

THE TIMES

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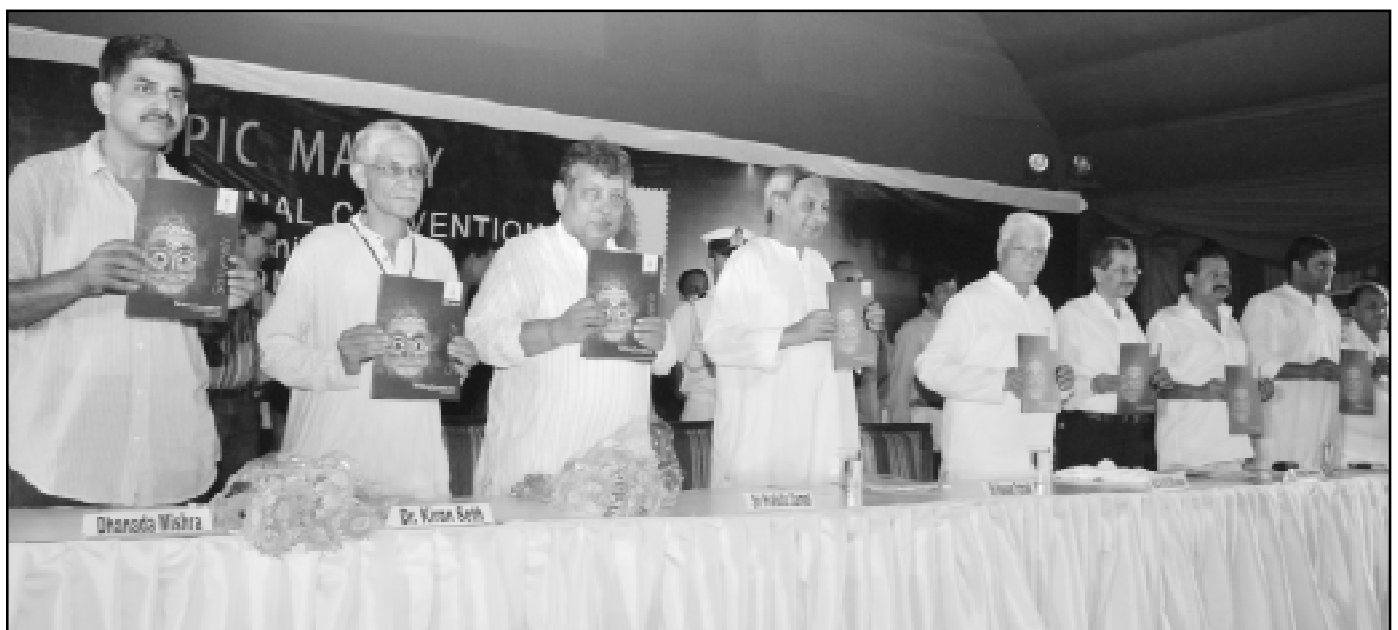
Ravenaissance

Connecting Contemporary Orissa

Chandi Prasad Nanda

Proud host of Spicmacay convention

Ravenshaw University was the proud host of the 26th National Convention (NatCon 2011) of the Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY). The grand event was organized at the University from May 23 to 29. More than 1,200 students from all over India participated in the convention. The power-packed week, aimed to inspire the children, was also attended by more than 400 special invitees from all over India. Governor of Odisha Mr. Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, Odisha Chief Minister Mr. Naveen Patnaik, Governor of Chhattisgarh Mr. Sekhar Dutta, State Ministers Mr. Prafulla Samal and Mr. Debi Prasad Mishra, and many other dignitaries graced the occasion and made the convention an event that drew great attention.



Inaugurating the convention, Mr. Bhandare said he has a dream for promoting India's rich culture and his dream is the youth of the country who are assembled at the convention. Delivering his address, the

Chief Minister said that India's rich tapestry of languages and culture have evolved over many years and it has synthesized the best to provide us an opportunity of experiencing the rich diversity. He complimented

SPIC MACAY for holding the convention in Ravenshaw University which has fostered value-based education since several decades. He appealed to the assembled students from all over India to use this occa-

sion as a lifetime chance to experience the bliss and dedicate themselves to preserve and protect our culture. Mr. Dhanada Mishra, the chief convener and head of the Odisha Chapter □ P 7

Colloquium on Connecting Contemporary Orissa

The Department of History recently organized a series of lectures and panel discussion on "Connecting Contemporary Orissa: Structure, Agency and Discourses". HOD History Prof. Chandi Prasad Nanda delivered the welcome address. Vice Chancellor Sri Devdas Chhotray gave the inaugural address. Renowned academician Professor Biswa Mohan Misra was felicitated on the inaugural day and Prof. Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta delivered the Biswa Mohan Misra Felicitation Lecture. He



gave an insight on the challenges that the country faces in the 21st century. Making a distinction between 'Shining India' and 'Dark India', Prof. Das spoke about economic disparity among various strata of the society. He said that India has

the fastest growing economy in the world with its GDP pegged at 8.5 per cent.

The two-day long event witnessed seminar presentations, panel discussions and round table conferences in which eminent personalities from different fields debated on issues pertaining to economic liberalisation, political decentralisation and resource redistribution. In the roundtable discussion for 'Institutionalizing Study of Contemporary Orissa', establishing a centre for contemporary history at the university was envisaged. □ P 2



*Welcome, Freshers!
We wish you success and
a bright future.*

Reviews



Felicitation Ceremony of Sri Biswa Mohan Misra and Felicitation Lecture by Vice-Chancellor of University of Calcutta, Prof. Suranjan Das.

Colloquium...(Continued from Page 1)

Prof. Jatin Nayak, Dept of English, Utkal University, Prof. Biswajit Das, Director, Centre for Culture, Media and Governance, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, Prof. Hari Vasudevan, Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, Dr. Asha Sarangi, Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, JNU, Dr. Rosinka Choudhury, Fellow in Cultural Studies, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, Prof. Salil Misra, Ambedkar Central University, Delhi, Prof. Kishore Basa, Dept of Anthropology, Utkal University, Sampad Mohapatra, Senior Correspondent, NDTV, Prof. Ananta Giri, Madras Institute of Devel-

opment Studies, Chennai, Gourahari Das, Senior Editor, Sambad, Sailendra Dwivedi, Columnist, Sudarshan Das, Columnist, Dr. Nibedita Mohanty, Historian, Dr. Pritish Acharya, Associate Professor, Regional Institute of Education, NCERT, Bhubaneswar, Dr. Santrupt Misra, CEO, Carbon Black Business, Director, Group HR and Director, Aditya Birla Management Corporation Private Limited and many dignitaries attended the colloquium.

