

Annual Report 2021-2022

Dear teaching and non-teaching staff, parents, guardians, well-wishers and students a very good morning and a hearty welcome to all of you for the X-celence Day. On this day I feel honoured to welcome in our midst hon'ble Chief Guest of the day Prof (Dr) Pranab Ghosh who is the Officiating Registrar of North Bengal University. Respected sir, thank you very much for sparing some of your precious time in order to be with us. Your presence will definitely motivate and inspire our students to perform even better in their academic as well as non-academic fields and certainly in their lives. Hearty welcome to all of you parents and guardians who have come to witness your wards being awarded & felicitated for their performances.

Today is a very significant day for all of us gathered here as we celebrate our 13th College Day- popularly known as **X-celence Day** when we felicitate the awardees and celebrate the achievements of both students and staff in academic as well as non-academic fields. I congratulate toppers and achievers in studies and outstanding performers in non-academic fields.

Annual Report 2021-22

On this wonderful day, I deem it an honour to present before you our Annual College Report of the year 2021-22 documenting achievements and developments.

As I look back, I realize how the first part of the Academic Session was marked by continued lockdown due to pandemic, setting uncertainty and creating perhaps one of the most difficult phases of our educational life. The 2nd half of November 2021 came as a blessing when the in-person classes were permitted by the state govt until the end of the year. The dawn of the New Year did not prove to be harbinger of good news as govt announced yet another indefinite lockdown thereby depriving the enthusiastic bunch of students from continuing their physical classes. However, with a paradigm shift in imparting of education through use of virtual mode, staff and students went back to the comfort zones of their homes until March 2022 when after the end of online exams, in-persons classes commenced with surety keeping the invisible enemy at abeyance. I will now enumerate various academic and non-academic activities that were carried out during the academic year despite many hurdles.

1. Institutional NAAC Accreditation with B+ (1st Cycle)

One of the most remarkable events during and despite the pandemic was the accreditation of the college. In its 13 years of existence the college finally completed its accreditation process for the 1st Cycle by National Assessment and Accreditation Council after the visit of NAAC Peer Team on 10th and 11th September, 2021. The Peer team was led by the chairman Prof (Dr) Ramesh Pandey, two-time former Vice Chancellor of Ranchi University. At the end of the visit the College was accredited with **B+** which was commendable achievement considering the pandemic restricted movements when the work was undertaken and unsurmountable challenges of procuring many supporting documents as proof of programmes and activities conducted by the college in the past

College NAAC Core Committee involved in the process is determined to get higher grade in the next cycle.

As a follow up of the NAAC assessment we have submitted our 1st AQAR (Annual Quality Assurance Report) for year 2020-21.

2. Academic Performance of our Students

The number of university rank achievers from our college is on the rise and every year we get some university toppers. However, due to the home bound/take home online mode of exams followed by evaluation of answer scripts by faculties of respective colleges, there was a huge surge in marks obtained by almost all students. Considering new situations which didn't give rise to fair competition, university decided not to place students in various categories of merits, such as gold medallists or silver medallist, at the end of the academic session. Nevertheless, I congratulate each student for bravely coping up with an extraordinary situation and unprecedented circumstances to write the exams, thereby exhibiting great resilience in adversities.

Exam Results for year 2020-21

Rajganj Campus

SEMESTER BATCH / CBCS SYSTEM (2020-21)

COURSE	STUDENTS	O	A+	A	B+	F
B.A. (H)	127	0	13	57	55	2
B.COM. (H)	42	0	3	23	16	0
B.COM. (P)	10	0	0	0	8	2
B.SC. (H)	71	7	31	19	10	4
TOTAL STUDENTS	250	7	47	99	89	8

1+1+1 OLD SYSTEM (2020-21)

COURSE		1st CLASS	2nd CLASS
B.A. (H)	5	1	4
B.COM. (H)	1	1	0
B.COM. (G)	1	0	1
B.SC. (H)	9	8	1
TOTAL STUDENTS	16	10	6

SEMESTER BATCH / CBCS SYSTEM (2020-21)

