

Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal

**A Documentary Study on
Raiganj College to Raiganj University: 1948 - 2015**

Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal

**A Documentary Study on
Raiganj College to Raiganj University: 1948 - 2015**

Barendranath Giri

Associate Professor, Department of History
Raiganj University

&

Babulal Bala

Associate Professor, Department of History
Raiganj University

ABHIJEET PUBLICATIONS

NEW DELHI 110002

ABHIJEET PUBLICATIONS

4658-A, First Floor, Ambika Bhawan,
21 Ansari Road, New Delhi 110002
Phone: 011-23259444
E-mail: abhijeetpublication@gmail.com
twitter:- @AbhijeetPub21
whatsapp:- 8076785356
instagram: @abhijeet_publications
LinkedIn: jitendra-singh-7729292b/

EVOLUTION OF A HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION OF
WEST BENGAL

First Published 2022

© Authors

ISBN 978-93-92816-00-0

[All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted or used in any form or by any means, whether electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission from the authors or publishers, except for a brief quotations in critical articles or reviews.]

PRINTED IN INDIA

Published by the Registrar, Raiganj University, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur,
West Bengal, India, Pin: 733134. Lasertypeset by Abhijeet Typesetters,
New Delhi and Printed by Milan Enterprises, New Delhi.

Dedicated to

**Late Krishna Kumud Saraswati, The First Principal,
Raiganj College**

(Tenure of Office: 03. 04. 1949 – 05. 07. 1960),

**Late Shambhu Nath Roy, Former Principal, Raiganj
College (University College)**

(Tenure of Office: 06.07.1960 – 31.10. 1993), and

**Professor Anil Bhuimali, The First Vice-Chancellor,
Raiganj University**

(Tenure of Office: 16.04. 2015 to 14. 09. 2021)

Preface

It is nothing new to write history of the higher academic institutions, rather as a part of historical research, it is a long standing process of writing history of the various highly reputed educational centres of excellences across the country. In this regard our humble attempt to explore the historical background of the foundation of Raiganj College and its gradual up-gradation up to a university for bringing the facts and findings daylight in the form of present work. It is mere follow the continuation of writing history in this tradition. In that context, we may refer here that prior to the commencement of the British rule there was no education system supported by the state in India. However, in order to mould the Indian mind, the Britishers introduced modern education system for diverse intention and thereupon Hooghly Mohsin College (1831), Calcutta Medical College (1835), Elphinstone College at Bombay (1835), Dhaka College (1841), Calcutta University (1857), Benares Hindu University (1916), Aligarh Muslim University (1920), Dhaka University (1921) and so on were established sometimes by the British along with the heartiest cooperation and inquisitiveness of the progressive minded natives of India. As a mark of recognition in the field of pursuing quality education and spread of the light of knowledge uninterruptedly, the history of these said academic institutions have already been written in different forms from different corners.

In the study of the history of 'Evolution of Higher Academic Institutions' throughout the country, what fascinated us the most, are the magnanimous personalities of those gentlemen who had dreamt to set up a college at Raiganj to pursue higher education for the future generation of this neglected and truncated region, and their dream has come to

(viii)

reality gradually with the up-gradation of Raiganj College to Raiganj College (University College) and finally to a full-fledged university in 2015. On behalf of the authors it is nothing but a sincere attempt to highlight the issues connected with various significant aspects of the history of Raiganj College to Raiganj University for the awakening of the new generation of the country.

Barendranath Giri & Babulal Bala

Date: 15. 12. 2021

Associate Professor (s),
Department of History
Raiganj University

Foreword

When the English East India Company embarked on its political career in India in 1757, at that time there was no education system supported by the state. Both Hindus and Muslims had their traditional modes of learning. By the early nineteenth century, the indigenous school of higher learning and village elementary schools were in a state of decline. However, having felt the pulse of the elite class of India, the Company tried to shape the Indian mind by introducing the western education system for smooth running of the administration. The liberal minded people responded to this initiative of the Company and gradually took part in it.

Under such circumstances, in 1781, Warren Hastings, the then Governor General, founded the Calcutta Madrasa to provide customary pattern of Islamic studies. In 1792, Jonathan Duncan, the Resident at Benares established the Benares Sanskrit College. The Fort William College was established in Calcutta in the year 1800 to train the company officials. In this context, it is found that with the advent of the British, eighteenth century India witnessed a new wave of education throughout the country. Educational development from the beginning of the nineteenth century gained momentum and in different parts of India, colleges were established in quick succession.

In 1817, the Hindu College was established in Calcutta and following the same trend, Hooghly Mohsin College was established on 1st August, 1831. Dacca College was founded on 28th November, 1841 and all these ushered a new era in education in that part of Bengal. In a similar fashion another college was established in Dacca named Jagannath College in

(x)

1858 that was converted into a university. Being influenced by the new awakening and progressive ideas all over India, Maharani Swarnamoyee Devi founded Krishnath College at Baharampur in Murshidabad in 1853 which was later up-graded into a University. Again, Maharaja Nipendra Narayan of Cooch Behar founded Victoria College (presently- ABN Seal college) on 15th June, 1888.

It is known from history that from the beginning of twentieth century till the end of the British rule, with the spread of education to a limited few and as a result of greater political awakening, the later years of British rule witnessed hastened expansion like the foundation of Raiganj College and Balurghat College in Dinajpur in 1948.

Whatever backdrop the history of the foundation of higher academic institutions across the country may be, it is a matter of pride and enthusiasm to me to write the foreword for a work entitled '**Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal - A Documentary Study on Raiganj College to Raiganj University: 1948 – 2015**', written by Mr. Barendranath Giri, Associate Professor, Department of History, Raiganj University & Dr. Babulal Bala, Associate Professor, Department of History, Raiganj University. Indeed, the history of the foundation of the erstwhile Raiganj College and its subsequent gradual development is a matter of experiential learning to one and all. The eminent persons who had taken the initiative and had played a significant role in the foundation of the college, have remained as torch bearers of this backward region even during the freedom struggle and subsequently the painful partition of India along with Bengal including the district of Dinajpur. The generosity of Dr. Jamini Kanta Ghosh who had donated the entire land for the college on which the present Raiganj University is developing with the mission and vision to be a centre of excellence for higher studies, is to be familiar among the masses, at least to the students and staff of this institution.

It is a fact that the erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) was one of the biggest colleges in West Bengal as well as in entire North Bengal with regard to the pursuit of quality higher studies since its inception. Although, there were

many obstacles in terms of infrastructural facilities, shortage of adequate teaching and non-teaching staff, communication problem, scarcity of teaching aids etc. prior to the smooth sailing of the college to achieve its ultimate goal. In spite of all these constraints, only with the help of indomitable spirit and will force of Shri Krishna Kumud Saraswati, the first Principal of the college, it became possible for Raiganj College to acquire a permanent place in the history of higher education institutions across the country. In that context, the name of Shri Shambhu Nath Roy, another principal of the college, deserves special mention. Under the able guidance and stewardship of Shri Shambhu Nath Roy, popularly known as great S. N. Roy, the college could cross all hurdles to emerge as a University College in 1968 and in that case the very kind and enthusiastic cooperation of Professor A. C. Roy, the then Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University of North Bengal is noteworthy.

Authors namely Prof. Giri and Dr. Bala have made a commendable attempt to reveal the history of the college since its inception in 1948 to the up-gradation of the prestigious institution to a university in 2015, phase by phase. Original sources were consulted to provide a vivid picture of how the Raiganj College had upgraded from aided college to a sponsored college and then from a sponsored college to a University College and finally into a full-fledged unitary University in the name of 'Raiganj University'.

The book outlines the historical depiction of Dinajpur as a centre of enlightenment, the curse of Partition and the foundation of Raiganj College and its journey from the womb of Coronation High School- the entire history laid down in this book will be a valuable source of information to the future researchers of history of regional studies. Not only the academic standard, the qualities and sacrifice of the staff for the development of the college and the detailed NAAC report and its recommendations are elaborately described in this book. The names of some alumnus those who spread the name and fame of this institution across the country and abroad have been mentioned in one of the chapters of the book. Moreover, the contribution of Smt. Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief

(xii)

Minister, Government of West Bengal has been portrayed vividly in a chapter under the caption 'Up-gradation of Raiganj College (University College) to Raiganj University', which captures the fulfilment of the long cherished dream of the people of Raiganj.

Finally, I express my sense of appreciation to the authors for the research based study on 'Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal - A Documentary Study on Raiganj College to Raiganj University: 1948 – 2015', and for their tenacity and sincerity to bring to light the facts on the theme in the present form of a book.

Professor Sanchari Roy Mukherjee

Vice Chancellor
Raiganj University
West Bengal, India

My Experience at Raiganj University as the First Vice-Chancellor

Professor Anil Bhumali

It was a joyous, thrilling and historic moment for me when I joined at a newly-formed University-Raiganj University-as its First Vice-Chancellor on 16th April, 2015. It was in fact a University College named Raiganj College (University College) of North Bengal University which had been transformed into a State-Aided University by the Government of West Bengal. The people of Uttar Dinajpur District in general and the entire College community, in particular, had for long been demanding for its upgradation-to make it as a campus of North Bengal University. Our beloved Chief Minister Miss Mamata Banerjee, in a public meeting at Karnajora, the headquarter of the district, perhaps in 2013, made everyone present astonished with the announcement of converting a fully-fledged University. I am fortunate enough because I was chosen to serve the new born academic institution for its initial phase of academic, administrative, and infrastructural uplift. I was in full acquaintance of the region due to my birth and upbringing in the district (West Dinajpur). We inherited about fifty permanent faculty members of which fifty percent were known to me-some were my students, some were my friends and juniors and a few were seniors and twenty five non-teaching staff with about thirteen acres of land and some structured buildings. This was, in fact, an advantage for us. We had sixteen UG Hons subjects and in Bengali Department PG was taught. The infrastructure of the College, its human capital and physical capital, helped us during initial phase of development. The existing faculty members were our main source of

(xiv)

teaching strength. Apart from this, many retired Professors such as Professor Sib Ranjan Misra, Professor Bipul Malakar, Professor K. K. Nandi, Professor M. Thangaraj, Professor S. Barat, Professor Manas Chakraborty, and many others and many faculty members of different Universities of India and abroad frequently visit the University, stay at the University Guest House and cover course curriculum of different Departments. During my tenure, we have faced severe challenges like other newly established Universities but as a result of concerted efforts we have been successful in overcoming all such difficulties. In the beginning of 2015 academic session, we desperately started ten PG courses along with seventeen UG Honours courses. The Education Department helped us in all the possible ways in shaping/building the institution. The political leaders and the well-wishers also came forward. Next year, i.e., in 2016, we started another six PG Departments. Every year we have expanded the University. Now, we have twenty three PG Departments along with twenty two Honours subjects. We have Sericulture in undergraduate and post-graduate levels. This is perhaps the second University in West Bengal where teaching and research is being carried out in Sericulture. Two other promising Departments are Statistics and Computer and Information Science. A promising unique feature of this University is that we have three shifts- morning which starts at 6.30 am, day shift starting at 9.30 am and the evening shift which begins at 4.30 p.m. Altogether, we have over 13,000 students studying in different UG and PG courses. Our teaching and research activities are very strong. Our students had a demand for Honours learning also in Bengali language. But for the benefit of students of the underprivileged area we made teaching and learning under English medium. This has immensely benefited our students in terms of further studies and opportunities. Raiganj University is perhaps the only University which offers English as the only language for UG Honours and PG teaching and learning. Slowly but steadily we have expanded the infrastructure facilities. We have twelve centres in the University which are involved in research and development activities. We have a B+G+9-storied Academy Building which is under construction and it is expected that

(xv)

the entire work will be completed very soon. This will solve the problem of shortage of class rooms, research laboratories, and teachers' accommodation at the Departments. The Education Department has handed over to us twelve acres of land at Abdul Ghata some five kilometres away to our main Campus at Raiganj town. We are now in the process of making boundary walls construction works. We have applied to HED for the sanction of some new Departments such as Hindi, Urdu, Biotechnology, Fishery Science, Media Studies and Agricultural Science. We faced a problem during NAAC visit at the University in the month of March, 2021. We were criticized for not being properly uploading the SSR. We miserably failed to achieve our desired results. We appealed before the NAAC for a reconsideration. The NAAC gave us a chance again and accordingly our University uploaded the DVV on 14th Dec 2021. We are now expecting our desired results. I wish the alround growth of this Great Academic Institution and my best wishes to all the actors-the faculty, officers, students, researchers, non-teaching staff for their untiring efforts for rebuilding the academic institution.

Professor Anil Bhumali

Professor, Department of Economics,

University of North Bengal

and

The First Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University

Message from the Registrar

I was deeply delighted when I received a warm request from Mr. Barendranath Giri, Associate Professor, Department of History, Raiganj University and Dr. Babulal Bala, Associate Professor, Department of History, Raiganj University to write a message for their book *“Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal A Documentary Study on Raiganj College to Raiganj University : 1948-2015”* which provides a valuable window on information of how a little higher academic institution, namely, Raiganj College was originated, nurtured by the people keenly interested in education and then stood gradually on its own feet after going through many hurdles, and at last appeared to be a highest form of educational centre what we call University. The authors Mr. Giri and Dr. Bala have to bear tremendous toils to present a fantastic picture on a journey of Raiganj College to Raiganj University. This Raiganj University is now a premier educational institution that strives to fulfill the higher educational needs of the people of North Bengal. This University was established on February 2015, although it carries legacy of 70 years with the establishment of Raiganj College in 1948. That legacy of Raiganj College has very distinguishably been portrayed by the authors. They have left no stone unturned in portraying the every detail of Raiganj College—its beginning history and ancient appearance, its land and property, its teachers and employees, library, contribution of two robust personalities, its judgment to NAAC, most significantly, its insertion under governance and administration of University of North Bengal more than four decades, and what not! The authors have very dexterously tried to create history within history. This is the main attraction of this history book. They have not stopped here. They have also focused on the emergence and immense possibilities of Raiganj University with its vision and mission. In fact, Raiganj University is located in Uttar Dinajpur district, one of the

(xvii)

backward districts of West Bengal with a rural economy. A sizeable population belonged to the marginalized communities that are educationally deprived. Being a no-industry zone, over 70 % of the people are to depend primarily on agriculture and allied activities. The thrust of the University education thus is to reach the educationally deprived people at the margins. This book is a good step in that direction. Over a long and fruitful career, Mr. Giri and Dr. Bala have explored a deep root of history of an educational institution through dynamic scholarly approaches. Such an enterprise they have initiated is perhaps never seen before and truly inspiring to the people who love history for history's sake. So read it, enjoy it and learn from it. Thank you Mr. Giri and Dr. Bala for producing such a master work.

Dt. 13.12.2021

(Dr. Durlav Sarkar)

Registrar

Raiganj University

Acknowledgements

The study titled '**Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal - A Documentary Study on Raiganj College to Raiganj University: 1948 – 2015**', is an outcome of a research based work to bring in light the comprehensive history of Raiganj College from its inception and phase by phase up-gradation up to a University. The present work is a study which neither may claim full credit for new discoveries nor is a major breakthrough in the study of the *Evolution of the Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal as well as India*. It thus, stands as an attempt to explore the theme following step by step research methodology systematically, which, in some respect, may appear to be an introductory in modern historiography but the depth and approach of the study may claim its originality as per the material consulted and the structure that has been built up might open a new area of research for the coming generation.

Acknowledgement of cooperation is not a mere routine affair, but is a very sincere and genuine recognition of gratitude to those who always help and support in the entire process at the different levels in course of the study. At the outset, we have no word to express our deep sense of gratitude and acknowledgement to Professor Anil Bhuiyali, the Hon'ble First Vice-Chancellor of Raiganj University, Professor Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University, Professor Dipak Kumar Roy, Head of the Department of Bengali and Dean, Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law, Raiganj University, and Dr. Durlav Sarkar, the Registrar of the university, without whose inspiration, valuable suggestions and timely cordial co-operation for the way of

collection of valuable materials, we might not be able to complete the work. In this opportunity, we would like to record our heartiest gratitude to all the faculty members, office staff and non-teaching staff of the erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) and presently Raiganj University for providing us every possible necessary co-operation in time.

In that connection we would like to convey our gratitude to the various revered academicians those who were connected with the upbringing of Raiganj College to Raiganj University and extended their helping hand to complete the work. In that queue the most notable names are Dr. Dilip De Sarker, former Reader, Department of Botany and twice Teacher-in-Charge of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College); Dr. Debasish Biswas and Shri. Uttam Kumar Roy, both of them are former Teacher-in-Charge of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) and Associate Professor, Raiganj University; Dr. Asok Kumar Ghosh, Ex-Reader in Physics, erstwhile Raiganj College (University College); Shri. Ranjit Sengupta, P. A. to the Principal, erstwhile Raiganj College (University College); Shri Subhendu Mukherjee, Former Head Master, Raiganj Coronation High School; Late Mahua Ghosh, one of the family members of Dr Jamini Kanta Ghosh, Shri. Binoy Krishna Goswami, Ex-Assistant Librarian of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College); Shri Biplab Roy, Senior Assistant, Raiganj University, Shri Soumendu Dutta, P.A. to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University and Shri Kushal Biswas, employee, Raiganj University.

It is a high time to express our greetings to Professor Ichhimuddin Sarkar, Former Professor, Department of History, University of North Bengal, Dr. Parimal Mandal, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, Raiganj University and Shri. Hemanta Kumar Sinha, Assistant Teacher, Islampur Higher Secondary School for their sincere co-operation, valuable suggestions and encouragement to complete the work.

Above all, our obligation to our family is indeed hard to acknowledge properly. We must express heartiest thanks to Smt. Sarbani Giri Mukherjee, Dyuti Giri and Dyotak Giri (wife, daughter and son of Shri Giri); Smt. Ananya Basak, Rajib Bala and Ananyo Lal Bala (wife, nephew and son of Dr. Bala) who

(xx)

continuously inspired us time and again when we were deeply engaged in collecting materials to finish the work and bore entire responsibility of the household affairs so that we may fulfil our long cherished dream.

All the more, it is a time to note down the cooperation of the Abhijeet Publications, New Delhi and specially the response and sympathy of its proprietor Mr. J. K. Singh and his associates to take up the assignment of its publication and to finish up the publication work in due time.

Lastly, in spite of our best efforts to make this work up to date and above question, there may be some obscure mistakes and errors due to unavailability of proper document among the lots of documents of a College and a University; in that case the responsibility, of course, goes to us alone and latter on in the light of available authentic source materials the errors (if there any) will be rectified and this present work may be extended in next edition.

Shri Barendranath Giri & Dr. Babulal Bala

Date: 15. 12. 2021

Associate Professor (s)
Department of History,
Raiganj University

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Foreword</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>Experiences of the First Vice Chancellor</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>Message from the Registrar</i>	<i>xvi</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>xviii</i>
<i>Abbreviations</i>	<i>xxiii</i>
Chapter I: Introduction.	25
Chapter II: Historical Background of Dinajpur as a Centre of Enlightenment Through the Ages	29
Chapter III: The Painful Partition and the Brain Child of Raiganj College	39
Chapter IV: Raiganj Coronation High School: The Womb of Raiganj College	55
Chapter V: Up-gradation of Raiganj College: Aided College to a Sponsored College.	64
Chapter VI: A Short Biographical Sketch of Krishna Kumud Saraswati (1889-1961) and His Appointment as the First Principal of Raiganj College	79
Chapter VII: Charismatic Personality of Shambhu Nath Roy (1928–2012) and His Contributions to the Development of Raiganj College	83
Chapter VIII: Under the University of North Bengal: Sponsored College to a University College	94
Chapter IX: Report of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)-2004	110

(xxii)

Chapter X:	Up-gradation of Raiganj College (University College) to Raiganj University	140
Chapter XI:	The Emergence of the Raiganj University	164
Chapter XII:	Conclusion	191
<i>Appendices:</i>		195

Abbreviations

RC	: Raiganj College
CU	: Calcutta University
B.C	: Balurghat College
RUC	: Raiganj College (University College)
NBU	: North Bengal University
RGU	: Raiganj University
K.K.S	: Krishna Kumud Saraswati
S.N.R	: Shambhu Nath Roy
S.N. B	: Satyendra Nath Bose
P.R.D	: Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi
M.P	: Member of Parliament
AASM	: Ajit-Amiya-Sharmila-Mayabi
TIC	: Teacher-in-Charge
WBLA	: West Bengal Legislative Assembly
C.M	: Chief Minister
V.C	: Vice Chancellor
F.O	: Finance Officer
U.C	: University Council
E.C	: Executive Council
P.G	: Post Graduate
U.G	: Under Graduate
M.Phil.	: Master of Philosophy
Ph. D	: Doctor of Philosophy
IQAC	: Internal Quality Assurance Cell
UGC	: University Grants Commission

(xxiv)

NAAC : National Assessment and Accreditation Council
NSS : National Service Scheme
NCC : National Cadet Corps
IC : Inspector of Colleges
SDO : Sub Divisional Officer
DM : District Magistrate
MC : Managing Committee

Chapter I

Introduction

The erstwhile Raiganj College (University College), presently Raiganj University (on and from 3rd February, 2015)¹, was one of the biggest college as well as higher educational centre of excellence not only in the northern part of West Bengal (comprising the districts of Maldah, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Cooch Behar) i.e. North Bengal but also all over West Bengal nay India. This college was established in 1948 in the name of Raiganj College and was affiliated by the then Calcutta University. The lush green campus of the college sprawls over an area of 13.63 acres of land in the heartland of Raiganj city, the district head quarter of North Dinajpur in West Bengal, India. At the very beginning, considering the urgency as well as demand of the localities, the college initiated its journey with various traditional subjects along with honours and general courses in Under-graduate level. Besides the affiliation from the University of Calcutta, the College was recognised by the University Grants Commission (U.G.C.) as per its Act 2(f) and 12(B) since the year of 1956.²

Due to the excellencies of the standard of teaching by the various dedicated, men of letters professors of the college along with the great care of the first two stalwart principals namely late Krishna Kumud Saraswati and late Shambu Nath Roy, the products as well as the students of the college earned their name and fame along with their motherly institution in their respective field firstly among the colleges under the University of Calcutta and lately University of North Bengal. It is noteworthy that as a result of the far-sightedness of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, architect of modern West Bengal as well as the then visionary Chief Minister of the state, University of North

Bengal was set up in the year of 1962 for spreading higher education smoothly in the remotest part of Bengal particularly in North Bengal.³Naturally, after the establishment of the University of North Bengal, Raiganj College automatically came under the control of the newly established university (University of North Bengal) from the administrative control of the Calcutta University for its easy communication and nearness in terms of distance. However, as a mark of the very good results year after year i.e. stood first as well as topper of the students of the Raiganj College in various subjects all over North Bengal; the college was able to earn the epithet of the prestigious 'Presidency College' of North Bengal. It is needless to say that the dedication of the professors of the college to their respective duties for nourishing their students towards excellencies and as a result of that the very good result of the students of the college drew the attention of the whole educational stalwarts of North Bengal and in that case the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellors of the University of North Bengal were not an exception. As a result of the growing attention towards Raiganj College and at the aim of giving more facilities so that the College would be able to flourish from all sides; Professor Atul Chandra Roy, the then Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (the Second Vice-Chancellor) of the University of North Bengal had given a proposal to take over the College with all its assets and liabilities.

However, considering the future prospect of the college— education loving people of Raiganj as well as Uttar Dinajpur district, the authorities of the College gave their positive signal to the offer of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor. In that context, the then Raiganj College 'with all its assets and liabilities' was taken over by the authorities of the University of North Bengal on and from the 1st June, 1968 and thereby Raiganj College converted into prestigious 'Raiganj College (University College)'.⁴ After taking over the college by the North Bengal University only within two years honours courses were opened almost in all subjects both science and arts streams that led to open a new horizon in the history of Raiganj College (University College) and its name and fame in the field of academic acclaim started spreading across the country and abroad. As a mark of recognition of Raiganj College (University College) as the

centre of academic excellence the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) team, sent by the University Grants Commission (UGC) analysed and assessed the College and gave grade B+ level (77.35) on 7th- 8th April 2004. Again, Raiganj College (University College) has got its most suitable recognition as a result of its continuation of maintaining quality of teaching and making remarkable students those who are serving the country and abroad with great fame in the various field i, e, the college was upgraded to a University (State University) named 'Raiganj University' on and from 3rd February, 2015 as per the public announcement made by Miss Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal on 27th November, 2013 at Karnajora, Uttar Dinajpur.⁵ Professor Anil Bhumali, Professor of Economics, University of North Bengal has been appointed as the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the newly established Raiganj University by the Higher Education Department, Govt. of West Bengal. Professor Bhumali eventually joined this University as the first Vice-Chancellor on 16th April, 2015.⁶ Under the great care as well as dynamic leadership of Professor Bhumali the Raiganj University has initiated its journey with 10-P.G. courses along with Research Studies and U.G. Honours and Pass Courses also.

It may be noted here that "the erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) used to hold so many historical importance for the development and spread of Higher Education not only among the students of the Northern part of the Bengal province but also the students who wanted to grasp the higher education from the other States and overseas also".⁷ It is widely known to all that the Uttar Dinajpur is a backward District in every respect in the state of West Bengal and it is the only district that has no Women's College and Government School till date. Naturally, the students (mostly belongs to the minorities and SC/ST categories) had to depend entirely for their higher studies on the erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) since its inception i.e. in 1948. The main purpose of this documentary book is nothing but to reveal its short history i.e. background of the foundation of the Raiganj College, how the College was gradually upgraded time to time under the Calcutta University and thereafter under the great care of the

University of North Bengal and finally became a State University named as 'Raiganj University' on 3rd February, 2015 and have taken an oath to pursue qualitative education to the future generation of this backward region, other sates of India and overseas with something new and energetic orientation.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. See, The Kolkata Gazette, Wednesday, 4th February, 2015, Notification No.88-Edn (U)/EH/1U (NB)-12/13; Date: The 3rd February, 2015.
2. Draft Report on Institutional Accreditation of Raiganj College (University College), April 7-8, 2004; NAAC Report, p. 1.
3. Ex-Principal of Raiganj College (University College) Dr. C. Basu's Report at the Inaugural Ceremony held on 2nd August, 1998; Golden Jubilee Smark Patrika, p. 24.
4. See, Deed of Conveyance, Meeting of the Governing Body, dated-25.05.1968.
5. See, 'Raiganj College Theke Viswavidyalaya Hoyar Kahini' (in Bengali) – an article written by Dr.Brindaban Ghosh, Uttar Banga Sambad, 29th July, 2015.
6. See, 'Viswa Chhul Vidyalaya' (in Bengali) an article written by Sunil Chanda, ex-student of RaiganjColege and veteran press reporter, AAjkal, 9th September, 2016)
7. See, Transition from Raiganj College to Raiganj University: A Documentary- by Barendra Nath Giri, IOSR, Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS), Volume 20, Issue 10, Ver. VI (Oct. 2015) pp. 60-74, e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845.

Chapter II

Historical Background of Dinajpur as a Centre of Enlightenment Through the Ages

As per "The Gazetteer of Bengal and North East India"- by B. C. Allen; E. A. Gait; C. G. H. Allen; H. F. Howard - Raiganj is situated in twenty-five degree thirty seven minute north and eighty eight degree nine minute east on the bank of Kulik river. Raiganj was an important trade centre, exporting a large quantity of jute from the historic time. The district of West Dinajpur came into existence in August 1947, with the painful partition of India along with Bengal. The colonial British rule at the time of their final departure from India ordered the partition of India – one part being known as India and the other as Pakistan. The province of Bengal also came to be divided into two parts in accordance with this partition plan. Incidentally, the dividing line passed through the district of Dinajpur, the portion lying to the West of the partition line being named as West Dinajpur.