Dr. Bhairabi Prasad Sahu, Professor, Dept of History, Delhi University delivered the Krishna Chandra Panigrahi Memorial Lecture and Prof Salil Misra of Ambedkar Central University delivered the Jagannath Pattnaik Memorial Lecture.

From the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Ravenshaw University while making online admissions has obtained huge data inputs about students who eventually get admitted. Mr. Ratnakar Palai, System Administrator has been controlling and monitoring the database including email IDs and cell phone numbers of each student. Most of the data are made available by respective departments. The teachers in the department, during roll call and otherwise, are able to find out not only the level of attendance, which will also be monitored this year, but also such other details as, their cell phone number, email ID, local address and any changes thereof. Each Department is thus advised to maintain such database which apart from usual academic information should also have such inputs as to whether the student is a hosteller, or a day-scholar, or a commuter, and whether the accommodations are personal or rental. The department must also immediately take up into account the details of students who have just passed out. They should collect information about where the student is going, whether for higher studies or employment, and if so some minimum details should be kept on record for future tracking. This should also provide each Department the invaluable wealth of alumni database. More extensive the database is, more connected is the institution. The HOD and all faculty members should do their utmost to collect such information from the passing out students and the college office, where they receive the final institution leaving papers (CLC). Some missing links can be incorporated by contacting the students, their family members and friends, over telephone. The office administration should immediately prepare a common form indicating details such as name, permanent address, mailing address, email ID, parents' name, year of admission, year of passing out, subject, result, and future course of action such as higher studies and employment, and then get these digitalized for documentation.

The Ravenshaw Times is the monthly newsletter of Ravenshaw University. Your comments and contributions are always welcome. Please send them to the Editor at ravenshawtimes@gmail.com.

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Visit our website to download and read the PDF version of The Ravenshaw Times.

Congratulations to Batch Toppers of 2011

PG Toppers (Vice-Chancellor's Scholars)

Kabita Moharana (Applied Geography)
Sonali Acharya (Botany)
Ipsita Mohanty (Economics)
Bismita Pradhan (English)
Rojangi Mallick (History)
Pritimanjari Khuntia (Philosophy)
Rashmita Biswal (Physics)
Deepika Senapati (Zoology)
Ayusman Swain (Chemistry)
Bushra Parween (Commerce)
Asutosh Rout (Oriya)
Kaikashna Begum (Political Science)
Bidulata Sahoo (Education)
Suparna Swain (Hindi)
Nini Moharana (Mathematics)
Tanzim Nazhat (Psychology)
Gopasree Bohidar (Sociology)
Payal Sahu (Computer Science)
Sushree Swati Mohanty (Biotechnology)
Sonali Mishra (M.Sc. ITM)
Swatishmita Sarangi (MCA)
Priyadarshi Biswal (JMC)

UG Toppers

Shasmita (Botany)
Prajna Mishra (Chemistry)
Nikita Jalan (Commerce-Accounting)
Ananya Sunayana (Commerce-Management)
Akash Mishra (Computer Science)
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Swarnalata Behera (Philosophy)
Nirupama Panda (Physics)
Ankita Das (Political Science)
Aakashya Mishra (Psychology)
Menaka Panda (Sanskrit)
Swayamshree Mishra (Sociology)
Snigdharani Sahoo (Statistics)
Sushree Shibane Dash (Zoology)
Sapan Kumar Mahato (BBA-Finance)
Anand Prakash Kullu (BBA-Marketing)
Rupali Bhattacharjee (IST)
Biraja Prasanna Mohanty (ITM-Network Engineering)
Sumeet Kar (ITM-Software Design)

BEST GRADUATE
Tiger Parida (General Course)
Rupali Bhattacharjee (Professional Course)

Quote Unquote

*Education is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire.*

--William Butler Yeats
(Poet and Playwright)

THE RAVENSHAW TIMES

The Ravenshaw Times

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FRESHERS, LOOK AT IT AFRESH!

Over the last few days we have been nudged from all sides – our bright-eyed freshers have been asking for directions to this way and that, for opinions on this thing and that and for suggestions from this teacher and that. Some newbie falls over the doorstep when trying to enter PLT, another mumbles to herself, yet another sits for a lecture in the wrong classroom. Welcome, dear freshers, to the first year of college education and to the last few years of learning. Do not worry about the slips. Beautiful and terrible things keep happening.

Ravenshaw is a treasure house of large funds of knowledge. It is up to you freshers how much you take away. Somebody said you can lead a boy (girl) into college but cannot make him (her) think. Ravenshaw makes one think for we do not believe in filling empty minds; we believe in opening closed minds. Take a stroll down the history lane and you shall find that the firsts in all walks of life were Ravenshawians.

Please do not change your honours if a morning class is required for your honours, do not worry if your professor assumes that you have nothing else to do except study for his/her course, or the most important part of your class notes is illegible when you open it for the first time on the night before the exam, or 80% of the final exam is based on the one lecture you missed and the one book you didn't read. Just bring back to mind that famous note of encouragement by George W. Bush, the former president of the United States of America. "To those of you who received honors, awards and distinctions, I say well done. And to the C students, I say you too may one day be President of the United States."

College is the last best time of life. This is the one last time your parents are going to spend for you to have fun while studying. But, as Alice Duer Miller said: Don't ever dare to take your college as a matter of course – because, like democracy and freedom, many people you'll never know have broken their hearts to get it for you.

--Urmishree Bedamatta, Lecturer in English
E-mail: urmishree@gmail.com

Remembering Madam Curie

Epitome of human values and higher ethics inherent in modern science

On this centenary of the Nobel Prize awarded to Madam Curie for her contribution to Chemistry, 2011 is celebrated as the International Year of Chemistry. It was her second Nobel Prize and she was the first to receive this award twice. By that time, she had been on a tireless journey of almost fifteen years in scientific research. In her study on rays emitted from Uranium, she discovered two fundamental elements hitherto unknown. 'Polonium' she named one, in honor of her motherland 'Poland' and the other she named 'Radium'. She coined the term 'radioactivity' to explain the spontaneous emission of light from these elements. Her fundamental studies on the properties of these rays made her conclude that radioactivity is an atomic phenomenon. This was pivotal in bringing about a paradigm shift in science that was taking shape in the early part of the twentieth century. The atom, which means indivisible, was no more so and studies on radioactivity gave a glimpse of the huge amount of energy stored inside it.