COURSE	STUDENTS	O	A+	A	B+	F
B.BA. (H)	12				12	
B.COM. (H)	17			11	6	
TOTAL STUDENTS	29			11	18	0

3. Achievements by Teaching Faculty

Five of our faculty members, after having successfully defended their doctoral thesis, received the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Degree in 2021-22, They are:

Dr. Aparna Chatterjee (Dept of Sociology) with the title, "Theravadi Buddhists of Siliguri: A Study of Socio-Cultural Distinctiveness and Exchange".

Dr. Haimanti Barman (Dept of Bengali) with the title, *Jyotirindra Nandi choto golpo: Jibon-Jigyasar Bohumatrik Roop Anweshon.*

Dr. Baidurya Biswas, (Dept of Geography) with the title, "Effects of Terrain characteristics on land use land cover in Sanka River Basis (West Bengal and Jharkhand)"

Dr. Soumya Mitra (Dept of Geography) with the title, "Socio-Economic status and adaptation of migrant workers from the plains to Sikkim's informal sector: Studies on Singtam and Rangpo Towns".

Dr Deepika Majumdar (dept of Microbiology) with the title, "Studying the effects of plan growth prompting Rhizobacteria on the growth and seed yield of *Brassica campestris L.* (Mustard Plant)".

We congratulate all the five Doctors for achieving this great feat!

Good news is that there are half a dozen of our teachers who are either on the verge of submitting their doctoral theses or awaiting their report from external experts before thesis defence while about a dozen more are either pursuing Ph.D at different stages or starting their course works. We wish all of them a great success!

4. Publication in Journals and/or Books

During 2020-21 Dr. Aparna Chatterjee's 1 article was published in *South Asian Anthropologists* and Dr Dipika Mazumdar, along with her colleagues published 3 scientific articles in 3 journals, namely *Functional Plant Biology*, *Journal of Plant Nutrition* and *Scientific Reports*.

Again during 2020-21, Dr. Bipranch Kumar Tiway's 3 chapters were published in Edited Volume, Dr Dipika Mazumdar's 1 chapter and also Fr. Lalit P. Tirkey's 2 chapters were published in edited books.

5. Recognitions/Achievements by our Teaching Faculty:

Five of our faculty members were approved/appointed as Supervisors or co-guides by the University of North Bengal to supervise Ph.D Scholars or doctoral students. They are: Dr. Chandrani Choudhury & Dr. Sourish Das Gupta (in Dept of Botany), Dr. Biprakash Kr. Tiwary (in Dept of Microbiology), Dr. Asim Mitra (Dept of Life Long Learning) and Fr (Dr) Lalit P. Tirkey (HRDC-Economics).

WB Higher Education Council awarded NSS unit of our College as the Best NSS unit award in 2020.

Dr Baidurya Biswas, was awarded the best NSS Programme Officer for 2020.

6. Major College Events

Our college organized various events on virtual platforms and later physical platform during the academic year 2020-21 and 22. Here are the details of some events:

Farewell of Graduating students: Final Year graduating students were given Farewell on the Online mode. The programme was pre-recorded and was uploaded onto Youtube and College Facebook for the viewers to watch the programme sitting at home.

Similarly, Orientation of Freshers was conducted using virtual platform

On 27 August, **Young Teachers' Orientation** was conducted using virtual platform where Fr Dr Daniel Bara, the 1st Principal of St Xavier's College, Lengpui, Aizwal, was the resource person.

7. Conferences / Seminars / Workshops

The year witnessed different workshops being organised:

7.1. International Seminar

Perhaps for the first time in the college, Dept of English and Sociology jointly organised a 2-day International Seminar on, 'Revisiting Partition: Social, Cultural and Literary Context(s)' on 30 and 31 May, 2022. While Prof (Dr) Sayeed Ferdous from Jehangir Nagar University, Dhaka was the keynote speaker, there were hosts of other eminent and distinguished speakers who spoke on the occasion.

