

Such are the times when hope is to brim and better

Tomorrow is waiting to be welcomed,

more often than not,

such are the times when I feel so great to simply be alive.

and such are the times that truly count, such are the times.



## Hayao Miyazaki and Ghibli's Empowered Women

~Sonia Singh, 5<sup>th</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

"I create women characters by watching the female staff at my studio. Half the staff is women"

~ Hayao Miyazaki

Studio Ghibli has been a very recent but an important discovery for me. The pioneering Hayao Miyazaki is a man way, way ahead of his times. The novelty of his filmmaking lies in the simplistic representation of life through magic realism, mysticism, and native folklore. While his films do have the charming animated



aesthetics to lure the visual senses of the younger lot, they also very much appeal to the grown up spectrum of the audience with its rich storytelling and underlying themes waiting to be decoded.

Hayao Miyazaki, apart from being a brilliant filmmaker, is also a sensitive old man. He and his kin of Ghibli directors look out for feminine sensibilities, embody them in their women characters and impart them their own agencies to develop independently. They are not flamboyantly dressed and are inclusive of women from diverse spaces ultimately becoming role models for the many young women watching those films. For starters, quantitatively speaking, women are in abundance in Studio Ghibli films. They claim the roles of protagonists and antagonists both and belong to all age groups.

Kiki is enterprising, Chihiro is brave hearted, Lady Eboshi is authoritative, Shizuku is ambitious, San is wild spirited, Satsuki is a responsible elder sister, and Setsuko is simply the cutest little thing ever.

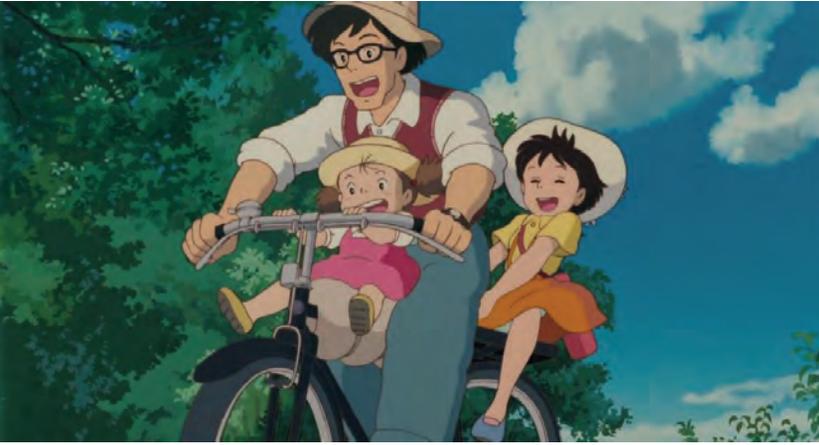
In Kiki's Delivery Service, Kiki is shown to be an energetic, young witch who leaves for a big city to learn the world's ways. She is also resourceful and entrepreneuring as she channelizes her magical powers to start a delivery service. She initially feels burnt out on not finding a purpose and hence starts losing her powers. On trying to wriggle her way out of this artistic block (though never explicitly said out loud), she finds her purpose in rescuing Tombo from a mishap. It's a fresh change from the old Disney trope of the princesses being in perpetual need to be saved by men. Miyazaki through this plot device makes the only male figure in the film not a crutch Kiki is emotionally dependent on. Instead Kiki uses her compassion as strength to get the better out of her and the situation at hand.

This technique is once again employed in another Studio Ghibli film, Whisper of the Heart (Yoshifumi Kondō) where Shizuku, a voracious reader, finds herself infatuated by Seiji, an ambitious young boy who wants to learn making violins in a quaint town in Italy. Shizuku's infatuation never manifests into a weakness but instead it drives her into being more focused and dedicated into writing her own book.

The employing of the romantic element by the directors is put to use in a very nourishing and enriching way. It teaches the young women watching the films that they ought to be self-reliant when in love and not let the love consume their entire selves.



Miyazaki is at his most elaborate and eclectic with his women representation in the film, Princess Mononoke. He takes care that the women aren't made to be a foil around a man's core character. Lady Eboshi, San, Toki



are given their own voice and their own story. Lady Eboshi is a particularly striking figure, not just as a strong headed, militant woman, but also as a very compassionate human. Apart from being a head to an entire community, she also shelters social outcasts (prostitutes) and physically challenged people (lepers), employing them and giving them a means of livelihood. She not only enables the women financially but also empowers them with guns. In her regime, war is not a testosterone led space.



In one of the climactic scenes in the film, the young warrior Ashitaka embraces the wild spirited and fierce San, calming her down and asking her for help to fight and save the world, together. The scene beautifully drives home the point that romance and peace can thrive only when the people involved are not asked to conform to gender roles and are allowed to be themselves. It normalizes men assuming gentler, benign roles while letting the women be fierce and loud and win the battle.

Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind deconstructs the very idea of a typical Princess by not just subverting

the usual characteristics of a Princess but by also retaining some of them. While Nausicaa is extremely strong headed and is every bit of a leader, she retains her femininity and traits of kindness and generosity. She is living in a post-apocalyptic world seething with toxins but she finds her way to bring a little more of the peace and warmth wherever she goes. The film subtly asserts that women can still be powerful in their femininity and inherent kindness.

My Neighbor Totoro is immensely impactful despite all the simplicity in its plot devices. Miyazaki doesn't rely on the usual crutches that most children movies use to appeal to its audience. It doesn't have a concrete protagonist or an antagonist; it simply evokes our senses like a lullaby. We are introduced to an eleven year old Satsuki and her four year old sister Mei. The mother of the two girls is sick so Satsuki inadvertently becomes the primary caretaker of her little sister and together they make a world of their own. Totoro, the magical entity they come across also embodies itself like a maternal figure protecting the girls. So even a film that has no outwardly feminist narrative to speak of, Miyazaki still makes it about women and induces a very feminine vibe to it.

In the Japanese anime culture (or even in the culturally accepted mainstream cinema) that often is infamous for heavily sexualizing its women characters who are exaggeratedly drawn to fit the slim tummy-wide waist-huge tits body type, Studio Ghibli is like a breath of fresh air. As a woman it can take you sometime to find films where you feel adequately represented and responsible filmmakers like Miyazaki and Takahata make us feel right at home. Studio Ghibli allows women to claim spaces and make it their own so that when half of the population sits to watch the films, they do not feel awry about being misrepresented or worse not be represented at all.

## Canvass

~Soumili Sarkar, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

What about

The sapling trying to find its existence in the dark,  
The flower which wants to bloom but not to fruit?

What about

The sun rays yearning to reach the women behind the walls,

The cowherd who lost his flute?

What about

The woman who was born from fire  
Or the girl who was burned to death?

What about

The lover who found his muse  
at the burial of his dear one's breath?

What about

The lotus born from the dead of living  
The child who is being touched under the veil of innocent game?

What about

The girl who questions  
And fears the conclusion of the same!

## ANTHROPOCENE EXTINCTION:

### Are we undergoing a 6th Mass Extinction?

~Saurav Karmakar, Ex-student

A rapid and widespread decline in the biodiversity of Earth is given the name of Mass Extinction and is characterized by an escalated change in the diversity of species richness prevalent in the ecosystem. Cambrian period of the Palaeozoic era witnessed the explosion in the diversity of the living organisms and thus it is generally termed as the Cambrian Explosion. Since this Cambrian explosion, Earth has witnessed many major as well as minor extinction events in its 3.5 billion years of harbouring life forms. Jack Sepkoski and David M. Raup in a landmark paper published in 1982, titled "Mass extinctions in the marine fossil record" identified 5 such major extinction events spread throughout the history of living beings, popularly known as the "Big Five".