Her tenacious spirit was nurtured in an oppressed nation, fighting for independence and in the family of a teacher, who lost everything for their patriotism. Manya, her Polish name completed schooling from Warsaw, the capital city of Poland. In those days, the Warsaw University did not allow women students. Also, studying abroad was not affordable to the Sklodowski family. She devised a formula to break this impasse. As a first step, she joined as a governess and supported her elder sister study medicine in Paris. Holding the dream of studying science close to her heart, she continued self-study and tutored poor children during her trying job. At the age of 24, after a torturous wait of almost 5 years, she could finally move to Paris and join Sorbonne University. In those days, a career in science was inconceivable for a woman. However, in the year 1893, with utmost courage and dedication,

Kumar S. K. Varadwaj



she stood first in the Masters degree in physics and in the following year she got her degree in mathematics. During these years she lived through poverty and solitude but with a deep sense of satisfaction that she was listening to and coming in contact with great scientists.

After her formal education, she joined Pierre Curie, a young charming scientist, only in his mid thirties, but had already made substantial contributions in the field of magnetism. The beginning of her research with Pierre was formulated on two important discoveries of that time: The X-rays discovered by Roentgen, which can penetrate the flesh to photograph the bone and rays emitted from Uranium, which was first observed by Henri Becquerel. She started measuring the properties of Uranium ray systematically with the help of an electrometer invented by Pierre. In an abandoned shade and a small lab she took up the so called masculine activity of isolating Uranium from tons of Pitchblende ore. In the process of measuring the radioactive properties of Uranium, she realized that Nature has some other elements which are more radioactive than Uranium. They discovered method to isolate miniscule amounts of Radium chloride from tons of ore. Its stronger radioactivity opened the possibility of application in the treatment of cancer and different skin diseases. Friends and well-wishers suggested Curies to patent the process of Radium extraction. It would have made

the Curies wealthy. However, true to their characters they declined this offer of wealth. Their underlying philosophy was that 'knowledge should be free and its use for the cause of humanity should be unhindered'. This research however helped Madam Curie to get her doctorate degree in science in June 1903. In the same year, the Curie couple shared Nobel Prize in Physics with Becquerel for their fundamental contribution to radioactivity. But they had realized it correctly that this was not the end but the beginning of a new era in the science of radioactivity whose horizon was yet to be explored.

The scientific outlook which she carried and developed is not only applicable to scientific research but also true to light the path of life. Marie said "Nothing in life is to be feared – it is only to be understood". It is this scientific temperament applied in all aspects of life, which can really help in exploring the unknown in Nature.

Her extraordinary accomplishments do not need any artificial amplification. She was the first woman to receive a doctorate in physics. She was the first female professor at Sorbonne University, she was the first woman to receive a Nobel prize, for physics, she was also the first scientist, male or female, to be awarded a second Nobel prize.

The radioactive materials, she handled for years, burned the tips of her fingers, clouded her eyes with cataracts, bent her spine with pain, and eventually she died of over exposure to radioactive rays on July 4th 1934.

Her dedication, commitment and integrity to the cause of science were unparalleled. Neither the erstwhile laws of Poland, which deprived women from university education nor the untimely demise of Pierre Curie could deter her from the search of the unknown. She carried the burden of fame lightly on her physically frail shoulders.

--The writer is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

Water: Sustenance of life and world peace

Water, whether abundant or scarce, has a value to a country as a whole. Coping with future water crisis will require efficient, adaptable and sustainable water management. It will also require ways of resolving water disputes. In order to deal with severe problem of a rapid increase in urban water consumption as well as to realize the sustainable utilization of fresh water resources, this topic provide an analysis of the subject.

Everyone knows that water is essential for human life. We need it for drinking, for bathing, for irrigating our crops, and for watering our livestock. Indeed, while water can be considered an economic good, it is also a good with important special attributes that affect not only individuals but entire societies. For example, there are environmental effects of water use and mismanagement of water resources can have dramatic impacts on the environment that transcend personal property and even national borders. Similarly, there are clear social and economic considerations that impact the relative value of water—for example, many countries financially subsidize water for agriculture, implying that water used for agriculture has value to society as a whole, distinct from its value to the individual farmers involved.

Fresh water resources are the foundation of urban existence and development. With the development of urbanization the composition of urban water consumption has evolved from “direct and indirect water consumption” to “direct, indirect, and induced water consumption”. Urban direct water consumption is categorized as being the sum of urban industry and domestic water consumption. The indirect water consumption is classified as being the quantity of water consumed by farmland, forestry and animal husbandry. Calculation of induced water consumption is mainly based on the total amount of urban carbon emissions. In terms of ability to accumulate and quantify data, it has been estimated that only large regions of for-

est land are the only regions that could be classified as natural absorbers of carbon emissions. Thus, for calculation purpose, a forest area is normally chosen for the model and the total water consumption by that forest land is accounted for. This has been set aside as “induced water consumption”. It is to be mentioned that national fresh water consumption increased by 20% from 1952–2006.

With increase in population, water consumption also increases in various aspects. In regions with limited water reserves, alternative sources of fresh water supply such as desalination and water reuse are gaining momentum. Grey water is the largest alternative source of water relative to the size of population. Generally, domestic sewage comes in three types: (1) black water which is from the toilet and is high in organic pollutants such as coliforms, (2) yellow water which is high in concentration of nitrogen and (3) grey water. Grey water is derived from showers, baths, washing machines, dish washers, bathroom and kitchen sinks. It is also the largest source of domestic sewage after that of toilet flushing (black water). The importance of grey water is as an alternative to using valuable and scarce freshwater where high water quality standards are not always necessary and this water can conveniently be used after installing suitable cost-effective water treatment facilities. The advantage of grey water use are in ecological maintenance, the savings in sewage production and the overall water consumption needs of households.

Rising awareness among consumers regarding the detrimental effects of contaminated water, regulations enforced by the government and risk related to legal liabilities are also driving the demand for water treatment products. Demands from Asian and Latin American economics particularly India, China, and Brazil are driving growth in the overall water

Ratan Kumar Dey

treatment equipments and service markets. A major factor influencing the global water treatment market is the stringent regulatory environment.

