

Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies & Research, Sister Nivedita University along with the School of Performing Arts, Sister Nivedita University offers a two-day short course on '**Jyotirindranath Thakur (1849-1925): The Ignored Genius**'. Certificates will be provided to the participants on successful completion of the course. The Course will be offered at the Sister Nivedita University Main Campus, Newtown in Hybrid mode (both in-person and online) for College, University Faculty, Research Scholars and Final year PG Students, and other interested people on the issue. The Course will be offered on 4th & 5th March 2025 (Tuesday & Wednesday), 1pm - 6 pm.

Course Fee : Rs. 700/- for in-person & Rs. 500/- for online participants. Please note that on-line candidates must reside beyond 30 kilometres from Sister Nivedita University, Main Campus, Newtown.

Registration open till : 12 noon, 3rd March 2025

Course fee to be deposited in the following account :

Account Name : Sister Nivedita University

Bank Name : INDUSIND BANK

Branch : Rajarhat, Kolkata

Account No. : 100105002920

IFSC Code : INDB0001576

Minimum/Maximum participants : 15/40

For outstation candidates, accommodation cannot be provided.

Queries to : bula.b@snuniv.ac.in, chandni.b@snuniv.ac.in

Objectives & Outcomes :

The grandson of Dwarkanath Thakur (Tagore) and the fifth son of Debendranath Thakur, Jyotirindranath was born in the Thakur family of Jorasanko, in 1849. Jyotirindranath was a playwright, a musician and composer, an editor and scholar, and a painter. The renowned historian and writer Romesh Chunder Dutt was his class friend who in England had discourses with Sister Nivedita and brought to her notice the Economics affairs of India. While studying for the First Arts examination in Presidency College, Jyotirindranath developed interest in the theatre and left his studies to practice and stage dramas at home. When viewed against the exceptionally brilliant achievements of his younger brother, Rabindranath Tagore, he lost much of his shine. However, having been born in the same family and being twelve years his senior, Jyotirindranath assisted in the development of his younger brother Rabindranath with examples, encouragement and companionship. Jyotirindranath took part in the role of Ahalyadevi, a brave queen, in one of the first plays being staged in Bengal, Krishnakumari by Michael Madhusudan Dutta. This confirmed Jyotirindranath in his aspiration to become a playwright. It was not enough for him to write plays which had to be staged, he developed a cultural organisation and named it *Bidvajjan-Samagam* in 1874.

This organisation also provided Rabindranath an opportunity to stage some of his early plays and dance dramas. Jyotirindranath a multi-faceted individual, played the piano, harmonium, violin, and sitar and remained as the one who played the most important role in creating an atmosphere of music at Jorasanko. We find in this the rise of a celebrated line of musical and dramatic culture in the house of the Thakurs (Tagores), which was much more polished and enlightened in character than most other such families of this time in Bengal. The chief architect of this development was Jyotirindranath. Although the entire process emanated from an aristocratic circle, the songs obtained wide circulation in society generally. Indeed, their greatest service was to create a common taste for refined lyrics relying on a polished and melodic line. *Jyotidada* as affectionately addressed by Rabi was attracted towards drawing and sketching. He sketched the portraits of many persons in the family. Of Rabindranath there are numerous sketches in different styles. Around 2,000 sketches of Jyotirindranath are preserved in the Rabindra Bharati University Museum. Some of his sketches were published in *Bharati* in 1912. Dwarkanath Thakur was a pioneering and legendary figure in business activities. Jyotirindranath following suit earned some profits from indigo cultivation. He could not continue with indigo cultivation as result of the drop in demand subsequent to discovery of chemical indigo in Germany. Eager to invest his profits in some business venture and realising there was a need for a steamer link between Khulna and Barisal he bought the shell of a steamer and fitted it with engines before pressing it into service as *Sarojini*. That was in 1884. Rabindranath's dance drama *Mayar Khela* relies heavily on Jyotirindranath's tunes. Jyotirindranath also continued to develop his elder brother Dwijendranath's efforts to find notations for Bengali music. He founded journals and a society to develop and popularize this work. He was secretary of the Adi Brahma Samaj from 1869 to 1888. Jyotirindranath was married to Kadambari Devi on 5 July 1868. As he was in the forefront of the movement for women's education and emancipation, he arranged for her education. Sometimes, Jyotirindranath arranged an evening 'Jalsa' on a river-boat, where he would play the violin and Rabi would sing songs. Carefree days thus glided by. The main reason behind Jyotirindranath's fascination for Chandernagore was, perhaps, his passion for French literature, culture and heritage. Jyotirindranath Thakur was a scholar of French language and literature. Malabika Mandal in '*Jyotirindranather Oitibashik Natok*' records that he not only learnt the foreign language assiduously from Manmohan Ghosh but also translated Moliere's plays 'Le Mariage Force' ('*Daye Pore Daygraha*') and 'Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme' ('*Hotbat Nabab*') into Bengali language (Mandal, 25). The shadow of Racine's 'Alexandre le Grand' is conspicuously perceptible in the soulful essence of Jyotirindranath's play '*Purubikram*'.

Against this backdrop, we are offering a two-day short course on Jyotirindranath Thakur, the purpose of the course being unfolding of a multi-dimensional personality. He was a playwright, a musician, a composer, an editor and scholar, a painter, and an entrepreneur. In observing 100 years of his demise, on 4 March 2025, this course looks back at the historical period to which Jyotirindranath Thakur belonged. In this course his fascination for Chandernagore linked to his passion for French literature, culture and heritage would be explored along with his interests in music, painting, and drama along with his entrepreneurial endeavour. Jyotirindranath Thakur, lovingly referred to as '*Jyotidada*' played a major role in the flowering of the talents of his younger brother, the first non-European Nobel Prize winner, Rabindranath Thakur. This course hopefully will be a new addition creating a Pathway for moving ahead without forgetting to look back. We humbly state this is a pioneering effort on the Life and Activities of Jyotirindranath Thakur.

Knowhow you will learn :

- 1) Jyotirindranath on drama/natok.
 - 2) Jyotirindranath Thakur as a musician and initiator of the Bengali music score writing.
 - 3) Jyotirindranath Thakur as a dramatist & painter.
 - 4) Jyotirindranath Thakur as an entrepreneur.
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