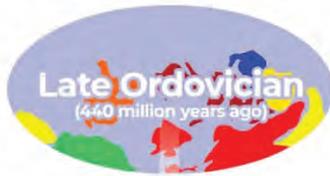
#### The Big Five

These five mass extinctions have happened on average every 100 million years or so since the Cambrian, although there is no detectable pattern in their particular timing. Each event itself lasted between 50 thousand and 2.76 million years. The first mass extinction happened at the end of the Ordovician period about 443 million years ago and wiped out over 85 percent of all species. The second mass extinction occurred during the Late Devonian period around 374 million years ago. This affected around 75 percent of all species, most of which were bottom-dwelling invertebrates in tropical seas at that time. The third and most devastating of the Big Five occurred at the end of the Permian period around 250 million years ago. This wiped out more than 95 percent of all species in existence at the time. Fifty million years after the great Permian extinction, the fourth extinction event took place in which about 80 percent of the world's species again went extinct during the Triassic event. The last and probably most well-known of the mass-extinction events happened during the Cretaceous period, when an estimated 76



percent of all species went extinct, including the non-avian dinosaurs. The demise of the dinosaur super

## The “Big Five” mass extinctions



### First mass extinction

**85%** of all species, including invertebrates like:

- graptolites
- brachiopods
- conodonts.



### Second mass extinction

**75%** of all species including:

- brachiopods
- bivalves
- sarcopterygians.



### Third mass extinction (the I)

**95%** of all species, including r animals like:

- *Dimetrodon*
- *Estemmenosuchus*
- *Orthacanthus*
- trilobites
- *Moschops*.



### Fourth mass extinction

**80%** of all species, including:

- ichthyosaurs
- paddle-finned plesiosaurs
- phytoplankton
- many species of frogs, salamanders, turtles, snakes, spiders and

### Fifth mass extinction

predators gave mammals a new opportunity to diversify and occupy new habitats, from which human beings eventually evolved.

### Anthropocene Extinction, the 6th Mass Extinction:

The Earth is currently experiencing an extinction crisis largely due to the exploitation of the planet by people. In contrast to the Big Five, today's species losses are driven by a mix of direct and indirect human activities, such as the destruction and fragmentation of habitats, direct exploitation like fishing and hunting, chemical pollution, invasive species, and human-caused global warming. Gerardo Ceballos, Paul R. Ehrlich, and Rodolfo Dirzo published a paper in 2017, titled “Biological annihilation via the ongoing sixth mass extinction signaled by vertebrate population losses and declines” has shown us the trend of

biodiversity decline in our recent past and it is really painstaking to notice. They stated that, conservatively almost 200 species of vertebrates have gone extinct in the last 100 years. These represent the loss of about 2 species per year. Few realize, however, that if subjected to the estimated “background” or “normal” extinction rate prevailing in the last 2 million years, the 200 vertebrate species losses would have taken not a century, but up to 10,000 years to disappear, depending on the animal group analyzed. It is estimated that 42% of 3,623 terrestrial invertebrate species, and 25% of 1,306 species of marine invertebrates assessed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List are classified as threatened with extinction. However, from the perspective of a human lifetime it is difficult to appreciate the current magnitude of species extinctions and this indifference has further deepened the crisis on a whole different level. Based on the number of decreasing vertebrate species listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, 32 percent of all known species across all ecosystems and groups are decreasing in abundance and range. In fact, the Earth has lost about 60 percent of all vertebrate individuals since 1970. It would likely take several millions of years of normal evolutionary diversification to "restore" the Earth's species to what they were prior to human beings rapidly changing the planet.

### Way Forward:

Each time a species goes extinct, the world around us unravels a bit. The consequences are profound, not just in those places and for those species but for all of us—not only consequential losses but also spiritual and cultural ones. Wildlife and plants have inspired our histories, mythologies, languages and how we view the world. The presence of wildlife brings joy and enriches us all. Although often obscured by the noise and rush of modern life, people retain deep emotional connections to the wild world. And, each of the extinction makes our home a lonelier and colder place for us and future generations. What makes the current scenario even more heartfelt is that the current extinction crisis is entirely anthropogenic, that is, of our own making. More than a century of habitat destruction, pollution,

the spread of invasive species, overharvest from the wild, climate change, population growth and other human activities have pushed nature to the brink. This extinction crisis is therefore, the question of the hour and, thus, immediate supervision of the crisis is really needed for sustainable development of humans along with other organisms of Mother Nature, so that we can leave a better ecosystem for our future generations to come.

## Beauty of Golden Pagoda , Namsai (Arunachal Pradesh)

~Sporidhya Paul,

3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

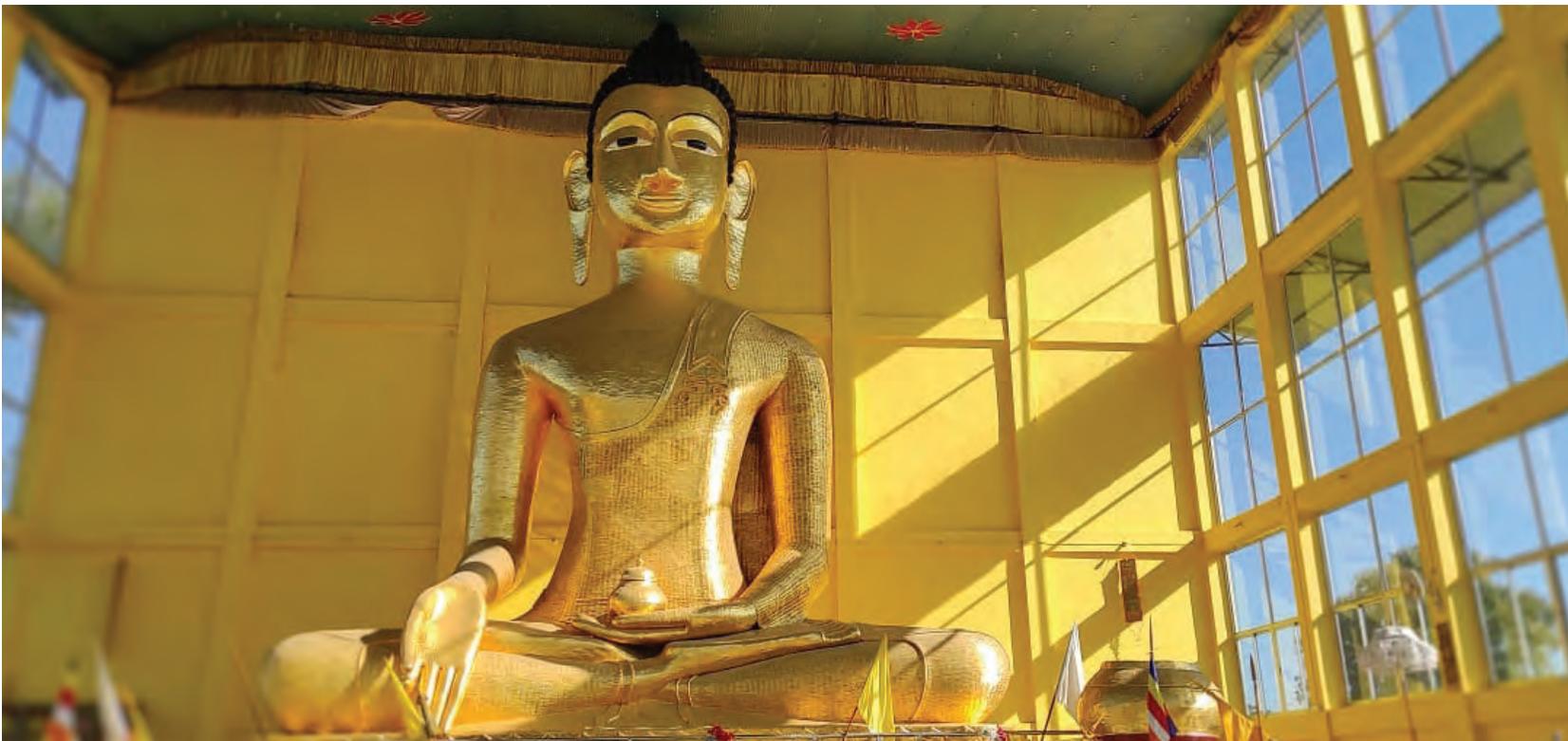
Arunachal Pradesh is also known as "sun rising state" of India. It is famous for its beauty, diversity, scenic beauty and blessed with favorable climate makes it an inseparable part of the entire region and attracts tourist from all across the world. Arunachal Pradesh is also famous for pilgrimage center. I am going to mention one of the most famous pilgrimage places of

Arunachal Pradesh. It is world's tallest bamboo statue of Buddha, "Golden Pagoda", Namsai.

