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First Writer-in-Residence



Ravenshaw University has invited eminent writer and former professor of English, Berhampur University, Dr. Soubhagya Kumar Mishra to become the writer-in-residence of the University for the academic year 2010-11.

The institution of the writer-in-residence in the University has commenced from this academic session and Mishra, who is a noted alumni of the **P 7**

Ravenshaw hosts 36th AISC

Ravenshaw University hosted the 36th All India Sociological Conference from December 27 to 29 under the aegis of the prestigious Indian Sociological Society (ISS). Chief Minister of Orissa, Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the three-day conference. The Department of Sociology of Ravenshaw University hosted the prestigious conference which was held for the first time in Orissa.

The theme of the conference was 'Development, Polity and Social Tensions'. There were three symposia on 'Revisiting development discourse in contemporary times', 'State, civil society and social conflicts in India' and 'Social tensions and the politics of development in Orissa'. Prof. Jacob John Kattakayam delivered the presidential address on the topic 'Development, Polity and Social Tensions'. He spoke on social problems of contemporary India and its consequences. Prof. Jacob pointed out that contemporary India's social



Inaugural function of 36th AISC: (Standing from left to right) HOD Sociology Dr. D. R. Sahu, Vice Chancellor Sri Devdas Chhotray, Hon'ble CM Sri Naveen Patnaik, Higher Education Minister Sri Debi Prasad Mishra and Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kerala Prof. Jacob John Kattakayam.

problems are products of complex nexus between factors of exclusion and inclusion rooted in history, values and cultural ethos. He emphasized on the unfinished agenda of social

development and the simmering social tensions that plaque the Indian society today. Dr. Sudha Vasani, Dr. Chandan Sharma and Dr. Amita Baviskar shared their views with social scientists and

young researchers coming from different parts of the world. They enlightened the audience with their talk on the state of adivasis, development status in north-eastern region of **P 7**

New Hostel turns 50



The New Hostel of Ravenshaw University, situated on the southern end of the campus, is completing 50 years of its glorious existence on February 25. On the occasion of its Golden Jubilee year, the boarders of the hostel are going to celebrate its Golden Jubilee-cum-Annual Function on February 25. A souvenir will also be released to mark the celebration. An alumni association constituting all the ex-boarders of the hostel has been formed and the association met for the first time and had a formal meeting on February 7. Dr. Bijoy Kumar Misra, Warden and Chairman, Golden Jubilee Committee, Dr. Sudhakar Patra, Superintendent of New Hostel, Girija Sankar Mallik, general secretary of Students' Union, boarder of New Hostel and organising secretary of the function, and all boarders of the hostel have requested everyone to attend the function and make it a grand success.

Fifth Ravenshaw Memorial Lecture

Mr. R. Gopalakrishnan, one of India's best corporate minds, and Executive Director of Tata Sons, delivered the Fifth Ravenshaw Memorial Lecture in the Heritage Hall. Author of famous books 'The Case of the Bonsai Manager' and 'When the Penny Drops', Gopal, as he is popularly called, spoke on the topic entitled 'A Brief History of Folly: Why Smart Folks will Continue to do Stupid Things'

The Ravenshaw Memorial Lecture series was introduced after the creation of Ravenshaw University to commemorate the love and contribution of Mr. TE Ravenshaw to the cause of education in Orissa. Ravenshaw, who was the Commissioner of Orissa Division from 1865 to 1877, left Orissa in 1878, and died in August 1899 in England. The Cuttack College was renamed as Ravenshaw College by the Government on popular goodwill in 1879.

The preceding four Ravenshaw Memorial Lectures have been delivered by Dr. Jean Dreze, Senior Professor of Economics in G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Dr. Prasanta K Pattanaik, Emeritus Professor of



Photo: Durga Das

Economics in University of California, Prof. Andre Beteille, Emeritus Professor of Sociology in University of Delhi and Dr. Manoj Das, writer, thinker and essayist nonpareil.

Notice Board

Congratulations to Batch Toppers of 2010!

Under Graduate Courses

Smita Baithalu (Botany)
 Akshaya Kumar Das (Chemistry)
 Shikha Mahawar (Accounting)
 Pragati Sahoo (Management)
 Pragyanmita Panda (Computer Science)
 Subhasmita Rana (Economics)
 Rasmi Rekha Dash (Education)
 Sampad Pattnaik (English)
 Devjani Bhuyan (Geography)
 Ananya Divyadarshini (Geology)
 Nasika Mohapatra (Hindi)
 Priyanka Das (History)
 Shilpa Bansal (Mathematics)
 Sonali Mishra (Oriya)
 Jayashree Pradhan (Philosophy)
 Sujit Kumar (Physics)
 Kirtimayee Routray (Political Science)
 Srujanwita Mohapatra (Psychology)
 Smrutirekha Sahoo (Sanskrit)
 Shilpimita Panda (Sociology)
 Sarbani Ashe (Zoology)
 Smita Manjal Sahu (BBA-Finance)
 Mousumi Mohanty (BBA-Marketing)
 Ramesh Kumar Kar (IST)
 Aliya Akhtar (ITM-Software Design)
 Swati Dutta (ITM-Networking)

Post Graduate Courses

Sheikh Ansar Alli (History)
 Renu Giri (Botany)
 Annapurna Kar (English)
 Pritiprava Sarangi (Oriya)
 Sabnam Sultana (Mathematics)
 Sankshipata Beura (Psychology)
 Priyabrata Satapathy (Economics)
 Gautam Mitra (Physics)
 Smita Khandanga (Chemistry)
 Sabnam Parvin (Zoology)
 Avishek Bhunia (Applied Geography)
 Ramesh Chandra Das (Commerce)
 Bhagyalaxmi Behera (Education)
 Pratima Sharma (Hindi)
 Suprava Barik (Philosophy)
 Soudamini Behera (Political Science)
 Sonia Sarkar (Sociology)
 Smrutiti Jena (Biotechnology)
 Rajeswari Meher (ITM)
 Shobhana Mishra (JMC)
 Pooja Agarwal (Computer Science)
 Mukti Prada Mohapatra (MCA)

N.B. Any discrepancy in the above list may be brought to the notice of the Controller of Examinations.



