

THE TIMES

Vol. 1 No. 3 Pages 8 March 2011 The Ravenshaw Times The Monthly Newsletter of Ravenshaw University

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Lalit Mansingh speaks on India's Look East Policy



Eminent diplomat, former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Lalit Mansingh delivered a talk on 'India's Look East Policy' on February 14, 2011 in the Heritage Hall. The lecture was held under the aegis of the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs. The event was a part of activities of the School of Social Sciences of Ravenshaw University under the

able guidance of Professor and HOD, Political Science, Dr. Niranjana Barik. Vice Chancellor Mr. Devdas Chhotray, Registrar Dr. Smarapriya Mishra, Chairman, Council of Deans Dr. Chandi Prasad Nanda, Dean (Administration) Dr. Nachiketa Das, faculty members of all departments, students, journalists and many others attended the lecture. Mr. Lalit Mansingh also replied to the queries of the students and faculty members in the question-answer session.

India's Look East Policy, which was initiated in 1991, marked a strategic shift in India's perspective of the world. It was developed and enacted during the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and rigorously pursued by the successive governments of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh.

The policy was launched desiring a way to link India's own liberalizing economy to those of Southeast Asia, as well as cultivate a greater role in the region. This multi-pronged initiative sought to create strategic political and economic ties with individual nations in Southeast Asia while simultaneously developing closer ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the region's premiere multilateral economic and political institution. Rather than being simply an economic policy, Look East marked a strategic shift in India's vision of the world and India's place in the evolving global economy.

With the policy supported by both BJP and Congress governments, Look East and its associated strategies to establish India's presence in Asia have become an institutionalized component of the country's foreign policy. This approach has met with success because it achieves important foreign policy goals for both India and its partners.

--Report by **Amit Kumar Mohanty, MJMC**

Ravenshaw ties with Japanese varsity for research, development



Photo: Durga Prasad

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Ravenshaw University and Hiroshima Kokusai Gakuin University (HKGU), Japan on February 28 to promote collaborative research and development.

Dean of Administration of Ravenshaw University, Professor Dr Nachiketa Das presided over the MoU signing ceremony which was held in the Vice-Chancellor's Chamber.

Professor Das signed the MoU for Ravenshaw

University while Professor Ken Sasaki signed on behalf of HKGU. Professor Ken Sasaki

For the first time, a university of Orissa signed an MoU with a university of Japan.

and Professor Toshiro Endo, two senior most professors of HKGU visited Ravenshaw University in connection with signing of the MoU.

This was for the first time

ever a university of Orissa signed an MoU with a university of Japan. The MoU was signed to promote exchange of research scholars, students and members of the faculty of the two universities. The MoU will also promote collaborative research in a number of areas such as bio-remediation of urban waste water and mine waste waters, water quality, environmental technologies, waste management, computer science, electronics, renewable energy, etc.

Views

ERP & E-Commerce: Miles to go

Kishore Kumar Das

Enterprise Resource Planning or ERP is an industry term for integrated, multi-module application software packages that are designed to serve and support multiple business functions. An ERP system can include software for manufacturing, order entry, accounts receivable and payable, general ledger, purchasing, warehousing, transportation and human resources. Evolving out of the manufacturing industry, ERP implies the use of packaged software rather than proprietary software written by or for one customer. ERP modules may be able to interface with an organization's own software with varying degrees of effort, and, depending on the software, ERP modules may be alterable via the vendor's proprietary tools as well as proprietary or standard programming languages.

Brief History of ERP

The focus of manufacturing systems in the 1960s was on Inventory Control. Most of

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The Ravenshaw Times

Editor

Dipti Ranjan Pattanaik

Masthead Design

Devdas Chhotray

Executive Editor

Viraj Shukla

Editorial Advisor

Chandrasekhariah
Ramaswamy

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the software packages then (usually customized) were designed to handle inventory based on traditional inventory concepts. In the 1970s the focus shifted to MRP (Material Requirement Planning) systems that translated the Master Schedule built for the end items into time-phased net requirements for the sub-assemblies, components and raw materials planning and procurement. In the 1980s the concept of MRP-II (Manufacturing Resources Planning) evolved which was an extension of MRP to shop floor and distribution management activities. In the early 1990s, MRP-II was further extended to cover areas like Engineering, Finance, Human Resources, Projects Management etc i.e. the complete gamut of activities within any business enterprise. Hence, the term ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) was coined.

Why is it necessary?

By becoming the integrated information solution across the entire organization, ERP systems allow companies to better understand their business. With ERP software, companies can standardize business processes and more easily enact best practices. By creating more efficient processes, companies can concentrate their efforts on serving their customers and maximizing profit.

Market Leaders

The top five ERP vendors, SAP, Oracle Corporation, Peoplesoft, Inc. (now Oracle Corp.), JD Edwards & Company, and Baan International, account for 64 percent of total ERP market revenue. These

vendors continue to play a major role in shaping the landscape of new target markets, with expanded product functionality, and higher penetration rates. SAP dominates the \$6.7 billion ERP applications market in Europe with 39% market share.

E-Commerce

In the age of the internet, Ecommerce capability is becoming essential for business success. The Internet is easily the most powerful business tool of the new millennium. It has altered business methodologies and dramatically impacted the ways organizations relate to their customers. From the ordering process to customer support and customer service, the Internet offers limitless opportunities to those companies who have the web-enabling technologies to take advantage of them.

