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### 4th Satadru Sen Memorial Lecture 2023



*Prof. Alavi's talk organized by the department of History provides a fascinating exploration of the complex interplay between Asian and European powers in the Indian Ocean during the Age of Empire, with a specific focus on the Omani Sultans. The narrative appears to highlight the Sultans' unique ability to navigate the political landscape by balancing their alignment with European interests while preserving their cultural traditions. This delicate equilibrium not only helped them maintain autonomy but also allowed them to pursue their distinct political ambitions within the evolving geopolitical dynamics of the Indian Ocean.*

*The talk's emphasis on the Omani Sultans' century-long narrative provides a comprehensive understanding of the political space in the Indian Ocean and how it served as a stage for the dramatic interactions between Asian and European powers. The mention of the family of Indian Ocean Sultans suggests a dynastic perspective, adding a personal and familial dimension to the broader historical narrative.*

*Moreover, by bringing the often-underestimated Asian imperial ambitions into focus, Prof. Alavi's presentation appears to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of global history. The intricate dance between Asian and European powers, as described in the talk, underscores the significance of the Omani Sultans in shaping the course of world history. Their ability to navigate between different geopolitical interests while maintaining their cultural identity reflects a sophisticated approach to diplomacy and power dynamic.*

*Prof. Alavi's illuminating talk provided a thought-provoking perspective on the role of Asian elites, particularly the Omani Sultans, in shaping the dynamics of the Indian Ocean during a crucial period in history.*





## Digital Archives: Indian context

The November Talk of the Month hosted by the Department of English at Presidency University on November 29, 2023, featured Dr. Parthasarathi Bhaumik as the distinguished speaker. Dr. Bhaumik, an Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Jadavpur University, delivered a lecture titled 'Digital Archives: Indian Contexts' at the A.K. Basak Auditorium. During the two-hour session, Dr. Bhaumik shared insights from his extensive personal experiences in digital archiving projects, including those at the British Library, UK, and the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University. His lecture provided a captivating exploration of various aspects of archiving and curation, with a special emphasis on the impact of the digital revolution on the field.

## Sonic Therapeutic Intervention for strong will and mind power

On the 8th of November 2023, the Department of Philosophy organized an international lecture that delved into a fascinating and often overlooked realm of self-improvement—Sonic Therapeutic Intervention for Strong Will and Mind Power. The study aimed to investigate the experiences of sonic therapeutic intervention practitioners and its impact on character building. The four themes that emerged from the analysis—self-control, values, consequentiality mindset, and post-conventional consciousness—shed light on the potential benefits of sonic therapeutic intervention for individuals. The study suggests that these themes contribute to enhanced self-management, improved leadership, and more effective decision-making in daily life. The use of semi-structured interviews and documentary reviews for data collection, as well as thematic analysis, adds depth to the research methodology. By exploring the perspectives of purposefully selected sonic therapeutic intervention practitioners, the study offers insights into the ways in which sonic therapy may positively influence individuals' psychological and character development. The identified themes—self-control, values, consequentiality mindset, and post-conventional consciousness—provide a framework for understanding the specific aspects of character building that may be influenced by sonic therapeutic intervention. The mention of non-engagement in cases of concentration levels suggests that these interventions might also have a role in promoting focus and concentration. The implications for positive social change, as mentioned in the study, include the potential for enhanced self-management, improved leadership skills, and more result-oriented decision-making in daily life. Additionally, the study suggests that the results could contribute to the de-escalation of anxiety and stress associated with mental health.



## RELIGION, SOCIETY, POLITICS: SOME REFLECTIONS

*The seminar on "Religion, Language, and Politics" organized by Political Science department held at Presidency University on November 30, 2023, was a thought-provoking event, exploring the pervasive influence of the Hindu right's historical narrative, particularly as propagated in RSS-run Vidya Bharati schools.*

