

Research on Heritage

The Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, NIT Durgapur, has embarked on research activities related to Heritage. The research on Heritage has focus on the following objectives:

- Upholding the concept of Heritage as envisaged by the UNESCO
- Unearthing the industrial heritage that traces the historical evolution of the Asansol Industrial Region
- Mapping the cultural topography of the region as influenced and mutated by the industrial heritage
- Focusing on the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the industrial heritage of the Asansol Industrial Belt
- Archiving the historical, industrial and cultural heritage of the region
- Addressing the issues of heritage by connecting them to the everyday life of the local communities
- Setting up a research centre at NIT Durgapur for bolstering the research on heritage

The Department has started collaborating with the Asansol Heritage Research Group and the University of Edinburgh in an informal manner for exploring the prospect of research on Heritage. Some of the faculty members of the Department visited the places of excavation in the Raniganj coal-belt area and also paid a visit to the Setubandha Museum set up by the AHRG at Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol.

The Department organised a seminar on Heritage. The programme had two parts. In the first part, Professor Edward Hollis, Professor of Interior Design & Architecture from the University of Edinburgh, UK, spoke at length on the industrial and cultural heritage of the Asansol-Raniganj Coal Belt. He explained how the excavation for coal led to the establishment of railways in the region and how the industrial development resulted in cultural cosmopolitanism. The Dundee cake which had its origin in the Dundee region of Scotland made a strong foothold in the manufacture and sale of the Dundee. Cake of Minar, a well-known cake-shop of the region, bettering the flavour associated with the Dundee cake. Prof. Hollis spoke also on creating awareness of heritage among the masses.

The talk on heritage was followed by a Story-Telling Session. The Members of the Asansol heritage research Group, led by Dr Santanu Banerjee, Curator of the Setubandha Museum and

Faculty Member of the Department of English, Kazi Nazrul University, concentrated on the stories of heritage littered around the region. The members shared the stories with the audience and explained how the stories stemmed from the traces of heritage that permeated the lives of the local communities. They also explained how the construction of the industrial landscape led to the cultural identity of the region. The seminar left a positive impress on the consciousness of the audience.

The Department has been looking forward to exploring and forging new areas of research on the various aspects of tangible and intangible heritage as evidenced by the exploratory endeavours of the AHRG and the University of Edinburgh.

Faculty Members of the Department engaged in Research on Heritage:

1. Dr Arindam Modak, Associate Professor & Head
2. Dr Shri Krishan Rai, Associate professor
3. Dr Debasis Chakraborty, Assistant Professor
4. Dr Sutanuka Banerjee, Assistant Professor
5. Dr Angshu Jajodia, Assistant Professor
6. Dr Rinki Chokhani, Assistant Professor