



College with Difference

North Bengal St. Xavier's College

Xpressions

Annual College
Magazine
2019 - 2020





From the Left, the Front Row: Rajarshi Bagchi, Fr. Xavier Alangaram, Prasun Banerjee, Soumyadip Ghosh, Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, Aparna Chatterjee, Persis Mukhia, Priyanka Chakraborty, Payel Dey
From the Left, the Second Row: Agnidipto Roy, Pritha Guha, Shayori Halder, Koyena Choudhury, Srijon Ghosh

Editorial Board Members - 2020



Xpressions

Annual College Magazine 2019 - 2020

North Bengal St. Xavier's College

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MESSAGE

The purpose of every college magazine is to provide a platform to the students and staff to give creative expression to their original thoughts and thus develop an important aspect of their personality.

I hope that this Magazine which you are going to bring will reflect your thoughts on how social, political and economic issues of our country today are affecting the common man.

According to academic analysts the youth of future generation are going to be more prone to violence and deviant behavior on account of lack of jobs and direction. This deteriorating trend in the country is a matter of great concern to every parent and citizen. It is my conviction that hard work with dedication and discipline, self-confidence with honest and right education among youth can dispel the darker side of our life.

My message, therefore, to you is that the people of fine character live by their values. They are honest and committed to truthfulness in thought, word and deed. True character encompasses the capacity for self-discipline. Character creates self-respect. Self-respect leads to self-esteem. Self-esteem gives you the inner power to make decisions, to choose the right friends in life and accept responsibilities in life by upholding the dignity of the other and by giving preference to the other. It is only **YOU** who can promote, through your creative writing, social justice and change the economic, political and social structures that generate injustice based on caste, religion, ethnicity and language. This path is a necessary dimension of the reconciliation of individuals, peoples, and their cultures with one another and with God.

As I congratulate the entire editorial team for unfolding the imaginations and giving life to thoughts and aspirations of the staff and students, I wish you all the best for your hard work and dedication for the publication of this College Magazine.

Date: 12 February 2020
Place: Siliguri



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



ABHISHEK KUMAR TIWARY, IAS
District Magistrate
Jalpaiguri

Government of West Bengal
(পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার)
Office of the District Magistrate
(জেলা শাসকের কার্যালয়)
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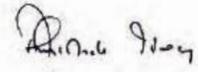
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MESSAGE

It is very heartening to learn that North Bengal St. Xavier's College, Raniganj Campus is going to celebrate its 'Xcellence Day' like previous years on 24th February, 2020 in a befitting manner. On this occasion the Magazine Committee of the said College is going to bring out its Annual College Magazine in the name and style "Xpressions" to add an extra aura to this whole event.

North Bengal St. Xavier's College is one of the best Colleges in this region that produces top students every year to serve the nation. From its inception, all the faculties of this College are known for its skill training as well as co-curricular and various sports activities. These faculties are also known how to build character of a student to a nicety. I am sure all the students and the teaching staff, be it past or present, must feel themselves proud for this Institution. I do hope this Institution will maintain its glory in pursuing various educational as well as other benevolent activities towards society in coming days also.

I wish the whole programme a grand success.


(Abhishek Tiwary)
District Magistrate
Jalpaiguri

To: Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey,
Principal,
North Bengal St. Xavier's College,
Raniganj Campus

Message from the Principal

Dear Readers,

It is indeed a matter of great pleasure that our college is bringing out its magazine Xpressions2020! As the name suggests, it provides an opportunity for many young and budding writers, poets, and artists to express their deep-seated ideas and profound thoughts into words so as to touch and ignite the minds and hearts of readers.

We have just completed twelve years of the existence of our college. In biblical sense, number twelve is not just symbolic but also carry a powerful message. For us Xaviarians as well, passing through this number should give us more energy, dynamism and impetus to soar even higher on 'eagle's wings' in order to take this institution to greater heights. As we step and progress further into this new year, let us dream big and learn to think out of the box so as to venture out into new territories of critical thinking, deeper reflection, and teaching-learning more innovatively. This year is going to be a significant one as we apply for process of 1st cycle of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The year is also going to witness development in the academic field as well as infrastructural growth in response to the signs of our times. Last year, the Jesuits of the college and some senior staff went through an intense exercise and came up with five-year institutional planning by formulating new vision, mission and value statements that will become guiding light for our priorities and goals of the institution in the coming years. We also worked on the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) that will give us more focus in imparting education by highlighting academic excellence yet incorporating the elements of spiritual accompaniment of students, strengthening our social outreach programs and deepening concerns for our Common Home- the Planet Earth.

Here I would like to quote what the Jesuit Superior General Fr. Arturo Sosa had to say while delivering special address on the theme 'Jesuit Higher Education in the Global Context' at Sophia University, Tokyo in October, 2019: "The true value of a Jesuit University-College is to be found in forming men and women who care for the world, the planet, and human life itself, and who bear a sense of responsibility as global citizens by contributing to social transformation."

Let me also take this occasion to wholeheartedly congratulate the entire editorial team who shouldered the daunting task of putting together the myriad thoughts and dreams of many students and faculty members and bringing out this year's issue on time. I wish that readers savour every article like nectar while also relishing the moments of last one year delicately captured in words and pictorial forms. God bless all!

Rev. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, SJ
Principal



From the

Editor's Desk

It has always been a moment of massive contentment to present before our readers our annual college magazine *Xpressions*. *Xpressions*, as it probably connotes and denotes, actually propounds our spunky students to evince their creative potentiality in different shapes and forms. Our college magazine, as always, subsumes various events of the college and students' creative legacy to lend itself an amalgamation of certitude across the session. Moreover, *Xpressions* always already maintains fidelity to the creeds and credos of North Bengal St. Xavier's College, a Jesuit Institution and rightly catering to its readers' tastes it unwaveringly includes the harlequin of each and every **Xaverian**. The annual college magazine, all embracing in nature, bids administration, staff and our budding students in order to grace a manifesto which habitually toils for pre-eminence and transcendence. It remains an undeniable fact that North Bengal St. Xavier's College is a bellwether of excellence in the field of academics and with the passage of time the college has shown its presence in several other co-curricular fields which simultaneously excites and encourages us all associated with this prestigious institute. *Xpressions* is committed to highlight each and every detail of the magnification of the college and its students.

An expression of any formation is utterly impulsive and innate Hence, *Xpressions* never misses out to vent even an iota of any such moment and for that, it always proffers from the students of the college any veneer of their creation. On the other hand, the magazine moulds memories through appositely rendering the college events taken place though out the session at different places. It will be a pure unjust if we do not mention few names who have been constant supporters in the making of *Xpressions*. I on behalf of our editorial committee would like to extend my profound gratitude towards Fr. John Wilfred Lobo, SJ, Provincial, Darjeeling Jesuit Province and the President of G. B of the college, our Principal Fr. Lalit P. Tirkey, SJ, Vice-Principals Fr. Xavier Alangaram, SJ, Ms. Aparna Chatterjee, Dr. Asim Mitra, Dean of students Mr. Prasun Banerjee and Mr. Abhishek Tiwary, DM of Jalpaiguri. The magazine would have remained a mere dream without their support. I am also indebted to all the members of the Management, HoDs and Conveners of different clubs and cells, Teaching and Non-Teaching staff for their untiring succour. I personally congratulate all my team members for their relentless efforts to turn this magazine into what it looks now. I also thank our sponsorship partners for extending their aid. Last but not the least, I also express my hearty thanks to all our affectionate **Xaverians** who have always appeared most enthusiastically under any circumstances. I dedicate *Xpressions* to all the members of our **Xaverian** family because in *Xpressions*, we all have been expressed in some way(s).

Regards

Soumyadip Ghosh
Chief-Editor



What it means to be a Xaverian

'Liberation of people through knowledge and wisdom'- is the motto of our college, North Bengal St. Xavier's College. At the very outset, we are taught "Gyan Vigyan Vimukte" which signifies that there is no greater light than knowledge and ignorance is a state of profound darkness.

As the representative of the students' council of this esteemed institution I would take this opportunity to extend my gratitude towards each and every person who has strived over the years to build this college into what it is today. It is an extensively difficult task to curate such excellence in such a short span of time, but they have done it effortlessly.

At North Bengal St. Xavier's College, we are offered excellent education in varied courses along with extensive scope of extra curricular activities. The students are encouraged to partake in debates, cultural programmes, debate and quiz etc. all the while keeping in view the holistic development of every student. Education is carried out by keeping in mind the matters of relevance to recent events. With the advent of climate change, the Nature club of the college is tirelessly working to promote a more ecological approach towards education by incorporating a-forestation as a part of the curriculum while the members of NSS and Social Service Cell have extended their support to various distressed and dispossessed people and communities of North Bengal. The Women's Cell is an important body of the college whose members are working to foster equality for all and build a secure environment where women can work together to achieve egalitarian goals.



The teachers at North Bengal St. Xavier's College are always congenial and affectionate towards their pupils and make us all feel extremely comfortable on campus. The staff and faculty members are very accommodating and considerate towards the needs of each student and are very approachable at the same time. Special significance is allotted to the mental and emotional health of the students with an on campus counsellor looking after their requirements.

It is said that knowledge is a product of experience which it is the best teacher and, as a student, I myself can reaffirm and establish the fact that the experiences of every student here at North Bengal St. Xavier's College has shaped us to take on life's challenges head on and find positive outcomes even amidst acute adversity.

- by **Shayori Halder**,
President,
Student Council



Principal's Annual Report 2019-2020

Ladies and Gentlemen! A very good morning to one and all!

Today, is a very significant day for all of us gathered here as we celebrate our 12th College Day! It has been christened as **X-cellence Day** when we honour the awardee and celebrate the achievements of both students and staff in the field of academics and non-academics.

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome the Chief Guest of the day Mr. Avishek Tiwary, the district magistrate of Jalpaiguri District under whose jurisdiction our college Rajganj Campus of our college falls. As a UPSC passed graduate, he was one of the toppers and has been an IAS officer for some years now. But in his short career, he has proved to be a distinguished administrator and above all a good person. I thank you Sir for having accepted our invitation to be the Chief Guest of the day.

I extend my warm welcome to Three Vice-Principals, the Dean of Students, Heads of the Departments, the Teacher Council Secretary, members of the faculty, non-teaching staff and my beloved students. I also take this opportunity to warmly welcome the parents and guardians of our awardee students of both Rajganj and Siliguri Campuses who have given their precious time by leaving their works to witness today's event. I congratulate toppers and achievers in academic and outstanding performers in non-academic fields for their wonderful performances during the academic session 2019-20.

On this wonderful day, when we have gathered here to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of all achievers, I deem it an honour to present our Annual College Report. As I look back, this academic year 2019-2020 has brought many accomplishments and also made us see the gaps in some areas where there is a definite scope for improvement.

Our View of Education at St. Xavier's:

We at this St. Xavier's College, like many illustrious Xavier Colleges across India, strongly believe in the concept of holistic education and strive to achieve its goal of preparing students to meet the challenges that we face in the 21st century and especially in our country that is becoming more sophisticated and complex. We believe that, it is important to provide education that focuses on the all-round development of human personality and helps a person in his or her strong intellectual formation as well as emotional maturity. Guided by this principle, we prepare our students not only for academic success but also for life.

In our efforts towards academic excellence and growth, we have initiated actions to bridge the gap between the institution and industry. We assess the students' strength and weakness in academics and aptitude and address their needs through Mentor-Mentee, Add-on Certificate Courses, Courses on Life Skills, and Special Talks/Lectures by experts in their respective fields as well as emphasis on Counselling and Personality Development, moreover we use information technology and internet and other visual aids in our teaching methods.

You will be glad to know that St Xavier's has a continuous evaluation system both for students and teachers. We conduct Tests, Internal Assessments & Assignments at knowledge level, Group discussions, Seminars, and Case studies, Projects, Computer Programming at analytical level. There are study tours, excursions and field visits as exposure programmes for students and for providing hands-on learning.

A GLIMPSE OF THE ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Academic Performance of our Students

The number of University rank achievers from our college is on the rise and every year we get some university toppers.

The overall result of the graduating batch of 2018-29 was quite satisfactory considering students, under 1+1+1 system, found scoring very high marks a herculean task. In BA (H) and (Gen) out of 131, 4 secured 1st Class and 95 secured II Class. In B.Com (H) and (Gen) out of 56, 3 secured 1st Class and 38 secured II Class. In B.Sc (H), out of 46, 16 students secured 1st class and 18 secured 2nd Class.

Under the CBCS system, results have been excellent. In the recently declared results of Semester Exams, 3rd Semester Results were as such: out of 252 students who wrote the exams, there was '0' failure with 8 students scoring 9.0 and above SGPA, 35 students scored 8.0 and above SGPA points, rest scoring 5.0 to 7.9 SGPA while 48 students received SNCs meaning 'Subject not cleared'. Md. Fahin Parvej of Computer Science (Hon) scored exceptionally high 9.92 SGPA point.

Results of 1st years after 1st Semester Exams was equally good: out of 290 students who wrote their Semester Exams at Rajganj Campus, there was '0' failure with 4 students passing with 9.0 and above SGP, 26 students scored 8.0 and above SGPA, rest scored 5.0 to 7.9 SGPA points, while 61 received 'SNCs'. Abhigya Chettri with 9.6 scored the highest SGPA in the 1st Semester.

From Siliguri Campus, the first BBA graduating batch had 100% result and they have shown the way for others to follow suit. In 3rd Semester B. Com, out of 17 students, 2 scored 8.0 and above SGPA, 6 scored 7.0 and above SGPA, 7 scored between 5.0 to 6.9 SGPA, while 2 received SNC. Of the 12 BBA 3rd semester students, 1 scored 9.0 SGPA, 2 scored 8.0 SGPA, 8 got between 5.0-7.9 SGPA while 1 received SNC.

In 1st Semester, out of 30 B.Com students, 5 students scored 9.0 and above SGPA, 5 scored 8.0 and above SGPA, 5 got SNC and rest 15 scored between 5.0 to 7.9 SGPA points. In BBA 1st Sem, out of 22 students, 2 scored 7.0 and above SGPA, 3 received SNC and 17 students scored 5.0 to 6.9 SGPA points. All in all, Shivani Lohar of BBA 3rd Sem and Bishika Shankar of B.Com 1st Sem were the toppers in Siliguri Campus with 9.2 and 9.6 SGPA respectively.

I congratulate each one of them and hope that many more will emulate these outstanding performers and excel in the upcoming Exams.

Achievements by Faculty

Three of our teaching faculty, after having successfully defending their doctoral thesis, received the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Degree in 2019-20:

We have Dr. Tanmoy Mukhopadhyay (Dept of Zoology), Dr. Arindam Metia (Dept of Commerce) who since then left us for Raiganj University and Dr. Asim Mitra (Dept of Commerce and BBA). Good news is that there are half a dozen of our teachers who are on the verge of completing their doctorates while another dozen of them are either pursuing Ph.D at different stages or starting their course works. We wish all of them a very best!

Awards / Recognitions

Our college is proud of some distinguished members of the faculty who have bagged awards and recognitions.

- i) Dr. Bikram Saha, Asst Professor, Dept. of Botany was judged Best Oral Presenter at the Interdisciplinary National Seminar on “Vistas in Life Science Research” at University of North Bengal.
- ii) Dr. Bikram Saha also received Life Member Certificate from Indian Psychopathological Society Division of Plant Pathology, IARI New Delhi.
- iii) On 22 January, 2020, Miss Sharadha Rai, Asst. Professor, Dept of Sociology received National Young Leaders Awards under the ‘Best NSS Volunteer Award’ at Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Accolades in Sports and other Extra-Curricular Activities

Despite not having regular coaching in sports and games, our college teams in football, volleyball, badminton and table tennis participated in inter-college tournaments and did very well. In three events namely, men’s football, men’s volley ball and men’s badminton our college reached Quarter-finals and in 5-a side **Football Tournament** organised by Mahindra our college was declared the Champions.

Sonam Tamang received silver medal at National level Karate tournament.

Anitya Lama played at State level volleyball tournament.

On 25 Jan. 2020, Miss Karina Chhetri of 2ndSem (Zoology (H) was declared Miss Darjeeling at Manhunt Mr/Mrs Darjeeling Contest.

Important College Events

Our college organized many events during the academic year 2019-2020. Here are details of some events:

This year’s events and celebrations got kick-started with the Induction Program for New First Year Students organised on 1st and 2nd July at Rajganj and Siliguri campuses respectively.

On 30th July, Teachers' Orientation was conducted while Young India wing of CII provided motivational talks and session on 'Climate Diplomacy' to students.

Election of Students class representatives (CRs) was held on 9th August at Siliguri Campus and on 26th August at Rajganj Campus.

The Oath Taking ceremony of the newly Elected CRs and members of Student Council took place on 8th August.

On 3rd September, *Red Mirchi* FM conducted talent hunt contest at our campus and selected 3 students -all girls for the next round.

On 25th November, a team from US - Consulate, Kolkata had a presentation on 'How to acquire Student Visa to study in the United States of America'.

Earlier in the year, Regional Office of US Education, Kolkata had conducted interactive session on 'Opportunities with Fulbright Fellowship'.

The year 2020 is expected to witness flurry of events and celebrations.

On 27th Jan & 28 Jan, 2020 college witnessed '**X-travaganza**' - a gala event of song-dance and music. On the first day, three years of both campuses were pitted against one another. Second day '**X-travaganza**' on 28th Jan. saw the first of its kind, because it was organised by Student Council and for the first time our college bands enthralled the audience apart from Siliguri-based Zero Hour Band and dance troupes performing and mesmerising the audience.

Conferences / Seminars / Workshops organized by the Institution

The year witnessed different workshops being organised:

IQAC team led by Mr. Asim Mitra and Dr. Bipranch Tiwary organised one-day workshop on *Intellectual Property Rights*.

Once again IQAC, in partnership with Dept. of Commerce organised 2-day workshop on **Data Analysis** with the help of SPSS presented by a well-known resource person from NIT Durgapur which was participated by many scholars from different colleges and universities besides our faculty members.

Departmental Workshops/Seminars

Our college values continuing education and constantly encourages the departments to organize conferences, seminars and workshops. Thus, it creates opportunities to the faculty to develop themselves professionally and also to disseminate knowledge. A new impetus was given for departments to organise workshops during the academic year. Here are the details:

- In Sept 2019, Department of English organised a series of Special Talks on "Modernism and Romanticism" by Dr. Jayjit Sarkar, University of Raiganj, on "Poetry from the Eastern Himalayas" delivered by Mr. Guru T Ladakhi and "Emerging Significance of Graphic Narratives" By Prof. Pankaj Thapa of Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree Collge.

- Department of Computer Science and Computer Applications in collaboration with SOACH, Siliguri organised workshops on:
 - a. ‘Cyber Security and Ethical Hacking’
 - b. ‘Cyber Security and Financed Audit

Activities of various Cells and Clubs

Our many clubs, cells and committees are always organising activities by involving the staff, students and other stakeholders:

- NSS unit, as always, organised Cleaning the campus under *Swacha Hi Sewa* drive on 24th September.
- On 17th September, Nature Club observed *Earth Day* and on 5th November had Tree Plantation Program at the college campus.
- Women cell & NSS in partnership with Siliguri Lion’s club and Maharaja Agarsen Hospital conducted for the first time *Free Health Camp* on 8th November wherein more than 250 people from our neighbouring Balaigachh village received free medical and eye check-ups.
- Debate club in collaboration with Inter-institutional cell organised inter-school debate competition under a very current and relevant topic, titled, “Social Media is doing more harm than good”. 7 schools from Jalpaiguri and Siliguri participated in the event.
- Social Service cell organised Fund Raising Program on 11th December and Christmas Celebration for specially-abled children on at Prerna Educational centre on 18th December, 2019.
- AICUF besides organising *Karam Feast* celebration in September also organised Pre-Christmas Celebration for the college on 21st December, in collaboration with Women’s cell.
- On 13 January, 2020, NSS organised ‘National Integration Day’ by conducting fete and displaying artefacts, and food items from different states and cultures of India, topped it up with traditional dances from different states.
- Career & Placement Cell more active in Siliguri Campus, organised Seminar on Industry-Academia Collaboration with caption, “Making Future Ready”. Again in August, a workshop was conducted on “Power Dressing and Handshake Mantra” where Mr Suraj Gyal of CII’s young India acted as resource person.
- The placement team strives to achieve the objective of placing aspiring students. Yet, due to its location in hinterland, most industries would give a miss to this campus. However, at Siliguri Campus *Fortune Securities* recruited 3 of our B.Com students as Relationship Managers.

Mile Stones of Progress

Let me take you around some mile stones of progress:

NAAC Preparation:

Preparation for first National Assessment and Accreditation (NAAC) is underway. Under the coordinatorship of Dr. Bipranch Tiwary and his deputy Mr. Saikat Roy preparation for the much awaited NAAC by the end of this academic session is in full swing. Simultaneously, Dr. Asim Mitra, the convener of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of our college and his team has been working to enhance quality in academic activities.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- In April, 2019, the college renewed the MoU with St. Xavier's College, Kolkata for a period of 5-years.
- The MoU with CII, Young India was also renewed on 20 May, 2019.
- On 8th January, 2020 a new MoU was signed with ISOAH Data Security Pvt. Ltd, Wesel IT Park, Siliguri.

Infrastructural Development:

Since the beginning of last year our college witnessed much infrastructural growth:

- At the National Highway, new College Board was erected while the College Gate was installed at the entrance to college compound.
- A motor/cycle shed was built adjacent to bus shed.
- The first and second floors of the New College Building before new session accommodated Dept. of Computer BSc/BCA and Physics Lab and now more two class rooms on the top floor are on the verge of completion.

Administrative Changes

The college also witnessed some administrative changes:

Fr. Deven Yonzon replaced Fr. Gabriel Tirkey as the New College Bursar while Br. Borney Bede Chettri took charge as the Estate Manager.

Another significant change took place in the college when Dr. Asim Mitra became the first Vice Principal at Siliguri Campus.

We place on record our appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Gabriel Tirkey who served the college as bursar for about two year and to Fr. Ajay Raj Lakra who was Siliguri Campus In-charge for about two and half years.

We deeply thank Dr. Arindam Metia who after having served the institution for 12 years joined the Raiganj University from Jan-end this year.

5-year Institutional Planning & Future plans

Someone has said: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Keeping pace with the changing signs of the time, Jesuits and some senior faculty members of the college revisited and modified the institutional vision, mission, priorities and goals that constitute the guiding light for us all at the college. These have been uploaded in the college website. Implementation of the institutional planning will take place in different phases:

The following are some of the plans for future:

- Construction of a new Hall in the New College Building
- Conversion of the old Library into Seminar/Conference Hall
- Installation of CCTVs in the news building
- Facility for storing of roof water and rainwater harvesting
- Installation of Solar Panel for conservation of energy and use of alternative green energy in the campus
- Construction of alternative approach road along the college boundary wall to connect to the National Highway. DM and SJDA have already sanctioned the project. We thank our DM for readily forwarding our project to the Siliguri - Jalpaiguri Development Authority (SJDA) for implementation.

Last word:

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. This manifestation of perfection is possible if and only if our minds and hearts unfettered and are united in marching towards the goal we have set to achieve and go even beyond.

Let us continue our march and achieve the goal.

Thank you and God bless you!

