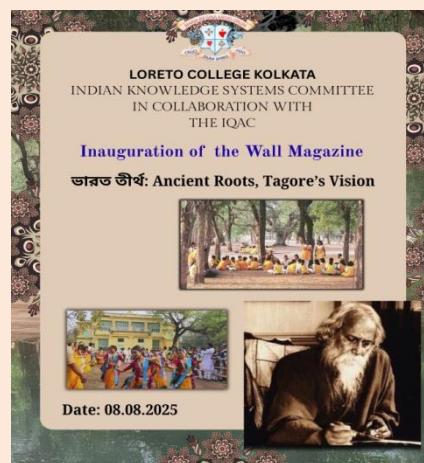
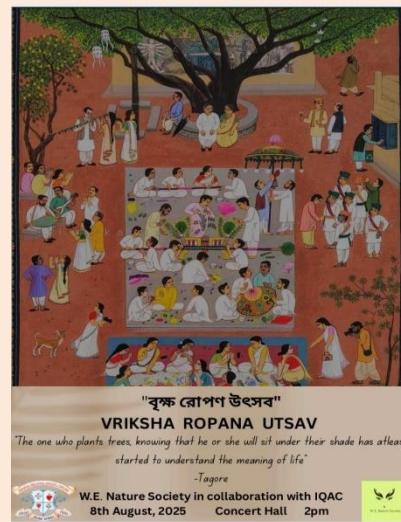
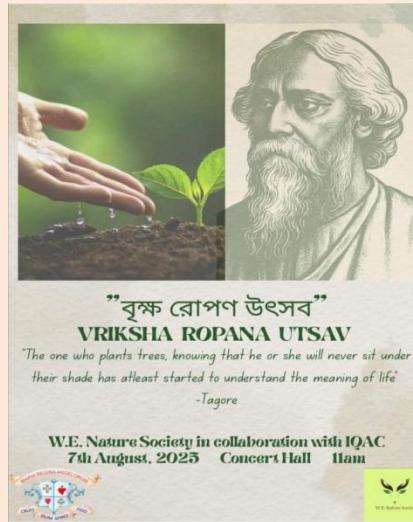
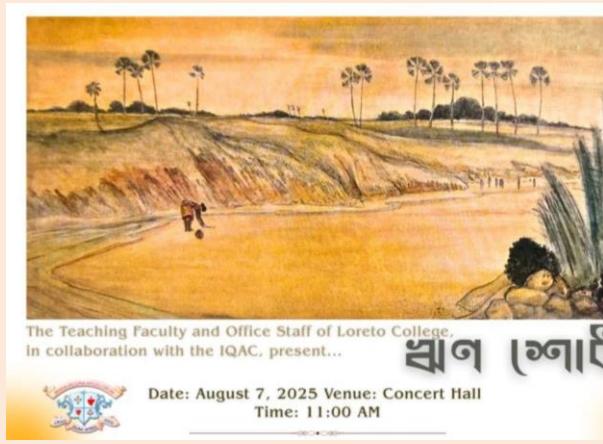


IN TAGORE'S FOOTSTEPS

August 7 & 8



In the Bengali calendar, *BaisheSrabon* marks the day of Rabindranath Tagore's demise (August 7, 1941). The same date also marks the observation of *VrikshaRopana Utsav*, a celebration of nature's bounty through the planting of trees—a ritual that Tagore initiated in 1928 by planting a bokul sapling in Pearson Pally, Santiniketan. To commemorate the significance of this day, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Loreto College, Kolkata organised a series of innovative programmes on August 7 and 8, 2025. The initiative was driven by the encouraging support of Teacher-in-Charge, Sr. Dr. A. Nirmala. The principal objective of the event was to go beyond Tagore's identity as poet and philosopher in order to venture into a relatively underexplored dimension of Tagore's thought: his vision of rural enterprise and economic regeneration coupled with community empowerment and environmental sustainability.

On August 7, under the direction of Dr. Amrita Dasgupta, a cultural presentation entitled “*Amar NayanoBhulanoEle: Rheenshodh* (Reparation)” was staged by the faculty and staff of the college before a rapt audience of students. The programme upheld a longstanding annual tradition at Loreto College whereby current and former members of the faculty and staff come together to celebrate Tagore's philosophy and vision through the performative arts. This year, the programme wove together an intricate tapestry of Tagore's songs from *Sarat* and *Barsha parjaye*, an excerpt from his short story “*Shasti*,” and an adaptation of his play *Rheenshodh*. Through narration, dance, and music, the presentation highlighted Tagore's economic philosophy concerning rural life.

Building on the same set of themes, the programme on August 8 began with a sapling-planting initiative inspired by Tagore's *VrikshaRopana Utsav*, organised by the W.E. Nature Society with the active collaboration of the support staff of the college. This was followed by a heart-warming musical performance by the children of Boinchatala, the adopted village of the NSS Unit of Loreto College. A wall magazine on “*Bharat Tirtha: Ancient Roots, Tagore's Vision*” was inaugurated thereafter by the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Committee. The Literary Society also announced a national-level creative writing competition on “Revitalising Tagore's Legacy of Agricultural Entrepreneurship,” to be conducted for undergraduate students all over India throughout the month of August.

A special highlight of the second day was an interactive session with renowned industrialist and Padma Shri awardee, Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia, whose work reflects the fusion of enterprise with strong aesthetic, cultural, and ethical principles. The conversation, which was facilitated by Dr. Anindita Bandyopadhyay, hosted by Dr. Sukanya Dasgupta, and moderated by Mr. Nilavo Roy, focused on Tagore's entrepreneurial legacy and its impact on Mr. Neotia's notable contributions in the field of social housing. Mr. Neotia remarked on the strong sense of social responsibility that had governed many of his projects and the lessons on sustainability and holistic development that he had derived from his extensive reading of Tagore. The session

concluded with an open discussion during which Mr. Neotia warmly engaged with the students of Loreto College.

Learning Objectives

- To explore Rabindranath Tagore's multifaceted legacy beyond poetry and philosophy, focusing on his vision of rural enterprise, community empowerment, and environmental sustainability.
- To cultivate an understanding of Tagore's initiatives such as VrikshaRopana Utsav as models for integrating cultural traditions with ecological awareness.
- To encourage critical reflection on the intersection of art, literature, and social reform in Tagore's thought.
- To foster experiential learning through cultural performances, tree-planting, and student-led creative initiatives that embody Tagore's ideals.
- To engage students with contemporary reflections on Tagore's entrepreneurial vision through interaction with thought leaders and practitioners.

Learning Outcomes

- Analyse Tagore's contributions to rural economic regeneration and environmental sustainability, situating them within the broader framework of his cultural philosophy.
- Recognise the significance of initiatives like VrikshaRopana Utsav as practices that combine ecological consciousness with community participation.
- Appreciate the role of performance arts (music, dance, theatre, storytelling) in communicating philosophical and socio-economic ideas.
- Demonstrate awareness of how Tagore's legacy continues to inform modern discussions on entrepreneurship, sustainability, and social responsibility.
- Apply insights from Tagore's vision by contributing creatively—whether through cultural expression, academic writing, or community engagement initiatives.
- Engage critically with contemporary entrepreneurs (e.g. Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia) to understand the practical relevance of Tagore's ideals in today's socio-economic context.

Total Number of Participants: 200

Total Number of Respondents: 183