Origin of the Name of Dinajpur

Indeed, there is no local tradition in connection with the origin of the name of the district of Dinajpur, and it is also rather difficult to provide any satisfactory theory about the origin of the name of Dinajpur. However, it is known from Dinajpur Gazetteer that with the introduction of the permanent settlement in 1793 by Lord Cornwallis, the then Governor General of Bengal under the rule of the English East India Company, the previous 'Division' of Nawabi regime was abolished and in place of that Bengal was divided into 13

(thirteen) districts. In that context, the District was named as Dinajpur and District town was also came to be known as Dinajpur. But, the question remains, why and how did the Company Government give the name of this newly formed district as 'Dinajpur District'. In response to the question, the Dinajpur Gazetter clearly mentioned that "Dinajpur Proper is the north eastern quarter of the town where the Maharaja Bahadur of Dinajpur has his residence, and as this quarter is being originally the seat of Government, has given its name to the district and of the town".¹ It is, however, not unreasonable to conjecture that the name or term 'Dinajpur' is derived from the name of some local chieftain or king named 'Diñāj' or 'Dañuj'. Sir Jadunath Sarkar, an eminent historian in his famous *'History of Bengal. Vol. II*, has mentioned that the ruler of Soñārgaon was Dañuj Rāi who helped Sultan Ghiyāsuddin Balban (1265-87) in defeating Mughisuddin. As per the statement of Francis Buchanan Hamilton (who was entrusted by the East India Company Government in between 1807-1808 for writing historical, archaeological, geographical and administrative details of the districts under Company's rule.) in Dinajpur Gazetter that 'The name itself is propably derived from some former prince Dinaj or Dinwaj who had his palace there, but if such a prince existed his memory has been lost'.² Sir Jadunath Sarkar also expressed the similar views as mentioned by Francis Buchanan Hamilton in Dinajpur Gazetter. F. W. Strong also expressing the similar views of Francis Buchanan Hamilton stated that, "Dinajpur is said to signify the abode of beggars and is identical with Dynwaj, a Raja of which, Gonesh, usurped the government of Gaur. The name appears originally to have applied more particularly to the locality in which the present Rajbari is situated and a possible explanation of it may be that some forgotten prince, Dinaj or Dinwaj, was the original founder of the Dinajpur family and gave his name to the site".³ It is mentionworthy that Mr. E. V. Westmekat who was in Dinajpur for long 6 (six) years in between 1868 to 1877 in his capacity first as a Joint Magistrate and thereafter as District Magistrate, wrote, "About the time of Akbar's settlement there was at Dinajepoor, at the place from which Gonesh, less than two centuries before, derived his title, a man, possibly of the blood of Gonesh, in possession of a

considerable part of what are now the districts of Dinajepoor and Maldah. Buchanan calls him Kasi, but whether he is correct or not, the name is now utterly forgotten. His grave is shown at the door of the mondeeer in the Rajbari.”⁴ This Daṇuj Rāi probably gave its name Dinṇājpur. It has also been mentioned by some historians and researchers that Raja Gaṇesh, the Hindu Chieftain of North Bengal, became the king of Gour, the famous Janapada of ancient Bengal in the early part of the 15th century AD. Raja Gaṇesh assumed the title of ‘Daṇujmardana-Deva’, and it is not unlikely that the name Dinḍajpur is derived from the title of Raja Gaṇesh.⁵

Dinajpur as a Centre of Learning during Ancient Times

From the discovery of Mahāsthāngarh Fragmentary Stone Plaque Inscription of Asioka on 30th November, 1931 by one Baru Faquir of Mahāsthāngarh village in Bogura district, the then Eastern part of Bengal, later on East Pakistan and presently Bangladesh, we came to know the history of glorious past of this ancient Janapada.⁶ It is learned that at the time of the Mauryas especially from the time of the great Aśoka (273 B.C. to 235/237 B.C.), Puṇḍranagara was a very important centre of Buddhist teaching and learning. It is important to note here that some clay and terracotta figurines of the Sunga period and gold coins of the Kuṣāṇa period are found at Puṇḍranagara and Baṅgarh. The excavation was carried out at Baṅgarh (presently situated under Gangarampur Police Station, Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal) by Kuṅja Govinda Goswami of the University of Calcutta during the period from 1937 to 1941 AD. This excavation has proved the existence of a highly prosperous city at that place during the Pala period and this region used to maintain its cultural and trading relations with rest of the India during the time of Sunṅgas and Kuṣāṇas.⁷ The Allahabad Praśasti of Hariṣeṇa, the Court Poet of Samudragupta, the famous Gupta king and the account of I-Tsing, one of the Chinese travellers who travelled India during the period from 671 to 695 AD, have considered that Punḍravardhana was an important part of the Gupta Empire since its inception. The discovery of a number of inscriptions of the Gupta and later Gupta period in and around the district

of West Dinajpur bears ample testimony to the dominance of the Guptas over Punḍravardhana. As per the evidence of the copper plate inscription of Kumāragupta-I and Budhgupta found in Damodarpur under the Phulbari police station, East Pakistan (presently Bangladesh) and the copper plate found in the village named Baigram near Hilli, it is clear to understand that at the time of the classical age of the Gupta empire the Punḍravardhana-Bhukti was comprised the Bogra-Rajsahi-Dinajpur region of North Bengal. Secondly, the chief town of Koṭivarṣha district has been identified with modern Bangarh in Dinajpur District.⁸ The Koṭivarṣha has been also mentioned in the Damodarpur copper plate which is identified with Devkoṭ or Devikot, situated in the Gangarampur police station (presently, South Dinajpur) under the district of the then West Dinajpur in West Bengal. Thirdly, the Baigram⁹ copper plate refers to another vishaya i.e. Pañchanagari Vishaya. So, it is reasonable to conclude that at least two Vishaya, i.e. Koṭivarṣha Vishaya and Pañchanagari Vishaya included some parts of the district of West Dinajpur. It is mention worthy that at the time of Pala and Seṇa rule over Bengal the Punḍravardhana-Bhukti was included in their empire also.¹⁰

It is found that historically as well as mythologically the district of West Dinajpur was a part of the kingdom of Punḍravardhana and became a famous educational centre from the ancient times. Punḍravardhana was the country of the Punḍras. The origin and development of the Punḍras has been mentioned in the Mahabharata, the Matsya and Vayu-Purāṇas and the Aitareya Brahmaṇa also. According to the Mahabharata and the Matsya and Vayu Purāṇas, Dirghatama, the famous blind sage had five sons by queen Sudeṣna, the wife of king Bali, and these five sons were named as Anga, Vanga, Kalinga, Puṇḍra and Sumha. The Puṇḍras are the descendants of this Puṇḍra. According to the Aitareya Brahmaṇa, Puṇḍras are the descendants of the sons of Visvamitra who had been cursed by him. They were styled as dasyus or barbarians. The Sabhaparvan of the Mahabharata refers to the Vangas and Puṇḍras as well-born Kṣōhtriyas. The name of the Karatoya has been mentioned as a sacred river in the Tirtha-yatra section of the Mahabharata. Karna is said to have vanquished the Puṇḍras. Krishṇa is also said to

have defeated the Puṇḍras. PatanĀjali in his Mahabhasōhya makes a reference to Puṇḍras. It is mentioned in the Ramayāna that those who were sent to the East for searching Sita, asked to visit the land of the Puṇḍras.¹¹

According to the Brihatkathakośa of Hariṣena,-Bhadrabahu, the famous Jain guru of Chandragupta Maurya, was a son of a Brahmin of Koṭivarśha in Puṇḍravardhana. The Jain *Kalpasutra* is said to have been compiled by Bhadrabahu. There was a split among the Jaina after Bhadrabahu - that led to the foundation of a number of schools and teaching centres having general affiliation to the main stream of Jaina philosophy. According to this tradition, Godasa, a disciple of Bhadrabahu, was the master mind behind the foundation of a school called Godasa-gaṇa which in course of time had four śākhās, three of which were called Tamraliptika school, Koṭivarśiya school and Puṇḍravardhaniya school. This Koṭivarśha has been identified with Devkoṭ, which is again identified with Baṅgarh, situated under the Gangarampur police station in south Dinajpur district. It is appears that Bali Raja had reigned over this part of the country. He was a devotee of Shiva. His son was Baṅ Raja, a mighty hero with thousand arms, who fought with Kriṣhṇa. It is a popular believes that Kriṣhṇa had invaded the country and defeated Baṅ Raja who was saved by Shiva. This legend may be taken as distorted echo of the Mahabharata traditions relating to the sage Dirghatama, and the defeat of Pauṇḍraka-Vasudeva by Kriṣhṇa.¹²

From the 3rd century B. C and onwards the Buddhist and the Jain teaching and learning centres were established in Puṇḍravardhana. From the text *Bodhisattvavadana Kalpadata*, we came to know that Sakyamunin Goutama Buddha once visited Puṇḍravardhana. It is also appears from two inscriptions which has been inscribed on the Sañchi Stupa that two believers in the teaching of Buddha, a woman named Dharmadatta and a gentleman named Riṣinandan, both of Puṇḍravardhana gave enormous contributions towards the construction of the railing and gate of the famous Sañchi Stupa. It will not be exgagarated if one may come to the conclusion that the intellectual and cultural developments were based on granite from the very inception of our civilization in the Northern part of Bengal particularly in Dinajpur.

During the reign of Chandragupta Maurya (324 B.C. - 300 B.C.), Puṇḍravardhana was noted as an important study centre of Jaina religious doctrines. Bhadrabahu was born in Devkoṭ in Puṇḍravardhana. After Bhadrabahu's death different sets of doctrines were grown up within the Jaina religion and two of these schools of thought of the Jaina religion came to be known as the Koṭivarśiya School and the Puṇḍravardhaniya School.¹³

Puṇḍravardhana was come to be known as a famous "Bhukti" of the Gupta Empire. It would not be unreasonable to think that the flowering of the Indian culture witnessed during the reign of the Guptas – which included Puṇḍravardhana Bhukti entirely unaffected. In fact, the use of Sanskrit as official documents would shows that Sanskrit was well understood by the people of Puṇḍravardhana Bhukti during that time. Coming down to the reign of Pala Emperor's, we found Puṇḍravardhana was occupying a highly glorious position in spreading the doctrine of Goutama Buddha. According to Saṅḍhyakaranandi, the court poet of Ramapala, who described Śoṇitpura or Devkoṭ as a city which was full of learned people and among them most of the people were Brahmanas by caste. It is noteworthy that the presence of so many temples in that city indicates its religious character and as a seat of learning like Varanasi. The Badal Pillar Inscription of Devapala and the Baṅgarh Copper-plate Inscription of Mahipala-I give us a lot of information about the richness of learning as well as centre of culture. Gurava Misira, the prime minister of Narayanapala, Darbhapani, the prime minister of Devapala and his grandson Kedara Misira are said to have been master of the four Vedas, while Kedara's son Gurava had profound knowledge in Veda, Agamas, Niti, and Jyotiṣa. Studies of the Hindu religious literature in Sanskrit were continued under the Seṇa time in Bengal. There was a Buddhist monastery at Devkoṭ which was an important centre of learning in those days. In fact, Devkoṭ retained its character as seat of learning, even after the decline of Buddhism.¹⁴

Dinajpur during Mediaeval Times

Ikhtiyaruddin Muhammad Bin Bakhtyar Khalji had

conquered North Bengal immediately after his victory over Lakshna Sena at Nadia. He established a military outpost at Devkot along with some Madrasas and Maktabas in conquered areas. Although, Persian was adopted as the official language, but, the Muslim Sultan of the then Bengal at the same time also encouraged the growth and development of Bengali literature. By the 14th century A.D. Mangalakavyas were began to be composed in Bengali and Jagat Jiban Ghosal, one of the famous poets wrote such type a poem in the 17th century, was born in the district of Dinajpur.¹⁵

Dinajpur in Modern Times

“Gleanings in science and the Journal of the Asiatic Society, 1833, describes that by 1810 no English school had been established in the district of Dinajpur which came under the control of the East India Company in 1765. In 1856-57 there were one English school and eight vernacular schools which were maintained by the Government in the district of Dinajpur.¹⁶ Besides, these nine schools, there was another vernacular school which used to receive financial aid from the government in 1856-57. The number of aided schools, however, increased considerably thereafter. For example - there were four English and two hundred fifteen vernacular schools in the district of Dinajpur used to receive financial assistance from the Government during the year of 1870-71. Besides these schools, there were eighteen girls’ schools and one training school was also used to receive financial aid from the Government. In 1872 Sir George Campbell’s scheme for the spread of primary education was initiated. It is noteworthy that in this scheme there was no provision for the appointment of primary school teachers by the Government or by the local authority. Indeed, primary education received a further impetus by the enactment of the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act of 1930 (Bengal Act 7 of 1930).¹⁷

There were six high schools in the district of Dinajpur in 1947. Of these, the Balurghat High School was affiliated to Calcutta University in 1910. The Raiganj Coronation High School (The mother of the Raiganj College) was affiliated to Calcutta University in 1917, the Harirampur A.S.D.M. High

School and the Kaliaganj P.S. High School in 1941 and the Patiram High School in 1947. There were also thirty-one middle schools which were permitted to teach up to Class VI, five hundred fiftyone primary schools, one tol and eleven junior madrasas. There was neither high school for girls in the district, nor was there any training institution. Of the thirty-one middle schools, only two were for girls, one of which was located at Balurghat and the other at Raiganj. Of the eleven madrasas, two imparted only for religious instruction. In 1956-57 after the addition of some areas from the district of Purnia and the consequent creation of the Islampur Sub-Division, there were eight higher secondary schools having 3854 students, sixteen high schools having 4135 students, seventy three junior high schools with the roll-strength of 4322, twenty six junior basic schools with a combined roll-strength of 2208, nine hundred forty nine other primary schools with the total enrolment of 73152, four tols with a total roll-strength of 56, six madrasas with a total roll-strength of 295, and two orphanages were also there. In 1960-61 the number of higher secondary schools was raised from eight to ten. There were two higher secondary schools exclusively for girls. So far as higher education is concerned, there is no high school in the district of West Dinajpur which is maintained exclusively from Government funds.

The District School Board for the new district of West Dinajpur was constituted as per the Government Order No. 186-Edn. Dated 17/01/1948. In 1960-61 there were 1106 primary schools including 69 junior basic schools in the rural areas of the West Dinajpur District under the control of the District School Board. In the same year, there were 90 junior high schools, 03 senior basic schools, 27 high schools and 10 higher secondary schools in the district. 'As the only College in the undivided district of Dinajpur was situated in that part of the District which has become a part of East Pakistan, two new Colleges had to be established, one at Balurghat and the other at Raiganj for providing facilities for higher education to the young men of the district.'¹⁸

The Balurghat College was opened in September, 1948, as an Intermediate Arts College, and was given affiliation for the I.Sc course in 1950. It then became affiliated upto B.A.

and B.Sc. standard of Calcutta University. The Raiganj College was opened in August, 1948 and received affiliation from Calcutta University for teaching upto the I. A. examination in Arts only from 1948-49. Thereafter, it was affiliated for both I. Sc and B. A. standard. The only difficulty in regard to the successful functioning of these two colleges has been the persistent dearth of qualified lecturers and professors who seem to be unwilling to serve in the district of West Dinajpur. Balurghat College comes under the "sponsored Colleges" scheme of the Government, while Raiganj College gets grants from the Government. The Professors and Lecturers are paid salaries prescribed by the university and the Government, and fees are realised from students at rates approved by the Governments. After the establishment of the University of North Bengal, both the colleges have become affiliated to it. There is no Government school or college in the district. With the attainment of independence, no basic change can be said to have taken place in the educational policy pursued by the Government, but the financial help given to private institution has increased.¹⁹

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. F. W. Strong, *Dinajpur Gazetteer*, 1912, p.129.
2. *Dinajpur: Namotpattir Sutra* (in Bengali), an article written by Mehrab Ali in *BalurghatBarta*, Sharad Sanghya ,1408 (B.S.) p.6.
3. Himanshu Kumar Sarkar, *Itihas, Sahitya O Shiksha*, Auto Packeers and Printers, Balurghat, 2009, p. 261.
4. *Ibide*.
5. J. C. Sengupta, *Gazetteer of India, West Bengal, West Dinajpur*, April, 1965,p.1.
6. Ramaranjan Mukherjee and Sachindra Kumar Maity, *Corpus of Bengal Inscriptions*, FKLM, 1967.
7. J. C. Sengupta, *op.cit*, p.1.
8. Ramaranjan Mukherji and Sachindra Kumar Maity, *op.cit*. p. 47.
9. Near Hili, Bogra district, *The Corpus of Bengal Inscriptions*, Bearing on History and Civilization of Bengal by Ramaranjan Mukherji and Sachindra Kumar Maity, p. 61.
10. Ramaranjan Mukherjee and Sachindra Kumar Maity, *op.cit*.

11. J. C. Sengupta, *op.cit.*
12. *Ibide.*
13. *Ibide.*
14. *Ibide.*
15. *Ibide.*
16. Dr. Francis Buchanan (Hamilton). *Geographical, Statistical, and Historical Description of the District, or Zila, of Dinajpur, in the province, or Soubah of Bengal.*
17. J.C. Sengupta, *op.cit.* pp, 191-192 and 195.
18. J. C. Sengupta, *op.cit.* p.196.
19. J. C. Sengupta, *op.cit.* pp.159 and 196.

Chapter III

The Painful Partition and the Brain Child of Raiganj College

In spite of a common language of which every Bengalese is proud, a shared culture and lifestyle and a common history since at least a thousand years, no Bengalese wanted the partition of Bengal from the core of their heart, yet the partition happened due to the gradual deterioration of communal harmony and thereupon undivided Bengal disappeared from the atlas on 15th August, 1947. In fact, the deterioration of communal harmony began with the unexpected and untimely demise of DeshBandhu Chittaranjan Das on 16th June, 1925, who was no doubt a pioneer of the emergence of joint Hindu-Muslim front in Bengal politics on the basis of the historic 'Bengal Pact' of 1923¹, a shining example of an ambitious instrument that could bring the Muslims and Hindus of Bengal together. Chittaranjan Das was the only national leader whom both the Hindus and Muslims relied, that is why with his death the very emotional comments were made by a Muslim daily paper, named '*MUHAMADI*' (in Bengali) as –'God's extreme punishment to our countrymen'.²

After C.R. Das's untimely and unexpected sudden demise the Krishnagar Session of Bengal Provincial Congress Committee (BPCC) held in 1926 under the presidentship of Birendra Nath Sasmal,³ rejected the Bengal Pact and thereupon most of the Muslim leaders bonhomie with the Congress party ended and in the election of the Calcutta Corporation of 1927 Muslims fought separately which was a clear signal of the return of separatism and the end of the nascent Bengalee nationalism.⁴ The widely circulated and much talked composite culture of Bengal and societal tradition gave way to the political

stance of 'Islam in Danger' which was primarily the slogan of non-Bengalee Muslims and later on accepted by the large section of Bengalee Muslims to consolidate the Muslim community. In that critical juncture of history, the non-existence of C. R. Das created a void in Bengal politics which was not filled up by anybody. In that context, Aparna Devi, daughter of Chittaranjan Das wrote in his (C.R. Das's) biography "If the country would advance along with the path indicated by my father at Faridpur (1st May, 1925) with the leaders giving up the illusion of their leadership and egoism, we would have obtained complete independence long ago and India would not be partitioned for gaining independence".⁵

Role of the Congress Party

However, after the election of 1937 when it was found that no party was in a position to form Government due to lack of absolute majority, then Governor Sir John Herbert invited Sarat Chandra Bose, leader of the single largest party i.e. Congress to form the Ministry, but he declined the offer because of the decision of Congress high command. This time Congress high command committed a Himalayan blunder for that Bengal had to pay heavy cost. It was decided by the Congress High Command that the congress would form Ministries only in those provinces where it got an absolute majority in the Assembly election and would not join hands with any other parties for Ministry making. Though, Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq, leader of the Krishak Praja Party (KPP) requested Kiran Sankr Roy of the Congress to join him in a coalition government under his leadership. Sarat Chandra Bose was intending to agree and requested Abul Kalam Azad, the then All India Congress president for permission to join hands with Huq, taking into account the special situation in Bengal; but the congress high command turned it down despite repeated requests from the Bengal congress leadership. History would have been different if the congress agreed to A. K. Fazlul Huq's offer at this juncture. Lastly, Huq was compelled to take the support of Muslim League, which promptly seized the initiative and agreed to join the coalition under Huq's leadership. As a result of the formation of Huq - League ministry, the support

base of the Muslim League among the Bengalee Muslims increased many times which gradually paved the way for the partition of Bengal as well as India. In that context, Amalesh Tripathy, a noted historian wrote "if Congress would have supported the Ministry headed by A.K. Fazlul Huq from outside, then possibly he would not have to go to the Muslim League and Bengal also would not have divided."⁶

It is a fact that after the decline of the congress party to form a coalition government under the leadership of Fazlul Huq that compelled Huq to catch the hand of the Muslim League led by M. A. Jinnah to form the government. Thereafter, the very popular leader among the Hindus and Muslim of Bengal, Fuzlul Huq was systematically and skilfully used by the Muslim League to enhance its support base. Not only that a good number of Acts were passed by the Huq-League coalition ministry in favour of the Muslim community that gradually embittered the Hindu-Muslim relation in Bengal and reached its climax through heinous communal riots which ultimately led to the partition of the country on the basis of communalism.

Role of the Communists

At that point of time it appears relevant to look at the role of the communist party of India and its activities on the eve of a full-fledged political crisis of the Indian nation. It is a fact that India as a whole and Bengal was not an exception while there was a communal atmosphere and most of the political parties were involved in heated politics and ill-feeling to each other, the Communist Party of India was in their dreams for 'revolutionary seizure of state power' and side by side to bring about 'revolution with a proletarian impress and also armed insurrection' wherever it was necessary. The British imperialist power identified the CPI as the main danger of the imperialist war period and thereupon "on March 15, 1940 the Central Government passed an order for the detention of the communists under the defence of India Act all over India ..."⁷ One may not be so much sure about the activities of the communists on the question of communalism in Indian politics had they not been jailed but it is clear that those who were then outside were much more concerned about 'Peoples' War'

rather than to honour the national sentiment of India.⁸ It is again a matter of no less surprise that the communists of India were then much more concerned about “organizing a country wide campaign for national unity and it was in the form of justification of the Pakistan demand of the All India Muslim League on the logic of “the right of self-determination” of the Muslim nationalists”, including the right of separation.⁹

It may be concluded here that why the communist party of India had the role as explained and that it is still a matter of surprise when there was acute national crisis they turned attention either in international affairs or peoples’ war and that they were either indifferent towards the national crisis of India or wanted to avoid everything just like silent spectators.

Muslim League Ministry headed by H.S. Suhrawardy (24th April, 1946- 1947)

After the result of the general election of 1946, H.S. Suhrawardy was elected the leader of the Muslim League in the Assembly and was invited on 2nd April, 1946 by Governor Frederick Burrows to form the Ministry. In that situation, in order to develop the communal amity the Congress party was agreed to cooperate with the Muslim League. Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, the then All India Congress president requested Suhrawardy to induct at least one non – League Muslim into his cabinet; but, M. A. Jinnah would never agree with this proposal, showing this reason Suhrawardy rejected Moulana Azad’s proposal.¹⁰ Suhrawardy then formed his Ministry on 24th April, 1946, only by the Muslim Leaguers excepting Jogendra Nath Mandal who was the lone Hindu minister and represented the Scheduled Caste Federation.¹¹ The formation of the Cabinet only by the Muslims and omission of Caste Hindus from the Ministry hardened the Bengalese Caste Hindus which sent a strong message to them that what was likely to happen if the whole Bengal would become a part of Pakistan. Naturally, in the pretext of the above circumstances the Bengalese Hindus those who enjoyed the power of Bengal politics since the beginning by and large, campaigned intensively for the partition of Bengal as well as creation of a separate Hindu majority province that would

remain as a part of Indian Union and refused to have anything to do with the United Bengal proposed by Suharawardy - Sarat Bose duo.¹²

In the meantime, The Cabinet Mission's three-tier compromise formula were accepted both by the Congress and the Muslim League and thereupon 'unity of India' as if was guaranteed and that political development was considered as the 'glorious event' in the history of the freedom movement of India.¹³ But, at that juncture of history, one of the most unfortunate and provocative comments made by Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then President of the Congress party, changed the entire course of Indian history. On 10th July, 1946, as a Congress president Nehru held a press conference in Bombay where he was asked by some pressmen whether, the Congress had accepted the Cabinet Mission Plan in toto? Pundit Nehru answered that 'His party was completely unfettered by any agreements and free to meet all situation as they arise'.¹⁴ Not only that in a response to some quires of the press representatives, Nehru emphatically declared that "the Congress had agreed only to participate in the Constituent Assembly and regarded itself free to change or modify the Cabinet Mission Plan as it thought best."¹⁵

Sabotage to the Unity of India:

As a follow up of the above happenings, M.A. Jinnah also felt that Congress could change the scheme through its majority in the Constituent Assembly; this would mean that the minorities would be placed at the mercy of the majority. His view was that the declaration of Pundit Nehru meant that the Congress party had rejected the Cabinet Mission Plan for which Jinnah had compromised 'the idea of an independent Pakistan'.¹⁶ In that context, all hopes of a 'United India' were shattered to that ground and the 'idea of an Independent Pakistan', which Jinnah had compromised by accepting the Cabinet Mission Plan, was revived.¹⁷

Muslim League's Withdrew its Acceptance and Call for Direct Action:

In Jinnah's reckoning the Congress had given a foretaste

of how exactly the Hindus would behave towards the Muslim minority after the British had departed from India. So, on 27th July, 1946 the Muslim League Council met at Bombay. In that meeting M.A. Jinnah in his opening speech 'reiterated the demand for Pakistan as the only course left open to the Muslim League'. After three days serious discussion, the League Council passed a resolution rejecting the acceptance of the Cabinet Mission Plan, instructed its followers to prepare for a 'Programme of Direct Action' to organize the Muslims for the coming struggle to be launched as and when necessary' for achieving Pakistan.¹⁸ The Muslim League working committee gave a call for the declaration of 'Direct Action Day' on 16th August, 1946 was to be a 'Universal Muslim Hartal'. M.A. Jinnah also delivered a provocative speech in the course of which he announced that he was 'giving a goodbye to constitutional methods' and threatened to wield a pistol.¹⁹

The Great Calcutta Killings

The above circumstances directly triggered off the communal holocaust in Calcutta, then India's one of the largest cities with a population of twenty five lakhs. The violence that erupted on and from 16th to 19th August, 1946, following the observance of the 'Direct Action Day' by the Muslim League, sparked off a chain of communal violence that led to the partition of the country within a year. It is a fact that the then Government of Bengal headed by H.S. Suharawardy declared 16th August, 1946 the 'Direct Action Day' as a public holiday for both Muslims and Hindus alike. In order to enthusiasm the Muslims, the Direct Action Day was directed as if an anti-Hindu campaign by top Muslim League Leaders like H.S. Suharawardy and some of his close aids with the impression among the Muslims 'no cause is dearer or nobler than Pakistan' or adopt the slogan of 'Lar kelenge Pakistan! i.e. 'Pakistan by Force!'.²⁰ With the full backing and support of Muslim League Ministry of Bengal under H.S. Suharawardy, the Muslim goondas committed worst crime in Calcutta for three days at a stretch. The Hindus were butchered like sheep, their women ravished and their houses looted and burnt. The police and the Military were not allowed to take any action.

In the context of the observance of the 'Direct Action Day' we may refer here the observation of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad as an eye witness what he wrote in his famous Autobiography 'India Wins Freedom' - "In Calcutta, I found a general feeling that on 16 August, the Muslim League would attack Congressmen and loot Congress property. Further panic was created when the Bengal Government decided to declare 16 August a public holiday."²¹ Maulana Azad again wrote "16 August was a black day in the history of India. Mob violence unprecedented in the history of India plunged the great city of Calcutta into an orgy of bloodshed, murder and terror. Hundreds of lives were lost. Thousands were injured and property worth crores of rupees was destroyed. Processions were taken out by the League which began to loot and commit acts of arson. Soon the whole city was in the grip of goondas of both the communities.... I found there a large contingent of the military waiting in trucks. When I asked why they were not helping in restoring order, they replied that their orders were to stand ready but not to take any action. Throughout Calcutta, the military and the police were standing by but remained inactive while innocent men and women were being killed."²²

However, on the third day of the ongoing bloodshed, the retaliation on behalf of the general Hindu was spearheaded by the Sikhs from Bhawanipur area and started branching out soon across the city. The Hindus in their vehicles filled with guns and swords started attacking on the Muslims wherever they could be found throughout the city. It is fact that the armies were not called by the Muslim League led government, headed by H.S. Suharawardy till the third day of the riots, although several battalions of well-armed British forces were ready in Fort William. In that critical juncture, only when the whole Metropolis was involved in the worst form of communal violence and the whole city went under the grip of the goondas, then the army was called for maintaining law and order, following a conversation about the gravity of the situation in Calcutta between the Viceroy Lord Wavell and the Governor of Bengal Frederick Burrows.²³ On the pretext of the Direct Action Day—what happened in

Calcutta i.e. the 'Great Calcutta Killings' had indeed changed the course of India's history by making Partition certain.²⁴

It may be mentioned here that this 'Direct Action' day of 16th August, 1946 resulted in the form of killing of over 6,000 and injured over 15,000 humans in Calcutta alone. Sir Henry Twineham, Ex-Governor of Central Provinces after reaching Liverpool on 8th October, 1946 commented that more than 40,000 were killed or injured in the Calcutta killing.²⁵ It is an undeniable fact that the 'Direct Action' had an immediate and cascading effect across the country and resulted many other serious consequences that were followed in Noakhali, Bihar, Orissa, UP, Punjab, Delhi, Bombay and in many other areas.²⁶

Impact of Communal disturbances and the Idea of Partition of Bengal

The great Calcutta Killings and the holocaust in Noakhali, Tippera and subsequently in Bihar, no doubt antagonized both the Hindus and Muslims attitude against each other and there was no place of trust between the two main communities in India. In that situation of distrust as well as instability a total unforeseen or unexpected development took place, namely the idea of 'Partition of Bengal', which paradoxically Bengal had rejected almost half century ago by the anti-partition movement against the scheme of partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon in 1905. This proposal first mooted in the Tarakeshwar Conference of the Bengal Provincial Hindu Mahasabha, held on 4th to 6th April, 1947, and rapidly gained in favour of the proposal i.e. partition of Bengal like a rolling snowball. Nirmal Chandra Chatterjee, the then President of the Bengal Provincial Hindu Mahasabha, in his Presidential address remarked, "Let us declare today that as the Muslim League persists in its fantastic idea of establishing Pakistan in Bengal, the Hindus of Bengal must constitute a separate province under a strong national government. This is not a question of partition; this is a question of life and death for us, the Bengalee Hindus." One of the principle advocates of the concept of the partition of Bengal was Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, who declared "I conceive of no other solution of the communal problem in Bengal than to divide the province and to lead the two major

communities residing here with peace and freedom'.²⁷The commissioner of Burdwan Division reported to government that, "the movement was gradually gaining strength in all the districts of the division and local Congress organization became active in support of the movement".²⁸In this way Bengal Provincial Congress Committee and the Hindu Mahasabha in political and non political forum started debate regarding the feasibility of the partition of Bengal. As a result of the said fact the trend of Bengal politics was rapidly moving towards the final holocaust i.e. partition.