Radio is the theatre of the mind.

--Steve Allen, Actor and author

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



Sir,

First of all I would like to say that I am feeling very much excited to write my views on The Ravenshaw Times. Once we had dreamt if we could publish a monthly newsletter from Ravenshaw University, but it did not materialize. Today I feel proud to see its maiden edition.

In recent times, Ravenshaw University has been in news for all wrong reasons like the problem of accommodation, inadequate security, sanitation problems, lack of adequate faculty, or the very recent case of bloody clash with the Afghan students.

Recently, I attended the 36th All India Sociological Conference (AISC) organised in Ravenshaw University. During the general body meeting of the society, some delegates complained of poor sanitation, poor accommodation, unnecessary lavishness, mismanagement and other problems, even though the function was a grand success.

But I think there is no need to have wrong notions about Ravenshaw University. Media hype should not be entertained. Afghan students will never go back to their homeland without completing their courses here. The University authorities have already assured the foreign students and Afghan Embassy officials of better security arrangements. So such trivial matters should not be exaggerated. Such things happen in all universities and colleges. Sometime ago, the University of Delhi was also in the news for eve-teasing, molestation, inadequate hostel facility and a host of other problems. A professor there also molested a foreign research scholar. Even Utkal University was also in the news for inadequate security arrangement on its campus. Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) was also in the news for hooliganism, corruption and other issues. So there is no need to create wrong concepts about Ravenshaw University. Rather we should feel proud and privileged as students of a prestigious and recognized university. There are many universities whose status and recognition have been raised time and again.

Ravenshaw University is one of the youngest universities in our country. So it is natural to face problems at the outset. But for that reason we should not hate Ravenshaw University. This great institution has produced illustrious luminaries like Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das, Nandini Satpathy and many others. Ravenshaw has kept many promises and will always continue to keep innumerable promises.

--Sonia Sarkar, P.G. Sociology Topper 2009-10
(Sent via e-mail)

Sir,

I am a bit disappointed with our University due to the fact that we are depending on third parties for developing our website and database management systems. We have many departments related to computer science. The University can design and maintain its website and database by itself taking the help of its students and teachers. This will also help the students a lot in their learning process. But sadly it is not being done right now. Some of us studying computer science are planning to redesign the university website and create separate web pages for all departments. We regret to say that our website is not well maintained or designed. The layout of the current website is very simple and is not compatible with all browsers. The links in the current university website is confusing and there is no proper and unified formatting. As we don't have separate pages for departments, courses and facilities available, the public is deprived of information and gets confused at the time of online admission. If the university will give us permission, we would be glad to do the work professionally, and totally free of cost.

—Abhisek Panda, M.Sc. (Comp Sc), Roll No. 510CS027
(Sent via e-mail)

Sir,

It is again one of the signal achievements of the Vice Chancellor to resume the ancient practices of the erstwhile Ravenshaw College like the prestigious lecture series. As a proud alumnus of Ravenshaw, I have a suggestion. In this age of TED lectures and distant education, it will be an action nonpareil if the invaluable lectures are made accessible via the web or posted on the university website in the form of audio files or transcription texts. It will allow us the privilege to be where we are not.

--Sandip K. Dasverma, Richland, WA-99354, US
(Sent via e-mail)

Sir,

I came to know about the inception of "The Ravenshaw Times" from the December 22, 2010 edition of Oriya daily "The Sambad". I am a Ravenshawian. I completed my graduation from Ravenshaw College in 1971. I'll remain highly grateful and indebted if you send a copy of the maiden edition and subsequent editions of the newsletter to my address.

—Asit Kumar Pattnaik, Pattnaik Colony, Thoria Sahi, Cuttack-1
(Sent via post card)

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.

The Ravenshaw Times

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

From the Editor's Desk

Dear students,

I am pleased to announce that the first issue of The Ravenshaw Times has been received very well by the students, faculty and friends of the Ravenshaw University. The encouragement we have received so far, inspires us to publish the newsletter regularly with great confidence.

I would like to reiterate the ideas that underlie this publishing venture, a first of its kind in Orissa. The Ravenshaw Times was supposed to provide a forum to the University community to highlight its achievements and its plans for future action. It is also supposed to create synergy among the faculty, the students, the administration, and the world outside. But more importantly, it is supposed to enable the students to articulate their feelings and thoughts related to their life at the University and their future aspirations. That is the reason we have earmarked a Student Page in the newsletter. For several reasons, the first issue did not receive any contribution from the student community. Probably the students were testing the waters before deciding to write for The Ravenshaw Times. Now that the publication has already met with great success, I appeal to my student friends to contribute articles for the Student Page. They can write anecdotes about university life, book reviews, letters, poems, articles, short stories, etc.

Let us always remember that all our ventures including the publication of The Ravenshaw Times revolve around the aspirations of students.

--Prof. Dipti Ranjan Pattanaik

Quote Unquote

Education has to be multi-dimensional and must fit into the needs of the time and the temper of the age. Otherwise, it may become irrelevant.

It must make man self-satisfying and self-indulgent, but an active participant in the nation building activities.

It must make man curious and inquisitive, to take interest about nature, people and things around him, and to nurture great goals.

It should develop in man an objective and scientific temper, free from prejudices and pre-conceived notions.

--Jawaharlal Nehru

THE RAVENSHAW TIMES

The Ravenshaw Times

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CHALLENGE FOR SOCIOLOGISTS

Ravenshaw is an iconic institution. What gives the University its special character is a unique intellectual heritage. As a young university Ravenshaw is steadily gaining eminence for its new culture and faculty profile. The synergy between new faculty and administration is now realizing many aspects of its vision.

From its early days, like an argumentative Indian, Ravenshaw has been a centre for lively controversy, ranging from scholarly discourses to witty polemics. The recent sociology conference carries forward its scholarly tradition of serving as a forum for intellectual debate. This will also be a valuable approach to encounter hugely complex development challenges that we have at hand.

Issues of poverty and social exclusion in Orissa have not suddenly emerged in the context of its more recent growth. The historically rooted social inequalities in the state now run the risk of being exacerbated unless they are addressed through the mainstream development discourse.

