BIRPARA COLLEGE
Affiliated to: University of North Bengal
Government aided co education degree colleges
Accredited by NAAC

Birpara, Alipurduar,
West Bengal, PIN-735204

birparacollege.ac.in / birparacollege.com
birparacollege@gmail.com
03563-266217

Ref. No: **BC/N/502**

Date: **11/May/2025**

General Notice

The Departments of English and Bengali, in association with the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University, under the guidance of the IQAC, Birpara College, with support from the Wikimedia Knowledge Equity Fund, will jointly organise a Two-day State-level Workshop on Digital Archiving for Endangered Cultures in Birpara College on May 13-14, 2025. Participation at the workshop is free, but only 25 seats are available and preference will be given to students and other applicants from indigenous communities. For registration, click on the link below:
https://forms.gle/1KjT7V88bzZvHVas8
Registration closes on Monday, 12.05.2025 at 12 noon.
The workshop sessions will take place from 11am to 4 pm on both days, with a short lunch break in between. Participants will be given packed lunch and refreshments on both days and certificate of participation at the end of Day 2.

Dr. Kaustav Chakrabarti
Principal
Birpara College

Two-Day State-Level Workshop

On

DIGITAL ARCHIVING FOR ENDANGERED CULTURES

13-14 May, 2025

WIKISOURCE

Jointly organized by

Departments of English & Bengali, Birpara College

In association with

School of Cultural Texts and Records (SCTR), Jadavpur University

Under the Guidance of

IQAC, Birpara College

With Support from

Wikimedia Knowledge Equity Fund

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Theme of the Workshop

The focal theme of the workshop "Digital Archiving for Endangered Cultures: Creating Community Archives Using Wikimedia" centers on empowering communities to take control of their cultural heritage through open, participatory digital platforms. As countless languages, traditions, and local knowledge systems face extinction due to globalization, conflict, or marginalization, this workshop emphasizes the urgent need to preserve and disseminate these intangible cultural assets in accessible and collaborative digital formats.

Leveraging Wikimedia platforms—such as Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, and Wikidata—the workshop promotes decentralized, community-led documentation strategies that allow local stakeholders, scholars, activists, and volunteers to collaboratively safeguard endangered cultures. Participants are introduced to best practices in ethical archiving, including respecting community consent, accurate attribution, multilingual content creation, and inclusive representation. Through practical, hands-on training, the workshop equips attendees with the technical and editorial skills to upload media, edit entries, and curate culturally sensitive and contextually rich archives that remain open and reusable for future generations.

A central tenet of the workshop is its focus on "knowledge equity"—the principle that all people, regardless of location or status, should have the ability to both contribute to and benefit from the global knowledge commons. It recognizes that traditional academic or institutional archives often exclude or misrepresent indigenous or marginalized narratives. In response, the workshop fosters an ethos of shared stewardship, where knowledge holders are empowered as co-creators, not just subjects of documentation. In sum, the workshop is a call to action for sustainable, community-driven cultural preservation. It envisions Wikimedia not merely as a digital tool, but as a platform for justice, resilience, and cultural continuity in the face of global cultural homogenization.

About the College

Birpara College is a grant-in-aid, co-educational, undergraduate degree college located in Birpara town in the district of Alipurduar, West Bengal and affiliated to the University of North Bengal (NBU). The college enjoys UGC recognition under 12B and 2(f) since 1993. In 2016, the college was assessed and accredited by NAAC.

About SCTR

The School of Cultural Texts and Records (SCTR) was set up at Jadavpur University, Kolkata in 2003 to consolidate the activities of the university across the broad field of archiving, digitization, bibliography, textual studies, editing and book history. The School has since emerged as the pioneering center of digital humanities and cultural informatics in India, managing a variety of archives, including text, images, music, oral histories, and audio-visual records.

About the Knowledge Equity Fund

The Wikimedia Foundation Knowledge Equity Fund is a US$4.5 million fund created by the Wikimedia Foundation in 2020 to provide grants to external organizations that support knowledge equity by addressing the racial inequities preventing access and participation in free knowledge across the world. SCTR was the recipient of the grant in 2024.

Expected Outcomes of the Seminar

- The workshop is designed for both beginners and experts, particularly those focused on preserving the cultural heritage of underrepresented or endangered communities in Bengal and surrounding areas. It is also ideal for those who wish to share their community's knowledge via Wikimedia.
- Learn how to set up a digitization project on a budget.
- Gain hands-on experience in sharing digital archives with a global audience for free.
- Contribute to Wikimedia in your mother tongue, enhancing the visibility of your community's heritage.

Registration Fee

There is NO Registration Fee for attending the Workshop

For Registration, click here

Instructors

Ayan Chatterjee Doctoral Fellow ***School of Cultural Texts and Records (SCTR), JU***	**Reesoom Pal** Doctoral Fellow ***School of Cultural Texts and Records (SCTR), JU***

Chief Patron

Prof. Piyal Basu Roy
President, Governing Body, Birpara College

Patrons

Dr. Kaustav Chakrabarti
Principal, Birpara College

Mr. Joyabrata Bhattacharya
Member, Governing Body, Birpara College

Conveners

Dr. Nikhilesh Bhattacharya
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Birpara College

Dr. Jyotirmay Roy
Assistant Professor, Department of Bengali, Birpara College

Organizing Secretary

Mrs. Shova Lepcha
Assistant Professor, Department of Nepali, Birpara College

Organising Committee

Dr. Arnab Chakraborty
Associate Professor, Department of Bengali, Birpara College

Dr. Dil Kumar Pradhan
Associate Professor, Department of Nepali, Birpara College

Mr. Ranjit Roy
Assistant Professor, Department of Bengali, Birpara College

Mr. Pranoy Dey
Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Birpara College

Venue

GIS Laboratory, Department of Geography, Birpara College

Contact for Details

Dr. Nikhilesh Bhattacharya- 8327690022

Google Map Location
https://tinyurl.com/2mk5samu

How to Reach

Birpara College is located in Birpara, a town in the Alipurduar district of West Bengal, India. It is well-connected by both rail and road.

🚆 The nearest railway station is Dalgaon, which lies on the Siliguri Junction–Malbazar-Alipurduar line. The stations is about 500 m from the college.

🚌 Birpara is well-connected by road via NH-31C.

✈️ The nearest airport is Bagdogra Airport (IXB), located near Siliguri, approximately 135 km from Birpara.

N.B. No Provision of Accommodation and T.A./D.A. Registration includes workshop kit, lunch and refreshments on both days.