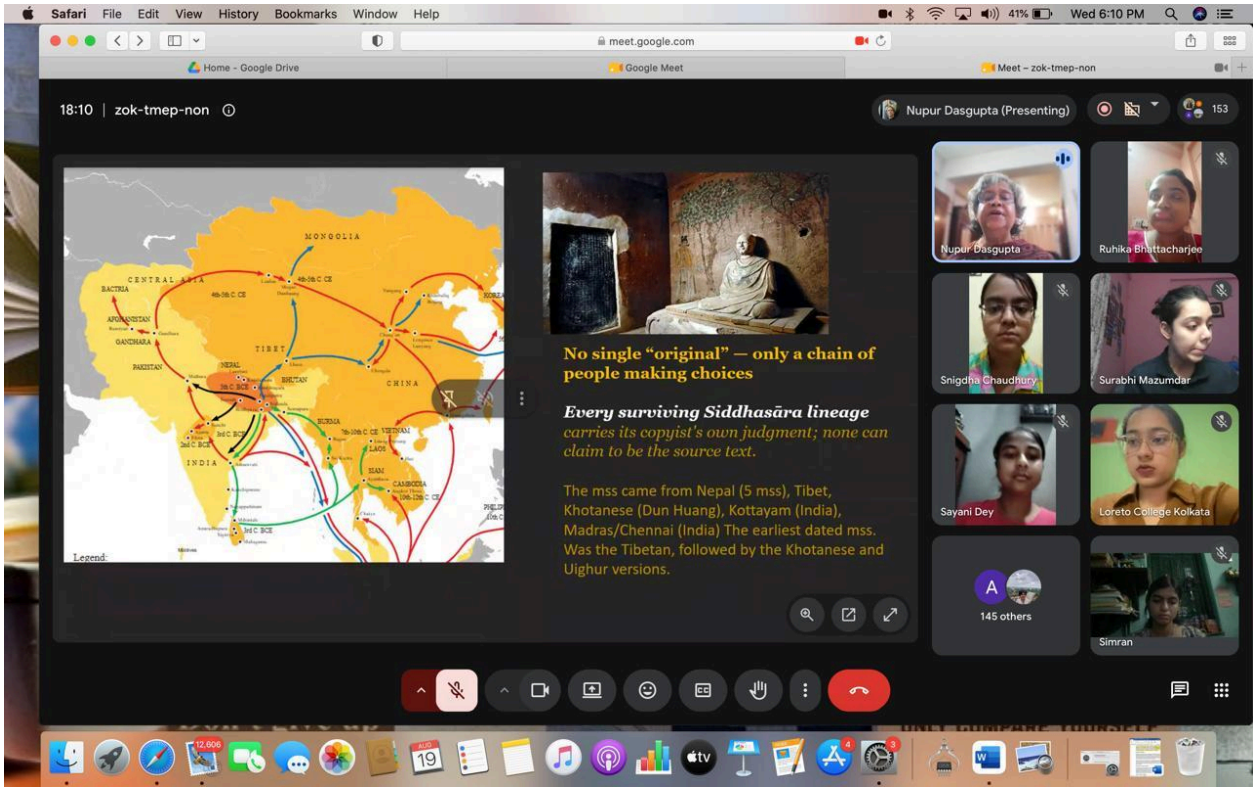
Department of History- National Online Lecture on IKS on 19 August 2026