Social stratification in Orissa, as in other parts of India, is determined primarily by caste and gender. What makes this situation even more challenging is the changing nature of social power in rural Orissa. Old caste blocks are now subject to new influences and alliances. Access to key resources of the state, such as state subsidies, depends on influence and connections, where caste is only one factor. Individual and familial relationships with persons in positions of bureaucratic authority, political intermediaries, and political representatives are all extremely significant in shaping such access.

More systematic sociological work, therefore, needs to be done, to map out the nature of social difference with respect to contemporary development in a changing environment. On the one hand, the civil society discourse on growth and social justice is basically centred on the need for increased transparency and accountability in the neo-liberal policy regime. On the other hand, there are two major noticeable strands in the intra-governmental discourse. One, the systemic tension within government of balancing economic growth with social justice. Two, the popular perception of Orissa as periphery to the centre, which is serving as hinterland for development of the metropolis, historically located outside the state and the country. This discourse reflects the sub-national motivation to ensure that Orissa is not left out of the process of national economic growth.

The recent conference, particularly the symposium on dialectics of development, is expected to bridge the growing gap between civil society and governmental discourses, reflecting in the synthesis the ultimacy of citizen interests, especially those belonging to vulnerable groups and residing in remote yet resource rich areas. This is a necessary objective at what is a very difficult time for a state, where the irony is captured in one glaring paradox.

Even as private investment from beyond has flooded into Orissa, outward migration by its youth to risky, ill-paid and generally short-term ventures in other states of the country has only grown. There is a fundamental mismatch between the ostensible creation of opportunity and social justice. In its study, lies a real challenge for sociology and sociologists. They should be able to tell us which are the areas where the government should be less and where the government should be more.

Secrets of good health

Saadia Alam

In 1953, The World Health Organization (WHO) defined health as a complete state of physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity. This marked a major shift in the emphasis and perspective of health. Health began to be viewed more positively and emphasis was on absence of disease. It is now universally known that health is multidimensional. The WHO definition envisages three specific dimensions



they are the physical, the mental and the social. Many more can be cited like the spiritual, emotional, vocational and the political dimensions. As the knowledge base grows, the list just keeps on expanding. Although these dimensions functions and interacts with one another having their own nature and for descriptive processes are treated separately.

Mental health is the key issue faced by the contemporary world. It is increasingly drawing attention from researchers across the globe. Mental health is the capacity of the individual to maintain balance and the harmony amongst the important facets of personality, psychological, social, physical and spiritual. In the wake of increasing suffering, conflict and pain search for mental peace and strategies for restoring mental health is gaining serious attention from not only health professionals but also from social scientists in general. People who are mentally healthy exhibit several forms of balance, harmony and interrelatedness. Herzberg (1966) argued that mental health required both an adjustment to the environment so that negative states are minimized and also the occurrence of and potential for 'psychological growth'. The later can be compared with 'self-actualization' or 'self-realization' (Maslow 1973) where personal effort to seek and achieve one's full potentials are treated as central to mental health.

Health thus refers to proper functioning of the body and the mind as well as the capacity to participate in social activities performing the roles and abiding by the moral principles. It takes into consideration the nutritional status, immunity from diseases and better quality of social life. The concern is not with the cure i.e. treating and preventing organic malfunction but with healing the person i.e. regenerating a sense of well being and fitness to deal with one's life conditions. Recently, people are

becoming conscious day by day not only towards the curative process of mental illness but also to promote mental health. The earlier slogan of mental health 'Fight sickness' is now popularly replaced by 'Build health'.

Mental health deals with people's feelings about everyday experiences in life activities. It is not merely the absence of mental illness. Good mental health is the ability to respond to many carried experiences of life with flexibility and a sense of purpose. More recently mental health has been defined as a state of balance between the individual and the surrounding world, a state of harmony between oneself and others, a co-existence between the realities of the self and that of other people and that of the environment. A few short decades ago, the mind and body were considered independent entities. Recently however researchers have discovered that psychological factors can induce all kinds of illness not simply mental ones. These include conditions such as essential hypertension, peptic ulcer and bronchial asthma. Some major illness such as depression and schizophrenia has a biological component.

Recently there is growing concern about the psychological factors that improve and impair the health status of a person. This has led to the emergence of health psychology which is practically an interdisciplinary venture involving mind-body interaction. An earlier approach to positive health conceptualizes health not as an ideal state but as a biologically 'normal' state based on statistical averages. For example, a new born baby in India weighs 2.8 kg compared to 3.5 kg in the developed countries and yet compares favorably in health country to country and also across the socio-economic groups. Thus, health is a relative concept and health standards vary among cultures, social classes and age-groups. This implies health in any given society should be defined

as in terms of prevailing ecological conditions. That is each country will decide on its own norms for a given set of prevailing conditions and then look into ways for all to achieve that level.

The WHO definition of health introduced the concept of 'well-being'. Recently psychologists have pointed out that the 'well-being' of an individual or group of individuals have objective and subjective components. The objective components relate to such concerns as are generally known by the term 'standard of living' or 'level of living'. The subjective component of well-being as expressed by each individual is referred to as 'quality of life'.

The field of health psychology emerged in the context of realization that biological mechanism alone are insufficient to maintain and promote health and well-being. To alleviate the physical pain one has to examine the attitudes, expectations, beliefs and emotional support which the patient has, not just his or her response to the drug treatment. The attainment and preservation of health reaches the very core of human existence. In its broadest sense, well being is an overarching concern for every human being, group and society concept of health and illness are embodied in the everyday talk and thought of people of all languages, cultures and religions. It is difficult if not impossible to establish a 'lingua franca' a single universal account.

The WHO defined health promotion as the process of enabling people to increase control over and to improve their health. The health promotion approach provides a unifying concept for those who emphasize the need to make changes in ways and conditions of living in order to improve health. Health care practitioners are more than providers of services; they are agents of change, facilitating the empowerment of individuals and communities to increase their control over and to improve their health.

"In the ultimate analysis, all human strivings and effort whether educational, economic, political or any other are directed towards a solitary goal namely Attainment, Preservation of Peace and Happiness. In other words, mental health is for one and all."