Rev. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, SJ

Principal

A Day of Remembrance: The Poetry Recitation Competition

Organised by Dept. of English

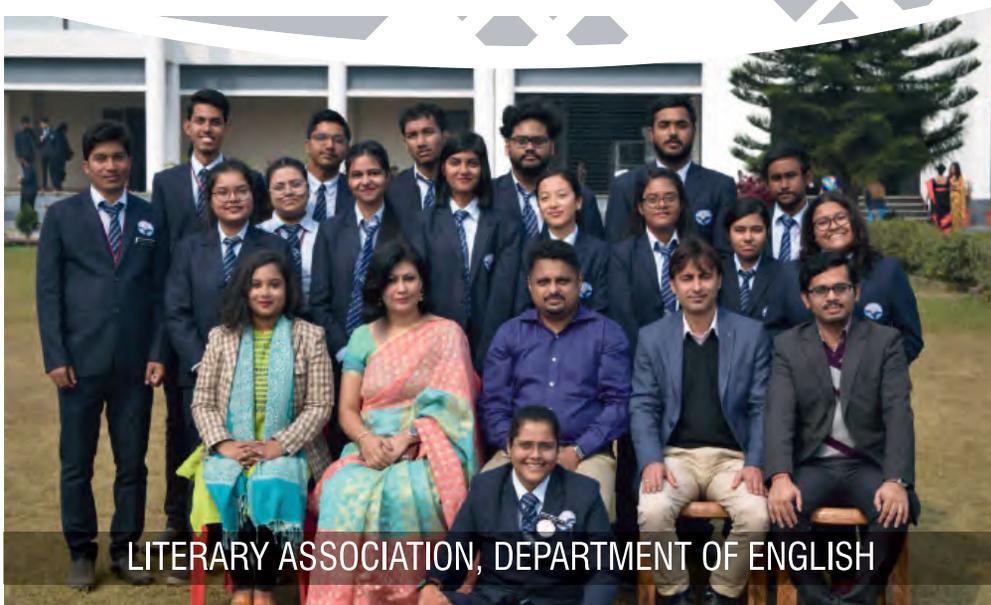


If essence of words had to be aesthetics to portray a scenario as vivid as a picture, then, words of poetry be it. However, the literal appreciation of every feeling represented by an array of poets across generations through melodious representation of phrases in varying pitched tones focuses on the stories which were meant to bring back timeless expression, memories and believes. One such day of remembrance, celebration and acknowledgement was on the 9th of November, 2019 when the Department of English organized a departmental Poetry Recitation Competition at NBSXC.

The day started with an aura of enthusiasm and celebration with students joyously decorating the display of the venue with artful handwriting, some nervously rehearsing lines from their favourite poets. Not only did students from the first and third semesters of the department actively take part through participation, the entire event was kept alive and cheerful by the non-participant students who passively took part as the audience. The event started sharp at 10 a.m. with the Hon'ble judges, Professor Rajarshi Bagchi and Professor Soumyadip Ghosh who re-briefed the participants on the criteria of the competition. The participants were judged on the basis of parameters like, a well presented introduction based on the poem selected by the participant, the style of recitation and also on the basis of pronunciation of words. An array of poets were celebrated and remembered through recitation of their remarkable pieces of poetry, some of these poets remain Robert Frost, William Wordsworth, Rabindranath Tagore and P.B. Shelley. After all

the participants presented their performances, the judges declared their scores and remarks for each student after which the winners and the runner ups were awarded by Professor Anindita Sarker and judges with traditional khadas and wrapped presents. All the participants were also presented with certificates of appreciation and with immense joy and applause, the event was winded up. The core cause of the organisation of the competitive event was very minimal yet important. Being students of English literature, coming in close contact to poetry is not uncommon. But what we do not get to do always is acknowledging eminent poets who have not only contributed to the legacy of literature but also enshrined within us a sense of intricate emotion, a sense of understanding and a peep into the ongoing. The 9th of November was one such day for the Xaverians because another successful event was added to the list.

-by **Koyena Choudhury**,
Dept. of English, 2nd Semester



Seminar on "Modernist Readings of T. S. Eliot and Virginia Woolf"

Organised by Dept. of English



Some events persist over time, over space, and even after themselves, in our hearts and burning minds, or outside of them. It is always shifting sands, resulting from what we desire to what we can even want. As far as critical thinking is concerned, the onset of flux is the modern man's predicament. Calling the past from its boredom and intricately weaning it with the present can cause the gentle opening of our minds. And it seemed to be, like always, only few wanted to take that risk. The Department of English, sticking to its guns, organized a Students' Seminar on 26th November, 2019 on "Modernist Readings of T. S. Eliot and Virginia Woolf". There was an underlying zeal and intensity among the students to find a voice on this discursive subject matter because the job was to stand before the class and make sure not to sound onerous. It began with the joint presentation of Pritha Guha and Mohana Bhattacharya, where the former talked about Eliot's individual fervor and the latter juxtaposed it with the sense of isolation and dilemma in Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, posing the fundamental question "What are we living for?" Pratik Pranjal and Sandhya Chettri presented an overview of both the writers' differences with their contemporaries and how they made their ends meet. Saptarshi Guha also tried to provide newness with his comparative study, entitled "Taking Mrs. Dalloway to Eliot's Turf," where he argued how Woolf is an extension of Eliot, in the historical sense, coupled with the startling images. Uddipna Narjinary highlighted on the "stream of consciousness" technique in Woolf's works and jotted it down with Woolf's later life. Apsara Dasgupta and

Namrata Bhattacharya talked on "Pathological Strain on Woolf" and they were firm to establish that "in a mad world, only the mad are sane." At the end, Debayan Paul, with his vivacious quirks, presented his personal reading, "Peeks Into Modern(ism/ity)" where his nuanced argument is of the matter, as Herman Melville would put it, "All my means are sane, my motive and my object mad."

Thus, by the intellectual sway of Mr. Prasun Banerjee, Mr. Soumyadip Ghosh and Mr. Rajarshi Bagchi, the classroom unleashed to think and flow through one moment at a time and if there was a collective wish, it was to unlearn, for the times they are changing.

-by **Saptarshi Guha**,
Dept. of English, 3rd Year





A Special Lecture on

“Poetry from the Eastern Himalayas and Emerging Significance of Graphic Narratives”



Organised by Dept. of English

A Special Lecture session titled "Poetry from the Eastern Himalayas and Emerging Significance of Graphic Narratives", conducted by the Dept. of English on 10th September, 2019 at The Conference Hall of our college, saw the involvement of the entire English Department including faculty and students alike. The session took place in two halves.

The first session began with a poignant address from Sikkim based poet, Guru T. Ladakhi, reputed author of *Monk On A Hill*. Keeping the young, bright-eyed audience in mind, he gave valuable insights gained from his years in the industry. He also encouraged experimentation with the poetic form. Upon popular request, he recited some of his poems, including "In the Words of Socheat", a first person description of horrors during the Khmer Rouge reign in Cambodia but one that ends not in sorrow or rage but empathy. Despite painting realistic depictions of the world with brevity, he always ends up appealing to the core essence of kindness and humanism both in his poetry and his speech. And the light hearted banter to break the monotony paired with his cordial nature kept us engaged throughout the discussion. It ended with an interactive session which only proved to be more enlightening. This was followed by a sharply humorous presentation on the importance of graphic novels by Prof. Pankaj Thapa who is an Associate Professor and HoD, Nar Bahadur Bhandari College, Tedong, Sikkim and a critically acclaimed author of the folk comic *The Boy Who Had a Dream* (A Nomadic Folktale from Tibet). By his superb socio-political contextualization of the niche genre, he successfully

materialized how this medium of literature has managed to subvert the stereotypical generic borders furnished solely by underground geek cultures. Through the mentions of comic landmarks like the allegorical anti-fascist *Maus* and the politically biting *Persepolis*, among many others, Prof. Thapa engaged in a mirthful and equally academic presentation on the innate inaccuracy of the popular perception which maintains that the graphic novels are aesthetically pleasing picture books deviating the readers from reality. His active participation in the popularization of the genre was displayed once he exhibited his self written satiric comic strips, targeted against the ills of social media and the current generation's overt reliance on technology. The thoroughly compulsive session concluded with a discussion on why the genre of the graphic novel is an academically viable textual medium for understanding society better.

Prof. Thapa ended the session on a warm tone with a quick sketch of our college premises as a tribute to its legacy. The two friends' informal educative technique was profoundly exhibited when they encouraged students to engage in a face to face interactive discussion with them.

It was a memorable day for both teachers and students alike.

-by **Agnidipto Roy** and
Srijon Ghosh,
Dept. of English, 4th Semester



A special Talk on 'Modernism' and 'Romanticism'

Dr. Jayjit Sarkar, Assistant Professor in English of Raiganj University and an esteemed ex-faculty of NBSXC, delivered a lecture on the concepts of Modernism and Romanticism with reference to select canonical texts of English literature at our college on 26th September, 2019. Dr. Sarkar's erudite and swish articulation converted the session into a huge success at once. The same was also the secret to the lively involvement of the entire English department into the activity.

Dr. Sarkar comprehensively introduced the concepts of Modernism while touching upon the timeless ideas and seminal texts of Nietzsche, Bergson and Marx. His elucidations on Romanticism were specifically directed towards the Department's freshmen. The academic insight of his discussion, however, reached well beyond that target audience and engaged inquiring minds of all the budding scholars across the spectrum of semesters and years at once. In all, Dr. Sarkar's deep but lucid take on the theory and praxis of such problematic ideas ranging over literary phases was an event of rare scholastic excellence to attend ever at the college.

-by **Agnidipto Roy**,
Dept. of English, 4th Semester



SPECIAL LECTURE ON “CYBER SECURITY”



Organised by
Dept. of Sociology

A special lecture on 'Cyber Security' was organised by Sociology Department of North Bengal St. Xavier's College Rajganj on 18th of September 2019. Sr. Assistant professor Suriya Dwipta Acharjee was the speaker for this lecture. The main purpose was to spread awareness among the students about how they are not secured while surfing internet, how their personal data i.e. bank details, photos, videos, search history could be hacked and seen by an outsider.

This lecture made us aware about our privacy, many applications that we are using on our smart phones like we chat, true caller, UC news, UC browsers, Beauti Plus, CM browsers, mi community, du cleaner, du battery savers, news dogs, face app, viva video etc. which are commonly available in almost everyone's phone which result in breach of privacy or even data theft.

Some of the main points that were highlighted in that special lecture are as follows:

1. We must always keep our password very secured by using symbols, letters, numbers, signs, this makes very difficult for the hacker to hack your account.
2. Never perform any kinds of transaction while connected to public network.
3. Always change your ATM pins in monthly basis with random numbers, this makes your bank account secured.
4. While surfing on internet always try to surf on secured websites which can be made out by a small green lock on the top left side of the website.
5. While visiting on any link URL always prefer https// because hackers send a fake link to the people through messages, Whatsapp chats, emails etc many fake offers attached to it. These links can be easily differentiated by http//which is an insecure site.
6. Never store any personal or bank details in your laptop or phones because it can be stolen so it is better to store this in an external hard drive or disc.
7. Never share any greeting pictures received from an unknown person or any known ones because this picture could contain any encrypted file containing virus which could steal your personal data or even format and damage your hard disk.
8. Always go with trusted brands of smart phones which has good security system like apples, one plus, Google pixel, Samsungs etc never go for diverse brands of gadgets which are available at a cheaper price with weak security system. These gadgets could be easily hacked by anyone.

This lecture ended with a special moral that always keeps yourself alert even if you think that you are safe because it needs just a moment to steal your personal data and format your device containing important information.

- by **Bibishek Tirkey**,
Dept. of Sociology 2nd Semester

Xpressions, 2019-20 | 12





Suffragette: A talk on Women Suffrage Movement in UK



Just like an old proverb, “All work and no play make Jack a dull boy”. This is true, without time off from studies, a person becomes dull and boring and life becomes monotonous. On 30th August, 2019 a film was shown to the 3rd Semester students of Sociology by Ms. Shradha Rai, Asst. Professor of the Dept, of Sociology.

The movie titled *Suffragette* was a film about women suffrage movement in the United Kingdom where women demanded rights to vote. It was a historical movie which was inspired by true life events how women fought to get their voting rights and how much they had sacrificed their blood, sweat and tears to achieve their rights. The women risked their jobs, their homes, their children and even their lives for the right to vote. The movie setting takes place in the early 20th century in England during 1912. At that time due to industrial revolution there were lots of women who had left their traditional occupation and had taken jobs in factories. The movie centers on Maud, a working wife and mother whose life is forever changed when she is secretly recruited to join the suffragette movement. Galvanized by the outlaw fugitive Emmeline Pankhurst, Maud becomes an activist for the cause alongside women from all walks of life.

The movie vividly describes and shows the inequality and discrimination at work faced by women. The conditions for working in these factories are deplorable and inhumane. Girls early in their adolescent as early as the age of 13 are sent to work in these factories. These girls once they start working they cannot get out of these jobs. The inhumane conditions of these factories lead to injuries and even to loss of counterparts for the same work done and

they are even subjected to sexual and verbal abuse by the males. At that time in Britain, a group of women calling themselves “suffragette” who led the movement to gain the voting rights for women. The cause of the female suffrage was usually ignored by the press and dismissed by politicians. To gain support for the right to vote, suffragettes turned away from peaceful protests and embraced militant tactics that grew to include window breaking, arson and bombing. The suffragettes were often incarcerated, separated from their families and force feeding by the police authorities who tried to suppress the suffragette movement. It was because of the selfless efforts of these women who were willing to sacrifice their lives and families for a change that they had successfully laid the foundation for the voting rights for women. It was because of their tireless efforts that in 1918, women over the age of 30 were allowed to vote. In 1928, women achieved the same voting rights as men. It was because of the sacrifice of these women that they had become the beacon of hope and inspiration for all the oppressed women in the world.

- by **Satyam Ghalay**,
Dept. of Sociology, 4th Semester

On 25th of September 2019, the department of Sociology organized a seminar on the topic "Contemporary Social Problems and Issues in India." The seminar started with an introduction given by the Head of the Department, Prof Persis Mukhia. who briefed on the topic. She discussed about what Social Problems and Issues actually mean and also spoke about the rising levels of social problems and issues in India and in our society.

The seminar was hosted by two students from 2nd year - Anitya Lama and Surabhi Dutta.

(11:00 - 11:50) - The first speaker was Pragya Nepal from Sociology 3rd semester who discussed about the issue of Over Population in India. She highlighted the causes of overpopulation i.e unemployment, rise in illiteracy, child marriage, early age pregnancy, lack of family planning etc and also discussed as to how to prevent over population.

(11:20 - 11:30) -The second speaker was Namana Das from Sociology 3rd semester. She spoke on the topic Unemployment. She talked about the causes of unemployment, consequences of unemployment, how to prevent unemployment, and measures taken to control unemployment.

(11:30-11:40) -The third speaker was Dawa Palzer Dukpa from 3rd Sem. His topic was on Corruption in Indian Society. He started his topic by definition of corruption, followed by causes, consequences and steps to get rid of corruption.

(11:40- 11:47)- Nilanjana Malakar from 3rdsem spoke about Dowry. She discussed about the increasing rate of Dowry death or bride burden in India which leads to suicide. She threw light on the Dowry Prohibition Act which was introduced on 1961. She also discussed about the rising problems of Dowry in our Indian Society especially in the rural areas.

(11:48-12:10)- The next speaker was Labonita Roy and Alisha Jain from Part 3 who spoke on the topic "Old Age Problems and measures". They spoke about the various policies and programmes for the Old people. Persis Ma'am and Aparna Ma'am also shared their thoughts on this topic.

(12:15-12:25)- Shivangi Lama from 3rdsem discussed on the topic Gender Inequality in India. She spoke about the various problems associated with gender inequality in India. She also talked about the various State Initiatives to reduce gender in equality.

(12:28-12:45)- The next speaker was Fredrick Ferrault from 3rd sem who discussed about Rights of Third Gender. He introduced 'who are transgenders'. He also discussed about the history of transgender existence and the various problems faced by them transgenders in our society. He also threw light on the judgement on Third Gender that the Apex Court declared and also about the drastic development that is evolving after the judgement.

(12:50 - 1:15)- The next speaker was Pedenla Yolmo and Bibhishek Tirkey from 1 st Sem. Their topic was Child Sexual Abuse in India. They started their speech by describing the word 'abuse' and the increasing ratio of 'child abuse in India'. They then threw a light on the POSCO Act which was enacted in 2012 to provide a robust legal framework for the protection of children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interest of the child at every stage. They concluded their speech by presenting us the video on Child Abuse.

(1:15-1:25) - We had a little tea-break where refreshments were provided

One-day seminar on "Contemporary Social Problems and Issues in India"



to the students. (1:25-1:40) -The next speaker was Ditsha Majumder from 3rd sem who spoke about an interesting topic Ardhanarishwar. She talked about the challenges faced in Indian society due to the non-recognition of Hijras in economic field, educational field, and political field.

(1:40 -1:50)- The next speaker of this seminar was Aastha Surana from Istsem who selected the topic Child Trafficking. She spoke about the rising levels of young girl's trafficking and also gave the data that about 1 lakh 35 children are being trafficked every year.

(11:52 - 2:00)- Surabhi Dutta from 3rdsem spoke about Gender Socialization. She said that gender identity is an important part of socialization. She talked about the importance of gender socialization in our Indian society.

(2:00- 2:10) - The last speaker was Satyam Ghalay from 3rdsem who spoke on the topic Electronic Bullying. He highlighted the fact that insulting or trolling someone through messages from his or her or fake accounts in social media is a harassment.

The seminar was concluded by Shraddha Ma'am who gave a brief description about all the topics that had been covered. She also highlighted the key factors as to make us aware and understand the integrity of all the topics. She thanked all the participants, the students as well as the faculty members of our department for their presence and making this seminar a successful one.

-by **Bithika Mondal**,
Dept, of Sociology, 3rd year

Field Work conducted by Dept. of Sociology



Excursion

organised by
Dept. of History

In order to understand the different facets of heritage and their significance we, the students of 1st and 3rd semester (History), took a tour to Rumtek Monastery in the vicinity of the Himalayas in the 22nd state of India (Sikkim). Under our teachers' supervision the tour was a wonderful experience. We learned many things regarding the Monastery which is one of the learning centres for Buddhist education. On 31st of September we set off for Gangtok. We were 13 members including the teachers. In Rumtek there is no proper staying facilities so we had to lodge in Gangtok. The journey was long and tiring but the view from the hotel was beautiful enough to cleanse us of our fatigue. In the evening we went to visit the M.G Marg. This place is a must visit because without it a visit to Gangtok is really incomplete. Our educational tour started the very next day to the famous Rumtek Monastery. It is one of the most famous attractions in Gangtok. It was originally built under the guidance of 12th Karmapa, Changchub Dorje in the mid-1700s but was founded by His Holiness Rangjung Rigpe Dorje. The most convenient way of reaching Rumtek Monastery is to take a private vehicle from Gangtok. After reaching our destination we started exploring the monastery. We loved every bit of it. Out of all the places we saw inside the



monastery The Golden Stupa was the most significant. We were not allowed to take pictures inside the monastery. The view from the monastery was mesmerizing. The environment was very peaceful.

ARCHITECTURE:-

We also had interviews with the lamas of the monastery and had the first hand information about their monastic life. The Rumtek Monastery is a three storeyed building housing some of the rarest Buddhist religious art work in the form of murals and thangkas. The ground floor has a large prayer hall which houses the colossal hand painted and intricate murals statues, silk paintings and thangkas. The top level of the monastery has a terrace and a tiny stupa. There is a shrine in the main building which is decorated traditionally with religious texts. The main structure of Rumtek Monastery has been made in accordance with the traditional designs of the Tibetan monasteries. In front of the main monastery building, there is a large courtyard which has the premises where the monks live. The monastery is enshrined with the statues of Virudaka, Virupaksha, Dhritarashtra and Vaishravana who were considered guardians of the entire universe. Outside the monastery, you can spot a staircase which will take you the Nalanda Institute of Higher Buddhist Studies. Opposite the institute, there is a building which houses the Golden Stupa of the 16th Karmapa made of pure gold. A few metres away is the bird aviary with many exotic birds. If you take an uphill walk for half a kilometre, you can find the hermitage point for the monks where they meditate up to 3 years in complete seclusion.

After admiring and learning the beauty of monastery we went back to Gangtok and boarded the bus to Siliguri bidding farewell to Gangtok. We the students of History Honours are looking forward to have more educational tours like this to enhance our knowledge on history as well as to perfect us in report writing.

-By **Simran Rai**,
Dept. of History, 4th Semester



Departmental Seminar

organised by
Dept. of History

In a world full of new inventions and modern technology, History finds a great ground to portray itself as the best sphere, providing enormous information and scenes from the past, which is highly beneficial for the development of each person's mind. History has imprinted great importance that it is not easy for one to know about the beginning of the world, civilizations, humans, flora, fauna etc. without going through history. Keeping in mind the importance of throwing light upon the older times and past developments, the History Department of North Bengal St Xavier's College, Rajganj held 4 day departmental seminar at the College Conference Hall on the 19th, 20th, 22nd and 24th of August, 2019, with the purpose of bringing alive deeds and actions of the early people and their rulers, the scenes from the earlier civilization and many more events that have set a benchmark for the world and its people, even till this date. The seminar also focussed on witnessing the zeal and enthusiasm of the students (partaking in the seminar) in presenting their work, based on the topics that hold a great place in the subject that they have been learning since a long time.

The Departmental Seminar was inaugurated by the HOD - Prof. Samar Chakraborty in the presence of Prof. Sumita Roy Chowdhury, Prof. Sanjay Shaw and several students taking up History as major subject and students taking up History as their general elective subject. About 8 students of 3rd semester (Hist. Hons.), 5 students of 1st semester and about 60 students from general elective class took part in the seminar. The inauguration of the programme was followed by the round of presentation of the student's topic combining with power point presentation, to bring out the best of their work and effort.

The Topics of the Seminar was mainly based on the Ancient and Medieval Period of History. The Topics mainly focussed on the content present in the syllabus. The seminar was held for each of the papers that the students are to learn during their course.

The 3rd semester honours students were given the following list of topics:

- CC Paper V - Art and Architecture in Early Medieval India.
- CC Paper VI - Geographical Discoveries and Colonial Expansion during 15th -16th century
- CC Paper VII- Different Political Structure under Delhi Sultanate

The students of 1st semester presented their papers based on the following topics :

- CC Paper I - Socio Economic Life in Ancient India
- CC Paper II - Civilization of Ancient World

The topics allotted to the General Elective students were as follows:

- (a) Socio - Economic History in India up to 1206 A. D.
- (b) Administrative History in India up to 1206 A.D.

The students presented their papers based on the topics allotted to them. Divergence of interest and choices was witnessed as each student focussed on different topics and showed great zest while delivering their speech and showcasing the power point presentation. The teachers played the role of real guides as they took an important step to carefully listen to and mark down the points that each deliberated and also made a point to check on the Knowledge and ability of the students with the help of open question - answer round. The audience was also given a chance to clear their doubts and gain better knowledge on the subject through open question - answer round.

After a long week of deliberation and discussion, the seminar was finally concluded on the 24th of August, 2019 with the acknowledgement and closing speech presented by the Head of the Department. Each student was awarded valuable certificates by the faculty members of the department, as a token of appreciation. The week was seen as ' a week of importance ', as it brought several students at the forefront and did leave no stone unturned in showcasing the individual's inner knowledge, ability and their hard work that reflected in the work presented by them .

The Faculty members of History Department lay great emphasis and importance on the conducting of seminars. The main aim of the Department's faculty in conducting such seminars was to bring out better understanding on the subject, to stir the interest of the students and to prepare and polish each and every individual for creative and persuasive arguments that is to come in the later years of their professional or career experiences. There is no doubt that the seminar helped each and every individual in sharpening their skills and in shaping their personality and outlook. Moreover, the seminar focussed on all round development of the students. Further, the faculty members of History Department are looking forward to conduct more of such educational and general seminars for the upcoming Xaverians to ensure their betterment.

-by Apshareena Baral,
Dept. of History, 3rd Year



Seminar on 'Nation, Nation-State and Nationalism: The Indian perspective'

Organized by
Dept. of Political Science

A seminar was held in the department of Political Science on 26th September, 2019. The seminar was presided over by our HOD Professor Saikat Roy and Professor Ambika Chettri. All the students of 1st semester were present in the seminar. The seminar was on, "Nation, Nation-State and Nationalism: The Indian perspective" and the sub-themes of the seminar were as follows:

- THEORY OF NATION STATE.
- THEORY OF NATIONALISM.
- GANDHIAN CONCEPT OF NATIONALISM.
- COMMUNALISM AS A THREAT TO NATIONALISM.
- HINDUTVA AND NATIONALISM.
- TERRORISM AND NATIONALISM.
- PATRIOTISM AND NATIONALISM.
- MEDIA AND NATIONALISM.
- ROLE OF ARTS IN PROMOTING NATIONALISM.
- RELEVANCE OF NATIONALISM IN PRESENT CONTEXT

Every student participated in the seminar and presented a wonderful and creative presentation, few had also made a power point presentation which was displayed during the time of delivering their speeches. The seminar was all about developing self-experience and to build qualities of a leader. Being the student of political science we must be able to express our views deliberately and appropriately. Freedom of Speech talks about the power of expressing one's opinion and this power develops through the small activities of seminar. The seminar also had a question and answer round where everyone was allowed to ask questions on the topics of the speaker as we know 'Criticism is the backbone of Democracy'. Everyone kept their views regarding their topics and were also questioned by all which they answered with their full senses and emotions attached. The head of the department kept the teacher student relation aside and portrayed a more friend like bonding with the students. It was a great experience to attend such a wonderful seminar and on behalf of the department and being the class representative I would like to thank the professors for organising such a seminar and also their efforts in encouraging our leadership qualities.

