



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

St. Joseph's College,
North Point, Darjeeling – 734104

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT (2021-22)

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

1. Celebration of Constitution Day on 26th November, 2022

Constitution Day also known as '*Samvidhan Divas*', is celebrated in India on **26th November** every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from 26th January 1950. Accordingly, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 19th November 2015 notified the decision of Government of India to celebrate the 26th day of November every year as 'Constitution Day' to promote Constitution values among citizens. In view of the above, the Department of Political Science organized a program in the Seminar Hall of the Department where there were student presentations by the Hons students of the Department (Dristi Pariyar V Sem), Siddanth Thapa (III Sem) and Pemala Sherpa (III Sem).

The students also took a Constitutional Pledge to uphold the values espoused by the Constitution. On this occasion a Special Lecture (Ref No. SJC/POLS/SLS-01/21) titled Concepts in the Preamble to the Indian Constitution was delivered by Dr. Gazala Fareedi, Dept. of Political Science, Southfeild College, Darjeeling.



As a follow up, the faculties of the Department Ms. Sharddha Shah, and Ms. Pooja Sharma along with our 1st Semester students were invited to participate in the Constitution Day celebrations at the Department of Mass Communication of our College.



They delivered a talk about the relevance of Constitutional ideals and ideas on this occasion.

2. Special Lecture Series

As a continuation of the flagship program of the Department which commenced in 2016, the Department was pleased to invite Dr. Yogesh Pantha, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Nepali to deliver a Special Lecture (Ref No. SJC/POLS/SLS-02/21) on his newly published book “लोकप्रिय आख्यान” (Lokpriya Akhayan) on 2nd November, 2021 at the Departmental Seminar Hall at 11:00am. The event was presided by Dr. Balaram Uprety, Head, Department of English and witnessed the participation of students from the Political Science and English Departments.



3. Celebration of International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) which global celebration annually on March 8 in the Department Seminar Hall from 10:00am to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women and to bring attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women. The program began with a speech on 'Women's Day' by Dristi Pariyar of 6th Semester and a solo song by Aditi Tamang and Angat Ghising. Dr. Padam Nepal spoke on the importance of recognizing gender and its disparities in the society. Lalit Thapa of 2nd Semester spoke on the contributions of Savitri Phule for the cause of women's education. The program was conducted by Ankita Pradhan and Siddanth Thapa – students of the Department.



4. Silver Jubilee Celebration of Dr Sumita Rai

Dr. Sumita Rai, Associate Professor of our Department completed 25 years of her dedicated service to St. Joseph's College. The Silver Jubilee Celebrations was officially held at the college auditorium held on 20th December, 2021 and in the Department on 8th March, 2022. The students and the faculty of the Department honoured Dr. Rai by cutting a cake and felicitating her with khadas and gifts. Students also entertained the guests through their songs and performances. The Head, spoke on the contribution of Dr. Rai to the Department and wished her good health in the days to come.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Participation in Senior Women's Hockey National Championship

Rubi Kumari Prasad a 4th Semester student of the Department was selected to participate in the Senior Women Hockey National Championship, which is a gateway to National Team selection.



2. Participation in 18th National MTB Cycling Championship

Pragya Chhetri, 1st Sem Hons student of our Department represented West Bengal in the 18th National MTB Cycling Championship to be held at Maharashtra during 29-31 October, 2021.



3. Participation in Inter-College Debate Competition (2022)

Stephen Lepcha 4th Semester Hons student of our Department represented St. Joseph's College in the *Inter-College Debate Competition (2022)* conducted in the Nepali language held at Sonada Degree College on 27th May 2022. He was awarded the 2nd prize for his talk on "Online Education system"

4. Celebration of 5th June as Environment Day



The Hons students of the Department prepared a board-work on the theme of "Save the Environment" on the occasion of Environment Day on 5th June, 2022 laying down measures to save the Earth and conserve the environment.



5. Participation in Inter-Department Essay Writing Competition (2022)

Stephen Lepcha 4th Semester Hons student of our Department represented the Department in the *Inter-Department Essay Writing Competition* organized by the Science and Research Club of the College on 10th September, 2021 where he was awarded 2nd position.



ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE FACULTY

1. Dr. Samir Sharma, Head of Department & Assistant Professor

Publications:

- Samir Sharma. (2021). "Bilateral Challenges vs Multinational Prospects: Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor" in M.Nile and A. Yelery (Eds.). *Tailspin: The Politics of India-China Economic Relations*. Routledge : London & New York.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003231660>
- Samir Sharma. (2021). "Book review: Sanjib Baruah, In the Name of the Nation". *Studies in Indian Politics*, 9(2), 292–294. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23210230211043078>
- Samir Sharma. (2022). "Minorities in India and China: Conceptual and Historical Considerations" in Alka Acharya (Ed.). *Boundaries and Borderlands: A Century after the 1914 Simla Convention*. IIAS and Routledge: London & New York.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003272939>
- Samir Sharma & Preksha Shree Chhetri. (2022). "Nepal, China and Belt and Road Initiative: Prospects and Challenges". *India Quarterly: A Journal of International Affairs*. Vol. 73, Issue 3. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09749284221108262>

Award of PhD: Dr. Samir Sharma was awarded the degree of PhD from the Centre for Political Studies (CPS), School of Social Science (SSS) at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on 22nd of November, 2021 after his thesis titled “Multiple Differences and Political Autonomy: Issues of Citizenship and Territoriality in North Bengal” was supervised by Prof. Anupama Roy and externally examined by Prof. Rekha Saxena (University of Delhi) and Prof. Satnam Singh (GNDU, Punjab).



Interaction with H.E Shri H.V. Shringla IFS, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India:

Dr. Samir Sharma interacted with H.E Shri H.V. Shringla IFS, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India at the Darjeeling Gymkhana Club where he spoke on India's foreign policy in the context of Covid-19 where Shri Shringla was presented with the edited volume containing Dr. Sharma's chapter on India-China relations within the context of the BCIM-EC.



“Symposium 2022” - 175 years of Loreto Convent, Darjeeling:

Dr. Sharma was invited on 30 April, 2022 to deliver an online Lecture on the sidelines of 'Symposium 2022' held to mark the celebration of 175 years of Loreto Convent, Darjeeling where he spoke on the importance of the practice of federalism, secularism and social justice as tools for National Integration and Nation Building in India. The session was attended by students and teachers across the Loreto institutions of India.



Participation at International Seminar on "Cultural Heritage of Eastern Himalayas and Northeast India" held at Southfield College, Darjeeling

Dr. Sharma Chaired the Technical Session VII of the ICSSR-sponsored International Seminar on "Cultural Heritage of Eastern Himalayas and Northeast India" held at Southfield College, Darjeeling during 25-28 May, 2022 and also presented a paper on the emerging forms of Digital Politics in the Darjeeling Himalayas.



Resource Person at the Ignation Leadership Program:

Dr. Sharma was invited to be the resource person for the one-day “FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (FDP) ON IGNATIAN LEADERSHIP” conducted for the staff of the College by the IQAC of St. Joseph’s College, Darjeeling on 18th July, 2022. Dr. Samir Sharma, focused on the need for “Value Based Leadership” and the participants learnt about the Ignatian notion of “Contemplative Leader in Action”.



2. Dr. Padam Nepal, Associate Professor

Dr. Padam Nepal was invited as a Resource Person for Technical Session XVII for One Week Online National Workshop on “Human Rights Education: Issues and Challenges in the North East 7-13 August, 2021 sponsored by ICSSR-NREC and organized by Centre for Ethnic Studies and Research, Gauhati, Assam.