—The writer is a guest faculty of psychology.

MELTING MOUNTAINS

Can Global Warming make the Ganges run dry?

Global warming, now in 2011, is real, and upon us. How will global warming affect the rivers in India; will they all dry up? Can the holy Ganges, the river that has shaped and sustained Indian civilisation through the ages, who we Indians revere as the life-giving mother, run dry! Many climate experts and environmentalists, in the last ten years, have been making dire predictions of the Ganges becoming seasonal. Some doomsayers have even gone to the extent of boldly predicting the river to be ephemeral by the year 2035, which is barely a generation away! Is it really possible that the Ganges will run dry by 2035! Is this calamity an inevitability that should be accepted as fait accompli, or is there anything we, the people of India, collectively can do to save the holy Mother Ganges from extinction.

The Ganges originates from Gangotri glacier, which is one of the largest valley glaciers located in western Himalayas. During a 60 year period between 1936 and 1996, Gangotri has receded much and some experts and environmentalists have speculated that due to global warming Gangotri glacier may completely disappear by 2035. If that happens, they argue that the Ganges will cease to flow during the summer months, and will drain only the monsoonal rains thus becoming seasonal. The recession, even disappearance of the Himalayan glaciers is due to a combination of reasons, two major ones being population pressure, and massive deforestation.

Vigorous human activities are also causing significant amounts of local warming. Each human body is a source of heat, and a million trampling the pilgrimage sites of Badrinath, Kedarnath and Gangotri every year give off more heat than a giant blast furnace, and the heat is enough to scare the glaciers into a retreat. Badrinath, Gangotri and all the nearby townships now stand on forest-land stripped bare. These human habitations were much smaller a century ago, and were surrounded by thick forests, which are now completely gone. The scale of deforestation here is absolute, full one hundred percent. The dense Himalayan forests have been so denuded in so many areas that vast patches of deserts have replaced the forests. Forests invite rains, and as we destroy the forests, the Himalayas refuse to attract the monsoonal precipitations. Moreover, the local warming that we generate because of the million plus tourists and pilgrims in the townships of Badrinath and Gangotri, chases the monsoon

clouds away.

The legend of King Bhagirath persuading Goddess Ganges to descend from her heavenly Himalayan abode on to the plains to save the multitudes might not be an allegory; it may well contain some elements of truth. The legend could well be the historical account of a massive civil engineering project King Bhagirath undertook to break the terminal moraine of a glacial lake to channel the water to irrigate the plains parched by a prolonged drought. Many such glacial lakes formed by retreating glaciers after the end of the last ice age,

Dr. Nachiketa Das



massive and sincere campaign for afforestation must be undertaken now, before Himalayan

measures to reduce the local warming, and reducing the pilgrim and tourist pressure, she will rejuvenate herself to a great extent, and will continue to remain perennial. But are we resolved to look after her?

I conclude by citing Ganga (Goddess Ganges) from the Mahabharata when she says, "I will stay as long you continue to address me respectfully by my proper name, and will leave should you use any abusive word to call me by". This statement perhaps always had a deeper meaning, and meant that the

and affection; but would cease to flow if mistreated. With the massive deforestation of her catchment, metaphorically we have disrobed her to her utter degradation. Deforestation has triggered a reduction in monsoonal precipitation, and lowered the groundwater reserves, and the two have combined to reduce the steady round the year runoff in the Ganges and her tributaries. Deforestation, moreover, has accelerated the loss of top soil and has increased the frequency and magnitude of Himalayan landslides, which have collectively supplied a vast quantum of sediments that have choked the channels of flow. And the final humiliation we have caused her is the release of vast quantities of untreated sewage, virtually along the entire length of her course. With our mistreatment we have made Mother Ganges ill. She is now showing her annoyance through the recession of Gangotri glacier. It is time we wake up, and start caring for her now on, and if we do, she will regain her health and will remain perennial, she will not leave us.

Apathy, inaction, resignation and despair are ruinous; let mass action commence to keep the Ganges perennial.

--The writer is Professor and HOD, Geology and Dean, Administration.

He is a renowned scientist, science administrator, writer and academician.

He can be reached at nachidas@hotmail.com.



Apathy, inaction, resignation and despair are ruinous; let mass action commence to keep the Ganges perennial.

18,000 years ago, and are forming naturally even today. King Bhagirath utilised the water by breaching a terminal moraine then, and let us harness the water for rejuvenating the Ganges by consolidating the moraines now.

Occurrence of Himalayan glaciers at various altitudes depends on a range of conditions that include total annual precipitation, latitude, topography and aspect. Glaciers in the eastern Himalayas occur at higher altitudes compared with glaciers in the central or western Himalayas. Due to an increase in the average Himalayan air temperature because of global warming, the snowline, which is the lower limit of perpetual snow, will move to a higher altitude. As the snowline migrates higher, the Himalayan tree-line, the altitude above sea level at which trees cease to grow, will rise higher too, thus making larger areas available for the growth of forests.

With the onset of global warming there is every possibility of an increase in rainfall in the Himalayas, and as nature provides a larger area for forests to grow by raising the tree-line, a

forests lose their ability to regenerate. As a part of this afforestation campaign, each and every pilgrim as well as tourist, must plant a sapling of a native tree and must pay a certain amount of money towards the management of the forests. A great deal of care should be taken in afforesting the lateral moraines or the sidewalls, which traditionally supported abundant vegetation as they contained higher quantities of soil moisture. A successful regeneration of Himalayan forests will reduce local-warming, attract higher rainfall, lead to a higher retention of water in the aquifers, and will contribute to a steadier supply of the runoff in the Ganges.

Gangotri glacier may well disappear in the future due to a lethal combination of massive deforestation, population pressure, influx of pilgrims and tourists, and local and global warming. But if we start caring for the Ganges now on, which would involve formation of a series of glacial lakes, undertaking a massive programme of afforestation right from the foothills up to the elevated tree-line in the Himalayas, taking drastic

Ganges will flow perennially if treated properly with respect



Photo: Durga Das

Dr. Ayman El-Mohandes, Dean, College of Public Health, Nebraska Medical Centre, US taking a quick glance of the maiden edition of The Ravenshaw Times, during his visit to the University on January 12.