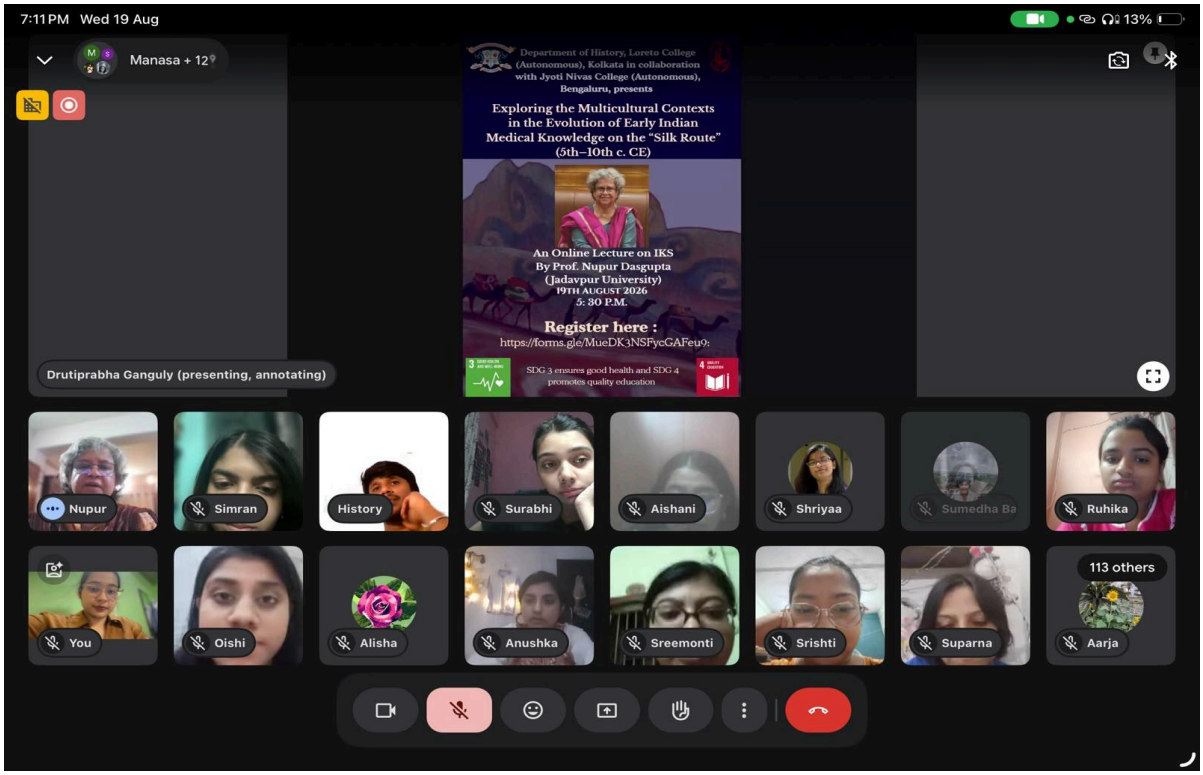
The Department of History Loreto College in collaboration with the Department of History Jyoti Niwas College (Autonomous) Bengaluru, organized an National Online Lecture on IKS on **"Exploring the Multicultural Contexts in the Evolution of Early Indian Medical Knowledge on the Silk Route (5th–10th c. CE** ,delivered by Professor Nupur Dasgupta, Professor (Retd.) Department of History, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. The seminar brought together students and faculty members from different colleges. Professor Dasgupta presented an engaging exploration of the Silk Route as a dynamic corridor for the exchange of medical knowledge, cultural traditions, and scholarly interactions across India, Tibet, Nepal, Central Asia, China, and Southeast Asia. The lecture provided a fascinating insight into the evolution and transmission of early Indian medical knowledge across Asia through the Silk Route and highlighted the importance of cultural exchange in shaping the medical traditions of the ancient world. Professor Dasgupta began by explaining that the Silk Route was not merely a network for trade but also a vibrant channel for the exchange of ideas, religion, science, and medicine.

At the outset, she challenged the conventional notion that knowledge travels unchanged from one place to another. Instead, she argued that the movement of medical ideas was shaped by translation, adaptation, and reinterpretation. As she observed, "Knowledge is not a finished inheritance but a continuous process of transformation, shaped by every hand that copies, translates, and interprets it." This idea formed the central theme of the lecture and encouraged the audience to view knowledge as a living tradition.The speaker explained that manuscripts were never static texts. Every copyist introduced subtle variations, making each manuscript a witness to historical, linguistic, and cultural change. She emphasized that there is no single 'original' manuscript, rather, every surviving version reflects the choices and intellectual judgement of generations of scribes. Through examples from the Siddhasāra manuscripts preserved in Nepal, Tibet, Khotan, and South India, she demonstrated how medical knowledge evolved while retaining its essential core.