- by **Mrinmoy Rishi**,
Dept. of Political Science, 2nd Semester





Goa

A Study

ORGANIZED BY
DEPT. OF GEOGRAPHY

Tour

The department of Geography organizes a study tour every year as it is a compulsory part of their syllabus, specially this time with the 4th semester and 3rd year students. This year the students were taken to Goa. The study tour took place from 14th January to 23rd January 2020. Both the 4th semester and 3rd year students were accompanied by two faculty members: Prof. Subrata Roy and Prof. Soumya Mitra. The students followed a packed schedule of field work, sight-seeing and enjoyed moment there. After reaching Goa on 16th January 2020, the students visited the Baga beach that was located 1.5 km away from the hotel where the students were staying at. On 17th January, the students visited different places in North Goa like Dolphin point and Coco Beach, Aguada Fort, Calangute Beach, Vagatoor Beach and Sunset point at Anjuna Beach.

On 18th January 2020, the students again went to visit various tourist destinations of South Goa among which the most notable were the Sansthan Mangesh Mandir, St. Xavier's Church Basilica of Bom Jesus, Panaji, Baker's Street etc. The students also attended a Mandvi River cruise. After that the students also went to a Saturday Night Bazaar in the Mapusa area. On 19th January 2020, the students carried out socio economic survey in the Arpora village in Mapusa District. The students were divided into groups of four students each and each group collected individual dataset from every possible corner. The students carried questionnaires with them. The villagers were extremely helpful and cooperated with the students in every way possible. While doing the survey, methods like careful observation and interviews were used by the students. On 20th January, we headed out to visit the Calangute beach market and from there we visited the Gram Panchayat Office of the Mapusa District to get additional data about the entire Mapusa District. Next Day, we left for Howrah and finally reached our hometown on 23rd January evening. It was a great experience for the students and they have learned more than just the academic skills.

- by **Ishan Deb, Sujata Chhetri and Anmol Tamang,**
Dept. of Geography, 4th Semester





A Two-Day workshop On Research Methodology and Data Analysis through SPSS

Organised by IQAC and Dept. of Commerce and Management

The IQAC, NBSXC in collaboration with Department of Commerce and Management of NBSXC organised a two-day workshop on “Data Analysis using SPSS (statistical Package for social science)” on 13th and 14th May, 2019 at Rajganj Campus. The main objective of this workshop was to provide participants the basic knowledge in order to enhance their ability to use SPSS for research data analysis. This workshop was intended for beginners and also for those looking for research and development. The two day workshop witnessed over 100 participants which included students, research scholars and academicians across North Bengal and Sikkim from various disciplines.

On the day one, the workshop commenced with a formal Inauguration Ceremony by Fr. Dr. Latit Tirkey SJ, the Principal of North Bengal St. Xavier’s College, who delivered the welcome address. IQAC Coordinator Dr. Asim Mitra gave an introduction to data analysis using SPSS. The Chief Guest Professor Debabrata Mitra & the Guest of Honour Prof Debasish Bhattacharya (University of North Bengal) delivered inaugural speech highlighting on

the importance of statistical technique.

The resource person Dr.Gautam Bandopadhyay (National Institute of Technology, Durgapur) trained the participants with basic statistical analysis such as descriptive statistics, testing of hypotheses, ANOVA, correlation and regression, multiple regression analysis, factor analysis using SPSS software and so on. The workshop formally ended with Valedictory Session chaired by Fr. Dr. Latit Tirkey, the Principal of North Bengal St. Xavier’s college who distributed the certificates to the respective participants. The workshop created remarkable success by the participants’ excellent remarks with an appeal to have a same kind of event in near future. The session came to an end with vote of thanks by Fr. Xavier Alangaram, Vice-Principal (Administration) of NBSXC. The Organising secretaries were Dr. Arindam Metia and Dr. Asim Mitra.

- by **Dr. Arindam Metia**,
Ex-Dean of Students
and Ex-faculty member,
Dept. of Commerce

Botanical study tour to Manali-Kasol-Kulu Valley of Himachal Pradesh and a visit to Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi



and conserve its ecosystem, Manali has declared a reserved area- the Manali Wildlife Sanctuary. On first day of our excursion i.e., 4th March we explored the local vegetation of Manali and collected thallophytes, vascular cryptogams and some gymnosperms and filled our memory chip with lots of selfies and groupies.

Solang is a district of Himachal Pradesh and due to its richness in medicinal plants we visited this place on second day of our Excursion. Photographs of different medicinal plants were taken and enjoyed the beauty of snow covered areas of this valley. On 6th March we visited Kasol and Manikaran and collected some unique bryophytes like Pellia, Funaria etc.

Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi commonly known as the Pusa Institute, is India's national Institute of agricultural research, education and extension. We visited different laboratories and farms of this institute under the supervision of Dr. Kajol Kumar Biswas, Principal Scientist, Division of plant Pathology and Plant Virology Unit on 8th March. He and his research scholars demonstrated different methods of identification and isolation of plants viruses from microscopy to molecular biology. With lots of memories, Knowledge and fun we started our return journey for home from New Delhi on that particular day at night and reached Siliguri on 10th March, 2019.

-By **Dr. Bikram Saha**,
Asst. Professor, Department of Botany

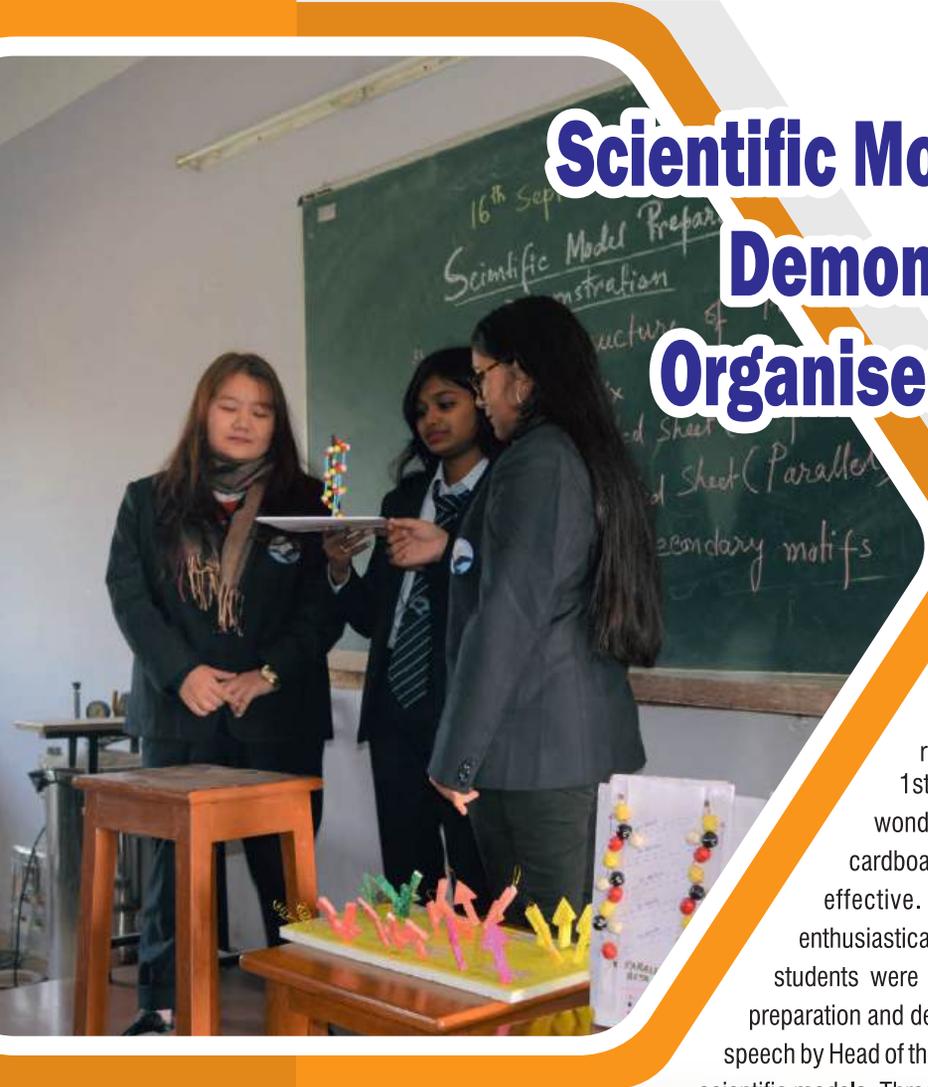
Botany being a multidisciplinary science requires verification of facts through observation. It also requires an understanding of several natural processes in natural habitat. Field studies with observation are essential for establishing various natural facts and processes which influence them. Therefore, we should have not only the knowledge about plant specimen in practical classes but should also possess the knowledge about the plants habit and habitat, their micro and macroclimates, ecotypes with which they grow. To acquire the knowledge of the above facts, we will have to go to the field where plants grow naturally. This is called Botanical Excursion with field study.

Our botanical study tour was organized to study the diversity of life of the sites observed and collection of the plant specimens as per requirements without affecting the natural flora and proper maintenance of the collected specimen. With these objectives and as per the curriculum our study tour was an exposure to Manali, kasol and Kulu Valley of Himachal Pradesh and a visit to Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. The tour was started from 1st day of March, 2019 and ended on 10th March, 2019 with 13 students of Semester II and two faculty members of the Department (Dr. Chandrani Choudhuri and Dr. Bikram Saha). The journey was started from NJP station, Siliguri and reached Manali on 4th March, 2019 via New Delhi and Chandigarh.

Manali is situated at the northern end of the Kulu Valley in the state of Himachal Pradesh in India. Manali has spectacular vistas of snow laden peaks and wooded slopes. The lined orchards and fairy-tale forests of deodar offer marvelous walks. This has given a growing scope to variety of forests like sal, rhododendron, oak, fir, deodar, birch and pines are the pride of Manali. To protect



Scientific Model Preparation and Demonstration Programme Organised by the Department of Botany



The relations between physical and biological sciences are important in science education. The main objectives of the scientific modelling are to make a particular part or feature of the world easier to understand, define, quantify, visualize or simulate by referencing it to existing commonly accepted knowledge.

1st Semester students of Botany Department made some wonderful, simple scientific models with colourful beads, weir, cardboard and colourful pens which were easy available and cost effective. On 16th September 2019 in the Department, they enthusiastically demonstrated their prepared model. All the teachers and students were present at the time of model demonstration. The Model preparation and demonstration programme commenced with an introductory speech by Head of the Department. It was followed by demonstration of prepared scientific models. Three different groups represented three different models on the topic 'Secondary Structure of Protein'.

Scientific Model was prepared and presented by consecutive three groups respectively- Model Group I: α - Helix, Model -II: β -plated sheet (Anti-parallel), β - plated sheets (parallel) and scientific Model -III : super secondary motifs. After demonstration, question answer session was started where students were asked different questions from different directions and also share their opinion, observations and experiences. The session was ended with concluding discussions.

This type of innovative, creative scientific model preparation and demonstration improves student's cognitive power and creative thinking with explanation which is very important in the field of Life Sciences.

- by **Dr. Chandrani Choudhuri**,
HoD, Dept. of Botany



BIO-DIVERSITY TOUR

by Dept. of Zoology



It was the autumn, salting in the biodiversity rich doors, when the group of 19 Students along with 2 professors (Dr. Tamal Mazumdar and Priyanka Chakraborty) were gearing up for the most exciting excursion of Dept of Zoology for Spiti valley. Kaza along with the mighty Chandrataal lake which was planned for several months.

The day we were all waiting for has finally arrived on 25th of Sept, when we set foot in the New Jalpaiguri Station to start the journey that will last for 10 days. It was Sampark kranti express which took in from the rainy days of Siliguri to the still scorching heat of Delhi on 26th of Sept. It was supposed to be a halt of few hours in the capital of the country but we rescheduled to take an early leave to a land of Indian army. You guessed it right, we were in Ambala, Punjab by 10pm. We continued with the same excitement which included an over night journey to the most popular of all hill station. We were welcomed by the state of Himachal Pradesh with peaks covered in snow and a little bit of rain on the side. It was 11am of 27th of Sept when we reached Manali by two luxury traveller tempo.

On 28th of September, at 2 pm when to leave the cosy hotel room of Manali to take the zigzag road of the Leh-Manali Highway towards Chandrataal lake, we reached Rohtang Pass by 4am in the morning with everybody asleep, we woke up to the chanting of MAHALAYA playing by the speakers of the tempo. We witnessed the beauty of the nature at an elevation of 13050 ft. with the sight of the sun rising from the mountain range covered with snow. The Great Pirpanjal Range marked the beginning of the hectic journey we were about to witness. We could see the valley right under us with small stream of water running in between. The temperature dropped down to 6°C. We continued to engulf the sight of mountain goats climbing the mountain, the horses pass by along with the Himalayan Tahr. After an hour of drive we cut our final knot with

the modern civilization that was occupied in social media, with no more mobile network to distract us, it was the nature and a group of so called civilised homo sapiens started communicating the best way it was possible.

Through the toughest road enlisted in India we now reached a place which is considered a cold desert, the camping site of Chandrataal Lake (14000 ft.). After a rest of an hour including lunch time we started trekking towards the mighty lake which is also considered to be as Lake of Heaven. With the mountain covering the lake from all sides we started trekking around the lake which holds an approximate diameter of 4.7 km. The evening started to get more chilling as the wind started to pick pace the temperature dropped below -7°C. The fact that "you might

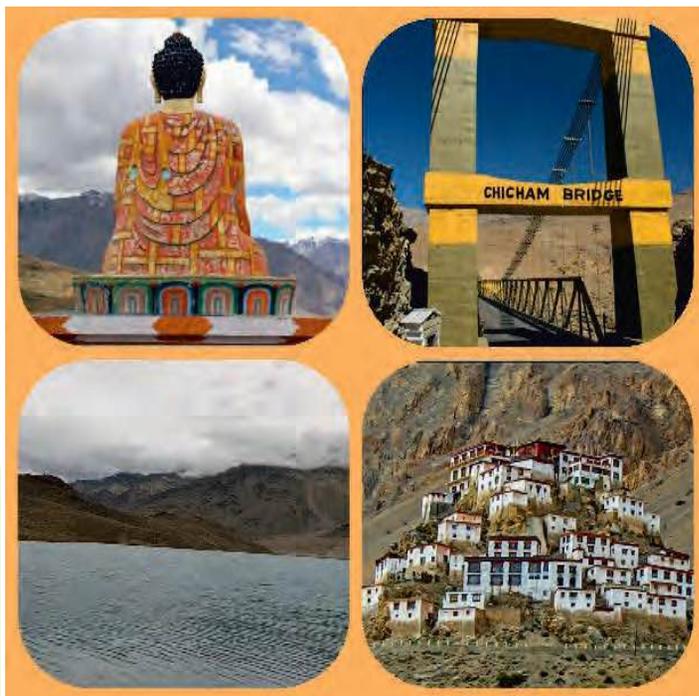


get a sleepless night in the camp on the very 1st day- did not hit us that hard as almost everyone of us had a good night of sleep with few individuals suffer from rise in body temperature and short of breath.

After an early breakfast we bid goodbye to the camp site of Chandrataal Lake at around 9am. It was 29th Sept., the traveller tempo followed the path in between the mountains on both side A pretty unsatisfactory to our expectations snowfall we received while we were passing Kunzum Pass. We were 76 km away from our next destination, the small yet beautiful town of Kaza situated by the river Spiti. Along the way we went passed the highest motorable bridge, CHICHAM BRIDGE (13244 ft.j). It is indeed a masterpiece of engineering skills. It was the Key monastery that took some of our time along with the small halt in the Kibber wildlife sanctuary. It was 2pm when we went past the world's highest retail outlet petrol pump(12270 ft.), to enter the town of Kaza to our second camping site. The day came to an end when we sat

the night watching the milky-way galaxy from outside our tent.

It was 30th Sept, with an early breakfast we left for the Pin Valley National Park. We witnessed the presence of wildlife mainly birds such as Common stonechat, Grandala, White-capped redstart, Brandts mountain finch, Snow patridge, Chukarpatridge, Tibetan sand goose and we also came across Pika, Blue sheep, Marmot and Ibex. We had to maintain a strict schedule as



the plan extended while coming back as we rescheduled to visit the Fossil Village of India, Langza situated at a height of 14,500 ft.. We were greeted with the Golden Buddha Statue which has been looking after the valley since 1000 yrs. as the sun and cloud were playing hide and seek we started our search of fossils and no wonder we found a lot of remains of Copepod fossils which were destined to make its new home at the Dept. of Zoology. NBSXC.

It was 1st of Oct. we started our journey back to Manali at 4am sharp along with all the memories we could possibly took and captured via our cell phones. We reached Manali by 7pm on the same day bidding goodbye to the tall standing mountains of the north along with the wildlife. After a long night of tired sleep we left for Chandigarh on 2nd of Oct. 7am.

It was 10 pm on 2nd of Oct when we boarded the train back to NJP from Chandigarh and wave the final goodbye with the most probable thought that it was the first and last time that the group of Zoologists will remember this tour for years to come.

-By **Shayan Dey**,
Dept, of Zoology. 3rd Year



A Three-Day workshop on

Recombinant DNA Technology

On the 11th of February, 2019, a workshop on the 'Recombinant DNA Technology' was organized by the Department of Microbiology in technical collaboration with the Department of Zoology. It was a three day workshop starting from the 11th until the 13th of February, 2019, held in the College Conference Hall. On the occasion Fr. Dr. Lalit Tirkey SJ, the Principal of the college, the Vice- Principal Fr. Xavier Alangaram and other faculty members were also present.

There were a total of 100 participants from different colleges and universities, mostly undergraduate students who attended the first-of-its-kind workshop.

The key speakers for the workshop were Dr. Gopal Jee Gopal, Asst. Professor Uka Tarsadia University (Gujarat), Professor Anirudh Saha, University of North Bengal, Dr. Tamal Mazumdar, Asst. Professor North Bengal St. Xavier's College and Dr. Manab Deb Adhikari, Asst. Professor University of North Bengal. The convener of the workshop was Dr. Bipranch Kumar Tiwary, and the workshop was pithily anchored by Professor Nitya Rai, the treasurer. The primary aim of the workshop was to provide a comprehensive knowledge about the 'Recombinant DNA Technology' and to demonstrate fundamental hands on training the essential skills of molecular biology to the beginners.

During the three days workshop the topics were discussed through the interesting and interactive lecture sessions including Power Point Presentations, Questions and Answers sessions on the first two days and hands on training on the last day which were reflected on the active and positive participation from all. The workshop was successfully accomplished as it showed the maximum participation from all the students, and they gained a lot of knowledge regarding the topics that were discussed.

-by **Priyanjali Pradhan**,
Dept. of Microbiology, 4th Semester



DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

Organised by
Department of Microbiology



"Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world"

- Louis Pasteur

Seminars have an important role to play in the curriculum. Everything is getting advanced at every second of time. Lots of researches and studies are carried out on various subjects and the students have to always keep their eyes on what new things are arriving day by day. This is where the seminars are of great importance since updates on various fields cannot be included in the syllabus. On the 18th of February, 2019, the Department of Microbiology had organised a seminar on the topic 'Modern Techniques in Microbiology'. Microbiology deals with the study of tiny creatures we often ignore. However, these microorganisms have immense role to play in the world at large. One way or the other, microorganisms affect all life forms on the planet. The study of microbiology is undergoing a renaissance owing to the development and application of a diverse range of new technologies. The HoD, Dr Biprakash Kumar Tiwary, presided over the seminar. The students presented papers in five groups under the supervision of Mrs. Nitya Rai, Ms Barsha Dey and Mr. Dwipritha Chattopadhyay. Each student gave their presentation covering different aspects of their field and each presentation was followed by an interactive session. The best speaker was awarded to Debanjana Majumder and the slide on "Polymerase Chain Reaction Applications" was chosen as the best slide. Overall the seminar saw equal amount of enthusiasm and hardworking.

- By **Abriti Rai** and **Muskaan Gurung**,
Department of Microbiology,
4th Semester



Department of Computer Science and Application



The Department of Computer Science was started in the year 2013 with B.Sc. Computer Science Honours, followed by Bachelor of Computer Applications (B.C.A.) in the year 2019 with the objective to produce undergraduates with sound knowledge in computer science which help them to apply principles of theory to practice, to equip students with the understanding and practical skill needed by the IT industry and to enhance student's learning abilities by improving their skills in computer environment.

On the 11 th Nov 2019, the Department of computer Science and Application, North Bengal St. Xavier's College, Rajganj organized a workshop on "Cyber Security and Ethical Hacking" in association with ISOEH, Kolkata. Mr.Gulab Kumar Mandal, Senior Security Analyst, ISOEH and the resource person of the event, accompanied with his two members elaborated on different aspect of cyber security and provided a live demonstration on hacking tools.

In the presence of Mr. Sandeep Sengupta, the Director of ISOEH, Data Securites PVT. LTD. and member of NASSCOM, CII and Public Relation Society of India signed an MOU with North Bengal St. Xavier's College, Rajganj campus for providing technical training of advance and latest tools for the students of Computer science and BCA etc.

Another workshop was organised by the department on the 11 th of January, 2020 on the topic "Cyber Security and Finance Forensics" with Mr. Sandeep Sengupta of ISOEH and Miss Amrita Acharya as resource persons. They discussed the financial aspect of cyber world and provided live demo on its importance. The workshop was attended by the students of B.Sc.(Comp Sc.), BCA & Commerce departments of N. B. St. Xavier's College. One of our students has been selected for leadership programme organised by St Aloysius College, Mangalore, Karnataka for all Jesuit Institution in India.

-By **Mr. Kamal K Prasad**,
HoD, Dept. of Computer Science and Application



Orientation programme of IGNOU students

An induction meeting for the new batch of learners (July 2019 session) of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was held on 20th October 2019 at the study centre in North Bengal St. Xavier's College (Study centre code : 45015). One hundred twenty (120) learners who enrolled themselves in various degree courses in IGNOU attended the induction meeting. Beside the new learners, the meeting was also attended by Dr. Praveen Pralyankar (Assistant Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Siliguri), Dr. Tamal Mazumder (Coordinator, IGNOU study centre 45015), Dr. Sourish Das Gupta (Assistant Coordinator, IGNOU study centre 45015), and other office bearers of the study centre. The objective of the induction meeting was to share information related to various programmes, courses, syllabus, assignments and activities of IGNOU. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Assistant Director of IGNOU Siliguri Dr. Praveen Pralayankar stressed on the reasons for opening IGNOU study centres in different areas of North Bengal and assured full support from the regional centre. He apprised the learners about the mandate, objectives and achievements of the IGNOU as largest Open University, offering education in hundreds of discipline through the distance learning mode. He said that the IGNOU provides

opportunities for enhancing educational levels for those who do not get time to attend regular classes in the conventional institutions and those who have not permitted to take admission in the conventional education system due to long gap after achieving certain educational standards from the conventional system. He laid emphasis on quality of educational materials and its flexibility. He also explained the details of IGNOU CBCS system of learning, initiated from the academic year 2019 -2020 to the learners. Earlier, Assistant Coordinator of the study centre Dr. Sourish Das Gupta welcomed the gathering and said that the IGNOU and its support service are always at the disposal of the learners and study centre 45015 is committed to help achieve their dreams. In his nicely elaborated speech Dr. Tamal Mazumder, Coordinator, study centre 45015 discussed the study plan and explained the programme objectives, programme structure, credit systems, counselling sessions, assignments, evaluation methodology and term end examinations. The Coordinator also advised the learners to attend the counselling sessions regularly for their own benefits.