Refugees and the Government of West Bengal after Partition

As a result of the partition of India particularly Bengal at the cost of gaining independence, West Bengal started suffering from the acute refugee problem as a matter of fact. With the bifurcation of Bengal and creation of new state in the union of India i.e. West Bengal started its journey with the unlimited liability of the refugees from East Pakistan. Actually, aftermath the events of the great Calcutta Killing, Noakhali and Bihar holocaust just before the partition of the country, the communal situation became so embittered that a large section of the Hindus from East Pakistan and a section of Muslims from West Bengal started leaving their ancestral property and were forced to become refugees for the sake of their life, security and honour in both the countries.²⁹It was found that as a consequence of the Noakhali riots of 1946, the Hindus started coming to West Bengal and that processes increased in many more after partition. The inflow of the Hindu refugees to West Bengal was accelerated at the event of the police action in Hyderabad in September 1949. It was estimated that as much as a million of Hindus migrated from East Pakistan to West Bengal by March 1948.³⁰By June 1948 the number of refugees reached up to 1.1 million. Of these number of refugees—350,000 belonged to the urban middle classes, 550,000 to the rural middle classes, something more than 100,000 were agriculturists and something less than 100,000 artisans. The number of refugees varied from district to district.³¹The second phase of the influx of the refugees began with the anti-Hindu riots in the month of February 1950 in East Pakistan which is considered as the biggest

communal riots in this subcontinent after partition. This time the refugees started coming to West Bengal as like as glacier and the city of Calcutta as if converted into a refugee city.³²

Background of the Foundation of Raiganj College

It is needless to say that since the beginning of the independence the influx of refugees was a constant problem for the state of West Bengal and the District of West Dinajpur was not exception from it. In order to tackle the extensive refugee problem initially relief and rehabilitation were provided by the Government of West Bengal for giving minimum support to the huge displaced as well as destitute persons. They were given shelter in the various camps namely *Cuparse camp, relief camp of Dhubulia, Kashipur camp* and others. It is evident that thousands of displaced refugees from the then East Pakistan were forced to come over the border District of the erstwhile West Dinajpur, started residing various places and particularly in Raiganj. It is also noteworthy that with the taking of shelter and arranging food and others means of livelihood, providing higher educational facilities to the youths of the refugees as well as Raiganj and surrounding areas it was very much needed to establish a higher educational institution.

Initiators

At this juncture of the most darkest hour of the history of independent India as well as Bengal some great personalities, educationists and social thinkers of Raiganj felt necessity for setting up a college for imparting higher education to the youths of the region who were living in this poverty-stricken small town i.e. Raiganj. Keeping in mind the above mentioned necessities and priority in order to convene a meeting, one fine morning in 1947, Late Sukumar Guha and Late Nirmal Chandra Ghosh simply appealed to some enlightened personalities of the town in the form of a notice on a *khata* or Notice book and handed over it with very convincing and polite manner to late Satyaranjan Das, an Ex-student of Raiganj College and Retired Head Master of Bharatpur High School. It is needless to say that the main purpose of the said notice was to collect signature of Hamidur Rahaman and

Shyamaprasad Barman as Convenor of the first meeting for the establishment of Raiganj College. Satyaranjan Das and his two friends namely Biswanath Khan and Jagannath Kundu went door to door to collect the signature for attending the first meeting for the purpose of the establishment of Raiganj College. As a result of the tireless effort of the above-mentioned gentlemen, lastly a meeting was convened by the conscious, interested and eminent persons of Raiganj to establish a College for higher education. The people who were present and put their signature in that meeting were 1. Banamali Das. 2. Durgapada Sarkar 3. Brajendralal Banerjee. 4. Dr. Jagadish Chandra Sen. 5. Sasindra Chandra Dey (Former H. M. of Raiganj Coronation High School, who had got National Award by the President of India). 6. Kshirod Chandra Saha. (President of the then Union Board) 7. Rabindra Nath Bhowmik. 8. Kumaresh Chandra Roy. 9. Kshitish Chandra Mitra. 10. Rohini Mohan Nag. 11. Kalyan Kumar Goswami. 12. Kishan Lal Ghosh. 13. Hajarilal Agarwala. 14. Naharmal Kalyani. 15. Md. Golem HamidurRahaman. 16. Sasadhar Bhowmik. 17. Shyamaprasad Barman. 18. Jitendraram Bakshi. 19. Kumaresh Chandra Bhowmik. 20. Mohit Ranjan Sikder. 22. Jogendra Kumar Roy. 23. Ramendra Nath Dutta. 24. Bijoysankar Choudhury. 25. Md. Afuj Ali. 26. Manager, Bahin Court of orders and others. All the members of that meeting unanimously decided to establish a college and appealed to the common peoples to donate land and money for this noble purpose.³³ It is learned from late Satyaranjan Das, one of the key initiators of the college that Nirmal Kumar Ghosh was unanimously selected as the first Secretary of the College. Satya Ranjan Das has mentioned a dream in his writing on an article on the golden jubilee celebration souvenir on 2nd August, 1998, that Raiganj College will become a University in future.³⁴ It is really a matter of pride that the dream of late Satya Ranjan Das has now come into reality as because Raiganj College upgraded into a State University named as Raiganj University on 3rd February, 2015. It is again the matter of great strange! How far a visionary was Satya Ranjan Das? However, the initiators of the college made an appeal in 1948 to the Calcutta University for its affiliation.

Affiliation and the Role of Nisith Nath Kundu

Shri Nisith Nath Kundu, the famous social worker, lawyer and politician had rendered his whole hearted cooperation and support to bring the affiliation of Raiganj College from Calcutta University in 1948. It is learned that Nisith Nath Kundu was a law student of Sambhunath Banerjee who was the then the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University. Naturally, after long days meeting of the great teacher and student and personal relationship of the duo also may be helped enough to Nisith Nath Kundu to bring the affiliation of Raiganj College without any notable hindrance.³⁵

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. In order to forge unity among the Hindus and the Muslims, C. R. Das drafted the historic Bengal Pact in 1923. The main provisions of the pact were: "i). The number of members of the two communities will be decided by their respective strength in Bengal's population, and the two communities will vote separately to elect their members. ii). The Muslims will have 60% and the Hindus 40% of the seats in local self-government institutions. iii). Fifty-five percent of the government appointees will be Muslims, but 80% of the vacancies will be filled up by them until the overall percentage of 55 was reached. iv). Music before mosques, usually a standard excuse for Hindu-Muslim riots, was to be banned. v). Killing of cows for religious purposes on the Bakr-Id day, a standard pretext for starting communal violence, was to be permitted and nobody will be allowed to object to it. vi). A committee with equal members of Muslims and Hindus will be appointed in every subdivision to supervise the implementation of the above terms." See, Nitish Sengupta, *Land of Two Rivers - A History of Bengal from the Mahabharata to Mujib*, Penguin Books, New Delhi, 2011, pp. 338-339.
2. Mr. Saroj Chakrabarty who acted long days with the Chief Ministers of West Bengal as their personal assistant, used to attend Legislative Council of Bengal from the year of 1933 as a part-time reporter of two daily papers, namely 'The Mussalman' and 'Muhammadi' owned by Maulana Akram Khan and would get an allowance of Rs. 25/- per month. See, Saroj Chakrabarty, *With West Bengal Chief Ministers - Memoirs 1962 To 1977*, Orient Longman, New Delhi (Printed

- from Sree Saraswati Press Ltd., 32 Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, Calcutta) 1978, p. 324.
3. See, name list of the Presidents of Bengal Provincial Congress committee, ascribed on the wall of Bidhan Bhavan, highest centre of West Bengal Pradesh Congress committee, Philipse More, Kolkata.
 4. Nitish Sengupta, *op. cit.*, pp. 339 and 347.
 5. Aparna Devi, *Manush Chittaranjan* (in Bengali), Paschim Banga Bangla Academy, 2010, p. 223
 6. "Eker par Ek Dheou" a Bengali article by Amalesh Tripathy in *SaatDashak- Samakal O Ananda Bazar*, Ananda Publishers, Kolkata, 2013, p. 54.
 7. For details see Gene D. Overstreet and Marshal Wind Miller, *Communism in India*, Bombay, 1960, p. 183.
 8. Tarun Kumar Banerjee and Debesh Roychowdhury, ed. *Colonial India – Ideas and Movements*, Progressive Publishers, Calcutta, 2001, p.258.
 9. Suniti Kumar Ghosh, *India and the Raj, 1919-1947*, Research Unit for Political Economy, Bombay, 1995, p. 337.
 10. Amalendu Dey, *Pakistan Prastab O Fazlul Huq* (in Bengali), Parul, Kolkata, 2015, p. 207.
 11. H.S. Suhrawardy could have easily formed the ministry with the support of 25 European members along with 115 Muslim League members. But he felt that it would be improper to have a council of ministers in which there would be no representation of a large part of the population. So, H.S. Suharawardy did his best to form a coalition Government with the Congress. In spite of invitation from His Excellency the Governor, Frederick Burrows on 2nd April, he took a long time i.e. 24th April, 1946 to make the Council of Ministers. In that case he felt the necessity to work unitedly with both the Hindus and Muslims community for the development of the Bengal. It is a fact that his attempt of the formation of joint Hindu-Muslim Ministry was not materialized initially and on 24th April Suharawardy Ministry was formed with Jogendra Nath Mondal, the lone Hindu Minister and other seven members of the Muslim League. But, in the meantime, after 'Direct Action Day' on 16th August 1946, the Muslim League's joined in the interim Government at the Centre on 15th October, 1946. In the Central interim Government, no Muslim representative from Bengal was taken by M.A. Jinnah. Only Jogendra Nath Mondal was selected to represent Bengal

by the Muslim League as well as M.A. Jinnah. Naturally Jogendra Nath Mondal had to resign from the Bengal Cabinet and thereby H.S. Suharawardy reconstituted his Cabinet on 15th November, 1946 inducting one Muslim Member namely Mr. Fazlur Rahaman in place of Jogendra Nath Mondal. At the same time, H.S. Suharawardy inducted three other Hindu members of whom one represented the upper caste. The names of the three Hindu Ministers were Tarak Nath Mukherjee, Nagendra Narayan Roy and Dwarakanath Barori respectively. The Council of Minister of Bengal and Portfolios headed by H.S. Suharawardy were as follows: 1. Huseyan Shaheed Suhrawardy – Prime Minister, Home (Except Jail), 2. Mohammad Ali – Finance, Health, Local Self-Government, 3. SaiyedMuazzamuddin Hossain – Education, 4. Ahmed Hosain – Agriculture, Forest, Fisheries, 5. Abdul Gofran – Civil supplies, 6. Abul Fazal Md. AbdurRahaman - Co-operation, Credit and Relief, 7. Shamsuddin Ahhmed – Commerce, Labour and Industries, 8. Tarak Nath Mukherjee – Irrigation and Water-ways, 9. Nagendra Narayan Roy – Judicial and Legislative, 10. Fazlur Rahaman- Land, Land Revenue and Jail, 11. Dwarikanath Barori – Works and Buildings. However, the Government did not last longer than 15 months owing to partition of the country. The last Cabinet meeting was held on 11th August 1947 just 3 days before the Independence. For details see Dilip Banerjee, *Election Recorder – An Analytical Reference, Bengal – West Bengal 1862 – 2012*, Star Publishing House, Kolkata, Sixth revised edition, 2012, pp. 116-118; and also see Nitish Sengupta, *op. cit.* pp. 470-471.

12. Nitish Sengupta, *op. cit.* p.455.
13. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, *India Wins Freedom, The Complete Version*, Orient BlackSwan, Reprint, New Delhi, 2014, pp.158-164.
14. Leonard Mosley, *The Last Days of the British Raj*, Jaico Publishing House, Bombay, 1960, p.21; also see, Nitish Sengupta, *op. cit.* p.459.
15. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, *op. cit.* pp. 164-65; also see, Leonard Mosley, *op. cit.* pp. 21-23; also see, Ayesha Jalal, *The Sole Spokesman – Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Great Britain, 1999, p. 209.
16. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, *op. cit.* p.165.
17. Nitish Sengupta, *op. cit.* p.459.

18. Nitish Sengupta, *op. cit.* p.460;also see, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, *op. cit.* pp.165-66.
19. The effect of Nehru's answers at his press conference and their grave aftermath-Jinnah called a meeting of the League Council on 27th July, 1946 in which two resolutions were passed. As per first resolution "the Muslim League Council had felt that their interests would not be safe in the Constituent Assembly and had decided that the acceptance of the scheme contained in the Cabinet Mission's statement of 16 May should be revoked". The second resolution called upon the working committee to draw up a Plan for direct action. After passing the resolutions, M. A. Jinnah said: "What we have done today is the most historic act in our history. Never have we in the whole history of the League done anything except by constitutional methods and by constitutionalism. But now we are obliged and forced into this position. This day we bid goodbye to constitutional methods". 'Today' he said, 'we have also forged a pistol and are in a position to use it'. See, V. P. Menon, *Transfer of Power in India*, p. 287, cited from, H.M. Seervai, *Partition of India – Legend and Reality*, Law and justice Publishing Co. Delhi, Reprint, 2021,pp.79-80; also see Nitish Sengupta,*op.cit.* p.460.
20. Nitish Sengupta,*op.cit.* p.461.
21. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, *op.cit.*p.168.
22. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, *op.cit.*p.169.
23. Nitish Sengupta,*op.cit.* p.462.
24. Nitish Sengupta,*op.cit.* p.469
25. Swadhinata, 11th October, 1946; *cited from*, Sukumar Biswas, *Communal Riots in Bangladesh & West Bengal 1947-1964*, Parul, 2012, p. 18.
26. Jaswant Singh, *Jinnah: India-Partition-Independence*, Rupa, New Delhi, 2009, p. 383.
27. Nitish Sengupta, *op. cit.* p. 478.
28. Fortnightly Report on the Political Situation in Bengal, 2nd half of April, 1947. Govt. of Bengal.
29. "Bidhan Chandra KarnadharTabuKhaaaanditaBanglarNabhisvoas" A Bengali Article by Amalendu Dey in *SaatDashakSamokal O Ananda Bazar*, Ananda Publishers, Kolkata, 2013, p. 92.
30. Statement of the Central Rehabilitation Minister on 11 March, 1948; see *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, 12th March, 1948.

54 **Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal**

31. Information supplied by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner of West Bengal on 5th June 1948; see *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, 6th June, 1948.
32. Sukharanjan Sengupta, *BhangaPather Ranga Dhulay* (in Bengali), Ruminations of bygonaries, Punasha, Kolkata, 2010, p.63; also see Lalit Chandra Barman, *CoochbiharerSmaraniyoByaktitta Khan Choudhury Amanatulla Ahamad*, Upjanbhui Publishers, Mathabhanga, Coochbiher, 2017, p. 43.
33. See, Golden Jubilee Smarak Patrika, Raiganj College (University College), 1998.
34. *Ibide*.
35. 'Mahajeebner Katha', A Bengali Article by Manoranjan Das in *Smaranika-Nisithnath Kundu Janma Shatabarshiki*, 1992, edited by Satyaranjan Das, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur.

Chapter IV

Raiganj Coronation High School: The Womb of Raiganj College

It is a fact that within the religious life of the Buddhists, the shrines play a significant role over the centuries. It is known that most of the Buddhist architectural vestiges prevailed in undivided Bengal. We are not, however, very definite about the time of existence of Buddhism in the eastern region of Bengal particularly its northern part i.e. Pundravardhana which in time and after proved to be a great centre of Buddhist religion and culture. But that Pundravardhana sometimes historically known as Pundranagara which presumably covers the present North Bengal was a centre of Buddhism is proved by the accounts of the Chinese pilgrim like Yuan Chwang. It is, however, a matter of controversy among the scholars as to the geographical boundary of Pundravardhana. Whatever it is, we are to follow here the most accepted version of the modern scholars and the boundary which we mean stands as comprising areas of present day Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna (in Bangladesh), and Dinajpur (both in India and Bangladesh).¹

It is noteworthy that as a part of Pundravardhana, Dinajpur was flourished as a centre of learning and culture. In that context, we may refer here about the identification of Jagaddal Mahavihara. According to A. K. M. Zakaria who identifies five old sites bearing the name Jagaddala amongst which most important is Dinajpur.² In spite of debate regarding the actual location of the Jagaddal Mahavihara³, one cannot deny the importance of this Buddhist monastery as a centre of learning. R. C. Majumdar opined that although, there is no direct reference about the library as such still the works and the names of the scholars strongly suggest the glamour of the monastery as a

centre of the Buddhist intellectuals. It is said that there were some Tibetan scholars who translated Sanskrit books into Tibetan language.⁴ This single example testifies that Jagaddala became a centre for Tibetan-Indian cultural relations. One Shakyasribhadra stayed here for a short time and he was a disciple of Subhakaragupta, a scholar of this monastery and he had also two other students namely Bibhutichandra and Danashila who have been described as scholar in Sanskrit and Tibetan languages.⁵ One may also recall Dharmakara, a Buddhist scholar of Jagaddala who translated the Samvara Vyakhya of Krishna.⁶

It is, however, a matter of regret that the glory of Jagaddala monastery did not continue long and as a result of the conquest of the 'Turuskas' in the beginning of the 13th century, it have been destroyed and gradually passed into only in our memory. But, there were certain minor Viharas in Pundravardhana and although the details of the list is waiting till the discovery in the coming days; we may refer at least one of this types located at Devikota which is very much within Pundravardhana-bhukti, in the village of Bangarh in the district of Dakshin Dinajpur. It is known that eminent tantric scholars namely Acharya Advayavajra, Udhilipa and also Bhikshuni Mekhala at certain time resided at Devikota.⁷ The ruins of this monastery is yet to trace but it is a conjectural view of some scholars that the monastery was located in Devikota and it bore its glory as a centre of leaning.⁸

From the above foregoing account about the viharas and mahaviharas which flourished in Pundravardhana brings to us a lively testimony of an era when Buddhism as a religion became popular in this region. The ruler of Ancient Bengal with special reference to the Palas patronized the monasteries in all respects and directly they contributed a homogeneous culture in the region. In addition the role of a centre of religious activities most of the monasteries directly or indirectly left contribution for the knowledge building process. Scholarship in Pali language beside Sanskrit and Tibetan received the royal patronage during the time and not only that, it contributed much in the writing and translation of different texts of various field of knowledge. Besides, Srijnana Atis, Subhakaragupta,

Bibhutichandra, Danashila, Ratnakara Santi and so on had left a forceful appeal to the knowledge world and thereby Dinajpur as a part of Varendri or Pundravardhan could draw the attention of the outer world.⁹

From the light of the above it is not impossible for anyone to imagine that Dinajpur as a part of glorious Pundravardhan was a centre of knowledge-culture and received royal patronage, but the glorious chapter of this region started diminishing after the barbarian invasion of the 'Turuskas' in the beginning of the 13th century. Thereafter, it is hardly noticeable Dinajpur as an important centre of learning as well as higher education even up to the foundation of a college during the British rule. In that pretext, in the field of spreading higher education it is found that there was only one college in the district of undivided Dinajpur. As a result of the curse of partition the college (presently it is known as 'Dinajpur Government College' in Bangladesh, established in 1942) falls in the eastern part of the district which undoubtedly had become a part of East Pakistan. It is needless to say that after the partition there was no college for pursuing higher education in the western part of Dinajpur i.e. West Dinajpur which falls in the part of West Bengal as well as in India. In that context, initiatives were taken for setting up two new Colleges, one at Balurghat and other at Raiganj in order to provide the facilities of higher education to the youth of the newly partitioned district. The Balurghat College was opened in September, 1948 as an Intermediate Arts College, and obtained affiliation for the I. Sc. Course in 1950. It was then affiliated up to the B.A. and B.Sc. standard by the Calcutta University. The RAIGANJ COLLEGE was opened in August, 1948 and received affiliation from Calcutta University up to the I.A. Examination only in Arts from 1948-49. Thereafter, Raiganj College was affiliated for both the I. Sc. and B.A. standard.¹⁰ After the establishment of the two colleges, the main difficulties in connection with the successful functioning were the dearth of eligible lecturers and professors. The distance from Dinajpur to Calcutta may be one of the reasons because most of the qualified teachers were not willing to come to Dinajpur from Calcutta. However, Balurghat College had come under the "sponsored colleges" scheme of the Government, while Raiganj College started

getting grants from the Government. The professors and lecturers were paid salaries as prescribed by the University and the Government, and fees were collected from the students at the rates approved by the Government. After the establishment of the University of North Bengal in 1962, both the colleges were automatically came under it's administration and academic and affiliation.

MINUTES BOOK OF RAIGANJ CORONATION HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

An emergent meeting of the members of the managing committee, Raiganj Coronation Higher English school was held in the school premises on Sunday, 11th July 1948 at 8.00 a.m. regarding the commencement of the classes.

Members present. 1. Khagendra Kumar Saha. 2. Nirmal Kumar Saha. 3. Sasindra Chandra Dey (H. M. on and from 04.01.1944 to 31.07.1969). 4. Sushil Kumar Saha. 5. Jagadish Chandra Sengupta. 6. Janab Afuj Ali. 7. Badiruddin Ahmed.

Item No. 2. Considering the application of the secretary of the proposed Raiganj College, the members unanimously resolved that the school premises may be lent to the college committee for the initiation of the classes provided there is no interruption with the normal school work. Conditions will be imposed with the starting of the classes.¹¹

Starting of the Classes

It is very important to note here that there were only 19 Pucca houses at Raiganj during the year of 1947-49 and one of them was Raiganj Coronation High School which was established in the year of 1911. It is noteworthy that 'Raiganj Middle English School' was first established in 1906. In the pretext of the coronation of George V, the King of Britain; the British imperial power in order to commemorate the event of the coronation ceremony of their King converted the earlier 'Raiganj Middle English School' into "Raiganj Coronation School' in 1911.¹² However, keeping in mind the resolution of the Managing Committee of Coronation High School "the school premises may be lent to the college committee for the initiation of the classes provided there is no interruption with

the normal school work"- the classes of the Raiganj College used to start at sharp 6.00 a.m. and would continue up to 10.00 a.m. in the school building. It is noteworthy that the first batch of the college was started only with 22 students.¹³ The names of the first batch students were as follows – i. Naren Das, ii. Hiren Gupta, iii. Susil Dutta, iv. Sunil Pal, v. Babulal Agarwala, vi. Santosh Saha, vii. Nonigopal Pal, viii. Adhar Das, ix. Dulal Basu, x. Jiban Sengupta, xi. Mongal Deb, xii. Nirmal Roy, xiii. Dinesh Majumder, xiv. Sanjib Basu, xv. Manashi Gupta, xvi. Kabita Bhowmick, xvii. Sova Dam, xviii. Bharati Neogi, xix. Ila Basu, xx. Ava Ghosh, xxi. Kana Dutta and xxii. Sreemati Bhowmick.¹⁴

Means of Fund Collection:

It is not very difficult to imagine that the financial condition of the college was not satisfactory at all at the initial stage. Therefore, in order to raise fund for the development of the college some significant measures were adopted by the teachers and non-teaching staff under the very careful and enthusiastic leadership of Shri Krishna Kumud Saraswati, the first principal of the college. In that context, the performance of Drama, *Jatra-Palas* in several times in local surroundings and in the talkies are noteworthy. A drama named "Parineeta" was dramatized at the stage of Raiganj Institute by the teachers and office staff of the College and the money which has been collected from the tickets was deposited in the fund of Raiganj College for the development purpose.¹⁵

AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

71

RAIGANJ COLLEGE

(P.O. Raiganj, Dist. West Dinajpur)

FIRST AFFILIATION, 1948

(UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA, THE CALENDAR-1952,
VOLUME- I, PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF
CALCUTTA -1953)

Government Grant:

In the first year of its affiliation the college was fortunate

enough to get a Government grant of Rs. 500/- through the University and Rs. 1,250/- from the Director of Public Instruction, West Bengal. More than 60 percent of the students of the college were being refugees. In the second year of its affiliation, the college got a loan grant amount of Rs. 44000/- from the Education Officer (Relief and Rehabilitation) for the purpose of the construction of a part of its own building; in the same year the college also got Government grants of Rs. 2,400/- from the Director of Public Instruction, and Rs. 500/- from the Calcutta University. In the third year, the college again got Rs. 3,000/- from the Director of Public Instruction.¹⁶ With these amounts the college gradually started developing with its own building and had improved the condition of its Library to some extent. But, the college requires further help from the Government for its all-round development.

College Buildings: It is found that with the help of the above mentioned grants the college had completed only 4 rooms on a plot of land situated outside the din and bustle of the town but not very far from it i.e. presently Raiganj University campus. It should be known to all that being inspired for the spread of higher education at Raiganj with the establishment of a college namely 'Raiganj College', Shree Jamini Kanta Ghosh donated the entire land of present Raiganj University campus for the establishment of the college. The present and future generation of Raiganj as a whole and Raiganj University in particular should remember the charity of that great soul i. e. Shree Jamini Kanta Ghosh, the donor of the land for the college.

Library: The condition of the library developed gradually thereafter.

Hostel: There was a College Hostel with accommodation for 20 students.

Extra-curricular Activities: For the all round development of the students in terms of games, sports, debate, drama etc. like any other developed academic institution; in Raiganj College- there was a College Union which would organise debates, dramatic performances, etc. Not only that there were also arrangements for games and sports. Some students were used to attend the youth camp also.¹⁷

Affiliated Subjects and Combination of Subjects

I.A:-English, Bengali (Vernacular), Sanskrit, Mathematics, Logic, History, Civics, Commercial Geography, Commercial Arithmetic and Elements of Book-keeping. All sorts of combinations were allowed except History with Mathematics and Sanskrit with Commercial Arithmetic and Elements of Book-keeping.

Stipends and Scholarships etc:

In 1948-49, only one student got Government Stipend of Rs. 15/- per month for two years. In the next year one student got a scholarship of Rs. 12/- per month for two years; a stipend of Rs. 15/- per month from the Government and a Refugee stipend of Rs. 30/- per month from the Education Officer, Relief and Rehabilitation, for two years were also awarded. Besides, one scheduled caste student got stipend of Rs, 10/- per month for one year and three scheduled caste students also got lump sum stipends, one for examination fees and two for purchase of books. In 1951-52 two refugee students got stipends of Rs. 20/- each per month for a year.¹⁸

**Names, Qualification and Designation of the Faculty/
Staff of Raiganj College**

<i>SL.No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Qualification</i>	<i>Designation</i>
1.	Sri Krishna Kumud Saraswati	M.Sc. LL.B.	First Principal
2.	Sri Hiranmay Bhattacharyya	M.A.(Double), Vyakaran Vedantatirtha,	Professor
3.	Sri ChittaranjanMoitra	M.A. (Double), LL.B.	Professor
4.	Sri Rabindranath Das	M.A.	Professor
5.	Sri Gopalchandra Majumder	M.A.	Professor
6.	Sri Nalinikanta Bhattacharjee	M.A. LL.B	Professor
7.	Sri Jyotsna Kumar Sen	M.A.	Tutor
8.	Sri Haricharan Debnath	M.A.	Lecturer (part-time).

List of Principals

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Principals</i>	<i>Qualification</i>
1.	Sri Krishna Kumud Saraswati	M.Sc. LL.B. ¹⁹

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. See, 'Buddhism and Buddhist Shrines of Pundravardhana: An overview', an Article by Ichhimuddin Sarkar in Souvenir, the seventy sixth session of Indian History Congress, held at University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal, India, 27-29th December, 2015, p. 27.
2. See, Sirajul Islam, *Banglapedia*, Vol. 5, Dhaka, 2003, p.343.
3. Recently a scholar inclined to locate Jagaddala, near a place named Amati which is situated in the district of Uttar Dinajpur. See, Malay Sankar Bhattacharya in 'Glimpses of Buddhist Bengal, Kolkata, 2008, p.15. Pandit Rahul Sankrityayan has, however, located Jagaddala in the name of Jagattala, somewhere in East Bengal. See, Journal of the Bihar and Orissa Research Society, March, 1937, p.11. But, Sri Nalininath Dasgupta has refuted this statement and is definite about its location somewhere in North Bengal. See, Sri Nalininath Dasgupta, *Bangalay Bauddadharma*, Calcutta, 1355 B.S. p.184.
4. See, Promode Lal Paul, *The Early History of Bengal*, II, New Delhi, 1940, p. 30.
5. For details see, Gayatri Sen Majumdar, *Buddhism in Ancient Bengal*, Calcutta, 1983, p. 133.
6. For details see, Dipak Kumar Barua, *Viharas in Ancient India – Survey of Buddhist Monasteries*, Calcutta, 1969, p.175.
7. Gayatri Sen Majumdar, *vop.cit.*, p.135.
8. R. C. Majumdar, *History of Ancient Bengal*, Calcutta, 1972, p. 525.
9. See, 'Buddhism and Buddhist Shrines of Pundravardhana: An overview', an Article by Ichhimuddin Sarkar in Souvenir, the seventy sixth session of Indian History Congress, held at University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal, India, 27-29th December, 2015, p.32
10. See, J. C. Sengupta, *Gazetteer of India*, West Bengal, West Dinajpur, April, 1965.
11. See, Minutes Book of Raiganj Coronation Higher Secondary School
12. See, 'Viswa Chhul Vidyalaya' (in Bengali) an article written by Sunil Chanda, ex-student of Raiganj Colege and veteran press reporter, AAjkal, 9th September, 2016.
13. *Ibide*.

14. Golden Jubilee Smarak Patrika, Raiganj College (University College), 1998.
15. *Ibide.*
16. See, University of Calcutta, the Calendar - 1952, Volume - I, Published by the University of Calcutta -1953.
17. *Ibide.*
18. *Ibide.*
19. *Ibide.*

Images of Raiganj Coronation High School: The Womb of Raiganj College



Chapter V

Up-gradation of Raiganj College: Aided College to a Sponsored College

MEETING OF THE RAIGANJ COLLEGE COMMITTEE DATED 02/08/1948

Those honourable members present in the meeting were:

i. Subodh Ch. Talukder, ii. Kumaresh Bhowmick, iii. Banamali Das, iv. Kshirod Ch. Saha, v. Janab Golam Hussain Rahaman, vi. Janab Afuj Ali, vii. Sashindra Ch. Dey, viii. Brajendralal Banerjee, ix. Sukumar Saha, x. Nirmal Kr. Ghosh, xi. Bijoy Sankar Choudhury, xii. Sishir Kr. Ghosh, xiii. Kshitish Ch. Mitra, xiv. Sashadhar Bhowmick, xv. Rohini Mohan Nag, xvi. Mohit Ranjan Sikder, xvii. Jogindra Kumar Roy, xviii. Jitendra Kumar Bokshi, xix. Rabindra Kr. Bhowmick, xx. Hemchandra Paul, xxi. Ashutosh Das, xxii. Ramendra Nath Dutta, xxiii. Prithwis Ch. Mitra, xxiv. Ajoy Kr. Das and xxv. Kumaresh Ch. Roy.

