

Publication of Annual Wall Magazine *Polyphony, 2023* [03.05.2023]

This year second semester honours students of the department decided collectively to prepare the annual magazine, *Polyphony 2023* on the theme of hijab ban which has attracted and generated an immense body of discourse / opinion on a range of issues. Further, they collectively planned to specifically title the issue as (Un)veiled: My Hijab, My Choice... Following the formal publication of the wall magazine by our Teacher-in-Charge, Dr. Uma Ray Srinivasan, students chose to speak briefly on the rationale behind the choice of theme, methodology that they followed and how it has enriched their understanding about the subject. Around 45 students were present at the event along with the four teachers of day section.



Combined Cultural Programme Celebrating Bengali New Year and Freshers' Welcome [03.05.2023]

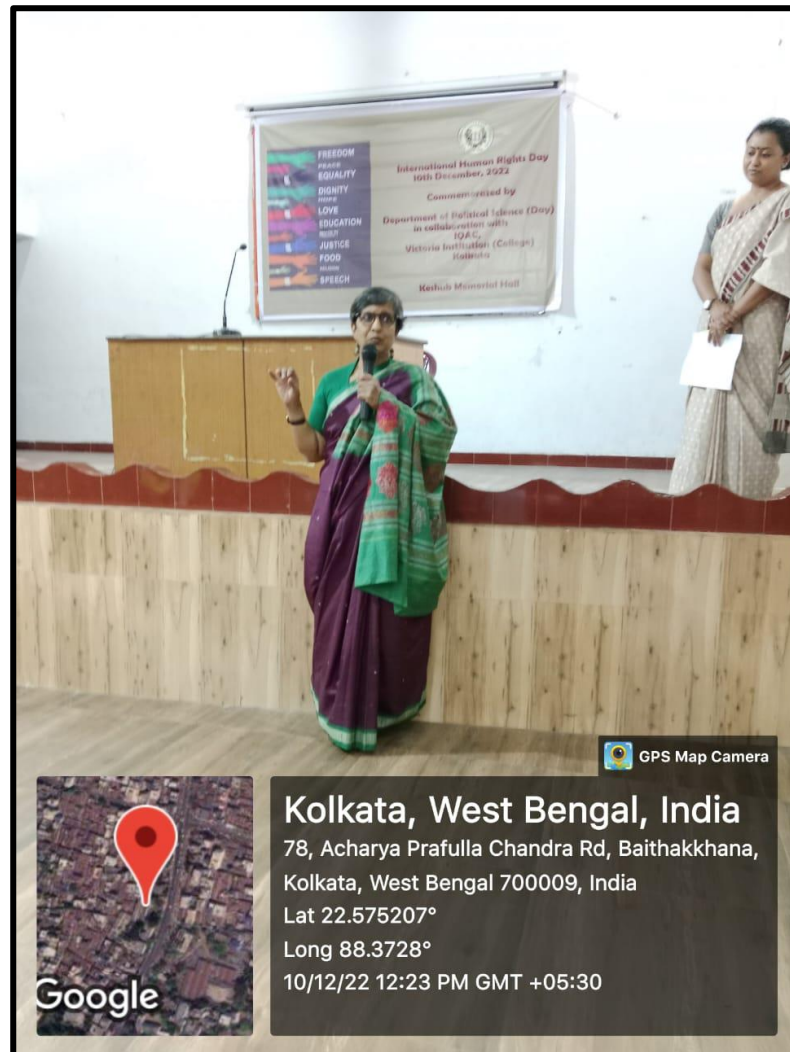
Students of all the three semesters assembled with a lot of enthusiasm and put forth an entertaining and rich cultural programme celebrating the Bengali New Year and offered a formal freshers' welcome to the second semester students. The programme comprised of Rabindra sangeet, solo and group choreographies, elocution, and medley presentations. The entire programme was designed and conducted by the students of the department. Around 60 students were present along with the four teachers.



Department of Political Science (Day)

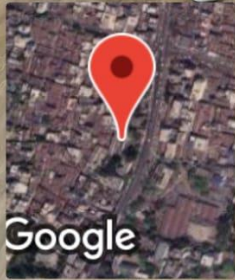
1. Commemoration of International Human Rights Day, December 10th 2022

The department of Political Science (Day) commemorated International Human Rights Day by engaging the first semester honours students in paper presentation and exhibition of posters /slogans. We were pleasantly surprised by not only the enthusiastic presence and participation of the students in the said event but what caught our attention as teachers, was the sheer diversity and expanse of thoughts /issues which were covered by the paper presenters. Students also exhibited the posters and/or slogans which were made by them. The event was organised along with the IQAC of our college and was inaugurated by our teacher-in-charge, Dr. Uma ray Srinivasan. The students began the days presentations with the invigorating words of Dr. Srinivasan. We intend to compile the papers and posters in the form of a commemorative annual volume in the coming days.