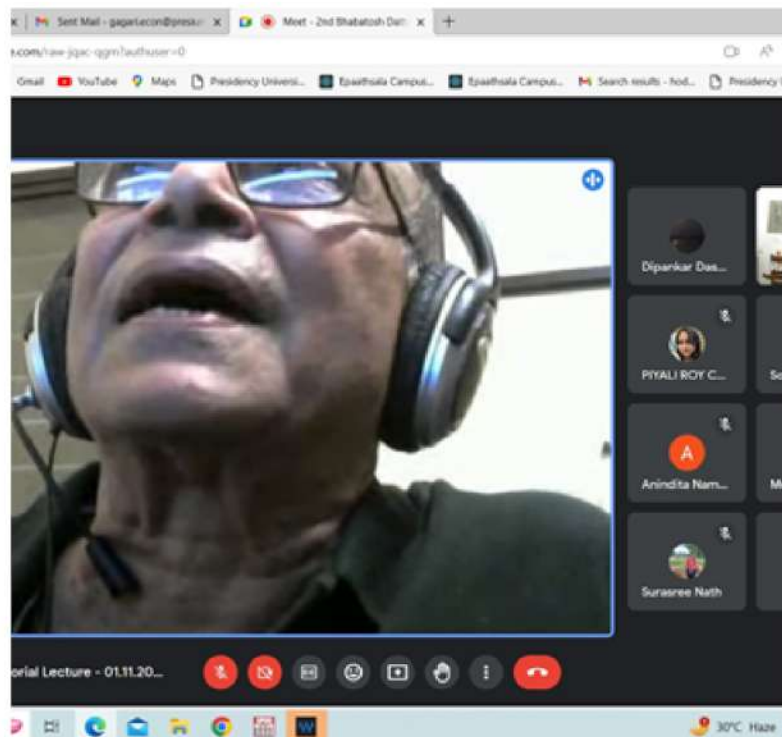
*Madhura Damle contributed to the seminar by presenting a paper titled "Religion, Language, and Politics: Savarkar's Bhasha Shuddhi," where she focused on V. D. Savarkar's perspective on political Hindutva and the definition of 'Hindu.' Her examination centered on Savarkar's writings on language purification, providing insights into how language was conceptualized and employed as part of the broader political and religious narrative.*

*Simultaneously, Udayan Bandopadhyay's discussion on "Hindutva or the Politics of Exclusion" seems to have delved into the diverse conceptualizations of Indian nationhood, with a specific emphasis on Hindutva. Bandopadhyay's exploration of the multifaceted nature of Hindutva, particularly in Savarkarian terms, within the broader discourse on nationalism suggests an analysis of the exclusionary aspects inherent in this political ideology.*

*The topics presented in both Damle and Bandopadhyay's contributions touch upon key elements of the intersection between religion, language, and politics, highlighting the role of historical narratives and ideological perspectives in shaping contemporary discourse.*

## SECOND BHABATOSH DUTTA MEMORIAL LECTURE

*The initiation of a lecture series in memory of Professor Bhabatosh Datta by the Economics Department, starting from 2022, reflects a fitting tribute to his legacy as a distinguished economist, academic, and writer. Professor Datta's notable contributions, including his influential book "The Economics of Industrialisation," and his role in mentoring prominent economists like Amartya Sen, Sukhamoy Chakraborty, and Bimal Jalan, have left a lasting impact on the field.*







## **FELICITATION OF PROFESSOR MIHIR KANTI RAKSHIT**

*The felicitation ceremony organized by the Department of Economics and its alumni for Prof. Mihir Kanti Rakshit, a respected economist and teacher at Presidency College, Kolkata, sounds like a significant and celebratory event. The gathering included a distinguished array of noted alumni and teachers from various colleges and universities who had the privilege of being students and colleagues of Prof. Rakshit.*

*The presence of esteemed personalities such as Prof. Anup Kumar Sinha, Prof. Abhirup Sarkar, Prof. Soumyen Sikdar, Prof. Dipankar Dasgupta, Prof. Ramprasad Sengupta, Prof. Asis Kumar Banerjee, Prof. Pradip Maity, and many others adds prestige to the occasion. Their participation reflects the impact and influence that Prof. Rakshit had on his students and colleagues throughout his career.*

*The felicitation ceremony serves as a commendable way to acknowledge and honor Prof. Rakshit's contributions to the field of economics and education. It also highlights the strong sense of camaraderie and respect within the academic community, as former students and colleagues come together to express their appreciation for a stalwart in the field.*

*Such events not only celebrate the individual achievements of the honoree but also provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences among the academic community. It is an opportunity to reflect on the mentorship and guidance provided by Prof. Rakshit and to recognize the lasting impact he has had on the academic and professional journeys of those who studied and worked with him.*

*Overall, the felicitation ceremony was a momentous occasion, bringing together a community of scholars to celebrate the legacy and contributions of Prof. Mihir Kanti Rakshit in the field of economics and academia.*





## EVENTS

# UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER



## MONETARY POLICY OF THE RBI

On December 1, 2023, a significant event will take place organized by the Department of Economics, in collaboration with OIKOS. The Economic Society, will organize a special lecture on the Monetary Policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

## TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) in collaboration with the Office of Astronomy for Education (OAE) is pleased to announce the IAU-OAE Teachers Training Programme 2023 organized by Astrophysics department. This initiative aims to enhance the quality of astronomy education, particularly for school teachers, and is scheduled to take place on December 1st and 2nd, 2023.



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The biennial International Conference on Issues in Economic Theory and Policy to be organized on 27 and 28 Dec by the Economics Department is a significant event that serves as a platform for young faculty and researchers to showcase their research endeavors. The conference, held every second year, aims to encourage intellectual exchange, provides a broader audience for emerging scholars, and facilitate critical feedback from renowned economists.