In that meeting following resolutions regarding appointment of the teachers and office staff were taken by the members unanimously:

- i. Gopal Chandra Majumder (Prof. English). Monthly salary Rs. 150/- (probationary period Six month)
- ii. Suresh Chandra Mukherjee. Monthly salary Rs. 75/- (probationary period six month).
- iii. Maheswar Kanti. For office, monthly salary Rs. 25/-

MEETING OF THE RAIGANJ COLLEGE COMMITTEE DATED 07/08/1948

In the Meeting of the Governing Body of Raiganj College

held on 07/08/1948. In that meeting decisions were taken regarding appointments that 1. Rohini Mohan Nag and 2. Jitendra Ram Bakshi be appointed.

In the same meeting it was also resolved that for the purpose of **raising college fund** a committee was constituted by the following gentlemen.

- i. Hazarilal Agarwalla
- ii. Nirmal Kumar Ghosh
- iii. Banamali Das and
- iv. Kshitish Chandra Mitra.

In that meeting, it was also resolved that a Bank Account to be opened for the said purpose at Central Bank, Raiganj, West Dinajpur. Hazarilal Agarwalla and Kshitish Chandra Mitra were empowered to operate the same jointly for one calendar year. In this regards it was decided that maximum amount of Rs. 1500/- (one thousand five hundred only) might be withdrawn at a time.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated: 18/08/1948, time: 4.30 p.m.

In this meeting it was unanimously resolved to appoint various subject teachers. The names and subjects of the teachers were as follows:

English:

- i. Chittaranjan Moitra. (Logic and English),
- ii. Satyaranjan Kahali
- iii. Ashwini Kumar Choudhury and
- iv. Santiram Chatterjee.

Bengali and Sanskrit:

- i. Hiranmoy Bhattacharya
- ii. Sishir Ranjan Kar Sastri and
- iii. Sunil Baran Ghosh.

History:

- i. Sankar Ganguly,
- ii. Jyotirmoy Roy
- iii. Rabindra Nath Das and
- iv. Santosh Kumar Basu.

Commerce:

- i. Prafulla Kumar Sengupta (Civics and Commercial Geography.)
- ii. Naresh Chandra Roychowdhury and
- iii. Hariprasanna Dutta.

Civics:

- i. Narayan Chandra Samaddar and
- ii. Bankim Chandra Saha.

Logic:

- i. Ashwini Kumar Nandi
- ii. Dulal Kumar Mitra and
- iii. Kusum Bhattacharya.

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF RAIGANJ COLLEGE

Dated: 03/04/1949.

Resolved that the appointment date was fixed of the following persons:

- i. Gopal Majumder
- ii. Suresh Chandra Mukherjee and
- iii. Maheswar Kanti.

In that meeting it was also resolved that the following teachers and non-teaching staff along with their salaries will be engaged in Raiganj College:

- i. Krishna Kumud Saraswati (Rs. 200/- + Rs. 25/- office allowance)
- ii. Hiranmoy Bhattacharya (Rs. 200/-)
- iii. Rabindranath Das (Rs. 150/-)

- iv. Chitta Ranjan Moitra (Rs. 200/-)
- v. Gopal Chandra Majumder (Rs. 150/-)
- vi. Kumaresh Narayan Ghosh (Clerk, Rs. 80/-)
- vii. Dharendra Kumar Chakraborty (Bearer, Rs. 30/-)

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated: 11/05/1949, time: 5.00 p.m.

Members present in the meeting:

- i. Hon'ble Shyama Prasad Barman
- ii. S.D.O., Raiganj.
- iii. Munsif, Raiganj.
- iv. Nirmal Kumar Ghosh
- v. Janab Golam Hussain Rahaman
- vi. Banamali Das
- vii. Krishana Kumud Saraswati
- viii. Hiranmoy Bhattacharya
- ix. Chittaranjan Moitra.

Resolved that a condolence message would be sent to Chittaranjan Moitra (member of this committee), on account of sad demise of his wife.

Praying for affiliation of the college to start I. Sc, B. A. and B.Com. classes in the next session (1949-1950). On behalf of the Governing Body either Secretary or President or any other member is empowered to such a petition.

Resolved that the college Accounts be audited by a Chartered Accountant.

The college remaining closed for the summer vacation on and from 9th May to 9th July 1949. The staff and employees of the college be paid in advance for May 1949.

In that meeting also resolved that the University of Calcutta be requested to supply the rules and regulations for the formation of governing body of a College and these rules may be placed in a meeting before this committee as soon as possible.

In that meeting a committee was formed for acquiring some suitable land for the college as soon as possible to make all possible effects to settle the necessary arrangements with

the following gentlemen namely:

- i. Nirmal kumar Ghosh
- ii. Banamali Das
- iii. Hazarilal Agarwalla and
- iv. Janab Golam Hussain Rahaman.

In that meeting sanctioned Rs.500/- for library and furniture.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated: 16/06/1949.

As per the resolution of the Governing Body, the Collector, West Dinajpuris approached to acquire at least 50 bighas of lands for the College and the site be selected by the site-selection sub-committee consisting of the following members.

- i. Nirmal Kumar Ghosh
- ii. Banamali Das
- iii. Hazarilal Agarwalla
- iv. Janab Golam Hussain Rahaman and
- v. Krishna Kumud Saraswati.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated: 23/12/1949.

The members unanimously resolved that on the basis of I.C report no. 220/I.C. dated 28/11/1949, a separate account be opened immediately at the Raiganj Postal Savings Bank, in the name of "The Raiganj College Fund", and "The Raiganj College Building Fund" operating by the Secretary and Principal of Raiganj College.

Also resolved that an additional sum of Rs. 1500/- (one thousand five hundred only) was sanctioned for the College Library furniture. For raising College Fund, the following gentlemen were responsible to make necessary efforts.

- i. Banamali Das
- ii. Kshitish Chandra Mitra

- iii. Hazarilal Agarwala
- iv. President, Bar Association and
- v. President, Marketers Bar Association.

Also resolved that Land for the College in Mouja Raiganj about Plot No. 2206, 2251-57, 2260-67, 2282, 2497-98 measuring all 16.36 acres or part empowered the following persons to take necessary action for negotiate the land holders a reasonable price by on or before 15th January next.

- i. Nirmal Kumar Ghosh
- ii. Banamali Das
- iii. Kshitish Chandra Mitra and
- iv. Sisir Kumar Ghosh

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated: 10/02/1950 at 5 p.m.

It is resolved that the decision regarding the College Building that proposed to be a FREE GIFT from **DR. JAMINIKANTA GHOSH** be accepted with heartily thanks to the "DONOR" and that all steps for legalising the transaction be taken immediately and the secretary, Nirmal Kumar Ghosh be authorised to have the TITLE DEED executed registered as soon as possible. This generous gift from JAMINI KANTA GHOSH the committee resolved that the Library Hall of the College be named "**GOBINDA-NITYAMANI LIBRARY HALL**", in the memory of the parents of the DONOR, i.e. JAMINI KANTA GHOSH. Therefore, a life membership should be offered to a member of the donor's family will be considered later on.

LAND DONOR: DR. JAMINI KANTA GHOSH

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated:06/05/1950.

On the meeting of the Governing Body of the Raiganj College dated 06/05/1950 it is resolved that for construction of the college building, plan and estimate had already been approved. Governing Body was reconstructed as follows:

- i. District Magistrate, West Dinajpur
- ii. Sub-Divisional Officer, Raiganj
- iii. 6 (six) persons represent from Merchant Association
- iv. 6 (six) persons represent from Medical Association
- v. 6 (six) persons represent from Bar Association
- vi. N.K.Ghosh, Secretary, Raiganj Coronation School
- vii. S.P. Barman
- viii. M.K. Roy
- ix. Principal, Raiganj College and
- x. Two teachers of the College.

Provident Fund was introduced. '**One Anna**' in the rupee to be contributed by the staff members. **Half Anna** to be subscribed by the college and the DPI be moved to contribute **another Half Anna** in the rupee to the P.F.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated:28/06/1950.

Members unanimously resolved that out of the two contractors for the construction of the college building Janardan Dam was ready to take up the work within July,1950 and to complete January, 1951.

It is estimated for college building Rs. 44,000/- (forty four thousand only) and plan and estimate had been approved. It is also recorded in that meeting of the Governing Body of Raiganj College - Badri Narayan Jhawar and Hazarilal Agarwalla gave loan Rs. 5000/- (five thousand only) for college expenses. Service of Prof. Chittaranjan Moitra, Prof. Rabindra Nath Das, Prof. Gopal Chandra Majumder and Kumarendra Narayan Ghosh (Clerk) were confirmed

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated:17/07/1950 at 9 a.m.

On the meeting of the Governing Body dated 17.07.1950 at 9.00 a.m. with the members of the respective association namely:

- i) Sriram Agarwalla, from Merchant Association

- ii) Ramendra Nath Dutta, from Medical Association
- iii) Durgapada Sarkar, from Bar Association
- iv) Hiranmoy Bhattacharya and
- v) Chitta Ranjan Moitra, as the teachers' member of the Raiganj College, was resolved that Rs. 100/- (One hundred only) be sanctioned in connection with the "Ceremony of laying the **Foundation Stone**" of the college building.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated: 25/04/1951.

In the meeting of the governing Body of the Raiganj College, in several times resolved to apply to the Government or the University for Grant endowment or any kind of financial or other help. Not only that on the meeting of 25.04.1951 due to the financial position of the college most unsatisfactory let an arrangement be made for two charity shows of the local talkies in May next.

College Inspector also reported that the financial position of the college is bad and that is why the sympathy of the public is to be drawn to this.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated: 25/03/1952

In the meeting of the Governing Body of the Raiganj College dated 25.03.1952 resolved that a committee was formed to draw up to draft constitution for the college under the convenorship of Kshitish Chandra Mitra and two members namely Sunil Kumar Majumder and Krishna Kumud Saraswati submit within 15.04.1952.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated: 25/04/1952

The draft committee done the work in time and placed the draft constitution before the Raiganj College Governing

body on 25.04.1952 and resolved that the draft constitution of the Raiganj College be sent to the Director of the Public Instruction and the University of Calcutta. The secretary, Kshitish Chandra Mitra and Sunil Chandra Majumder will jointly operate the college building fund account of the Raiganj post office savings bank and also Central Bank in the name of 'The Raiganj College Fund.'

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated: 07/09/1952, 02/12/1952 and 27/04/1953

On 1st August 1952 Inspector of Colleges visited the Raiganj College and grant Rs. 3000/- for science apparatus and instruments for the purpose. The Merchant Association of Raiganj donated Rs. 10,000/-. In the meeting of 07/09/1952 resolved that for the science laboratories grant from the government requested to local M.L.A for pursue. On the meeting of the Governing Body on 02/12/1952 resolved that for college furniture Rs. 2000/- and for the Library Rs. 1000/- granted. On 27/04/1953 Governing Body resolved that a College Hall and Hostel for student be constructed.

**RE-CONSTITUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
RAIGANJ COLLEGE**

Letter No. C.1617/G.B., dated, 25/06/1953

In view of the circular in letter No. C.1617/G.B. Raiganj College, dated, 25/06/1953 for the Registrar, Calcutta University, regarding constitution of Governing Bodies of Muffassil College it is resolved that the whole of rule 3 of Raiganj College constitution as passed by the Governing Body on 26/04/1952 be deleted and that the following be substituted in its place.

Governing Body shall be constituted as follows:

- i) Sub-divisional officer. (Ex-officio) president.
- ii) Principal (Ex-officio) Secretary.
- iii) Two teachers to be elected by the teachers.
- iv) Two guardians.
- v) Two educationists.

- vi) Two benefactors.
- vii) One donor or founder to be nominated by the syndicate.
(A donor who has contributed at least Rs. 5000/- to the College.).
- viii) A nominee of the Director of the Public Instructions.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated: 09/09/1953

In the meeting of the Governing Body on 09/09/1953 resolved that an appeal to individual person who contribute Rs. 200/- (two hundred only) or more up to Rs. 4999/- (four thousand nine hundred ninety nine only) contribution shall be deemed to be "**Benefactor**" of this college. Dr. Jaminikanta Ghosh be enlisted as a '**Donor**' of the college. On that meeting resolved that the following name of gentlemen who contributed to the foundation of the college be enlisted as '**Founder**' of the college.

Names of the Founder of the College:

- i. Bipul Chandra Chatterjee, I.A.S.
- ii. Nirmal Kumar Ghosh.
- iii. Hazarilal Agarwalla.
- iv. Giridhari Lal.
- v. Shyamaprasad Barman.
- vi. Kshitish Chandra Mitra.
- vii. Jogindra Kumar Roy.
- viii. Banamali Dasand
- ix. Nisith Nath Kundu.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated:18/09/1953

In the meeting of the governing Body on 18/09/1953 resolved that the following persons considered as '**Benefactors**' on the grounds other than cash contribution.

- i. Rohini Mohan Nag.

- ii. Kishan Lal Ghosh.
- iii. Barada Kanta Das.
- iv. Nirmal Kumar Ghosh.
- v. Golam Hussain Rahaman.
- vi. Banamali Das and
- vii. Janardan Dam.

Names of the Educationist of the College:

- i. Sasindra Chandra De
- ii. Birendra Kumar Dutta
- iii. Smt. Subala Joardar
- iv. Kumaresh Chandra Roy
- v. Durgapada Sircar
- vi. Banamali Das
- vii. Shyama Prasad Barman
- viii. Nirmal Kumar Ghosh
- ix. Golam Hussain Rahaman
- x. Sukumar Ghosh
- xi. Kshitish Chandra Mitra
- xii. Nisith Nath Kundu
- xiii. Dr. Ramendra Nath Dutta
- xiv. Prithwis Chandra Mitra
- xv. Hem Chandra Sinha
- xvi. Bijoy Kumar Ghosh (H.M. Kaliyaganj)
- xvii. Anchal Bhusan Bose
- xviii. Asit Chowdhury
- xix. Kamakshya Prasad Chatterjee
- xx. Munsif (Raiganj) and
- xxi. Anil Sen.

Regarding Hostel Building Rs.6,000/- estimated and in this regard Rs.2000/- loan had taken from Provident Fund.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated:09/07/1955

On the meeting of the governing body on 9th July, 1955 resolved that Shri Ajit Kumar Das be appointed as a Part Time Teacher of Mathematics with the remuneration of Rs. 25/- per month.

**UP-GRADATION OF RAIGANJ COLLEGE: AIDED
COLLEGE TO A SPONSORED COLLEGE**

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated:15/07/1955

In the meeting of the Governing Body of the Raiganj College on 15/07/1955 resolved as per DPI Letter No. 2606 (60) AC/UC – 1- AC- 55, dated 22/05/1955, this College being an “AIDED COLLEGE”.

It is significant that from 1955 to 1960, this short period was the vital for the development of the college. Under the able leadership of Krishna Kumud Saraswati, the founder Principal of the College, have received financial assistance from the government and non-government agencies.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated: 03/03/1957

On the meeting of the governing body on 3rd March, 1957, considered the Letter No. 942/AC/23/6AC-37 dated, 23/02/1957 of the DPI Rs. 51,000/-for the construction of college building and books and equipments from the private source and the Principal Secretary is to meet the authorities with the proposal that half of the said amount of Rs. 51,000/- be kindly sanctioned as grant and the remaining half as a loan from the government which will be paid back with interest in twenty equal instalments as requested from the development fees which are being realised from the students. The principal

secretary is authorised to do all the needful for the purpose and to execute any documents if necessary.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated:18/03/1958

On the meeting of the Governing Body on 18th March, 1958, item No. 5. Stated that in the last session Rs. 15000/- +15000/- + 6000/- + 9000/- were received by the college as different government grants. The letter of the Registrar of the Calcutta University together with the College Inspector report affiliation in I.A. : – Special Bengali; I.Sc.: Biology; B.A: Sanskrit and Philosophy (Pass) and B.Sc.: Math, Physics and Chemistry (Pass) are approved.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated:10/09/1958

On the meeting of the Governing Body on 10th September, 1958, considered the letter dated 2/9/1958 and 5/9/1958 of Satyendra Prasad Roy, M.P. to R.N.Das, Vice-principal of the College resolved that the Raiganj College be converted to a **SPONSORED COLLEGE** and S. P. Roy, M.P. be authorised and requested to contact the Education Department on behalf of the Raiganj College for converting the College to a “SPONSORED COLLEGE” and to ask for grants and loans for the College and Hostel building etc.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated:10/10/1958

On the meeting of the Governing Body on 10th October, 1958 considered the petition of Principal K. K. Saraswati regarding his superannuation according to the UGC Scheme. The Governing Body unanimously grant him an extension up to 30/06/1959. Though, he is now past 66, his activities as a teacher and the principal and secretary of the college have all along been most precious. His age never stood in the

way of his sincere efforts for gradual development of the college. Further in view of his present capacity for activities his service has already been extended up to 30/06/1959. Moreover, as no age restrictions have yet been put by the Government for the teachers of Private Colleges, the recent Circular of the Calcutta University fixing the age limits between 62 to 65, has not yet been made compulsory for private college teachers and according to the constitution, as passed by the Governing Body also there is no upper limit of age beyond 60, so long as a candidate is considered physically fit and is capable of looking to the interest of the college, so the Government, the University and the College authorities have all condoned his superannuation and he is in approved service in the eye of all of them. In these circumstances the governing body unanimously recommends his case most strongly that he may be given all the benefits of the UGC Scheme by the proper authorities for which the principal is permitted to approach them. On this Governing Body meeting, same prayer and petition of Nalinikanta Bhattacharya be granted, though his age is then 65. Mohan Singh Rana appointed as Night Guard with monthly salary Rs. 35/-.

**GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF RAIGANJ
COLLEGE:**

Dated: 06/12/1958, at 4 p.m.

The meeting of the Governing Body of the college on 6/12/1958 at 4.00 p.m. sanctioning of the present grants namely i). Building grants Rs. 99,000/- out of which Rs. 49,500/- to be paid immediately ii). Furniture and filling grants of Rs. 28,000/- iii). Book grant of Rs. 13,000/- and iv). Scientific equipment grants including gas plant Rs. 35,000/-. Whole of the amount Rs. 1,25,000/- be kept in deposit by the name of the college in the local State Bank of India. The proposed building according to the plan in connection with the grant be constructed departmentally under the supervision of the sub-committee consisting of the following persons:

- i) Principal and Secretary of the College
- ii) Gopal Chandra Majumder

- iii) K.C. Mitra and
- iv) Nishi Kanta Roychoudhury¹

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. For details see, Minutes and Resolutions of Raiganj College in Raiganj College Minutes Book: From 2nd August, 1948 to 6th December, 1958.

Chapter VI

A Short Biographical Sketch of Krishna Kumud Saraswati (1889-1961) and His Appointment as the First Principal of Raiganj College

The name of famous educationanist, freedom fighter, great humanist, kind-hearted and devoted soul for the country – Krishna Kumud Saraswati was closely associated with the imparting of quality education among the youths of the under-privilege North Bengal particularly the then West Dinajpur. Krishna Kumud Saraswati was born on 20th December, 1889 at Bhatpara-Balubari village under the district of Dinajpur, presently situated in Bangladesh. Sashi Mohan Saraswati, father of Krishna Kumud Saraswati was the Head Master of the famous 'Jubilee Middle English School' of undivided Dinajpur district of Bengal province before partition and his mother was Barada Sundari Devi. Krishna Kumud Saraswati was all along a very brilliant student. As a mark of his brilliancy, after passing class six from the 'Jubilee Middle English School', Krishna Kumud passed his entrance examination from Maharaja Girija Nath High School (formerly National High school). From his very childhood days Krishna Kumud Saraswati was very much attracted of playing football and studying Mathametics. After passing his I.S.C. examination from Rajshahi College, Krishna Kumud started studying Mathmatichs with Honours in the prestigious Presidency College, Kolkata. At that time, inter-college football tunament was very popular under the University of Calcutta. In one of such football matches, Krishna Kumud was selected in the Bengali students' team from the Presidency College to play

football against the British students. It is noteworthy that, in that football match, only the British students had the right to play football wearing boot, on the other hand the native students had to play with bare foot. However, in the final match of the football tournament, one leg of Krishna Kumud was broken and thereafter for whole life he became physically challenged. However, overcoming physical problem, Krishna Kumud Saraswati was able to ensure his first class 2nd in Honours course and first class 1st in Msc with Pure Mathematics under the University of Calcutta. It may be noted here that as a mark of his talent Shri Krishna Kumud Saraswati got 'Roychand' scholarship for higher studies. Thereafter, Krishna Kumud Saraswati had passed the L.L.B degree and started practising at Dinajpur Judge Court. At the time of his practising law, Krishna Kumud became very intimate friend of lawyer turned freedom fighter Shri Nishith Nath Kundu who later on became the Minister of West Bengal under the Chief Ministership of Shri Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee during United Front regime.¹

At the age of 58 years, Krishna Kumud Saraswati was compelled to leave his homeland due to the outbreak of frequent communal riots that led to the painful partition of India and of course Bengal. As a man, he was very simple and gentle but in characteristically he was bold and enthusiastic. He loved to wear dhoti and white Panjabi. He was a die-hard follower and supporter of M.K. Gandhi, the father of nation, from the days of his participation in the non-cooperation movement (1920-22) led by Gandhiji. As a result of his participation in the freedom movement and delivering some speeches against the atrocities of the British Raj – he was arrested and imprisoned with Nisith Nath Kundu, the famous social worker, lawyer and political personalities in Dinajpur. It has already been mentioned that both of them were renowned lawyer and used to practice at the Judges' Court of Dinajpur.²

It is mentionworthy that Raiganj was a very small place along with a few numbers of populations prior to partition. But, as and when it was cleared that 'partition is inevitable' then the stream of refugees from eastern part of Bengal started pouring in West Bengal and the District of West Dinajpur particularly Raiganj was not exception from that. Naturally,

the demography of Raiganj became change and its population increased manifold. Moreover, Raiganj was declared as a Sub-Divisional city on 14th July, 1948, that drew the attention of many displaced persons to settle there permanently. In that context, some enlightened personalities of Raiganj started feeling to establish a college i.e. higher educational institution for providing education to the youths of these huge numbers of population of Raiganj as well as Dinajpur. As a result of the said feelings- the historical 'Raiganj College' was set up in 1948, whose first president was the then Sub-Divisional officer of Raiganj and secretary was Nirmal Kumar Ghosh, one of the chief initiators of founding the Raiganj College.³The other members of the Governing Body of the College were: Nishit Nath Kundu, Munshef of Raiganj, Sukumar Chandra Guha, Brajendra Lal Bandyopadhyay, Durgapada Sarkar, Banamali Das, Kshitish Chandra Mitra, Ramnibas Agarwala and Sashindra Chandra Dey. At that juncture, as per the proposal as well as strong recommendation of Nishith Nath Kundu – Krishna Kumud Saraswati (at the age of 59) had joined at Raiganj College as its founder Principal and served the institution till his retirement on 5th July, 1960.⁴It is needless to say that a glorious chapter was opened in the field of intellectual and scholastic phenomena of this College due to the whole-hearted efforts of Krishna Kumud Saraswati towards the pursuing quality education among the students.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. See, Personal interview by Prof. B. N. Giri with Arun Saraswati and Kalpana Moitra, near relatives of K. K. Saraswati, College Para, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur on 12. 06. 2011.
2. Uttar Dinajpur Zelar Smaraniya Jara, edited by Himangshu Kumar Sarkar, Balurghat, 2013, pp. 172-173.
3. See, '*Viswa Chhul Vidyalyaya*' (in Bengali) an article written by Sunil Chanda, ex-student of Raiganj College and veteran press reporter, AAjkal, 9th September, 2016.
4. See the name list of the Principals of Raiganj College (University College).

Images of Krishna Kumud Saraswati



Chapter VII

Charismatic Personality of Shambhu Nath Roy (1928 – 2012) and His Contributions to the Development of Raiganj College

English class was going on in the college during college hours. The Professor of English subject came into the class and took his seat. In a very simple and lucid way the Professor started taking his class so that the students would be able to understand his way of teaching easily. The professor said, "Today we are going to discuss about the poem named 'The Listeners' of the famous English poet Walter de La Mare and will enjoy the test of the lesson. All the doors and windows of the class room were closed by the students according to the instruction of their class teacher. As a result of that the room was engulfed with darkness. The teachers started explaining the very theme of the poem after giving the light of hand torch on the text according to the content of the topic and would give suitable illustration in English in a very understandable language to the students. A horseman was going forward in the dense forest. On the way of his forwarding path, suddenly he saw an old house. As the horse was running naturally the sound of horse moving was as if waving around the moving path. The professor echoed that horse moving sound doing hit on the table with the help of the duster. Standing in front of the old house the horse man calling in a loud voice – is there anybody in the house. The voice of the professor became as same as of that horse man for the time being. There was no human being inside that old house but were some supernatural spirit. The supernatural spirits were whispering

something to the advent horseman that was not understandable to him. The same romanticism was reflected in the voice of the professor in the class room. As a result of that a supernatural atmosphere was created in the class room. In that darkish atmosphere of the classroom the students' as if reached in the medieval age, they were overwhelmed and their body was exciting as well as electrified. The adventitious horseman again called in a loud voice for knowing whether there was anybody inside the house or not. But he was failed to receive any positive response without whispering some supernatural spirit. After failing to receive any response of human being the adventitious horseman came back through the sound of horse moving. The professor echoed that same horse moving sound doing hit on the table with the help of the duster again and that ended the class of poetry lesson. The students' of the class went to the age of romanticism with the hearing of the poetry teaching of their professor. After the end of the class some students expressed their views that we have never felt this test of poetry learning.

The extraordinary talented professor of English literature was Sambhu Nath Roy who is popularly known among his lakhs of students' as well as entire North Bengal and certainly Raiganj as the great S.N. Roy. He was very famous and probably the longest service Principal (1960-1993) not only in Raiganj College (University College) but also throughout India. The College got its proper recognition and reached its zenith as a centre of one of the most advanced higher educational institutions in West Bengal due to his untiring adjuvant efforts as a head of this prestigious institution for long not less than thirty three years.

Sambhu Nath Roy was born on 1st November, 1928 at Sarmangal village of Madaripur Sub-division under the district of Faridpur of present Bangladesh. His father was Trailakya Nath Roy and his mother was Kalidasi Devi. From his childhood days Sambhu Nath Roy was a very meritorious student and as recognition of his unique merit he got Minor Scholarship as a student of class VI and also got another Scholarship in his examination of class VIII. As a brilliant student Sambhu Nath Roy passed his Matriculation examination in 1943 and

in that examination, he got first division. Thereafter, he passed his I.A. examination in 1945 and B.A. with honours in English in 1947 from Seerampore College. As a mark of extraordinary talent in his English honours examination 'RAWSAN PRIZE' was given to Sambhu Nath Roy by the Seerampore College authority. Thereafter, Sambhu Nath Roy passed his M.A. examination in English from the Calcutta University in 1949.

After the end of his student life as well as formal education Sambhu Nath Roy (henceforth S.N. Roy) chose teaching as his profession and accordingly he joined as a lecturer of English literature in his own College i.e. Seerampore College on 1st August, 1950. S.N.Roy did his service as a professor of that college almost ten years without any break and acquired huge popularity and even became the respectable Head of the Department of English also. At that time a good number of Europeans were engaged with Seerampore College and S. N. Roy was able to contest with these Europeans Professors. William Stuart, the then Principal of the Seerampore College was well aware about the ability of S.N. Roy and thereupon Professor Stuart would love and affectionate S.N. Roy profoundly. In the meanwhile, a notification was published in the English Daily in the year of 1960 for the post of principal of Raiganj College. Incidentally, the news of that notification was brought to the notice of S.N Roy by William Stuart. But, Shambhu Nath Roy expressed his unwillingness to be principal of Raiganj College on the ground that Raiganj is far away from Seerampore where he (S. N. Roy) was leading very comfortable life. In that context, in order to inspire Shambhu Nath Roy, William Stuart remarked, "Here is the difference between Indians and the Britishers. If I could come in this country from England for the spread of education then why would you not willing to go to Raiganj i.e. from one corner to another corner of your country for the spread of light of education." Shambhu Nath Roy was deeply influenced by that inspiring speech of William Stuart and thereafter he decided to go to Raiganj as a Principal for spreading the light of education in this remote area. By dint of his attractive personality and profound knowledge Shambhu Nath Roy occupied the first place in the interview, organized by the Governing Body of the Raiganj College and thereupon he joined

Raiganj College as a Principal on 7th July, 1960. From the date of joining to retirement i.e. up to 31st October, 1993 altogether more than 33 years, S.N. Roy had served this institution in his capacity as head of the institution with prestigious and glorious way.

It is found that when S.N. Roy had joined as a principal the Raiganj College had no financial solvency at all. There was a dearth of adequate class-room. The numbers of teachers were limited as per the ratio of the students of the college. It is noteworthy that in spite of the scarcity of teachers, classrooms, modern equipments as per requirements for smooth functioning of the teaching learning processes of the college, the number of students gradually started increasing. The financial need of the college was mostly meet up from the the tuition fees of the students of the college. Under the circumstances, in the field of the all round development of the college, S.N. Roy, the principal of the college had to face severe difficulties at the early days of his service at Raiganj College. But, in spite of the above practical problem the college was able to draw the attention to all for the extra-ordinary results of the students of the various departments under his enthusiastic and courageous leadership which was able to bring for him a very good reputation. At that time the University of North Bengal was established (1962) by Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, the then Chief Minister of West Bengal and automatically the Raiganj College came under the administrative control as well as affiliated college of the University of North Bengal. Professor Atul Chandra Roy, the then Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University of North Bengal after visiting Raiganj College became overwhelmed seeing the encouragement of its Principal S.N. Roy and especially wonderful results of the students within these limited resources. After went back to the University of North Bengal, Atul Chandra Roy, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor wanted to know from the College authority that for the all round development of the college, whether the authority were agree to hand over the entire administration along with all assets and financial liabilities to the authority of the North Bengal University. Though, there were some disagreements among the members of the Governing Body of the college but lastly as a result of the heartiest efforts of S.N. Roy, the college

authorities were agreed to hand over all assets and liabilities to the University of North Bengal for the greater prospect of the college and its students. As a consequence of the above said development the 'Raiganj College' was taken over by the University of North Bengal with all its assets and liabilities on 1st June, 1968 and as a result of that Raiganj College came to be known as "Raiganj College (University College)".