The E-Commerce ERP software module supports business-to-consumer and business-to-business applications, including credit card processing. The software provides a professional web site for the customers to view the status of an order and enter in orders.

E-Commerce and ERP integration benefits

E-commerce is the most revolutionized way of selling products in a relatively low cost. But do you have a successful e-commerce storefront integrated with an ERP system? Often business owners use e-commerce platform and ERP system separately, making silos of information and they miss out on the benefits of an integrated system. Imagine getting the e-commerce data directly from your ERP system without any human interaction, it provides you numerous benefits.

For many businesses today, having an electronic-commerce, i.e., e-commerce, website is critical to profitability. Simply having an online presence, however, does not necessarily translate into sales, much less profitability. The strategy that links together the tasks of an



Photo: Durga Prasad

Professor Ken Sasaki and Professor Toshiro Endo, senior most professors of Hiroshima Kokusai Gakuin University taking a quick glance of the February edition of The Ravenshaw Times, during their visit to the University on February 28 in connection with signing of an MoU with the two universities.

enterprise via digital automation is vital in today's world of electronic transacting. In order to manage processes such as marketing, sales, customer service, inventory and purchasing in the real-time environment that e-selling demands, management must select and implement a suitable Enterprise Resource Planning--or ERP--software system to work with the company's database manage-

ment system. The article concludes that although implementation is time-consuming and often expensive, an ERP system streamlines work, increases capacity and allows for better decision-making, all of which increases e-commerce profitability.

--The writer is an Assistant Professor of Business Management.

He can be reached at drkkdasru@gmail.com.

**Mailbox**

Please send in contributions, ideas for the content, and ways we can improve this publication to ravenshawtimes@gmail.com

Dear Sir,

Our environment is both natural and artificial. When we think of conserving natural environment, we should also think of conserving artificial environment. Artificial environment i.e. historical monuments, our traditions, customs, values, art, folklore, etc is at the crossroads today. People with the impact of cultural contact, cultural assimilation and acculturation are somewhat getting apart from our own indigenous artificial environment. Oriya people don't seem to be interested in our own rich Oriya culture, history, tradition. Even if there are history students, are they interested in conserving Orissa's history and culture? So, it is my sheer request to Ravenshaw Times to give space for a column where all the historians of Orissa will be encouraged to write articles on Orissa's history related to traditions, customs, monuments, folklore, art and culture, etc. The young historians can also use electronic gadgets whereby they can capture the cultural tradition of Orissa with their own village as the focal point.

Just like we have a programme on DD National showing important monuments of India, I want the Ravenshaw Times to do the same thing on Orissa.

—Priyanka Sarkar, former student of economics
(Sent via e-mail)

Quote Unquote

Education is a process of teaching and learning, which makes man virtuous, leads him to consciousness of his duties, free from fear and anxieties, makes him able to gather knowledge and to think properly, free from prejudices, dogmatism, obstinacy and egoism, to pursue a dignified way of life with knowledge, virtue and wisdom. If you want to build a nation, you must educate the people.

--Confucius

Chinese thinker and social philosopher

THE RAVENSHAW TIMES

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TWO CULTURES

I have been an avid reader of Milan Kundera's work, particularly his fictions. His mention immediately establishes a not so tenuous link. That is the way with books and writers. They magically bring in a nexus with the unfamiliar. I was amazed when I read somewhere Jorge Luis Borges saying that he is not only influenced by books he reads, but also by books he has never read. The fragrance and wisdom of books of centuries before, although unread, percolates to one's blood stream through other people memories.

In my younger years, I took time to adapt to industrial designs and arts, in fact anything industrial. As I was exposed gradually to power installations, mining gears, making of cables and girdles, blast furnaces, cold and hot rolling processes and so on, a sense of apprehension, of lifeless robotics, gripped me. It was a kind of gasp and sensation, some of those Michelangelo Antonioni films like 'Red Desert' produce in mind. They are so different from the soft and flowing arabesques of conventional art visions. Gradually my mind was trained to trace beauty and order in large expos, in huge industrial yards, and in the planetary dimensions of Boeing factory space in Seattle, for instance. The changed perception came through watching of modern art and architecture, and a near psychedelic juxtaposition of Andy Warhol. Sometimes the mélange look as morbid as a flower bed in the front lawn of the Auschwitz, but the relevance is unquestioned.

So is the relevance of a newsletter in an entirely industrial engineering enterprise, though the analogy is far too driven to the extreme.

Man's mind has two cultures, one of form and the other of number. They dominate the respective hemispheres of the cortex. The culture that signifies one's intuition and aspirations may not exactly be the culture of his or her vocational milieu. That may lead to a painful dichotomy. I can imagine how the young minds, which condense with the sight of rain clouds in the sky, are punished by the tyranny of order in their workplace.

The newsletter of a power infrastructure company, therefore, has a special responsibility. It may be so designed that it shall soften the impact of such clash of cultures. It should be oriented to give as much parity to news as to individual views. Amidst the barrage of information that pours in everyday, making the task of shifting extremely difficult, there should be a tiny space for individual creativity, so that both cultures can breathe.

--Excerpts from Vice-Chancellor's message to the newsletter of an industrial house.