Internet use in India and safety tips for users

In the 21st century ever one know about computers and Internets. We can say this as Internet era. With the increase in internet user worldwide, internet crimes are also increasing. There is no physical presence of thieves who steal your information or even your lifetime earnings. We can't catch these thieves so easily. But we protect us from all internet threats by following some simple tips.

Internet use in India

In India, the number of internet population is increasing rapidly day by day. According to a report, there are 52 million active users in India and 37% internet access happens from cyber cafes. The report claims that the Internet usage has gone up from 9.3 hrs/ week to 15.7 hrs/ week i.e., a steep 70% rise – primarily due to more entertainment content, content delivery, etc. 37% Internet access happens from cyber cafes, followed by 30% who access from offices and 23% from home. Around 4% browse the net via mobile phone. The study was conducted across 31 cities in the country covering 19,000 households, 68,000 individuals and 500 cyber cafes.

Safe use of Internet

I am also an internet user and I use internet daily for email, online transactions, study, searching for contents, etc. The

use is vast. I have seen that most of the people are not aware of safe use of internet, particularly at public places like cyber cafe, wi-fi zone, etc. Below are some tips for safe use of internet at public places as well as at your home to protect your valuable resources.

Do not give your email id to every person. Share your email id only with reliable people.

Don't share your email password with others. Make it confidential.

Always use strong password containing combination of alphabets in lower case as well as upper case, numbers and symbols. A typical example of a complex password is "Apl()@2010".

Don't use your name as your password or simple password like 1234, 102030, abcd, etc. These are easy to break by any hacker. Complex passwords can be break but will take a much longer time.

Change your password frequently.

Use virtual keyboard to type your password mainly while using internet banking.

Abhisek Panda



Be suspicious of any email that you receive from someone unknown to you.

Check for viruses in the attachments before downloading them.

Don't give your confidential and personal information in your mail to everyone.

While using online transactions or accessing online banking make sure that the web URL starts from https instead for http. Https is a secure connection with a security certificate is attached.

Avoid using internet banking at public places like cyber cafe, library, etc.

Be aware of phishing. You may have received a mail say-

ing that you won some money in a lottery, and asking to send your bank details for transaction. This type of mails is send by some spammer to get your bank and other sensitive information. Report this type of mails as spam to your mail provider.

Install spam email filtering so you do not receive junk mail which contains inappropriate material or viruses.

You should never post your real email address to a forum, comments form or other webpage that's publicly accessible. Spammers can harvest it and your mail box will be filled with lot of spam mails. Use an image containing your mail id like the below example.

Uncheck the option "Remember Me" while logging in to any site or your mail box at public places like cybercafé.

Make sure to clear the cache, cookies, and history of a computer if you are using a computer in a public place, such as a library. Be careful where you access your online personal information.

Don't access the websites you don't trust. They may have viruses. So use a good browser with antivirus software installed in it.

Public computers may have viruses. So before using the system make sure that there is updated antivirus software installed.

Don't use pen drives and other media in public computers to store information. If there is any virus in the public system then it can easily be transferred to your system. Rather take printouts of any data you want to store in pen drives and other media.

Always make backup for your important data so that they can be recovered in necessity.

These are some basic rules to be followed while using internet. In the computer world, data is the most important asset. Once it is lost there is no chance to get it back.

Always remember that "Prevention is better than cure". So use internet safely and explore the world of everything.

--The writer is pursuing M.Sc. in Computer Science. He completed his B.Sc (ITM) in Software Design with First Class Honours and Distinction from Ravenshaw University. He has a passion for computer programming and web designing. He can be contacted at abhisek.ru@gmail.com.

Culture is the way of life

James McClain

The rapid growth of international students in classrooms suggests that, in their striving for higher education, students pursue values that differ from cost saving on education. This pursuit of different values may be because face-to-face education in a foreign country achieves several objectives. These include improving students' language skills, providing an opportunity for independence from parents, experiencing different cultures and generally gaining new life experiences. This was what some of our friends on the ICCR Scholarship programme are lacking.

As an overseas student, it is our sole priority to pay attention to cultural, individual and national differences. This will lead to the development of successful academic programs and the ease of adjustment with the local environment.

Thus, with reference to the meeting that was held by the Director who came from Delhi, concerning what took place between the Afghans and the Indians students at Ravenshaw University, was highly welcome, and we hope that such forum for exchanges could be held

monthly. Another concern is the lack of introduction of Indian Culture, even though we have attended all of the ICCR cultural festivals. The communication is still lacking in strength and di-

Tolerance is the key factor to happy life. We must learn to appreciate each other.

mension. So we are hoping, that in the future, international students may be taught how to speak either Oriya or Hindi. This can be achieved through the University by extra-curriculum coaching to the International students.

Remember, culture is the way of life and as such it is mandatory that all international students be introduced to the culture of India.

While it is true that there are problems with students, I think both Indian and International students will need to have common ground and live together. We all have problems but tolerance is the key factor to happy life. We must learn to appreciate each other.

As for us, since our arrival in August 2009 we had not experienced any problems from anyone. We are happy here and will continue our education even up to Ph.D. level. We are here for education and will remain as such. The satisfaction depends on individuals, but for our case we are very satisfied with Ravenshaw University, and with the people of Cuttack. We are even hoping to come back to Cuttack for Ph.D. once we are given the opportunity for such a programme upon the completion of our study. To be frank with the ICCR, we love our entire staff members of our Department, from instructional staff to support staff. That is the Department of Chemistry. They are so caring and worry whenever anyone of us falls sick. Especially Dr. Smrutiprava Das, Dr. R.K. Dey, Dr. Purnendu Parhi, Dr. Bairagi Charan Mallick, Dr. Alekh Sutar, Dr. Sabita Nayak, to name a few. They are going to live in our memory and for their sake, we are even prepared to come back to Cuttack to do our Ph.D.

--The writer is an international student from Liberia pursuing post-graduation in Chemistry.