After being released from the financial burden in terms of giving salaries to the teachers, non-teaching staff, thereafter S. N. Roy, directed his whole energy in the field of infrastructural development, quality of teaching so that the Raiganj College (University College) would reach its climax as a centre of higher studies. It was S.N. Roy under whose dynamic as well as visionaries efforts along with the approval of the University of North Bengal, he introduced the honours curriculum in Bangla, English, Sanskrit, Mathematics, Economics, and Chemistry etc. at a time. The next year i.e. 1969 with the introduction of honours course curriculum in the subject of Physics, History, Philosophy, Political Science and pass course curriculum in Zoology and Botany the Raiganj College (University College) reached its jealous position due to its very fast development in the entire North Bengal. As the development of the Raiganj College (University College) was the prime concern of S.N. Roy, therefore, with the help of the University of North Bengal S.N. Roy sent a proposal to the University Grants Commission. After acceptance the proposal, the University Grants Commission (UGC) gave a large amount of financial grant to the Raiganj College (University College) by which S.N. Roy extended college buildings, developed Boys and girls Hostels and Laboratories of the Science departments. In these way developing Raiganj College (University College) by dint of his courage, far-sight and whole hearted involvement, S.N. Roy established himself as an attracting personality in the field of the spread of quality education.

Under the able leadership of S.N Roy along with his high thinking and capacity to materialize that a new horizon was opened in Raiganj College (University College) towards development. It is important to note that when the Raiganj College (University College) was gradually developing to its

proper destination then the College as well as its chief sailor i.e. S.N. Roy, Principal of the College had to face a severe crisis in the year of 1980. The crisis created following a statement made by Mr. Shambhu Ghosh, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, that there would be no longer any University College in the state. The statement of the Hon'ble Minister means that the Raiganj College (University College) will be separated from the direct supervision of the University of North Bengal and instead it will again be governed by the Governing Body like other sponsored Colleges in the state. Under the circumstances, S.N. Roy raised a pertinent question that as per the agreement between erstwhile Raiganj College and University of North Bengal, the provision of the existence of the Governing Body automatically vanished therefore, breaking the terms and conditions of the agreement University authority could not hand over the responsibility to other body. In these way to keep intact the dignity as well as for the sake of the interest of the College S.N. Roy had to step forward a long-term conflict with University authority and the Govt. of West Bengal. It is noteworthy that it was due to the administrative sagacity along with logical and wise persuasion of S. N. Roy, the College was able to save its dignity and process of development. As a guardian of the prestigious institution, S.N. Roy was also able to protect the interest of the teachers as well as non-teaching staff and pupils of the college. The all round development of the college was his first and foremost target what he dreamt at every moment. It would not be exaggerated if we tell that S. N. Roy was the man of completely devoted for this institution.

S.N. Roy was a man of multi-dimensional genius and rare charismatic personality. With the accomplishment of the administration of this maverick institution he used to take classes in English literature regularly. It is widely known that as a teacher he was so popular that even his teaching in English honours classes were very much attractive and full of excitement. Not only that, if necessary he used to take classes in the department of Sanskrit, Commerce, Economics and others subjects also as and when required for the interest of the students. As a consequence of that he served Raiganj College (University College) as a principal at about 33 years without

any break. As a great personality, depth of knowledge and socio-cultural mentality he was able to establish himself as the innate guardian in the field of the education and culture of the whole Raiganj sub-division. By dint of his magnetic personality he had the calibre to mitigate any kind of student unrest or agitation of his own college easily. Not only that his counselling as well as valuable suggestions used to get viable solutions in case of any other problems of other educational institutions of Raiganj and adjacent areas. Naturally, his role in the field of development and progress regarding these types of educational institutions were praiseworthy. It was almost mandatory that he used to be present as inaugurator or as a chief guest of any kind of cultural functions of the most of the Schools-Colleges of Raiganj Sub-Division. A good number of educational personalities of Raiganj namely- Sashindra Chandra Dey, Headmaster, Raiganj Coronation High School; Birendra Kumar Dutta, Headmaster, Sudarshanpur Dwarikaprasad Uchchavidyachakra; Sudha Dutta Chowdhury, Headmistress, Raiganj Girls High School and so on had very cordial relation with S. N. Roy and as a result of their collective efforts the educational-cultural arena of Raiganj were enlightened. His inspiring speeches on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Nataji Subhas Chandra Bose in different years are still a matter of remembering to many inhabitant of Raiganj. He was also the central figure as well as attracting personality in the various occasion of Bharat Sevashram Sangha. Sometimes he used to play the role of *Rithick* i.e. *Purohit* in the Swaraswati Puja (deity of education), observed in his own college (Raiganj University College). As a result of his very caring attitude to his every colleague, non-teaching staff – students automatically made him as if their guardian - like a vast family of Raiganj College (University College). The root of that cordial as well as heartiest relationship among the teachers, non-teaching staffs and students of the College was S.N. Roy who himself was the moving spirit of love and trustfulness that helped to reach the collage in its zenith.

S.N. Roy played very pivotal role behind the establishment of two more colleges in the subdivision of Raiganj for spreading higher education among the youths of the remotest district of West Bengal i.e. West Dinajpur. It is known that when some

enthusiastic academicians of Kaliyaganj took initiative for establishing a college at Kaliyaganj, then S. N. Roy extended his helping hand spontaneously in order to materialize their dream. He was the President of the Governing- body of Kaliyaganj College which was established in the year of 1968. He also served as the very responsible member of the Governing body of Kaliyaganj College for long days and did his best to ensure quality education. He was the determining voice in case of solving any problem of this college. At the same way he played key role behind the establishment of Raiganj B.Ed. College in the year of 1981. Not only that from the initiation of Raiganj B.Ed. College to 1993 i.e. till his retirement, S.N. Roy served that College as a Guest faculty without taking any remuneration. At the very beginning of Raiganj B.Ed. College there was no permanent Principal or teacher and in that context three part-time teachers namely Professor Himanghu Kumar Sarkar, Dr.Dilip Kumar Das and Professor Dilip Kumar Nag have carried out duties and responsibilities for its smooth functioning. Naturally, there was a lot of lacuna in the field of imparting teaching to the learner which was efficiently filled up by S. N. Roy by dint of his teaching ability and careful vision.

Alongside successful service life, his family life was also full of glittering. During the time of his lecturership at Sree Rampore College, he married Khana Devi, a graduate from Hooghly Women College and daughter of Amulya Charan Mukhopadhyay, an eminent layer of Chuchura in Hooghly District, West Bengal. Khana Devi was the driving force behind the all kind of achievements particularly in service life of S.N. Roy. Their one son and daughter both are well established as a result of their parents' great care and imparting value based education. S. N. Roy gave marry his daughter with a Doctor and his own son Samendra Nath Roy is also very famous in his medical profession and presently discharging his duties as a medical man in England.

In spite of handling huge responsibilities as a Principal of Raiganj College (University College) along with the active participation of various educational-cultural activities, S.N. Roy used to study up to late night. His deepest attraction to

literacy as well as thirsty of knowledge was reflected through his writings of two famous books namely –i) Christopher Fry and His Verse Drama, and ii) Reflection on Some Writers of Importance. Besides, he would write regularly on the various essays of Shakespeare in the college magazine. He also wrote various issues relating to the contemporary society, which were published in other papers and magazine of the Raiganj B. Ed. College. As recognition of his profound knowledge on diverse matter he was awarded as a respectable member of ‘Advisory Board of Research’, North Carolina State, USA. Just few days ago of his sudden demise at 6.30 p.m. on 8th February, 2012, he went to England in response to an invitation of ‘Carry Society’, where he delivered a valuable speech on ‘Activities of William Carry and Baptist Missionary in Bengal’.

After retirement i.e. performing his duties as a principal of Raiganj College (University College) for more than long 33 years (06-07-1960 to 31-10-1993; probably longest service principal across the country), S. N. Roy went back to his home town at See Rampore, Hooghly. But the memory of Raiganj, particularly the Raiganj College (University College) which was flourished under his stewardship was lasting in his mind till the very last day of his life. As a result of that he used to rush back Raiganj time and again; on the other hand considering his contributions in the all round development of Raiganj College (University College) as well as his man making activities by centering Raiganj, the people of Raiganj never forget him. As a result of these when the news of his sad demise reached at Raiganj on 8th February, 2012, the people of Raiganj as a whole felt the passing away of their very nearest and dearest one. It is fact that the Raiganj College (University College) is no more, it has upgraded into a University namely “Raiganj University” on 3rd February, 2015 on the granite of the erstwhile Raiganj College (University College). It is mentionworthy that the erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) had reached its climax by dint of the sagacity and able leadership of S. N. Roy; therefore, as and when the name of Raiganj College (University College) later known as Raiganj University will be uttered, the Name of S. N. Roy will be commemorated with great respect and one of the forerunners of the centre of higher studies at Raiganj.

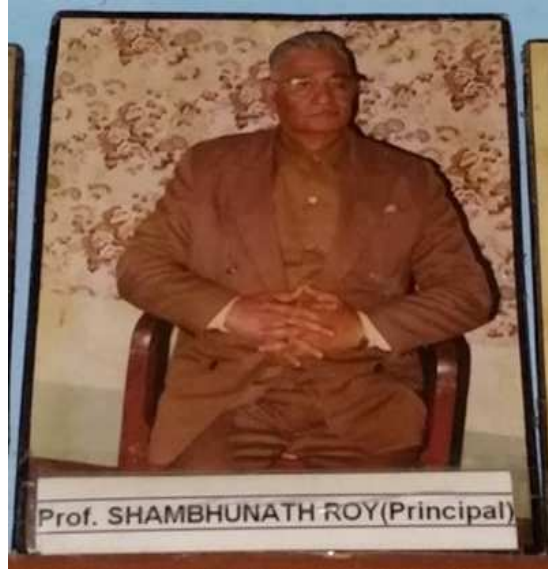
NOTES AND REFERENCES

Personal Interviews were taken by Dr. Babulal Bala with

1. Smt. Khana Roy, wife of Prof. S. N. Roy on 8th November, 2011.
2. Shree Ranjit Sengupta, P.A. to S. N. Roy, Principal, Raiganj College (University College) on 10th November, 2011.
3. Himanghu Kumar Sarkar, Retd. Lecturer, Kaliyaganj College, on 12th December, 2011.
4. Shree Madhusudhan Roy, former Student and Secretary, Non-teaching staff, Raiganj College (University College), on 15th January, 2012.
5. Prof. Sukhomay Bhowmick, colleague and personal friend of S. N. Roy, on 22nd February, 2012.
6. Various documents of Raiganj College (University College).
7. Heads of the Educational Institutions in India, WHO's WHO, Tradesman and Men, India, 1369 Kashmere Gate, Delhi.
8. See '*Shiksha Bistare Kaliyaganj College-er Suchna*' (in Bengali), an article by Dr. Debasish Nandi, Mancha Ekushe, 2016-17.

Images of Shambhu Nath Roy





Chapter VIII

Under the University of North Bengal: Sponsored College to a University College

After the foundation of the Raiganj College (1948), it was affiliated to the University of Calcutta. It is notable that the University of North Bengal was established in 1962 and thereafter Raiganj College automatically came under the academic along with administrative control of it. Actually the dream of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, the then Chief Minister of West Bengal as well as architect of modern West Bengal, who wanted to spread higher education in each and every corner of this problem ridden state and as a result of that the University of North Bengal came into being. After the opening of the University of North Bengal, a new chapter was opened in North Bengal in the arena of the spread of higher education. It was found that within a very short period of time after the foundation of the University of North Bengal, honours courses in English, Mathematics, Sanskrit, Chemistry, and Economics were introduced in Raiganj College due to wise persuasions of S.N. Roy, the Principal of the College. Not only that in the year of 1967 Commerce Department was upgraded into Degree standard and subsequently Honours course in Commerce (Advanced Accountancy) was introduced at Raiganj College. By this time the College earned its epithet as one of the most advanced higher educational institutions in West Bengal and thereby it was popularly came to be known as 'Presidency College of North Bengal'. It is no doubt that the Raiganj College became the biggest one in the then district of West Dinajpur in terms of number of students and number of Honours subjects taught. Though, Raiganj College was able to ensure its position of excellence in the academic world, but the financial condition

of the college was miserable. At this critical juncture, Sambhu Nath Roy, the then principal of the College played a very commendable role out of which the University of North Bengal, took over the College in 1968 to turn it into a University College for its all-round development. The generosity of Professor Atul Chandra Roy, the then Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University of North Bengal and the members of the NBU authority helped to come out from financial stagnation and started shaping the College into a University College. Mr. Anandamoy Bhattacharya (later became the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court), the then Senate member was present on that historical moment of takeover of Raiganj College by the University of North Bengal. Mr. Satyendra Prasad Roy, the great educationist and Member of Parliament of Rajya Sabha, Dr. Haripada Chakraborty, and Sreekar, the then Inspector of Colleges, NBU along with others educationists were present at the time of the signing of agreement.¹ The honourable dignitaries who were present on that historical occasion were warmly welcomed by the jubilant people of Raiganj. The North Bengal University took necessary steps for further development of the college and thereby an honour Course in Physics was introduced in the academic year of 1968-69. In the academic year of 1969-70 Honours Courses in History, Philosophy and Political Science were introduced and Biological Science was upgraded upto degree level. In the year of 1980-81 Honours Courses in Zoology and Botany were introduced. Accordingly Honours Courses in Geography, Computer Science as an elective subject and Sericulture in Vocational course were introduced in the academic year of 1995-96. Attempts were made for opening of Geography in pass course and physiology in Pass and Honours Course at that time. In the meantime, the NBU authorities created new posts for recruitment of teachers and filled up those posts with young and energetic teachers with brilliant academic records. These teachers were so dedicated to their professions that helped the college to enhance its credibility in the academic world. The names of these teachers were as follows:

- i. N. K. Bhattacharya, Department of Philosophy
- ii. R.N. Das, Department of History

- iii. H.C. Debnath
- iv. Gopal Chandra Majumder
- v. J.K. Sen
- vi. Mukul Bikash Sen (Barda)
- vii. Dr. M.K. Mukherjee
- viii. Haridas Ghosh
- ix. Parimal Kumar Sarkar
- x. Saroj Kusum Ghosh
- xi. Manab Dutta Majumder
- xii. Subhas Chandra Das
- xiii. Utpalendu Sarkar
- xiv. Dr. Sunil Kumar Sarkar
- xv. Dr. Sudhamoy Deb Mallick
- xvi. N. K. Das and so on.

The dedication of these above mentioned teachers left indelible impressions in the all-round development of the college.

In that context, the names of some non-teaching as well as office staff whose names were also deserved special mention for their sacrifice towards the all-round development of the college. They were – i. Kumarendra Narayan Ghosh, the then Head Clerk and ii. Nirmal Chandra Dasgupta, the then Accountant, both of them jointly managed the College with utmost sincerity from the very initial stage and did their best to upgrade the name and fame of the college.²

**RAIGANJ COLLEGE TO RAIGANJ COLLEGE
(UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)**

Finance Officer,
University of North Bengal
Ref. No. 6712/ACCTT -68 dt. 27.12.1968

To,
The Principal,
Raiganj College
Subject: Deed of Conveyance

Sir, I am to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the deed of conveyance. A copy of the deed is also enclosed.

Meeting of Governing Body on 25.05.1968

Resolved as follows:

That the decision of the North Bengal University to take over the college (including the Commerce Section) as a University College with all its assets and liabilities on and from the 1st June, 1968, be accepted with pleasure and that the grateful thanks of the Governing Body be conveyed to the Vice-Chancellor and the University of North Bengal for their kind decision.

That the University be sanctioned to open a Special Bank Account with the State Bank of India, Raiganj under the name of style of "RAIGANJ COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)" Raiganj to be operated jointly by the Principal and Secretary and either Sri N. K. Ghosh or Sri R. M. Sikdar, a member of the newly established college council".

Extract for the minutes of the first meeting of the College Council of the Raiganj College (University College), Raiganj held on Thursday, 6th June 1968 at 5.30 P.M. at the College premises.

Item one: - To report that the Raiganj College has been taken over by the North Bengal University with effect from the 1st June 1968 in presence of the decision of the Governing Body of the College at its emergency meeting held on 25.05.1968.

Recorded.

Item two: - To consider the opening of Bank Account for the Raiganj College (University College), Raiganj.

Deed

Transferee 1st party –

University of North Bengal, District Magistrate, West Dinajpur, President, Raiganj College, Sub-Divisional Officer, West Dinajpur, Vice-President, Raiganj College, S. N. Roy, Principal & Secretary, Raiganj College.

Transferee 2nd party –

N. K. Ghosh, Member, Governing Body, Raiganj College, R. M. Sikdar, Member, Governing Body, Raiganj College, K. C. Mitra, Member, Governing Body, Raiganj College, R. N. Agarwala, Member, Governing Body, Raiganj College, H. C. Debnath, Member, Governing Body, Raiganj College, B. C. Guha, Member, Governing Body, Raiganj College.

This conveyance made this day 6th June, 1968 between North Bengal University, 1st party and Members of Governing Body, Raiganj College 2nd party witness that whereas this Raiganj College since its inception in 1948 has all along been striving to attain the highest standard of education in all its spheres but at this stage today the Governing Body finds itself greatly handicapped for want of adequate resources, whereas there appears to be little prospect in regard to be enlisted as a sponsored one; whereas the 1st party through its Vice-Chancellor was pleased to offer that this college be taken over by the University for its further development with all its assets and liabilities; this Governing Body of Raiganj College.

Schedule of Property Conveyed

District –West Dinajpur, P. S., S.R.O. and Mouja - Raiganj. J. L. No.150, Touji No. 2, under the West Bengal by the Collector of West Bengal.

Total area - 13.63 acres.

Buildings

College Buildings - 37 Rooms, Hostel Buildings - 22 Rooms + Warden Quarters and a dining hall (As per W.B. Govt. Type of plan), Old Boys Hostel - 4 Rooms (One pucca building), Staff Quarters - 3 sets.

Typed by: Ranjit Sengupta, Raiganj College, Raiganj

Written by: Ramnath Das, Raiganj; Jitendranath Majumdar, Raiganj, West Dinajpur

From the year of 1968 to January 2015, University of North Bengal played a pivotal role for the development and spread of the higher education through the Raiganj College (University

College) in North Bengal, particularly in the district of Uttar Dinajpur and its adjacent areas. Keeping in mind the potentiality of the Raiganj College (University College), the authority of the University of North Bengal took necessary steps for further development of the College and as a result of that the Honours Course in Physics was introduced in the academic session of 1968-69. Not only that it is found that Honours Courses in History, Philosophy and Political Science were introduced and the Department of Biological Science was upgraded up to Degree level in the academic year of 1969-70. It is also evident that the Honours in Zoology and Botany were introduced in 1980-81. Honours Courses in Geography, Computer Science as an elective subject and Sericulture in Vocational Course were started in 1995-96. In the year 2014 Pass Courses in Geography was started. The Institute of Computer Engineers (India) started a Computer Centre at Raiganj College (University College) in 1994. It is really a matter of great pride if we compare with other higher educational institutions in West Bengal as well as North Bengal then it would be found that the Honours in almost all the main subjects in Science, Arts and Commerce along with other relevant subjects were taught only in Raiganj College (University College).

From its very inception, the ultimate goal of Raiganj College (University College) is to make worthy the future generation of India so that they could prove themselves in each and every sphere of life. In that context, we may mention here the names of some ex-students of the college, those who are/were working all over India as well as abroad and engaged themselves in different fields and occupations with high reputation and honour. For example- Priya Ranjan Das Munshi was the student of this college during the academic session of 1965-66. It is noteworthy that Mr. Priya Ranjan Das Munshi proved his calibre as one of the front ranking political personalities across the country and abroad. As a mark of his talent as well as genius Mr. Dasmunshi became the best Parliamentarian of Lok Sabha in 2007.³ Not only that, he had discharged his duties and responsibilities as a Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India. He was also the Minister of Waterways, Government of India.

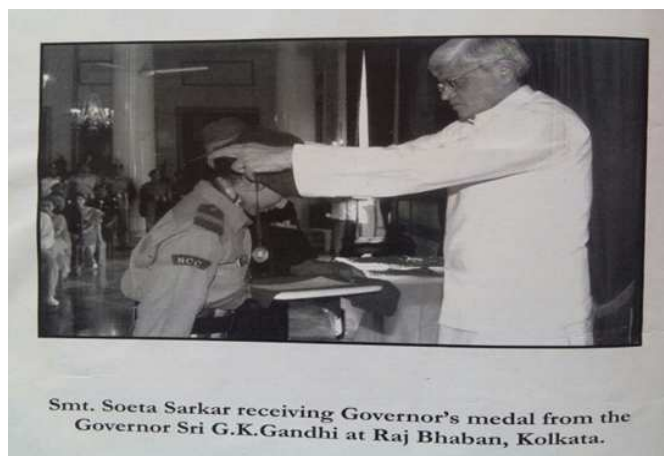
National Cadet Corps (NCC)

Two important Youth Organisation of the country namely National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS) were efficiently maintained by Raiganj College (University College) from its beginning. It is found that two Senior Division NCC (Boys) Companies were formed in the college in the year of 1959 under the able leadership of Mukul Bikash Sen, Ex Major and A.K. Mukherjee, Ex Captain respectively. Besides Ex Major M.B.Sen and Ex Captain A.K. Mukherjee, Ex Lt. A.K.Das, Ex Lt. M. Dutta Majumder, Ex Lt. M.S. Mukherjee, Ex Lt. S. Bhowmick, Ex Lt. late Rabindra Nath Mukherjee and Lt. Commander Uttam Kumar Roy have put in unflinching service to the Senior Division Boys NCC/NCCR Companies of this college.⁷

It is important to note here that the Senior Division Girls NCC Unit under 4 Bengal Girls Bn NCC with 2/Lt.was formed at the erstwhile Raiganj College in 1960. The Girls Cadets of the college impressed all by their performance under Ratna Bose, the Coy Commander. After 2 /Lt. Bose left the college Ex Capt. A.K. Mukherjee and Ex Major M.B. Sen were entrusted with the task of looking after the Girls Platoon in the College. But after the retirement of Ex Captain A.K. Mukherjee and Ex Major M.B.Sen none has been found for shouldering the responsibilities of the Girls Platoon, and as a result fresh enrolment in the Girls NCC has been stopped for the time being. The college was proud of Smt. Soeta Sarkar, a student of B.A. who represented West Bengal State NCC at Republic Day Parade and the Prime Minister Rally held on 26th January in 1995 at New Delhi and won the Championship Trophy and thereby added an another colourful feather to the cap of the college NCC.⁸

102 Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal

Picture of Gopal Krishna Gandhi, His Excellency Governor of West Bengal offering Medal to Soeta Sarkar



National Service Scheme (NSS)

The National Service Scheme (NSS) was started at Raiganj College (University College) in the year of 1969 under the able guidance of S. Bhowmick, the then Programme Officer of the NSS unit. Students both Boys and Girls were given the opportunity of joining the youth organisation i.e. NSS. The NSS unit of the college organizes different programmes i.e. literacy drive, health awareness, adult education programmes and so on. As per the gradual increasing demand and popularity of NSS programmes among the students, the college authority has opened two units of NSS i.e. Unit-I for Boys and Unit-II for Girls. Thereafter, Sri S. Singh, a young and energetic teacher of the department of English was entrusted to look after both the NSS Units of the college as the Programme Officer.⁹

Library:

As per the reputation of Raiganj College (University College) it had a very rich library which always be considered as the guiding spirit of teachers, researchers and students of the institution. The college library initially started with a few

books of Penguin series, donated by Prof. J.K. Sen, Lecturer in English and Naren Das, the first General Secretary of the Students Union of the college. Thereafter, the college library was progressed gradually under the able guidance of Ex Librarian P.K. Ghosh, N.N. Bose and K.C. Mondal. The richness of the college library may be measured in terms of number of collected books and other items. It is noteworthy that the library of the college had more than 41,500 volumes of various text and reference books. In order to ensure the quality of education at Raiganj College (University College) a spacious reading room in the library was arranged by the college administration both for the teachers and the students. Besides, large numbers of text and reference books, a good number of periodicals, magazines, journals were also available in the college library for the greater interest of the teacher and students. Moreover, the college library was connected with modern internet facilities from the very first decade of the 21st century. Computerised cataloguing of books and the lending procedures to the teachers and the students was started by this time. As a result of these modern facilities students and teachers of the college easily could access their necessary available books by a click of the mouse.¹⁰

Picture of Central Library



Picture of Reading Room



List of the Principals / Teacher-in-Charge

RAIGANJ COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)	
Shri Krishna Kumud Saraswati	First Principal.
Shri S.N.Roy	Principal: 6.7.1960 to 31.10.1993.
Shri S.K.Ghosh	Lecturer-in-charge: 1.11.1993 to 31.5.1994.
Dr. N.K.Das	Principal : 1.6.1994 to 18.9.1995.
Shri S.C.Das	Lecturer-in-Charge: 18.9.1995 to 11.8.1996.
Shri U.Sarkar	Lecturer-in-charge: 12.8.1996 to 31.12.1996.
Dr. S. Deb Mallick	Teacher-in-charge: 31.12.1996 to 29.7.1997.
Dr. C. Basu	Principal : 30.7.1997 to 2.9.1998.
Dr.S. Deb Mallick	Teacher-in-charge: 3.9.1998 to 25.4.2002
Dr. P.K. Mandal	Principal: 26.4.2002 to 31.8.2007
Dr. Dilip De Sarkar	Teacher-in-charge: 31.8.2007 to 8.1.2012
Shri S. Singh	Teacher in-Charge: 9.1.2012 to 26.7.2012
Dr. D. Biswas	Teacher-in-Charge: 27.07.2012 to 7.3.2013
Prof. Uttam kr.Roy	Teacher-in-Charge: 8.3.2013

Dr. Dilip De Sarkar-Teacher-in-Charge: 29.09.2014 to 31.01.2015

Shri Tapan Majumdar-Teacher-in-Charge: 01.02.2015 to 15.04.2015

It is noteworthy that Prof. Uttam Kr. Roy acted as the Teacher-in-Charge of the college on and from 08.03.2013 to

Under the University of North Bengal: Sponsored College... 105

28.09.2014. As per the personal service book of Sri Achyut Mohan Roychoudhury, it is found that Sri Roychoudhury had taken the charge of Teacher-in-Charge of this college from Dr.Dilip De Sarker, the then existing T.I.C. on and from 30.04.2010 to 06.06.2010 = 38 days (both days inclusive) on a temporary basis.

Teachers' Common Room



Hostel:

On the meeting of the managing committee on 18th July 1950, Tuesday at 5.00 p.m. a resolution was taken against item no. 4 that considered the application of the secretary of the Raiganj College asking for the committee's permission for the use of the Muslim Hostel Buildings as College Hostel and unanimously decided that two of the buildings of the Muslim Hostel be lent to the college authorities for the purpose on a monthly rent of Rs. 15/- with immediate effect the date on which the College Authorities take them over.

There are two hostels attached to the college in the campus one is 'Vivekananda Chhatrabus' for the boys and another is 'Vidyasagar Chhatrinibus' for the girls. The number of seats of the two hostels has been limited one each for boys and girls with sixty-five seats. The admission is restricted through

a process of selection made by the hostel committee. Application for recommendation for the hostel is to be made at the time of admission to the college. Seats were reserved for the students of SC, ST category for admission to the hostel as per norms prescribed by the State Govt. There was a medical officer for the hostel students who attended them weekly and in case of emergency. In that case the name of Dr. D. N. Majumder, ex-superintendent of Raiganj District Hospital, who is serving Raiganj College (University College) as a medical officer since long past.¹²

AASM GARDEN:

The district of Uttar Dinajpur in West Bengal is a small, under developed but agriculturally active district. The soil is principally of old Gangetic alluvial type. Most importantly, this district encompasses a significantly large number of aquatic bodies and wet lands. The district has a very old tradition of Ayurveda and Unani method of treatments. A majority of people still practice traditional medicine and food. In that context the plants have recorded within the campus of Raiganj College (University College) closely with about 90% plants that are in the AASM garden.

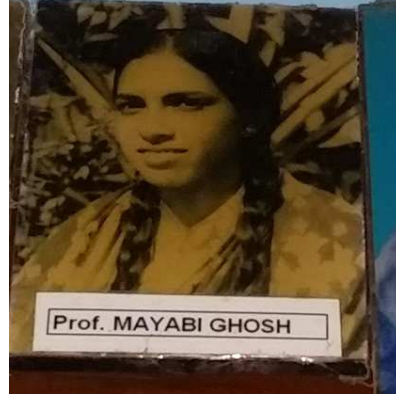
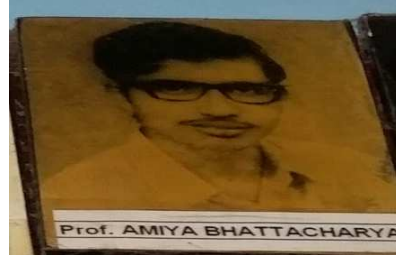
The erstwhile Raiganj College has a big bio-medicinal plant garden named 'AASM' in commemoration of four teachers of the college who died in a road accident. The garden was flourished under the able leadership of Shri Indulal Saha, Ex-Reader in Physics of the college. The Garden cherishes the memories of the four deceased teachers namely-Ajit Kumar Das, Amiya Kumar Bhattacharya, Sarmila Bhattacharya, and Mayabi Ghosh (AASM). The garden is a place of interest for the students and research scholars and the peoples of this area in general for its bio-aesthetic and educative values.¹³

The idea of collection, conservation and preservation of medicinal plants was initiated in the year of 1984 by establishing a garden within Raiganj College (University College) premises, under the Presidentship of Professor D. B. Dutta, the then Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of North Bengal. An area of about 1.8 acres was marked for AASM garden.¹⁴ Department of Botany, Raiganj College (University College) was given major

responsibility for advice, technical know-how and other help for the purpose of germplasm collection and conservation. Prof. Indulal Saha, Department of Physics, Raiganj College (University College) shouldered the major responsibility to shape the garden during the first decade of its establishment. The garden runs from the financial contribution of students of the Raiganj College. During the last twenty-five–thirty years, plants, both from local as well as remote areas have been collected and preserved. Many persons from various professions and economic strata have contributed to the garden either by donating plants as seeds, seeding, and cuttings or in other forms. With a modest resource, plants from all over the district, state as well as from other parts of India were collected and are being maintained and propagated. In the silver jubilee year of its establishment in 2009 an initiative was undertaken for the first time with the financial assistance of DST, West Bengal to enable and enumerate the present status of germplasm collection and their sustainability in the garden. The work was initiated during December, 2009 and completed within six months. Identification of plants was done in consultation with plant systematic experts and also with the generous help of BSI, West Bengal and records were maintained following standard procedures.