7.2. Departmental Workshops/Seminars

Our college values continuing education and encourages the departments to organize seminars and workshops; thereby, creating opportunities for both faculty and students to develop themselves professionally and disseminate knowledge. Taking advantage of physical classes from March, 2022, several activities were conducted by different departments. Here are the details:

- Dept of Sociology: On 30th November, 2021, organised a E-Lecture on 'Covid-19 Pandemic & Lockdown: The Plight and Humanitarian Crisis of Migrant Workers in India'.
- On 14th December, 2021, organised a Special Lecture on 'Gender & Media' by Dr. Sourini Banerjee, Dept of Visual Communication, The American College, Madurai
- On 3rd and 4th June, 2022, organised a 2-day workshop on 'Visual Sociology' in collaboration with Surya Sen Mahavidyalaya, where the resource person was, Mr Sourav Sarkar, a nationally acclaimed film maker and social educator
- Department of History, On April, 2022, organised an Invited Lectures on 'Colonial and Post-Colonial Periods', wherein a professor each from Pacham Barman University, Cooch Behar; Dr. Taithi Sarkar, University of North Bengal and Principal of Siliguri College were the special speakers.
- Department of Commerce & Management, on 1st February, 2022, organised a workshop on, "Mutual Fund and Stock Broking Industry" in collaboration with Prudent Wealth
- On 20 May, 2022, organised students' workshop on GST where the resource person was Vishal Jain (CA) from the Institute of Chartered Accountant of India
- On 10th & 11th June, 2022 organised a 2-day workshop on 'Research Methodology & Time Series Data Analysis' wherein the resource persons were Prof. (Dr.) J. K. Das, Dean, Department of Commerce, University of Calcutta and Dr. Amlan Ghosh, Associate Professor, Department of Management Studies, NIT, Durgapur
- Students of BBA (Siliguri Campus) participated in St. Xavier's Kolkata organised XMC'22 (Xavier Management Convention) an online annual completion involving management students
- Department of English: on the 8th of October, 2021, Organised Special E-Lecture titled "The Practice of Humanities and Voices at the Margin: The Case of Indian Anglophone Muslim Novels" by Dr. Mosarrap Hossain Khan, O. P. Jindal Global University, India.
- on the 17th of December, 2021, organised Special E-Lecture titled "Diasporic Hereafters: The Dialectics of Culture and Identity in the context of Indian Diaspora" by Dr. Auritra Munshi, Raiganj University, India.
- on the 20th of May, 2022, an *Offline Special Lecture* was organised titled "Nature Talks" by Ms. Kaushani Mondal, University of North Bengal, India.
- Dept of Geography: on 14th Dec 2021 organised an Online Special Lecture on 'Earth and Evolving Planet' where the speaker was Debadita Bandhopadhyay, a post-doctoral research fellow, the University of Tokyo, Japan.
- Department of Zoology: on 23rd August, 2021 organised a E-seminar titled, Bio-tech start-ups reshaping career & healthcare innovation in India: Challenges & Opportunities' having Dr Neera Singh as the speaker.
- On 29th August, 2021 organised an E-seminar titled 'The role of gut microbiota in human health and disease' having Dr. Priyankar Dey as the speaker.

- On 30th August, 2021 again organised a E-seminar titled '**Life in the universe: Absurd or obvious**' with our own Dr Tamal Mazumdar as the speaker.
- On 20th January, 2022 organised a E-seminar titled '**Amelioration of tress by nutritive substance**' with Dr. Partha Sarathi Nandi as the resource person.

