



Sarojini Naidu College for Women

(Govt. Sponsored)

30 Jessore Road, Kolkata - 700 028

Phone : 2559-2583, 2529-1985

Ref. No. :

Date :

Title of the Report: One Day International Webinar on “India through the Lens of Visitors: A Chapter in Our Cultural History.”

Introduction: The Department of History in collaboration with the I.Q.A.C of Sarojini Naidu College for Women organized an International Webinar on “India through the Lens of Visitors: A Chapter in Our Cultural History.” on May 30th, 2022.

Objective: The main objective of the Webinar is to recollect the ideas and views of both Official and Non-Official Visitors about India. India had been visited by foreigners since ages. Travellers had entered in the country and had conveyed back impressions about the motherland through lively tales and travel journals. The Sojourners descriptions about India shed light on the social, economic and cultural aspects of this land. The known things were expressed with the big difference that they were mediated through the visitor’s eyes. This fascinating explorations had become an interesting travelogues to portray our country’s history and culture.

Content: The speaker of the online session was Prof. (Dr.) Syed Tanveer Nasreen, Director, Indian Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Male, Maldives. The Webinar was inaugurated by Dr. Anjan Sinha, President of the Governing Body, Sarojini Naidu College for Women. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Urmila Ukil, Principal, Sarojini Naidu College for Women. Dr. Sudeshna Chatterjee, Coordinator. I.Q.A.C and Associate Professor of Chemistry, Sarojini Naidu College for Women, shared her valuable opinion about the webinar. The programme was hosted by Dr. Nibedita Pal, Associate Professor, Department of History, Sarojini Naidu College for Women. Prof. Azizul Biswas, H.O.D, Assistant Professor of History

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and Prof. Narayan Nandy, Assistant Professor of History, were the joint Convenors of the webinar. The organizing Committee members, Dr. Sukanya Sarkar, Associate Professor, and Prof. Adarini Kanjilal Biswas, Assistant Professor, Department of History, played an active role in making the webinar a grand success. More than hundred participants attended the webinar through Google Meet and others attended the webinar through YouTube channel. Speaker, Prof. Syed Tanveer Nasreen elucidated how the travellers had visited the country since the ancient period and left their impressions about our civilizations and culture. Their writings are source materials for understanding our heritage. The outsiders entertained both a positive and negative view point about our country. On the one hand, some of the visitors had eulogized our culture and other, some of them had a deep contempt for India's traditions and customs.

Outcome: The webinar help to know about many travellers and visitors who were otherwise often not known to us. India's cultural history had been the outcome of a long period of evolution. The varieties of expressions as revealed through the travellers lens would enable to know about India's past as well as present. The Visitors descriptions about the country should be treated as an asset for reconstructing India's culture and would be a source for revaluation of India's glorious heritage.

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