

Our College:

Kurseong College, a co-educational institute of higher learning with all the three streams of Arts, Commerce and Science, was established in the year 1967 with an objective of providing undergraduate level education to the people of Kurseong Sub-Division and the surrounding areas of hills, Terai and Dooars. The motto of the College since its inception has always been “*Akash tira Pakheta Chalon, Prithvi Basera*”, which literally means “*Spread your wings with your feet on the earth*”. In other words, to provide quality education to help our students to excel themselves in life and become successful as well as good human beings.

The College holds special position not only in Darjeeling district but also in whole North Bengal for its wide academic offerings, enviable faculty and multicultural ambience. As a Govt.-aided college recognized by UGC and affiliated to University of North Bengal, Kurseong College always tries to keep the spirit of academics high and become the best place of higher education in the “Land of White Orchids”, i.e. Kurseong

Location:

Kurseong College is situated on Dow Hill Road in Kurseong sub-divisional town, which is just 25 kms away from Siliguri.

The College is 2 kms away from Kurseong Station (DHR Toy Train).

Nearest railway station is New Jalpaiguri(NJP) and airport Bagdogra (IXB).



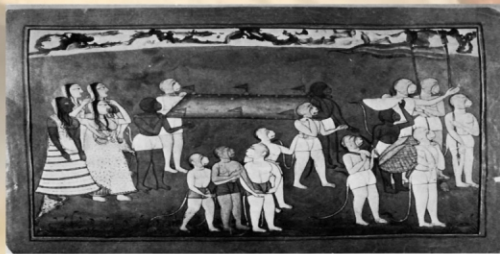
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Kurseong College

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Joint Convenor : Dr. Joydeep Bhattacharyya



Indian Council of Historical Research
(ICHR) Sponsored National Seminar

On

**Rama and Ramayana in Bengal:
History, Culture, and Identity Politics**

30th and 31st August, 2024



Organized by

**Departments of History & English
Kurseong College**

Venue

**Kurseong College, Dow Hill Road
P.O. Kurseong, Dist. Darjeeling
West Bengal-734203**



Theme:

Rama and Ramayana in Bengal: History, Culture, and Identity Politics

The Ramayana has been one of the most popular, universally read, and widely circulated literary works throughout India and abroad. The way this epic narrative in verse has enthralled the imagination of the common people of entire South Asia and beyond is truly amazing. It is itihasa whose awareness is palpable in almost every household of the country. Beside intensely inspiring the literary thoughts of India, the epic has been equally influencing artistic creations in many parts of the world for centuries.

Historically connected to entire South Asia and South East Asian regions, Bengal has a very long cultural tradition of Rama and Ramayana which, however, has largely remained unresearched, neglected and otherwise deliberately misinterpreted. The Ramayana saga has strongly resonated with the early historic Bengal sculptural specimens, the wall paintings in the temples, lavishly illustrated manuscripts made for early and medieval courts, hand-painted ceremonial textiles, artistic practice and the epic's climactic battle scene in several parts of Bengal. A group of scholars have recently explored a sixth-century manuscript of the Ramayana in the Asiatic Society library in Kolkata. The Ramayana, for example, as retold by the fifteenth-century poet Krittibas Ojha, reflects the importance of Rama in medieval Bengali life and culture. The medieval temples of Bengal are also well known for the intricate terracotta work, carvings and depictions of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata scenes and episodes.

In Bengal, the story of Rama has always been an intrinsic part of the folk culture. In the famous Chhau dance of Bankura and Purulia of Bengal or in the Kushan and Maruni dance forms of northern Bengal, the story of the Ramayana is projected as one of the main themes. The subtle touch of colours in the Bengal Patachitra (Scroll Art) delineates the different stories of the Ramayana in a beautiful way. The Ramayana songs, which the patuas sing in their own versions, are based on the Bengali Ramayana i.e., Krittibasi Ramayana. Most of the Ramayanas in folk renditions are semi-oral in the sense that they are not read but performed, that is, sung or recited, often by professional singers called gidai, gayak or gayen, and are composed by such professionals.

The present seminar aims to discuss the Rama and Ramayana culture in Bengal with a purpose that seeks to historicize the Ramayana tradition in order to understand its social, cultural, and political significances in the contexts of the past, present and future Bengal.

Sub-themes:

1. Rama, and Ramayana in early Bengal
2. Rama and Ramayana history in Bengal art, architecture, and sculpture
3. Rama and Ramayana in medieval bengali and regional literature
4. Poets and Critics of Bengal and Ramayana: Rabindra Nath Tagore, Bhanubhakta Acharya and others.
5. Ramayana and women's history.
6. Rama, Ramayana, and regional folk culture of Bengal: *Chhau*, *Kushan*, *Pat* and *Patuas*, *Kathakathas*, *Maruni* dance etc.
7. Ramayana , rural rituals and social practices in Bengal
8. Ramayana and the intellectuals and thinkers of 19th and 20th century Bengal.
9. Ramayana and socio-cultural transition in Bengal.
10. Ramayana and politics in Bengal.

Call for Paper : Papers have been invited from the faculties, scholars and experts related, but not limited, to the above sub-themes. For referencing please follow The Chicago Manual of Style (16th edn). Send the abstract (300 -500 words) and full paper (9000-12000 words) in MS Word to the Email ID mentioned below. Intimation mails will be sent to the selected abstracts in due time.

Registration Fees: 1000/-

Important Dates:

**Last Date of Submission of Abstract: 10th August 2024 and
Last Date of Submission of Full Paper: 20th August, 2024**

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Resource Speakers:

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University of North Bengal

Dr. Dipsikha Acharya
Department of History
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Dr. Gouri Dey
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Salesian College, Siliguri

Dr. Supriya Banik Pal
Department of Sanskrit
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Dr. Gokul Sinha
Eminent Researcher on
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