Treated wastewater recycling also offers a potential solution to water scarcity. But the question is to what extent can treated wastewater complement existing water sources in different sectors and what cost? In developed countries like Australia all the wastewater generated is treated according to the strict governmental standards,

before it is

released into the natural water bodies. Israel is an exception as it diverts most of its highly treated wastewater to agricultural sector. But in countries like Australia and US where the distribution costs of treated wastewater from urban sectors to the agricultural sectors are prohibitive, there is the potential to

use treated wastewater in sectors other than agriculture. Wastewater is treated at different levels (from the highest level which is safe for the irrigation of food crops to the lowest level which is primarily discharged). There are also both positive and negative implications associated with wastewater recycling. The positive implication includes environmental benefits from reduced discharge of saline and polluted wastewater into natural water bodies. The negative implication include potential ground water pollution and increase in soil salinity if used for irrigation and potential unknown ill effects on human health if used for potable purpose. Therefore, it is important to understand that each recy-

cling standard has a number of associated risks and its use should be on a sound economic analysis that takes into account all the environmental and societal externalities generated from wastewater recycling.

Finally “Water”, whether abundant or scarce, has a value to a country as a whole. The idea that the next world-war will be about water is a myth—provided that potential disputants think about the matter rationally. Rational thinking about water requires thinking about the value of water rather than just its quantity and location, or disputes over ownership of it. Two important scientific models have been developed to facilitate such rational thinking: “Water Allocation System” (WAS) and “Multi-year Water Allocation System” (MYWAS). These models analyze information on current and potential future water sources, water related infrastructure and demand for water. The resulting information can be the basis of smart decision-making on water-related issues, from conservation to new infrastructure development.

The models also take into account constraints that reflect, for a given country or conflict, the relevant social values for water. For example, extra importance might be placed on setting aside water for environmental purposes, subsidizing water for agriculture, or ensuring affordable water for the needy. Taking these constraints and values into account, the models optimize the benefits to be obtained from the available water.

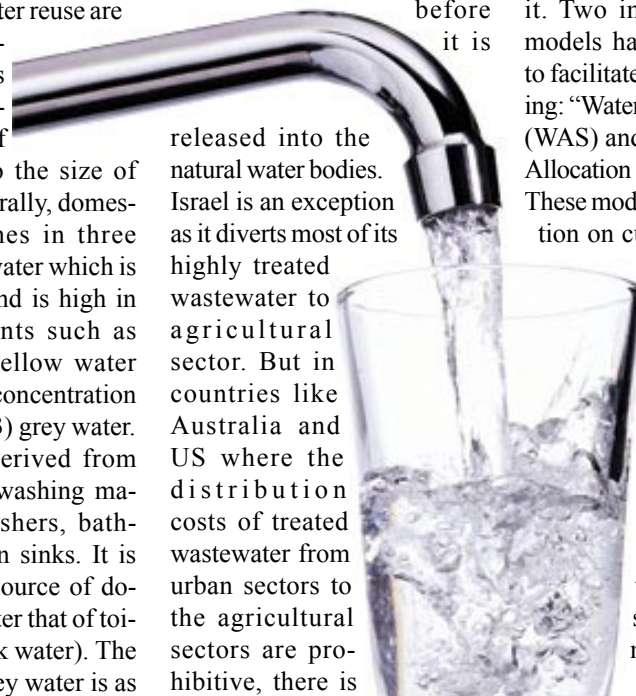
In terms of water management, MYWAS empowers planners to specify menu of possible infrastructure projects. The model then yields the optimal infrastructure plan, based on costs and benefits, specifying which projects should be built, in what order, and to what capacity. This feature is important not only to water planners

but also to prospective donors and to firms engaged in the construction of water infrastructure.

The model can also be used to examine the effect of different climate change scenarios, for example, analyzing the optimal actions to be taken in case of drought. In addition, MYWAS can determine the value of water for a country or region as a whole, or in the different geographic districts within a country, and how that changes over time. Beyond this, however, MYWAS can be used to guide mutually beneficial cooperation in water. By placing an objective monetary value on water for a given area, WAS/MYWAS empowers countries—including countries in conflict over water resources—to voluntarily buy and sell short-term use of water resources, for mutual benefit. The seller would receive money it value more than the water it gives up; the buyer would receive water it values more than the money it pays. Such buying and selling of short-term water use would not prejudice any unresolved claims to ownership of the resource. Indeed, MYWAS enables all sides to enjoy the benefits from cooperative commerce in water, without waiting for an agreement on ownership. The parties could establish an escrow fund into which they would each pay (at MYWAS values) when using the disputed water sources. The resolution of the ownership question would then become a matter of resolving the ownership of the escrow fund—a much simpler matter than a conflict over water itself.

For the purpose of achieving efficient, adaptable and sustainable water management, there are now commitments to proceed with WAS and MYWAS in various middle-east countries. Properly sponsored, there is a great opportunity in building up flexibility and adaptability in water systems necessary for the future of the world.

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Environment and our impending death

Pallavi Patnaik



Decades ago, all those who expressed their concerns about wild life preservation and man's despoliation of nature, were regarded by others as harmless eccentrics. Things have dramatically changed in the meantime, especially so in the recent times. People are currently beginning to worry about what is happening to the air, the soil and the water around them. It will not be farfetched to hold that presently ecology has in essence displaced astrophysics as the most glamorous branch of science.

It is not that the danger to environment has abruptly emerged. Ever since the days of industrial revolution, nature has been suffering at the hands of man, but the damage was containable and not beyond self-repair. When man reached the moon and proudly announced his triumph over the elements, he had already made vast stretches of the earth nearly uninhabitable by his very technological progress. Nature may yet have the final laugh though. This realization has inevitably impacted on the thinking sections of the world in modern times, albeit naturalists and biologists have been shouting their voice hoarse about this for ages.

There are innumerable instances to prove how deadly environmental pollution can be. The mass poisoning of fish in the Rhine by chemical effluents, the contamination of Lake Geneva, the pride of Switzerland, the leaking of oil from the super tanker Torry Canyon threatening sea life, have not only alarmed Europe but the rest of the world as well. Similarly, in Japan many people who consumed sea fish poisoned by metallic wastes are continuing to suffer from chronic disorders. Countries like India which are feverishly trying to industrialize themselves are catching up with the usual pollution problems in a huge way. The pollution of the Ganga via emissions from several oil refineries is a classic example.