The Golden Pagoda, Namsai was built to promote spiritual tourism in the region. It is Burmese style Buddhist temple that was opened in 2010. The place has become a major tourist destination in the eastern part of Arunachal Pradesh. It is also known as 'Kongmu Kham' in the Tai -khamti language. It is located around 20 hectare complex in Namsai District, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

Anyone who visits this temple and prays whole heartedly and pays their obeisance, it is regarded as the good deeds in his life. The Pagoda was built by over 300 architectures from Myanmar and skilled masons .It has an installation of 13 crowns atop of the stupas with Lord Buddha's relics from India, Thailand and Myanmar. It is also consists of the Kala Buddha of Nalanda archive.

The statue is 45 feet high and made entirely from Bamboo produced locally as well as from Myanmar. A part from the statue the campus also has a huge meditation center. It is an eco-tourism center in Arunachal Pradesh. "It is a peaceful environment and the temple is really made beautifully, it feels good



to be here. This place is unique and is neat and clean, accompanied with wonderful garden". Thousands of devotees, monks and followers of Buddha throng every year to the Pagoda as it is considered sacred and very significant.



### By my side

-Subhamanyu Ghosh,

3rd Semester, Dept. of English

Alone can travel miles wide?  
No, I can't; therefore, darling I fancy you by my side  
Agonies in my heart but I successfully hide  
I know a day life shall be bright  
Shall wait for the day to make you my bride  
Life is indeed a crazy ride  
Still hopes high like the kite  
Inscribing my pains on paper white  
Not for readers or audience  
Tell me not to stop to dream return to sense  
Let me face alone in my life acid rains  
It's my life, hence,  
Let me throughout fancy my illusory valentine by my side  
If I didn't from within I would have died  
For I keep trapped within heart trillion agonies  
So let me fancy her by my side and have peace  
Let me fancy throughout and have bliss  
Dad says he will disinherit, so in my own world let me live please  
Often Lord puts my faith on test and circumstances tease  
If you want to drink honey don't lick hive of bees  
Like wait for the perfect circumstance to arrive  
Till then towards perfection strive  
Feels like stuck on my windpipe a sharp knife  
Gradually losing everything I have  
Narrating my agonies through prose, poetry and freestyle rap  
Shall love to breathe last in her lap  
Golden opportunities throughout I fail to grab  
From failed love affairs to guilt of past I prefer to stab  
Dear, I never saw you  
With you shall start fresh and new  
In my life only felicity is due  
To acquaint truth on bed of thorn I grew up  
An ascribing revolutionist rather, miserable like few.

## Does Curiosity Kill the Cat?

~Srijani Panigrahi,  
1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

I saw some shuffled footprints on the dusty floor below. Darkness had wrapped me tight. Just that one small flashlight that was luckily left in my coat pocket helped me realise that those were mine.

I had woken up pretty early today. Time permitted me to snoop around the new neighborhood for a while.

So off I went....first to the clear blue stream, whose soft gurgling helped me have a sound sleep and then over to the small shops where the elderly sat in small groups discussing interests. Walking forward, this lush green forest caught my eye. My young brain, warm blood, highly enthusiastic, made me feel adventurous. I entered strong but as time passed; my morale began to degenerate as I wasn't able to find my way back. My keen eyes had spotted this huge green building from afar. As I drew closer, I realised that it was painted grey but the thick dressing of moss on it made it look green. There were small patches of paint peeling off. I went closer and saw a huge rusty lock hanging from the door. God knows what came upon me, I pulled at it gently, and 'thud!!!' off it fell. I gave the door a gentle

shove but I am sure, I didn't want it to open. However, a tiny part of me still wanted to explore the inside. Not very surprisingly, the door creaked and gave way. As I peered inside, what my eyes saw was darkness.

A few seconds later I wished I hadn't entered... but it was too late. I took a few unsteady steps forward. A gust of cold wind blew on my face. The door that I had just opened shut behind me with a loud squeaking sound, leaving me engulfed by the blinding darkness.

I kept wandering about for a while, nothing much of interest caught my eye. Suddenly I noticed a small opening, getting closer I saw it was a staircase. For a minute or so I was confused about whether I should explore further or not. But my curious side won. As I climbed, I realised I was shivering. There was a cool breeze which gave me chills. The surrounding was pitch black. I stumbled over a few steps, and the pocket flashlight fell out of my coat. I had forgotten that I had it there. As I turned it on, I began feeling nauseous, there were cobwebs all around, swarms of small insects, broken furniture, bird waste, and all other sorts of things that made me extremely uncomfortable. I looked at the floor and saw shuffled footprints behind me....there was no one there other than me. Whose were those? Slowly I could feel my blood freeze. I was shivering and sweating at the same time. I would throw up at any moment, my head was reeling and everything in front of my eyes was hazy. I kept staring at those with the help of my flashlight, and it suddenly struck me that those were the prints of my own shoes. As this slowly sunk into my head, I started feeling relieved. It was getting colder, I looked at my watch, it was quarter to five. Very soon it would be dark outside. At this point I decided, the smartest thing I could do was to get out of the building and try to find my way back.

So I walked back, out of the door. The sudden exposure to light made my eyes strain. The sun was on the verge of setting. I started walking in the direction exactly opposite to the building. I walked in silence for a few minutes, trying to discard all scary thoughts, which was not very easy because I had this constant eerie feeling that I was being followed. I dared not turn around, so kept moving forward very stiffly, trying to convince myself that it was only my wild imagination.



Suddenly, I stopped dead in my tracks...I saw it; I saw the shadow, a huge one. I couldn't make out what it was, but it had a lean body and a huge cylindrical head, almost three times the size of its body. It was close behind me, and kept coming closer. I was frozen. Neither could I turn around, nor could I run away. I waited....I don't know for what, but I waited. I could clearly see it was coming closer, and the sky was getting darker. Too horrified to do anything I simply stood on the spot, my eyes closed, waiting for what my fate had in store for me. Those few seconds felt like hours. Suddenly, I felt a tap on my shoulder. This touch sent a shiver down my spine. I could feel its huge presence hovering behind me. My hands were wet with cold sweat and my feet rooted to the ground. My head was dizzy. I could feel my heart thumping in my ears. I felt it again. This time I mustered up all my courage and turned around slowly.

Opening my eyes I saw, standing there in front of me was an old, lean lady with a bundle of wood on her head. She softly said "What are you doing in this jungle so late my dear?" The expression on my face probably gave away my feelings. I was in a trance. She knew better than to nag me for answers, so she said "Come with me, I'll lead you to town". I followed her quietly, and very soon I was in a known surrounding. I heaved a sigh of relief, but promised myself never again to go on such adventures alone. When she found me relaxed enough, she smiled and said "Here you are sweetie, I'll leave you here and go my way, I'm sure you can find your way back home from here, can't you?" I nodded with a weak smile. She smiled again and began walking away slowly.

I made my way back home as soon as possible, and as I entered through the gate, my nose filled with the smell of apple pie. I smiled to myself.



