

Report 2010-11

The new academic session 2010-2011 was ushered in with the Freshers' orientation held on 20th July 2010 to familiarize the newly admitted first year students with the faculty and courses. After the initial process of settling down in the new academic environment, the new batch was introduced to the two senior batches in an informal get-together on 25th August 2010 organized by the Literary Society of the Department. The theme of the event was *Carnival* and in a fun-filled atmosphere the newcomers mingled freely with their seniors as they were now part of the Department community for the next three years.

Before the December break, the English Department and the Western Music society of the College came together to celebrate Christmas with Carols and cakes and a lot of mirth and good cheer.

The Department organizes regular screenings of films that are related to the courses taught and thus are a must watch for students of literature. This year, *The Mill on the Floss*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Elizabeth* were screened between October and February.

To mark the 150th year of the birth of Rabindranath Tagore, The English Department and *Shrinkhala* (the superannuated teachers' association of KNC) jointly organized a one-day seminar titled Rabindranath Tagore: The Renaissance Man, on 7th February 2011. The seminar focused on the different and variegated aspects of Rabindranath's genius and had several eminent speakers and performers presenting on subjects ranging from his contributions to his own times and beyond through his political thought, social concern and philosophy of life rendered through his poetry, prose writings and lectures to his paintings, music and theatre. Translators of his works into Hindi and English also shared their experience with the audience with their erudite presentations.

Among the esteemed speakers were Former Secretary of Sahitya Akademi Prof. Indra Nath Chaudhuri, eminent historian Prof. Tanika Sarkar and renowned sculptor K.S. Radhakrishnan. Lecture -Demonstrations on Rabindranath's theatre and music were presented by some well-known scholar-performers.

An exhibition of Rabindranath's paintings and a book exhibition were also part of the seminar.

On the 8th of February, a documentary film *Rabindranath Tagore* made by Satyajit Ray in the year 1961 to mark Rabindranath's birth centenary was screened in the college auditorium.

An in-house production of William Shakespeare's famous Tragedy *Macbeth* was presented by the students of all three years of English Honours on 15th March 2011. The students themselves took care of the stage, costumes, props and acoustics, giving full vent to their creative and artistic urge and abilities. The play was directed by Ishita Ganguly, a student of English Honours 2nd year.

The Department newsletter *White Noise* provides another major platform for creativity and self-expression for the students. Its continuous growth and increasing popularity over the years is a matter of pride for the Department.