-by **Dr. Sourish Das Gupta**,
Asst. Coordinator, IGNOU study centre NBSXC



// All India Catholic University Federation (AICUF) //

AICUF is a movement of university students with a vision for a new and just society. After a long gap, we resumed this **AICUF** cell since 2017. It brings awareness to the students on what is happening to the society at large and how students can play a vital role in uplifting the people who are marginalized. **AICUF** prepares the students to become future leaders to voice the needs of the voiceless. In this context we send few of our students to Chopra for the leadership program organized by Youth coordinator of Darjeeling Jesuit Province. The college also sent two students to Mangalore, Karnataka to participate in the "Discernment and Leadership Program" organized by South Asia Jesuit institutions. Soon all the AICUF students will be sent for 3 days retreat to reflect on meaning of life and their role in the world.

AICUF also brings awareness to the students about cultural and religious significance by celebrating the festivals. Karam is a celebration of good harvest by chotanagpur tribals. The college celebrated karam on 22nd September. At 7 am the young boys brought the branches of karam tree after worshipping the tree. The karam program began with a Mass in which at first the karam branches were carried by seven unmarried girls who had to keep fast for entire karam program. Soon after the Mass, Cultural program started with a prayer dance, followed by nagpuri dance, nepali dance, marathi dance by siliguri campus students, nepali songs and the most important and last performances of the cultural program was karam ritual dance on the beats of Mandal.

AICUF also celebrated Christmas with the support of Social Service Cell on 21st December, 2019. The program began with the welcome speech by the Principal Fr. Dr. Lalit Tirkey S.J. After the speech there was a musical act on the birth of Jesus along with the choir singing performed by the students of AICUF. The president of student council Ms. Shayori Halder delivered the message of Christmas to everyone attending the celebration. There was another short speech by our Vice Principal Fr. Xavier Alangaram S.J. As the SSC students and staff started Christmas carols, the Secret Santa arrived on the spot by well decorated cycle and entertained everyone through amusing dance and attractive gifts.





D.El.Ed Course XITE, NBSXC

The Second batch (Group B) of trainees began Diploma Elementary Education Course from June, 2019. Although the course did not take off as planned owing to various factors, the enthusiasm among those who opted for this course was palpable. One hundred and one trainees mostly untrained teachers from different private primary schools such as, St. Peter's Primary School, St. Vincent De Paul Primary School, Hatighisa, St Capitanio, Nagrakata, St. Francis School, Mongradangi, St. Pushpika School, Malbazar, and some of our students taking Education subject as their electives have been the chief beneficiaries. The classes which were conducted intermittently under 'Ongoing Formation of Teachers' at **Xavier's Institute of Teachers Education (XITE)** by accommodating the trainees or providing transport facilities for trainees mainly focussed on teaching of basic subjects such as, English, Arithmetic or Mathematics, Life Science, Classroom management, Child Development, and other subjects. We are indebted to Ms Patricia, President SOS India and representative of Italian Bishops' Conference, for her constant support in building part of the Second College Building besides financially supporting with purchases of furniture, maintenance and Kheripara Project. She and her team visited the college in August, 2019.

Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey SJ,
Principal, NBSXC



NSS RAJGANJ CAMPUS & ITS ACTIVITIES

SELECTION OF NEW VOLUNTEERS

Showing interest in something tells about the personality of the person. This interest was seen in the students of North Bengal St. Xavier College, Rajganj, when there was an interview for the new NSS volunteers on 24th August 2019. Many students came forward to be a NSS member. The interview was made possible with the help of NSS programme officer, Mr. Baidurya Biswas along with other teaching staff of the college and NSS volunteers. This was a remarkable day as more than 100 students joined NSS family. It shows the willingness of students to the humanity at large.

NSS ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

On the 31st of August 2019 NSS orientation programme was held for the new NSS volunteers to make them aware of what NSS volunteers do throughout their year. The programme started by lightning of the lamp by our Principal Father Dr. Lalit Tirkey, SJ and accompanied by our Vice Principal (Administration) Father Xavier Alangaram followed by NSS song and so on. The new volunteers were guided by our programme officer Mr. Baidurya Biswas who showed them the photos of the activities which were undertaken by the NSS unit and this gave them a good motivation and enthusiasm to work for others. Other faculties of NBSXC Ms. Payel Dey and Mr. Soumyadip Ghosh also motivated the volunteers. Harsh Gurung, ex-student of NBSXC, who represented the college and University of North Bengal in Republic Day Parade, 2019 has come on that day and shared his experience to motivate the volunteers. There were several performances performed by the students like singing and dancing. The teachers as well as students shared their experiences with the NSS unit, and the programme came to an end with the NSS clap and National Anthem.



OBSERVATION OF NSS DAY AND 'SWACHHTA HI SEVA' - A CAMPUS CLEANING DRIVE

On 24th September 2019, the NSS unit of North Bengal St Xavier's College celebrated NSS day. Every year the college celebrates NSS day by observing "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" and cleaning up the college campus. The program was inaugurated by singing the NSS song followed by a speech by Principal Father Dr Lalit Turkey, SJ and a speech by Anwesha Sen on NSS day and "Swachhata hi Sewa." This was followed by the cleaning of the college campus by the NSS volunteers of NBSXC. The volunteers cleaned up the classrooms, corridor, canteen and college surroundings. Like every year, this event was a successful one even this year and successfully spread the message of cleanliness.

FREE HEALTH CHECK UP CAMP

A free medical health check-up camp was jointly organised on 8th November 2019 by NSS unit, NBSXC and Women's Cell of NBSXC, Rajgan in collaboration with Lions Club, Jalpaiguri and Maharaja Agrasen Hospital. The team members of the hospital included Physician, Gynecologist, Pharmacist, eye specialist along with several nurses. Physical examinations such as blood pressure and blood sugar tests were provided to the patients. After that they were sent to their respective doctors where they were appropriately given the right directions regarding their health. Also free eye screening camp was arranged by Lions Club, Jalpaiguri. Many people from nearby areas came for the camp. Free basic medicines required for an early recovery were also distributed. Free medicines were supplied by Rajganj Hospital, Mogradangi.

PRE - CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT HOWRAH SOUTH POINT HANDICAPPED CHILDREN HOME

"United we stand , divided we fall"-With great enthusiasm and bringing cheer to one and all, NBSXC in collaboration with the students of St. Xavier's University celebrated Pre-Christmas at Howrah South Point Handicap Children Home. On 22nd December 2019 the members of NSS unit and students of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata reached South Point School. We were warmly welcomed by the little kids wearing Santa cap with cheerful smiles. Celebration started with the prayers to almighty God and a speech was delivered by the Vice Principal (Administration), Father Xavier Alangaram. We performed songs, dance and also enacted a



drama to entertain them under the leadership of Mrs. Payel Dey Saha, faculty of NBSXC and with due suggestions from Mr. Baidurya Biswas, NSS Programme Officer. We were amazed to see them dancing despite them being physically challenged. We arranged some games for them and they happily and enthusiastically participated. The children were provided with Christmas gifts, chocolates and cake.

● INTEGRATION FETE TO OBSERVE NATIONAL INTEGRATION DAY ●

The NSS unit of NBSXC organized the Integration Fete on 13th Jan, 2020 to observe the National Integration Day at its college lawn. The Hon'ble M.P. Jalpaiguri Dr. Jayanta Roy was present as the chief guest to grace the occasion. The programme was inaugurated by the introductory speech by Fr. Dr. Lalit Tirkey, SJ, Principal, NBSXC and this was followed by the succinct speech of the chief guest, Dr. Roy. In his speech, Dr. Roy appreciated the endeavor taken up by the NSS unit of NBSXC and also comprehended the contribution that the college offers to the society of North Bengal. The speeches of both the dignitaries were followed by a cultural programme by the college students to represent different types of dance performance of different states. The lawn of the college was occupied by more than 30 food stalls, handicrafts and game stalls put up by the students of the college in a systematic manner under the leadership of Mr. Baidurya Biswas, Programme Officer, NSS unit, NBSXC and other staff members.

The NSS Unit of NBSXC will also organize Special Camp in the month of February, 2020. The Blood Donation camp along with Thalassaemia Awareness programme will be organized on 11 February, 2020.



Blood Donation Camp

Blood transfusion and its related aspects have always eluded the minds of the people. To shed light on this subject with special emphasis on Thalassemia, the NSS unit of North Bengal St. Xavier's College organized a thalassemia awareness as well as testing camp along with a blood donation camp in the college premises on 11th January, 2020.

A team of doctors from Jalpaiguri was invited to conduct the camp which included Counsellor Mrs Mohua Saha Das, as well as Dr. Sanchita Bandyopadhyay who spoke passionately about the subject and also examined the donors. A total of 54 units of blood was collected from students as well as teachers which included many first time donors and 62 blood samples were taken for thalassemia examination. The camp not only succeeded in spreading extensive awareness about blood transfusion and thalassemia but also was able to contribute towards society through the medium of blood donation.



by
Roshan Castelino (B.Com Hons) Semester IV,
Sujata Chhetri (Geography Hons) Semester IV,
Muskaan Gurung (Microbiology Hons) Semester IV,
Pragya Nepal (Sociology Hons) Semester IV,
Priyanka Gupta (B.com) Semester II,
Mr. Baidurya Biswas, NSS Programme Officer, NBSXC (Rajgani)



Formation of YATC

North Bengal St. Xavier's College, Rajganj has formed 'Youth Against Trafficking Club' (YATC) on 5th of September 2019 in collaboration with MARG NGO Darjeeling, under the co-ordinatorship of Ms. Persis Mukhia (Convener of Women's Cell). Ms. Radha Khawas from MARG NGO Darjeeling oriented the students and also highlighted some social issues like child sexual abuse and the meaning of human trafficking. Interactive session was held where students raised their doubts on various issues which were explained very well by Ms Radha, who also highlighted on the ways to create awareness among people in the society. She also cited many cases of human trafficking and also the difference between FIR and GDE to maintaining strict confidentiality in regard to the identity of the victims. Students also took pledge to show there solidarity to the cause and willingness to form YATC. Mr. Nirmay John Chettri's message was read out in which he expressed his pleasure at the college's decision to form a YATC club. At last Ms. Persis Mukhia expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Radha Khawas and her team for initiating to help in the formation of the club. YATC has elected four office bearer members Ms. Shivangi Lama from Sociology Department (3rd semester) holds the position as President, Ms. Pedenla Yolmo as Vice- President from Sociology Department (1st semester), Mr. NamchuWangden Dong as Secretary from Computer Science Department (1st semester) and Mr. Riwarz Rasaily as the Treasurer from Sociology Department (3rd semester). With the help and support of all the group members we all are looking forward to work for the betterment of society.

Christmas Gala at

NBSXC

North Bengal St. Xavier's College, Rajganj organised "Christmas Gala" on the 19th of December, 2019. The event was a fund raising fete in which the members of the Women Cell came together and put up for sale various food and craft items. The crafts included handmade gift cards, earrings etc. There was also a photo booth and a selfie corner for the students and teachers to click pictures using various Christmas themed props. A game of housie was also played among the students in which about 30 students took part enthusiastically. Though the event was a short one but it was successful and filled the college atmosphere with Christmas vibes.

Report by: **Pragya Nepal**,
Dept. of Sociology, 4th Semester

By **Shivangi Lama**,
(Dept. of Sociology, 3rd Semester)



One Billion Rising 2020



RISE! RESIST! UNITE!

A team of ten student-members from the Women's Cell, **NBSXC** (Rajgani) was accompanied by Prof. Persis Mukhia and Prof. Rajarshi Bagchi to participate in the 'One Billion Rising, Revolution 2020', a programme jointly organized by Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre and Anti-Traffic Network (ATN) at Dagapur on 14th Feb., 2020. Aimed to urge women and other marginalised groups to 'Rise! Resist! Unite!', the theme for this year's campaign was "Raise the Vibration, Rise for Revolution". The programme started at around 2:30 pm with a graceful tribal dance by women tea-plantation workers of Gulma T.E. Ms. Moumita Khati (from NGO 'Lighthouse Disha') then enlightened the audience about the 'One Billion Rising' project which had started on this day in 2012. Next in line was a string of songs, recitations, colourful dances and skits performed by children from Loreto School (Darjeeling & Panighata) and from NGOs like Lighthouse Disha, World Vision, Prerana Educational Centre, ARISE etc. It was followed by a speech by the Chief Guest, Prof. Gangotri Chakraborty (HOD, Dept. of Law, NBU), in which she stressed on resisting the patriarchal ploy of (en)gendering women as a vulnerable group. The programme ended around 4:45pm with energetic numbers from 'Porijayi'-a local Bangla band - followed by a 'Vote of Thanks' delivered by Sister Flora of the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre.

By **Mr. Rajarshi Bagchi**,
Asst. Professor, Dept. of English

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Career & Placement Cell

Report for the Session 2019-20 related to NBSXC Siliguri Campus, Gurung Busty

The Career and Placement Cell of NBSXC, Siliguri Campus, organised a string of programmes throughout the 2019-2020 academic session with the purpose of providing exposure to the students and sharpening their employability skills. The first of these was a seminar on industry-academia collaboration titled, "Making Future Ready". Organised on 15th June 2019, at the Siliguri campus, the objective of the seminar was to deliberate on the issues and challenges of entrepreneurship, and to draw up an action plan for the future. The next programme was a two-day affair, starting from 20th August 2019. On the first day, a workshop was conducted on 'Power Dressing and Handshake Mantra' by Mr. Suraj Goyal from Young Indians (YI). The workshop imparted valuable lessons on body-language and grooming to the students, and underlined the importance of soft-skills in the business sector. The next day saw a session conducted by Mr. Rajat Agarwal from YI on recent developments in the field of Digital Marketing. It provided the students with many inputs regarding cost-effective techniques of digital marketing, advertising through social media applications, targeting ideal buyers, and so on. About a month later, on 25th September 2019, an industrial visit was undertaken to the North East Cylinder Industries, near Marketing Check-post, NH: 31, Phulbari Haat, Jalpaiguri-734015. The students were offered a peek into the various stages of production, quality control and distribution in a real industrial setup. The Career and Placement Cell rounded off its year-long programme on 28th November 2019, with a campus drive, where three students of NBSXC got selected for the post of Relationship Manager at Fortune Securities, a reputed investment company based in Siliguri.



- by **Sheikh Raunak Mondal**
Coordinator, Career and Placement Cell (NBSXC)
and HoD, Dept. of BBA



FUTSAL COMPETITION

NBSXC (Rajganj and Siliguri) participated in the 1st Yuva Inter College Futsal Competition on 15th Sept, 2019. The team from NBSXC (Rajganj) was declared as the winner of the competition. Chhogel Lepcha, a student of 3rd Yr, Dept. of Sociology of NBSXC was awarded as the best player of the match.



Treasure hunt

An orientation programme for Young India took place on 30th July, 2019 and 103 students got registered under this club. Young India, Siliguri organised the 1st Inter Yuva College Treasure Hunt on 21st September 2019. All five Yuva colleges such as IAS, North Bengal St. Xavier's College (Rajganj and Siliguri campus), Inspira Knowledge Campus and Salesian College participated in the programme with great energy. Two teams from each college consisting of 3 members participated. The programme started from Montana Vista (Uttarayan) and ended at R.G Bastralay (City Center). Each team was full of enthusiasm and spirit during the whole process of the Treasure Hunt. It included many mental as well as physical games for acquiring the treasure of the Treasure Hunt.



North Bengal St. Xavier's College (Rajganj campus) was the first runner's up and team members were comprised of Shayori Halder, Barnali Biswas and Anitya Lama. Salesian College (Siliguri) was declared as the winner. The programme ended up with the prize distribution ceremony from the President of Young India Siliguri.

A workshop on Music arrangement and production was conducted on 19th of August at NBSXC (Rajganj) by Shubham Goyel (YI) and his team. The programme was all about music arrangement and production and it was an idea to expand our knowledge in music by using. Total 93 students have attended the program. Students have interestingly and actively participated in this workshop. The program started with identification of the musical instruments played in the projector which shows that identifying the musical instrument is a trick. He taught us how we can understand it. He even advised us to mention and write the name of the instruments on the song they played. The speaker of the programme was very enthusiastic and he was a good communicator to the students. He has enlightened the program when he involved student for song recording. They taught us how to record the song by using this software. This is indeed "Learning with Fun".



Rohan Dural, a student of NBSXC, got selected for Music Internship in CARAVAN Academy of Music (YI).

Christmas Celebration

by Social Service Cell

The spirit of Christmas is all about compassion and sharing joy with others. The Social Service Cell of North Bengal St. Xavier's College visited Prerana Educational Center in Salugara, Siliguri to celebrate Christmas with those that are not as privileged as us. We gathered funds by putting up craft, games and food stalls the profit from which we utilized to buy little knickknacks for the kids. Students wore Santa hats and sung carols for the children as well as danced with them and for them. We were benumbed by their talents and hospitality and did not want to come back, however, we only left with the promise that we will return again and we hope to keep that promise in the near future.

- by **Shayori Halder**,
3rd Year, Dept. of Geography



Inter-School Debate Competition X-cursus

The Debate Club in collaboration with the Inter-Institutional Activities Committee, NBSXC (Rajganj) organised an Inter-School Debate Competition ('X-cursus') on November 11th, 2019. The topic of the debate was, "Social Media is doing more harm than good to the youth". Mr. Souvik Kunda, Asst. Teacher of Dhapganj Govt. Sponsored Ashram Type High School, was present as the chief judge of the competition. The day's proceedings started around 10 a.m. at Hall No. 03 with Principal Fr. Dr. Lalit Tirkey's welcome address to the visiting teams. Twelve student-participants--hailing from different notable schools of the adjoining areas like Don Bosco School (Siliguri), Nirmala Convent, DPS (Siliguri), Holy Child School (Jalpaiguri), and

others--kept the audience hooked with their oratorical fireworks, as they put forth their arguments for and against the motion. Whereas one group pointed to the many snares and pitfalls of the virtual world, the other group underlined the impossibility and undesirability of being a Luddite in our times. Finally, after a scintillating battle of wits, it was the team of Latina and Lisika Agarwal from Nirmala Convent which was adjudged the winner. The 'Best Speaker' award was given to Sounak Roy Chowdhury from Holy Child School (Jalpaiguri). The event drew to a close at 2:30 p.m. with a 'Vote of Thanks' delivered by the Vice-Principal Fr. Xavier Alangaram. Overall, it was a day of excellent infotainment which provided food for thought to all involved.

-by **Mr. Rajarshi Bagchi**,
Asst. Professor, Dept. of English





Activities of *Nature Club* X-istence

The earth and its ecosystem are our homeland. In order to achieve balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generation, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and earth. In the year of 2019, Nature Club of North Bengal St. Xavier's College celebrated World Earth Day on 24th April in our college campus. On this auspicious day, Nature Club 'X-istence' organized a 'Photo Exhibition' where all the students and members of Nature Club participated actively. The theme of the 'Photo Exhibition' was "Protect our species". There were total twelve participants from different departments and about forty two photos were displayed in that photo exhibition which was taken by student participants. The 'Photo Exhibition' was inaugurated by Hon'ble Principal Father Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey S.J. our Vice-Principal in-charge Dr. Arindam Metia, our acting Dean Mr. Prasun Banerjee, Co-ordinator of Nature Club Dr. Chandrani Choudhuri and one student representative of Nature Club by lightening of the lamp. Mr. Sidharth Chhetri, Nature Club students' member, delivered a speech on the significance of 'Earth Day'. Our hon'ble Father Principal shared few words of encouragement to the students and reminded us about the importance of such events. All the participants were then encouraged by giving 'Khada' and pen as token of appreciation. The co-ordinator of Nature Club, Dr. Chandrani Choudhuri, expressed her views on 'Earth Day' and concluded the event as votes of thanks.

On 17th September, 2019 Nature Club has arranged an 'Orientation Programme' for new members of Nature Club in the college campus. About 45 Nature Club members joined in this

programme. Main objective of the programme was to aware about nature and nature related programs that 'Nature Club' mainly performed. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Principal Father Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey S.J. with his welcoming speech. Nature Club co-ordinator Dr. Chandrani Choudhuri gave an introductory speech on the motto, objectives and activities of Nature Club and also discussed the future plan.

Conservation of nature and natural resources by organizing various eco-friendly activities is one of the important objectives of Nature Club. In order to restore the eco-balance 'X-istence', NBSXC organized a tree plantation programme on 5th November 2019. A total of 25 plants like Amlaki, Sonajhuri, Chikur etc. were planted in the college campus. The saplings were provided by Social forestry Department, Siliguri. The plants which were planted were having both medicinal and aesthetic values. The programme started at 11:00 am with the inaugural address of our Principal Father Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey S.J. and Vice-Principal (Administration) Father Xavier Alangaram S.J. Both of them highlighted the importance of tree plantation in present scenario and also encouraged students for plantation. They had distributed plant saplings among students for plantation and also took part in the plantation along with the students' members of Nature Club. Students were enthusiastically planted trees and fetched water to the planted trees under the supervision of teacher members of Nature Club. The programme created a great impact among the students.

- by **Dr. Chandrani Choudhuri**,
Co-ordinator, Nature Club



'LIBRARY AUTOMATION'



WORKSHOP

A one day Workshop on 'Library Automation' for the library staff members was held at North Bengal St. Xavier's College, Rajganj Campus on 4th January 2020. The workshop was organized by IQAC to provide hands-on training to library staff members on the implementation of Bar Coding Technology with the help of Koha. Mr. Pinaki Sarkar, the Librarian of Siliguri Institute of Technology (SIT) was the resource person for the workshop. The library staff members of Rajganj and Siliguri campus and few faculty members participated in the workshop.

- by **Dr. Asim Mitra**,
Vice-Principal, NBSXC (Siliguri Campus)
and Coordinator, IQAC

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A Colloquium on Education in USA

*"One's destination is never a place
but a new way of seeing things"*

- Henry Miller.

Many students aspire to study abroad but not many succeed, lack of guidance leads them to give up their dreams. On the 25th November, 2019 delegates from US consulate, Kolkata visited the campus of North Bengal St. Xavier's College (Rajganj) to deliver a talk on the process of filing student visas for the US. Students, eager to learn, attended the programme with enthusiasm. The workshop began with Ms. Amy Gradin and Mr Stephen Simon giving the students a detailed presentation on the steps to follow for enrolling in an US university. The session was inaugurated by Fr. Dr. Lalit P.Tirkey, the college Principal, and was chaired by Mr. Prasun Banerjee, the Dean of students, NBSXC. The comprehensive talk of the delegates covered all minute information from the process of filing a university application to visas to cost. They also, briefly touched upon the topic of different scholarship programs that are available. The day ended with students clearing their doubts and getting contact information about the study in US. Studying abroad can be transformative as one starts seeing the world in a new light. One might say that studying abroad is the opportunity to discover you while gaining an understanding of a different culture.

- by **Namrata Bhattacharya**,
Dept. of English, 3rd Year



and Orientation Programme Welcome New Xavierians

Orientation Programme 2019

The orientation programme for the session 2019-2020 was held on 2nd July 2019 at the College auditorium. The programme aimed at introducing the freshers with rules, regulations and various activities conducted by the college. The freshers were welcomed with a khada and small pamphlet inscribed with beautiful quotes and pray. The programme commenced with the lamp lighting ceremony. The chief guest of the programme was Dr. Nupur Das, secretary, UG Council, University of North Bengal. She motivated all the freshers by sharing anecdotes of her own life experiences and elaborated on how hard work supersedes all. Our Principal and faculty members acquainted the freshers with "Xavierian lifestyle", the lifestyle guided by the educational philosophies of Jesuit Institution. The various college policies, general rules and the honour code were addressed by our Principal Fr. Dr. Lalit Tirkey, SJ. A wealth of positive thought was shared by our Vice Principal Fr. Xavier Alangaram, SJ. He also talked about various activities that will help students to engage with their passion and areas of interest. Later there were some cultural programmes followed by the speech of Fr. Xavier Alangaram, Vice-Principal (administrative) and Ms. Aparna Chatterjee Vice-Principal (academic) who talked about the rules and regulations of the college and wished the new students for their new beginning in North Bengal St. Xavier's College. The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Arindam Metia, the then Dean of students, NBSXC, Rajganj. Indeed, all were fully fueled to not just simply complete but live the upcoming years of life with great zeal and zest.