## My Heart Has Grown Wings

~Srijani Panigrahi,  
1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

Long ago, when Instagram wasn't in action  
There wasn't a thing called a comments section  
When celebs didn't cloud my screen as if it were their own  
Or rather, when very rare was the sight of a phone

When my folks prepared long, just to catch on camera  
my very first dance  
Since then have I dreamt to be known, through lands  
and waters, just a chance it was!  
The sheer joy of being on stage  
Set my emotions free of their cage  
Riding on the roller coaster of life  
Burden of care and the pain of strife  
When my heart held a surging swell  
And darkness on my soul befell  
When the world grudged my fears  
I clung onto the stage, forgot all fears  
And then I woke up, O that is where I belong  
I could get my world with a will real strong  
Where I can love and laugh to my heart's content  
And no one would question my sentiment

Slowly I grew with the feeling intense  
Experiencing life, as it made more sense  
Every step forward would be tougher than the last  
Preparing for the future, learning from the past  
I fought against so many with a desire to perform  
Not compromising with the lessons of reform  
No stopping me now, no bindings no strings  
I am enlightened. My heart has grown wings.

## I've Had It, Mr. M.M.X.X.

~Srijon Ghosh, 5<sup>th</sup> semester, Dept. of English

Last January, I was told  
My jaw is electric  
And my potential? Well,  
At least, elastic.  
So I sunk my teeth in necks of nights  
Despite all the despites.  
Tracing mountain ranges,  
I was capable of changes.

Pure ambition struck March,  
Made me colour my empty room.  
Smell of paint kept me awake  
To dream pyrotechnic bloom.

And I understand life is in flux and that caterpillars are  
subject to change,  
That bliss is only bliss till it's looked into again,  
That I burped and I sighed  
And even though my jaw got fried,  
And even though the paint went dry,  
I felt loved here from April to July.

Now, I slur rather than enunciate.  
My mouth no longer remembers,  
It only knows how to dissipate  
And it's only September.  
I think about the joy  
As a kid watching Astroboy,  
But I've spent it on my inhaler  
And old parents growing paler.

We'll survive,

That's not the concern

The current in my bones that doze off like sawdust,

It will run again.

## Limbo

~Varsha Maheswrai,  
5<sup>th</sup> Semester, Dept. of English

You are never more alive than when you are a teenager, your brain is flushed with chemicals that can turn your life into a story of epic purpose. In mind, it feels like posture, and only Saturday night is the eternity of solitude and your lab partner becomes a great love of your life. And here I start my senior year nothing interesting or remarkable ever happened to me.

I was grateful for my life. I had my best friends-all three of them. I wanted a platform to express who I was and how I viewed the world. But the platform was pointless unless I actually had something to say and I didn't because nothing has written about ever happened to me. Then on the day when I found out something finally happened:

I do not love you as if you were salt-rose, or topaz,  
or the arrow of carnations the fire shoots off.

I love you as certain dark things are to be loved,  
in secret, between the shadow and the soul.

I love you as the plant that never blooms  
but carries in itself the light of hidden flowers;  
thanks to your love a certain solid fragrance,  
risen from the earth, lives darkly in my body.

I love you without knowing how, or when, or from  
where.

I love you straightforwardly, without complexities  
or pride;

so I love you because I know no other way  
than this: where I does not exist, nor you,  
so close that your hand on my chest is my hand,  
so close that your eyes close as I fall asleep.

~ Pablo Neruda XVII

(I do not love you...)

And it goes on,

Where do you go to, why do you go  
What are your colours what are your mood  
To see you I turn.  
To know you,  
I burn.

Maybe I was looking for you  
Clearly, I wasn't going to see you  
It just felt strange  
Waiting to tell you...

People are just the ashes of dead stars, just the collection of Atoms that come together for a brief period of time and then fall apart, when all this is over and was dispersed back into nothingness we have a clean slate, so to carry all the sins wiped away.

Think about what it means to be a teenager? Your parents pressure you to succeed, your friends pressure you to do things you don't want to do. Social media pressures you to hate your body. It's hard, even if you're a well-adjusted kid from a good family. So now imagine you can't be the person that you love, like Romeo and Juliet or you lose the person that you love, like Holden or Conrad. There is a reason why, when every author, from Shakespeare to Salinger writes about young people, they can't avoid the truth that, being young is so painful, it's almost, like, too much to full.

But have you thought about what it would be like just not here anymore? And I don't say that casually, but I do say it because hiding that shit and not saying it makes it worse. It should be talked about. All of our shit should be talked about...

The teenage years are Limbo. You are somewhere between being a kid and an adult, and the world, uh, tells you to be mature and express yourself, but the minute that you do, it tells you to shut up... The thing is, adults are just scared kids who were lucky enough to make it out of limbo alive. It has been explained that the teenage brain goes through an upgrade before it matures to an adult brain. So, the upgrade is like an explosion of connections of synapses as we figure out what's right or wrong. What we like, what we don't like. You know, who we want to be, each issue on the page is the brain refining itself, figuring itself out, until eventually, it's out of Limbo. Sometimes it's just easier to slip into your own dark abyss and forget the world exists. People change. There's no way you're the same person you were when you were 14.

Well, the bad news is it hurts. Your brain has gotten used to a steady stream of dopamine and oxytocin. Here

we go again, Yeah, I know. I'm sorry, but that's what causes all those blissed-out feelings of love. And now it's replaced with stress hormones. They are going to make you feel like garbage-headaches, tight muscles, and tight chest. Your body is craving those feel-good chemicals. It's basically withdrawal.

Love — it's a chemical reaction ... that comes and goes. Here's the good news: so is heartbreak. Your brain adjusts. Your body chemistry changes back to normal. When you're a teenager, the chemicals in your brain drive you to make decisions that rip you away from the safety of your childhood and drag you into the wilderness of adulthood. A friend once told me that adults are just scared kids who were lucky enough to make it out of teenage limbo alive. I urge you to go outside and look at the world through that prism. Look at your parents, your older siblings. Look at strangers you pass on the street. Look at them and imagine that at one point in their lives, they too walked these halls. They too felt the unbearable loneliness, the absolute unbearable powerlessness and darkness of being young.

We tend to think of scars as ugly or imperfect as things we want to hide or forget. But they never go away. I finally understand that scars are not the reminders of what has been broken, but rather of what has been created.





