

Report

The Department of History in collaboration with IQAC organised a 30 hour Value-Added course on Ideas of Nation and Nation Building.

When we first designed this course all we had in our mind is to give a glimpse of Indian cinema, the story behind it, different sectors involved in it, different perspectives, as we believe cinema is not only an entertainment sector, it had its share of imparting knowledge -the effort it played in the nation building process, quenched our thirst by portraying of realities and helping in looking at the world, our society from a different angle. The world of Ray Sen Ghatak Ghosh Karnad and so many brilliant directors, cinema makers have enriched us. We wanted to share the light we received with our dear students and as well enrich ourselves by interacting with you all as well.

We invited guests from different disciplines, we ourselves prepared to expand our as well as your horizon. In this entire process we benefited ourselves but with a heavy heart had to admit we failed miserably to kindle the interest in you to the world of cinema- to look at it not only as an entertainment industry but also as a cerebral genre.

The course was not taken in a hurried manner and was spread into two months with total 14 classes which gave our students enough time to ponder over the matters taught and fathom their significance. Our aim was not only to enrich our students but rekindle their questioning abilities.

The detailed report of the course is given below.

Day 1

Inauguration of the Add-on Course on Ideas of Nation and Nation Building - A film Appreciation Course on Indian Cinema by the Department of History, St Paul's Cathedral Mission College, Kolkata.

Course Coordinators:

Prof. Mausumi Mukhopadhyay and Prof. Santanu Banerjee.

DAY 2 of Add on course organised by the History Department

Topic Nationalism and its Impact on Bengali Film Industry

Resource Person: Prof. Anindita Sarkar, Department of Sociology, SPCMC

Day 3- Online Mode due to heavy downpour

Prof. Urvi Mukhopadhyay talked on Bollywood and Nationhood in Add-On course organised by History Department.

(Date: 04.10.2023)

Day-4: Add-on Course lecture organised by the Department of History entitled

‘From the Films Division to New Approaches to Documentaries: A brief History (1948-1975),’ was held on 6/10/2023. The lecture was presented by Dr. Anamitra Sarkar of the Department of History. The response of the students was overwhelming. They promised that they would watch more documentaries from now on.

The 5th day of the Add on course Ideas of Nation and Nation Building: A Film Appreciation Course on Indian Cinema, organised by Department of History & the IQAC of St. Paul’s Cathedral Mission College was held on 10th October 2023. Prof. Sarasij Sengupta from Department of Bengali gave an enthralling talk on বই, ছবি: চলচ্চিত্র!

The 6th day of the Add on course Ideas of Nation and Nation Building: A Film Appreciation Course on Indian Cinema, organised by Department of History & the IQAC of St. Paul’s Cathedral Mission College was held on 11th October 2023. Prof. Santanu Banerjee from Department of History was today’s speaker. His talk covered a vast expanse and unfurled the Indian Cinema (1913-41): From Silence to Protest in front of our enthusiasm filled students. They came to know a lot of the history of the becoming of our Cinema.

The 7th day of the Add on course Ideas of Nation and Nation Building: A Film Appreciation Course on Indian Cinema, organised by Department of History & the IQAC of St. Paul’s Cathedral Mission College was held on 13th October 2023. Dr. Siddhartha Biswas, the Head, Department of English, Calcutta University was today’s speaker. His lecture was on The Trinity of Cinema in Bengal. Sen- Ghatak-Ray and their cinema was what Dr. Biswas introduced our students to. The two hours just flew by and ended with a lively discussion analysis and reminiscing those time.

The 8th day of the Add on course Ideas of Nation and Nation Building: A Film Appreciation Course on Indian Cinema, organised by Department of History & the IQAC of St. Paul’s Cathedral Mission College was held on 24th November 2023. Dr. Sutapa Rani Dasgupta from the Department of History was today’s speaker. Her lecture was on Partition of India and Cinema. She introduced our students to the post partition changes in society and the changing role of women reflected in cinemas.

The 9th day of the Add on course Ideas of Nation and Nation Building: A Film Appreciation Course on Indian Cinema, organised by Department of History & the IQAC of St. Paul’s Cathedral Mission College was held on 28 th November 2023. Prof. Mousumi Mukhopadhyay from the Department of History was the speaker. Her lecture was on Dalit in Indian Cinema. She introduced our students to the reflection of Dalits in Indian Cinema through her interpretations of Achyut kanya (1936), Sujata (1959), Sadgati (1981), Paar (1984), Masan (2015), Fandry (2013- Marathi). The intention behind her choice of the topic was to inspire the students to rethink Dalit politics of India.

The 10th day of the Add on course Ideas of Nation and Nation Building: A Film Appreciation Course on Indian Cinema, organised by Department of History & the IQAC of St. Paul’s Cathedral Mission College was held on 30th November 2023. Dr. Anindita Ghosal, Department of History, Diamond Harbour Women's University was today’s speaker. Her

lecture was on Partition and Indian Cinema. She introduced our students to the realities of partition in and how it impacted Bengal and the northeastern states. It was a very interesting and interactive session

The 11th day of the Add on course Ideas of Nation and Nation Building was held on Friday, 1st December and the speaker was Prof. Santanu Banerjee, Department of History, St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College. His topic was "Hope, apprehension and despair: Bollywood blockbusters in early Independent India".

The 12th day of the Add on course Ideas of Nation and Nation Building was held on 4th December 2023. Dr. Chaitali Maitra from Department of English was the speaker. Her lecture was on Relationship in Indian Cinema. She very interestingly unveiled the changing courses of Indian cinema through ages.

The 13th day of the Add on course Ideas of Nation and Nation Building was held on 5th December 2023. Dr. Anasuya Bhar from Department of English was the speaker. Her lecture was on Conflicts in Nationalisms: A Study of Satyajit Ray's *Ghare Baire*. Dr. Bhar's critical analysis of Ray's interpretation of Rabindranath's *Ghare Baire* helped our students in understanding not only Ray but also the historical implication of the time.

The 14th and the last day of the Add on course Ideas of Nation and Nation Building: A Film Appreciation Course on Indian Cinema, organised by Department of History & the IQAC of St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College was held on 6th December 2023. Prof. Tayana Chatterjee from Department of English was the speaker. Her lecture was on Reinterpreting the Idea of Nationhood through Modern Hindi Films. It was a very lively interactive session. After the lecture the students were required to sit for an examination before the closing ceremony where the students were awarded certificates for successful completion of the course.