GPS Map Camera



Google

Kolkata, West Bengal, India

78, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rd, Baithakkhana,
Kolkata, West Bengal 700009, India
Lat 22.575196°
Long 88.372786°
10/12/22 02:17 PM GMT +05:30



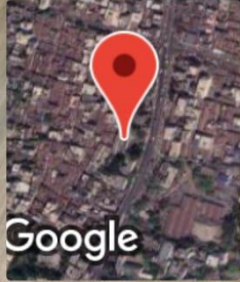
FREEDOM
EQUALITY
DIGNITY
LOVE
EDUCATION
JUSTICE
FOOD
SPEECH

International Human Rights Day
10th December, 2022

Commemorated by
Department of Political Science (Dev)
in collaboration with
IOAC,
Victoria Institution (College)
Kolkata

Keshub Memorial Hall

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Kolkata, West Bengal, India

78, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rd, Baithakkhana,
Kolkata, West Bengal 700009, India

Lat 22.575172°

Long 88.372772°

10/12/22 02:16 PM GMT +05:30

2. Parent Teacher Meeting, December 14th 2022

Guardians of all the first semester students were invited to attend the Parent Teachers meeting on December 14th 2022 in order to enable an interaction between the teachers of the department and Teacher-in-Charge of the college with the guardians of our honours students. Rules and regulations established by the university, structure of semester assessments were discussed in details. Later guardians were also requested to voice their queries if they had any. The meeting also provided an insight about holistic education which is strongly believed and executed by the department through its routine activities.





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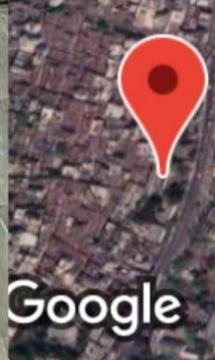
Kolkata, West Bengal, India

78, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rd, Baithakkhana,
Kolkata, West Bengal 700009, India

Lat 22.575186°

Long 88.372786°

14/12/22 01:01 PM GMT +05:30



3. Research Walk on the *Lost Pages of the Bookbinders of Baithakkhana*, December 19th 2022

A research walk around the *Lost Pages of the Bookbinders of Baithakkhana* was organised by the department and IQAC in collaboration with Know Your Neighbour, a non profit organisation based in Kolkata, with the first semester students on December 19th 2022. The walk intended to uncover the otherwise obscure neighbourhood through its histories, experiences and engagement with the city at large. The walk enabled the students' understanding about the communal harmony which has been inimical to the locality, the demographic change which the area witnessed following the riots of 1946 with an unwavering spirit of humanity and fellowship. It also made the students aware about the various aspects of an unorganised labour sector, their complexities and geneology. We intend to assess the students on the basis of the field notes they were asked to take during the walk. The said event was also covered by a reputed broadsheet like Times of India, the day after.