POETRY POST

Unanswered Questions

Saptorshi Majumdar

What is the point and all the fuss?
Why is life such a big rush?
Where do we belong?
And why does this life seem so wrong?
Why am I lost in the crowd?
I wanna stand out, stand out and be proud
And why does it seem not safe?
Just believe and have faith
And why do we feel this pain?
Over and over, again and again
And why does all this hurt so much?
It hurts to feel and hurts to touch
And why do we sit here and wonder?
Wanting to know about lightning and thunder
And why do we lay awake at night
Thinking if only, may be and might?
And why can't we just believe?
Open our hearts, eyes and achieve
Why is love so hard to find?
That is my question written and signed.

--The writer passed B.Sc. (IST) from Ravenshaw University last year.

Achievements

NSS Bureau abuzz with activities

The NSS Bureau of Ravenshaw University practically came into existence in January, 2009. Dr. Pritirekha Daspattanayak, Reader and HOD Geography is the Programme Coordinator of the bureau. A total of five units of volunteers with five Programme Officers are functioning under the bureau. Out of these, four units consist of male volunteers while one unit comprises of female volunteers. Each unit consists of 50 volunteers with one programme officer. Dr. Jagdish Kumar Tripathy (Geology), Dr. Alekh Kumar Sutar (Chemistry), Manoj Kumar Das (Economics), Sthitapragyan Ray (Sociology) and Dr. Lipishree Das (Economics) are the programme officers of the bureau. The NSS volunteers have been observing important days like NSS Day, International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Communal Harmony Week, World AIDS Day, etc in addition to other



Photo: Durga Das

regular activities. Some of the sincere and dedicated volunteers like Niladri Prasad Das, Swadhini Kumar Behera, Biswaranjan Beuria, Krishna Kasturika, Sweta Mukharjee, Elsie Mishra, Prajna Mishra and others have been helping the bureau in implementing the Gyanalok Project in the slum areas of Cuttack. In order to encourage students' involvement in NSS activities, the University awards

5 (five) marks to students on account of NSS at the time of admission to P.G. courses.

NSS was formally launched on September 24, 1969 on the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi. September 24 is celebrated every year as NSS Day through various programmes and activities. The aim of NSS is geared around personality development of volunteers through community service.

DST Research Grant

Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India has approved a grant of Rs. 20.66 lakh to **Dr. Alekha Kumar Sutar**, Lecturer in Chemistry under Fast Track Proposals for Young Scientists scheme in support of research project proposal entitled "Synthesis and Structural Studies of Metal Alkoxides supported by Schiff Base



Ligands: Efficient Catalysts for Ring Opening Polymerization of Lactide". Dr. Sutar joined the University only a year ago. Dr. Sutar received his PhD from IIT, Roorkee and did his post-doctoral work in National Chung Hsing University (NCHU), Taiwan. Dr. Sutar has ten international publications in reputed journals, three of which are having high impact factor (Chemical Society Review-20.09 and Coordination Chemistry Review-12.752). One book chapter has been accepted by Nova Publisher, US. His research interests include the development of novel biocompatible and bioassimilable metal complexes for Ring Opening Polymerization (ROP) of cyclic esters, polymer supported catalysis and biodegradable polymers. He was also awarded the Best Programme Officer at the state level NSS camp.

Japan visit

Prof. Chandni Prasad Nanda, HOD History and Chairman, Council of Deans (CCD) participated in an international workshop on 'Global India: The South Asian Path of Development and its Possibilities', organized at Kyoto University, Japan. He attended a conference on 'Death Rituals across Cultures' organized by Bunka Women's University and presented a paper entitled 'Continuities and Shifts in Hindu Death Rituals in Contemporary Context'. He also visited the department of history at Kyoto, Tokyo and Tokai Universities for academic interaction and exploring possibilities for larger academic collaboration of the history department of Ravenshaw University with these centers, specifically with reference to the research programme on Contemporary India Area Studies (INDAS) recently launched by the National Institutes for the Humanities, Japan. He also delivered a talk on 'Envisaging Methodologies and Thrust Areas: Contemporary History of Orissa' at Kyoto University.

Nepal visit

Dr. Sudhakar Patra, Reader in Economics participated and presented a paper entitled "Efficacy of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Financing Transport Infrastructure in Nepal and India" held at Bal Kumari College, Narayangarh, Tribhuban University, Nepal. Earlier, he presented a paper entitled "Non-farm Sector Employment in India and Orissa" in 93rd Annual Conference of the Indian Economics Association held at Punjab University, Chandigarh. His paper has been published in the December 2010 issue of the prestigious Indian Economic Journal.

Reader in Geology
Dr. Shreerup Goswami receiving the prestigious 'Best Young Scientist' award for the year 2008 instituted by Odisha Bigyan Academy under the aegis of Government of Odisha. For the first time in the history of this esteemed academy, a scholar of geology has received the much-coveted award. Goswami, a scientist of international repute, joined Ravenshaw University as a Reader last year.



Prof. John Cussen delivers First English Alumni Lecture

Visiting Fulbright scholar, Prof. John Cussen delivered the First Alumni Lecture of the English department at the Heritage Hall on January 16. Prof. Cussen gave an illuminating lecture on the life and works of famous Indian American author Jhumpa Lahiri. The lecture was sponsored by the Ravenshaw University English Department Alumni Association (RUEDAA) and was presided over by the president of the association State Income Tax Commissioner Mr. Pradosh Mohanty. Dr. Dipti Ranjan Pattanaik, HOD English and Convenor of the association highlighted the aims and objectives of the association and how it can help the department achieve its goals of strengthening the research programmes, accelerating the infrastructural developments and resurrecting the rich and glorious academic and cultural heritage of the department. Hon'ble Rajya Sabha MP Sri Sashibhusan Behera,



Hon'ble Lok Sabha MP from Cuttack Sri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Additional Director General of Police, Government of Orissa Sri Binay Kumar Behera and Income Tax Commissioner, Kolkata Sri Shyamaprasad Choudhuri also spoke on the occasion. The alumni association also took this opportunity to reward the meritorious and successful students

of the department, both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

On the occasion, Oriya poet Prof. Soubhagya Mishra was also honoured as the Writer-in-Residence for the year 2011. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Mr. Devdas Chhotray welcomed all the friends of Ravenshaw and spoke about the achievements of

poet Mishra. He described how the position was a fitting tribute to his contribution as a litterateur and a teacher. After the citation was read out, Mr. Chhotray handed him a cheque of Rs. one lakh as a token honorarium. The meeting was graced by the members of the faculty, several dignitaries including eminent litterateurs, renowned bureau-

crats and reputed politicians of the state who happen to be the alumni of the Department of English. Some illustrious alumni of the department were also felicitated. Besides, the bi-annual 'Ravenshaw Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies' and students' wall magazine 'Phoenix' were released during the occasion.