-by **Abhigya Chhetri**
(Dept. of Microbiology, 2nd Semester)
& **Barnali Biswas**
(Dept. of English, 4th Semester)





The Principal Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey offering the welcome address

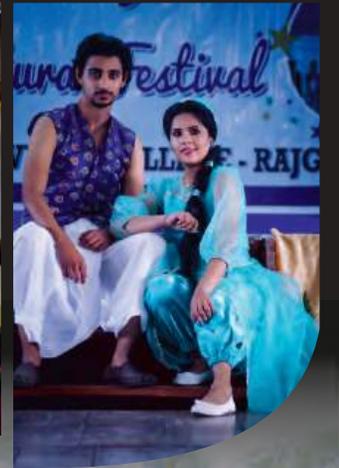
Xtravaganza

W

North Bengal St. Xavier's College, the prominent Jesuit Institution has had several successful annual concerts through the years. However, this year, their Annual Concert 2020, 'Xtravaganza', was pulled off in a manner which was unconventional to them and was, undoubtedly, a huge success. The two day programme, held on 27th and 28th respectively, received momentous responses from the audience of this and other invited colleges. The first day began with a grand welcome of our Honorable Chief Guest Dr. Saibal Basu, a teacher from Arabinda H.S Vidyalaya and a renowned theatre person, by the Hon'ble Principal Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, SJ, followed by the congeniality of our Guest of Honor Fr. Edward Arokia, SJ. The students exhibited their performances with immense exuberance making the occasion a massive success. The programme has been concluded by the Vice-Principal (Administration) Fr. Xavier Alangaram who gave the vote of thanks in a succinct manner. The following day of the Annual Concert 2020, organized by the Students' Council, too was undeniably a cherry on top. The college music club performed several enthralling songs and presented beautiful dances with creative movements and intricacies. There was also a performance by Part III student, DJ Akash. The final event was the band performance by Zero Hour which is primarily performed rock songs in four different languages. The Students' Council organized the event with the help of the administration and several sponsors. The students as well as teachers turned up in colourful dresses and had a gala time.

Hence, the successful execution of the fest only re-affirms our student integrity and makes the college, one with a difference.

-by **Roshan Castelino**,
Dept. of Commerce, 4th Semester
Shayori Halder,
Dept. of Geography, Part-III
& **Shreeja Mukhopadhyay**,
Dept. of English, 4th Semester





Dr. Saibal Basu, the chief guest, addressing the audience



Performance by the College band



Performance by the band, Zero Hour



Xuberance Day

The Annual College Sports

held at NBSXC, Rajganj







VALUE EDUCATION

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Education means all round drawing out of the best in child and man-body, mind and spirit.” As such, education becomes the basis of personality development on all dimensions-moral, mental and emotional. Since our ancient times it is said “Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye”, which means that with education we finally attain Salvation. A wide range of values of moral, aesthetic and social nature evolved during the marathon march of the human civilization is posing before us a crisis of priorities: which of these values is to be cultivated and what is the appropriate stage of doing so? And, who is to inculcate values? The easy and obvious answer is—“The teacher is the prime inculcator of values because the young minds are under his or her formal care.” North Bengal St. Xavier’s College is committed to value oriented education in its curriculum. We believe that value education influences all aspects of our students’ growth and development. Thus, value-education consequently is an integral part of our curriculum.

- by **Ms. Sanjukta Mitra**,
Asst. Professor
and Convener of Value Education



A MOU signed between NBSXC &

Tally Education Pvt. Ltd

North Bengal St. Xavier's College and Tally Education Pvt Ltd have signed a MOU and introduced a 60 hours Certificate Program on 'Tally.ERP9' for the students of North Bengal St Xavier's College Siliguri and Rajganj Campus. This certification will recognize skills of a candidate learning 'Tally ERP 9'. Tally ACE certifies candidate as job ready and opens up multiple career opportunities. A certified candidate can opt to become an entrepreneur as well.

-by **Dr. Asim Mitra**,
Vice-Principal,
NBSXC (Siliguri Campus)
and Coordinator, IQAC



Events at Siliguri Campus



Orientation programme of Social Service Cell, at Siliguri Campus



NSS ORIENTATION

On 22nd August, 2019, an orientation session regarding National Social Service Scheme took place at Siliguri campus from 11 AM in which 40 Students from BBA(H) and B.Com (H) participated. The introductory speech was given by Fr. Ajay Lakra, SJ about NSS. Later, Mr Baidurya Biswas (programme officer, NBSXC Rajganj) and Ms Persis Mukhia, Asst. Professor at NBSXC, Rajganj shared their views and experiences about NSS and inspired the students of Siliguri campus to join NSS. It is worth mentioning here that this year with the aspiration of Fr. Dr. Lalit Tirkey SJ, Principal, NBSXC, and with Fr. Ajay Lakra SJ, the-then Campus in-charge, Siliguri campus and Dr. Asim Mitra, present Vice-principal, Siliguri campus, the NSS Unit of Rajganj campus has been extended to Siliguri campus for the first time, where the students of Siliguri campus are having the opportunity to join and be a part of this elite organisation for serving the society. Later, Mr Harsh Gurung, who is a present NSS member and a proud participant of NSS regiment that marched on India Gate, at Republic day, shared his experience about the event and other NSS Activities. At the end, it was a grand success as 25 students joined NSS at Siliguri campus after the completion of the orientation programme.



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

On 24th September, 2019, NSS SWACH BHARAT ABHIYAN programme was organised at Siliguri Campus of NBSXC, in which 25 NSS Members and 5 Faculty members along with Fr. Ajay Lakra SJ, the-then Campus-in-charge, joined the programme. Around 11 AM, the programme started with a brief introduction of the event by Fr. Ajay Lakra SJ and Ms. Payal Mitra, co-ordinator of B.Com programme, Siliguri Campus. After the initial introduction, under the supervision of the faculty members, the NSS Volunteers cleaned the campus with broom stick, bleaching power etc. Whole hearted support and enthusiasm were seen among all the volunteers and students for making the event a grand success. After 2 hrs of dedicated work, the entire campus was cleaned. At the end, a brief refreshment session was held and the event was concluded with the vote of thanks by Fr. Ajay Lakra SJ and Ms Payal Mitra.

-by **Mr. Aritra Kundu**,
Asst. Professor



Formation of Students' Council at Siliguri Campus

Youth Parliament at IILS

On 30th of November and 1st of December, 2019, Indian Institute of Legal Studies organised their 4th Youth Parliament where they had invited a number of schools and colleges to join them in the auspicious event. North Bengal St. Xavier's College was privileged to be invited to the event. Students, accompanied with a teacher, were invited to participate in the mock parliament sessions spanning over two days. Shayori Halder, Saurav Karmakar and Apsara Dasgupta along with Prof. Saikat Roy and Dr. Pavanbir Kaur attended the sessions. The topic for the session on the first day was 'Sabarimala Temple: Conflict between custom and law', while the topic for the second day was 'Right to access Internet in higher educational institutions: part of the right to education and the right to privacy.' On both the days, there was a lively debate on the issues as the members of each parliamentary group tried to defend their points with great zeal and enthusiasm. At the end of both the sessions, there was a prize distribution ceremony, wonderful speeches by chief guests and finally the event came to a conclusion with the singing of the National Anthem. It was a wonderful experience for everybody. The event concluded with a lot of knowledge gained, skills imbibed, memories gathered and a promise for such wonderful future endeavors.

-by **Apsara Dasgupta**,
Dept. of English, 3rd Year





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Millennial Dystopia and the Middle East:

Politics of living in Labaki's *Capernaum*

The claustrophobic prison bars clang open. A pair of handcuffs viciously forces him before a pensive trial. The dolour of his thirteen year old gaze exudes an aura of palpable foreboding as he snatches a glimpse of the accused: his parents. A surge of baritone cuts through the anxious silence and demands him to know why they are being sued. His poverty stricken frame fidgets nervously at the impassive eyes of judgement. Then through an adolescent timid wryness he clarifies: for endowing him with life...



The borderline surreal opening with its antinatalistic outcry microcosmically encapsulates what fashions out to be the heart-rending disposition of Nadine Labaki's mordant coming of age motion picture, *Capernaum* (2018). A gruellingly audacious political dissent, the film subverts the neoliberal propensity of catering to the comfort zone of the audience. Instead of amounting to it to the point of numbing satiation, it animalistically lashes out to disclose the most harrowing truths repressed within the contemporary socio-politic of Lebanon. Thus, by shirking off shades of populist commercialization it stands out, only to be rivalled by the latest releases like the artfully oneiric *Roma*, the magic realistic *Tigers are Not Afraid* and the tragicomic heist drama *Shoplifters*.

The plot of *Capernaum* centres on the juvenile subjectivity of its protagonist Zain (Zain Al Rafeea), an inhabitant of a slum in Beirut. Zain flees from his family upon the

forced marriage of his sister Sahar (Cedra Izam) and finds himself at odds with the cruel indifference of existence along with the socially marooned Ethiopian refugee Rahil (Yordanos Shiferaw). The Lebanon portrayed in the movie is grittily realistic. It sharply critiques the American pop-culture means of propagating a represented Middle East and unmasks its neo-imperialist hegemony over the area.

A visible paradigm shift, however, is felt as the film, being a modern neorealist offspring of its generic Italian progenitors, ceaselessly dislocates its praxeology. It deviates a lot from the genre's fervid preoccupation with 'Disciplinary Societies' of the 1940's. Instead, the anxiety-laden foreboding zeitgeist of the post- World War II era has been supplanted by the disconcerting malignancies of the 21st century globalism. Uneasiness deepens as the culprits of the specific situation are ubiquitously invisible and thus cannot be stereotyped easily

enough.

The disillusioned prepubescent protagonist of *Capernaum*, seems to be the millennial manifestation of what Giorgio Agamben characterizes as a 'Homo Sacer' or a socially "sacrificial individual" (*Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, 1998). In the movie, Zain is denuded of his 'Bios' or political citizenship and legality as an acknowledgeable sentient being and is reduced to his 'Zoe' or the status of a mere biological organism defined only by its physiological and biological apparatus. This 'bestialization' is an evolved totalitarian manoeuvre which allows the apparently democratic power centre to sanctify the already invulnerable and privileged status of the existing class system in a society. It forces the marginalized to be further ostracized into eventual invisibility. Zain's inconspicuousness in a crowded sea of apathy, his unregistered anguish and lack of a societal individuality configure him as a

'bare' life-form. The aforementioned abnormalization is more palpably evident in the scattered cinematic glimpses of Rahil's quotidian life as a migrant worker trying to conceal her illegal infant while being constantly threatened by a child-trafficking loan shark.

Over the course of its brisk non-linear narrative sprints, the film exhibits instances of thematic neo-realism too in its unabashed portrayal of third world atrocities. Labaki's ensemble of non-professional actors and his employment of an utterly non-theatrical dialect, coupled with his deliberate sloppiness of the camera, help him to denude his thematic locale quite to a degree. As a vitriolic work of social protest, *Capernaum* innately maintains the spirit of a ribald gonzo docu-fiction, and in its archiving of prejudice and poverty evokes the grotesque political resonance of Visconti's *La Terra Trema* (1948). Apart from broaching subjects of paedophilia, child marriage, child labour, refugee discrimination etc. the film depicts an incurably Kafkaesque tinge of parental alienation and existential loneliness. An instance involving Zain's parents, furiously insisting him to leave his family, feels like a postmodern update of Kafka's "The Judgement" (1912). Later, by the middle of the movie-narrative, Zain comes across his own identity-less reflection in the form of an elderly carnival employee dressed in a Spiderman suit, who refers to himself as the "Cockroach Man".

The narrative is marked by a prominent sparseness of dialogue as a nod to its classical roots of 'neo-verismo' and the plot delicately and suggestively handles bereavement through a pronounced dependence on the Kuleshov effects. Owing to its minimal reliance on melodramatic verbal exposition and lack of pedantic moralization, the film never jumps the shark. Rare occurrences of aerial and wide angle shots elevate the fragility of the protagonists with the same vulnerability as de Sica's *Umberto D* (1952). The empty landscape with its dilapidated buildings surrounding an

isolated adolescent, questioning his ill-fated *geworfenheit* or 'thrownness', trailing a defencelessly naive toddler in a make-shift carriage, betrays an Antonionian image of desolation. Labaki successfully pulls heartstrings and sonically represents trauma through minimalistic ambient cello swells. Bombardment of gut-wrenching imagery like chained infants, drug abuse, children carrying out smuggling chores, refugee homes similar to concentration camps, angst of separation arising out of menstruation spots, a ravaged scenery of Beirut, squandered utterances of hope, deterritorialized immigrants begging for forgiveness from their offspring and mentions of US fusillades scenically uphold an irredeemable despondence, straight out of the oeuvre of Heironymus Bosch. The recursive narrative flow is well realized, when the Chekov's Gun goes off as Zain stabs Assad, the paedophilic local market owner, with his own knife, during the film's climactic moments.

Capernaum proves itself to be the latest heir to the cinematic series of intertextually charged social *bildungsromans* with their vindictively unfettered exposures of brutal *rite de passage*, faced by their archetypal young heroes. It shares the same lifeblood of *Sahaj Paather Goppo* (2016), *Bicycle Thieves* (1948), *Shoeshine* (1946) and, most discernibly, of Truffaut's *Antoine Doinel Anthology* (1959-79). The film at times even emerges as a grittier direct spiritual sequel to *The 400 Blows* (1959) with the same air of juvenile delinquency and the evolution of the hero into a Darwinian street punk transgressor. Although both the films share a similar freeze frame open-endedness, *Capernaum's* denouement, unlike Truffaut's film, concludes on a flicker of hope no matter how much it contradicts Zain's Utopian visions for a better life. Unlike Doinel's apprehension, Zain's frozen smile at the end indicates his peace with his newfound identity, which he was bereft of at birth and which he ironically gains through a virulently nihilistic and antinatalistic verbal

diatribe at a news channel.

Capernaum, thus, *rhizomatically* builds upon and eventually expands the thoroughly political generic borders of the Italian Socialist Realism. What is important is that it refurbishes its pro-humanistic sentiments for the millennial audience through its cinematic dissection of an era torn apart by Islamophobia, laceration of childhood and the ever widening void of antagonism brewing between USA and the Middle East.

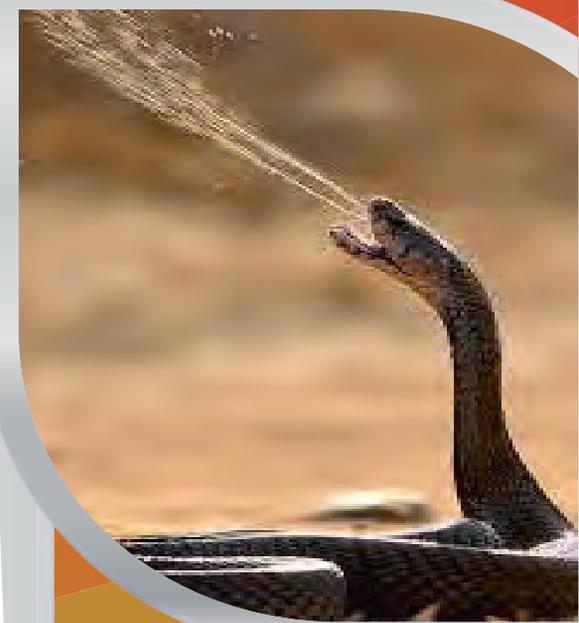
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-by **Agnidipto Roy**,
Dept. of English,
4th Semester



The Deadliest Boon: **SNAKE VENOM**

Before entering into the world of the deadly magic of venoms, let us build a clear concept on venomous snakes. We often confuse venomous snakes with poisonous snakes. But there lies a difference separating the two. Venomous snakes are those which bite to inject their toxins whereas poisonous snakes are those which unload the toxins when eaten.

Venom is a straw colored fluid stored in the salivary glands of venomous snakes. It composes of proteins, enzymes and polypeptide toxin. This noxious combination is enough to deliberate and immobilize their prey. Coming into the types of venoms, they are categorized as: Cytotoxin that destroys the body cells leading to necrosis, Neurotoxin that affects the nervous system causing paralysis and Hemotoxin that possesses cytotoxic effect and disrupt the normal blood coagulation processes. Mostly, venomous snakes inject venom into their prey with their fangs by piercing into the tissue and allowing the venom to flow into the wound. Some snakes are also able to spit or eject venom as a defensive mechanism. It is interesting to know that the snake does not get affected by the venom. The fact that they are not harmed when they eat the poisoned animal is because the protein in the venom needs to enter the circulatory system in order to show the predator its dead end. But in this case, as the snake ingests the venom, the protein based toxins are broken down into their basic components by the stomach acids and digestive enzymes. There are around 700 species of venomous snakes out of which 250 of them are capable of killing a human with one bite. Among all of them, the sea snakes are the most venomous in the entire world.

Apart from the deleterious effects of venom, they too have a positive side in the field of medicinal biology. Along with the development of anti-venoms, the study of snake venoms and their biological actions have become important to discover new ways to fight human diseases. Hemotoxin is used to develop drugs for treating hypertension and heart attack. Neurotoxin has been used in drugs treating brain diseases and stroke. Alzheimer and cancer are also treated using certain venoms. Therefore, it can be concluded that along with its life threatening abilities, venoms can also turn out to serve as a boon in life saving purposes.

-by **Ambalika Das**,
Dept. of Zoology, 2nd Semester

Just another Girl

She walked past a bunch of hungry wolves with gazes that were not friendly but that of which reflected lust and starvation, she checked herself up, she looked subtle in her denim and hoodie, but to those she seemed to be a platter full of delicacies from the buffet. Their eyes were fixed at her as if they were going to rip her flesh off itself. She continued walking and their gazes followed, some even tried to interrogate, and some brushed their fingers against her covered arms. She was hesitant to shout, cry or run. It was hard for her eyes to believe that these well dressed, gentle people could have such uncouth behavior, because she was always taught to be careful of those horrific looking, unkempt men. The hungry gaze stopped right there just as a car flashed its head light straight at their faces, to her surprise it was a cab driver who jumped off his car with a hockey stick only to chase them away and later offered to drive her home safe seeing her walking alone amidst that toxic and suffocating surrounding. She was in good hands - an angel in disguise. She reached home safe. She knew her gratitude and good words would never be greater than the deeds of this shabby looking poor man. She was aware of how looks and status were not the only basis to judge a man's behavior.

-By **Apsa Reena Baral**,
Dept. of History,
3rd Year

Is there
an alcove

for
'Us'?

Today the world has progressed many a times from what it was earlier. In present days, there is no discrimination between men and women. In fact, the women of today are leaving no stone unturned to attain a superior position over to man in every field. Even then, their success is limited as the vast majority of them are illiterate.

Even today there are many restrictions on women's education. We may attribute this to narrow outlook of men. There are many families who fear having a female child. Owing to this uneducated orthodox and narrow outlook of society, women are being deprived of their rights, even to their right to live! Some have broken the barriers and achieved their goals. Women like Sonia Gandhi, Pratibha Patel, Mamata Banerjee are championing women's cause in every sphere.

Women like P.T. USHA, Sania Mirza and Kalpana Chawla have blazed their way to glory. But how many of them are there? It is for the rest to follow in their foot paths and emerge from the darkness. It is therefore, necessary to make women's education compulsory to at least make them aware of their own rights. It is proved through many examples that when educated women can also govern the world efficiently. They have shown their mettle in every field and provided their ability to weather all situations.

It is to the benefit of the country, to the world and human society, that women are educated and given their rightful opportunities. How can there be progress in the world when half the population is illiterate? That half which is the first teacher and guide to the future citizens?

-By **Aradhya Ghosh**,
Dept. of English,
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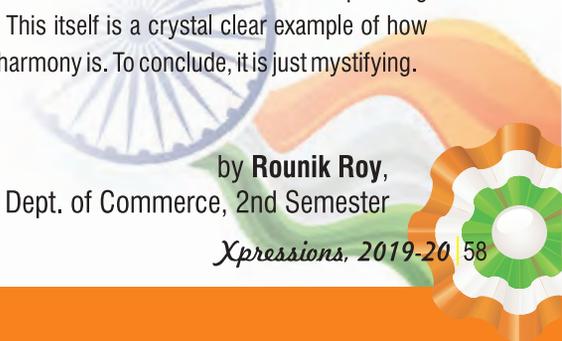


Communal Harmony in India



The word 'communal' means something that involves different groups of people in a community, 'harmony' means a state of peaceful existence and agreement, so, when these two words come together, they simply point towards people of different religions, castes, creeds, genders and different backgrounds living together in the society with love and peace amongst themselves. And communal harmony in India, a country where there is an approximate number of 1.3 billion people from different castes and creeds and with different tastes and cultures co-existing and co-operating peacefully with each other can be found, with no doubt, to a great extent. Here in India we have Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, and many other people belonging to so many other different religions as well as people from different castes such as Brahmins, kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Shudras, and many more. But despite so much variation, we live together peacefully, interacting with, exploring and respecting one another's cultures, traditions, religions and beliefs. This is where the true beauty and meaning of communal harmony lies, to Indians communal harmony is not just a concept but a wide part of this country's heritage and also, a very unique and vital feature of this country which helps it overshadow all the other countries in beauty, uniqueness and culture. Also there is a beautiful instance or rather, a true story to signify the strength of India's communal harmony which must be mentioned in this case. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, on an occasion that he had to attend, was once asked to light a lamp using a candle. Holding the candle, he said, "I'm a Muslim. I'm lighting a Hindu lamp using a Christian's candle. Such should be the communal harmony in India!" This shows how strong the concept of communal harmony is here and how tremendously passionate we Indians are in maintaining this communal harmony in India. Along with Dr. Kalam, there were many other pioneers who made a lot of contributions towards holding our communal harmony under a stable and peaceful state and ensuring its further strengthening. What we understand today is that communal harmony is basically a strong thread that ties us all together, irrespective of our religion, caste or creed. But, to be honest, besides the caste system that has been existing in India for centuries, there is a good number of incidents and political issues and violence destroying peace amongst people and creating chaotic situations that made this nation's communal harmony be feared at stake and that, speaking of India's communal harmony, we should mention

here. The demolition of the Babri mosque on 6th December, 1992, for example, sparked Muslim outrage around the country, provoking several months of inter-communal rioting in which Hindus and Muslims attacked one another, burning and looting homes, shops and places of worship. The ensuing riots spread to cities like Mumbai, Surat, Ahmedabad, Kanpur, Delhi, Bhopal and several others, eventually resulting in over 2000 deaths, mainly Muslim. This totally, for a long period of time, removed communal harmony from the face of India as well as from the hearts of some Indians and also led to a huge amount of massacre and an irrecoverable loss of lives. Or, the Gujarat riots that occurred in 1969, or, the anti-Sikh riots in 1984 did violate the peaceful atmosphere of India's communal harmony. Sometimes some corrupted politicians too try to create a cleavage amongst people in the name of religion, caste, creed and gender, for their personal gains. So, it becomes clear from these instances that the path of communal harmony India has been following was not always smooth; there were so many ups and downs this country had to face. Inspire of so many ups and downs, we stand united. That is what makes our country so beautiful and different from the others. The several different bonds and mixes of different cultures, traditions, languages, places today even astonish so many European visitors and foreigners living in India, famous personalities like Tom Alter, Mary Curzon, Ellis R. Dungan, Justin McCarthy, for example. No sooner had they come to India than they fell in love with this country and decided never to quit. According to a White House press release on June 26, 2017, over 700,000 citizens presently reside in India. Franz Gastler who came to India to work with CII in 2009 and then set up his own organization 'Yuwa' in Ranchi, Jharkhand that helps combat issues such as human trafficking and child marriages and instills confidence among the tribal girls in Ranchi using the game 'Football', Romulus Whitaker, a herpetologist and wildlife conservationist who founded the Madras Crocodile Bank and several other conservation organizations, Hamish Boyd and Fit Fernandes who work as medical clowns at the Aravind Eye Hospital and the Institute of Child Health in Chennai living at Auroville near Pondicherry, Aundrea Thumshirn, a German Premier League hockey player who left the game due to an injury, moved from her home in Berlin to the Dausa village in Rajasthan and started training the village children, especially girls, in hockey, Erin Zaikis, a Michigan University graduate who, after moving to Mumbai from the US, India, started recycling soaps and distributing them in slums for better health and hygiene – all these people mentioned above left their countries and their comfort zone as well, just to stay in India and work for the people here. They have totally devoted their lives to this country and its people, but they need not have done that. Still, they did, because they could not help falling in love with this country as soon as they entered it and witnessed the most beautiful and unique thing about it – 'unity in diversity'. This itself is a crystal clear example of how great India and its communal harmony is. To conclude, it is just mystifying.



by **Rounik Roy**,
Dept. of Commerce, 2nd Semester

PAR BRAHM

• THE OMNIPRESENT ENERGY •

The conflict between gods and demons is very ancient. The two opposite ideologies are always at war. In theory, God stands for truth, piety and righteousness whereas the demons are traditionally represented as the followers of evil and negative values. When Lord Vishnu slayed the demon Hiranyaksha, the latter's brother—Hiranyakashipu—got very angry and vowed revenge. He realised that this task would become possible only if he could gain control over his death. He knew that otherwise he could not effectively deal with the immortal gods: Hiranyakashipu needed an equaliser. So, he went to the forest and began to perform austerities in order to propitiate Lord Brahma and earn a boon of immortality from him. The gods got wind of it and realised the danger to them. They tried several tricks to defile or disrupt the tapasya (meditation) of the demon king. Now, Hiranyakashipu had left his capital and gone deep into the forest to perform austerities. Considering it as an opportune time, the gods raided the capital city. The demon army tried to defend, but without the guidance of the King it was very difficult. The demon soldiers were defeated and they fled from the battle in disarray. The victorious gods plundered the capital. As they were departing, they happen to see the pious queen of Hiryanakashipu, Kayadhu. Disregarding the fact that she was with child at that time, they took her prisoner.

