Whistling Teal
The 2nd edition of Whistling Teal arrives, as promised, with the sights and sounds of the Shiv Nadar University campus!

There has been a lot to celebrate and cherish about our campus life in the quarter of July, August and September, 2015. Let us begin with an interesting fact about the Lesser Whistling Teals. The Lesser Whistling Teals are nocturnal feeders and during the day they are usually found in flocks around lakes and wet fields.

Reading about the characteristics makes you wonder whether it’s a sheer coincidence to have them around the bubbling and thriving environment in which the students are happily sharing notes and there is exchange of invigorating thoughts and joie-de-vivre! As for the nocturnal feeders, the brilliant minds certainly tend to be more engaged post sun-set, soaking and sharing information. A great connect indeed!

During this quarter a lot was accomplished and many promising news arrived taking us to further highs and heights! It all began with a new batch of students coming on-board.

On 18 July we welcomed the Class of 2019. A healthy interaction between students, parents and faculty over three days ensured a great initiation of the new batch into academic rigor and intellectual inquisitiveness.

In August we celebrated our Founder’s Day. It was a day to recall the great leap which the University has taken in just four years and a moment to feel proud about things both tangible and intangible. Reflecting in the strength of 4 years of relentless pursuit that has brought together ~1800 students, ~190 faculty members, ~150 staff members, with enriching classes and flourishing campus, it was a time to recollect and rejoice in the power of a collective excellence.

Many events took place over the quarter keeping the campus alive. Panel discussions going live on BBC, poetry reading, talks and seminars - the campus was constantly abuzz with a flurry of activities. A new MFA course in Film and Television was launched in August 2015 by the Department of Communication.

Continuing with our initiative of knowing more about the natural flora and fauna in and around our campus, we bring you the details of one very important medicinal plant known famously as a ‘memory booster’ - the Brahmi and few interesting creatures found on the campus.

To know more about our faculty and their fascinating pursuits, we bring to you “Conversations”- with Dr. Paromita Goswami, Dr. Gouriprasanna Roy and Dr. Akhil Katyal.

We hope you get as much joy knowing all about our campus activities as we had in collecting and bringing them to you.

Happy Reading!

Editorial Team,
Whistling Teal
Faculty and Students recognition and awards (July-September, 2015)

Faculty

Mainak Banerjee (Ph.D. Scholar with Dr. Gouriprasanna Roy) received the “Best Poster” award for his poster at the “10th Mid-Year Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI) Symposium in Chemistry”, July 23-25, 2015, at NIT Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India. Mainak’s work on “Chemical Detoxification of Organomercurials” was highlighted on the inside back cover of Angewandte Chemie, one of the best chemistry journals in the world.

Student Accolades

Ayana R (Ph.D. Scholar with Dr. Shailja Singh and Dr. Soumya Pati, Department of Life Sciences) received the Singapore symposium travel award. The student travel fellowship award is considered as one of most prestigious awards given by the Stem Cell Society Singapore (SCSS) to Ph.D. scholars. This award is highly competitive, only given to few candidates based on their work.

Garima Singh (Ph.D. Scholar with Dr. Ashutosh Singh, Department of Life Sciences) won the 3rd prize in ‘Poster Presentation’ and received “Travel Fellowship Award” (only 9 scholars were awarded) in the 26th Annual GIW (International Conference on Genome Informatics) and 14th Annual InCoB (International Conference on Bioinformatics) held in Tokyo from 9-12 September 2015.

Fourth year students, Tanmaya Jain and Varun Puri made front-page headlines with their 2 year old startup, inFeedo.com, a collaboration platform that helps companies solve in-house problems and execute ideas, across teams and cities. With 600 employees enjoying their services across 7 cities and 2 countries, they’re generating an annual revenue in 7 digits with their Ex-Google, IBM and Fidelity advisors. Delhistartups.org, under the contest ‘Golden Ticket’ selected Tanmaya and his team as one of the five start-ups among 110 entries, to pitch their concept in front of an esteemed panel comprising of Country Heads of Amazon, Facebook, LinkedIn India and the CEOs of MakeMyTrip, TimesInternet, Hungama and IndiaMart.

Six students from Shiv Nadar University, presented papers in the prestigious Project E-QUAL Student Conference, titled, “Online Resources in Advancing Knowledge and Skills and their implementation” at the University of Hyderabad. Those six students are:

- Sahithi Vinjamuri, IV Year, B.Tech. in Electronics and Communications Engineering
- Sonya Arora, II year, B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering
- Oshin Shakdwipee, II Year, B.Tech. in Civil Engineering
- Gokulnath Govindan, IV Year, B.A. (Research) English
- Yogesh Kumar, IV Year, Mechanical Engineering
- Abhilasha Awasthi and Kartikeya Kaushik.

Aadya Prasad (M.A. English) did her internship as a content writer in the ‘Mobile and Monetization division’ of NDTV Convergence Ltd. from September 25 to October 1 2015.
**Active External Research Grants:** Below mentioned are the representative list of the active research grants and projects:

**Inter-University Project with Università di Bologna, Italy, Dr B R Ambedkar University, Delhi, British Council, India (Coordinator), Jadavpur University, Kolkata, Kings College London, UK, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad**

**Project Title:** Enhancing Quality, Access and Leadership (E-QUAL)

**Funding Agency:** European Union and British Council

**Budget:** € 1.17 million  
**Duration:** 4 years (2014-2018)

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**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

- **Dr. Debopam Acharya, Dr. Divya Lohani, Dr. Seema Sehrawat** (Life Sciences) and **Dr. Prasad Pathak** (Civil Engineering) (Jointly with Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, and Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women, Delhi)

  **Project Title:** HumanSense: Towards context aware sensing, inference and actuation for applications in Energy and Healthcare.