Life enhancing poetry inside glowering garden walls Prof. Soubhagya Mishra joins pep rallies

Any reference to Soubhagya Kumar Mishra, an eminent Oriya poet for over five decades, brings back memories of late John Russell, my teacher at Hilversum, Netherlands who died of cancer in 2009. John Russell used to hammer into me whenever I knuckled down to his lessons in the context of radio broadcasting, his ubiquitous theory, 'Say what you see'. Soubhagya, in a way, did the same thing-- stirred up our senses in an age-dominated by Sitakanta Mohapatra's overt metaphysics and Ramakanta Rath's sedate pessimism, by introducing living creatures and tangible objects around in the context of our existence. He did not herd us into his field of vision since he was well aware of vagabond plants gate-crashing into his land which he tilled without playing the percentages. He allowed weeds their natural space and us our itchy feet to trample on his dour feelings. And he prevailed upon everyone to believe in the prototype of his imagination, iridescent and gossamer-thin.

Soubhagya's collection of poems entitled 'Andha Mahumachhi' (Blind Honeybees) published in 1977, which won him the Orissa Sahitya Akademi award, tersely sets an example of exactness and concreteness of detail in which 44 poems (or honeybees) when released find their way back to the hive as bearers of syrup of life. "Honey is everywhere: at Cuttack, in Kadamba, on a cot, on the threshing floor, / in sulks, on Garuda-stambha, in bells, in clarified butter, in roots, in thoughts...Honey everywhere: / in flowers and in wounds of a leper." Each poem

Tarun Kanti Rout

has its own identity, a name and a life. The poet only skitters his imagination across the lines for fear of having hatched out what is not purported. Soubhagya is



adept at creating torsion in his poems for the sake of his ubiquitous theory - life blurs our living; existence has a card up its sleeve. And to forage is to exist.

Soubhagya's 'Dwa Suparna' (Two Birds of a Feather Fine), published in 1984 and awarded by Kendriya Sahitya Akademi, is a document on dichotomy of existence delineated in 52 poems--each in life's maelstrom appears to be watching the freefall experienced by all earthly creatures: "Very like our old expansive sky/one more sky is needed for either a white bird to fly/or a black bird to fly. / There can never be a sky for both of them/ to fly together in echelon."

Soubhagya's 1990 collection of poems entitled 'Manikarnika' is not expectedly dark, but bristles with surreal debris or comical lugubriousness. Kafkaesque Soubhagya attempts to stand alone and hang back in apathy. Yet, strangely, the poems at times turn into limericks and what appears is chronic, persistent, excessive anxiety and worry about a number of life areas. Manikarnika Ghat in Hindu mythology provides an instant gateway to salvation from the cycle of births and deaths. Surprisingly, here, the liberation is to live by avoiding deleterious effects of flight behaviour or by ruing Milan Kundera's "the comical absence of the comical".

To sum up, Soubhagya's poetry is a city garden with intimidating walls all around abounding in newspaper vendors, circus actors, lovers, dogs, birds, crows, insects (even aphids), dragon flies, butterflies,

Ahalyas, Somanathas, Phulamatis and all of them act as a counterweight to our perceived orthodoxies.

Ravenshaw University has befittingly invited Prof. Soubhagya Kumar Mishra to become the first Writer-in-Residence of the University for the academic year 2010-11. Prof. Mishra, who is also a noted alumnus of this great seat of learning and an academician of repute, brings his critical breadth and persuasiveness to Ravenshaw's enigmatic corridors, not for any quick prestidigitation but for life's ever widening horizon.

--The writer is Programme Executive, All India Radio, Cuttack

Faculty Page

Electro-magnetic fields have always been part of the earth's environment. The expansion of electromagnetic fields creates contaminants (radioactive particles) that penetrate our air, food, the bloodstream and the bones. Background levels of this type of radiation have increased more than a thousand-fold in last decade especially for mobile telecommunications, electric train tracks, television transmitters and FM radio stations. The human body is good at adapting, but there are limits to everything. There is deadly electro-magnetic smog everywhere. It is attacking our senses and our bodies every moment. This electronic smog is swallowing up our clean and green environment. We cannot feel electromagnetic rays as they are invisible, but they are damaging us callously in every second.

We generally concern about what we can feel and observe i.e. the photochemical smog, the hazardous substances, industrial effluents, the polluted water bodies, ruthless deforestation, dirty solid wastes and unhygienic biomedical wastes. If truth be told, these are all threat to our environment, but we are more intimately and persistently affected by invisible electromagnetic rays. The manmade elec-

ELECTRICAL POLLUTION

tromagnetic smog has reached such a level that it disastrously affects the human health. It also terribly impinges on functioning of normal household, different investigatory equipments in laboratories and hospitals and even on food products being consumed by everybody. So far, we have begun to recognise water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, soil pollution and now we have to suffer the reality of so-called non-ionizing EMR (electromagnetic radiation) pollution i.e. Electrical Pollution. The dangers of electromagnetic fields are being created artificially not only by microwaves from TV broadcasts, FM radio stations, radar, satellites and aircraft landing systems but also from power lines, underground cables, house mains circuits, electrically driven trains and motors, household electric appliances, microwave ovens, fluorescent lights, television sets, computers and even battery operated watches and most importantly from cell phones. Unknowingly many diseases and disorders are now attributed to the consequences of radiation. At higher frequencies, electric and magnetic fields combine to produce electromagnetic radiation. A lamp shuts off if we pull the plug,

Shreerup Goswami



but television signals continue to radiate outward even after we have turned off the power. Mobile antennas always emit a high frequency radiation. It hardly matters whether mobile is switched off or not. One of the major sources of electrical pollution is the dimmer switch. As it receives a lot of electrical energy and "dims" it. In this process, the excess light is converted to radio frequencies. Another imperative source is the energy-efficient compact fluorescent light which is encouraged at all levels to use for conserving electricity. In the process of conversion to lower wattage, high frequencies are generated. Last but not the least, the boom and revolution in the use of the cellular phone has evidently increased the electrical pollution. The mobile

telecommunication companies in fact have established telecom-towers in every corner of the world. In the over-exuberance of the speed of network roll out and covering the full population for a good communication range, they have put the general public open to the continuous exposure of electromagnetic radiation, which is leading to permanent effect on human health and behaviour.