Approximately six hundred (600) angiosperms and a few gymnosperms and pteridophytes were listed in the process of enumeration. A few plants are still unidentified whose identification is very much important. As a result of the sincere effort of Dr. Dilip De Sarker, Reader, Department of Botany and two times Teacher-in-Charge of the college, Tanmay Chowdhury and Manas Ranjan Saha one plant named *Arum margaritifolium* (Araceae) which is included Red Data Book of B.S.I. Researches have been carried out to find out suitable conservation of this plant.

Indeed, the unique collection of the AASM garden serves the local people for awareness, human-nature relationship, knowing plants and their medical uses. Many researchers have taken help from this AASM garden and many will take help in future. This garden really serves to conserve the plants and sustain the unique germplasm collection.¹⁵



AASM Garden of Raiganj College

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. See, 'SaangbadikerChokheRaiganj College'- a Bengali article by Sunil Chanda, ex-student of the college and veteran press reporter, in Golden Jubilee Smarak Patrika, 1998, p. 59.
2. For details see, Golden Jubilee Smarak Patrika, Raiganj College (University College), 1998.
3. As an ex-student of the college Mr. Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi had very close contact with his teachers and as a result of that he was very much careful about the all round development of the college.
4. See an Article on 'Raiganj College Habe Naya Nalanda (in Bengali)', by Satyaranjan Das in Uttarer Saradin, 29.11.2013.
5. See, Ex-Principal of Raiganj College (University College) Dr. C. Basu's Report at the inaugural ceremony of the Golden Jubilee Smark Patrika, held on 2nd August, 1998; p. 25.
6. See, Anandabazar Patrika, 07.07.2012.
7. See, Prospectus, Raiganj College (University College).
8. Ex-Principal of Raiganj College (University College) Dr. C. Basu's Report at the inaugural ceremony of the Golden Jubilee Smark Patrika, held on 2nd August, 1998, p. 26.
9. See, Prospectus, Raiganj College, (University College); also see, Ex-Principal of Raiganj College (University College) Dr. C. Basu's Report at the inaugural ceremony of the Golden Jubilee Smark Patrika, held on 2nd August, 1998, p. 26.
10. See, Prospectus, Raiganj College, (University College); also see, Ex-Principal of Raiganj College (University College) Dr. C. Basu's Report at the inaugural ceremony of the Golden Jubilee Smark Patrika, held on 2nd August, 1998.
11. See, Vide 85th meeting of AC dated 9th July, 2010 under item no. 3(a)]. He handed over the charge to Dr. Dilip De Sarkar on 06.06.2010 afternoon.
12. See, Prospectus, Raiganj College, (University College)
13. See, Prospectus, Raiganj College, (University College); also see, Ex-Principal of Raiganj College (University College) Dr. C. Basu's Report at the inaugural ceremony of the Golden Jubilee Smark Patrika, held on 2nd August, 1998, pp. 26-27.
14. See, NAAC Report, 2004, Raiganj College (University College)
15. For details see, Dilip De Sarkar, et.al., *Biodiversity and Medicinal Plants of West Dinajpur and Malda* (Vol. I), Offset Canvas, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal, 2011.

Chapter IX

Report of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) - 2004

Draft Report on Institutional Accreditation of Raiganj College (University College) Raiganj, District- Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal, April 7-8, 2004. The Raiganj College (University College) volunteered for institutional accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore and submitted its Self-Study Report in December 2003. The NAAC constituted a peer team comprising of Prof. S. D. Tripathi, Former Vice-Chancellor, Rani Durgavati University, Jabbalpur and Visiting Professor, Harish Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh as Chairman; Ms. Paramita Saha, Department of Analytical and applied Economics, Tripura University, Agartala, Tripura, as a member and Professor Mamata Satapathy, UGC Emeritus Fellow, Department of Physics, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Orissa as Member-Coordinator. The peer team visited the college for two days on 7th and 8th April 2004, to assess the college for accreditation. During the institutional visit, the Peer Team went through all the relevant documents, and visited all the academic departments, library, NCC and NSS units, sports facilities and infrastructural facilities of the college. The Peer Team interacted at length with the Management, Principal, Faculty, Parents, Students, Alumni and other Stake Holders of the college. Based on the above exercise and keeping in mind all the seven criteria the Peer Team was taken up the task of Assessment and Accreditation of the college and prepared the report as follows.

Criterion-wise Analysis: Curricular Aspects:

The College imparts Undergraduate education in Arts,

Science and Commerce. There are altogether 12 academic programme options with 15 Undergraduate courses in traditional subjects like English, Bengali, Sanskrit, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Economics, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Computer Science and Commerce, Self-financing Vocational UG Course in Sericulture, Self-Financing UG Courses in Microbiology, BBA, Computer Applications (BCA) and one Self-financing Post Graduate Course in Bengali. The college also offers Ph.D. programme in departments of Botany, Physics and Chemistry under the University of North Bengal. The Sericulture department was set up with full financial support from UGC. The college also offers Honours in as many as 15 subjects including Microbiology. The students have the option to choose any combination of three subjects in a faculty as per the Regulation of the affiliating NBU. English and Bengali are compulsory for all the Undergraduate programmes. It is observed that students' preference is limited to a few combinations in these programmes. The College may therefore review these combinations, redesign and revamp them on the basis of students' feedback and peer opinion. Apart from the regular programmes of its own the college serves as Study centre of NSOU, and also as the centres of Distance Education Programme of NBU. The college has signed a MOU with the Institute of Computer Engineers, India for conducting BCA and BBA courses from the year 2002-2003.

The college is a University College of North Bengal University and has to follow the syllabi and curricula framed by it. The curricula are yet to be modularly structured with focus on multidisciplinary approach. The Regulation of the University does not provide flexibility in time-frame and horizontal mobility. A reasonable of subjects is available as elective options; however no subject is available as non-core option. The College take about a year to introduce and implement a new course from the time it has been conceptualised.

A mechanism to obtain feedback from academic peers and employers on different aspects of academic activities of the College is yet to be developed. This is very much essential for

imparting quality education in the fast changing scenario of the frontiers of knowledge.

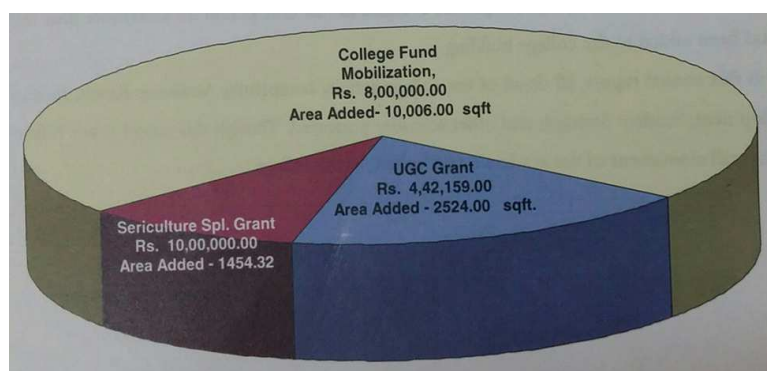
India's rapid logical progress made a remarkable position in the global software and information technology. In order to sustain and maintain high professional standards, the NBU in collaboration with Computer Engineer of India introduces three-year degree courses of Bachelor of Computer Application (BCA) and Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) at Raiganj University College Computer Centre. The candidates may available the opportunity to get themselves admitted into MCA and MBA Courses at University after successfully Completing BCA and BBA Courses respectively.

This is very much essential for imparting quality education in the fast-changing scenario of the 21st Century of the frontiers of knowledge. It is noted that the Raiganj College has initiated a mechanism of college-industry- neighbourhood networking. The department of Chemistry interacts with soil Chemistry Laboratory of State government. The Sericulture Department has developed linkage with local Sericulture Industry, State Sericulture Directorate, and the Institute of Sericulture, Mysore. The College earns revenue through Botany Department by selling medicinal plants and through Sericulture Department by selling mulberry cuttings, green leaves of mulberry plants to local Sericulturists, and Cocoons to Cocoon market.

In the year of 2003-04 and 2004-05 during the IXth and Xth plan the College has got nearly Rs. 27,92, 159.00 from UGC and M.P. LAD. In this period the college has created a fund of Rs. 18, 50,000.00 and total amount was utilised for the structural development. The Bengali P.G Building, Golden Jubilee Building, (Teachers of the college are also contributed money for the building construction), Acharya Satyendra Nath Bose Science Block, Commerce Block have been completed. More than 21183 sq. ft. area is added in this time period. In total more than 15000 sq. ft. area has been added to the college building. During the 10th plan period, Sri P. R. Das Munshi, MP, an alumnus of this college has shown great deal of interest in the development of this college. His able leadership has given great impetus for maintaining high academic standards through availability of fund from M.P. LAD fund. The second

floor of S.N. Bose building was constructed under the M.P. LAD fund Rs. 12,000,00.00 and area added 3419.00 sqft. UGC granted Rs. 3, 50,000.00 area added 1056.00 sqft. PG fund Mobilised Rs. 10, 00,000.00 and area added 2730.00 sqft.¹

IXth Plan



UGC in the year of 2004 has granted the college Rs. 100000/- to establish the LAN connection in all the computers of the college and it successfully done and it also operated. From this time admission procedure is fully computerised replacing in manual process. All science departments have been provided with Computer. UGC has recognised the college as the “RESOURCE CENTRE” and college authority has got Rs. 2,00,000.00 in this regard from UGC in the year of 2005.²

Source Wise Structural Development of the College During IXth Plan

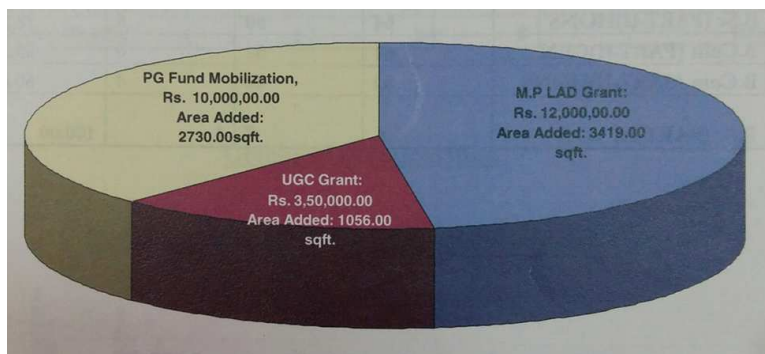
<i>Sl.no</i>	<i>Funding agency</i>	<i>Amount grant</i>	<i>Development(sq.ft)</i>
1	UGC	Rs. 442159/-	2524
2	Seri.Spl. Grant	Rs. 10,00,000/-	1454.32
3	College Fund	800000	10,006

Source Wise Structural Development of the College During Xth Plan

<i>Sl.no</i>	<i>Funding agency</i>	<i>Amount grant</i>	<i>Development(sq.ft)</i>
1	M.P. LAD	Rs. 12,00,000/-	3419
2	UGC	Rs.3,50,000/-	1056

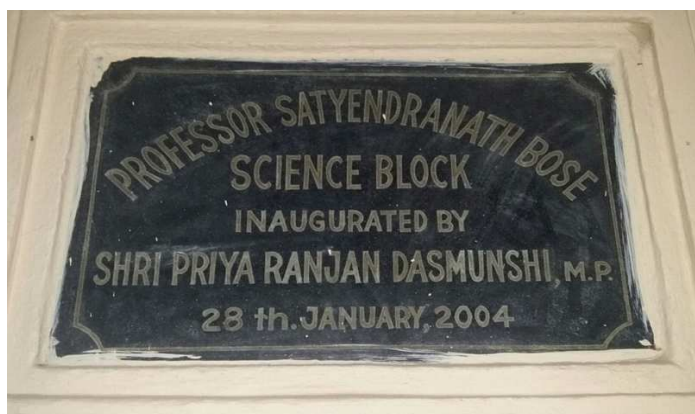
114 Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal

3	P.G. Fund	Rs. 10,00,000/-	2730
4	Boundary Wall	Rs. 50,000/-	



On the basis of the analysis of the self-study report by the NAAC, visits to various academic and other units of the college, discussions with the Principal, faculties students non-teaching staffs of the college the peer team likes to note that the growth and progress achieved by the college in several fields and areas of activities is quite appreciable. The Peer Team mentioned some commendation of the college that, the strict adherence to academic programmes and the rules and regulations laid down by the NBU and the State Govt. the principal, teaching

and non-teaching staff and the students work in close association for developing, the full potential of the teachers to participate in conferences, workshops, seminars and attend refreshers and orientation courses to improve their academic abilities etc.⁴



For the future developments of the college, NAAC team suggested that the college may start more PG Courses like Environmental Science, Biotechnology, Mass Communication and Journalism, Physical Education (B.PED), Music, Drama, performing Art and Home Science etc. The college should evolve to get feedback from the students on the overall functions of the college in general, and effectiveness of learning. The college may set up centralised computer centre, open a Women Development Cell with UGC grants, Library should be fully Computerised, class room teaching should be more effective and interesting for the learner by using more and more teaching aids like sound system, OHP, LCD, Slide Projector etc. The college may have started coaching classes for the competitive examination, may apply for grants through COSIP and COHSSIP programmes of UGC, teachers should apply for Minor and Major research projects to UGC and DST. The college may apply to the Government of India for the sanctioning of grants for multipurpose Gymnasium hall and indoor game facilities in general. Canteen should be improved. NBU should consider granting B.SC. degree to Economics Honours rather than the given B.A degree. Science lab should be modernised

in view of the revised curricula as per the UGC. Project works should be introduced in the curriculum of the subjects. Field study, study tour, industrial visit be undertaken as a part of education etc.⁵

The NAAC executive council (Bangalore) accredited this college as **B+ Grade College (77.35%)**.⁶

As per NAAC Peer Team recommendation the college initiate self-employment opportunity for the students through Career Oriented Programme (COP) and college has got Rs. 7, 00,000.00 from the UGC for this purpose. COP in Mass Communication and Videography programme is started with the overwhelming response from the students. As the college is situated at about 400 KM from Kolkata and about 200 KM from Siliguri, good faculty members are not easily available. However, the Raiganj College in consultation with Dr.T.K.Catterjee, the Registrar, NBU, has undergone a MOU with the Ritwik Academy, an Institution of Film and Videography, Kolkata. Under the MOU the Ritwik Academy would provide expert to the college. In the year of 2004-2005, COP in Industrial Microbiology programme is started. But this programme will be effective from the next academic session. Biological Specimen Preservation programme is started in the year of 2004-2005. But this programme will be effective from the next academic session.⁷

Names of the Teaching Faculty of the Raiganj College (University College)

<i>Sl.No</i>	<i>Name of The Teachers</i>	<i>Department</i>
1.	Prof. Ashok Kr. Guha	Physics
2.	Prof. Chittaranjan Acharya	Physics
3.	Prof. Asohk Kr. Ghosh	Physics
4.	Prof. Samaresh Mitra	Physics
5.	Prof. Ashis Kr. Mukherjee	Physics
6.	Prof. IndulalSaha	Physics
7.	Prof. Suprakash Acharya	Physics
8.	Prof. Pijush Kumar Das	Physics
9.	Prof. ChinmoyBasu	Physics
10.	Prof. Rabindra Chandra Basak	Physics
11.	Prof. Gurupada Choudhury	Physics
12.	Prof. Sakuntala Gupta	Physics

Report of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council 117

13.	Prof. Md. Rabiul Islam	Physics
14.	Prof. ApurbaKanti Deb	Physics
15.	Prof. Purna Chandra Barman	Physics
16.	Prof. Amaresh Ch. Roy	Chemistry
17.	Prof. Md Osman Gani	Chemistry
18.	Prof. Nagna Narayan Prasad Singh	Chemistry
19.	Prof. Gobinda Das	Chemistry
20.	Prof. SukhomoyBhowmick	Chemistry
21.	Prof. Basudeb Majhi	Chemistry
22.	Prof. Tapash Chatterjee	Chemistry
23.	Prof. Bibekananda Pradhan	Chemistry
24.	Prof. Dharendra Kr. Das	Chemistry
25.	Prof. Asish Nanda	Chemistry
26.	Prof. N. K. Das	Chemistry
27.	Prof. Rabindra Nath Mukherjee	Chemistry
28.	Prof. Debaprasad Bhattacharjee	Chemistry
29.	Prof. Krishna Sarkar	Chemistry
30.	Prof. Asim Bothra	Chemistry
31.	Prof.AchyutmohanRoychaudhury	Chemistry
32.	Prof. Pranab Ghosh	Chemistry
33.	Prof. Dilip Debnath	Chemistry
34.	Prof. Bidyut Kr. Santra	Chemistry
35.	Prof. Avik Chatterjee	Chemistry
36.	Prof. Kinkar Biswas	Chemistry
37.	Prof. Haridas Ghosh	Mathematics
38.	Prof. Panchanan Roy	Mathematics
39.	Prof. Gopinath Sarkar	Mathematics
40.	Prof. K. K. Saraswati	Mathematics
41.	Prof. Asish Sarkar	Mathematics
42.	Prof. Dilip Das	Mathematics
43.	Prof. Swapna Mukherjee	Mathematics
44.	Prof. Ajit Das	Mathematics
45.	Prof. Barun Kr. Sanyal	Mathematics
46.	Prof. Amiya Bhattacharya	Mathematics
47.	Prof. Ashok Das	Mathematics
48.	Prof. Rudra Kanta Sarkar	Mathematics
49.	Prof. Rajib Mondal	Mathematics
50.	Prof. Sunil Maity	Mathematics
51.	Prof. Joydeep Sengupta	Mathematics
52.	Prof. Haricharan Debnath	Bengali

118 Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal

53.	Prof. Parimal Sarkar	Bengali
54.	Prof. Nirmal Das	Bengali
55.	Prof. Rina Bhattacharya	Bengali
56.	Prof. Bratati Ghosh Roy	Bengali
57.	Prof. Tapati Rout	Bengali
58.	Prof. Subhash Roychoudhury	Bengali
59.	Prof. Arpita Roychoudhury	Bengali
60.	Prof. Milan Kumar Roy	Bengali
61.	Prof. Dipak Ch. Barman	Bengali
62.	Prof. TaluBesra	Bengali
63.	Prof. Jyotsna Kr. Sen	English
64.	Prof. Amlan Jyoti Majumder	English
65.	Prof. Nrisingha Prasad Sen	English
66.	Prof. Subhash Ch. Das	English
67.	Prof.Purnendusekhar Mukherjee	English
68.	Prof. Sambhu Nath Roy	English
69.	Prof. Chandan AsisLaha	English
70.	Prof. Satrughna Singh	English
71.	Prof. Subhash Ch. Dasgupta	English
72.	Prof. Nirjhar Sarkar	English
73.	Prof. Sanjukta Chatterjee	English
74.	Prof. Binoy Krishna Das	Botany
75.	Prof. Gopesh Ch. Sarkar	Botany
76.	Prof. Dilip De Sarkar	Botany
77.	Prof. Ranjit Choudhury	Botany
78.	Prof. Upendra Nath Das	Botany
79.	Prof. Samaresh Chaudhury	Botany
80.	Prof. Ajoy Kr. Ghosh	Botany
81.	Prof. Tapan Majumder	Botany
82.	Prof. Mayabi Ghosh	Botany
83.	Prof. Shaonli Das	Botany
84.	Prof. Ayon Pal	Botany
85.	Prof. Parimal Mandal	Botany
86.	Prof. Sanjoy Sadhukhan	Botany
87.	Prof. Binoy Choudhury	Commerce
88.	Prof. Gopal Krishna Majumder	Commerce
89.	Prof. Tapash Kr. Basu	Commerce
90.	Prof. Uttam Kr. Roy	Commerce
91.	Prof. Surojit Dey	Commerce
92.	Prof. Priyotosh Sarkar	Commerce

Report of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council 119

93.	Prof. Jatindra Nath Majumder	Philosophy
94.	Prof. Mihir Mukherjee	Philosophy
95.	Prof. Jatindra Kr. Majumder	Philosophy
96.	Prof. Sunil Kr. Sarkar	Philosophy
97.	Prof. Rajat Bhattacharya	Philosophy
98.	Prof. Jayasree Sengupta	Philosophy
99.	Prof. Sharmila Bhattacharya	Philosophy
100.	Prof. Ratna Chatterjee	Philosophy
101.	Prof. Nirmal Kr. Roy	Philosophy
102.	Prof. TapashMohanta	Philosophy
103.	Prof. Iti Chattopadhyay	Philosophy
104.	Prof. Bhaskar Jha	Philosophy
105.	Prof. Biresh Guha	Pol. Science
106.	Prof. Utpalendu Sarkar	Pol. Science
107.	Prof. Prabas Ranjan Rout	Pol. Science
108.	Prof. Kalyan Ghosh	Pol. Science
109.	Prof. VidyawatiAgarwala	Pol. Science
110.	Prof. Sumita Sinha	Pol. Science
111.	Prof. Abdur Razzak	Pol. Science
112.	Prof. Goutam Sarkar	Pol. Science
113.	Prof. Goutam Dakua	Pol. Science
114.	Prof. Sambhunath Banerjee	Sanskrit
115.	Prof. Sohanlal Jhavar	Sanskrit
116.	Prof. Priyotosh Bhattacharya	Sanskrit
117.	Prof. Prasanta Kr. Mahala	Sanskrit
118.	Prof. Swapan Mal	Sanskrit
119.	Prof. Manabendra Dutta Majumder	History
120.	Prof. Saroj Kusum Ghosh	History
121.	Prof. Ashok Kr. Sarkar	History
122.	Prof. Gargi Sarkar	History
123.	Prof. Barendra Nath Giri	History
124.	Prof. Sujit Kr. Ghosh	History
125.	Prof. Babulal Bala	History
126.	Prof. Swapan Kr. Pain	History
127.	Prof. Pem Chhedey Bhutia	History
128.	Prof. Mukul Bikash Sen	Economics
129.	Prof. Narayan Chatterjee	Economics
130.	Prof. Pallab Dasgupta	Economics
131.	Prof. Dilip Ghosh Roy	Economics
132.	Prof. Suhas Talukdar	Economics

120 Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal

133.	Prof. Nandalal Banerjee	Economics
134.	Prof. Debasish Biswas	Economics
135.	Prof. Subrata Saha	Economics
136.	Prof. Sujoy Majumder	Economics
137.	Prof. Sanjib Mandal	Economics
138.	Prof. Ratul Sinha	Zoology
139.	Prof. SudhamoyDebmallick	Zoology
140.	Prof. Phanindra Kr. Mandal	Zoology
141.	Prof. Jolly Das	Zoology
142.	Prof. Sumitra Das	Zoology
143.	Prof. Prabir Roy	Zoology
144.	Prof. Amal Bhattacharya	Zoology
145.	Prof. Anandamoy Barik	Zoology
146.	Prof. Anupam Ghosh	Zoology
147.	Prof. Sougata Ghosh	Zoology
148.	Prof. ParthaSarathi Nandi	Zoology
149.	Prof. Vivek Roy	Zoology
150.	Prof. Tapan Sarkar	Zoology
151.	Paolay Mandal	Geography

Contractual and Part time teaching staff of the College

1.	Smt. Sujata Kole (Contractual)	Bengali
2.	Smt. Sumita Roy (Contractual)	Bengali
3.	Shri Sudip Some (Contractual)	Microbiology
4.	Shri Goutam Kr. Basak (Contractual)	Microbiology
5.	Smt. Chitralkha Das (Contractual)	Microbiology
6.	Shri Atanu Nayak (Part-time)	Economics
7.	Shri Tapan Dutta (Part-time)	Commerce
8.	Shri Asit Ranjan Das (Part-time)	Commerce
9.	Shri Prasanta Kr. Dutta (Part-time)	Commerce
10.	Smt. Debarati Guha (Part-time)	Commerce
11.	Md. Jakir Hossain (Part-time)	Mathematics
12.	Md. Ainul Bari (Part-time)	Geography
13.	Smt. Jayati Sarkar (Part-time)	Geography
14.	Shri Mrityunjoy Guha Neogi (Part-time)	Pol. Sc
15.	Md. Mozammel Hoque (Part-time)	Pol Sc
16.	Shri Biswajit Basak (Part-time)	Sericulture
17.	Shri Uttam Kr. Mandal (Part-time)	Chemistry

Report of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council 121

18.	Shri Sukumar Saha (Part-time)	Economics
19.	Shri Subal Kanti Choudhury (Part-time)	Bengali
20.	Shri Arindam Dutta (Part-time)	Geography
21.	Shri. Kankan Ch. Sarkar (Part-time)	Mathematics
22.	Shri Rupak Sarkar (Part-time)	Mathematics
23.	Smt Jayati Lahiri Dey (Part-time)	Computer Science
24.	Shri Ajoy Dutta (Part-time)	History
25.	Shri Suraji tSaha (Part-time)	Zoology
26.	Smt. Mandrita Das (Part-time)	History
27.	Shri Pradip Kr Biswas (Part-time)	Physics
28.	Shri Mahadeb Roy (Part-time)	Physics
29.	Shri Dharendra Jyotishi (Part-time)	Chemistry
30.	Shri Tanmoy Choudhury (Part-time)	Sericulture
31.	Shri Debjoy Bhattacharya (Part-time)	Sericulture
32.	Shri Prasun Mohanta (Part-time)	Sanskrit
33.	Shri Ashok Basak (Part-time)	Philosophy
34.	Shri Tapan Ch. Sarkar (Part-time)	History
35.	Shri Ananda Ch. Sarkar (Part-time)	Bengali

Name of the Non-Teaching Staff

1. Shri Madhusudan Roy
2. Shri Anjan Kr Chatterjee
3. Shri Akhil Ranjan Mandal
4. Shri Bratindra Narayan Ghosh
5. Shri Dalim Kumar Nag
6. Shri Ananda Chandra Roy
7. Shri GourangaKarmakar
8. Shri Dipak Kr. Choudhury
9. Shri Kul Bahadur
10. Shri Ratan Kr. Paul
11. Shri Subrata Chakraborty
12. Shri Binoy Krishna Goswami
13. Shri Subhasish Bhattacharya
14. Shri Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya
15. Shri Amal Kr. Dey
16. Shri Kalidas Biswas
17. Shri Abinash Kr. Sarkar
18. Shri Krishna Ch. Moulick
19. Shri Swapan Chakraborty
20. Shri Debiprasad Chakraborty

122 Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal

21. Shri Ashim Majumder
 22. Shri Bipul Behari Dey
 23. Shri Rajkumar Singha
 24. Shri Nabin Gurung
 25. Smt. Mala Roy
 26. Shri Mangal Murmu
 27. Shri Nikhil Roy
 28. Md. LatifurRahaman
 29. Shri Tapan Nag
 30. Shri Biplab Roy
 31. Shri Soumendu Kr. Dutta
 32. Shri Bikash Nag
 33. Shri Sudhir Sarkar
 34. Shri Bidyut Choudhury
 35. Shri Basudeb Chakraborty
 36. Shri SubirSaha
 37. Shri Naresh Chand Harijan
 38. Shri Subdha Dome
-

NOTES AND REFERENCES

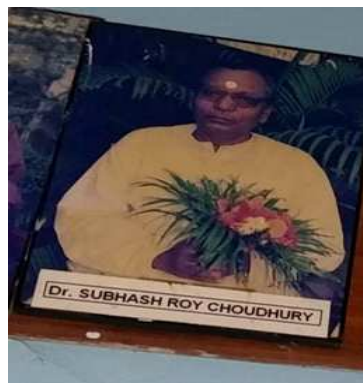
1. See, post NAAC Annual Report, Raiganj College (University College), 2005, p.2.
2. See, post NAAC Annual Report, Raiganj College (University College), 2005.
3. See, post NAAC Annual Report, Raiganj College (University College), 2005.
4. See, NAAC Report, 2004, Raiganj College (University College), pp. 12-13.
5. See, NAAC Report, 2004, Raiganj College (University College), pp.13-14.
6. For details, see State-wise Analysis of Accreditation Reports – West Bengal 2004, NAAC, Report prepared by Professor Pabitra Sarkar, Former Vice-Chairperson, West Bengal State Council of Higher Education, Kolkata; Dr. K. Rama, Deputy Advisor, NAAC, Bangalore; B. R. Manjunath, Academic Consultant, NAAC, Bangalore, Published by NAAC, 2/4, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore – 560010, Karnataka, India. p. 51.
7. See, post NAAC Annual Report, Raiganj College (University College), 2005, p. 19.

8. See, post NAAC Annual Report, Raiganj College (University College), 2005, p. 19; also see, Telephone Directory, Raiganj College (University College), Prepared by Dr.Asok Kumar Ghosh, Ex-Reader in Physics, Department of BCA, Raiganj College (University College).