  **Funding Agency:** ITRA (Department of Electronics and IT, Government of India)

  **Budget:** ₹ 266.50 lakhs  
  **Duration:** 3 years (2013-2016)

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**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

- **Dr. Sonal Singhal**

  **Project Title:** Efficiency enhancement of RF-sputtered CdTe thin film solar cells by improving the junction interface properties.

  **Funding Agency:** DST Fast Track scheme

  **Budget:** ₹ 6.7 lakhs  
  **Duration:** 3 years (2013-2016)

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**DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

- **Dr. Nitin Banker**

  **Project Title:** Design and development of refrigerator using a phase change material based heat exchanger.

  **Funding Agency:** DST SERB

  **Budget:** ₹ 13.87 lakhs  
  **Duration:** 3 years (2014-2017)

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**DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY**

- **Dr. Bimlesh Lochab**

  **Project Title:** Halogen free flame retardant (FR) Polybenzoxazine (PBz) resins based on agricultural biomass.

  **Funding Agency:** DST SERB, Young Scientist Scheme

  **Budget:** ₹ 28.5 lakhs  
  **Duration:** 3 years (2014-2017)

  **Project Title:** Benzoxazine monomers and pre-polymers as self-healing agent for Epoxy resins.

  **Funding Agency:** DRDO(Defence Research & Development Organisation)

  **Budget:** ₹ 9.9 lakhs  
  **Duration:** 18 months (2014-2015)

  **Project Title:** Biobased Polybenzoxazine Resins synthesized from agricultural biomass for composite applications.

  **Funding Agency:** SERB (Science and Engineering Board)

  **Budget:** ₹ 18 lakhs  
  **Duration:** 2 years (2014-2016)

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- **Dr. Gouriprasanna Roy**

  **Project Title:** Detoxification of Organomercury Compounds: Enzyme Mimetic Studies to understand the C-Hg bond activation by Organomercurial Lyase.

  **Funding Agency:** DST SERB

  **Budget:** ₹ 51 lakhs  
  **Duration:** 3 years (2014-2017)
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY & LIFE SCIENCES

Dr. Shailja Singh (PI) and Dr. Subhabrata Sen (CO-PI)
Project Title: Identifying novel candidates for breast cancer via Diversity Oriented Synthesis (DOS).
Funding Agency: DST Pilot Grant
Budget: ₹ 25 lakhs  Duration: 3 years

Dr. Ashish Gupta
Project Title: Characterization of novel molecular targets of malaria parasite.
Funding Agency: DST Start up Research Grant for Young Scientist
Budget: ₹ 20 lakhs
Duration: 3 years (Aug 2014-Sept 2017)

Dr. Anindita Chakraborty
Project Title: Understanding the effect of oncogenic Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) mutations in stem cell component of the HER2 oncogene enriched breast cancers.
Funding Agency: DBT Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship
Budget: ₹ 32.5 lakhs
Duration: 5 years (2014-2019)

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

Dr. Shailja Singh
Project Title: Role of calcium signaling in egress of P. falciparum merozoites from host erythrocytes.
Funding Agency: DBT Senior Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (IYBA) grant
Budget: ₹ 1 crore
Duration: 3 years (2014-2017)

Project Title: Role of perforin like protein in egress of Plasmodium falciparum merozoites.
Funding Agency: DST SERB Start Up
Budget: ₹ 22 lakhs
Duration: 3 years (2014-2017)

Dr. Priyanka Grover
Project: DST- INSPIRE Faculty Award
Budget: ₹ 35 lakhs (Research Component)
Duration: 5 years (2015-2020)

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Dr. Priyanka Grover
Project: DST- INSPIRE Faculty Award
Budget: ₹ 35 lakhs (Research Component)
Duration: 5 years (2015-2020)

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Dr. Priyanka Grover
Project: DST- INSPIRE Faculty Award
Budget: ₹ 35 lakhs (Research Component)
Duration: 5 years (2015-2020)

Dr. Priyanka Grover
Project Title: Atomistic stimulations of Hybrid films of two dimensional materials using ab-initio methods.
Funding Agency: DST Fast Track Scheme for Young Scientists
Budget: ₹ 9 lakhs
Duration: 3 years (2014-2017)

Dr. Aloke Kanjilal (SNU, Physics), Dr. Kabiraj (Co-PI), Bhaskar Kaviraj (SNU, Physics)
Project Title: The impact of oxygen-induced defects in TiO2-based resistive switching devices.
Funding Agency: DST SERB Extra Mural Research Funding
Total Budget: ₹ 53.29 lakhs
Duration: 3 years (2015-2018)

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

Dr. Bikash Parida
Project Title: Quantifying Climatic and Non-climatic Drivers of Large-scale Ecosystem Change during 1982-2015 over India
Funding Agency: DST (Young Scientist)
Total Budget: ₹ 17.6 Lakhs
Duration: 3 years

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Dr. Debdas Ray
Project Title: Solid-state luminescence active ultra-rigid neutral coordination complex of zinc(II) and aluminium(III)
Funding Agency: DST-SERB
Budget: ₹ 25 Lakhs
Duration: 3 years

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Dr. Koyeli Mapa
Project Title: Delineation of conformationalallostery of Hsp110 molecular chaperones.
Funding Agency: DST-SERB
Budget: ₹ 32 Lakhs
Duration: 3 years

Dr. Naga Suresh Veerapu
Project Title: Exploring Robust In Vitro Hepatitis E Genotype-1 Replication System
Funding Agency: DST (Young Scientist Scheme)
Budget: ₹ 26 lakhs
Duration: 3 years

SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

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SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
In cities where the river always runs dry, faith never does

This city transcends feelings and I know it isn’t good to be in a place considered unholy but this place has nostalgia snuck up around the sublime crevices of little shops and libraries and sometimes I see the apparition of myself roaming around in a long dress cut out narrowly at the back and I see the ugly birthmarks on my misshapen back and it reminds me of the lover who traced them with his fingers all night. This city with green lights and broken homes, the smell of jasmine vermillion and the ashes of incense has ceased to dissipate into vapour in my mind, I still see it in my dreams—shards of glass, rutty roofs and broken switches. This city, which makes me ache just as much as the lines of my favourite song

Many a Sharma, II year, B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering

This time in musings we bring to you few of the selected poems by the bright and the best of the poets of our campus. These have been published online by “Daily Riyaaaz”, a blog-spot dedicated to a-poem-a-day (a daily discipline to tempt a muse called “poetry”!)
July

3 July 2015
Talk by Dr. Ghanshyam Pilani
Department of Chemistry organized a talk by Dr. Ghanshyam Pilani at Center for Informatics. Dr. Pilani had an interactive session with the faculty and students.