Electromagnetic pollution affects so many people in so many different ways because the most prevalent detrimental body currents (radio frequencies) directly impair the immune system. Slowly and slowly when the adverse health effects started coming to the notice of medical and radiological scientists, certain measures were taken in advanced countries to formulate firm guidelines and to regulate exposure limits within safe levels. However, unfortunately, even with such a faster growth of radio frequency illuminating towers in most of the Indian cities could not attract attention of the government. The relationship between biological effects and electromagnetic exposure has been evidently established from epidemiological and ex-

perimental studies. The growing use of mobile communication in the last decade has introduced concerns about health risks from so called manmade electromagnetic smog. Unfortunately, ignorance and non-awareness add to this misery and all of us are accepting this slow poison unknowingly. Just think in your mind's eye—the extent of electromagnetic pollution! This is just an example of our environmental apathy. Thus, the life of general public is in peril without any cause and they are suffering from many deadly diseases and problems.

An effort must be made at all levels for abatement of electrical/ electromagnetic pollution. Remedial measures should be taken by all of us in general and by the government to ensure a clean, green and EMR safe wholesome world. Therefore, minimizing electromagnetic pollution is a common responsibility of citizens, administrators, academicians, scientists, media and NGOs for harnessing and sustaining the comfortable life. As individuals, groups, and community, let us wake up before it is too late and not only understand the adverse impacts of this electronic smog all about but also implement measures to save our engulfing society.

--The writer is a Reader in Geology and recipient of 'Best Young Scientist' award for the year 2008.

Colourful inspirations



Dr. Lekhasri Samantsinghar presented her paintings 'Girl Interrupted'

Lecturer in Zoology, Dr. Lekhasri Samantsinghar exhibited a set of paintings done by her under the title 'Girl Interrupted' in the Ravenshaw Art Gallery from March 10-12. "I was drawn to visual art very early in life probably on receiving my first box of oil pastels and water colours. Painting is my chosen art form because the sensuality of the paint, its smell, its texture and its colour inspire me," says Lekhasri, who has a PG Diploma in Fine Arts from NEHU, Shillong. Her Zoology background is clearly visible in her art work. "Art is the only medium which elevates me beyond the ordinary as a direct connect with the higher force," she reveals saying that she paints subjects that make her think. The common thread between her art work is the vibrant use of colours and experimentation with forms.



Refresher Course



Dr. Sibabrata Das, Lecturer in Geography attended a refresher course in Earth Sciences on the subject 'Remote Sensing and GIS Applications' at Sambalpur University from January 24 to February 14. He was adjudged as one of the best three participants.

When students turn artists

The Seven Stars

Ashish Kumar Pradhan
Deepak Biswal
Chandan Behera
Papiya Haldar
Biraja Prasad Mohanty
Soumya Ranjan Sethy
Sunil Murmu

The Ravenshaw Art Gallery, which is first of its kind in any Indian university, has proved a boon for students of the university by providing them a platform to showcase their creative talent. Many students came forward to participate in the exhibition and showcase their paintings and sketches. The art gallery helped in discovering the rare talent hidden in students and gave them an opportunity to hone their creative skills and encourage them to take up fine arts seriously. In the first phase, seven students of the University displayed magnificent paintings, sketches and drawings done by them from March 7 to 9 in the art gallery. Ashish Kumar Pradhan (3rd Year Economics), Deepak Biswal (2nd Year Political Science) and Chandan Behera (2nd Year Philosophy) displayed six paintings each. Papiya Haldar and Biraja Prasad Mohanty of 3rd Year ITM displayed two sketches each. While Soumya Ranjan Sethy (3rd Year Zoology) displayed four of his artworks, Sunil Murmu (3rd Year Geology) displayed one.

Earlier, noted painter and writer Prafulla Mohanti inaugurated the Ravenshaw Art Gallery on February 26. On the inaugural day, around 40 photographs of world famous photographer Prodepta Das were



(Top) Noted painter Kashinath Jena inaugurating students' art exhibition "Ravenshaw Scapes".

