

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2023- JUNE 2024

Ms. Sumanta Pariyar

Head of the Department

The University Examinations concluded successfully with the 6th Semester exams ending on 9th July 2024 and the 2nd Semester exams concluding on 12th July 2024. Following the completion of examinations, a faculty meeting was convened on 16th July 2024. The agenda of the meeting focused on planning, discussing, and distributing the papers to be taught among the faculty members in the academic session 2024-25.

As a part of the new academic session cycle, certificate verification of the newly admitted students was held on 15th July 2024. A total of 83 students were successfully enrolled on the 1st Semester FYUGP undergraduate programme.

Classes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Semesters commenced from 29th July 2024. A two-day orientation program for the new batch of 2024 was held on the 29th and 30th of July.

The students and faculty of the Department of History, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, actively participated in a variety of academic, cultural, and co-curricular activities throughout the academic year 2024–2025. The following is a summary of notable events and achievements:

Faculty Activities:

During this reporting period, the faculty members have also actively indulged and contributed to the academic scholarship through publications and participation:

- i. Pariyar, Sumanta and Chettri, Shakher. (2024). Hindu Artefacts Excavated from North Bengal. *Heritage Research journal (care)*, 72 (3), 21.

- ii. Chettri, Shakher. (2025). Rise of Education and Christianity in Darjeeling: A Parallel Process. In Abdul Foyes Md Malik (Ed.), *Ethnicity, Identity, and Cultural Diversity* (pp. 254-257). SUN BEAM.
- iii. Ms. Sumanta Pariyar and Mr. Shakher Chettri actively participated in the Three-Day Training of Trainers Program on AI Tools for Higher Education/ HEIs, organised by St. Xavier's College Jaipur in collaboration with St. Joseph's College North Point Darjeeling, from 25th to 27th November 2024.
- iv. On 21st September 2024, the Department of History organised a special talk titled "*An Introduction to Art History.*" The lecture was delivered by Dr. Saibal Sengupta, faculty member at St. Robert's H.S. School, Darjeeling. His lecture enriched the students' understanding of the subject and encouraged engagement with art as a historical source.



Fig.1. Dr. Saibal Sengupta delivering his lecture.



Fig. 2. Students listening attentively.

These academic contributions underscore the department's ongoing involvement in research and scholarly activities.

Administrative Responsibilities:

Ms. Sumanta Pariyar: HOD, Member of Admission Committee, Library Committee, Internal Complaints Committee, Anti-Ragging Committee and Disciplinary & Students' Welfare Committee.

Mr. Rewaz Gurung: Coordinator, Games and Sports.

Student Activities:

Bishal Thami and Sanjay Lepcha, both students of 3rd Semester represented the college in the INSCAPE Drama category held at Salesian College, Siliguri, on 27th September 2024. Their participation highlights the department's encouragement of holistic development and student involvement beyond the classroom.



Fig.3. Miss Ismrity Katwal crowned at Face of the Hills.



Fig.4. Crowning of Miss Ismrity Katwal.

On 22nd December 2024, Miss Ismrity Katwal from the 4th Semester participated in the beauty pageant *Face of the Hills* held in Kalimpong and was awarded the title of *Miss Talented*. On 10th March 2025, Ismrity Katwal took part in the *North-East India Supermodel* contest held in Gangtok. She was declared the winner and once again received the subtitle *Miss Talented*.



Fig. 5. Kaura Dance performance by students.



Fig. 6. Post-performance photo with HOD.

On 7th March 2025, the Department participated in the Inter-Department Dance Competition organised in the college. Students presented the *Kaura Dance*, a vibrant Nepali folk dance traditionally performed by the Mangar community. The performance was well-received and appreciated for its cultural authenticity.



Fig.7 Rev. Fr. Dr. Kandula observing the board work.



Fig. 8. Students with the board work in the background

On 15th March 2025, students from the 2nd and 4th Semesters participated in the Inter-Departmental Board Work Competition organised by the YAT Club. Their display on Lepcha culture and tradition was both detailed and visually engaging. On the same day, Preetam Tamang secured the second position in the Inter-Department Sketching Competition held in St. Joseph's College.

On 12th April 2025, two students participated in events hosted by Inspiria Knowledge Campus, Siliguri. Sonal Chettri from the 6th Semester secured the runner-up position in the Face Painting Competition. Raj Subba from the 4th Semester achieved first place and was named *Best Player* in the *Battlegrounds Mobile India (BGMI)* tournament held on the same day.



Fig. 9 Miss Deepa with her certificate.

Additionally, students contributed to social outreach activities. During the *Blood Donation Camp* organised by the NSS unit of St. Joseph's College on 11th April 2025, Amowaz Chettri and Nischai Mangar of the 4th Semester participated and donated blood, contributing to this meaningful outreach initiative.

On 3rd and 4th May 2025, Deepa Biswakarma from the 4th Semester participated in the *5th Open Athletics Meet* organised by Drishti Khel Khud Sangh at Lebong Ground, Darjeeling. She secured first position in the *Long Jump – Girls' Open Category*.

On 12th June 2024, the new board members of the Historia Odyssey Consortium were selected, and the responsibilities of the club were handed over to them in the hope that they would continue the legacy.