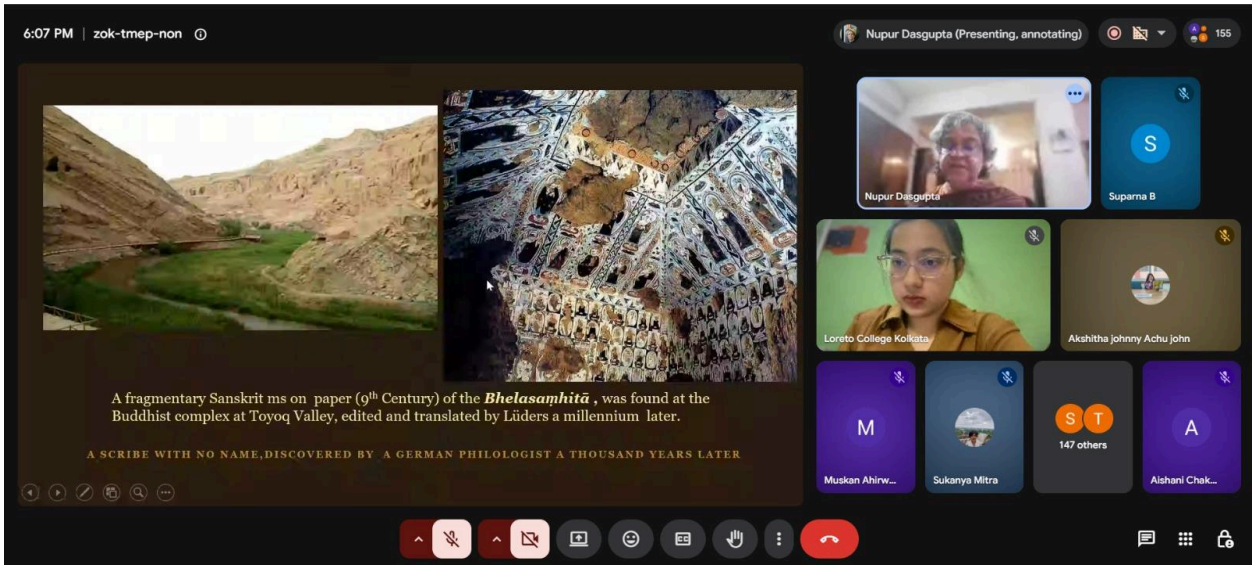
Professor Dasgupta stressed on the fact that it is the Buddhist monk and translator Fa-tien, whose translations into Chinese ensured the preservation of significant Indian medical texts. The lecture also underscored the contributions of Buddhist monastic networks, merchants, and travelling scholars in fostering an interconnected intellectual world, thereby giving rise to a shared and multicultural medical heritage. The lecture further explored the role of Buddhist networks, the Longmen Grottoes, and the movement of scholars across the Silk Route in creating a shared medical heritage. She concluded that the history of medicine should be understood as the outcome of multicultural interactions, collaboration, and intellectual exchange rather than as the achievement of a single civilization. She encouraged participants to appreciate manuscripts not merely as historical records but as evidence of ongoing intellectual exchange and cultural interaction. This perspective offered a deeper understanding of how medical traditions evolved through collaboration rather than isolation.

The seminar concluded by reaffirming that the history of medicine can be best understood as the outcome of sustained dialogue, collaboration, and cultural exchange among diverse communities. The session was both intellectually stimulating and deeply enriching, broadening the participant's understanding of the multicultural foundations of early Indian medical knowledge and inspiring them to appreciate the enduring significance of cross-cultural interactions in the making of history.


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Wed 6:10 PM
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Nupur Dasgupta (Presenting)
153
MONGOLIA
CENTRAL ASIA
BACTRIA
AFGHANISTAN
GANDHARA
PAKISTAN
TIBET
NEPAL
BHUTAN
CHINA
INDIA
BURMA
LAOS
SIAM
CAMBODIA
Legend:
No single "original" — only a chain of people making choices
Every surviving Siddhasāra lineage carries its copyist's own judgment; none can claim to be the source text.
The mss came from Nepal (5 mss), Tibet, Khotanese (Dun Huang), Kottayam (India), Madras/Chennai (India) The earliest dated mss. Was the Tibetan, followed by the Khotanese and Uighur versions.
Nupur Dasgupta
Ruhika Bhattacharjee
Snigdha Chaudhury
Surabhi Mazumdar
Sayani Dey
Loreto College Kolkata
145 others
Simran


7:11 PM Wed 19 Aug
13%
Manasa + 12
Department of History, Loreto College (Autonomous), Kolkata in collaboration with Jyoti Nivas College (Autonomous), Bengaluru, presents
Exploring the Multicultural Contexts in the Evolution of Early Indian Medical Knowledge on the "Silk Route" (5th–10th c. CE)
An Online Lecture on IKS
By Prof. Nupur Dasgupta
(Jadavpur University)
19TH AUGUST 2026
5: 30 P.M.
Register here :
https://forms.gle/MueDK3NSFycGAFeu9:
SDG 3 ensures good health and SDG 4 promotes quality education
Drutiprabha Ganguly (presenting, annotating)
Nupur
Simran
History
Surabhi
Aishani
Shriyaa
Sumedha Ba
Ruhika
You
Oishi
Alisha
Anushka
Sreemonti
Srishti
Suparna
113 others
Aarja


5:53 PM Wed 19 Aug
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The Silk Road at Its Height in the Late 8th Century
Buddhist Sangha and Community infrastructure
Nupur Dasgupta (presenting, annotating)
Nupur
Suparna
Anindita
Muskan
Sansam
History
Sneha
Sayani
You
Valentina
Asha Prisi
Soumile
Saida
Christine
Atreyee
140 others
Amisha ku


6:07 PM | zok-tmep-non
Nupur Dasgupta (Presenting, annotating)
155
A fragmentary Sanskrit ms on paper (9th Century) of the Bhelasaṃhitā , was found at the Buddhist complex at Toyoq Valley, edited and translated by Lüders a millennium later.
A SCRIBE WITH NO NAME,DISCOVERED BY A GERMAN PHILOLOGIST A THOUSAND YEARS LATER
Nupur Dasgupta
Suparna B
Loreto College Kolkata
Akshitha johnny Achu john
Muskan Ahirw...
Sukanya Mitra
147 others
Aishani Chak...