8. Major Activities organised by Cells and Clubs

Our many clubs, cells and committees are always organising activities by involving the staff, students and other stakeholders:

- On 28th March, 2022, NSS volunteers participating in **Unplastic Mahananda Cleanathon**
- Nature Club conducted **Earth Day** by inviting some speakers and especially organising **Poster Competition on the theme: Plastic and Pollution.**
- Again, on 6th June, 2022, Nature Club led the celebration of **World Environment Day** by Tea & Tree Plantation involving administration, staff and students.
- Social Service Cell of the college organised awareness drive among the our neighbouring Balaigacch women folks
- On 11th April 2022, BBA organised an Industrial Visit at Zydus Healthcare Ltd., Sikkim

8.1. Social Outreach Programme

- **Relief Work during Pandemic:** During the 2nd wave of Covid-19 which once again either forced partial one or complete lockdown, the college reached out to the needy people through relief measures in Shikarpur Tea Estate, Jamurivita village, Pabnikheri village and also at Din Bazar in Jalpaiguri Town where apart from dry ration, face masks, hand sanitizers were distributed while also simple medical assistance and medicines and tablets like Paracetamols were distributed to those suffering from fever.
- **Free Vaccination Drive:** Once again during the 2nd wave of Covid-19, College organised two Free Vaccination Camps supported by its parent body- Darjeeling Jesuits of North Bengal. In the 1st Vaccination camp on **DATE** 270 people from neighbouring villages such as, Balaigacch, Kheripara, Hatimore, Shikarpur TE and Jamurivita besides our non-teaching staff were administered Covishield 1st doses by Neotia Getwell Health Centre, Siliguri. In the 2nd Vaccination Camp on August 28, 2021, administered by Medica North Bengal Clinic, Siliguri, 570 poor people were given 1st dose of Covishield.

9. Infrastructural Development:

Despite the Covid-19 induced pandemic curtailing many physical activities, our college witnessed continued infrastructural expansion and growth:

- During this period, the Second Block of the college named Loyola Block was completed. The second block which has been added after about 13 years of the existence of main college building has been connected with Loyola Block using Skywalk.
- Now the focus has shifted to the construction of the 3rd College Block. Already concrete slabs have been laid for two storeys.

- Jesuit Fathers, too received their much-awaited and needed residence in the form of new Xavier Niwas after living in Baalwadi building for nearly 13 years.
- In order to conserve hydroelectric power, and to fulfil the college's motto of 'green and clean campus' on-grid rooftop solar panels were installed which is in addition to the 5 kw off-grid solar panel installed the previous year.
- In the month of April, 2022a new basketball court was constructed.
- In Conference Hall & Auditorium too new sound systems were installed.

10. Administrative Changes and Faculty Appointments

Towards the end of 2021, Fr. Bijay Kirti Kindo SJ replaced Fr. Xavier Alangaram as the Vice Principal (Administration). He was also given additional charge of Estate Manager after sudden transfer of Br. Broney Chettri.

The following new faculty members joined the college during 2021-22 academic session: Dr Payel Paul and Mr Subash Gupta (Dept of Botany); Miss Thinley Tshering Bhutia (Dept of Political Science), Miss Doma Diki Bhutia (Dept of Sociology), Mr Subham Mandal (Dept of English), Mr Sumon Dey (Dept of Computer Sc).

11. Future Plan:

- The most important plans are in the form of implementing the NAAC recommendations for creating Research Culture, Integrated Research Centre as well as conducting many national and international seminars and conferences.
- Depts of Humanities & Social Sciences are working on the publication of an edited volume- which is going to be first of its kind.
- Plans are afoot to construct a girls' hostel.

Last word:

It is an enduring tradition to take time to pause, turn around to look at the fruitful year gone by, achieving both the expected and the unexpected, while setting various milestones and then synergizing ourselves to move ahead to face the challenges in the coming year, with a positive attitude. We thank the Almighty God for all the blessings bestowed upon us year after year, especially during the academic year 2020-21/22.

Our eyes are now on the next year when the college completes 15 years of its existence. In coming days and months, we look for embracing changes, navigating decisions with a steady hand, and focusing on our strengths—it's all part of our commitment to intentional transformation. Let us continue our march and achieve the goals set before us.

Thank you and God bless you all !

Rev. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, SJ

Principal