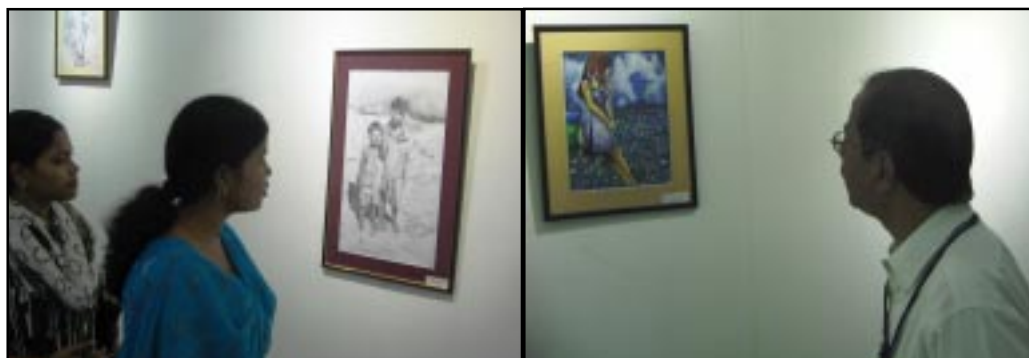
(Bottom) Vice Chancellor Mr. Devdas Chhotray posing for a photograph with the student artists.

showcased under the title "A Tale of Two Cities" in which the artist has beautifully captured the cultural diaspora of Cuttack and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago through his camera.

There are many students in our institution who are good at painting and fine arts but their talent goes unnoticed as they do not get proper platform or exposure. The Ravenshaw Art Gallery aims to provide an opportunity to these young artists who have really exceptional talent, said Vice Chancellor Devdas Chhotray. Exhibitions will be held regularly in the gal-

lery and renowned artists will be invited to encourage students. The University also aims to open a department of fine arts and sculpture very soon, he informed.

The art gallery will also create interest among the students towards fine arts and help them develop a sense of visual aesthetics. It is unfortunate that the interest among the younger generation towards painting and fine arts is fast declining. The gallery would surely benefit them in many ways, said painter Prafulla Mohanti, while inaugurating the gallery.



Poetry Post

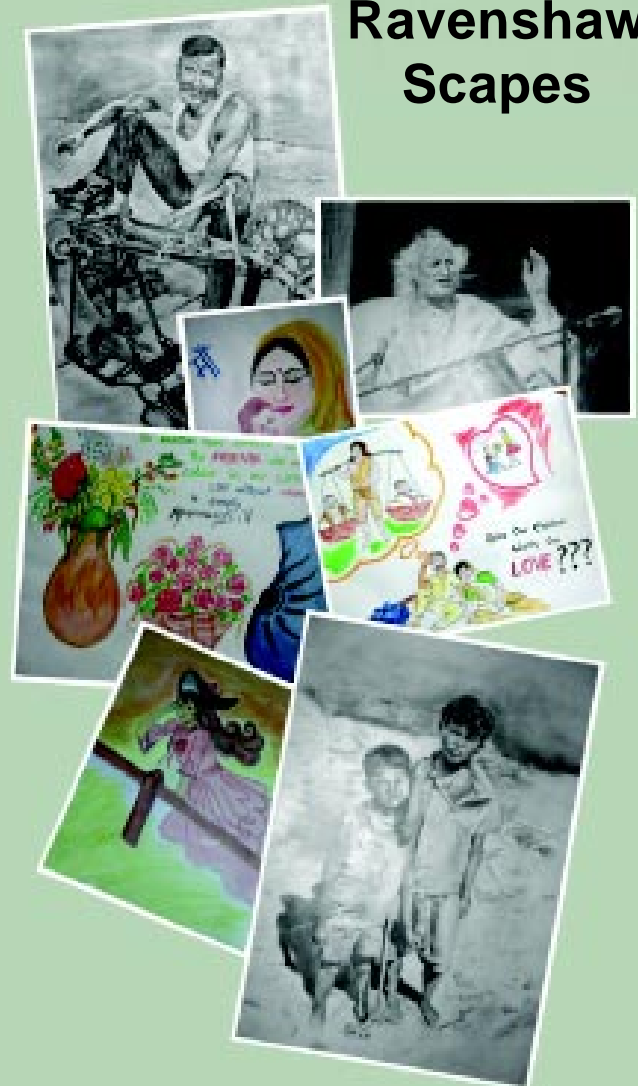
Daddy's Girl

Satabdi Das

If I had my life to do my way,
I'd have chosen you to be my dad once more.
Even if it meant losing you again,
It's worth all the tears in the world.
You were my sunshine when skies were grey.
I loved you and honoured you.
You took all my tears away.
I was happy to be with you,
And proud to be your little girl.
Sometimes we would argue.
But to me you meant the world
Your love was always pure
You treated me as your own
Your time seemed all too short,
And I feel so alone.
What can I take from this?
My heart is completely crushed.
But nothing loved is ever lost
And you are loved so much, Daddy.
I miss you, Daddy!

--B.Com. (Final Year)

Ravenshaw Scapes



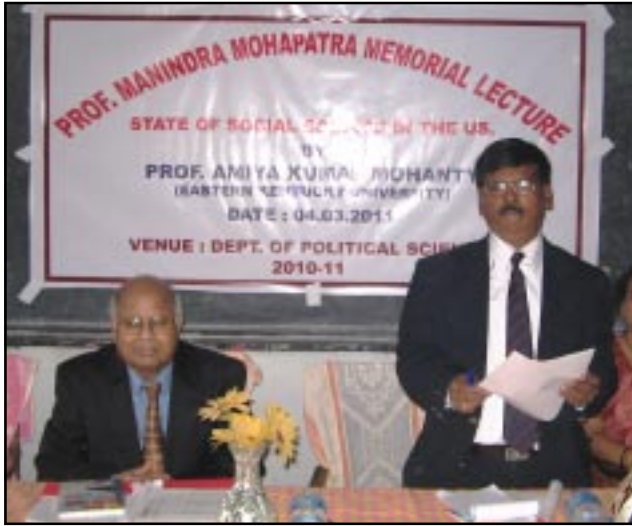
Achievements

Prof. Manindra Mohapatra Memorial Lecture

Professor Emeritus in Sociology, Eastern Kentucky University Professor Amiya Kumar Mohanty delivered this year's Prof. Manindra Mohapatra Memorial Lecture in the PG Department of Political Science on the topic, 'State of Social Sciences in the US'. Professor Mohanty said that social sciences will have their significance so long as we live in society but policy planners can neglect it only at the cost of the society.