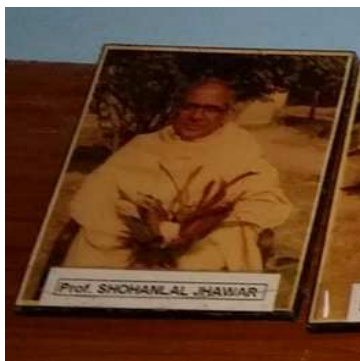
**Photos of the Teachers' of erstwhile Raiganj College
(University College)**

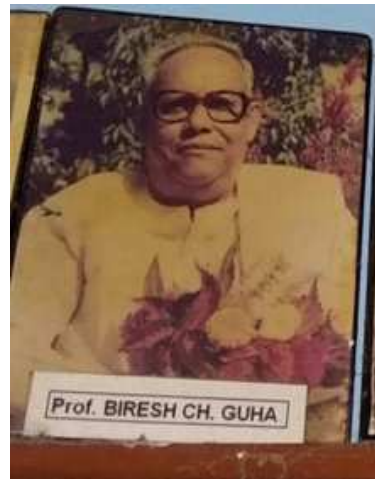
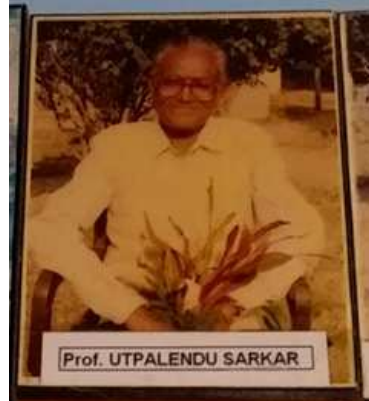


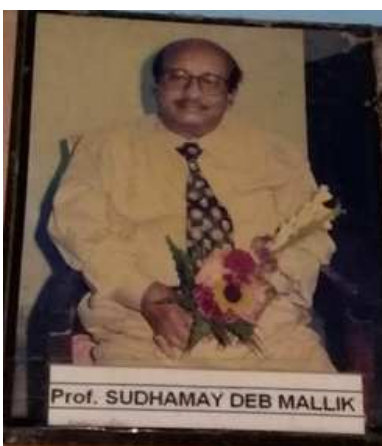


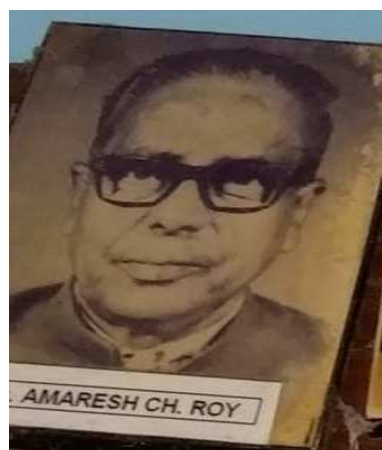
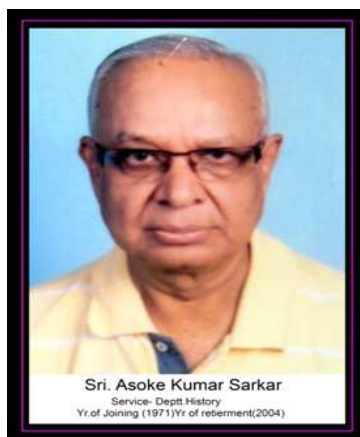


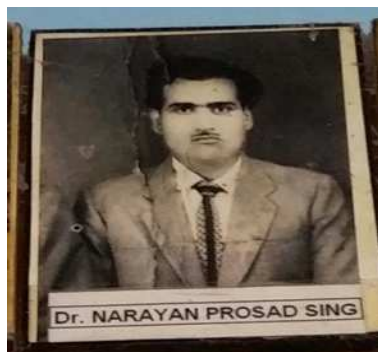












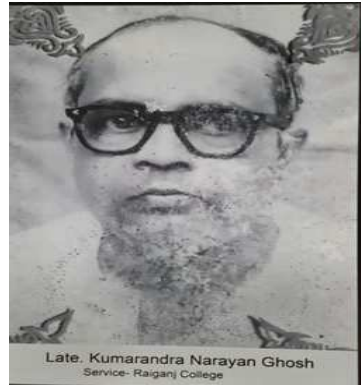


Photos of Non-Teaching Staff of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College)







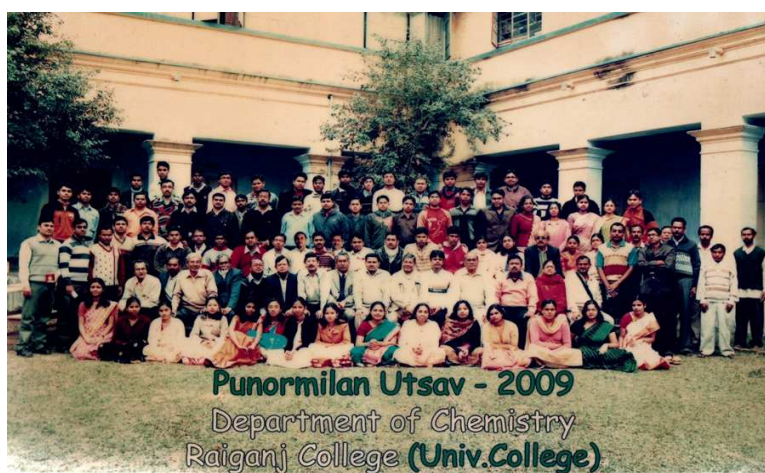


Some Memorable Pictures











Chapter X

Up-gradation of Raiganj College (University College) to Raiganj University

It was a pleasure to us when we came to know that Dr. Debasish Biswas, the then Teacher-in-Charge of Raiganj College (University College) has convened an emergent meeting of the Teachers' Council on 6th February, 2013 at 3.30 p.m. in the staff common room to discuss the procedure of preparation in connection with the meeting of the All Bengal Principals Council and the visit of Shri Bratya Basu, the Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of West Bengal on 11th February, 2013 to Raiganj College (University College). On the meeting of the teachers council it was unanimously resolved that Raiganj College (University College) should be upgraded into a University for the betterment and spread of higher education in this region. It is mention worthy that Raiganj College (University College) has a potentiality in and every respect to impart higher Education and it was also resolved that a draft regarding the up-gradation of the Raiganj College (University College) shall be handed over to the Hon'ble Higher Education Minister, Government of West Bengal on that day.

On 11th February, 2013 might be memorable for the spread of higher education in the history of Raiganj College (University College). On that day, a state conference of All Bengal Principal Council was held at Chemistry Gallery of Raiganj College (University College). In that conference Prof. Bratya Basu, the then Hon'ble Higher Education Minister, Govt. of West Bengal, Prof. Manik Bhattacharya, the President, Primary Education, Govt. of West Bengal and so many dignitaries were present.¹ The Raiganj College (University College) authority and all the teaching staff, non-teaching staff and the students of the

College appealed for the up-gradation of the college to a University to our beloved 'DIDI' i.e. Smt. Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of West Bengal, through Prof. Bratya Basu, Hon'ble Higher Education Minister, Govt. of West Bengal and Sri Amal Acharya, Hon'ble MLA, Itahar, Uttar Dinajpur. In this regard a proposal for the same with necessary documents was submitted through proper channel.

As a follow up of the above happenings Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of West Bengal, announced on 27th November, 2013 from an administrative meeting at Karnojora, the district headquarter of the district of Uttar Dinajpur that Raiganj College (University College) will be upgraded into a University and the University will run from the academic session of 2015-2016.² It was really a historical day for the teaching-non-teaching-students of the college along with of course the people of Uttar Dinajpur because they are going to get a university in their district from where their children would be able to avail the facilities of higher education without any hindrance. Following the announcement of Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of West Bengal, it is found that Department of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal, University of North Bengal and the Raiganj College (University College) authorities engaged themselves with very much positive approach in order to materialize the announcement of Hon'ble Chief Minister i.e. upgradation of Raiganj College (University College) into a University. Professor Somnath Ghosh, the then Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of North Bengal, the Registrar and the Finance Officer of North Bengal University played very effective role for the upgradation of the Raiganj College (University College) into a unitary Raiganj University.

Accordingly on 30th April, 2014 a letter was received by Prof. Uttam Kumar Roy, the then Teacher-in-Charge, Raiganj College (University College) from the desk of Mr. P. K. Das, Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Deptt, Govt. of W.B, University Branch, Bikash Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091. On 4th April, 2014 regarding 'A detail proposal for up-gradation of Raiganj College (University College) into a full-fledged University' Mr. P. K. Das was directed to request the then TIC

to furnish a status report covering the total quantum of land, covering administrative block, teaching departments, laboratories, quarters, canteen, playground, garden etc. (land details, sketch, map etc.). Sanction strength in teaching and non-teaching staff, present strength and vacancy position, proposed additional requirement of administrative and academic manpower for upgradation of Raiganj College (University College). Such additional manpower may be demanded by the T.I.C. concerned through Finance Departments Memo No.1488-F (p) dt. 20.02.2012. Total financial liability may be mentioned for creation of manpower both in administrative and academic field. Courses offered in undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Proposed introduction of new teaching departments/courses. Whether any new infrastructure for starting a new course is required. If so DPR in appropriate form and manner should be submitted. Any other information as is correlated to upgradation of Raiganj College (U.C.) should be submitted along with aforesaid information within 15th April, 2014.³

It is found that Prof. Uttam Kumar Roy, the Teacher-in-Charge of the erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) has written a letter to Smt. M. Roy, IAS, Additional Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, which is inter alia stated in the following way:

Ref. No. 150/2014 -(Univ.)

To Dated 28th July 2014

Smt.M. Roy, IAS,

Additional Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal.

Respected Madam,

I am happy to intimate you that all the employees of Raiganj University College welcome whole-heartedly the proposal of up-gradation of Raiganj College into a university. They are extremely glad, and give me the responsibility to convey the Govt., on their behalf, the heartfelt gratitude, the same I also express immensely from the very deep core of my heart. Not only the employees of Raiganj University College, Madam, if one keeps an ear outside of Raiganj University College, there is always heard a buzz of pleasure and happiness among the locals after kind announcement of Hon'ble Chief Minister,

Govt. of West Bengal, to whom we all remain grateful forever. However, we appeal for the following for your kind consideration.

1. All the employees of Raiganj College (University College), namely, full-time teachers, part-time teachers, contractual teachers, non-teaching staffs, and daily-wage staffs will be treated as University employees of proposed University.
2. The interest all the pensioners should remain intact.
3. It is hoped that the interest of the pass course students should be looked after by the proposed University.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,

Prof. Uttam Kumar Roy

Teacher-in-Charge

Raiganj College (University College)

Enclosure: Minutes of the meeting held at our college. ⁴

Minutes of a meeting (held on 25.07.2014) urgently called for a discussion on up-gradation of Raiganj College in to a university (whatever expected problems and proposals stand solid are given below in nutshell for your kind consideration).

Expected Problems:-

1. Whether the existing college teachers to be transferred to other colleges [Please note that the non-govt. college teachers are under sponsored college rules and their service is non-transferrable];
2. Whether the proposed University will accept the part-time teachers as the teachers of University or not;
3. What will be the fate of pass course pupils after conversion of Raiganj College into a University?
4. The Sericulture subject (Pioneer subject) of University of North Bengal is only taught at Raiganj College (University College) as a status of General Course, but proposed University will tag this general sericulture course or not, if not, what will be the fate of two part-time teachers who have been serving in this college since long.

5. Will there be absorption of college teachers into University teachers automatically or will there be certain process for this?

Expected Proposals:

1. The interest of each and every employee of the college should be protected.
2. The superannuation benefits of the teachers (who will retire within a very short period) should be cleared without any hindrance.
3. One responsible college teacher should be appointed in an appropriate chair to protect the overall interest of the teachers and staffs during the transitional period.
4. The salary of the teachers and the staffs must be ensured by the Govt. at least in the inchoate stage. For this purpose the creation of a reserve fund may be made to pay the monthly salary to the teachers and staffs of the college before proper regularization of the salary.
5. Such a unified G. O. should be coined so that every staff of the college may come under a common umbrella since there are many sub-divisions among the teachers and the staffs.
6. The pending issues relating to CAS/Promotion, Course Attending etc. should formally be transferred into its upgraded status.
7. To make a provision for the passed out students (from this proposed University) for attending the B.Ed. course to other University where they should not be treated as outsiders.

Prof. Uttam Kumar Roy

Teacher-in-Charge

Raiganj College (University College)⁵

**PROPRSED UNIVERSITY
AT RAIGANJ COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)**

Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur, Pin: 733134, WB, Telephone No.
03523-242570 (Fax), 03523-242580 (Principal),
website: www.raiganjcollege.ac.in, email:
collegeraiganj1948@gmail.com

As per Reference No. 369-Edn(U)/1U(NB)-29/2013, dated, Kolkata-4th April, 2014 Prof. Uttam Kumar Roy, the then Teacher-in-Charge, Raiganj College (University College) send a proposal, Ref. no.-95/2014 (Univ.), dated- 26th May, 2014, to Mr. P.K. Das, Asst. Secretary to the Govt. of W.B., Higher Education Departments, University Branch, Bikash Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, that three new buildings may be constructed in the open land area. The Teacher-in-Charge also mentioned that the Govt. vacant plot which is attached to college and some are already at college's possession. The construction of the new building may be placed in the Govt. plots which are already at college's possessions. An estimate and a tentative site for construction of three G+4 buildings are also placed before Mr. P.K. Das for his kind consideration.

Further, the TIC of Raiganj College (University College) noted that a land measuring about 2 acres having R.S. Plot no.4148 of Mouja Raiganj, JL. No. 150 is under active consideration for transfer to the new University as per verbal communication of Mr. Amal Acharya, MLA, Itahar, Uttar Dinajpur, and Parliamentary Secretary, Govt. of W.B. The TIC also sends a list of nearby degree colleges for reference. TIC of Raiganj College (University College) also send an enclosed Mouja Map, Sketch Map, Details Building Area, Revenue Expenditure Budget, Estimate 2014-2015 etc. An estimate for constructions of three G+4 buildings, Land Information of R.S. Plot no.4148 of Mouja Raiganj, JL No. 150 and a list of nearby colleges.

Prof. Uttam Kumar Roy, the then TIC of Raiganj College send a detail abstract of the Proposal to the competent authority mentioning the Total quantum of Land of the college is 13.54 acre. Open land excluding water bodies is 4.51 acre and Govt. land adjacent to college is 2 acre.

Additional manpower: Executive and Officers – 24; Teachers: Professor- 23; Associate Professor – 46; Assistant Professor-54; Clerks and Group: D – 148.

Total quantum of land, covering administrative block, teaching departments, laboratories, quarters, canteen, playground, garden etc. of Raiganj College (University College) are as follows:

Total quantum of land – 13.54 acres; construction area: administrative block – 6480.00 sq. ft.; Teaching Departments of Science and Commerce – 22366.16 sq.ft.; Arts – 26002.45sq.ft.; Girls Hostel – Old -10266.00sq.ft.; New – 5849.25 sq.ft.;Boys Hostel – Old- 5849.29 sq. ft.; Minority Hostel – 3824.00 sq. ft.; Quarters: Teaching - 4 nos. 2800.00 sq. ft.; Staff – 4 nos. 1500.00 sq. ft.; Guest House – 2000.00 sq. ft.; Students Union Room – 189.00 sq. ft.; canteen – 300.00 sq. ft.; Play Ground – 90000.00 sq. ft.; AASM Garden for Medicinal Plants 40000.00 sq. ft.; Pond – 50000.00 sq. ft. (Approx); Ditches – 120000.00 sq. ft. (Approx).

Total area = (Built up area + Pond + Playground + AASM Garden + Ditches + Open land) = 13.54 acre or 5,90,836.36 sq. ft. Open land = 1,97,048.76 sq.ft.

Sanctioned strength in teaching and non-teaching staff, present strength and vacancy position as on 24.05.2014 as follows:

<i>Name of the post</i>	<i>Sanctioned post</i>	<i>Present strength</i>	<i>Vacancy position</i>
Principal	01	0	01

Teaching:

<i>Department</i>	<i>Sanctioned teaching post vide decision of the AC dt. 07/02/2006</i>	<i>Present teaching strength</i>	<i>Vacancy position</i>
Physics (G/H)	7	5	2
Mathematics (G/H)	4	2	2
Chemistry (G/H)	7	5	2
Zoology (G/H)	6	3	3
Botany (G/H)	7	4	3

Up-gradation of Raiganj College (University College) to ... 147

Bengali (G/H/PG)	4	3	1
English (G/H)	4	4	Nil
Political Science (G/H)	4	2	2
Philosophy (G/H)	4	4	Nil
economics (G/H)	4	4	Nil
History (G/H)	4	4	Nil
Sanskrit (G/H)	3	1	2
Commerce (G/H)	4	4	Nil
Geography (G/H)	3	0	3
Microbiology (H)	0	0	Nil
Sericulture	0	0	Nil
Total	65	45	20

Non-teaching :(Office and Departments):

Category	Sanctioned Non-teaching Post	Present Non-teaching Strength	Vacancy Position
Group – C	11	7	4
Group – D	22	18	4
Total	33	25	8

Librarian:

Name of the Post	Sanctioned Post	Present Strength	Vacancy position
Librarian	1	0	1
Asst. Librarian	1	0	1

In this regard T.I.C. also mentioned additional posts of teaching and non-teaching for P.G. Courses in Arts faculty i.e. Bengali, English, Philosophy, History, Political Science, Sanskrit, and Economics. The ratio of the teaching posts is: Professor-01, Associate professor 02, Assistant Professor 02 for each department respectively. The requirement of the Non-teaching stuff i.e. group C and D for each of the above department is 01:01. Similarly, the ratio of the additional teaching posts for P.G. Courses in Science faculty i.e. Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Geography, Microbiology is: Professor -01, Associate professor 02, Assistant Professor 03 for each department respectively. The requirement

of the staff pattern of Non-teaching stuff i.e. group C and D for each of the above department are: group –C: 01 and group D: 02 respectively. In case of the Department of Commerce for P.G. Course; the post of Professor-01, Associate professor-02, Assistant Professor -02 ratios respectively and non-teaching stuff pattern i.e. group C and D is 01:01.

In this regards the T.I.C. also mentioned additional New Dept. for P.G. Courses of Education, Sociology, Environmental Studies, Library Science, Home Science, Law, and MBA. The post of Professor-01, Associate professor-02, Assistant Professor -02 and the staff pattern of the Non-teaching stuff i.e. group C and Dis 01:01 ratio respectively.

Additional post for the Department of Library is: Librarian –01; Deputy Librarian –01; Assistant Librarian –02; Jr. Assistant 04; and Jr. Attendant 04.

Clerks for the office of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor: The ratio of the V.C. Establishment of group C and D is 4:4. The ratio of the Registrar's Establishment of group C and D is: 06:04. Finance Officer's Establishment of group C and D is 08: 04. The Controller's Establishment of group C and D is 10:06. Inspector of Colleges Office of group C and D is 02:02. Development Office of group C and D is 02:02. Office of the Secretary of Under Graduate and Post Graduate Council Secretary's establishment of group C and D is-02:01. The requirement of number of Guard is-15 and Sweeper is- 08. Hostel Cook for three hostels is- 18. Estate Establishment, Officer is -01, Clerk is- 01, and Attendant is- 01. Health Centre: Doctor (General Physician) is- 01, Compounder is – 01, and Attendant is – 01. Regarding Watch and Ward Establishment: Security Officer– 01, Clerk – 01, Attendant – 01 also mentioned by the TIC of the College.

Regarding Vice- Chancellor and Officers:

Vice-Chancellor - 1, Registrar – 01, Controller of Examinations – 01, Finance Officer – 01, Assistant Finance Officer – 01, Audit Officer – 01, Inspector of Colleges – 01, Development Officer – 01, U.G. and P.G. Council Secretary – 01, P.A. to V.C – 01, Secretary to V.C. – 01, P.A. to Registrar – 01, Deputy Registrar – 01, Assistant Registrar – 01, P.A. to

Finance Officer – 01, Deputy Finance Officer – 01, P.A. to Controller of Examinations – 01, Assistant Controller – 01, Engineer – 01, Sub- Assistant Engineer Gr. III (Electrical) – 01, Technical Assistant Gr. II – 01.

Teaching and Non – Teaching:
total No. of Posts:

1. Professor: 23.
2. Associate Professor: 46.
3. Assistant Professor: 54.
4. Assistant Care taker: 01.
5. Junior Assistant (For Dept.): $(7+8+1+7+4) = 27$.
6. Attendant (For Dept.): $(7+16+1+7+4) = 35$.
7. Junior Asst. (For Office and Estb.): $(3+5+6+7+1+1+1) = 24$.
8. Junior Peon (For Office and Estb.): $(3+3+4+5+1+1+1)18$.
9. Guard and Sweeper: $(10+5) =15$.
10. Hostel Cook: $(6+6+6) =18$.

Creation of new posts in the proposed University at Raiganj College (University College), Uttar Dinajpur, as per Finance Department's Memo No. 1488-F(P), dated 20.02.2012 is Rs. 13,52,11,436.00 (Annexure-1). (Since the said posts are new and sanction of the State Govt. has not been received so Budget provision has not been made).

Courses Offered in Under Graduate and Post Graduate Studies:

Proposed introduction of New Teaching Departments/ Courses. Department wise breakup for subjects offered currently and subject to be opened in the new University also send to the Higher Edn. Department of W.B.

New infrastructure requirement for existing Department:

Desk and Chair Nos. Required: 470; Generator: 02; Computer: 40; and Construction of New Building: (3XG+4); Books and Journals for the Dept. and above mentioned new infrastructural Cost Approx. Rs. 6.995 crore.

Details of the Building Area under Raiganj College (University College) are as follows:

Main building (G+1) particularly (G+2): (at the ground floor).

Principal's chamber	1080.00 sq. ft.
Account section	1080.00 sq. ft.
General office section	1320.00 sq. ft.
Teacher's common room	1350.00 sq. ft.
Boy's common room	990.00 sq. ft.
Girl's common room	667.00 sq. ft.
Sericulture laboratory	1036.86 sq. ft.
Sericulture Department	1469.49 sq. ft.
Computer Department	1150.50 sq. ft.
Geography Department	1150.50+870.00 sq. ft.
Library Department	5070.00 sq. ft.
Gallery room	2040.00 sq. ft.
Mathematics Department	667.00 sq. ft.
Physics Department	5309.16+589.80+1006.00 sq. ft.
Chemistry Department	4895.00+1165.50 sq. ft.
Zoology Department	2920.00 sq. ft.
Botany Department	3294.00 sq. ft.
Microbiology Department	1012.50 sq. ft.
Computer server room	483.70 sq. ft.
Class room of Minority Councelling	3124.00 sq. ft.
Commerce Department	3333.00 sq. ft.
Conference Hall	2300.00 sq. ft.
General class room	3989.16+1485.00 sq. ft.

Total area of the main building with ground + first + second floor = 26,000.00 + 22,366.16 + 6480.66 = 54,846.82 sq. ft. Say 54,847.00 sq. ft. (fifty-four thousand eight hundred forty-seven only).

Minority girl's hostel (G+1)	3824.00 sq. ft.
Boy's hostel (G+1)	5849.25 sq. ft.
Girl's hostel(G+1)	10266.00 sq. ft.
Staff quarter (four)	2882.00 sq. ft.
Women's hostel (incomplete)	2641.38 sq. ft.
NCC,Alumni Asso,etc.	3082.00 sq. ft.
M.A. Bengali and English Deptt.(G+1)	5248.00 sq. ft.

Up-gradation of Raiganj College (University College) to ... 151

Principal's quarter (G+1)	3150.00 sq. ft.
Bio chemistry and Bio physics Research lab	351.50 sq. ft.
Machine, Pump, Gas room	545.00 sq. ft.
Guard room (only one)	63.00 sq. ft.
Union room (only one)	189.21 sq. ft.
Canteen	468.00 sq. ft.+150.00 sq. ft.
Store room	231.70 sq. ft.
Total Area	38941.04 sq. ft.

Total building area 54847.00 + 38941.00 sq. ft = 93,788.00 sq. ft. (Approximately)

Garden area: 40,000.00 sq. ft. (Approx).

Play ground: 90,000.00 sq. ft.(Approx).

Total land area: 13.54 acre i.e. 820.60 cottah / 5,90,836.36 sq.ft equals to 54,888.70 M2.

Prepared by: Surya Narayan Sinha, Licensed Building Surveyor, Raiganj Municipality, W.B.

In the meantime, a letter was issued by the Government of West Bengal, Higher Education Department, University Branch, Bikash Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata, Ref. No. 793 – Edn(U)/1U(NB) 12/13 Dated – 23/07/2014, From: Smt. M. Ray, IAS, Additional Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal To: The Vice Chancellor, North Bengal University;

Subject: Upgradation of Raiganj University College into a University

In that letter Smt. M. Ray, IAS, Additional Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal inter alia stated, "I am directed to inform you that pursuant to the public announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister on upgradation of the Raiganj University College into a University, this Department has started its exercise in right earnest and a lot of data have already been collected from Raiganj University College.

Now I am further directed to say that a meeting will be held on the 30th July, 2014 at 12 Noon in this Department at Bikash Bhaban for a detailed discussion on various aspects of this matter and your presence in the meeting along with the

Registrar and Finance Officer of the University is absolutely necessary.

I am therefore, further directed to request you to participate in the meeting along with the Registrar and Finance Officer of the University and with all the information available at your end relating to Raiganj University College.”

No. 793/1(5)-Edn(U)1U(NB)-12/13 date: 23.07.2014
Additional secretary.

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action taken to:

1. The Chairman, WBCSC with a request to attend the meeting along with all relevant information of the teachers appointed by the College on the recommendation of the Commission.
2. The Teacher-in-Charge of Raiganj University College with a request to attend the meeting along with all relevant information of the College.
3. The Registrar and Finance Officer of North Bengal University with a request to attend the meeting.
4. The Joint Secretary (University Branch), Higher Education Department, with a request to attend the meeting.
5. The P. S. to MIC, Higher Education Department, Bikash Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata- 91 for placing the matter before the Hon'ble MIC.

RAIGANJ UNIVERSITY BILL-2014. BILL NO. 18 OF 2014.

THE KOLKATA GAZETTE. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2014.

PART IV-Bills introduced in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly; Reports to select committees presented or to be presented to that Assembly; and Bills published before introduction in that Assembly.

GOVT. OF WEST BENGAL. LAW DEPARTMENT.
LEGISLATIVE, NOTIFICATION No. 1719-L.-31st Oct.2014.

The Governor having been pleased to order, under rule 66 of the Rules of procedure and conduct of Business in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, the publication of the following Bill, together with the statement of Objects and Reason

and the Financial Memorandum which accompany it, in the Kolkata Gazette, the Bill, the Statement of Objects and Reasons and the Financial Memorandum are accordingly hereby published for general information: -

A Bill

To provide for constitution of the Raiganj University and for certain matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

—WHEREAS it is expedient to constitute Raiganj University in the district of Uttar Dinajpur on the land and properties of the existing Raiganj College (University College) by abolishing the existing Raiganj College (University College), and to enable the University to function efficiently as a teaching, training and research centre in various branches of learning and courses of study, including Humanities, Social and Basic Sciences, and promoting advancement and dissemination of knowledge and learning, and extending higher education to meet the requirements of higher education and research in the subjects and to serve the society and the nation;

It is hereby enacted in the 65th year of the Republic of India, by the Legislative of the West Bengal, as follows:

Properties and employees of the Raiganj College (University College)

All land and properties and all rights of whatever kind used, enjoyed or, possessed by, and all interests of whatever kind owned by or, vested in or, held in trust by or, for the Raiganj College (University College) as well as liabilities legally subsisting against it shall vest to the University as constituted under this Act with effect from the date of its coming into effect.

All teachers and librarians of the Raiganj College (university College) who have been appointed in a permanent substantive vacancy shall be deemed to have been absorbed in the University with their respective post along with their respective privileges, with effect from the date of commencement of this Act, provided such teachers or librarians possess required qualifications for appointment as a teacher of the University

or a Librarian of the University as prescribed by the University Grant Commission and the State Government.

The teachers or the librarians, who do not possess required qualification for appointment as a University teacher or as a University Librarian and are not absorbed in the University in terms of the provisions of sub-section (2), or have opted not to be absorbed in the University, such teacher or librarian shall be accommodated in other Government-aided colleges in the State on re-recommendation to be made by the West Bengal College Service Commission without suffering any diminution in their service conditions enjoyed by them immediately preceding the date of commencement of this Act.

The State Government shall devise the procedure regarding re-recommendation of the teachers and librarians referred to under sub-section (3) and such procedure shall have limited effect and shall apply only in case of Raiganj College (University College).

The approved part-time teachers and approved whole-time contractual teachers and hostel and mess employees of the Raiganj College (University College) shall, along with the privileges enjoyed by them immediately preceding the date of coming into effect of this Act, be absorbed in the University with effect from the date of coming into force of this act.

The non-teaching whole-time employees of the Raiganj College (university College) shall have an option either to be absorbed in the University along with the privileges enjoyed by them immediately preceding the date of coming into effect of this Act, or to remain the employees of the North Bengal University provided such option is exercised not later than three months from the date of coming into effect of this act.

The employee fails to have exercised his option under sub-section (6) within the periods mentioned therein shall be deemed to have been opted to be absorbed in the University.

With effect from the date of coming into force of this act, the Raiganj College (University College) shall be deemed to have been dissolved and all bodies and authorities of the Raiganj College (University College), by whatever name they are called, which are in existence immediately preceding the date of

coming into effect of this act, shall also stand dissolved with effect from the date of coming into effect of this Act and any decision taken or any order made by such authority shall cease to effect from such date.

All posts of teachers, librarians, non-teaching staff, hostel and mess employees, approved part-time and approved whole-time contractual teachers of the Raiganj College (University College) so absorbed under this section shall be the post of the University and shall with effect from the date of coming into force of this Act, be deemed to have been created in the University.

Any reference to the Raiganj College (University College) in any law, contract or other instrument shall be deemed as a reference to the Raiganj University.

Raiganj University Council.

With effect from such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, and until the appointed day all the powers and functions of the University, the Court, Executive Council, The Faculty Councils for Post-graduate Studies, the Councils for Undergraduate Studies, the Boards of Studies, the Finance Committee, and all other authorities to be constituted under this Act or the Statues or the Ordinance shall, respectively, be exercised and performed by a Council to be known as the Raiganj University Council.

The following shall be the members of the Council:

- (a) The Chancellor;
- (b) The Vice-Chancellor;
- (c) The Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal

Or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of West Bengal;

- (d) The Secretary, Finance Department, Government of West Bengal

Or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of West Bengal;

- (e) Member Secretary, West Bengal State Council of Higher Education;

(f) Member President, West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education;

(g) Not less than ten and not more than fifteen persons nominated by the

Chancellor in consultation with the Minister from amongst the persons interested in university education, Principals and teachers of affiliated colleges and teachers of the University.