7 July 2015
Visit by representatives of Carnegie Mellon University
Shiv Nadar University hosted dignitaries from the partner institution, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA. The visitors met various Heads of Departments in the Schools of Engineering and Natural Sciences. Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh briefed them about Shiv Nadar University’s history and plans. Prof. Ghosh stressed on the need for starting joint research programs between individual faculty members at Shiv Nadar University and Carnegie Mellon University, based on the interest and strength of each partner. Towards this goal, focused discussions were initiated with Dr. Debopam Acharya (Head, Computer Science & Engineering), Prof. Girish Agrawal (Head, Civil Engineering), and others.

21 July 2015
Seminar by Dr. Jitendra Kumar, Uppsala University, Sweden
A seminar on “Genomics and metabolomics of CVD and associated traits” was delivered by Dr. Jitender Kumar, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Department of Medical Sciences, Molecular Epidemiology, Uppsala University, Sweden. It was organized by the Department of Life Sciences, School of Natural Sciences.

27 July 2015
Public Seminar by Parth Dhanjal
Mr. Parth Dhanjal has pursued an Independent Research Project titled, ‘Acquisition and Retention of talent in Education Sectors in India’ under the guidance of Dr. Kaushik Chaudhuri, Assistant Professor, School of Management and Entrepreneurship. He presented his findings in a public seminar.

August

3 August 2015
Talk by Jonathan Fernandes on software ATLAS
The Department of Mathematics, School of Natural Sciences organised a talk on “Introduction to ATLAS: Basic Background and Applications” by Mr. Jonathan Fernandes, University of Maryland. The talk was about the Software ATLAS and Basic mathematics terminology used in the software.

5 August 2015
Economics Seminar Series: Dr. Subha Mani
Department of Economics organized a talk by Dr. Subha Mani, from Fordham University, spoke on the title, “The Impact of Peers on Cognitive, Non-cognitive, and Behavioral Outcomes: Evidence from India” estimating the effects of exposure to high achieving peers on cognitive attainment as well as non-cognitive outcomes including behavioural preferences and personality traits.

6 August 2015
SNU High Performance Computing Cluster- Upgraded
The SNU High Performance Computing Cluster (HPCC) was upgraded and a brief introductory session was conducted on 6th August,2015 to provide a broad idea and the best practices and guidelines.

11 August 2015
Lecture at India International Centre
Prem Bhatia Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta, President and Chief Executive, Centre for Policy Research, in the IIC. The lecture examined the ways in which India is stuck in vicious cycles that make the necessary transitions for a more progressive India impossible. It was chaired by Prof. Dipankar Gupta, Distinguished Professor and Director, C-PACT.

12 August 2015
Economics Seminar Series: Professor E. Somanathan
Department of Economics organized a talk by Prof. E. Somanathan from Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi. His talk was titled, “Drilling in the Drought”. Prof. Somanathan’s research is in the economics of the environment and development, and microeconomic theory. He is the Editor of the journal Environment and Development Economics published by Cambridge University Press, and was a Co-ordinating Lead Author for Working Group III of the “Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change”.

11 August 2015

13 August 2015
Talk By Dr. Rajendra Prasad, JNU
Department of Life Sciences organized a talk by Dr. Rajendra Prasad who is a Professor at the School of Life Sciences, JNU, New Delhi and Director, Institute of Integrative Sciences and Health and Institute of Biotechnology, Amity University.

14 August 2015
Equipment handing over ceremony
Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) fellow, Prof. Alok Kanjilal was granted an equipment subsidy worth € 20,000 by the AvH foundation for his outstanding research efforts. A contact angle measurement system (DSA-25) was bought from Krüss GmbH, Germany, using the grant. The equipment is used to determine surface properties of solids and liquids, including determining the degree of wetting, whereby wetting is the ability to form interfaces with solid surfaces.

The Science Counsellor of the German Embassy, Mr. Stephan Lanzinger did the formal hand-over on August 14, 2015 at the Shiv Nadar University. Prof. Rekha Rajan, Head of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation India, Dr. S.N. Balakrishnan - Chancellor and Chairperson, Executive Council, Shiv Nadar University and Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh - Director, School of Engineering and School of Natural Sciences also graced the occasion with their presence.

15-16 & 22-23 August
Independence Day Celebration
To commemorate the 69th year of our independence, a flag hoisting ceremony was organized on the 15th of August at the SNU flag post. The flag was hoisted by Dr. S. N. Balakrishnan, Chancellor and Chairperson, Executive Council, Shiv Nadar University and was followed by a short speech given by the Student Council President, Pranay Ganesh Koneni. Dr. Balakrishnan also gave an inspiring speech where he made the students’ question the meaning of freedom in today's day and age. He also emphasised about how the future of this country is in the students' hands and that it is their responsibility to bring about changes in the system.

15 August 2015
Certificate Course: Policy for Young Leaders
21 students from Shiv Nadar University participated in Centre for Civil Society’s ‘Policy for Young Leaders’ certificate course on 15-16 and 22-23 August 2015. Students explored fundamentals of what makes a good policy, why India is poor, how to reform our education policies and ideas of free trade and environment challenges with their expert faculty.