Associate Professor of Edinboro University, Pennsylvania, US and visiting Fulbright Professor Dr John Cussen spoke on this occasion on 'Speaking out the Mind of an American English Professor' in which he stated how some beautiful pieces in English literature also emphasise the importance of political life and how difficult it is to live without a country. But literature also lifts individuals from narrow identities and pleads for cosmopolitan consciousness and a just society. So there is constant debate how to live in a society of harmony, equity, freedom and justice.

HOD Political Science Professor Niranjan Barik welcomed the guests and threw light on the adventurism and achieve-



ments of late Prof Manindra Mohapatra who before his sad demise from cancer in 2003 was working as a professor of political science and the Head of the Government Services Division of the Indiana State University, US. Professor Mohapatra had instituted an endowment named 'Urmila Fund for American Studies' in the name of his wife at the erstwhile Ravenshaw College. Prof Mohapatra's wife, Urmila

Mohapatra now lives in Washington DC area.

Associate professor of political science and professor in charge of seminar Dr Asima Sahu introduced the guests. Among others, former professor of mathematics and computer sciences, Eastern

Kentucky University Dr. Sarat Kumari Mohanty, former chief of National Insurance of India Mr. Asit Mukherjee, faculty members Dr Gyana Ranjan Swain, Dr Netajee Abhinandan, Dr Swapna Prabhu, Dr Niranjan Mohapatra and others were present on the occasion. The lecture was followed by a question-answer session. Student secretary Miss Kaikisna offered the vote of thanks to the guests.

Chemistry scholarship

Professor R.C. Tripathy Memorial Scholarship for the session 2010 -11 was conferred to **Prakash Kumar Sahoo** and **Sanghamitra Sahu** of the PG Department of Chemistry. The award function was held on February 24 in the department. Former Principal, SCB Medical College & Hospital, Prof. D.N. Tripathy attended the function as chief guest. Prof. Anadi C. Das of Utkal University, Dr. N. Tripathy of US-based General Motors and Er. G.C. Tripathy also attended the function. All faculty members, staff members and PG students of the department were also present on the occasion. The award is funded in memory of Professor Rama Chandra Tripathy, an eminent teacher and researcher in the field of chemistry. The award is being given since 2004 to poor and meritorious post-graduate students of chemistry studying in Ravenshaw University.

Strings of harmony



Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan flanked by HOD Pol Sc Prof. Niranjan Barik and Dean, Administration Prof. Nachiketa Das.

Ravenshaw University and SPIC MACAY organized a sitar recital by sitar exponent Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan on February 8 at the Heritage Hall. He enthralled the audience with his spell-binding performance. Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan carries on a legacy of sitar playing that goes back several generations in his family. He belongs to the famous Etawah Gharana and belongs to the seventh generation of this musical lineage. He is one of India's most celebrated younger musicians, prized especially for the vocalistic phrasing of his raga improvisations. He is a Top Grade AIR artist and a recipient of numerous national and international awards, including the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.



Photo: Durga Prasad

A student displaying a snake in the science exhibition held in the University on the occasion of National Science Day on February 28. A science seminar was also held in PLT on the occasion. The day is observed in India every year to mark the discovery of Raman Effect by Sir CV Raman. The event is commemorated in his honour for his legacy and discovery of the Raman Effect on February 28, 1928, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930. The event is celebrated all over the country in schools, colleges, universities and other academic, scientific, technical, medical and research institutions.



The 5th Annual Athletic Meet was held on February 22 and 23 in the University playground. Hundreds of students participated in different events and won prizes. Sports Officer Sri Anjan Kumar Khuntia coordinated the event.

Navigating travel literature

The Department of English organised an international seminar on "Travel Literature and the Novel", supported by the United States India Educational Foundation (USIEF), Calcutta, on February 26. Around 40 teachers from different colleges and universities in the state along with about 200 students participated in the seminar. Regional officer of USIEF, Shevanti Narayan, was also present.

HOD English Dipti Ranjan Pattanaik stressed on travel literature as a fascinating new area of research with immense possibilities and suggested possible research questions in the field. There were four paper presentations which were followed by discussions.