Abhik Das Gupta, 5th Semester, Dept. of Commerce

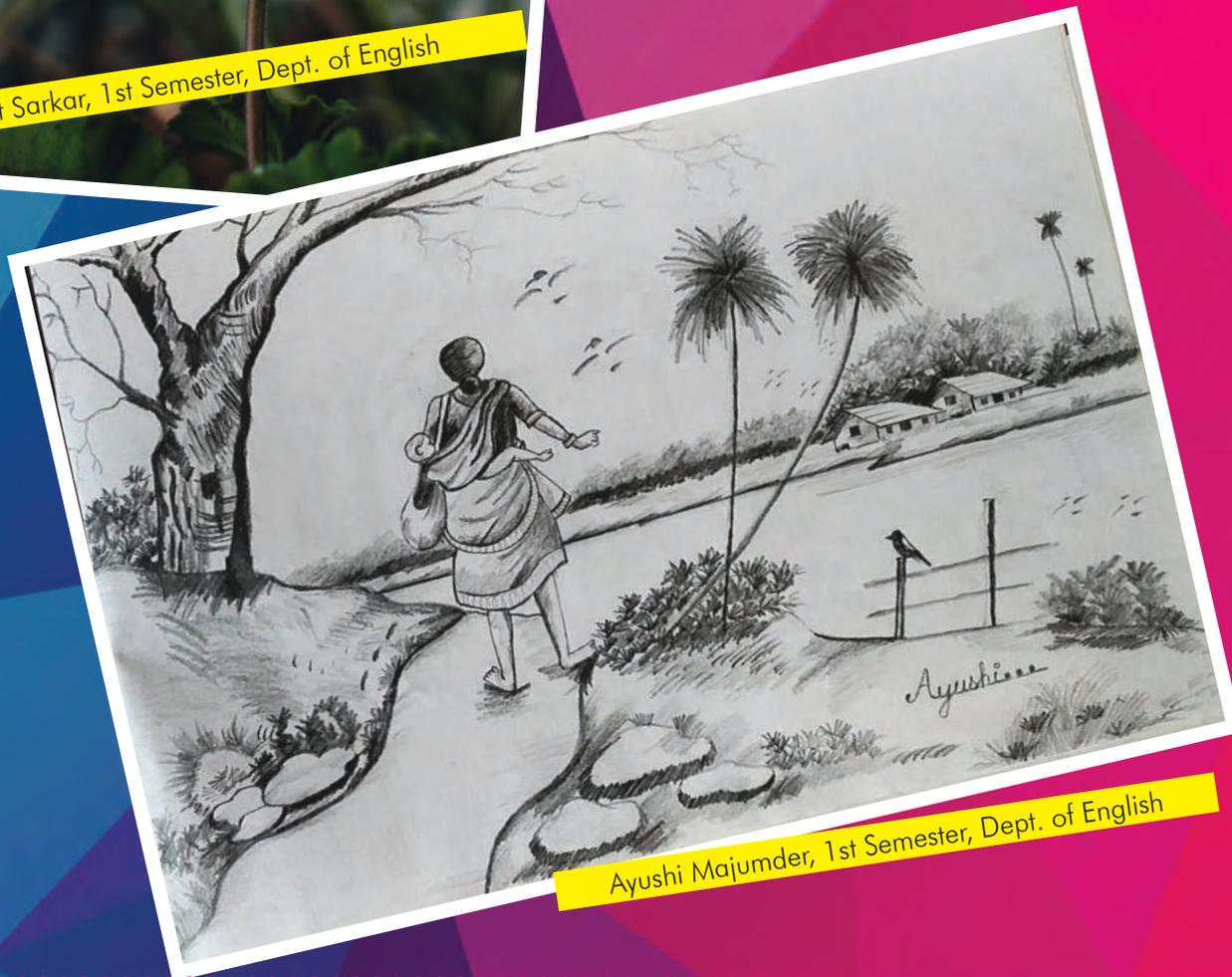


Arkadeep Bhowmik, 1st Semester, Dept. of English

# PHOTO GALLERY



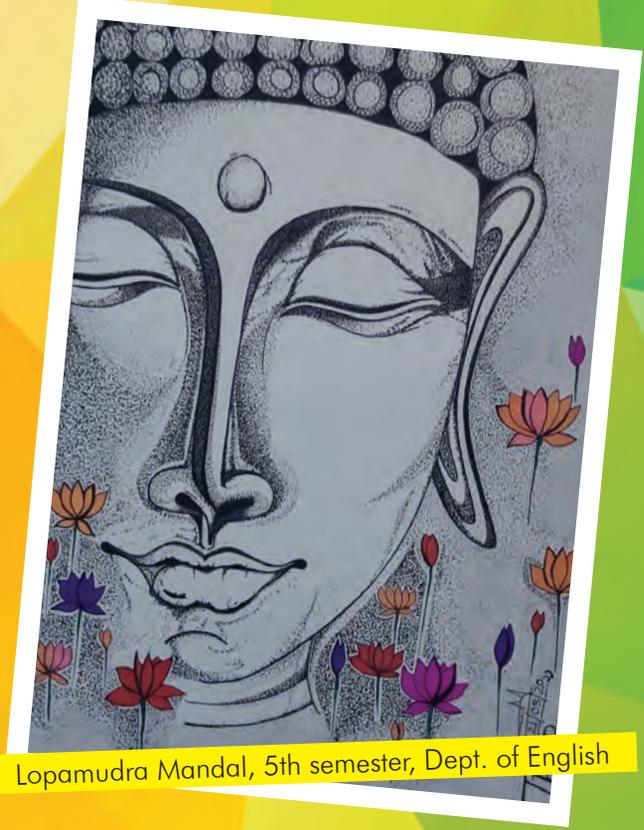
Avijit Sarkar, 1st Semester, Dept. of English



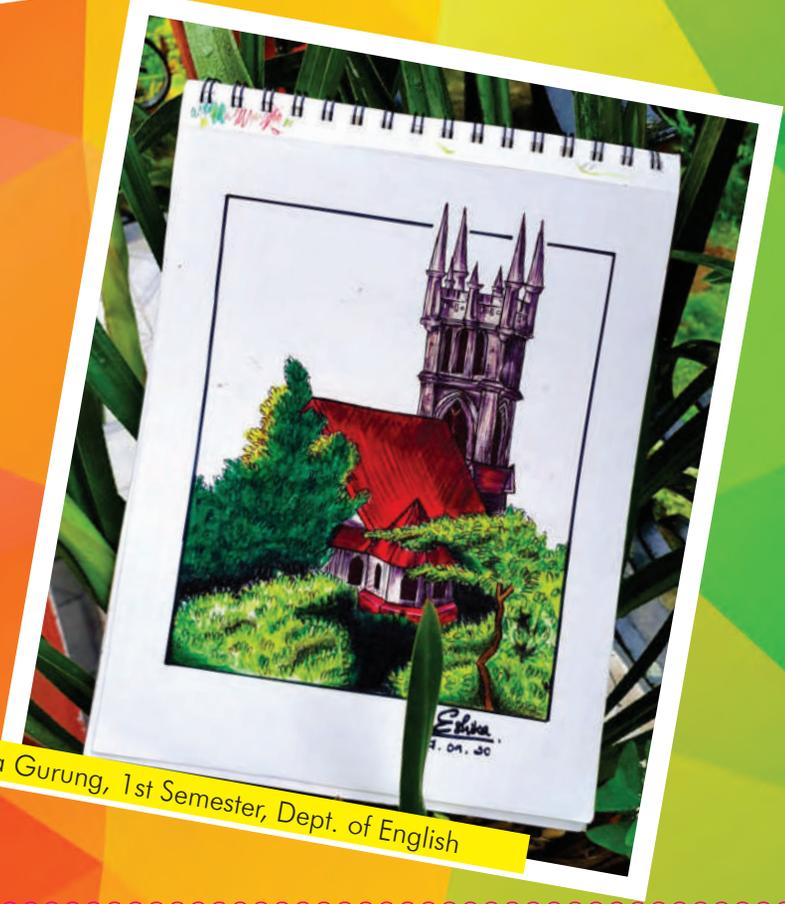
Ayushi Majumder, 1st Semester, Dept. of English