Fig. 10 Board Members of the Historia Odyssey Consortium (H.O.C.) with the Head of Department (HOD) 2024-2025.

The names of the Board Members are as follows:

1. SHALEN HAANG RAI [PRESIDENT]
2. NEHA SHERPA [VICE PRESIDENT]
3. PRIYANSHIKA TAMANG [SECRETARY]
4. ANURAG LIMBU [TREASURER]
5. YUMA THAPA [TREASURER]
6. GARVE GURUNG [EVENT MANAGER]
7. RENIJA RAI [EVENT MANAGER]
8. ASHIM THAMI [EDITOR]
9. LORENCE LEPCHA [EDITOR]

Teachers' Day was celebrated in the Department of History on 5th September 2024 with warmth, gratitude, and enthusiasm. Organised by the students of the department, the programme was a heartfelt tribute to the teaching faculty and their invaluable contribution to the academic and personal growth of the students. Students presented a short cultural programme that included songs, poetry recitations, and speeches dedicated to the teachers. Their words and performances sincerely expressed the respect and admiration they hold for their mentors. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by a student representative, followed by an informal interaction over light refreshments. The celebration not only honoured the spirit of Teachers' Day but also reaffirmed the strong sense of community within the department.

The Department takes pride in the fact that several students from the recently graduated batch (2021-24) have progressed to post-graduate courses at prestigious universities.

- i. **Angsuka Datta**- M.A., Calcutta University, Kolkata.
- ii. **Genuine Iswarai**- M.A., North Bengal University, Siliguri.
- iii. **Ruhye Nisha, Surakcha Subba**- M.A., Jadavpur University, Kolkata.
- iv. **Tabassum Rashid**- M.A., St. Xavier's College, Kolkata.
- v. **Tanisha Chettri**- M.A., Savitri Phule University, Mumbai.
- vi. **Laxmi Sharma**- M.A., IGNOU.
- vii. **Nitesh Sharma**- M.A., North Bengal University, Siliguri (Distance Mode).

- viii. **Choden Bhutia-** M.A., North Bengal University, Siliguri (Distance Mode).
- ix. **Reshma Sampang-** M.A., North Bengal University, Siliguri (Distance Mode).
- x. **Shivam Lamgaday-** M.A., North Bengal University, Siliguri (Distance Mode).
- xi. **Pratik Pradhan-** M.A., Mass Com. And Journalism, North Bengal University, Siliguri.
- xii. **Paridhi Rai-** L.L.B., Indian Institute of Legal Studies, Siliguri.

Their academic accomplishments reflect the department's ongoing commitment to fostering scholarly excellence and preparing students for higher education.

A review meeting of the faculty members was held on 22nd October 2024 to assess the progress of syllabus completion across the semesters and to ensure that the academic targets were being met in a timely manner.



Fig. 11 Head of Department felicitates Rev. Fr. Dr. K.J. Joseph.



Fig.12 Rev. Fr. Dr. K.J. Joseph with the students.



Fig. 13 Farewell group photo with Fr. K.J. Joseph.

On 29th April 2025, a *Farewell/Felicitation Program* was organised in honour of Rev. Fr. Dr. K.J. Joseph, the founding member and stalwart of the Department of History. The event witnessed heartfelt tributes from faculty members, students, and alumni, all of whom recalled his immense contributions to the academic and institutional development of the department. Fr. Jose was felicitated with a token of appreciation, accompanied by words that reflected the deep respect and admiration he commands. Speakers highlighted his visionary leadership, his role in nurturing a culture of critical thought, and his unwavering commitment to academic excellence. In his address, Rev. Fr. Dr. K.J. Joseph expressed gratitude to the college community and reflected on his journey with characteristic humility and warmth. The program also featured cultural performances and a short documentary about Father that added a personal and nostalgic touch. The atmosphere was one of emotion and celebration, honouring both his legacy and lasting impact. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and best wishes for his future endeavours.

Ms. Anamika Subba, a former alumna of the department, joined as the new part-time teacher in place of Rev. Fr. Dr. K.J. Joseph from 2nd May 2025.

The period from July to October 2024 has been marked by a productive blend of academic rigour, student success and faculty involvement in research. The year's activities reflect the department's commitment to fostering academic excellence, cultural awareness, and social responsibility among its students. The collective efforts and achievements of both students and faculty have contributed to the vibrancy and distinction of the Department of History.

Challenges:

In the second session of the Revised Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) still had several challenges for the department's faculty. As the Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) was still ongoing, careful and meticulous scheduling had to be undertaken to balance the teaching responsibilities. The introduction of new topics and papers required a thoughtful redistribution of the syllabus to ensure that no faculty member was overburdened. This demanded coordinated planning and collaboration among the staff to maintain efficiency and academic quality.

Future Plans:

Looking ahead, several areas require attention for the future development of the Department. Upgrading infrastructure is a priority, especially the need for larger classrooms, improved library facilities, and enhanced ITC resources. These improvements are essential to accommodate the growing number of students under the FYUGP and to support advanced learning and research. Additionally, there is a need for closer and more transparent collaboration between the college administration and the department to facilitate a dynamic and effective teaching-learning process.