15 August 2015
An evening of Hindustani Classical Music
SPIC MACAY SNU Chapter in association with Cultural Committee organized an evening of Hindustani Classical Music with Shri Ritesh Mishra and Shri Rajnish Mishra. Sons of Shri Rajan Sajan Mishra, they are renowned singers of the ‘khyal’ style of Indian Classical Music.

17 August 2015
Workshop by Mr. Kumar Shahani
Shiv Nadar University had the privilege of hosting Mr. Kumar Shahani, celebrated as a pioneer of Indian Parallel Cinema movement and known for his films like Maya Darpan, Khayal Gatha and Kasba.

In a 2-week comprehensive workshop called “Masters of Cinema”, Mr. Shahani mentored the students of MFA in Film and Television by sharing with them his approach to cinema, his experiences during his journey as a filmmaker, as well as his experiences with cinema greats such as his teacher Ritwik Ghatak, and French auteur Robert Bresson, with whom Mr. Shahani was closely associated.

17-21 August
Workshop on Additive Manufacturing (3D printing)
The Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering (SOE), organized a National Workshop on Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing). The two-day workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Nikhil Sinha, Vice Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University. Dr. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Director, School of Engineering & School of Natural Sciences welcomed the speakers and the participants. Professor Ming C. Leu, Keith and Pat Bailey Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Missouri University of Science and Technology, USA, Dr. Y. Ravi Kumar, NIT Warrangal, Prof. P. V. Madhusudhan Rao, IIT Delhi, Prof. K. P. Karunakaran, IIT Bombay, faculty members of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and SoE also graced the occasion.

The Workshop intensively covered additive manufacturing (AM) which has been identified by all major Medical, Defense, Consumer Products and Electronics, Aerospace and Automobile Agencies as a key enabling technology. The National Workshop was followed by a cultural evening.

18 August 2015
Talk by Dr. Bharti Nandwani
Department of Economics organized a talk by Bharti Nandwani of Shiv Nadar University on “Decentralization Economic inequality and insurgency” on the 18th August, 2015.

17 August 2015
Workshop on Additive Manufacturing (3D printing)
19 August 2015

**Talk by Professor Sankar De**

Department of Economics organized a talk by Professor Sankar De on “Financial Development and Domestic Conflict: Can Finance Combat Conflict?” The topic investigates the impact of financial development, measured both as an increase in the supply of bank-credits and in the number of bank accounts in a geographic area, on conflicts in the area. The study supports the theory that financial development mitigates conflicts and the exception seems to be at the mining and mineral rich districts where employment growth and rising inequality in land distribution offset each other.

24 August 2015

**Belgian Ambassador Mr. Jan Luykx’s visit to Shiv Nadar University**

Mr. Jan Luykx, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, visited Shiv Nadar University. To mark the occasion there was an exhibition on the “Role of the Indian and Belgian Soldiers during the Great War”.

25 August 2015

**Lecture by Professor Pierre Goloubinoff, University of Lausanne, Switzerland**

Department of Life Sciences organized a talk by Prof. Pierre Goloubinoff from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

26 August 2015

**Economics Seminar Series: Dr. Gitanjali Sen**

Department of Economics organized a talk by Dr. Gitanjali Sen (SNU). It was titled, “How much does a bank account help the poor? An investigation with instrumental variables” establishing that initiatives to open bank accounts for the poor must be accompanied by financial literacy drives.

Dr. Gitanjali Sen has specialized in Development Economics and interested to work in Applied Microeconomics areas. She has been working in various places, including public policy think tank, Indian academia, and in consultancy firms for about 11 years. Her research interests include policies for inclusive development through participation in education and employment, and access to finance.

27 August 2015

**Talk by Mr. Rakesh Pandey, Lecturer, Boston University**

A talk was delivered by Mr. Rakesh Pandey, a distinguished academician from Boston University, specifically designed for students of UG from 1st and 2nd year.

Rakesh Pandey is a Lecturer at the Questrom School of Business at Boston University where he teaches courses in Operations and Technology Management, Data Analysis and Strategy. He is also an Executive-in-Residence at Northeastern University and a Mentor at Legatum Center at MIT, both in the Boston area.

27 August 2015

**Talk by Mr. Shashank Bansal, Vice President, Bank of America Merrill Lynch Japan**

The Economics Society organised a talk by Mr. Shashank Bansal from the Bank of America, Vice President, Bank of America Merrill Lynch Japan, Delhi. Mr. Shashank Bansal has over 13 years of experience in derivatives trading, counter party risk management and middle office. The talk was about how financial markets work, their structure, various moving parts, various departments, careers available and the skillset needed.

27 August 2015

**Freshman Debate: Words.ink**

The final round of Words.ink’s annual freshman debate, ‘Encounters of The Eloquent Kind, the freshers’ was conducted on the 27th of August.

The winners were Aditya Thakkar (CSE), Harsh Prasad (B.Sc. (Research) Mathematics) and Akshay C (B.Sc. (Research) Physics).

27 August 2015

**Workshop by Instabili Voganti, an Italian Theatre and Dance Company**

Gitanjali Kolanad (Professor, Department of Art Design and Performing Arts) and Atul Bhalla (Associate Professor, Department of Art Design and Performing Arts) invited the famous duo, Anna Dora Dorno and Nicola Pianzola from Italian Theatre and Dance Company, Instabili Voganti, to hold a workshop with Shiv Nadar University students. Founded in 2004 in Bologna, Instabili Voganti has produced performance, led workshops and directed performing arts projects in many countries.
September

3 September 2015

Economics Seminar Series: Professor Deepti Goel

Department of Economics organized a talk by Professor Deepti Goel (Delhi School of Economics). Titled, “Caste Identity and Institutions: Perceptions About Remunerative Earnings from Self-Employment in India,” the talk was on how caste identity in contemporary India shapes self-worth and how institutional factors like a targeted employment scheme for the poor alter these perceptions. Professor Deepti Goel is a Ph.D. from Boston University. Her area of interest is Applied Econometrics and Labor Economics.