Barnali Biswas, 5th Semester, Dept. of English



Lopamudra Mandal, 5th semester, Dept. of English



Eshika Gurung, 1st Semester, Dept. of English

# PHOTO GALLERY



Hritisha Ghosh, 3rd Semester, Dept. of English



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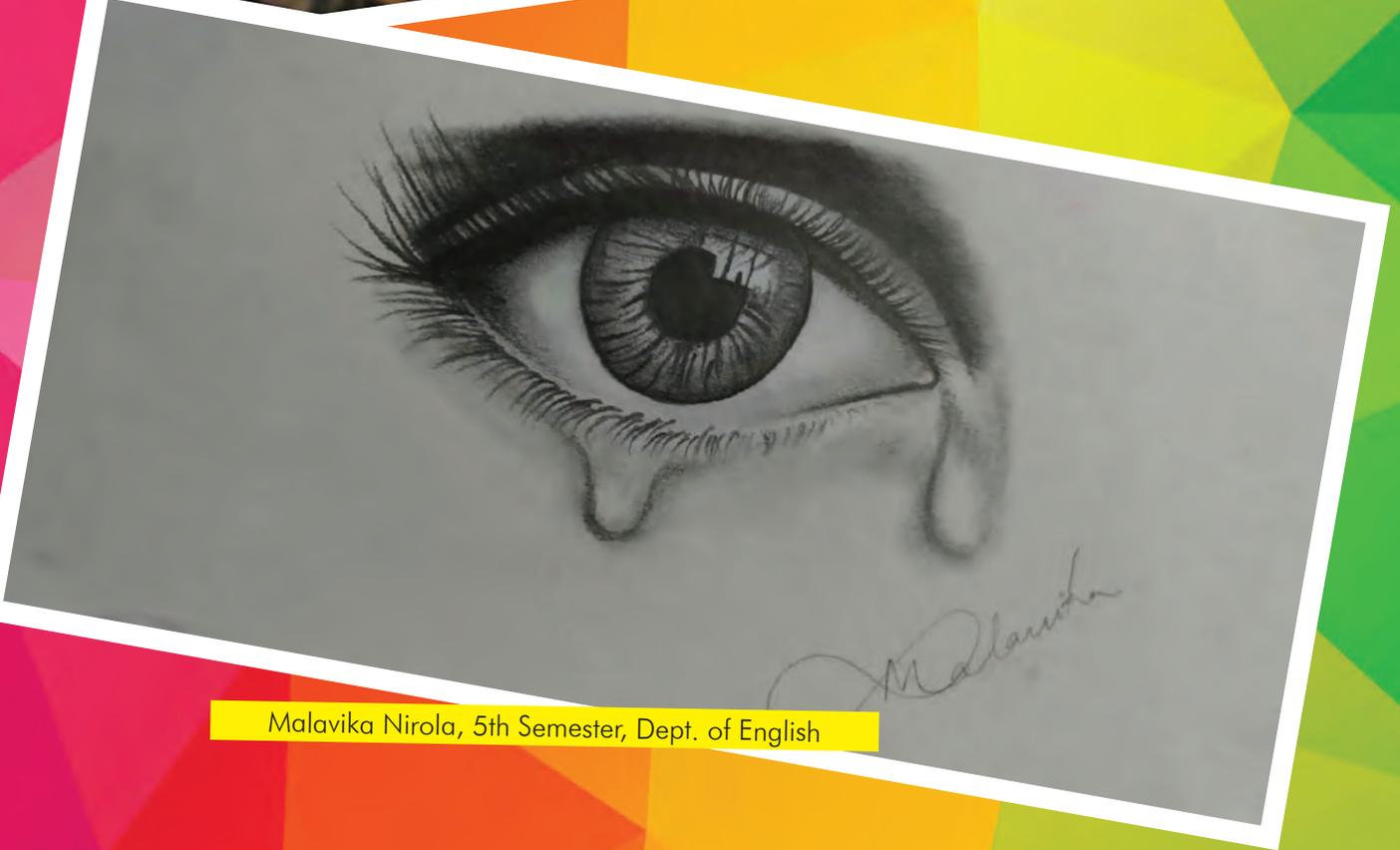
Kritanjali Ghosh, 3rd Semester, Dept. of English



Justin Tamang, 1st Sem, Dept. of Commerce



Neha Kumari Roy, 1st Semester, Dept. of English



Malavika Nirola, 5th Semester, Dept. of English

# PHOTO GALLERY



Rajarshee Bose, 1st Semester, Dept. of English



Priyanka Mali, 1st Semester, Dept. of English



Sneha Singha, 1st Semester, Dept. of English



Roumit Rakshit, 1st semester, Dept. of English

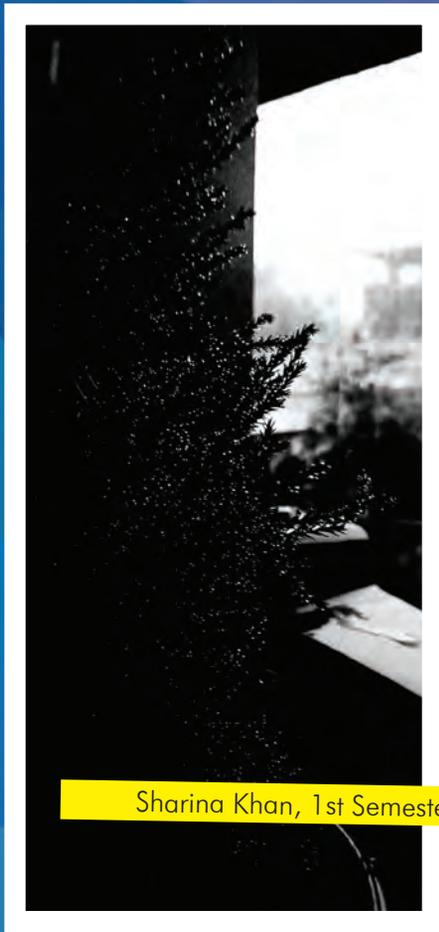


Soham Dey, 1st Semester, Dept. of English



Shalini Saha, 1st Semester, Dept. of English

# PHOTO GALLERY



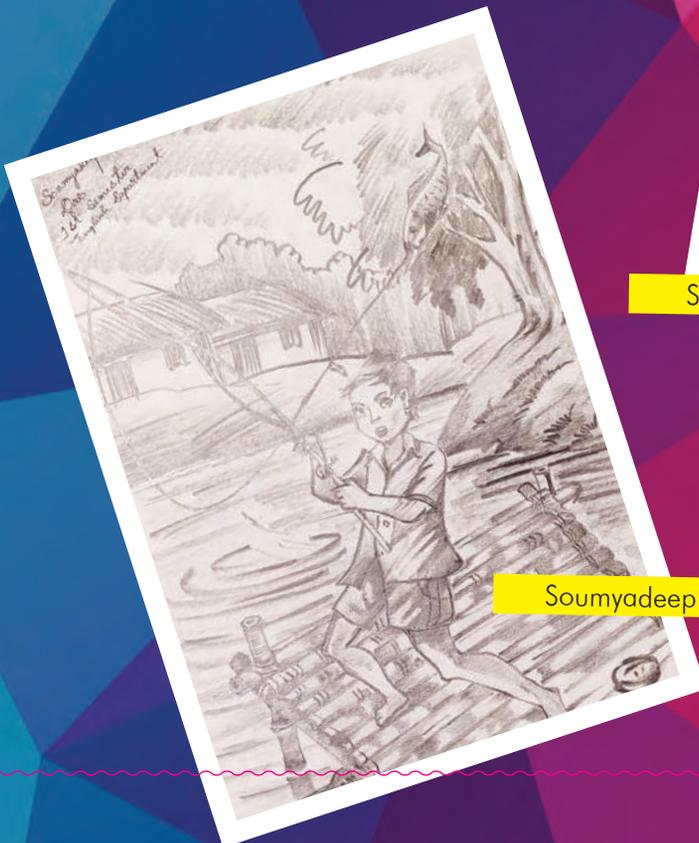
Sharina Khan, 1st Semester, Dept. of English