When air is polluted with poisonous gases, it invariably results in instantaneous death. On the 2nd of December, 1984,

around 3000 human beings died, about 5000 were paralyzed and thousands of cattle and other animals died on a single night in Bhopal. This horrendous mass death was due to the leakage of toxic methyl isocyanate into the air from an insecticide plant managed by the Union Carbide.

Some schools of ecology fear that use of Freon and CFCs as coolants and filling agents cause colossal damage to the ozone umbrella, as a result of photochemical reactions. One cannot decry the glaring fact that over the past two decades the density of ozone layer has been diminishing at an alarming rate of 3% per annum. It is further calculated that wide depletion of ozone layer by a percent,

manifests in the incidence of skin cancer by almost 7%.

Besides, there are again the hazards of nuclear radiation. Ecologists opine that even peaceful or pacific nuclear explosions pose a threat of inducing genetic alterations. Even underground tests are not as harmless as they are made out to be.

During the last three decades of the twentieth as well as the first decade of the twenty first century, apart from the ravages of pollution, a myriad of terrestrial biomes have also been mindlessly destroyed and converted into high density housing tracts. The day is not very far off when several biomes will become extinct from the face of earth.

The so-called grand balance of nature is threatened by mindless technology which undeniably rides roughshod over natural processes. Time has come that we make peace with nature. It is therefore and not without rhyme or reason that the famous ecologist Barry Commoner cautions that "The price of pollution could be the death of Man"!

--The writer is pursuing M.Phil. in Zoology. She also presents programmes on Ravenshaw Radio.

She can be reached at pallavipatnaik@ymail.com

Ambassador of goodwill

Amrita Das, a final year postgraduate student of computer science in Ravenshaw University, has gone to Japan as an ambassador of goodwill to the prestigious Hiroshima Kokusai Gakuin University (HKGU). With her visit, she becomes the first exchange student from Ravenshaw University as envisaged in the MoU signed between Ravenshaw

University and HKGU on February 28 this year.

Amrita is on a visit to the Department of Bio-Recycling of Hiroshima Kokusai Gakuin University located in Hiroshima. She will stay there for five weeks and work in the area of bio-informatics, which is the application of computational and statistical techniques to biological data processing and analysis. Her airfare, accommodation and a stipend at the rate of USD 700 per month will be provided by Professor Ken Sasaki of the Japanese varsity, said Professor Nachiketa Das, Dean of Administration.

She is going as an ambassador of goodwill from Ravenshaw University. She had been selected for the student exchange programme by Professor Ken Sasaki and Professor Toshiro Endo during their visit to Ravenshaw to sign the MoU early this year, he added.

It may be mentioned here that for the first time ever a university of Orissa signed an

MoU with a university of Japan when the two senior most professors of HKGU inked the understanding with Ravenshaw University to promote exchange of research schol-



ars, students and faculty members of the two universities and collaborative research in a number of areas such as environmental technologies, waste management, computer science and electronics, renewable energy etc.

In May this year, Professor Das had been invited to the Japanese varsity as a Visiting Professor in environmental management for two months.

Red Cross Camp



Gumuluri Vishal and Sabuja Mitra Behera, Red Cross volunteers of Ravenshaw University, represented the country at the recently concluded International Red Cross and Red Crescent youth camp in Malaysia. While Vishal won the best cultural talent trophy, Behera won the best cadet award for attending all the sessions in the camp. Around 3,000 volunteers from 10 ASEAN countries had participated in the youth camp.

Ravenshaw lifts Governor's Cup

Ravenshaw University became the Champion in the Governor's Cup Panel Discussion held in Bhubaneswar recently. Ashutosh Prayas Dash (M.Com 1st Yr), Smruti Ranjan Sahoo (MBA 2nd Yr), Sharmistha Sahoo (BBA 3rd Yr) and Debasmitta Sahoo (MBA 2nd Yr) represented the university in the panel discussion in Oriya. The group discussion topic was 'Nirakhyarata Rastriya Pragatira Antaraya'. The final



round of the competition was held at Idcol Auditorium, Bhubaneswar in presence of the Hon'ble Governor Sri M C Bhandare. Out of 15 universities of the state which participated in the competition organized by BPUT, four universities namely Ravenshaw, BPUT, OUAT and

Utkal Universities went to the final round. While Ravenshaw became the champion, BPUT, Utkal and OUAT secured the runners up, third and fourth positions respectively. The champion team was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 and the prestigious Governor's Cup.

Activities

Fulbright-Nehru Grantee joins Ravenshaw

Matthew Shutzer is coming to Ravenshaw University to work with Professor Sahu, Head of the Department of Sociology. With the support of Dr. Sahu, Matthew has proposed a historical study of development practice in Orissa's adivasi populated regions, specifically in the KBK or Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi part of the state. The endemic history of poverty, specifically recurrent acute famine, in this region poses questions regarding the efficacy of NGO and state-led development efforts using institutional norms to elaborate evolutionary development schemes. With the emergence of 'entitlement theory' and social capacity building programs begun in professional development circles, the field of economic development has witnessed



epistemic change in traditional approaches to development management. Matthew aims to investigate the role community

forestry has played in augmenting household incomes for Orissa's poorest. He is especially concerned in the sourcing practices and potential marketability of non-timber forest products, NTFP, and how the Orissa Food Corporation and Adivasi Board measure these income generating activities in terms of regional liquidity and microeconomic welfare paradigms. Pairing these interests with a graduate degree in contemporary northeastern Indian history, specifically agrarian studies, Matthew is excited to join the Ravenshaw community of academics and students. He will be on the Cuttack campus beginning in mid-August and will be alternating between here and his facilitating NGO, Gram Vikas, in Berhampur. The faculty and students of the Department of Sociology look forward to welcoming him.

Ravenshaw Record Room Revisiting history

From Serenity to Serendipity

History of Ravenshaw is synonymous with the history of Orissa. The old Ravenshaw College has a Record Room which is a treasure house with a lot of information about colonial and modern history. Now steps are being taken for sifting, weeding and restoration of the Record Room



as it contains many rare documents of importance for students, historians and researchers. The dilapidated record room contains precious documents of the Union government. Some rare handwritten letters of noted personalities of Orissa have also been found. But all such records are stacked up in bulk shelves without any chronological or subject-wise categorisation. They are now being segregated chronologically and will be preserved digitally on the University website and main server.