9 September 2015

Economics Seminar Series Professor Arunava Sen

Department of Economics organized a talk by Professor Arunava Sen (Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi). The title of his talk was, “Continuous Cardinal Incentive Compatible Mechanisms are Ordinal” in which it is shown that every cardinal incentive compatible voting mechanism satisfying a continuity condition must be ordinal. Professor Sen is the recipient of the Infosys Prize in Social Sciences, 2012 and a Ph.D. from Princeton University and M.Phil. from Oxford University. His research interests are Game Theory, Social Choice Theory, Voting and Auctions.

16 September 2015

Economics Seminar Series: Professor Jaideep Ghosh

Department of Economics organized a talk by Professor Jaideep Ghosh. The title of his talk is, “Investigating Equilibrium Stability Conditions in Capital Investments of Board-interlocked Firms in India.” His paper investigated the stability conditions that emerge in the dynamics of capital investments in the environment of a board-interlock network of listed firms in India. Using simulations of models based on a theoretical framework to understand the underlying investment dynamics, he showed that controlling capital investments to remain confined in the region of stability is a rather delicate affair.

Jaideep Ghosh is an Associate professor in the Decision Sciences, Operations Management, Management Information Systems Group in the School of Management and Entrepreneurship (SME) at SNU. He is also a Ramanujan Fellow of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India. His current research interests include modeling of business and socio-econometric systems.

10 September 2015

Panel Discussion Hosted By BBC at SNU Campus

A panel discussion hosted by BBC at SNU campus on “India’s Education Boom” went live on the BBC World Service on 10 September on their Global Radio Network. The curator of the show Owen Bennett Jones was joined by an expert panel consisting of: Ms. Rukmini Banerjee-Director, ASER at Partham; Prof. Madhu Prasad-Professor of Philosophy, Zakir Hussain College, D.U.; Dr. Kavita A. Sharma, President of South Asia University and Dr. Nikhil Sinha, Founding Vice Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University, to discuss how the world is educating the next generation of students with the topic of the discussion - ‘Can you educate your way out of poverty?’ The show explored whether education is really the best route out of poverty looking at how despite the benefits of a higher education many students from lower income backgrounds struggle to realize their goals.

5 September 2015

Talk by Mr. Eric Rowell, Duke University

Mr. Eric Rowell from Admission Office of Duke University’s The Fuqua School of Business visited Shiv Nadar University campus. He provided an overview on the application process for the Graduate School Admissions at the US universities in general, and, Fuqua School of Business, Duke University in particular.

10-11 September 2015

‘Art of Image’ Workshop

Department of Communication, SNU organized a workshop on ‘Art of Image’ for the students of MFA in Film and Television with noted cinematographer Mr. Rafey Mahmood. In his career spanning over 2 decades, Mr. Rafey Mahmood has shot 12 feature films along with numerous documentaries and more than 500 commercials and has received many awards and accolades including a National Award for the documentary film ‘Tarana’. During his interaction with the students, Mr. Mahmood continued to inspire and enlighten them by showing his own work alongside critical viewing of painting, films and photographs.
A Street Play was organized by the Dramatics Society to raise voice against the shameful act of eve teasing.

Department of Art Design and Performing Arts organized a lecture and interaction with artist Ms. Sonia Khurana on 16th September, 2015.

Ms. Sonia Khurana is a visual media artist of international repute. She traverses mediums including video, photography, performance, text, drawing and installation, and includes extensive travel and interventions in international sites that problematize the separation of private and public, interior and exterior.

Department of Economics organized a talk by Prof. Anirban Mukherjee, Department of Economics, University of Calcutta. His talk was titled “Technology adoption and development: the case of silk industry in colonial India. This project aims to bring out the complex nature and political economy of technological adoption in the colonial era by focusing on the British colonial power’s attempt to bring in an Italian technology to Indian silk weaving industry and Indian weaver’s reluctance to adopt it.

On 21st September a poetry reading session was organized by the Department of English, School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Faculty members and author of Between Sure Places, Dr. Anannya Dasgupta and the author of Night Charge Extra, Dr. Akhil Katyal enthralled the audience with their poetry recital par excellence.

An orientation session was conducted by the SNU committee on Sensitization of Gender, in which some basic information that every member of the SNU community is expected to know was shared. Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Dr. Tulika Chandra and Prof. Amber Habib addressed the audience which was followed by an open forum for Q&A and exchange of ideas.

Department of Art Design and Performing Arts invited the eminent contemporary artist Ms. Anita Dube for a lecture. Ms. Dube creates photographs, sculptures and installations based on concepts ranging from social memory and history to mythology and related phenomena. Her style is characterized by a strong awareness of social and political criticism.
flora-fauna

All around our campus there is a plethora of living, thriving, ecological diversity. A tweet here, a bloom there, leaves us wondering about their name, nature and tribe. Under this section the attempt is to know a little more about the natural beauty that we are blessed to be a part of in our sprawling 286 acres campus. This edition is about a wondrous bird, a very common yet gorgeous butterfly and a unique medicinal plant.

Cattle Egret

The white bird perching on top of a cattle is a very common sight around the wetland. It does make you wonder why the flyer is attempting a free ride! And why the mammal is looking so relaxed carrying it around. Guess, its nature’s plan to keep the high-fliers grounded and the grazer getting all the news in-turn from the sky! It indeed is a very happy symbiotic friendship. This bird is the Cattle Egret.