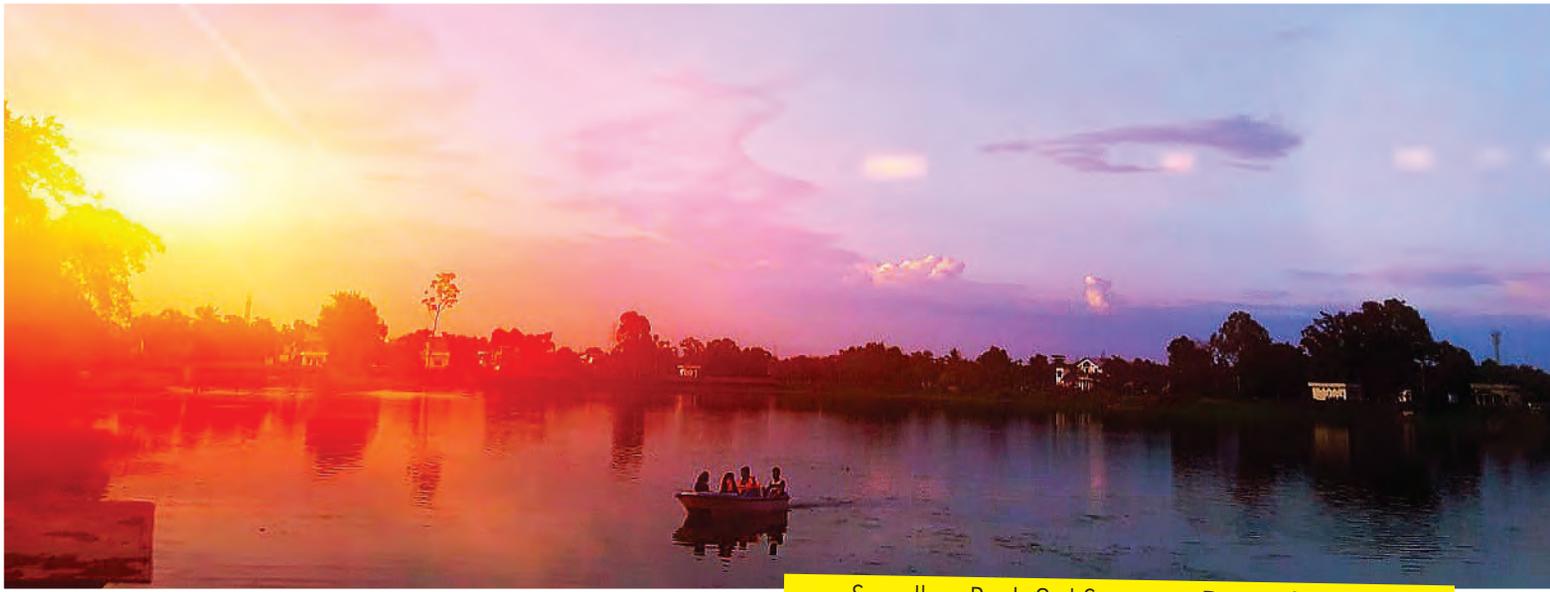
Souvik Paul, 1st Semester, Dept. of English



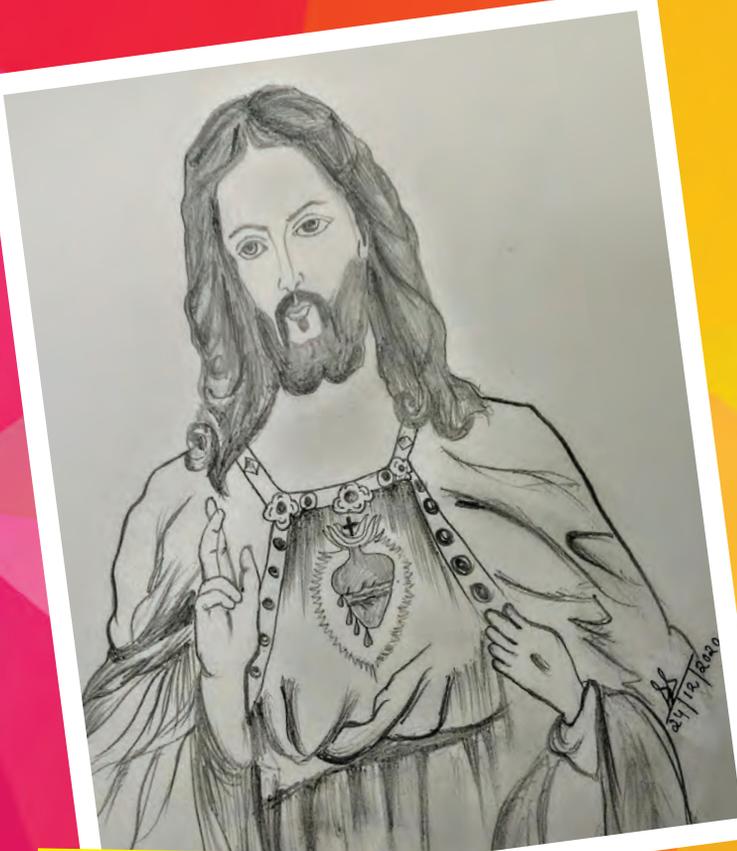
Shrabani Pauria, 1st Semester, Dept. of English



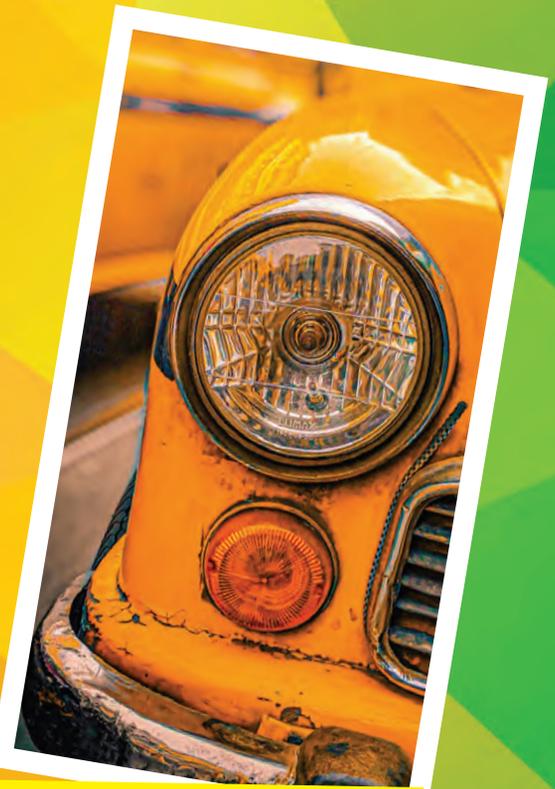
Soumyadeep Das, 1st Semester, Dept. of English



Sporghya Paul, 3rd Semester, Dept. of English



Sucharita Saha, Ex-student



Sudeshna Chatterjee, 1st Semester, Dept. of English



Subhadeep Saha, 3rd Semester, Dept. of Zoology



Swagata Das, 5th Semester, Dept. of Commerce

# THUS SPAKE THE PRESS

## पर्यावरण दिवस पर किया वीडियो कॉम्पिटिशन व ऑनलाइन क्रिज आयोजित

श्रीदेव सुमन उत्तराखण्ड विश्वविद्यालय परिसर राजकीय स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय के मेडिकल लैब टेक्नोलॉजी व डीएनए0ए0 लैब, देहरादून के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस के मौके पर एक वीडियो कॉम्पिटिशन व ऑनलाइन क्रिज प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया। यह जानकारी देते हुए मेडिकल लैब टेक्नोलॉजी विभाग के समन्वयक व कार्यक्रम के संयोजक प्रो जीके ढींगरा ने बताया कि वीडियो कॉम्पिटिशन का विषय वैश्विक महामारी लॉकडाउन के दौरान पर्यावरण पुनर्जनन था। प्रतियोगिता में देश व राज्य भर से अलग-अलग महाविद्यालयों व विश्वविद्यालयों के

छात्र-छात्राओं ने प्रतिभाग किया है। इस वीडियो कॉम्पिटिशन का मुख्य उद्देश्य- लॉकडाउन के कारण विभिन्न राज्यों में पर्यावरण में आये सुधार के ऊपर था जिसकी छात्रों द्वारा विवेचना की गई व छात्र-छात्राओं ने पर्यावरण में आ रहे सुधार पर वीडियो के माध्यम से प्रकाश डाला तथा अपने विचारों का आदान-प्रदान किया, कोरोना वायरस के चलते पिछले 2 महीने से अधिक समय से भारत में लॉक डाउन होने के कारण एवं पर्यावरण में व्यापक रूप से सुधार आया है। डीएनए लैब के वैज्ञानिक डॉ नरोत्तम शर्मा ने बताया कि इस वीडियो कॉम्पिटिशन में निर्णायक समिति में मेडिकल लैब टेक्नोलॉजी विभाग की फैकल्टी

द्वारा किया गया। प्रतियोगिता में सेंट जेवियर कॉलेज, जलपाईगुड़ी के माइक्रोबायोलॉजी 4 सेमेस्टर की छात्रा प्रकाशा लामा ने प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया। इन्होंने अपनी वीडियो में बताया कि पर्यावरण को बचाना हमारी जिम्मेदारी है और इसको हमका ही बचना होगा। छत्तीसगढ़ यूनिवर्सिटी की बी एस सी फाइनल ईयर के छात्र अंजन सिंह को द्वितीय स्थान प्राप्त किया।