Dr. Umakanta Mishra, Lecturer in History, has been put at the head of these initiatives and he has made a commendable beginning. He has consulted with Mr. Lalatendu Das Mohapatra,

Regional Records Officer, National Archives of India, Bhubaneswar. Going solo, he has been able to set apart records from the year 1917 to 1955 at another location and has commenced individual scrutiny. A Supervisory Committee for the Record Room has been constituted with Dr. Chandi Prasad Nanda as Chairman, and Dr. Dipti Ranjan Pattanaik and Dr. Dipti Ranjan Sahu as members. Dr. Mishra has been able to recover and preserve many important documents, including the original war bond that was issued by the Union government in 1918 to raise funds for the British government during the World War I.

Visiting Fulbright Professor



Prof. Alison Brysk, Mellichamp Professor of Global Governance in the Global and International Studies Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is coming to the Dept of Political Science in August as a Visiting Fulbright Professor. She has authored or edited eight books on international human rights. She has been a visiting scholar to many countries.

During her stay for six weeks here, she will be taking classes in the department and giving seminars in the University. She is going to lead an international collaborative research on "Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights in India" with Prof. Niranjana Barik and Dr. Asima Sahu of the department. Many eminent scholars from the US and Europe are also involved in the research work.

Study Tour

A group of 16 postgraduate students from the Department of Applied Geography went on a study tour to Nainital and Rohtak under the guidance of HOD **Dr. Pritirekha Daspattanayak** and **Dr. Sibabrata Das**. The students visited the Department of Geography, M.D. University, Rohtak. They were given a hearty welcome by the students and the faculty members of the University, including the HOD Geography Prof. M. I. Hassan. A special lecture was also arranged on 'Applications of Remote Sensing'. It was delivered by Dr. Pramod Bhardwaj, Reader in Geography, MDU. The Ravenshaw University students were amazed to see their Remote Sensing Laboratory. A cultural exchange programme between the students of both the Universities was also organized. Two Ravenshaw students Vidya Yadav and Mahesh Kumar Behera performed semi-classical dance. The students later visited Kumaon University and all important tourist spots in and around Nainital. The students also visited the University of Delhi and JNU while in Delhi.

Summer Research Fellowships

Subhashree Sahoo and **Krishna Kumari Swain** of the PG Department of Chemistry have been awarded the prestigious Indian Academy of Sciences-Summer Research Fellowship-2011. Sahoo is currently working with Dr. Santanu Mukherjee, Department of Organic Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru on "Assymetric Synthesis using Micheal Addition Reaction". Swain is continuing her summer research project with Dr. Ranjit Biswas, Department of Chemical, Biological and Macromolecular Sciences, S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, on "Solvation Phenomena of Ferro Fluids". Department of Chemistry congratulates Subhashree Sahoo and Krishna Kumari Swain and feels proud for their marvelous achievement, which certainly adds to the glory of Ravenshaw University.

Thailand Visit

Dr. Sudhakar Patra, Reader in Economics recently visited Bangkok, Thailand and participated in a three weeks training workshop on "Environment and Natural Resource Economics" at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). The workshop was funded by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and organized by South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE). During the workshop, Dr. Patra interacted with internationally reputed ecologists like Prof. Karl Goren Malar from Sweden, Prof Partha Dasgupta from Cambridge University and Prof. Enamul Haque from Bangladesh. He presented a project proposal on "Coal Economy, Pollution and Sustainable Livelihood: A Study in Talcher Coal Mining Area" for funding by SANDEE and UNEP.

Resource Person

Dr. Sudhakar Patra, Reader in Economics was recently invited as Resource Person by the Academic Staff College of Ranchi University in UGC-sponsored Refresher Course on Financial Management. He delivered three lectures on financial sector reforms in India. He presented the performance of Indian financial sector in three phases such as pre-bank Nationalization phase before 1969, second phase from 1969 to 1990, and third phase from 1991 onwards. He highlighted on modern banking as a financial sector revolution in India. His lectures were well appreciated by all participants and course coordinator.

Annual Day Talk

Eminent scholar in Russian history and director of Eurasian Foundation, **Prof. Arun Mohanty** delivered a talk on the relevance of Russia in the current global order on the Annual Day Function of the Department of Political Science. Mohanty, a former Ravenshawian, graduated from Moscow State University and spent more than 30 years of his life in Russia. He was the first Indian correspondent of Moscow Radio World Service.

HOD Political Science Prof. Niranjana Barik deemed it a great privilege for the students and faculty to learn about foreign relations between strategic partners India and Russia.

Achievements

Ministry pat for NSS Bureau

The NSS Bureau of the University under the supervision of the Programme Coordinator **Dr. Pritirekha Daspattanayak** had observed the Communal Harmony Campaign Week and National Flag Day last year through various activities and had collected a donation amount of Rs. 3,769 to help child victims of communal and other forms of societal violence for their rehabilitation. The amount was sent to the office of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. In return, the secretary to the Ministry Dr. Lalit Kumar sent a letter of appreciation to the



Programme Coordinator. In the letter, the foundation has acknowledged the noble efforts of the NSS bureau which has helped the government in widening the coverage of project 'Assist', which has over 10,000 children as beneficiaries. "It would have been difficult for the Foundation to bring smile on the face of such a large number of children, without your active and willing support. We hope to get continued cooperation in future as well," the letter stated.

The Programme Coordinator expresses her heartfelt gratitude to all the Programme Officers and NSS Volunteers for their selfless and untiring efforts.

Economics Guest Lecture

Dr. Subhrendu Kishore Pattanayak, Associate Professor, Departments of Public Policy, Environment and Economics (joint appointments), Duke University, United States delivered a lecture on 'Economics of Sanitation' recently. At the outset, HOD Economics Prof. Mamata Swain introduced Dr. Pattanayak as an environmental economist having significant contributions in empirical aspects of contemporary environmental issues that have significant policy implications.

Professor Pattanayak expressed his concern for high incidence of diarrhoea death in Africa and South Asian countries in the light of the fact that it is so easy to prevent.

Professor Pattanayak presented his findings of the research project on behaviour change communication related to sanitation in Bhadrak district

of Odisha. He stated that water is emphasised in almost all government policies but sanitation is always neglected. In spite of subsidy, the people do not adopt proper sanitation in their homes. His randomized control study suggests that strategy that combines subsidies (only to BPL households) and social mobilization can increase latrine by thirty per cent, and improve child health. Two of his students from Duke University, a professor from Emory University, US and a professor and Ph.D. student from IIT Kharagpur also attended the seminar. Prof. Niranjana Barik, Dr. Sibabrata Das, Dr. Sudhakar Patra, Dr. Chittaranjan Nayak, Dr. J o o g a s h a n k a r Mahapasashta and many students participated in the discussion that followed.