Cross-cultural camaraderie

Professor Richard Allen Shweder, eminent cultural anthropologist and William Claude Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago delivered an oration on "Thinking through Orissa: Some Things an Anthropological



Guest Learned from his Oriya Hosts" on January 27 at the Heritage Hall of the University.

Prof. Shweder is a world class anthropologist, globally acclaimed orator and a significant figure in cultural psychology. He received his B.A. in anthropology from the

University of Pittsburgh in 1966 and his Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from Harvard University's Department of Social Relations in 1972. He taught at the University of Nairobi in Nairobi, Kenya, for one year. Since 1973, he has been a faculty member at the

University of Chicago where he is currently professor in the Department of Comparative Human Development and in the Department of Psychology.

His main fieldwork outside the United States has been in the temple town of Bhubaneswar in the state of Orissa, India.

Among other topics, his fieldwork in India has looked at cross-cultural concepts of the person, self, emotions, and moral reasoning. He is a supporter of military uses of anthropology for counterinsurgency and occupations of foreign countries.



Seminar

The Regional Branch of Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) and Department of Political Science organised a seminar on "Governance and Sustainable Environment" PG on January 25. HOD Political Science Dr. Niranjana Barik, chairperson of IIPA Bhubaneswar Sanjib Hota, secretary IIPA Pratip Mishra, former DG Police BB Mishra, Dr. Asima Sahu, Dr. Netajee Abhinandan, Dr. Luna Samanta, Dr. Gyana Ranjan Swain and others took part in the seminar.

Ravenshaw hosts 36th AISC...(Continued from Page 1)

India and civil society. The conference attempted to address the issues of development, governance and social tensions of contemporary society through various symposia and deliberations. The politics of development and deprivation ensures a wide range of social tensions and revisiting development discourse in the present context was called for in the conference. The conference witnessed how sociologists analyse and put forth their interpretation of this complex development that our society is going through, he said. The State's role in the welfare of the citizen is critical to good governance and social good and questions of effective governance arise in view of social tensions like poverty, hunger, destitution, homelessness, crime and corruption. Former Vice Chancellor of SNTD University, Prof Suma Chitnis delivered the Tenth MN Srinivas Memorial Lecture. Similarly, honorary professor at the Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi, Prof TN Madan delivered the First Prof Radha Kamal Mukherji Memorial Lecture. On the occasion, the Indian Sociological Society (ISS) felicitated three eminent sociologists—Prof. Suma Chitnis, Prof. Dattatreya Narayan Dhanagare and Prof. Tharailath Koshy Oommen—by conferring 'Lifetime Achievement Award' on them for their invaluable contributions and services to the discipline and profession of sociology in India.

There was also a pre-conference workshop on 'Sociology in Action' for young sociologists, teachers and researchers below 35 years of age on December 25-26. The workshop, divided into five sessions and moderated by resource persons from reputed institutes, focused on capacity building for applying sociological concepts and tools in analysing real life situations and problems, as well as in facilitating young sociologists to practice sociology as an applied science. There were two round table conferences on 'Encounters with Sociological Theories—Problems and Promises' and 'Transcending the Conventional Methods and Approaches in Sociology'. While the former had two sessions, 'Opportunities and Challenges in applying Sociology to Development and Social Transformation in India' and 'Emerging Avenues in Sociology', the latter had sessions, 'Developing Critical Thinking: Teaching and Research' and 'Sociologists in the Agencies of Development'. Gaurang Sahay of TISS stressed on major issues such as displacement in the face of development, the Maoist problem and people's movement. N. Jayaram of TISS spoke on sociological theories and empirical research. He encouraged students to concentrate on the country's social reality instead of concentrating only on European sociological works. He also guided the participants during the session on academic writing. Dr. Rita Ray chaired the third symposium of the conference. The chief speakers were Dr. Santrupt Mishra, Prof. Ashok Swain and Dr. Felix Padel. Dr. Mishra appealed to the galaxy of social scientists, researchers and academicians to develop models of development as it is the need of the hour. He also talked about the lacuna in communication between people and how effective dialogue can lead to better development. Prof. Ashok Swain talked about how the protest movements in Orissa have increased all these years. Dr. Felix Padel shared his thoughts on the role of sociology and anthropology and how sociologists can contribute towards development by analyzing the outcome of proposed project in an area. He explained how anthropology has evolved into evolutionary sociology. He also discussed the role of World Bank and IMF in implementing uniformity across the globe with regard to development.

It was a happy congress of many eminent sociologists, with many young minds, both students and faculty. It was a unique opportunity for the students of Ravenshaw University, as well as the community of Cuttack, to witness the academic sessions, followed by attractive cultural evenings, said Vice-Chancellor Devdas Chhotray. More than 1,500 national and international delegates participated in the conference. Oxford University Press, New Delhi has published the book of conference abstracts.

Barrier free Ravenshaw



Leading social activist and founder of Swabhiman, Dr Sruti Mohapatra, delivered a talk entitled "Access for all: Designing a Barrier Free Ravenshaw University" at PLT on January 21.

She deliberated on components of barrier free access in buildings, barrier free access in transportation, education and employment, challenges of higher education, employment scenario and web accessibility. She reckoned that persons with disabilities across the globe have strengths and abilities and capable enough to contribute to the community and to the country at large. She appealed everyone to bear a collective responsibility to work towards the social inclusion of all as a civil society.

It may be noted that Ravenshaw University has taken the initiative to constitute itself as a barrier free campus and facilitate access to the physically and mentally challenged students. The university has also proposed to commence the Department of Disability Studies from the next academic session.