The scientific name for the cattle egret is *Bubulcus Ibis*, in which Bulbulcus stands for herdsman in Latin. This species has a special relationship with cattle and other large grazing mammals. The cattle egret removes ticks and flies from cattle and consumes them benefitting both the species. It has a thick neck, a sturdy bill, and a hunched posture. It has mainly white plumage, a yellow bill and greyish-yellow legs. It nests in colonies, usually near bodies of water and often with other wading birds. The nest is a platform of sticks in trees or shrubs. The positioning of the egret's eyes allows for binocular vision during feeding. The species is largely silent though one can hear a throaty rick-rack call at the breeding colony. The cattle egrets can be both sedentary and migratory.

Medicinal Plant: BRAHMI

The expansive fertile land of the campus of Shiv Nadar University has many unique plants, herbs, shrubs and trees. Take a careful step especially in the area dedicated for our own botanical garden and you would be amazed to see the variety available. It is said that, “he who plants a tree plants a hope” and if the tree is of medicinal variety then it is doubly so. A total of 170 plants have been identified so far from the campus and almost all of them have medicinal properties. One of the most prominent one is Brahmi. Brahmi or Water Hyssop, is scientifically called *Bacopa Monnieri*(L) Wettst. A perennial plant, it is commonly found in marshy areas, river banks, canals and wetlands. The wetland area of the botanical garden as well as other areas of our campus is rich in Brahmi. Brahmi is a creepy herb with succulent leaves. It bears solitary, axillary, blue or white flower. The entire plant is used under the Ayurvedic system of medicine. Brahmi is more famous as a memory booster but the bitter pungent plant has anti-oxidant properties which is useful even in other life-style related and degenerative diseases. Brahmi reduces oxidation of fats in the blood-stream so it is very useful to control cardio-vascular diseases.

The Painted Lady

The painted lady is a beautiful large butterfly and its scientific name is *Vanessa Cardui*. It is very easily identifiable. It has black and white corners of its mainly deep-orange black spotted wing and five black spots in the black forewing tips. It has a lifespan of 2-4 weeks. In North America it is known as the Cosmopolitan. It has a very unique pattern of flying in sort of screw-shape and is one of the most widespread of all butterflies. Adult butterflies feed on flower nectar and aphid honeydew. *Vanessa cardui* tend to inhabit sunny, brightly lit, open environments and are often attracted to open areas of flowers and clovers.
WELCOME CLASS OF 2019!
On July 18 Shiv Nadar University welcomed the Class of 2019 to the campus. The day witnessed a healthy interaction among students, parents and faculty. Here is wishing the new batch a phenomenal ride in the home of academic rigor and intellectual inquisitiveness!
In Conversation with Dr. Akhil Katyal
(Assistant Professor, Department of English, SHSS)
on his new book Night Charge extra

Q: Congratulations on your new book! Tell us how did you develop an interest towards poetry?
A: I have been writing poetry since my late teen years and my teachers in Delhi University were very supportive. They shaped and gave direction to what was really amateur, fairly uninteresting bad work and very self-indulgent work. By the time I graduated, I started taking poetry seriously and started writing a lot more than I used to. Apart from the gift of very good teachers, I also had the gift of peers who were into poetry. There was always a context of poetry to happen. Though first volume of poetry came out only earlier this year, Night Charge Extra, the manuscript was sort of 5-6 years in making.

Q: Who are your greatest influences in poetry?
A: The person that I really admire is Agha Shahid Ali. He was a Kashmiri-American poet, born in Delhi, in 1949, and for the last 25 years of his life, he lived in the US. He taught creative writing and he’s someone really interesting because he wrote a lot in form. He wrote ghazals in English. Ghazals need the ‘radeef’ and ‘kafaiyah’ with a particular rhyme and refrain but he would do that in English as well. Then there’s Amrita Pritam, Rafeef Ziadah, Langston Hughes, Dorothy Parker and several others.

Q: Tell us something about your latest book.
A: I think it happened at the right time because the poems reached a particular shape in which they were ready to go out in the world. Night Charge extra is not so much thematically bound but it is kind of best of what I’ve written in the last 7-8 years. It is a collection of 64 poems, they are all English poems and several of them are dedicated to people I admire, my friends or folks I look upto. The theme is primarily a desire of one kind or the other, it could be a desire for a person, like a desire to understand my grandfather who migrated during the Partition, who died in 1997 when I was 12, or it could be a desire for a more inclusive kind of political scenario that I want to see my country in. The title Night Charge Extra came up because I wanted something which is very casual, very unpretentious, something which people don’t take time in thinking what it is. So it’s a very contemporary thing, everyone’s heard it.

Q: For how long have you been associated with Shiv Nadar University, and how has been your journey?
A: I have been here for two years now. I really enjoy it. One of the interesting things about Shiv Nadar University is that we are hoping to practice something new. ‘Multidisciplinary’ is something that I can see happening in working with my colleagues here, something that I can sense. I have economists on both sides of my office. I have conversations that happen with the dancers, the sculptors, theatre artists, archaeologists and mathematicians in this University. Currently Aadya Kattikar from the Department of Art Design and Performing Arts and I working on a performance screenplay for her. These conversations would have been impossible for me in any other setting. The vision is percolating onto the ground, we are able to do things that we are promising.
The second thing that is interesting is that it is a research University so you get the time to follow your academic and creative interests. Along with teaching three courses a year, which I really enjoy, one gets to write poetry, one gets to research and write academic work, one gets to participate in different public interventions in the city. There is a good synergy between teaching and research, teaching and creative interest which this University promotes, and is proud of, which is why you’ll see the kind of work the faculty will produce here - it’ll be really diverse, really interesting, really path-breaking work. We are not a teaching shop. The thing about Shiv Nadar University is that we respect both creative and academic work. We have absolute parity and respect them equally.

“To the students, I’d say, just to be a little wilder, to think outside the box, do the things that you want to do, this is the space and time you can do it in. Experience as much as you like—disciplines that are offered, experiment with the courses that you can take, the activities that you can do outside the script. There is no predetermined script to what you can do. Make it for yourself.”

