Report on the Undergraduate Students' Research Initiatives & Invited Lecture

Department of History, Gurudas College

4 December, 2025

An invited talk followed by a students' seminar was successfully organized by the Department of History, Gurudas College, in collaboration with the IQAC, R&D Cell, and the Seminar Sub-Committee of Gurudas College on 4th December 2025, from 11:00 a.m. onwards, at G1 (Rajendralal Sabha Griha).

The programme was conducted as part of the Undergraduate Students' Research Initiatives (2025–26), with the objective of promoting research aptitude, interdisciplinary understanding, and academic engagement among undergraduate students.

Invited Talk:

The invited talk was delivered by Dr. Sohini Sinha, Assistant Professor, Mrinalini Dutta Mahavidyapith, Birati, on the topic "Development of Weather Science in Colonial India: A Brief Survey."

The speaker provided a nuanced historical overview of the evolution of weather science during the colonial period, highlighting its institutional growth, scientific methodologies, and administrative relevance. The lecture also examined how colonial imperatives shaped meteorological practices in India.

Dr. Sinha emphasized the interaction between colonial scientific frameworks and indigenous knowledge systems, offering students a broader perspective on the history of science. The session was interactive, with students actively participating in the discussion and engaging with the speaker through questions and observations.

Students' Seminar:

Following the invited lecture, a students' seminar was conducted where students from Semester I and Semester III (Major) actively participated by presenting papers in group-wise sessions on a wide range of historical themes.

The topics presented included Renaissance in the Twelfth Century, Medieval Art and Architecture, Origin and Crisis of Feudalism, Decline of the Maurya Empire, Indo-Roman Trade, and Gupta: The Golden Age Debate. Students worked collaboratively within groups and presented their research findings before faculty members and peers.

The seminar provided an opportunity for students to improve their presentation skills, communication abilities, and subject knowledge. Faculty members offered constructive feedback after each presentation, encouraging meaningful academic dialogue.

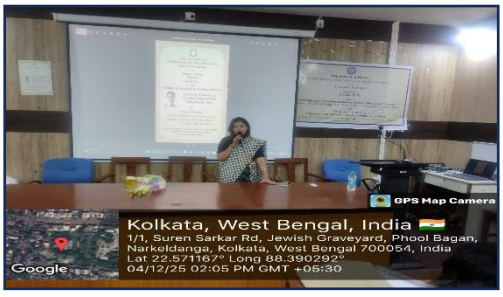
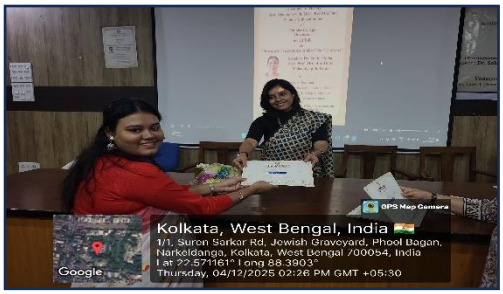
A detailed list of participants with group-wise distribution is maintained by the Department of History for official records.

The group with the best presentation was awarded with the ‘Best Paper’ certificate.

Objectives:

- To introduce undergraduate students to interdisciplinary perspectives in historical studies, with special reference to the history of science and environment.
- To encourage undergraduate students to engage in research-based learning through structured seminar presentations.
- To develop critical thinking and analytical skills.
- To encourage interaction between students and external academic experts, fostering academic curiosity and motivation for higher studies and research.

Outcomes:

- Students gained a deeper understanding of the historical evolution of weather science in colonial India and its broader socio-political implications.
- Participants improved their research, presentation, and communication skills through active participation in the seminar.
- The seminar enhanced students’ confidence in academic discourse and encouraged collaborative and peer learning.

Glimpses from the Event