The gods were supposed to be of noble character, but the victory had spoiled them. Their minds got poisoned with pride and arrogance. Indeed, the gods were prone to several such weaknesses and that is why they never gained total victory over the demons. The latter often surprised the gods with streaks of nobility. Guru Brihaspati, however, did not like this mean act of the gods. He admonished them: "What would you do with her as your prisoner? She is a woman. No ill-treatment should be meted out to any woman. Those who disgrace women get defeated sooner or later. Kayadhu is a pious lady and she is pregnant. Leave her in the ashram of sage Narada. He would do whatever he deems fit".

The gods had to obey. They left Kayadhu in the ashram of Narada. At the ashram, Sage Narada would everyday recite to her the sermons on the glory of Lord Vishnu and the merit of being His devotee. Narada said, "Everything else is meaningless in this world except the faith in Lord Vishnu, the manifest form of Par Brahm or the power supreme. He is the soul of truth and the ultimate reality. That's why Lord Shankar had said to mother Uma:

Uma kahun tujhe anubhav apna,
Sat Hari bhajan jagat sab sapna.

Even being God, Lord Shankar Himself meditates on the Holy Name of the Par Brahm. One must dedicate one's life in the worship of the present incarnation of Par Brahm i.e. the present Perfect Master and meditate on the Real Name of God. Real happiness and peace could be found only in constantly meditating on the Par Brahm and His Holy Name. Narada went on, "Everything we see around is just the maya of

the Lord. If the maya of the Lord is itself so beautiful, we can only imagine how beautiful the Lord is".

Kayadhu used to listen to these sermons of sage Narada with deep attention and devotion. Due to the effect of these holy sermons, the child she was carrying in her womb got moulded into a great devotee of the Lord. Noble qualities got seeded in the foetus. As soon as he was born, he began to reveal his devotional tendencies. All pious values got deeply etched in his mind.

Meanwhile, Hiryanakashipu was absorbed in intense meditation for securing the boon of immortality. Be it heat, rain, hails or snow, or be it the news of Kayadhu's imprisonment—nothing could deter him from his mission. At last, forced by the power of Hiranyakashipu's tapasya, Lord Brahma appeared before him to grant his wish: "Son, I am pleased by your meditation. Spell your wish."

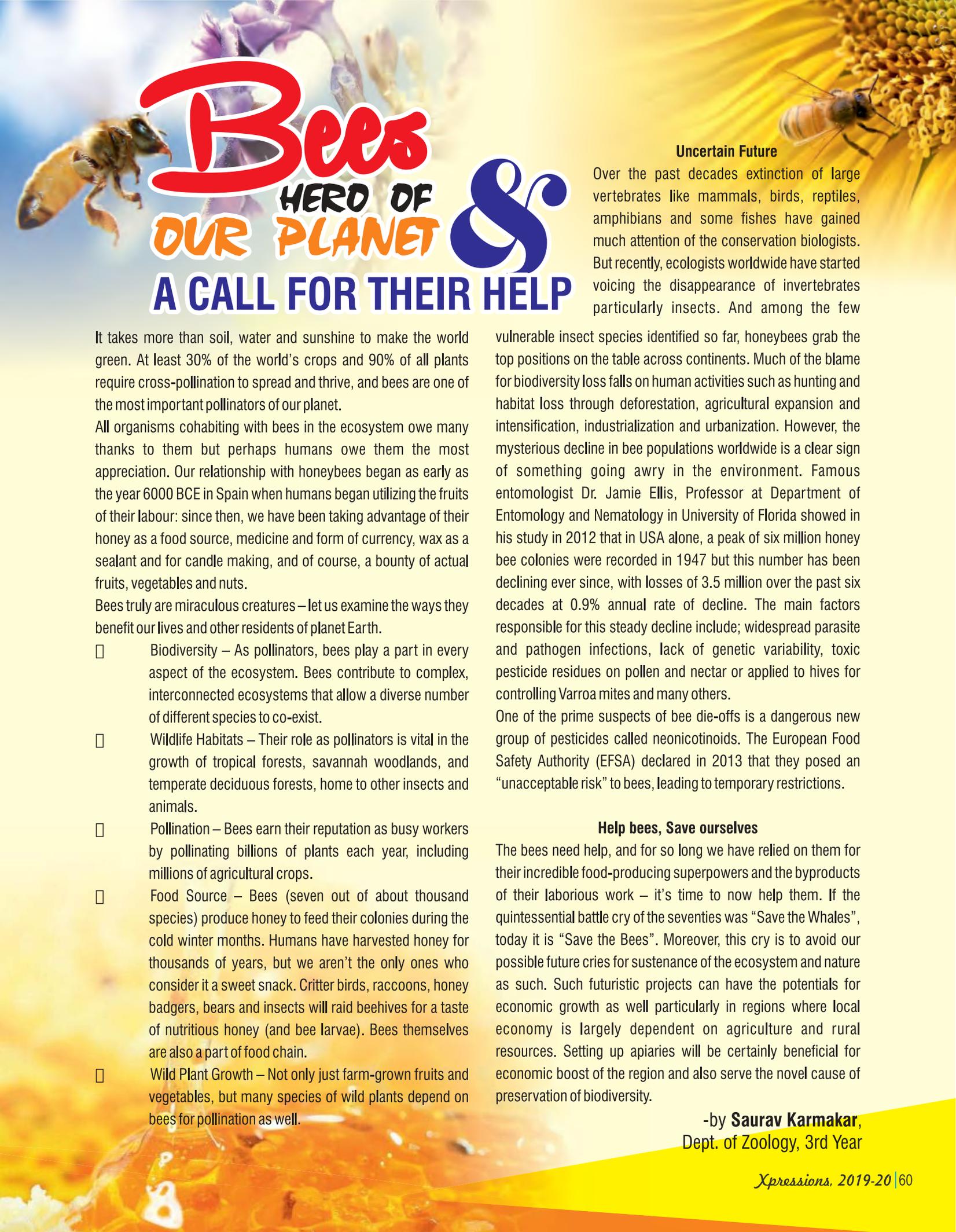
Hiryanakashipu opened his eyes and bowed to Lord Brahma. He then worded his wish very meticulously: "Holy Father! Give me the boon that, be it on land, air or water, I should never be killed by curses or weapons of any man, god or creature, either during the day or at night." Brahma granted the wish and disappeared. Now Hiryanakashipu was ecstatic. Believing that he has finally gained immortality, he returned to his capital. Very soon, he became an arrogant ruler. The power of the boon had gone to his head. He found pleasure and satisfaction in tormenting the pious priests, devotees and scholars. Little did he know that Lord Vishnu could still find a way to put his tyranny to an end.

And so it happened at dusk on the fateful day: Lord Vishnu incarnated as Narsimha, a terrifying man-beast form of a god, who put Hiryanakashipu on the lap and tore out the demon king's entrails with bare hands. This episode proves that no one can go beyond the law of Karma or the reach of death. One must put one's trust in God instead of trying to escape from the fruits of one's action or from death.

The real identity of our being is what? This question should be in our mind. Are we a mere body? What goes out of our body and we die? Einstein's equation $E=mc^2$ tells us that Energy is equal to Mass multiplied by velocity of Light. Energy is neither created nor destroyed; it is only transferred from one form to another. It's not compulsory to believe in God but we should at least try to know who we actually are and by what energy are we alive?

Is reality merely physical or the physical merely an appearance? To quote the Holy Bible, "In the beginning, there was a Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God..." We should try and know that Word, that One True Name, that primordial and omnipresent Supreme Consciousness, the Ultimate Reality. That's why Nanak Saheb's words still shine like a beacon in our inner darkness, "Sabd hi Dharti, Sabd hi Aakash, Sabd hi sabd bhayo prakash..."

- by **Sishir Bhagat**,
Dept. of English, 2nd Semester



Bees HERO OF OUR PLANET & A CALL FOR THEIR HELP

It takes more than soil, water and sunshine to make the world green. At least 30% of the world's crops and 90% of all plants require cross-pollination to spread and thrive, and bees are one of the most important pollinators of our planet.

All organisms cohabiting with bees in the ecosystem owe many thanks to them but perhaps humans owe them the most appreciation. Our relationship with honeybees began as early as the year 6000 BCE in Spain when humans began utilizing the fruits of their labour: since then, we have been taking advantage of their honey as a food source, medicine and form of currency, wax as a sealant and for candle making, and of course, a bounty of actual fruits, vegetables and nuts.

Bees truly are miraculous creatures – let us examine the ways they benefit our lives and other residents of planet Earth.

- Biodiversity – As pollinators, bees play a part in every aspect of the ecosystem. Bees contribute to complex, interconnected ecosystems that allow a diverse number of different species to co-exist.
- Wildlife Habitats – Their role as pollinators is vital in the growth of tropical forests, savannah woodlands, and temperate deciduous forests, home to other insects and animals.
- Pollination – Bees earn their reputation as busy workers by pollinating billions of plants each year, including millions of agricultural crops.
- Food Source – Bees (seven out of about thousand species) produce honey to feed their colonies during the cold winter months. Humans have harvested honey for thousands of years, but we aren't the only ones who consider it a sweet snack. Critter birds, raccoons, honey badgers, bears and insects will raid beehives for a taste of nutritious honey (and bee larvae). Bees themselves are also a part of food chain.
- Wild Plant Growth – Not only just farm-grown fruits and vegetables, but many species of wild plants depend on bees for pollination as well.

Uncertain Future

Over the past decades extinction of large vertebrates like mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and some fishes have gained much attention of the conservation biologists. But recently, ecologists worldwide have started voicing the disappearance of invertebrates particularly insects. And among the few

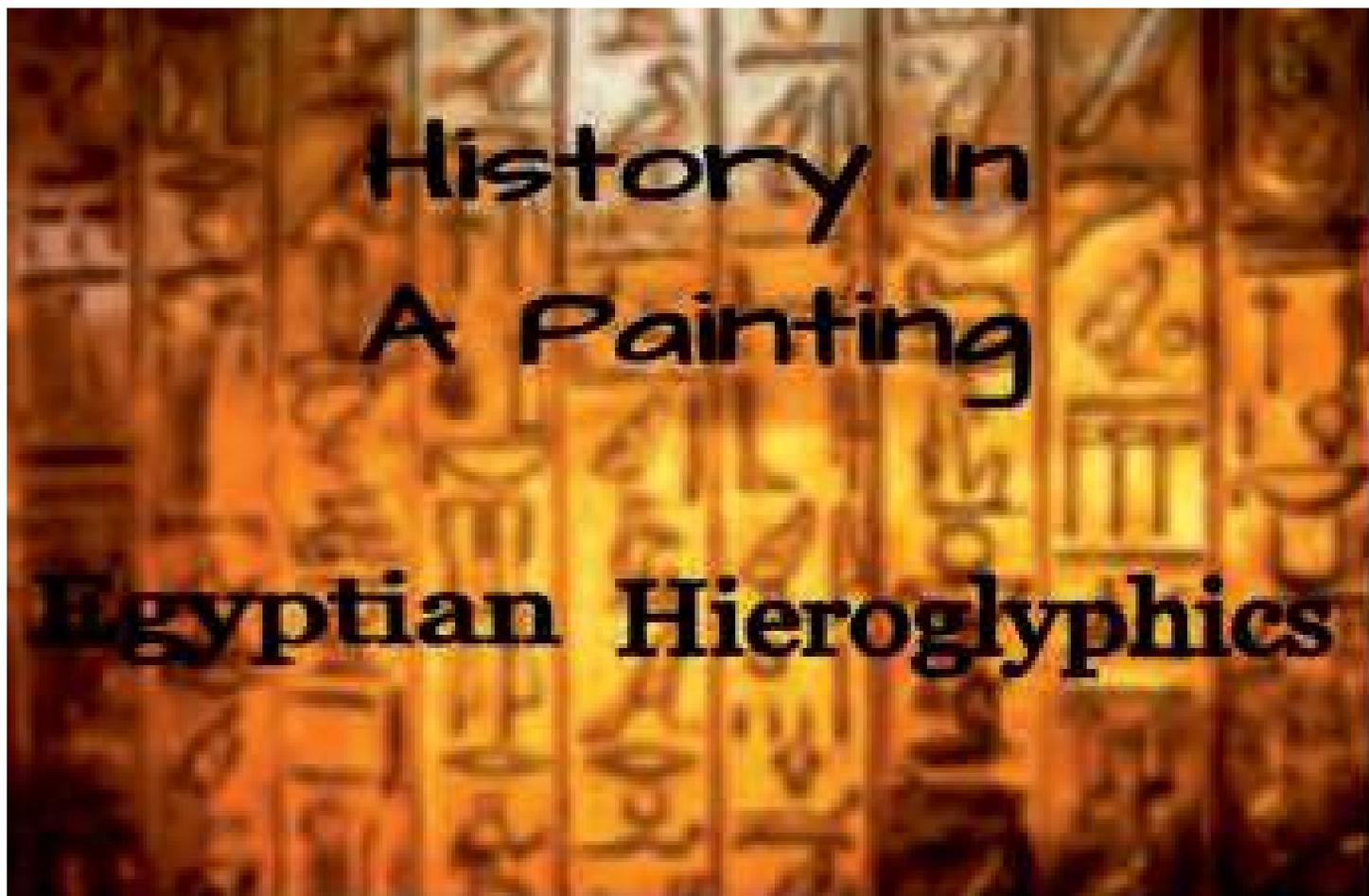
vulnerable insect species identified so far, honeybees grab the top positions on the table across continents. Much of the blame for biodiversity loss falls on human activities such as hunting and habitat loss through deforestation, agricultural expansion and intensification, industrialization and urbanization. However, the mysterious decline in bee populations worldwide is a clear sign of something going awry in the environment. Famous entomologist Dr. Jamie Ellis, Professor at Department of Entomology and Nematology in University of Florida showed in his study in 2012 that in USA alone, a peak of six million honey bee colonies were recorded in 1947 but this number has been declining ever since, with losses of 3.5 million over the past six decades at 0.9% annual rate of decline. The main factors responsible for this steady decline include; widespread parasite and pathogen infections, lack of genetic variability, toxic pesticide residues on pollen and nectar or applied to hives for controlling Varroa mites and many others.

One of the prime suspects of bee die-offs is a dangerous new group of pesticides called neonicotinoids. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) declared in 2013 that they posed an “unacceptable risk” to bees, leading to temporary restrictions.

Help bees, Save ourselves

The bees need help, and for so long we have relied on them for their incredible food-producing superpowers and the byproducts of their laborious work – it's time to now help them. If the quintessential battle cry of the seventies was “Save the Whales”, today it is “Save the Bees”. Moreover, this cry is to avoid our possible future cries for sustenance of the ecosystem and nature as such. Such futuristic projects can have the potentials for economic growth as well particularly in regions where local economy is largely dependent on agriculture and rural resources. Setting up apiaries will be certainly beneficial for economic boost of the region and also serve the novel cause of preservation of biodiversity.

-by **Saurav Karmakar**,
Dept. of Zoology, 3rd Year



Imagine travelling to Egypt, walking into a temple or pyramid and actually being able to translate the bizarre writing on the wall --- and it would be a crazy skill that would deeply enrich your trip and blow your companions away! We'll come to the process certainly but first, let's have an introduction of the basics before your excursion to the land of the Pharaoh.

Language, a system of communication, consists of a set of sounds and written symbols. The "Set of sounds" are no doubt applicable to communicate when the opposite person is at a distance; no matter it's on a phone call even. Then what if we want to communicate with a society or an era dealt about 3300 BC? Well, here is the key role of *Written symbols* is expressed and *Hieroglyphics* is one of them!

Yes, of course it wasn't created due to the future research going on now but for them, the Egyptians. It was one of the writing systems used by ancient Egyptians to represent their language. Pictures were more preferable than letters in that writing. Because of their pictorial elegance, Herodotus and other

important Greeks believed that Egyptian Hieroglyphics were something sacred, so they referred to them as *Holy Writing*.

HISTORY:

Hieros translates to "sacred" in Greek and *Glyphos* meaning "signs". The ancient Egyptians called that as *Hieroglyphs* in *Neoplatonism*, specially during the Renaissance, a *Hieroglyphs* was an artistic representation of an esoteric idea which Neoplatonism believed actual Egyptian Hieroglyphs to be. The word Hieroglyphics refers to a Hieroglyphic script.

Archaeological discoveries suggest that Hieroglyphics may be the earliest evidence of Egyptian language. It is believed to be from 3300 3200 BC. The language was used for the next 3500 years. The writing is ancestral to Latin, Cyrillic, Arabic and Brahmin scripts. It was the French who, in 1799, discovered the artifact that would serve as a decoder for hieroglyphs, and it was Frenchman Jean-François Champollion who deciphered hieroglyphics in 1822. To do so, he used the *Rosetta Stone*, a slab of rock carved in 196 BC that's currently displayed at the

British Museum in London. The Rosetta Stone had the same message written in the two languages the Egyptians used at the time (Egyptian and Greek) and in three scripts (hieroglyphs; demotic, the native Egyptian script used for daily purposes; and Greek). Upon translating the stone and mastering hieroglyphics, endless details about the ancient Egyptians' lives were revealed.

Hieroglyphics combined logographic, syllabic and alphabetic elements, with a total of some 1,000 distinct characters. Each picture/glyph served three functions,

- 1) To represent the image of a thing or an object,
- 2) To stand for the sound of the syllable,
- 3) To clarify the precise meaning of adjoining glyphs.

Writing hieroglyphics required some artistic skills, limiting the number chosen to learn it. Only those privileged with an extensive education (i.e. the *Pharaoh, nobility and priests*) were able to read and write hieroglyphics; others used simpler "joined-up" versions: *demotic* and *hieratic* script.

THE BASICS TO FIGURE OUT:



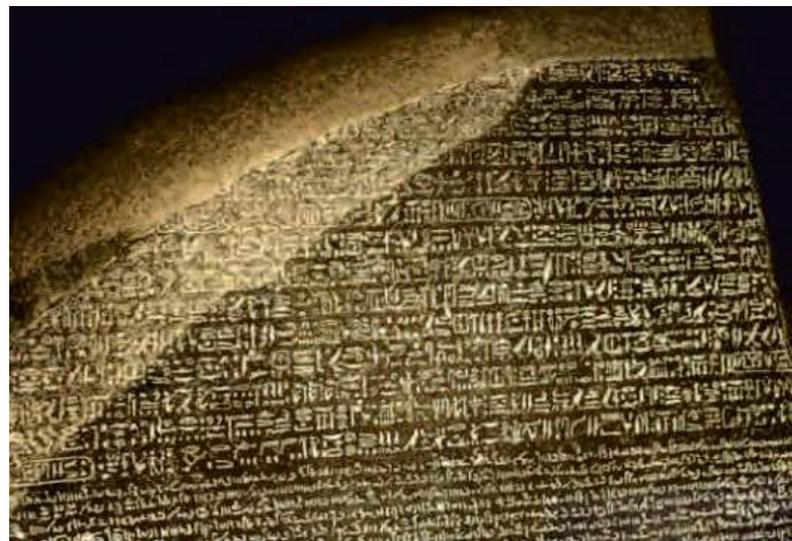
Hieroglyphs can be read left to right or vice versa and are arranged in both rows and columns. To begin, it's vital to determine which direction to read the writing. You can tell which direction to read by finding a human figure or animal and seeing which way its head is turned. Figures face the beginning of the line of "text." Thankfully, the upper glyphs are always read before

the lower ones, so you don't have to figure out whether to read from the bottom up or the top down. The names of royals are encircled in an oval with a horizontal line at the end called a *cartouche*. Keep your eyes peeled for those — they are easy to spot.



Numbers are on a base-10 system using everything from simple strokes (for one) to frogs (for 100,000). Three frogs would be 300,000. That's also how the ancient Egyptians pluralized nouns. Three bird symbols meant there were three birds.

Grammar is more advanced. Hieroglyphics are crafted in blocks. Each block represents a word, phrase or an idea. Some glyphs represent the entire concept up to themselves. These are logograms (the glyph for "sun" looks somewhat like the sun) and determinatives, glyphs that tell the reader what the logogram is doing or its qualities (for example, the sun is setting).



Rosetta Stone

Scribes carved hieroglyphics pretty much all over Ancient Egypt. They start learning this language at the age of 7, in school of course. They etched them in stone on the walls of tombs and public monuments. They wrote them on *papyrus* and used them to decorate artifacts. They recorded everyday life, told complicated stories, labeled goods, and honored pharaohs' regal deeds. The Egyptians used a cursive, squiggle form of hieroglyphics for religious texts, mostly inscribing them on wood and papyrus. They included specific dates, entailing the day, month, year, and season.

Rosetta Stone used to play a huge role in Hieroglyphic. The Stone was used as the base of the writing. The Stone was the first evidence of hieroglyphics to the researchers.

WHERE TO SEE:

So here are three places you may enjoy, *Abu Simble Temple, Valley Of the Kings and Saqqara*.

THE ULTIMATE UNSOLVED MYSTERY:

More or less it's true or false, Hieroglyphics has dealt with some unexceptional events, I am taking about only two of them:

A) A mysterious link between the infamous *Roswell flying saucer crash* and the *Rendlesham UFO*

hunters claim to have found almost identical symbols in debris from the alleged Roswell UFO crash site in New Mexico, US, in 1947, which match signs seen on the Rendlesham orb.

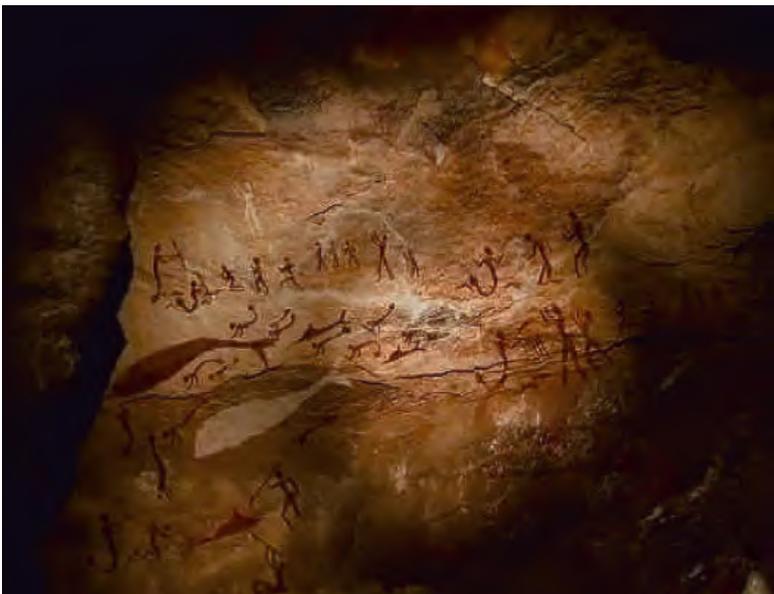
Writing on *Collective Evolution*, UFO researcher Jane Kyle said: "We're all familiar with Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, which include simple "pictorial glyphs" as well as strange flying machines and humanoid beings.



