

## Report: Department of English—2022-2023

Dr. Balaram Uprety

### The Departmental Orientation Programme:

The demands, challenges and the nature of higher education are different from those of secondary education. In order to effect a smooth transition of students from secondary level of education to higher education, students require proper orientation. In the first week of August, 2022-2023, the department provided a week-long orientation programme to the students. Two areas came for specific focus during the orientation. Firstly, the different or unique context and nature of higher education came for discussion. Secondly, the status, role and relevance of English studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century India featured for an elaborate deliberation. How to approach literature? How to make literary studies marketable in a market driven technocratic era? How to use social media productively and academically? Does literature have any relevance in an increasingly market-driven technocratic society? These were some of the questions that came for serious discussion and deliberation during the programme.

### Student Exchange Programme

In order to foster academic growth of the students, the department conducted an academic exchange programme on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023 with the department of English, Birpara College. The topic of the discussion was: *Voices from the Margins: Reading Indra Bahadur Rai in Translation*. In this programme, 7 teachers and 89 students participated. The students from the department and the students from Birpara College presented papers on Indra Bahadur Rai's magnum opus *There is Carnival Today*. Mr. Ashish Chetry and Dr. Nilotpal Bhattacharya presented their views on the novel. The successful outcome of the programme was seen by the animated discussion amongst students present.



## **Faculty Improvement/Development**

Dr Fr K. L. George:

Delivered an inaugural lecture titled *A Teleological Approach to Knowledge* at Selesian College, Sonada on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.

## **Book Authored by the Faculty**

Balaram Uprety:

1. *The Doom of Dice and the Imperial Other: Reading Selections from the Sabha Parva and Udyoga Parva*. Publisher: Worldview, Delhi, ISBN: 978-93-8267-27-0
2. Associate authorship of *Orature as Testimony: Folklore from Eastern Bhutan*. Publisher: Authors Press, Delhi, ISBN: 9789355296801

Mr. Ashish Chettry:

Delivered Online Lecture Series on Indian Classical Drama, Sudraka's *Mrichhakatika* at Kalimpong College from 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, 2023.