(Report by Dr. Sudhakar Patra and Bikash Ranjan Mishra)

Workshop on Creative Writing



The Department of English is going to organize a Workshop on Creative Writing in the month of August. Eminent poet, writer and the first Writer-in-Residence of Ravenshaw University, Prof. Soubhagya Ku. Mishra will lead the workshop. Interested students, research scholars and faculty members are requested to register their names and submit samples of their writings to Urmishree Bedamatta, Lecturer in English and Associate Editor of The Ravenshaw Times.

Spicmacay convention...(Continued from Page 1)

of SPIC MACAY thanked all for their warm support. A special mention was made of the key role played by the Vice Chancellor Mr. Devdas Chhotray in hosting the grand event in the University.

The renowned artistes who performed in the weeklong convention are Pandit Birju Maharaj (Kathak), Vidushi Girija Devi (Thumri), Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar (Hindustani Vocal), Vidwan U Srinivas (Carnatic Mandolin), Vidushi Ashwini Bhide Deshpande (Hindustani Vocal), Ustad Nasiruddin Sami (Hindustani Vocal), Vidushi Sunanda Patnaik (Hindustani Vocal), Kapila Venu (Kootiyatam), Ustad Bahauddin Dagar (Rudra Veena), Pandit Rajan Mishra and Sajjan Mishra Viswan T V Sankaranarayan (Carnatic Vocal), Dr. Madan Gopal Singh (Sufi), C V Chandrasekhar (Bharatanatyam), Vidushi Sujata Mohapatra (Odissi), Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan (Hindustani Vocal), Dr. Ileana Citaristi (Creative Chhau), Pandit Venkatesh Kumar (Hindustani Vocal), Vidushi Kapila Nangiar (Kootiyatam), Methil

Devika (Mohiniattam), Vidushi Aruna Mohanty (Odissi), Vidushi Ritha Devi (Mahari), Guru Ramahari Das (Odissi Vocal) and many other celebrated artistes. Gotipua dance by Konark Natya Mandap, staging of famous drama Charan Das Chor by Naya Theatre, screening of classic films Akira Kurosawa's 'Throne of Blood' and Shyam Benegal's 'The Making of the Mahatma', puppetry show by Dadi Pudumjee, exclusive crafts village and overnight classical music soiree by legendary musicians were the other major attractions of the convention. During the week, students also participated in yoga sessions, talks and lectures and crafts workshops. Eminent poet Sri Sitakanta Mahapatra, Geeta Govinda researcher Sri Gadadhar Mahapatra, linguist D. P. Patnaik and renowned artist Sri Jatin Das gave enlightening and intellectually stimulating talks.

The Natcon-2011 was dedicated to Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Pt Mallikarjun Mansur, Mother Teresa, Guru Gangadhar Pradhan and Pandit Bhimsen Joshi.

Erikson Scholar

HOD English **Dr. Dipti Ranjan Pattanaik** visited the prestigious Erikson Institute for Education and Research, Chicago, Illinois as Erikson Scholar-in-Residence for Winter-Spring 2011, for a period of three and a half months.

Paper Presentation

Reader in English, **Dr. Madhusmita Pati** presented a paper entitled "Could Displaced Marginals Co-exist with Hungry Tigers? A Lyotardian Reading of Amitav Ghosh's The Hungry Tide" at the International Conference for Academic Studies at Harvard University in Boston, US held recently. Dr. Pati's article was highly appreciated in the conference.

Lecturer in Geography **Dr. Sibabrata Das** presented a paper entitled 'Social Group Health Differences: A Study of Children's Health in Odisha' at the 32nd Annual Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP) and the National Seminar on 'Population and Public Health' held at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, organised by Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP) and Population Research Centre (PRC), Utkal University.

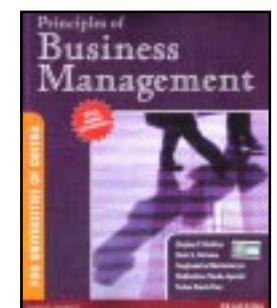
Publications

Lecturer in English, **Dr. Sambit Panigrahi** has published a book entitled "Patriarchy against Nature/Women: A Green Study of Joseph Conrad's Fiction". The book has been published by the reputed VDM Verlag Dr. Muller, Deutschland, Germany. Dr. Panigrahi has also published an article entitled "Death of the Author in Italo Calvino's If on a Winter's Night on a Traveler" in 'Labyrinth', an international refereed journal of postmodern studies.



Lecturer in Geography **Dr. Sibabrata Das** has published a paper entitled "An Investigation into Factors Affecting Child Undernutrition in Madhya Pradesh" in "Anthropologist" (Vol.13 (3), pp. 227-233 with Harihar Sahoo). He has also published another paper entitled "Health Deprivation of Children in India: A Geographical Analysis" in "Learning Community", an International Journal of Educational and Social Development.

Dr. Tushar Kanta Pany, Assistant Professor at the Department of Business Management has co-authored a book entitled "Principles of Business Management" along with renowned management experts Stephen Robbins and David DeCenzo of the United States. The book has been published by reputed publisher Pearson. It is a prescribed textbook for not only universities of Orissa but also for six other Asian countries. Dr. Pany has also served the corporate sector for eight years and has been teaching and imparting training since the last 13 years. He has been a visiting faculty to many business schools in India.



Training

Lecturer in Geography **Dr. Sibabrata Das** attended a training Course on "Disaster Management: Advance Planning and Preparedness for tackling Flood and Cyclone", at Gopabandhu Academy of Administration, Bhubaneswar from July 12-16. The course was sponsored by National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Government of India.

Seminar Lecture

Prof. Saudamini Das of the University of Delhi delivered a lecture on 'Storm Protection Services of Mangroves during 1999 Super Cyclone in Orissa' in the seminar hall of the Department of Economics.

Renaissance

Often enough one gets struck with the idea of living today in a 'present' with multiple epithets of 'post'. The end of millennium perhaps has reinforced the 'widespread' perceptions, powered by the structural changes in praxis and ideas, that we are inching towards a time of 'endism' and a complex proliferation of the 'posts' – in terms of post-Capitalism/Colonialism/Marxism/Socialism/History and above all, perhaps of post-modernism, post-modernity and post-modern! In addition, the much-debated Fukuyama's hypothesis of 'End of History' has also apparently sought to remap the intellectual agenda with liberal capitalism's global triumph and Communism's collapse. However, despite such intellectual engagements by scholars with the 'posts', perhaps a construct of a 'post-agenda' with whatever serious qualification, is still to be convincingly endorsed.