प्रस, गंगा महादेव नगर, खड़खड़ी



NAVAL TIMES

ALL विज्ञान स्वास्थ्य स्वाद समाचार

डीएनए0ए0 लैब, देहरादून (DLAS) के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में 05 जून 2020, विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस के उपलक्ष्य पर एक वीडियो क्लिप कंपटीशन व क्विज का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम के संयोजक प्रो जीके ढींगरा तथा ऋषिकेश रा0 पीजी कालेज के देवेन्द्र भट्ट ने बताया कि वीडियो क्लिप कॉम्पिटिशन का विषय "वैश्विक महामारी लॉकडाउन के दौरान पर्यावरण पुनर्जनन" था, सम्पूर्ण देश व राज्य भर से अलग अलग महाविद्यालय/ विश्वविद्यालय के छात्र-छात्राओं ने प्रतिभाग किया है, इस वीडियो कॉम्पिटिशन का मुख्य उद्देश्य- लॉकडाउन के कारण विभिन्न राज्यों में पर्यावरण में आये सुधार के ऊपर था जिसकी छात्रों द्वारा विवेचना की गई व छात्र-छात्राओं ने पर्यावरण में आ रहे सुधार पर वीडियो के माध्यम से प्रकाश डाला तथा अपने विचारों का आदान-प्रदान किया, कोरोना वायरस के चलते पिछले 2 महीने से पूर्व भारत में लॉक डाउन होने के कारण एवं पर्यावरण में व्यापक रूप से सुधार आया है,

डीएनए लैब के वैज्ञानिक डॉ नरोत्तम शर्मा ने बताया कि इस वीडियो कॉम्पिटिशन में निर्णायक समिति में महाविद्यालय के मेडिकल लैब टेक्नोलॉजी विभाग की फैकल्टी द्वारा किया गया, सर्वसम्मति से सेंट जेवियर कॉलेज, जलपाईगुड़ी के माइक्रोबायोलॉजी 4 सेमेस्टर की छात्रा प्रकाशा लामा को प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया, इन्होंने अपनी वीडियो में बताया कि पर्यावरण की हमारी जिम्मेदारी है और इसको हमको ही बचना होगा, छत्तीसगढ़ यूनिवर्सिटी की बी एस सी फाइनल ईयर के छात्र अंजन सिंह को द्वितीय स्थान प्राप्त किया, इन्होंने बताया कि मानव ने जीवन कायदे के लिए जो पर्यावरण से छेड़छाड़ की है वह आज सभी के लिए नुकसानदेह साबित हो रही है इसलिए अगर हम अब नहीं सम्भले तो कभी नहीं सम्भल पाएंगे तथा राजकीय स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय ऋषिकेश MLT की छात्रा अंजलि ने तृतीय स्थान प्राप्त किया, इन्होंने बताया कि लॉक डाउन की वजह से गंगा व अन्य नदियों का पानी बिल्कुल साफ हो गया है इस मतलब मानव चाहे तो हमारी नदियाँ प्रदूषण रहित हो सकती है।

## लकडाउने दुःखद्वेदर साहाय्य निडुज ब्यूरो

१९ जून : लकडाउनेर जेरे राजगण्डू ब्रकेर विभिन्न एलाकार आर्थिकभावे वीरा समस्यार पडुछिलेन तांदेर पाशे नीडाल नर्थवेण्डल सेण्ट जेडियार्स कलेज। दुःखद्वेदर विभिन्नभावे साहाय्य करेछेन कलेजेर परिचालन समित्तिर सदसा, प्रशासनिक सदसा, शिक्षक-शिक्षकनी छात्रा व बह बर्तमान-प्राक्कन शिक्षार्थी अडिछावरकरा। कलेजेर तरफे एप्रिल मासे बलाईगछ व श्रुति मोडेर ६७६६ दुःखद्वेदर परिवारके बालसामग्री बिलि करा हय। एछाडा माबियालि ग्राम पञ्चायतेर २०१६ परिवारके कलेजेर तरफे बालसामग्री बिलि करा हय। मे मासे शिकारपुर ता बागाने ३०६६ परिवारके जना बालसामग्री व माछ बिलि करा हय। एछाडा खेरिपाडा व पावनिखेरि ग्रामे व कलेजेर तरफे ज्ञान देओरा हय। दुःखद्वेदर मध्ये बिलि करार जना बेलाकोवार केन्द्रीय सोडाउने २० कुईटाल टाल व ६ कुईटाल मशुर डाल सरबराह करेछे नर्थवेण्डल सेण्ट जेडियार्स कलेज। भविष्यते व कलेजेर तरफे दुःखद्वेदर साहाय्य करा हवे बले कलेजेर अथाक्क फापर जलित पि तिरकि जानियेछेन।

## डीएनए लैब के वैज्ञानिक डॉ नरोत्तम शर्मा ने

बताया कि वीडियो कॉम्पिटिशन में निर्णायक समिति में महाविद्यालय के मेडिकल लैब टेक्नोलॉजी विभाग की फैकल्टी शामिल रही। सर्वसम्मति से सेंट जेवियर कॉलेज, जलपाईगुड़ी के माइक्रोबायोलॉजी 4 सेमेस्टर की छात्रा प्रकाशा लामा को प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया। उन्होंने अपनी वीडियो में बताया कि पर्यावरण की हमारी जिम्मेदारी है और इसको हमको ही बचना होगा। छत्तीसगढ़ यूनिवर्सिटी की बी एस सी फाइनल ईयर के छात्र अंजन सिंह को द्वितीय स्थान प्राप्त किया। उन्होंने बताया कि मानव ने अपने फायदे के लिए जो पर्यावरण से छेड़छाड़ की है वह आज सभी के लिए नुकसानदेह साबित हो रही है इसलिए अगर हम अब नहीं सम्भले तो कभी नहीं सम्भल पाएंगे। राजकीय स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय ऋषिकेश एम एल टी की छात्रा अंजलि ने तृतीय स्थान प्राप्त किया। उन्होंने बताया कि लॉक डाउन की वजह से गंगा व अन्य नदियाँ प्रदूषण रहित हो सकती है।

It is a matter of utter pride and pleasure for us that our

**North Bengal St. Xavier's College**

has been accredited with

**'B+' grade from NAAC in its 1st cycle.**

Our journey -- from envisioning and pursuing to  
finally securing this achievement  
-- will be chronicled in the next issue of the magazine.





College with Difference

# North Bengal St. Xavier's College

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2020 - 2021



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Tushar Das

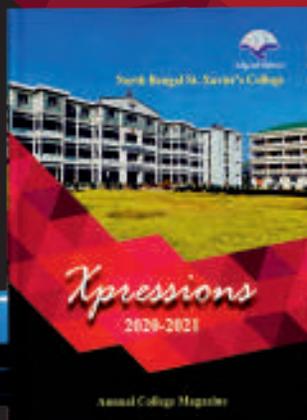
# College Prayer Song

I am carrying you on my eagle's wings  
I am leading you to eternal springs (refrain)  
Lord, my life is filled with peace and love divine;  
By your countless blessings, every day does shine;  
Cradled like child, I'm safe within your arms;  
Guarded I'm and fearless, from life's every harm.

I am carrying you on my eagle's wings,  
I am leading you to external springs (refrain)  
Failures and successes cross my life's long way;  
From all devious turnings, keep me straight I pray;  
Like a wayward child, I'm fickle, proud and vain;  
From you when I stray, bring me back again.

I am carrying you on my eagle's wings,  
I am leading you to eternal springs (refrain)  
Months and years of College, they keep passing by;  
Helping to achieve the goals before me lie;  
Wisdom sure and clear, to light up darkest ways;  
Values steer safe life's bark, midst all stormy days  
I am carrying you on my eagle's wings  
I am leading you to eternal springs (refrain)

Text & Music by: **Fr. Arthur Rasquinha, S.J**



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