(Report by Amit Kumar Mohanty, MJMC)

'Marxism still relevant'

Eminent political theorist, Marxian thinker and professor of political science, Delhi University, Prof. Bichitrananda Ray delivered a talk on the topic "Revisiting Marx" in the Department of Political Science.

Prof. Ray discussed about the contemporary relevance of Marx and debated whether we should follow the humanist ideals of young Marx or the violent notions of change of old Marxism. He opined that despite the onset of globalization—which has declared the death of Marxism—Marx would remain relevant as long as there is poverty, injustice and inequity in the society. We can ignore Marxism at our own risk only. While Marxism has multiple interpretations, its failure is on account of overenthusiastic Marxists and illiberal practitioners, he added. The talk was followed by a question-answer session

involving both faculty and students. It was resolved in the function that the Political Science department of Ravenshaw University, which has produced many illustrious personalities, would form an alumni association of its own for providing a platform for meaningful exchange of ideas and opinions. Prof. Ray initiated to be the first member of this association and declared to contribute funds to institute two gold medals to be awarded to the toppers of BA and MA classes. He also committed to donate a large number of books to the department library. The meeting was presided by Professor and HOD, Political Science, Dr. Niranjana Barik. Faculty members Dr. Asima Sahu, Dr. Netajee Abhinandan, Dr. Sachidananda Mishra, Dr. Gyana Ranjan Swain, Swapna Prabhu and others were also present on the occasion.

Writer-in-Residence...(Continued from Page 1)

heritage institution, has been designated as the first writer-in-residence as a mark of respect and recognition of his eminence as a poet and a creative writer of distinction.

Mishra received a cheque of Rs. 1 lakh as a token honorarium for his sojourn in the University. As writer-in-residence, Mishra will interact with the campus community in form of teaching selected courses, delivering extramural lectures and organising workshops on creative writing, apart from continuing his creative pursuits.

During his yearlong sojourn in the University, he is expected to write a book or compile an anthology of his own works, the publication of which will acknowledge the grant of the University.

Ravenshaw University Vice Chancellor Devdas Chhotray congratulated Mishra on the conferment of this unique honour and expressed his pleasure for the fact that the honour has gone to a Ravenshaw alumni who has brought glory to the institution by his teaching, writing and numerous publications.

Renaissance

Republic Day Message

Protecting our Republic

A nation's life runs into millennia. 62 years is but a moment in the life of a nation. We are happy that in this tiny period, India has largely fulfilled its destiny and developing fast. Of course, there is still a long way to go before every Indian in this vast subcontinent is ready to become a proud member of the republic.

A republic, as you know, is a country without Kings and Queens. It is democracy governed by an elected President. When India became independent on 15 August 1947, there was still a Viceroy, a Regent representing the Queen of England at the head. Only on 26 January 1950, when India adopted its Constitution, and became a Republic, then the last vestige of its imperial servitude was gone. The Constitution made all Indians equal with an array of fundamental rights. It was a magnificent achievement. In that sense, the Republic Day is perhaps more substantive

than the Independence Day, and is celebrated with equal fervour.

If democracy is defined as government of the people, by the people, and for the people, then a republic is indeed its best representation. Monarchy or

It is our duty to protect our republic, to protect its core, its values, its purity.

dictatorship may stand for an individual or a family but the republic is for the nation, for the entire collectivity. So the republic is the negation of dynasty, of divine right, of any form of authoritarianism and totalitarianism. In its pure form of values, a republic has all the ingredient of a fairy tale.

Its actual practice, however, it has given rise to deep despair, not only in India, but elsewhere in the world. It is the classic gap between theory and practice,

exacerbated by our social and cultural conditions. Dynasty, family rule, coterie which are the antithesis of a republic have entered through the backdoor. Several decades before, alarmed by the speedy decline of democratic elements, and their failure to address the ground reality, C. Northcote Parkinson, a western thinker, had predicted return of the monarchy. Looking at the happenings at home and abroad, there is a lurking fear, as if the prediction is coming true in many disguises.

So it is our duty, duty of every individual, more so of the young, to protect our republic, to protect its core, its values, its purity. This task is best done, like practising democracy, if we have trust and tolerance of other views. Tolerance and participation are the two key words that we must remember on the Republic Day.

—Excerpts from Hon'ble Vice Chancellor's address on the occasion of 62nd Republic Day.



Photo: Durga Das

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Sri Devdas Chhotray hoisting the tricolour flag at the University playground on the occasion of 62nd Republic Day. He is flanked by Sports Officer Sri Anjan Khuntia and NCC Officer Sri Akshaya Kumar Sahoo.

Friends forever



One of us must know

I didn't mean to treat you so bad
You shouldn't take it so personal
I didn't mean to make you so sad
You just happened to be there, that's all
When I saw you say "goodbye" to your friend and smile
I thought that it was well understood
That you'd be comin' back in a little while
I didn't know that you were sayin' "goodbye" for good.
But, sooner or later, one of us must know
You just did what you're supposed to do
Sooner or later, one of us must know
That I really did try to get close to you.

---BOB DYLAN, American singer-songwriter

Salute to sons of the soil



Ravenshaw University has installed statues of Utkalamani Pandit Gopabandhu Das (1877–1928) and Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das (1848–1934) in its front porch in two separate alcoves. The alcoves were built as part of the old building in British times. The statues have been installed as homage to the makers of modern Orissa. Utkalamani Pandit Gopabandhu Das was an old student of the College. The University commissioned Satyabhusan Hota, Hota's Studio,

Bhubaneswar for making of the statues. The busts are 2.5 feet in height. It has been made as true as possible to the likeness of the subjects. The statues were cast and chiseled by Saroj Kumar Bhanja, an old student of the B.K. College of Art and Crafts, Bhubaneswar. The statues were installed and opened for public viewing on December 27 last year, coinciding with the inauguration of the 36th All India Sociological Conference and the visit of Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik to the campus.



Photo: Durga Das

Michael Bevan, former Australian left-handed middle-order batsman and slow left arm bowler, giving autograph to his fans at the University playground. He has been named coach of the Orissa team for the next season of the Ranji Trophy. He played 232 ODI matches for Australia, and was a part of the 1999 and 2003 teams that won the World Cup.