Akhil Katyal

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Q. Hello, Congratulations on your remarkable work on “Chemical Detoxification of Organomercurials” getting highlighted in Angewandte Chemie, one of the best Chemistry journals in the world. What sparked your interest in research especially in your field?

A. Thank you!
I always think that research is a tool to solve the problems of the society. In 21st century, rapid industrialization as well as urbanization has led to contamination of water with heavy metals such as mercury and mercury related toxic compounds, lead, arsenic, and all these are of utmost concern to all of us. For me, my research must have a social impact. And to provide a safe and healthy environment is a real challenge. Our laboratory is continuously working on the de-contamination of toxic heavy metals, particularly focusing on mercury, lead and copper. Recently at Shiv Nadar University, we have discovered new novel compounds which can transform highly toxic soluble mercury and mercury related compounds such as methylmercury (MeHg) and ethylmercury (EtHg) into less toxic insoluble materials, similar to the minerals such as cinnabar, metacinnabar and Tiemannite. This novel finding may lead to the discovery of a new potential molecule to treat patients suffering from methylmercury poisoning.

Q. Tell us something about your academic trajectory. How has been the journey so far?

A. I did my Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore with Prof. G. Mugesh, a renowned scientist in ‘Bio-Inorganic Chemistry’ in India. A very close interaction with him has inspired me to be in the field of research that too particularly in the ‘Bio-Inorganic’ field. During my Ph.D., I worked on the synthesis and mechanism of anti-thyroid compound against hyperthyroidism, which unlike other commercially available medication has an effect that is reversible in nature. This work was highly appreciated.

In 2008 I joined Prof. Thomas Scanlan’s laboratory at the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology in Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), Oregon, USA, where I worked on the identification of carrier protein of thyronamine, an endogenous thyroid hormone metabolite. Then I worked with famous chemical biologist Prof. Peter G Schulz, the top translational researcher in the world at the Scripps Research Institute (TSRI), San Diego, USA, where I worked on the development of drugs for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and Type-2 Diabetes.

Q. When did you join Shiv Nadar University and how has been your experience?

A. I met Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh (Director, SNS & SOE) when I was in San Diego. We had a fantastic conversation and that was also the time when I was looking for an opportunity to come back to India. I joined on the 29 November 2012 and have just completed my three years in Shiv Nadar University. So far my experience has been amazing. As a whole and particularly with the Chemistry Department, the progress has been very rapid. Here I have got the right platform and thoroughly enjoyed the process of establishing our laboratories and starting our research.

Q. Tell us more about the facilities that a Shiv Nadar University science student receives as compared to other Universities.

A. Shiv Nadar University has grown tremendously within a few years. My laboratory works in the interface of chemistry and biology and our research is hugely dependent on various instruments. At present we have various research facilities with many sophisticated instruments such as Single-Crystal XRD, XRD, LCMS-QTOF, NMR, HPLC, Flow Cytometry, High-End Fluorescence Microscopy and so on. Our labs are state-of-the-art and research-ready. The opportunities for undergraduate research (OUR) programme started in 2014 is a unique and prime example that we give high importance to the research even in the undergraduate level.

“I always think that research is a tool to solve the problems of the society. For me, my research must have a social impact.”

Q. What message or advice would you like to give to the students?

A. Shiv Nadar University is providing the most unique and wonderful opportunity to the students to excel both in teaching and in research and I would request my students—both graduate and undergraduate—to grab this opportunity. The students should approach their research problems in an unprejudiced manner because most of the time it’s the unusual results that help us to discover something new and gives us far more satisfactory findings than the more usual ones.
In Conversation with Dr. Paromita Goswami, (Associate Professor, School of Management and Entrepreneurship) on the Core Common Curriculum (CCC) course of ‘Gender Violence and Social Marketing for Social Change’ at Shiv Nadar University

Q. Please give us some detail on what spurred your interest on the subject of “Gender Violence”.

A. Gender violence and discrimination as a subject interests me. Born and bred in Kolkata, life outside has been a complete contrast beginning with a campus life at Bhubaneswar, post-doctoral days at Pittsburgh, US, and then living in Gurgaon. Delhi NCR has been quite a shock. I started writing blogs as those were some of the trigger points. Due to my empathy and to stand against all kinds of inequity and bias that goes on, I left my corporate job which was restricting me to follow my path of pursuing research of my choice. After joining Shiv Nadar University, I started working on a research project where I tried to understand violence against women especially sexual violence against women. I was working on this with Rohit Verma from IIM Calcutta. I did some initial work and that’s how it started. I thought I could develop a course around this.

Q. Can you tell us a bit more about your experience with the corporate sector?

A. When I had gone to do my post-doc, I was trying to understand the Christian Muslim relationship in the US. After a year, I came back. I was looking for a job when TMRC, the licensee of ZMET in India, China and South-east Asia, approached me to head the India team, so I took that up. Although it was very exciting, at one stage I thought that I really need to go back to social research. Shiv Nadar University had that exact fit as they believe that social problems can be solved by different techniques and I had the multidisciplinary approach in mind and I needed that fertile ground.

Q. Can you tell us more about the course, “Gender Violence and Social marketing for Social Change”?

A. Usually it’s the women who take up such courses and not men. But here out of 40 students, 24 were boys and I was very happy because this indicates and generates awareness and sensitivity. The structure devised had my lectures and 50% of weightage was given to developing a campaign. The students worked on relationship abuse, eve teasing, masculine stereotypes, child sexual abuse etc. There were different types of topics and different ways. Students reflected these thoughts in their fortnightly reflection papers. The course enhanced the perception levels about gender and violence. At least there is awareness, people are talking about it. It is an opportunity to let one talk about the issue.