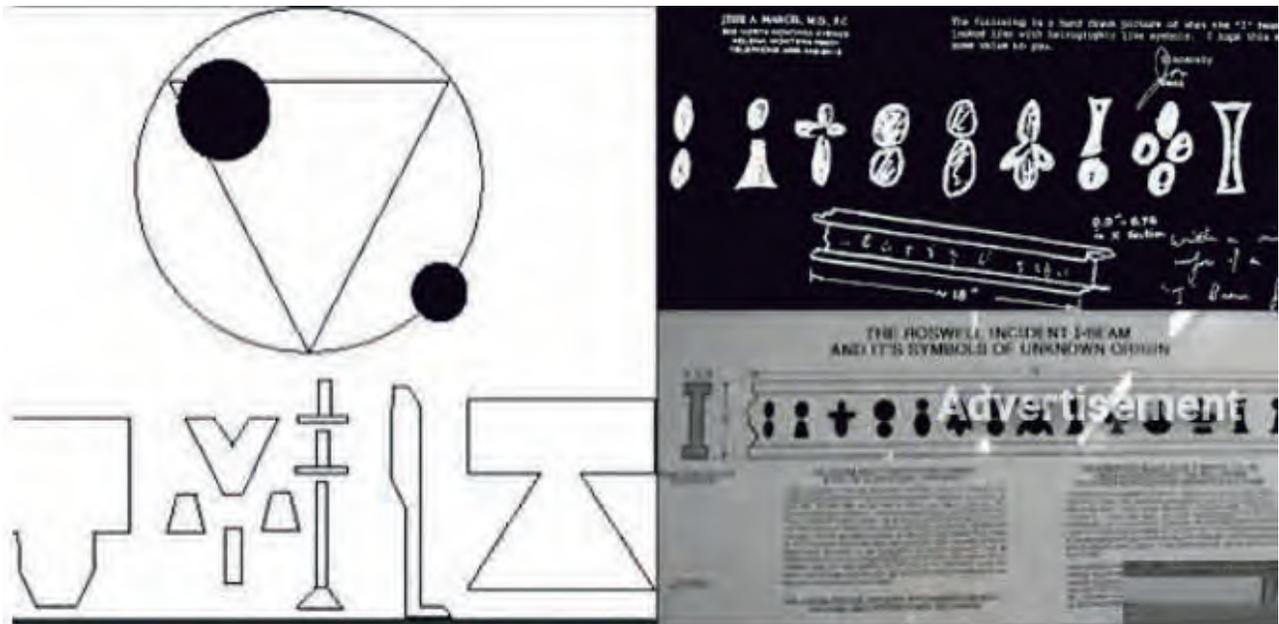
B) And the second one, *Mermaids*- the beautiful aquatic creature in folklore. They are much familiar to us from our childhood. The surprising episode is, hieroglyphics gave the prominent evidence of the existence of mermaids. Not exactly but the Egyptian tried to describe a kind of creature which was half human with a fish like bottom portion (they used to draw fish with an arrow). We've been told for years about the mermaid stories but the Hieroglyphics got something else. As much pictorial forms are got on mermaids, it's all about war, all about conflict with humans and, in fine, their disappearance into the blue. After that the creatures remained disappeared. The question has arrived, couldn't the Egyptians made stories on mermaids through hieroglyphics?

Egyptian cave hieroglyphics

And the answer should be of course, that's how folklores are made. But aren't we familiar with this event that many animals, plants are extinct today only because of human profit? Their conflict with the other? Yes, we are quite familiar. Then what if the mermaids are belonging to them? Yes, biologically their body contrast is just impossible as fishes deal with one of the earliest class and mammals are the last one. But again, what if we have missed another



sighting has been alleged after Ancient Egyptian-like hieroglyphics were seen by witnesses in both cases. Despite the crashes taking place 33 years apart UFO



Pictures of hieroglyphs described by Rendlesham witnesses (left) and from Roswell (right).

class too? Being different from all? And we are just not able to think about that biological contrast or how it works? Sounds wired.

Because it's all about human curiosity, it is all about their thirst towards mystery, they love to think that something is yet to know, yet to discover and yet to learn in this universe. And that's why they are after the ancient language of 3300 or 3200 BC. According to scientists, only 37 percents of this language is known, rest of it is yet to find out. So, we can hope undoubtedly to fact some enigmatic truths and facts in future, about The Land of The Pharaoh through the Holy Writing, Hieroglyphics! Can't we?

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- 6)Wikimedia's hieroglyph writing codes

-by **Shreyasee Thakur**,
Dept. of Zoology,
3rd Year

'Arshinagar'

-by **Ditsha Majumder**,
Dept. of Sociology, 4th Semester

THE SPECULUM TO METAMORPHIZE ONESELF AND
THE INDOMITABLE DESIRE TO SEEK THE WAY OF
UNITING WITH **THE PARAMATMAN**

Bharat Muni talks about the theory of 'Rasa' in his *Natya Shastra*, where he enlists and describes the different 'rasas' at length. Among them, the 'Shringara rasa' is of higher acceptance and universal appeal. Love has always been the answer to all the questions ever asked. A palace or shebang, orient or occident, in the endless variation of caste, creed, religion, gender, race, sex, religion and all the other possible diversities, love has won human hearts if not battles. Love merges the souls, it heals and cures, reunites the harmony of life with the music of the universe.

Creation, as science observes, is the dance of strings; in the words of the *Puranas*, the different manifestations of the same energy. As creatures, the *elan vital* within us dances in waves towards the Omnipotent. This essence of fusion of the microcosm with the macrocosm has been experienced and explored by the "avatars" who have incarnated in every age to instill within the minds of the ignorant masses, the thirst for the elixir of ecstasy; this feeling has been beautifully expressed by the following lines in Bengali-

Milon Hobe Koto Dine
Amar Moner Manusher Sone. . .

The fragrant melody that originates from the strings of the *dotara*, has pervaded the cultural ethos of Bengal since time immemorial. This mellow reverberation resonates in the nooks and corners of the cities of Bengal, the narrow path amidst the sunflowers, the porch flooded with moonbeams, the floral ornaments tied to the beloved's hair, the blushful letters of an "engendering" lover, the lingering sweat inside the pocket of a toiling father and many other such places where access is usually denied to everything else.

One such personality with the potency of such musical mysticism was the legendary Lalon Fakir. He rejected all distinctions based on religion, caste and creed; so when asked:

"What religion does Lalon belong to in this world?"

Lalon replies, "I have never laid eyes upon it, so I don't know how

religion looks like".

He greatly influenced the minds of stalwarts like Rabindranath Tagore, Nazrul Islam, Allen Ginsberg, and countless others. Later on Tagore brought him to the lime-light, thus giving him a wider audience in the world. A memorable creation of Lalon that has worked as a mirror to reflect upon and meditate on the Supreme Being is "Arshinagar". He has presented through this famous song the indomitable wish to search for the Paramatman, and while describing the pathways to union, he asserts that our body is the vehicle to the divine.

There is a famous saying –"Jaha aachhe Deho Vande, tai aachhe Brahmande". This phrase stands for the eternal truth which is that the microcosm is but a miniaturization of the macrocosm. We contain the designs of this grand universe in the corporeal scaffolding of our existence and this leads to the dimension of the highest source of energy. In "Arshinagar", Lalon laments in the first two lines,

Barir kache Arshinagar
Setha ek porshi boshot kore
Ami ek din o na dekhilam tare

He beautifully describes how in ourselves the kingdom of the Omnipotent is located: the residing neighbor ("porshi") inside us is none but the Supreme King. Though He rules the realm of our inner self, we—the unconscious beings—fail to steal a glance of His presence which is always with us, within us. We are like that blind man who cannot see his knob-stick though it helps him to walk through all the different paths of life.

In the next lines of the song, Lalon describes why it is so difficult to reach towards the unification with our "Mon Er Manush". It is because the "beloved one" transcends all the physical limitations and reaches to the metaphysical height:

Geram bere ogadh paani
Nai kinara, nai toroni pare

Mone banchha kori dekhbo tare
Kemne se gaaye jai re

These lines suggest the difficulties associated with a journey which is full of uncertainty. We can relate this with childbirth: for a fetus, the destination is to step into the outside world. Inside the womb, it does not have any means to do so; the most important thing for it is attaining to a certain level of maturity. Similarly for a *baul* or spiritual seeker, the word 'maturity' becomes important. Since he does not know how to get there, he can only wait and gradually attain the necessary wisdom to understand how it works.

Lalon cries out in anguish through the lines as he painfully realizes that the bond of all his karma has made the barrier of *maya* in front of him. The boundless ocean of unconsciousness has truly kissed the edge of the infinity, Lalon sighs, as no physical manifestation can bear the burden of Him and approach the point of singularity. As a mother tends to fret more and more with each passing day of childbearing, similarly, the closer we come to the light of love, we become increasingly restless to have a glimpse of our "Inamorato", to run to our Beloved's doorstep and to bow down, offering our life, love and all that we have.

In love, our whole life becomes a contemplation of giving all of ourselves to the ones residing in the kingdom of our soul. We give all that we are, all that we need and all that we hope to be, in a heartbeat, to shape their selves, to present them with the nectar of the life. We write letters for them with all the sweetest chirps playing inside of ourselves, and to quote Neruda, we bring "... blue bells, dark hazels and rustic basket of kisses", to "...do with" them "...what spring does with the cherry trees".

Lalon understood that love is the greatest magic of all times, and more than the union with our cherished ones, the journey of reaching out to them is of greater importance. The excruciating ecstasy of longing, the co-mingled pain and pleasure of languishing for the Beloved, was deeply felt by Lalon: he saw the God of his Soul in every single particle of this universe –

Ki bolbo sei porshir kotha

Tar hosto,podo,skondho,matha nai re
Khonek thake shoonyer opor
Khonek vashe nire

Lalon Shah describes that his Beloved has neither hands, legs, shoulder nor head; sometimes He belongs to the air and other times in the deep blue of the ocean.

At this point, we realise what a mature lover was the great Lalon Fakir. Lalon realized the omnipotence of his Beloved, and thus he asserts that the latter not only transcends the world of physicality but at the same time occupies every single particle of this physical manifestation. The Beloved is limitless, manifesting the duality of nothingness and existence at the same time. He is there in the shores of the Ganges, in the *azans* of Muslims, in the Holy Mass of Christians, inside the throbbing womb, and even inside the flying ashes of a dead body. The Master of the mind exists both across and beyond the existence.

From time immemorial, the thought of beholding and throbbing in unison with the Lord of our hearts, of enjoying the fragrance of cherries blossoming on the Beloved's body, and the desire of poring deep into those Eyes, have been the inspiration to drive this God-forsaken life to make nectar out of it. Such yearnings have transformed countless hearts and brought the lover out of ourselves. This indomitable longing for union resonates to every single wave of this creation, irrespective of the indefinable distance of the creator from the creation, of the creature from the creation and between the creator and creature. Thus, Lalon Fakir muses,

Porshi Jodi amay chhuto
Jomjatona sokol jeto dure
Se ar lalon ekkhane roy
Tobu lokkho jojon fank re

Since the journey is to be made inward, the seeker fails to reach the destination because his orientation is outward, thanks to the five sense organs. Such is the paradoxical nature of the existence that the starting point itself is the end point, but it takes a lot of toil to get this "divine jest".Lalon realises this truth and beautifully depicts the plight of a seeker in "Arshinagar".

To quote Rumi, "Beyond the ideas of right doings and wrongs doings, there is a field"; and every soul conjoins with their energy over there. This field about which Rumi often talks is that plane of experience where all dualities vanish, where it is essentially "singular". The blessed Lalon Fakir narrates his experiences on the way, his quest for this state of being and the different hurdles and difficulties involved in the process. Thus his works are very

subjective in nature. Lalon wants us to understand that if we go with an outward orientation, then the distance is too huge to cover; the door to enlightenment seems to be locked. But, if we just know how to turn inward, as Thoreau suggests in his Walden, then there is no distance really.

The realised souls laugh at the ignorant mortals who are busy searching for the key, when there is no door at all!

I N D I A T E N Y E A R S

INDIA is a promising country in the world and is going to stun the world with its prosperity and development. India is the fastest developing economic country. It has shown a huge development in its economy. Since, India is the second largest country just after Russia, the demand for everything is almost always high. India is a place for investment and for this many MNCs have invested heavily in India which has created a ripple effect of job creation and wholesome economic activities. More people have more purchasing power now.

India in ten years will be the most populous nation, with a population of just 1.5 billion a little ahead of that of China. Gandhiji's famous statement "India lives in her Villages" will remain true with under 40% of the population in urban areas. Agriculture will remain the mainstay of employment with over 40% still dependent on it even its share of economic activity continues to shrink. The republic of India is considered one of the emerging superpowers of the world. This potential is attributed to several indicators, the primary one being its demographic trends and a rapidly expanding economy.

The big 7 wealth markets of Asia namely the Asia 7 – conspiring China, Japan, India, Australia, Korea, Russia, New Zealand, may surpass Europe over the next ten years predict a study by research firm New World Wealth and Asia Bank. "We expect co operation and trade between these seven countries to accelerate allowing them to surpass Europe to become the most powerful country in the world the report said. Literacy will rise significantly to over 80% but that will still leave about one in five adults illiterate. At least 2.6% children will die within

FROM NOW

their first years, but life expectancy will cross 70% for both the genders. The fertility rate will fall just below two making us a nation of "hum do humara do" decades after the slogan was conceived

However, Women have to play a very critical role because by next decades we will have 75 million women getting into the workforce in India. At present, India has only about 27 percent women in the work force and we have to take it to the world average of 48 percent.

Gross domestic product (GDP) will touch nearly \$8 trillion, almost four times the current level, and the addition of the GDP in the decade will be nearly thrice the amount added in the 68 years since Independence. With population growth showing down this will also mean per capita incomes raise four-fold to \$6,000. India's integration with the global economy will be even higher with goods and services according for nearly two-thirds of GDP. The average Indian will consume over four times the power she does today.

-by **Parna Dutta**,
Dept. of English, 4th Semester



Criticism

Criticism comes naturally
 Critics condemn even masterpieces in reality
 Many do criticize, we see
 Stay unprovoked of criticism, strive towards
 perfection whatsoever be
 If you do so you shall succeed surely.
 Victims of insult sometimes break down fully
 Learn from mistakes, make your foundation strong,
 Listen more than you speak, for you may be wrong.
 Some people appreciate fake for benefit, like a
 meaningless song
 Sometimes we feel desultory yet life is long.
 Geniuses are what they are today for they constantly fought
 They did not achieve fame at a single shot.
 Remained unprovoked of criticism so success they got,
 Optimism is ladder of success, pessimism is rot
 Winners turned blood to sweat so happiness in life they brought
 Limit is not the sky neither the full stop dot.
 Keep struggling believe failure is an option for you not
 Turn it to weapon of success the rage of revenge so far caught,
 Don't panic blood shall surely clot
 Apply right strategies during right circumstance
 that you have been taught.

- by **Subhamanyu Ghosh**,
 Dept. of English, 2nd Semester

Stand still

Through the cold stormy night,
 I stand still.
 The wind blows hard,
 The night falls dark,
 But, I stand still.
 My youth is fading,
 My leaves have withered,
 Yet hold on tight,
 I have decided to fight,
 And thus again, I stand still.



-By **Rakthima Chowdhury**,
 Dept. of English, 3rd Year

Orange City

Back here in Orange City,
 Fight many a flags, two matters.
 Ice on his tongue,
 Wading through the porcupine heat,
 In front of your door.
 It was tradition. Mother knows.
 Room on fire enveloped three
 The Gifted, the Young and Icicle thief.
 Bored amidst sand seas,
 With rats and tricks and melting grins.
 "Take them out, the wheels and depart country
 To steal a glance of the local avenues".
 Tires spliced, past corpses of leaves Assembled on tar, undeserved love.
 You treaded on injustice
 Just as you now.
 The Young once played under tamarind trees
 With a schedule in disarray.
 Mother locked him up, mother knows.
 And thief didn't have the necessary means,
 No shops to lift, for the shops were closed.
 For the shops were closed 'cause the flags all broke,
 Broke fences.
 Fighting on strangers' lands.
 With a schedule in disarray.
 Their mothers are already dead.
 Our grapevines might smell of ash,
 And the seeds sown deformed in the bone
 But this city outlives the best of us.
 You and me and us.
 And Young will learn to kiss in jail
 Even if his lips turn to pale.
 They paled once.
 In that afternoon between halcyon days
 When Coco left the oven on,
 They bade farewell in the room on fire.
 The Gifted did what the Gifted does,
 Ran head first in the chocolate pyre
 Or so Young wrote when the ashes came
 Brown and sweet and sweet and tame.
 So hear me out,
 You, do you find
 The afternoon sketches
 Sent in post?
 Even the Young,
 He knew it long,
 Icicle thief loved you the most.

- by **Srijon Ghosh**,
 Dept. of English, 4th Semester



Sedum

Flowers that Bloom in winter,
Never did Tell me how their sun shined
Little rays of life under the canopies
Like a Winter's secret limelight.

Flowers that bloom in winter,
Never did tell me how those raindrops felt
Runty, cold and dewy like for anyone else
Just enough to hold our roots firm.

Flowers that bloom in winter,
Never did tell me how their petals coloured hue
Bright or dull in the dry coldness
Like a painting on a snow white view.

Flowers that bloom in winter,
Never did tell me their winter toned cold view
Brittle cold and deep just to blush outside
For a life to count on next cold.

Flowers that bloom in winter,
Never did tell me how their fragrance lie
Some say they smell like fresh summer
Just like me, what a surprise.

Flowers that bloom in winter,
Never did tell me if they knew the seasons well
Or they felt like me, too little to know
Never to touch the other side.

For I a flower of Summer,
Never have heard one or see one sing
But I feel them through these land and air
Diametric in our bloom, but we bloom indeed.

-By **Shovan Bal**,
Dept. of Zoology,
4th Semester

Walk through my dreams

Walk through my dreams
I get laughed at when,
I get ignored.
I often feel trapped and keep my thoughts stored,
People can be cruel and very mean,
But no matter what,
I walk through my dreams
Life had waves,
I know that
But I stand brave,
And take a deep breath,
I may feel exhausted and totally creamed
But no matter what,
I walk through my dreams.
I know what I want,
And I will not stop trying
Quitting? I cannot
For now I am flying!
It is impossible it seems.
But no matter what,
I follow my dreams.

- by **Pomi Lakra**,
Dept. of English,
2nd Semester



Laal

Benaroshi



The first time you told me that you loved me,
I was wearing the red and had my face concealed behind
the folds of a betel leaf,
My brothers put me down on a wooden stool, and I was
hovering in mid air when the priest asked me to uncover
my face and even in that colossal chaos and reverberating
noises,
I heard it very distinctively, "you are so beautiful, I marvel
at how much I love you"
My heart wanted to jump off my chest and my stomach
churned and in that agony , I forgot that it was the first
time you told me that you loved me ;
Because, it was not really the first.
When you brought an extra helmet to our first ride together,
was it the first?
Or was it when you looked at my palms as if stars reside
in its periphery and picked out random leaves and petals off
my hair very carefully with pride and delusion.
A thousand words could not have expressed an affection
of such profound degree as your touch and sighs
reflected.
A thousand years could not contain the pride of your walk
when you held my hand and looked at the escaping
horizon one winter afternoon from the Deolo Hills.
The lines on your forehead, I trace them with my fingers
and I trace them with my nose.
You coil, you laugh,
That is how you love.
So when you said you loved me beneath strings of
'rajanigandha' and 'golap',
I whispered, in an inaudible tune the song that was playing
on the stereo the night you crossed paths with me in the
art gallery for the first time,
The song you played on your humble piano,
The song you said suited my temperament,
The song too bright and too heavy,
All in perfect symphony,
All in aid to loving you, a little more; " Amaro pawrano
jaaha chaay , tumi tai"

-By **Shayori Halder**,
Dept. of Geography, 3rd Year

Dispossessions

The Body listens to the sound of sinew
The Sea listens to the whispers of water
Oh,
What an impenetrable silence!
Gushing down the nerves and ribs,
Glimpses of unknown memories
Gleam like deep silver cracks on a dark
cloud.
Familiarly unfamiliar.
In the fest of dreams,
You loiter alone,
Calling out to your favorite poets,
Playing flute on forgotten tunes.
Faceless humans crowding close,
All of them,
Aware of your transactions,
Of truth and lies,
Of past and future. But

The present is the poet,
Mapping memories for another land,
Another body, another planet.
And.
You will loiter until you own back the
memory,
You have forgotten.

-by **Alivia Ghosh**,
Ex-student

Penning the Pleasant Pain

Another year elapsed.
Time streamed so fast, seemingly so merciless.
Ravaging so many things, crushing so many feelings.
Time marred so many bonds.
Impaired a good deal of lively amities.
The last year has proved to be so amazing,
yet so surprisingly memorable.
It has given the essence of love.
Given the knock of depression.
Provided us with so much of betrayals.
Lot of treacherous deeds, so unbelievably true.
Laid barren the real constitution of so many fake people
Also given us such indelible impressions of life.
A great amount of ingrained convictions
And also pleased us with so many occasions,
so many celebrated moments.
A year bloated with ecstasy,
enthusiasm and also anxiety and frowns.
But let's not linger over past things, however painful,
touching, jocund or dispiriting they be .
Let's hope again, yet once again.
Let's build, not break.
Let's be real, not fake.
Let's be active, not just awake.
And lovely recollectionswe will make.
Let's welcome the New Year with energetic smiles,
open minds and new aspirations.
Setting new goals is the trend.
And all the flaws we will mend.
And become better than ever,
and spreading loving forever.

-by **Debdut Sen**,
Dept. of English,
4th Semester

THE DARK SIDES OF MODERN ERA

We have just entered a new decade. The past decade was full of stories, some we were made aware of and the rest were all just kept hidden. Some of these stories were quite assuring to us, whereas others were just enough to make us scared. But apart from this, how big is the generation gap of the modern world to the developing world years ago. Well, the answer is a massive one. Back when the world was developing, everyone around the world was busy expanding their land of command, trading, creating stuff; the race of inventions was a big thing. At that time, the black community still was fighting for their rights, everyone stood untied. People respected women and did not just see them as things to play with. Everyone was trying to work for a better life. And now we look at our time, in 2020, we might be having another World War, just cause the heads of some countries can't just sit and talk like grown up and clear their minds. In countries like ours, women safety is not even a thing, something happens to a lady, they blame it on her clothes. Another thing, terrorism has been a kind of trend, you blow up bombs, kill people, what do these people get from this? "We Have Entered The Modern Age. But World Peace Is Still Just Myth"

-By **Dipsikha Tamang**,
Dept. of English,
4th Semester

CLOUD NINE

The night is amazing!
It's starry, the moon looks full,
and it illuminates the sky so beautifully! See!
I close my eyes, I feel the breeze, so wonderful,
smells like the lavender strand you tucked into my hair that day
My mind, it's taking me deep into the woods,
No one knows this place, I swear!
It's an elegant, shimmery stream and I am with you,
resting my head on your shoulder,
No one knows me, I know no one, and it is just us
The river is shy, it's grooving to the rhythm of the breeze,
hesitantly.
I don't wish to go to the other side, it's so busy, and it is so
ignorant!
Look at the nature! It's holding us so well,
it loves me! It wants me to stay too, don't you see?
Look at the moon, isn't it worth the wait?
The enchanting river, the water so pure, it embraces my feet,
The breeze, it whispers into my ears, sweet melodies,
Melodies that play into my ears forever,
I close my eyes; it departs me into the wonderland,
full of ecstasy
Into a maze I lose myself, peacefully,
over again.