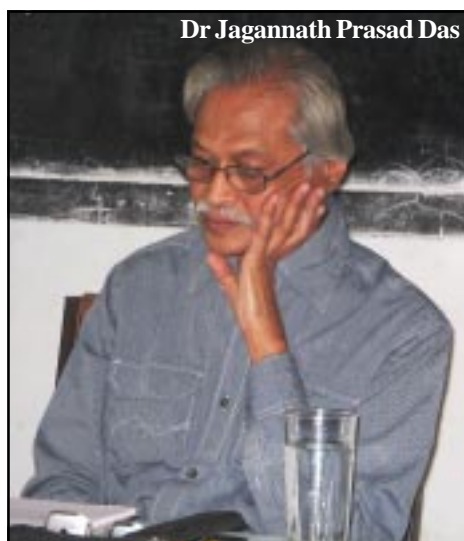
Dr. Shevanti Narayan

In his paper, "Paul Theroux's Quarrel with Travel Writing's Turn toward an All-News, All-the-time Journalistic Ethic," John Cussen of Edinboro University, Pennsylvania, focused on the impact of journalism on the genre of travel writing. Former professor of Utkal University,

Mahajiteswar Das' spoke about "Blinkered Vision of V S Naipaul" while Nilanjana Deb of Jadavpur University presented her views on "Explorers, Nomads and Strangers: Critical Reflection on Travel and Modernity". Sujit Mahapatra spoke about the colonial period and how there was the emergence of a new genre of jungle fiction that dramatized these mushrooming jungle travel narratives through his presentation on "The White Man in the Jungle: Travel Writing, Novel and the Empire". An international traveller and travel writer, Paul Drielsma aka Mahadev from Australia, read out some of his stories written in the course of his travels in Orissa and India.

Authorspeak

The School of Languages has started a unique programme named 'Meet the Author' to acquaint students with contemporary world literature. On February 12, eminent poet **Ramakanta Mishra** met the students of the Department of English and read out a few of his poems. On February 21, famous poet and Sahitya Akademi award recipient **Jasodhara Mishra** addressed the faculty and students of the School of Languages. She read out three stories and a poem. Her stories raised several pertinent questions on feminism. Similarly, on February 24 eminent poet **Dr Jagannath Prasad Das** met the students of the School of Languages. Being a bilingual poet, he read out his poems in Oriya and English, besides a few poems of William Butler Yeats. The programme has been drawing keen attention of the students and faculty and inspiring the students to take interest in Oriya literature. Former Professor of English, Montreal University, Canada, and noted translator **Prof Paul St-Pierre** also visited the Department of



Dr Jagannath Prasad Das

English from February 17 to 19 and took special classes on translation for M.Phil. students. The students highly appreciated the classes. Prof Paul also found the students of the department quiet responsive.

(Report by Dr. Madhusmita Pati)

Dance and Story from the Heart

World famous inspirational performance artist and story dancer, **Zuleikha** performed at the Heritage Hall on March 5. She mesmerized the audience with her whirlwind of spirit, rhythm and dance echoing with stories of nature, world lore and life itself. International dancer, performer and teacher in the art of movement and story, Zuleikha inspires awareness of body and health. Zuleikha's training comes from intensive years of study from master teachers of healing and movement in eastern and western traditions. Zuleikha has developed a unique movement technology based in contemporary and traditional music and movement.



Blood donation camp



The School of Commerce and Management Studies organized a Blood Donation Camp in the Commerce Block. Over 150 students and staff, including 50 girl students, came forward with great enthusiasm to donate blood in the camp. Interestingly, a majority of the donors donated blood for the first time.

Director, Indian Red Cross (IRC) Blood Bank Dr. Benudhar Satpathy, associate professor and HOD Commerce Dr. Sanjay Satapathy, faculty members Dr. Kishore Kumar Das, Dr. Tushar Kanta Pany, Biswajeet Mohanty and many others attended the camp and encouraged students to develop the

spirit of altruism, humanitarianism and selfless service. They also explained the health benefits of blood donation to the students which helps blood renewal besides instilling a sense of sacrifice, responsibility and benevolence among them.

Vice Chancellor Devdas Chhotray, State YRC Co-ordinator Dr. Sarita Supkar and Secretary of the Orissa chapter of IRC Dr. Mangala Prasad Mohanty, heartily appreciated the sincere effort of the students towards the noble cause of humanity. They thanked the donors and all those present on the occasion for making the blood donation camp a grand success.

Research fellowship

Sashi Kanta Behera, a second semester student of M.Sc. (Biotechnology) and **Sneha Ratna Mohanty**, a first year student of B.Sc. (Botany) have been selected for the prestigious Summer Research Fellowship Programme-2011, run by the Indian Academy of Sciences for students.

While Sashi Kanta will be joining IHBT, Palampur, a constituent laboratory of CSIR India, Sneha Ratna will be joining the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad for the summer fellowship programme.

It is an achievement for the department and Ravenshaw as a whole. The School of Life Sciences congratulates both the students for their achievement, which is also an achievement for the department as well as the University.

Archives

This article had appeared in the October 1929 (Vol. XIV, No.1) issue of 'The Ravenshavian'. The writer was a fifth year Arts student at that time.

I have a friend who falls asleep whenever he is left alone. He can never sit and think for a while nor can he find any means to occupy his mind when he is without a friend. The only occasions on which I have seen him without a companion, and yet in a conscious state, are when he goes from one place to another and when he is occupied in his study. But he never reads for amusement, he reads or writes so that he may pass in the examination and even while he is reading one must be talking to him at intervals otherwise he will feel drowsy, yawn and go to sleep.

But I need no companion to help me in enjoying my leisure, hours. Indoor games of a harmless character are best enjoyed when there are more than one person or many. But as friends are not always available at call one should learn how to enjoy the leisure without the aid or presence of a second person.

For a poet, there may be no difficulty. A pen or a pencil and a sheet of paper are all that he needs. Then leave him and he will be happy- He will catch hold of a fowl or a fish, the blue sky above or the green earth beneath, a stream, a mouse, an insect or an owl and what not? They will supply food for his imagination and he will be busy in describing them in such a way that an owl will be the fairest of fowls and a rat the fattest of giants and still people will rejoice in reading his poems.