Q. Your course got media coverage. Can you share a little bit with us?

A. It did. It was interesting that it got attention on its own. One eve teasing campaign was carried out that people came to know about and from friend to friend there was a ‘snowball effect’ and that’s how it got attraction. Many of students said that they were going to continue with their campaigns even when they didn’t need to.

Q. How has Shiv Nadar University contributed to your work?

A. I preferred Shiv Nadar University rather than a ‘top 20 B-School’ as this place gave me the ground to do the work that I wanted to do and the CCC is a wonderful system for teachers to play around with. Shiv Nadar University gave me a lot of freedom, especially the CCCs. With CCC there is a lot of freedom to do whatever I want to do. There are a lot of CCCs even I would like to take up as they seem so interesting!

Q. Where there any striking examples that people perceived as acceptable but later realized that it wasn’t?

A. We set up a wheel of abuse, for the relationship abuse project, and the student pictorially depicted parts of it as all of them were not applicable to our situation. When people were asked to mark their experience with a post-it note they chose to elaborate on the issue. They did a t-shirt campaign which went public first but they were finding it very difficult to put t-shirts. There were victims everywhere, but nobody wanted to speak up. What the course tried to say was that whatever be it, it is unfair to all, the bystanders need to do something and the awareness was there only in about 10% people in the campus.

There was one group in Duke that offered a course in violence but that was in the perspective of performing arts. The funding too had its hiccups. In any case I developed my part, and Duke and Shiv Nadar University students interacted with each other so they both learnt from each other. Now I am at the next level, working on positive masculinity and I have completed my field work. I am trying to understand that while there are abusive men there are also many who are good. Currently I am interviewing North Indian men, who get a lot of media blasting especially after the Nirbhaya episode.

“Usually it’s the women who take up such courses and not men. But here out of 40 students, 24 were boys and I was very happy because this indicates and generates awareness and sensitivity.”
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Dr. Anannya Das Gupta
Book of poetry *Between Sure Places* Writers Workshop, released in August 2015

Dr. Akhil Katyal
Book of Poetry *Night Charge Extra* Writers workshop, released in August 2015

Dr. Sambudha Sen

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Dr. Himanshu Pathak

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

Dr. Sailesh Behera

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Dr. Madhur Deo Upadhayay
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**Dr. Subhabrata Sen (chemistry), Dr. Parthapratim Munshi (Chemistry), Shailja Singh (Life Sciences) and Dr. Ashutosh Singh (Life Sciences)**
Chandramohan Bathula, Poonam Dangi, Santanu Hati, Rahul Agarwal, Ashutosh Singh, Parthapratim Munshi, Shailja Singh and Subhabrata Sen* Synthesis of natural product inspired spiro and fused scaffolds based on ring distortion and construction strategy, New Journal of Chemistry

**Dr. Subhabrata Sen (chemistry) and Dr. Ashutosh Singh (Life Sciences)**
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**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS**

**Dr. Samarendra P Singh**
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**Dr. Susanta Sinha Roy**
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**Dr. Santosh Kumar**
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**Dr. Aloke Kanjilal**
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**DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES**

**Dr. Koyeli Mapa**
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**Dr. Subhabrata Sen (chemistry), Dr. Parthapratim Munshi (Chemistry), Shailja Singh (Life Sciences) and Dr. Ashutosh Singh (Life Sciences)**
Chandramohan Bathula, Poonam Dangi, Santanu Hati, Rahul Agarwal, Ashutosh Singh, Parthapratim Munshi, Shailja Singh and Subhabrata Sen* Synthesis of natural product inspired spiro and fused scaffolds based on ring distortion and construction strategy, New Journal of Chemistry

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**Dr. Sudeepto Bhattacharya and Dr. L M Saha (IIIMIT)**
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**Dr. Vijay Kumar**
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Conference Papers and Presentations

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

Dr. Vikram Kapur


**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

Dr. Jaideep Ghosh


**DEPARTMENT OF ART, DESIGN AND PERFORMING ARTS**

Prof Gitanjali Kolanad

Absent Lover/Absent Warrior, *International Federation of Theatre Research*, 7, 8, 9 July 2015, Hyderabad

**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

Dr. Divya Lohani and Dr. Debopam Acharya

Divya Lohani and Debopam Acharya: Mobile Sensing for Indoor Air Quality Analysis using Sensordrone, submitted in *IEEE Wireless Communications and Networking Conference (IEEE WCNC)*, Doha, Qatar, 3-6 April 2016

Divya Lohani and Debopam Acharya: Real Time In-Vehicle Air Quality Monitoring Using Mobile Sensing, submitted in *IEEE International Conference on Communications Systems and Networks (IEEE COMSNETS)*, Bangalore, India, 5-9 Jan 2016

Dr. Shashi Prabh


**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

Dr. Madhur Deo Upadhyay


Dr. Nalin Mehta

Cleaning Up IPL and Indian Sport’, panel discussion with Krish Srikarath, Arun Lal and Venky Mysores, CEO KKR, at *42nd All India Management Association Convention (AIMA)*, 30 September 2015


‘English August: The Literary Birth of the Indian in Bharat’ with Upamanyu Chatterjee and Rahul Bose at *Times of India LitFest Delhi* launch, 4 July 2015

**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

Dr. Ramesh Gupta Burela


Dr. Nitin Banker


Dr. Gouriprasanna Roy
Banerjee, M.; Karri, R.; Rawat, K. S.; Muthuvel, K.; Pathak, B.; Roy, G.
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Dr. Mayank Dhaundiyal


Prof Maya Rao
International federation for theatre research conference, invited to perform ‘RAVANAMA ’ on closing day, Hyderabad, Jul 10, 2015
Tapra, theatre conference, invited to perform ‘WALK’ and present paper, Worcester, UK, Sept. 9, 2015
in media
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For any query or suggestion, please write to whistlingteal@snu.edu.in