-by **Koyena Choudhury**,
Dept. of English, 2nd Semester

MY DEAREST MUM....

If there is happiness in my heart,
It is because you help me to put it there.

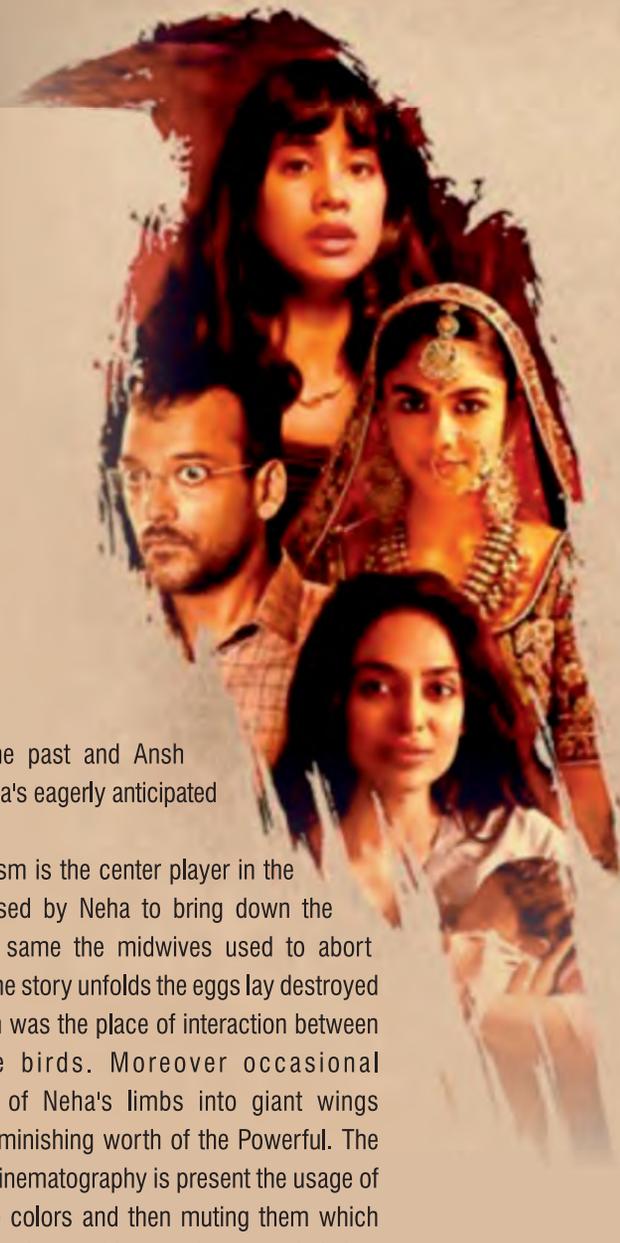
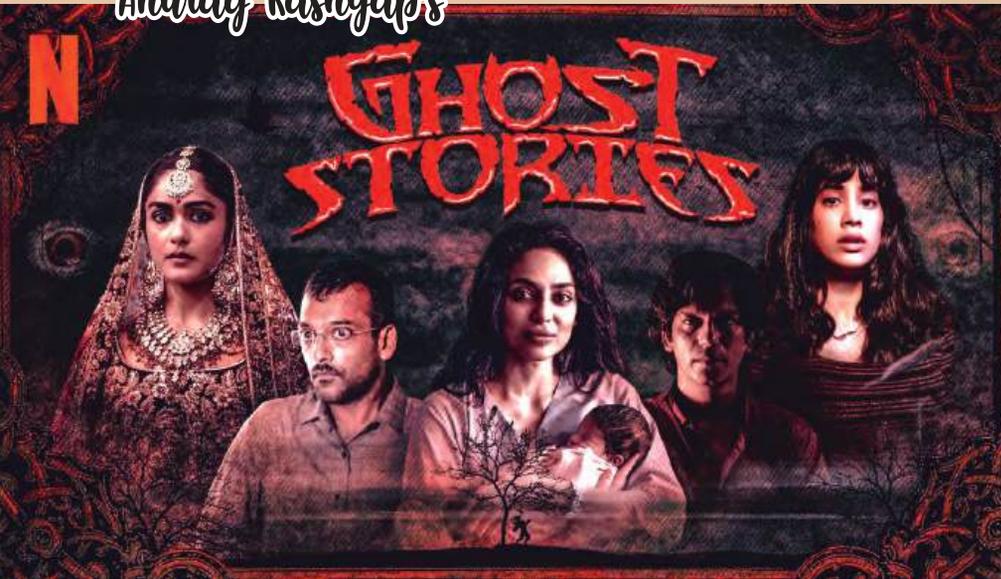
If there is gentleness in my beliefs,
It is because you showed me how to care.

If there is understanding in my thinking
It is because you shared your wisdom.
If there is knowledge that I can reach out,
And really make someone's dream come true
It is because I learned from
The best teacher of all.....
I learned it from you.

-by **Harsh Gupta**,
Dept. of Commerce,
2nd Semester

A T A L E O F T H E U N S E E N

Anurag Kashyap's



A cinema can be a pathway to a psychological space which might be unknown to us and possess an ability to both attract as well as alienate us from the plot. Such is Anurag Kashyap's short film from the anthology Ghost Stories which is the first Indian Netflix release of 2020. Psychological thriller or Psychological horror, as a genre, outwardly yet primarily deals with the delusional psychological state of a character. Here the character of concern is Neha (Sobhita Dhulipala) whose is presented to us in layers. She is pregnant carrying the baggage of her previous child's death and thus anxious enough to take pregnancy tests just for the sake of conformity of the presence of her child inside her.

The tale is a juxtaposition of images with limited usage of dialogue, narrating the helplessness of a mother caught between her lost Motherhood and the anxiety to establish it again, resembling the tension with that of a bird whose eggs are touched, stolen or hampered.

The character of the child, Ansh (Zachary Braz), a motherless child who spends his day in the vicinity of his pregnant Aunty, develops a deep seated Oedipal Complex as he wants to be 'the only one' loved by Neha Masi and expresses his dislike towards the unborn child in his sketches.

Kashyap implementing his ideas on the set has projected two different 'worlds' and therefore constructs the staircase leading to the upper storey of the house separate. It turns problematic for a regular viewer when chunks of reality are found in the metaphoric set up and metaphor in the real incidents. The convention of Repetitiveness is broken as nothing identical happens twice but occurs in pairs. For instance Neha unknowingly had intruded into a

bird's nest in the past and Ansh intrudes into Neha's eagerly anticipated Motherhood.

Symbolism is the center player in the plot. The tool used by Neha to bring down the staircase is the same the midwives used to abort children and as the story unfolds the eggs lay destroyed in the attic which was the place of interaction between Neha and the birds. Moreover occasional metamorphosis of Neha's limbs into giant wings expresses the diminishing worth of the Powerful. The brilliance in the cinematography is present the usage of dark and intense colors and then muting them which amplifies the tune of a psychic narrative set entirely in a head-scape. The film shares a loose connection with Darren Afronsky's film Black Swan and mother!

As the protagonist turns delusional in the way of her desperate desire to be a mother, sharing the loose bond with the prior and the entire film is a metaphor like the later. The storytelling is interrupted, making it hard for the audience to chronologically make sense of it and the story takes a shape only after completion. The purposive distortion of the convention of Horror in Cinema in both the anthology as well as the genre as it has been prevailing in Indian Cinema breaks a stereotype and exemplifies itself as a narrative of dream logic infused with dark visual poetry.

- by **Ria Chowdhury**,
Ex-student



THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION

- andy dufresne reignite your lost hope to dream even when you feel trapped

Last year, I made this good decision of watching *The Shawshank Redemption*. It is one of those movies that make you step outside of your bubble and expose you to the slow, crippling life at Shawshank. It starts with a love song and we meet Andy Dufresne, a banker, who is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover. He was sentenced to two life sentences at Shawshank, New England state prison. Later, we are shortly introduced to Red, the one who seemed to fit in perfectly well at the place, unlike Andy. It was Red, who befriended Andy and as they spend their time together, we discover how contrasting their characters could be. Red is a pessimist and Andy, even after being falsely accused of the crime, was an opportunist.

I love to recall this one scene where a warm conversation takes place between these two buddies. The conversations where Andy talks about his Pacific Ocean dreams Andy thinks of getting out of Shawshank and when he asks Red if he has a similar wish, Red casually replies, maybe someday, they would set him free when he has this long, white beard.

Andy dreams of getting out of Shawshank and lives at Zihuatanejo, a Mexican coastal town and open a little hotel on the beach. More importantly, he wants to live there because Mexican says it has no memory. From this, it is evident that Andy wants to forget the bad memories of his past. As he was narrating his dreams to Red, his face brightened up. You could see a lively expression on an otherwise lifeless man. At this point, Red encountered with his moments of self doubt. He could not imagine surviving outside of the prison. The Pacific Ocean is a faraway dream for Red.

At the end, Andy made a great escape and Red was paroled after serving for 40 years. Red visits Buxton and finds a letter by Andy. In this letter, we come across this memorable line said by Andy; "Remember Red, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies. I will be hoping that this letter finds you, and finds you well". No wonder, it leaves you with an air of optimism.

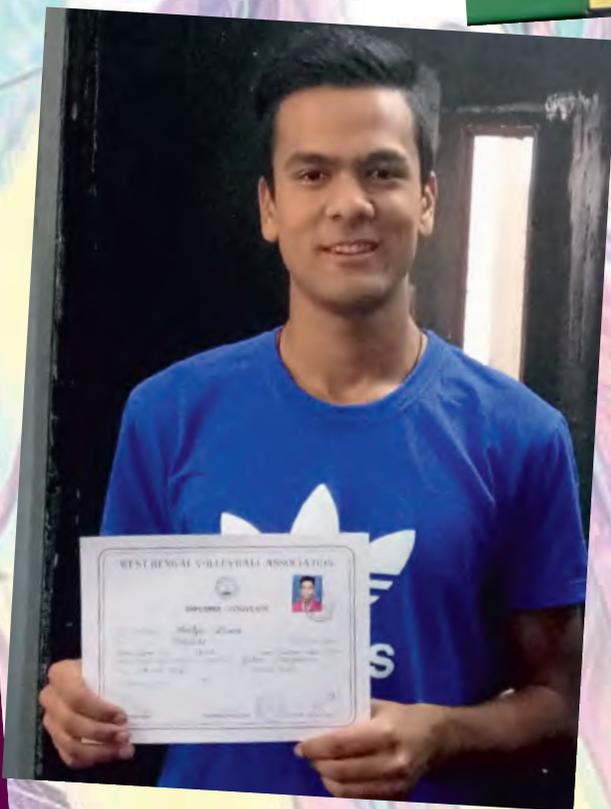
- by **Sutapa Das**,
Dept. of English, 2nd Semester



Photo Gallery



Sonam Tamang,
the Silver Medalist at
National Karate Championship,
Garhwal, Jharkhand



Anitya Lama
participated in the
State Level Volleyball Tournament

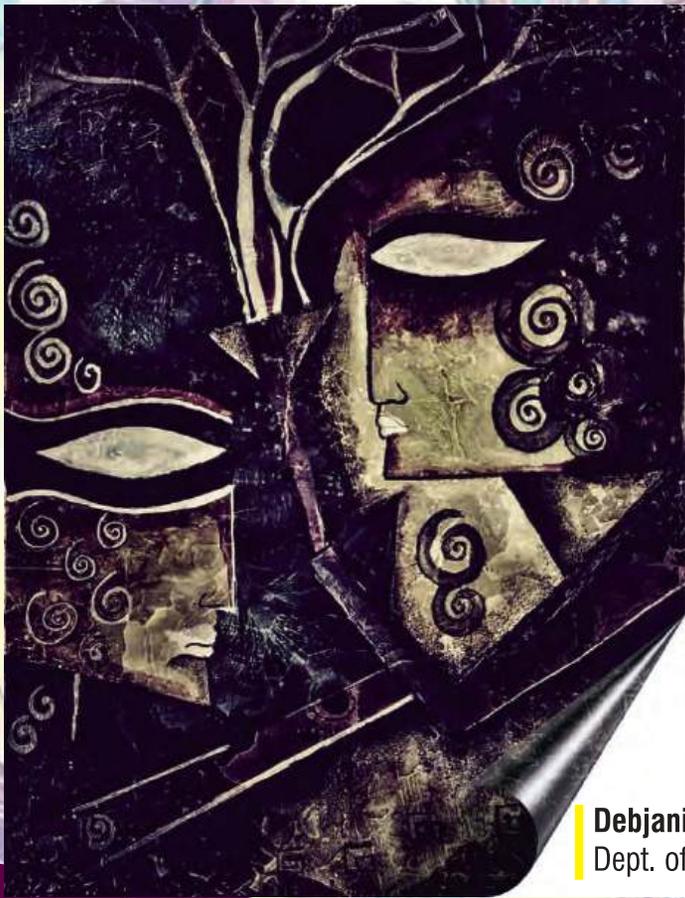


Miss Karina Chhetri
was declared as the
Miss Darjeeling at
Manhunt Mr/mrs
Darjeeling contest

Photo Gallery



Debdut Sen,
Dept. of English,
2nd Semester



Debjani Bhowmick,
Dept. of English, 2nd Semester



Hritisha Ghosh,
Dept. of English, 2nd Semester

Photo Gallery



Saikat Mandal,
Dept. of English,
2nd Semester



Lopamudra Mandal,
Dept. of English, 2nd Semester



Sankha Deep Dey,
Dept. of English, 2nd Semester

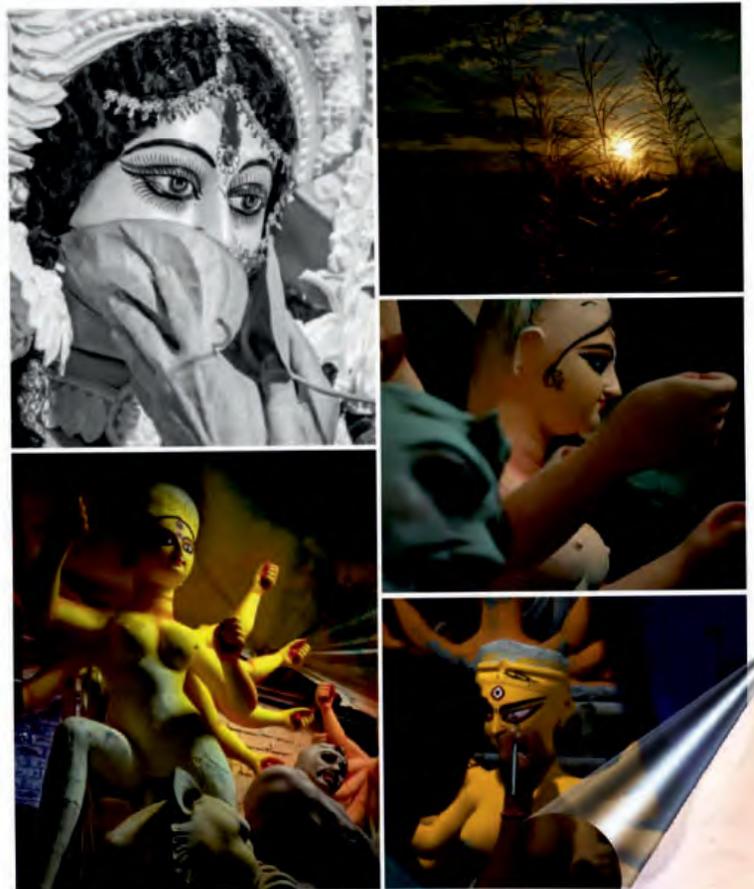
Photo Gallery



Sneha Singha,
Dept. of English,
2nd Semester



Spor dhya Paul,
Dept. of English,
2nd Semester



Subhadeep Saha,
Dept. of Zoology,
2nd Semester

Photo Gallery



Sagnik Das,
Dept. of Zoology, 2nd Sem



McNally Das,
Dept. of English, 2nd Semester



Sagnik Das,
Dept. of Zoology, 2nd Semester

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B.Com Graduating Batch, 2020



Students Graduating 2020 Siliguri Campus



B.Com Graduating 2020 Siliguri Campus



BBA Graduating Batch, 2020

THUS SPAKE THE PRESS

Trafficking check

Youth Against Trafficking Club (YATC) was formed on September 12 at Darjeeling Government College by Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG), ARZ Goa and ECPAT Luxembourg. The event was coordinated by Sherap Bhutia, assistant professor of the college. Students were handed badges by officer-in-charge (2nd) of the women's cell, Meena Rai. Bhutia is also the YATC coordinator of the college.

Nirmay John Chhetri, general secretary, MARG,

held an orientation for the students and stressed that the youths had the capacity to change the world.

On September 5, YATC was also formed at North Bengal St. Xavier's College in Rajganj block of Jalpaiguri. The event was coordinated by Persis Mukhia of the women's cell.

Radha Khawas from MARG held an orientation event for the students at St. Xavier's. The students pledged to work towards stopping this social evil.



The MARG event in Darjeeling



The health camp at Rajganj

Health camp at Xavier's

The NSS Unit and Women's Cell of North Bengal St Xavier's College at Rajganj in Jalpaiguri organised a free health check-up camp on November 8 at Balaigachh village.

The event was held in collaboration with Siliguri Lions Netralaya and Maharaja Agrasen Hospital

in Siliguri. The day's proceedings started with Fr. Lalit Tirkey SJ, the principal, welcoming the doctors and nurses. Free diagnosis was offered to over 220 people from rural areas. All student-volunteers, teaching and non-teaching staff of the college participated in the event.

কলেজের আয়োজনে স্বাস্থ্য শিবির

রাজগঞ্জ, ৮ নভেম্বর : রাজগঞ্জের নর্থবেঙ্গল সেন্ট জেভিয়ার্স কলেজের এনএসএস ইউনিট ও উইমেন্স সেলের তরফে শুক্রবার বলাইগাছ গ্রামে একটি নিঃশুল্ক স্বাস্থ্য শিবিরের আয়োজন করা হয়। শিলিগুড়ি লায়ল নেত্রালয় ও হাত বাড়িয়ে দিয়েছিল। কলেজের অধ্যক্ষ ডাঃ ললিত তিরকে এসজে এদিনের অনুষ্ঠানের সূচনা করেন। বিশিষ্টদের মধ্যে অত্র বসু, কিশোরকুমার মারোদিয়া প্রমুখ উপস্থিত ছিলেন। ডাঃ অনন্যা চৌধুরি, ডাঃ অশোক শর্মা, ডাঃ বিশ্বপ্রতিম রুদ্রের মতো চিকিৎসকরা এদিনের কর্মসূচিতে উপস্থিত থেকে শিবিরে ২০০ জনেরও বেশি মানুষকে চিকিৎসা পরিসেবা দেন। কলেজের পড়ুয়া-স্বৈচ্ছাসেবক, শিক্ষক ও অশিক্ষক কর্মীরা মিলে এদিনের কর্মসূচিকে সফল করে তোলেন।

NBSXC fete marks National Integration Day

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 10 JANUARY

The NSS unit of the North Bengal St Xavier's College (NBSXC) organised the 'Integration Fete' to observe National Integration Day at its college lawn at Rajganj in Jalpaiguri district on Monday.

Jalpaiguri MP Dr Jayanta Roy attended the event as the chief guest, while the programme was inaugurated with the introductory speech given by Fr Dr Lalit Tirkey, SJ, Principal, NBSXC, followed by the succinct speech from the chief guest, Dr Roy.

In his speech, Dr Roy appre-



ciated the endeavour taken up by the NSS unit of the NBSXC and also comprehended the contribution that the college had been making to society in North Bengal.

The speeches of both the

dignitaries were followed by a cultural programme put up by college students.

"The lawn of the college was occupied by more than 30 food, handicraft and game stalls, put up by the students of the college in a systematic manner under the leadership of Mr Baidurya Biswas, Programme Officer, NSS unit, NBSXC, and other staff members," college officials said. "Indeed, the students and staff members (teaching and non-teaching) of the college enjoyed the day and this will forever remain as a mark of cohesiveness," a college official said.

X-Cellence Day and Adieu to the Final Batch



Prof. Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, the Dean of the Faculty Council of PG studies in Arts, Commerce and Law, was the Guest of Honour of the day



Mr. Abhishek Tiwary, the DM of Jalpaiguri and the Chief Guest of the day, addressing the audience





Release of 'Xpressions', (From the Left): Fr. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, SJ, (Principal of NBSXC), Prof. Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, the Dean of the Faculty Council of PG studies in Arts, Commerce and Law, NBU and Soumyadip Ghosh (the Chief Editor of 'Xpressions')



Farewell Messages addressed by the Principal, VPs and the Dean of Students



Special Camp organized by NSS unit, NBSXC





Teams for the Intra College Basketball and Football tournament





Teaching Staff 2020

From the Left, the Front Row :

Ambika Chettri, Shradha Rai, Kamana Lama, Persis Mukhia, Soumya Mitra, Nitya Rai, Ananya Das, Asim Mitra, Prasun Banerjee, Aparna Chatterjee, Fr. Lalit P. Tirkey, Fr. Xavier Alangaram, Pavanbir Kaur, Shreya Majumdar, Payel Satra, Kheyali Halder, Sanjukta Mitra, Priyanka Chakraborty,

From the Left, the Second Row :

Anindita Sarker, Barsha Dey, Rajarshi Bagchi, Bikram Saha, Jagannath Mukherjee, Saikat Roy, Subrata Roy, Baidurya Biswas, Partho Sarathi Dutta, Tushar Das, Bipransh K. Tiwary, Gauravmoy Banerjee, Kamal K. Prasad, Tamal Mazumder, Tanmay Mukherjee, Samat Chakraborty, Soumyadip Ghosh, Gopal Paul,

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.

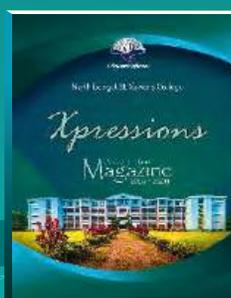
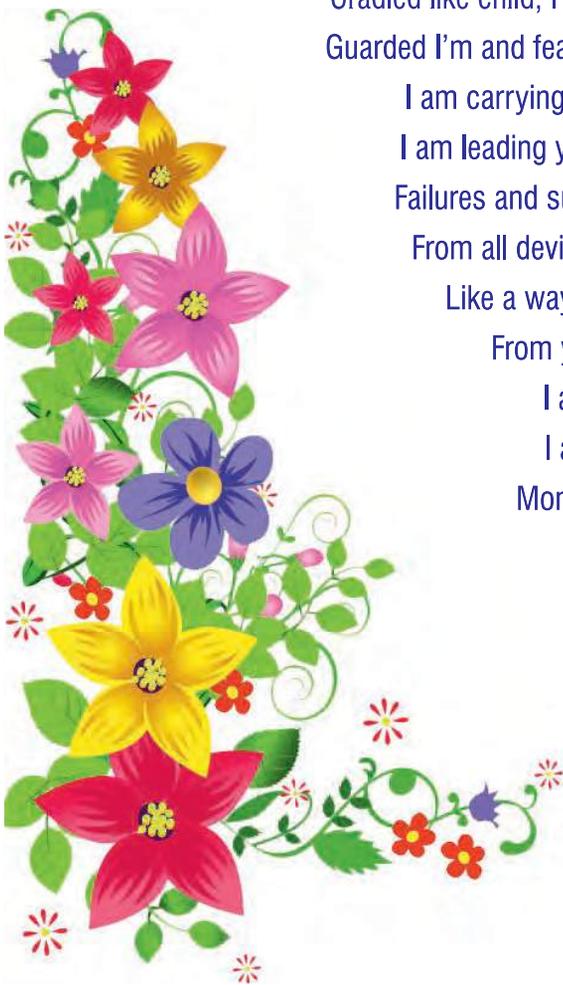
I am carrying you on my eagle's wings,
I am leading you to external springs (refrain)
Failures and successes cross my life's long way;
From all devious turnings, keep me straight I pray;
Like a wayward child, I'm fickle, proud and vain;
From you when I stray, bring me back again.

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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