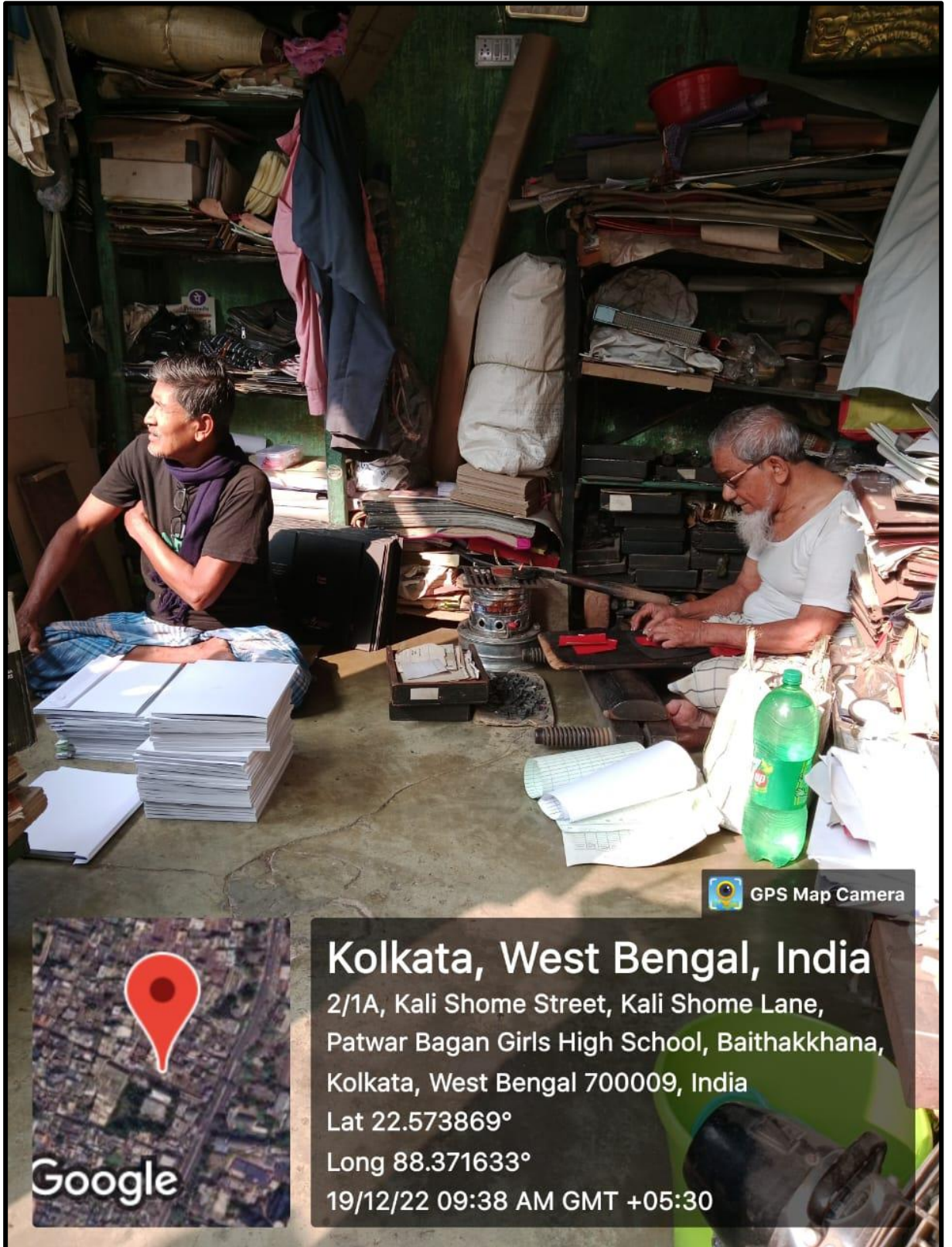


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Kolkata, West Bengal, India
H9FF+X49, Baithakkhana, Kolkata, West Bengal 700009, India
Lat 22.574843°
Long 88.372779°
19/12/22 09:10 AM GMT +05:30



GPS Map Camera



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Kolkata, West Bengal, India

2/1A, Kali Shome Street, Kali Shome Lane,
Patwar Bagan Girls High School, Baithakkhana,
Kolkata, West Bengal 700009, India

Lat 22.573869°

Long 88.371633°

19/12/22 09:38 AM GMT +05:30

Students walk to explore history of Daftaripara

Dipawali.Mitra
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Amit Moullick

NEIGHBOURHOOD HISTORY

Kolkata: On Monday morning, 36 students from the political science department of Victoria Institution (College), near Rajabazar, participated in a neighbourhood walk - 'Lost Pages of bookbinders of Baithakkhana Road' - to explore the history of 'daftaripara', named after people, known as 'daftari' associated with book-binding and how the Partition of Bengal influenced the demographics of the 'para'. It was organised by the department along with citizen group Know Your Neighbour (KYN).

Assistant professor Mousumi Dasgupta feels the initiative was to make students familiar with a neighbourhood which is just at the back of their college, yet not visited by many. "It is necessary that students develop a right sense of history without prejudices, and become conscious of our diverse cultural heritage, when so many 'differences' are being highlighted every day," said Dasgupta. The walk will also help the social science students see things with a critical lens, she added.

The group met at the institution, from where they walked down Kali Shome Street, Budhu Ostagar Lane, Anthony Bagan Lane, Patwar Bagan Lane and interacted with some binders and paper cutters to learn about the skill. The students also saw age-old manually run paper-cutting and trading printing machines that are still operational and got to know a slice of history about their own college. "During the 1946 riots in Calcutta,



The group in front of an old paper agency

- Daftaripara was so named as book-binders are called 'daftaris'
- Baithakkhana is a mixed neighbourhood with Hindus and Muslims living together
- Budhu Ostagar Lane is probably named after a skilled bookbinder

➤ Traditional, manual machines used for paper cutting and printing are still found here

➤ Old mosques, Khansama Masjid (1817), Kholā Masjid (1870), Etarwali Masjid (1850) and Musalmanpara Masjid (1822), are situated here

a rumour was spread that the Muslims of the area had attacked the girls' hostel of the institution and had killed many boarders. But later it was known that the Muslim youths formed a human chain and guarded the college for 24 hours so that the principal and the students, who were stuck, are safe," shared Sabir Ahmed of KYN.

On Patwar Bagan Lane, the group saw some old houses dating back to 1931 and 1932, which witnessed the riots and partition and gave refuge to people from violent mobs.

Undergraduate first year student Zeba Imran said, "This walk is about exploring the unknown in a known place." The 'daftaripara', a unique feature of the city, was once dominated by bookbinders of East Pakistan, now Bangla-

desh. They were mostly Muslims, but after 1946, 1964 and 1971 the situation changed, but cordial relations in Baithakkhana were never affected. "There are still a few shops with Muslim names but are owned by non-Muslims," said Ahamed. Another first-year student Sudipa Ray feels, "We have nostalgia for boi-para, but the toil of the people associated with making books remains invisible. The walk helped us to know their stories."

The group visited Anglo-Arabic School and four heritage mosques - Khansama Masjid (1817), Kholā Masjid (1870), Etarwali Masjid (1850) and Musalmanpara Masjid (1822). The last stop was Carmichael hostel, built in 1917 for minority students. It was visited by many Muslim intellectuals, including Kazi Nazrul Islam.