The challenge that intelligentsia today faces, while characterizing the 'contemporary present', is a high degree of awareness in terms of reconciling the intimate ties connecting theory and real world events. The fluidity and certainty in today's world further complicates the issue, in the sense that whether these shifts and continuities, taken together, might appropriately be regarded as constituting a new social system.

The other dominant issue of contemporary social life as well as of intellectual activity is differentiation and variation. Pluralism and differences are presumed now-a-days to be found at unprecedentedly high levels and to connote a positive value. Theories of cultural pluralism are principally concerned with distribution of power on a cultural basis. Such power can be dispersed between or accumulated by groups or individuals and is located in a variety of cultural sites. On the other hand, those espousing the distribution of cultural power are seen as appealing to consideration of stability and norms of equality and

Connecting Contemporary Orissa

Structure, Agency and Discourses

promise-keeping. The danger in such advocacy i.e. promoting cultural pluralism, could also be located in the increasingly interventionist role of the state which may be detrimental to the very goal of equality per se and militate against the notion of cultural differences.

Underlying this is also the emotive issue of nationalism. Today, theories of nationalism have often disconnected it too readily with other forms of identity politics. Nationalism is at its most unsettling when we consider how far it derives its force from its relations with other concepts, which many consider as more innate. Even if nationalism is increasingly interrogated as being obsolete (which seems though unconvincing and doubtful), its characteristic ways of treating community and identity deserve consideration within more open and relational framework for underlying political ideas and legitimacy.

We should explore space in delineating how theory and society are currently being understood. We look for necessary direction and a roadmap for theorizing about the state. We are acutely aware that a map of the present disguises its essentially 'contested /constructed' nature. The discussion is perhaps intended to provide a way out to explore with an engaging guide to the domains of theory and society. It is time to provoke serious questions on the above issues than really tracing 'authentic' solutions. May be these could be relevant in many ways for engaging with a range of disciplines and the ways for understanding the 'contemporary present'!

Given this theoretical backdrop, it is time to explore how economic liberalization, political decentralization and resource redistribution have impacted the 'globalised' India in general and Orissa in particular. Connecting Contemporary

Chandi Prasad Nanda



Orissa is the need of the hour. The new found dynamism of a 'globalised' order which had characterized 'post-post colonial' India after 90s of the 20th century had found its resonance in increasing participation and interaction of people in democratic politics and market economy. But what is remarkable is the way in which diverse social groups have come to interact, negotiate, though obviously in different capacities, in the socio-economic and political domains. But this process has something inherently to do with socio-historical trajectory that has perhaps intimately influenced the dynamics of 'growth and development' of contemporary India. In this context, what need to be probed critically are the complex ways and the extent to which diversity in interests, values and identity were connected, negotiated and managed.

Endorsing the recently critically argued ideas and insights of Akio Tanabe (Kyoto University) and Yumiko Tanabe (Osaka University), what may perhaps be noted in the context of Orissa today is the flowering of 'vernacular democracy' and 'circumfluent economy', which entail a complex process of the articulation of social relations and cultural idioms related to kinship, caste and religion, preserved in the rural life-world with the new politico-economic opportunities related to market economy. The very

process not only helps transform social relations and meaning of cultural idioms which cope suitably with the newly emerging situations. But it also helps further deepening of democratic politics and market economy, which are also in turn influenced by socio-cultural patterns through which people take part in these activities. Hence, one amazingly notices the new vibrant connection between state, market and community, which relocate them in complementary relation with one another. Besides, the other noteworthy feature of this process is the participation of the hitherto marginalized individuals and groups in the politico-economic activities. The above process has not only been bolstered only due to state interventions and logic of market but importantly the ways people as agents have utilized the socio-cultural resources to enhance their capabilities. Thus in many ways, contemporary Orissa/India seems poised to regain connection of diversities and innovative vibrancies beyond the oversimplified binaries of 'global-national' and 'urban-rural'.

The overall effect of this 'transformation' is the process of formation not of homogeneous civil societies but of het-

erogeneous public spheres in which diverse societal groups, including the marginalized, participate. This marks a celebration, as Tanabe rightly reasons out, of the convergence of participatory democracy and economic development through connection of diversities.

However, the caution for such an analysis is loud and clear. Despite the gradual emergence of such a vibrant 'glocal' and 'rurban' circulatory economy, one may not possibly locate a clearly drawn path necessarily in a smoother or an equal manner, which keep co-evolving with the development of vernacular democracy with hitherto (un) empowered masses, demanding necessary 'entitlements' as 'citizens'.

Thus obviously this necessitates an intimate negotiation with the sensitivity to the existence and recognition of the needs and interests of the diverse and critically vulnerable sections of the contemporary society. This aspect can hardly be undermined. We must initiate a modest beginning of responding to the pressing call for engaging with what may be said as 'history of historyless' project against an irrepressibly evolving and nearly overarching 'glocalised' order.

--The writer is Professor and Head, Dept of History, and Chairman, Council of Deans (CCD).

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RATH ON RADIO

Ravenshaw Radio 90.4 MHz, the campus community radio station, broadcast the live running commentary on Puri Rath Yatra on July 3 from 9 am to 5 pm. Alok Dash, a second year undergraduate student of political science of the University, gave the commentary on the famous chariot festival of Lord Jagannath of Puri. Subrat Panda, programme executive of Ravenshaw Radio, coordinated the event. His commentary was interspersed with traditional devotional songs of Orissa like the immortal bhajans of Salabeg and Bhima Bhoi sung by legendary singers Nimai Harichandan, Akshaya Mohanty, Balkrushna Dash, Bhikari Bal, and others. The famous recording of Gita Govinda by Pandit Raghunath Panigrahi and recitation of devotional poems and free rhythm singing of bhajans by the students was also aired.

Ravenshaw Radio had earlier observed Rabindranath Tagore's 150th birth anniversary from May 7 to 9 in a unique way by airing his immortal songs for 12 hours non-stop from 10 am to 10 pm on all the three days to commemorate the Nobel laureate poet's affection and connection with Orissa and Oriya people.