So is the pleasure of a painter. When he has finished drawing a picture and is surveying it with all the admiration and pride his heart can hold, he is the happiest mortal on earth at that moment. The winning of a Waterloo, or the applause of an audience affords not more pleasure to a warrior or an orator than this piece of paper to our friend the artist.

Golden Letters

When you are alone

Ramakrushna Nanda

Moreover as in the case of a poet so also in the case of a painter, you should take care not to disturb or discover him while he is in the midst of his work. The presence of a second person is the most undesirable accident to a poet when he is writing a poem or to a painter when he is drawing a picture. Adverse criticism kills their mirth and zeal for further attempt, and it is a pity that people who know nothing of poetry and those who are not fit even to draw a clear line on a black-board offer volumes of remarks upon half-finished poems and pictures. Good they can never see anywhere.

A singer or rather a musician is at his best when he is alone. He is certainly not a quiet reveller in solitude like his predecessors but then the charm lies in the very noise he creates either with the help of his throat or of a musical instrument. He can thereby please both himself and his listeners. But the worst of it is that his music if it is well performed attracts the people and destroys his freedom the very moment it is heard outside. As for bad singers, let them shout at the top of their voice, their crow's melody will please no one but themselves.

Reading is well, if it is not preparatory for any examination. That sort of reading does not give even a shadow of pleasure. A novel, a story of heroism or of adventure, poems of exceptional merit or better, those which you like best are fit subjects for study. Anything that is light in tone, I recommend.

Sometimes I play with my pussy and her young ones, talk to them in an affectionate tone and receive answers. But this may be objected to, for I was speaking of pleasures when one is alone. And is not Her Highness the Pussy a companion of mine?

My readers may ask me here—well if a man has neither

of the qualities aforesaid is there no way for him to enjoy his lonely leisure I will say-yes, there is a way and one that is in my judgment the best of the lot. And what is that, pray tell us quick, I suppose my curious readers would ask me then. To make a long story short-that is the art of thinking. It is a very broad term, mind you. It may include thinking of the past, of the future or of the present also, thinking in a garden or on a river side, thinking of gold like Midas or of world conquest like Napoleon, thinking of good better and best things but not of bad things. A rainy day and a comfortable room is the best suited for thinking. A clear evening in autumn or spring and an open space is no less conducive to thinking except it be that you will be often disturbed by men if you have taken your seat on a river's brink or in the lonely corner of a meadow in the country-side. The poor rustics who have never in their life been in the habit of sitting like that and appreciating nature will take you for a blockhead or anything but a sane man. What on earth can make a man sit lonely like that in such a place? They will argue in this vein and may go so far as to ask you what you were doing there. You will be put into great difficulty in answering them because you know they will never be convinced if you say you were thinking. "Thinking of what? Birds and butterflies? Strange! Strange! Well, my young men, what is there to think of?" They will advise you to go home and will laugh at you all their way.

Generally, young men, if they are students, think of all things except God and their country, because when they are alone those two things remain at a considerable distance from their mind. Some people think of the past which is use-

less although it affords them timely pleasure. Future is the period for them to dream of. On this point I would accept but half the creed of the English poet who said:

"Trust no future however pleasant, / Let the dead past bury its dead."

Past is gone, I agree; but the future is before us. We live in the luxuriant hopes and lofty aspirations which we build in the future. Visions you live, visions you perish, that is a wise saying of old. A brilliant 'pass', a suitable job, a palatial building, a motor car (but its worth is fast decreasing), a sweet face and a group of young cubs around you—well, go on in this way. What harm is there? At least it will amuse and inspire you if not do anything else.

A Song For Their Return

Sitakanta Mohapatra

They have gone out to the Shebeen,
Like a flock of sheep to the pasture,
When the moon was younger in the sky
And the breeze a flutter, whistling a melancholy tune.

But they have not come back as yet,
In this eternal timeless 'now',
When the moon is wrinkled, almost dead in the sky
Waiting long for them Oh how long!

The pulpit is empty, the Evangel dozing into sleep
Only the murmuring wind, the snoring of distance
Ah! there is but emptiness for Today's Mass,
The temple all empty, only the hanging bell of brass.

But here on this sleeping street
Comes a wyvern, hissing, hissing,
But what is it hissing
(The jelly-fish's song of creation!
A creative nirus, an emergent evolution!!)

To be frank, I cannot tell.
But what are these litters of rags gore with blood
These weathering bones Oh Lord!
I faintly remember they had swords with them!

II

Marx's bread lies on the dinner table
Waiting for them, eaten by fungi,
Buddha's teachings floating dissociated
In every square inch of space to teach them to be good.

But where are they ?
In the shabby equation of 'elan vital' and butter
The signs are obliterated, the symbols no better
But in their Apocalypse,
Tearing the silence of New Jerusalem
Will they not come to witness
Thy Resurrection?

When the moon is dead,
When the heart of breeze is a of-lump lead;
To sign that title deed
Of a faltering heart to a Universal Creed
Between the Real and Image, between Time and Space
For things unknown (not a military base).

--This poem had appeared in the February 1957
(Vol. XXXVIII) issue of 'The Ravenshavian'.
The writer was a fourth year honours student at that time.