The Registrar of the University shall act as the Secretary of the Council.

The first Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor in consultation with the Minister on the basis of recommendation made by a Search Committee comprising three eminent educationists constituted for this purpose by the State Government.

The first Registrar, the first Finance officer and such other officers of the University (including technical personnel) as may be required to be appointed from time to time shall be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Vice-Chancellor as Chairman, a nominee of the Council, a nominee of the Chancellor and a nominee of the state Government, and subject to the supervision, direction and general control of the Vice-Chancellor, they shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties conferred and imposed on them by or under this Act, or delegated to them by the Vice-Chancellor.

The Council may, subject to the approval of the State Government, appoint such administrative, clerical and other staff (including technical staff) as it deems necessary for giving effect to the provisions of this section.

The Council may, with the approval of the Chancellor, delegated any of its powers and functions to such body or bodies as may be constituted by it to carry on powers and functions of the Court, the Executive Council, the faculty Councils for Post-graduate Studies, the Councils for Undergraduate Studies, the Board of Studies, the Finance Committee and all other authorities to be constituted under this Act or the Statues or the Ordinances.

Provided that such delegation shall not prevent the exercise of any such power or discharge of any such functions by the Council.

The Chancellor, or in his absence the Vice-Chancellor, shall preside at the Meeting of the Council.

Twenty-five *percent* of the members of the Council shall be a quorum for a Meeting of the Council.

Twenty-five *percent* of the members of any Body or authority constituted by the Council shall be a quorum for a meeting of such body.

No act or proceeding of the Council or of any Body or authority constituted by it shall be invalid or called in question by reason of the existence of any vacancy, initial or subsequent, in the Council or in any Body constituted by the Council, as the case may be.

The other provisions of this Act shall, if in conflict with the provisions of this section, stand modified to the extent provided in this section:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall affect the power of the Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor under this Act.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of the Vice-Chancellor by reason of death, resignation or expiry of his office or otherwise, the same shall be filled up by the Chancellor in consultation with the Minister.

Any vacancy in the Council occurring by reason of death, resignation or otherwise shall be filled up by the Chancellor in consultation with the Minister and the Vice-Chancellor, in so far as such filling up is not inconsistent with the provisions of this selection.

If, by any reason, any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this selection, the Council shall refer such difficulty to the State Government which may make such order or do such thing, not inconsistent with the provisions of this section, as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.

Powers to give directions:

The State Government shall have powers to give directions to the University for any purpose not inconsistent to the provisions of this Act, which the University shall comply.

Removal of Difficulties:

If on account of any lacuna or omission in the provisions of this Act, or for any other reason whatsoever, any difficulty arises as to the first constitution of any authority of the University under this act, or otherwise in giving effect to the provision of this Act, the state Government, as occasion may require, may by order do anything which appears to it to be necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS:

It is the objective of the State Government to expand higher education infrastructure in the state. Uttar Dinajpur district has no University till date. As per 2011 Census, the district of Uttar Dinajpur has the lowest literacy rate of 60.13%. The District has substantial Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes populations which suffer the lack of opportunity to pursue higher education. The North Bengal University and the newly established the GourBanga University are found inadequate to cater to the need of the aspiring students of Uttar Dinajpur due to the distance factor. Hence, with a view to achieving a uniform growth in the field of higher education throughout the state, it has been decided that a new University should be established at Raiganj on the land and properties of the existing Raiganj College (University College).

The Raiganj College is the first University College in North Bengal under the North Bengal University. The College is running some Post-graduate Course along with regular undergraduate courses since long. The college is also equipped with sufficient land and other infrastructure for starting a University.

Following shall, *interalia*, be the objectives of the University:

To encourage and provide for instruction, teaching training and research in such branches of learning and course of study as it may think fit, and generally to promote the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and learning, and the extension of higher education with special emphasis on the study of indigenous as well as culture and rural development;

To establish, maintain and manage colleges, libraries,

laboratories, museums and such other institutions or centres for study and research as it may deem necessary;

And for such other purposes as may be necessary for dissemination and advancement of higher education.

In view of these above, it has been decided that the existing Raiganj College (University College) may be converted into a new University by utilizing land and assets, including the employees of Raiganj College (University College).

The Bill has been framed with the above objectives and views.

KOLKATA,
PARTHA CHATTERJEE
The 30th October, 2014.
Member-in-Charge

**WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
BULLETIN – PART - I**

(Brief Record of the Proceedings of the House)

Tuesday, the 11th November, 2014.

Time - 2.30 P.M. to 4.54 P.M.

Legislation – 7.

Government Bill – Introduced, Considered and Passed

The Raiganj University Bill, 2014

The Bill was introduced and Motion for consideration of the Bill was moved by the Minister-in-charge of Higher Education Department.

The following Members took part in the discussion:

1. Shri Md. Sohrab
2. Shri Amal Acharjee, Parliamentary Secretary
3. Shri Narmada Chandra Roy
4. Shri Bachchu Hansda
5. Shri Anandamay Mandal
6. Dr. Rudra Nath Bhattacharya

7. Dr. Tarun Kanti Naskar
8. Shri Brajamohan Majumder
9. Shri Gokul Roy
10. Shri Biplab Mitra, Parliamentary Secretary
11. Shri Mohit Sengupta
12. Shri Parash Dutta
13. Shri Ranjit Kumar Mandal; and
14. Dr. Asish Banerjee, Minister-of- State of Higher Education Department.

The Minister-of- State of Higher Education Department replied.

The Motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted and clause by clause consideration was taken up.

Clause 2, 3 and 4 were adopted.

Shri Anisur Rahaman moved amendment No. 1 to clause 5.

The amendment was lost.

Clause 5 was adopted.

Clause 6, 7 and 8 were adopted.

Shri Anisur Rahaman moved amendment Nos. 2 and 3 to clause 9.

Both the amendments were lost on division.

AYES: 37 NOES: 94

Clause 9 was adopted.

Dr. Tarun Kanti Naskar moved amendment no. 4 to clause 10.

The amendment was carried.

Clause 10 as amended was adopted.

Clauses 11,12,13,14 and 15 were adopted.

Shri Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay moved amendment No. 5 to clause 16.

The amendment was carried.

Clause 16 as amended was adopted.

Shri Anisur Rahaman moved amendment Nos. 6 and 7 to clause 20.

Both the amendments were lost

Up-gradation of Raiganj College (University College) to ... 161

Clause 20 was adopted.

Clauses 21 and 22 were adopted.

Dr. Tarun Kanti Naskar moved amendment no. 8 to clause 23.

Shri Anisur Rahaman moved amendment No. 9 to clause 23.

Amendment Nos. 8 and 9 were lost.

Clause 23 was adopted.

Clause 24 was adopted.

Dr. Tarun Kanti Naskar moved amendment No. 10 to clause 25.

The amendment was lost.

Clause 25 was adopted.

Clauses 26, 27 and 28 were adopted.

Shri Anisur Rahaman moved amendment No. 11 to clause 29.

The amendment was lost.

Clause 29 was adopted.

Clauses 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64 and 65 were adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title of the Bill were adopted.

The Motion that the Bill, as settled in the Assemble, be passed was moved by the Minister-in-charge of the Higher Education Department.

The Motion was adopted.

B. MAHANTI,
Secretary,
West Bengal Legislative Assembly

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. See, '*Raiganj College Theke Viswavidyalaya Hoyar Kahini*' a Bengali article written by Dr. Brindaban Ghosh, Uttar Banga Sambad, 29th July, 2015.
2. See, '*Raiganj College Theke Viswavidyalaya Hoyar Kahini*' - a Bengali article written by Dr. Brindaban Ghosh, Uttar Banga Sambad, 29th July, 2015.
3. See, the letter from the desk of Mr. P. K. Das, Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Deptt, Govt. of W.B, University Branch, Bikash Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091.
4. See Letter from Prof. U.K. Roy, Teacher-in-Charge, Raiganj College (University College) to Smt. M. Roy, IAS, Additional Secretary to the Government of west Bengal.
5. See, Minutes of an urgently called meeting of Raiganj College (University College) teachers and staffs, for a discussion on up-gradation of Raiganj College in to a university, held on 25.07.2014.
6. See Raiganj University Bill-2014.

Some Relevant Pictures of Raiganj University





Chapter XI

The Emergence of the Raiganj University

A University stands for humanism, tolerance, reason, adventure of ideas and for the search of truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards ever higher objectives. Besides evolving innovative programmes of study and courses, a major strength of the University lies in its faculty – teaching, guiding and conducting research beyond the conventional bounds of their narrow areas of specialization. Members of the faculty are engaged in writings and editing books contributing chapters to volumes, publishing papers and articles, organizing and participating in seminars, conference and workshops, delivering lectures and managing research projects. The Library and all the administrative offices of the University provide the scaffolding required for the smooth functioning of the University

The University: Vision & Mission

Raiganj University is one of the foremost universities in West Bengal, is a premier educational institution that strives to fulfil the higher educational needs of the people of North Bengal, established on 3rd February 2015, it carries the legacy of 70 years of Raiganj College (University College) founded in 1948. The University is located in Uttar Dinajpur, one of the backward districts of West Bengal with a rural economic base and reaches out to the marginalised communities with over 70% inhabitants' dependant on agriculture and allied activities. It conducts a wide range of programmes at the Undergraduate, Postgraduate, M. Phil and Doctoral levels through its departments in the conventional disciplines of

science, applied science, social science and humanities and in the professional disciplines of Management, Education and Legal studies. The teaching programmes conducted under the Credit and Semester System (CSS) in the departments of teaching and research is based on traditional, interdisciplinary approaches adhering to the UGC regulations. The University follow the CBCS system for the Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses. The University programmes are suited to the demands of career making and facilitate constructive dialogue with society.

Raiganj University initiated measures to forge institutional ties with universities in Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh for academic collaboration under the Raiganj International Academic Network Programme. The University have MoU with Uttar Bangla University College, Bangladesh. Raiganj University supports student start-up projects, facilities patent application among faculty and promotes industry-university linkage. The university created an institutional apparatus for this purpose by establishing the Business Incubation and Innovation Centre. Admission of students are in accordance with polices of the State regarding merit parameters and reservation of seats for the socially and economically disadvantaged sections. The university have digitalised admission procedure, which ensures a speedy, fool proof and hassle-free admission process that aptly addresses social justice.¹

Vision

Raiganj University is a socially responsive, publicly accountable and innovative academic institution founded on the lofty vision of 'inclusive education and 'community development'. The University aims to enrich the present and future generation with the values of sustainable development, responsible citizenship and equal opportunity for all. It focuses on imparting quality education among the future generation particularly socially, economically and educationally backward community of the country. It creates, preserve and disseminate student centric knowledge to ensure physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development of an individual.

Mission

The mission of the Raiganj University is to equip the learners with the requisite skill set on the path of knowledge and to engage them with exploring the new vistas of creativity with zeal. The University is set to nurture talent and lead the students for creating innovative ideas. It believes that Higher education is not just for gaining knowledge but for creating useful knowledge that will be beneficial for the society. The University engages in teaching and research of international quality, and provides extension activities for the benefit of the community, particularly the socially and economically disadvantaged sections of the society. Our educational programmes are directed towards achieving excellence in education, extending the benefits of improved technology to the society and creating responsible citizens of future India. The university is working to emerge as a centre of academic excellence; to be recognised as the hub of original research and innovative thinking that caters to the needs of the community, the industry and policy makers; to respond to the issues of the community and to strengthen the consultancy services of the University through University-Industry linkage. This challenging academic mission is underpinned by the ideals of interdisciplinary, meaningful local-global interaction, and sustainable development. ²

As laid down in the Raiganj University Act 2014, Raiganj University was established to promote 'advancement and dissemination of knowledge and learning and extending higher education to meet the requirements of higher education and research in the subjects and to serve the society and the nation'. Raiganj University is committed to the students and other stakeholders to impart quality education, quality research and making the students employable. The university is catering the needs of the students of the District of Uttar Dinajpur which is economically backward. The uniqueness of the university is that a student can start his/ her undergraduate course and can come out with a Ph. D. degree under the same umbrella. A good academic culture is the key to success of each and every educational institution. Raiganj University offers both under-graduate and post-graduate courses in its own campus. There are 22 departments at the undergraduate level,

23 departments in post-graduate level and 17 departments offer Ph. D. & M. Phil. Courses, all are running in full swing. The university also offers General Courses at the undergraduate level in its own campus in the morning and evening i.e. in two shifts. Raiganj University intended to be Centre of Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Research.

The present student strength of the University is 12600, which includes overseas students, students from adjacent districts and states. Teachers are actively engaged in basic and applied research in their respective field and getting research grants from UGC. Active research works have been reflected in the publication of plenty of quality papers by the faculty members in National and International journals. The University encourages teachers to participate in conferences and workshops, seminars and attend refreshers and orientation courses to enrich their academics abilities. There are officers, permanent technical staff, administrative staff and non-teaching staff in the university who are dedicated to the university. Huge numbers of Ph. D. and M. Phil scholars are getting Govt. fellowship from the government of West Bengal and from UGC. Eligible faculties of the university are also getting fellowship like "INSPIRE fellowship", "ICSSR fellowship" etc. The University carries out its extension activities and outreach programmes through its teaching departments, NSS and NCC units. The teachers are assigned these activities in addition to their normal duties. Environmental Awareness, Adult Education and Literacy, Health and Hygiene Awareness, Blood Donation Camps and Medical Camps etc. are also conducted. The university library has more than 61598 Volumes of texts and reference books, 51 journals/periodicals and magazines and it subscribes to 7 leading daily newspapers. There is a reading room attached to the library. At present Central Library of the university is going to be digitalized and such related work is in full swing. The university has facilities for sports. It has a playground for games like football, cricket, volleyball etc. The university has an indoor gymnasium for the students and staff. There is a medical officer for the students who attends them on working days and also in case of emergency.

But, all the said developments of Raiganj University are not happened in a day. In that case one should remember that as per the Raiganj University Act, 2014 (West Bengal Act XXVI of 2014), the Raiganj University was founded on 3rd February, 2015. In order to run the university administration smoothly to uplift academic standard, Professor Anil Bhumali, Professor, Department of Economics, University of North Bengal, was appointed as the first Vice-Chancellor of the university on 16th April, 2015. At the time of joining of Professor Bhumali as the first Vice-Chancellor of the university, it was then completely set up of the erstwhile Raiganj College (University College). Prof. Tapan Majumdar, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) was acting as the Teacher-in-Charge and Dr. Tapas Mohanta, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) was the Secretary of the 'Teachers' Council'. Naturally, after joining as the first Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bhumali had to work hard for shaping the college along with its academic and administrative structure into a university both from physical as well as physiological point of view. It is noteworthy that erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) started its journey as a University under the stewardship of Professor Anil Bhumali, the first Vice-Chancellor and at that time there was no any other necessary administrative officials and staff which is inevitable for smooth sailing of a university. In that context, some officers were appointed by Professor Bhumali on temporary basis. The names of the officers were: i. Dr. Ajoy Kumar Ghosh, Registrar, Officiating, 25.07.2015-23.05.2016 (retired Associate Professor in Botany, erstwhile Raiganj College (University College)); ii. Shri Satyandra Nath Bhattacharyya, Finance Officer, 25.07.2015-31.08.2018 (retired W.B.A&A.S); iii. Shri Nirjhar Sarkar, Deputy Registrar: 15.07.2015 to 17.02.2018 (Assistant Professor in English, Raiganj University); iv. Dr. Bidyut Santra, Controller of Examinations: 15.07.2015 – 27.02.2018 (Assistant Professor in Chemistry, Raiganj University); Shri Barendranath Giri, Watch and Ward: 01.09.2015 - 31.12.2017 (Associate Professor in History, Raiganj University).

It is needless to say that at the moment there were no Statutes of the university to guide/direct the duties and responsibilities, power and functions etc. of each and every stack holders concerned. Professor Bhumali, as the first Vice-Chancellor took necessary arrangements to frame the First Statutes of Raiganj University and thereby-Notification No. 102/17-(RGU), Date. 09.03.2017; In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 61 of Raiganj University Act, 2014 (West Bengal Act XXVI of 2014), the First Vice-Chancellor of the University, with the approval of the Chancellor and with the assistance of the Committee nominated by the State Government in terms of Notification No. 859-Edn (U)/RGU-03/15 dated Kolkata, the 31st August, 2015, is hereby causes the First Statutes of the Raiganj University.³

Statutes Committee of Raiganj University

The Statutes Committee of the Raiganj University was nominated by the State Government with the following reputed academicians of the West Bengal:

1. Professor Gopal Chandra Mishra, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Gour Banga University, Malda, West Bengal, India.
2. Professor Somnath Ghosh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India.
3. Professor Shubha Shankar Sarkar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University, West Bengal, India.
4. Professor Dipak Ranjan Mandal, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Sidho-Kanho-Birsa University, Purulia, West Bengal, India.
5. Professor S. S. Chatterjee, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Cooch Behar PanchananBarma University, Cooch, Behar, West Bengal, India.
6. Professor Sadhan Kumar Chakrabarty, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal, India.
7. Professor Dilip Roy, Professor, Department of Bengali,

170 **Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal**

- Cooch Behar PanchananBarma University, Cooch, Behar, West Bengal, India.
8. Professor Sankar Majumder, Professor, Department of Rural Studies, Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Viswa-Bharati University, Shantiniketan, Birbhum, West Bengal, India.
 9. Professor Tarak Nath Adhikari, Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India.
 10. Professor Chandra Shekhar Mukharjee, Barrackpore RastraguruSurendranath College, Barrackpore, North 24 Pargana, West Bengal, India.
 11. Professor Dyutish Chakraborty, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India.
 12. Professor Rathin Banerjee, Professor, Department of Law, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India.⁴

University Council

The University Council of Raiganj University was constituted by the Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal on 16. 06. 2015 with the following dignitaries and academicians of West Bengal:

1. His Excellency, Governor of West Bengal and the Hon'ble Chancellor, Raiganj University.
2. Professor Anil Bhumali, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University.
3. Education Secretary, Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal.
4. Finance Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of West Bengal.
5. Member Secretary, West Bengal Higher Education Council.
6. President, Higher Education Council.
7. Member, nominated by His Excellency, Governor of West Bengal and the Hon'ble Chancellor, Raiganj University.

8. Professor Gopal Chandra Mishra, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Gour Banga University, Malda, West Bengal, India.
9. Professor Dipak Ranjan Mandal, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Sidho-Kanho-Birsa University, Purulia, West Bengal, India.
10. Professor Abu Taleb Khan, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Aliah University, New Town, West Bengal, India.
11. Professor Somnath Ghosh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India.
12. Professor Dilip Roy, Professor, Department of Bengali, Cooch Behar PanchananBarma University, Cooch, Behar, West Bengal, India.
13. Professor Kanchan Dutta, Professor, Department of Economics, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India.
14. Professor Tapas Mohanta, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Raiganj University.
15. Professor Asoke Das, Professor, Department of Mathematics, Raiganj University.
16. Professor Prithiraj Jha, Department of Zoology, RaiganjSurendranathMahavidyalaya, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal, India.
17. Professor Debojyoti Sarkar, Balurghat College, Balurghat, Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal, India.
18. Professor Adya Prasad Pandey, Benares Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India.⁵

The first meeting the University Council of Raiganj University was held on 16th September, 2015 at Circuit House, Karnajora, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur.⁶

IQAC was established in 2016 with Professor Kali Shankar Tiwary as its Director and the IQAC is working tirelessly to assure quality education and promotional benefits of the faculty of Raiganj University in time.

.Memorandum of the Teachers' of the erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University, for Absorption

To Date: 25.07.2016

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor,
Raiganj University

Sub: Absorption of full time teachers of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) in Raiganj University.

Respected Sir,

With humble submission we the following signatories (full time teachers) beg to state you that we have been assured repeatedly by you regarding the matter of our absorption in Raiganj University. But still this matter remains unsolved, though two of our teacher members (who are incidentally our U. C. members) have been recruited as University teacher in June 2016, ignoring our prior appeal time and again that *"as per the Raiganj University Act 2014 and your earlier commitment we want to be absorbed with proper designation in the newly formed Raiganj University unconditionally before fresh recruitment of teacher staff"* (Ref: memorandum addressed to you on 12.02.16, 17.02.16 and one is addressed to the Registrar on 24.02.16)

Sir, as per your direction we are taking post graduate classes and course work classes for Ph. D. programmes, apart from Under Graduate teaching, as and when these have been implemented. Besides these, we have done all the background works, such as framing of routines, syllabi of Post Graduate, Under Graduate and Course Works, purchasing of books, journals, furniture, instruments and chemicals etc. to run the University smoothly.

In the meantime, we have already submitted all the individual documents several times to you and have also appeared before the three members screening committee headed by Prof. D. R. Mandal, Hon'ble V.C., Sidho Kanhu University on 16. 02. 2016 for our absorption as teachers in Raiganj University. Before that we went for option in favour of staying as teachers in this university.

Today we are very much anxious about our present status and our future. We are stressed in such a manner that it is being felt that “we are the outsiders in our own homeland”. But we did not invite this situation at all. In this context, we all the full time teachers of Raiganj College (University College) demand to make quick arrangement for our absorption in Raiganj University unconditionally prior to further recruitment of any teacher from outside. If our present demand is ignored we will have no other option except restrain ourselves from any kind of Post Graduate activities.

We are eagerly waiting for your reply within 30th July, 2016.

With regards,

Yours faithfully

1. Babulal Bala
2. Barendranath Giri
3. Arpita Roy Chaudhury
4. Amal Bhattacharya
5. Asim Kumar Bothra.
6. Uttam Kumar Roy
7. Abhik Chatterjee
8. Priyatosh Sarkar
9. Sakuntala Gupta
10. Kinkar Biswas
11. Partha Sarathi Nandi
12. Apurba Kanti Deb
13. Subrata Saha
14. Parimal Mandal
15. Rudra Kanta Sarkar
16. Iti Chattopadhyay
17. Prasanta Kumar Mahala
18. Vivek Roy
19. Talu Besra
20. Bhaskar Jha
21. Sanjukta Chatterjee
22. Milan Kumar Roy

23. Sujay Kumar Majumdar
24. Ayan Pal
25. Swapan Mal
26. Sanjoy sadhukhan
27. Prolay Mondal
28. *Debasish Biswas
29. *Rabiul Islam
30. *Purna Chandra Barman
31. *Gautam Kumar Dakua
32. Rajib Mandal

Copy forwarded to:

1. Hon'ble Chancellor, Raiganj University & Governor of W.B.
2. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal.
3. Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of West Bengal.
4. Hon'ble North Bengal Development Minister, Government of West Bengal.
5. Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, West Bengal.

*These teachers have sent their consent through email, message & WhatsApp.

It is noteworthy that as a follow up of the communication through the memorandum to the said concerned authorities, Professor Anil Bhuimali, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Raiganj University issued a letter to the teachers which is inter alia stated that—

*Ref. No.*397/16 – (RGU/VC)

To

Date: 01.08.16

Prof. Babulal Bala and other signatories,
Raiganj University

Sir,

In response to your letter (dated 25.07.2016), I would like to inform you that the matter of absorption of full-time teachers of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) is pending with the Higher Education Dept., Govt. of west Bengal

for its final approval. It is hoped that it will reach to this office very soon.

Professor Anil Bhumali
Vice-Chancellor
Raiganj University
Uttar Dinajpur

However, after the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor's communication with the teachers' and his kind persuasion with the Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal, the absorption matter of the full-time teachers of the erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) was developed in the following way:

Govt. of WB, Higher Education Department (Integrated Law Cell), Bikash Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata- 700091. No. 183-ILC/OM-144L/2015, Dated: 01/08/2016.

ORDER

Subject: Absorption of qualified teachers of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) in the Raiganj University in terms of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 62 of the Raiganj University Act, 2014.

Ref: Your proposal dated 11/12/2015 and enquiry reports dated 17/02/2016 and dated 24/06/2016.

Whereas, the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 62 of the Raiganj University Act, 2014 (West Bengal Act XXVI of 2014) provides that all teachers and librarians of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) who have been appointed in a permanent substantive vacancy shall be deemed to have been absorbed in the Raiganj University with their respective post along with their respective privileges, with effect from the date of commencement of the Raiganj University Act, 2014, provided such teacher or librarian possess required qualification for appointment as teacher or librarian of the University as prescribed by the University Grants Commission and the State Government, and whereas, in order to examine the qualification and eligibility of the teachers and librarians of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) for the purpose of determining

the eligibility of such teachers for absorption in the Raiganj University in terms of the said provisions of the Raiganj University Act, 2014, the State Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Vice Chancellor of Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, and

Whereas, the said Committee has submitted its reports on 17/02/2016 and 24/06/2016 to the State Govt. detailing the qualification and experience of all existing teachers of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College), and

Whereas, upon examination of the reports of the said Committee and on perusal of the extant rules and regulations of the University Grants Commission as well as the extant Govt. Orders in this regard, it appear to State Govt. that all along thirty eight (38) teachers of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) have requisite qualifications being absorbed in the Raiganj University as on date and the rest eight (8) teachers do not possess required qualification for being absorbed in the University as per extant rules/regulations/orders, and

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 64 of the Raiganj University Act, 2014 (West Bengal Act XXVI of 2014), the Governor is hereby pleased to direct that the following thirty eight teachers of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) mentioned under Scheduled -A of this Order, may be absorbed in the Raiganj University as University Teachers with effect from the date of coming into effect of the Raiganj University Act, 2014 in the same post and with the same privileges they were enjoying immediately preceding the date of coming into effect of the Raiganj University Act, 2014 and,

Further, in order to deal with the peculiar circumstances of the case and considering the date of usual retirement of the following eight (8) teachers as mentioned under Schedule – B of this order latest by 2019, the Governor, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 64 read with section 65 of the Raiganj University Act, 2014 ((West Bengal Act XXVI of 2014), is also pleased to direct that eight (8) teachers, who have not possessed the requisite qualification for being absorbed in the Raiganj University at present, may be permitted to continue

to render their services in the Raiganj University under the administrative control of NBU in terms of the Department's Notification No. 244-Edn (U), dated 16/03/2015, for the purpose of providing instructions to the students who have registered under the NBU immediately preceding the date of coming into effect of the Raiganj University Act, 2014 but pursuing their course of study under the Raiganj University as per provisions of section 60 of the Raiganj University Act, 2014, till the date of their usual retirement at the age of sixty (60) years or till the last students so registered under the NBU is completely passed out therefrom, whichever is earlier.

The University is accordingly directed to regularize the appointment roster meant for the teachers of the University for the newly absorbed teachers in concurrence with the BCW Department, Govt. of WB, as per extant rules.

Schedule-A

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Teacher</i>	<i>Post held</i>	<i>Department/ Subject</i>
1.	Shri Barendra Nath Giri	Associate Professor	History
2.	Shri Achyutmohan Roychowdhury	Associate Professor	Chemistry
3.	Shri Asim Kumar Bothra	Associate Professor	Chemistry
4.	Shri Subrata Saha	Assistant Professor	Economics
5.	Smt. Sanjukta Chatterjee	Assistant Professor	English
6.	Shri Nirjhar Sarkar	Assistant Professor	English
7.	Shri Tapash Mohanta	Assistant Professor	Philosophy
8.	Shri Prasanta Kumar Mahala	Assistant Professor	Sanskrit
9.	Shri Avik Chatterjee	Assistant Professor	Chemistry
10.	Shri Milan Kumar Roy	Assistant Professor	Bengali
11.	Md. Rabiul Islam	Assistant Professor	Physics
12.	Smt. Iti Chatterjee	Assistant Professor	Philosophy
13.	Shri Priyatosh Sarkar	Assistant Professor	Commerce
14.	Shri Babulal Bala	Assistant Professor	History
15.	Shri Dipak Chandra Barman	Assistant Professor	Bengali
16.	Shri Ayon Pal	Assistant Professor	Botany
17.	Shri Ashoke Das	Assistant Professor	Mathematics
18.	Shri Apurba Kanti Deb	Assistant Professor	Physics
19.	Shri Bidyut Kumar Santra	Assistant Professor	Chemistry

178 Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal

20	Shri Partha Sarathi Nandi	Assistant Professor	Zoology
21	Shri Purna Chandra Barman	Assistant Professor	Physics
22	Shri Kinkar Biswas	Assistant Professor	Chemistry
23	Shri Bhaskar Jha	Assistant Professor	Philosophy
24	Shri Sujoy Kumar Majumder	Assistant Professor	Economics
25	Shri Sanjib Mandal	Assistant Professor	Economics
26	Shri Gautam Dakua	Assistant Professor	Pol. Science
27	Shri Sanjoy Sadhukhan	Assistant Professor	Botany
28	Shri Parimal Mandal	Assistant Professor	Botany
29	Shri Swapan Mal	Assistant Professor	Sanskrit
30	Shri Talu Besra	Assistant Professor	Bengali
31	Shri Rajib Mandal	Assistant Professor	Mathematics
32	Shri Vivek Roy	Assistant Professor	Zoology
33	Shri Tapan Sarkar	Assistant Professor	Zoology
34	Shri Paolay Mandal	Assistant Professor	Geography
35	Shri Rudra Kanta Sarkar	Assistant Professor	Mathematics
36	Shri Debasish Biswas	Assistant Professor	Economics
37	Smt. Sakuntala Gupta	Assistant Professor	Physics
38	Shri Subhas Ch. Dasgupta	Associate Professor	English

Schedule-B

1	Shri Swapan Kumar Pain	Assistant Professor	History
2	Shri Goutam Sarkar	Assistant Professor	Pol. Science
3	Shri Tapan Majumder	Associate Professor	Botany
4	Shri Uttam Kumar Roy	Associate Professor	Commerce
5	Smt. Sumitra Das	Associate Professor	Zoology
6	Shri Amal Bhattacharya	Associate Professor	Zoology
7	Shri Satrughna Sinha (Singh)	Associate Professor	English
8	Smt. Sumita Sinha	Associate Professor	Pol. Science
9	Smt. Arpita Roychoudhury	Associate Professor	Bengali

By order of the Governor, SD/- S. Basuray, Joint Secretary.

Copy forwarded for information and/or for taking necessary action to: -

1. The Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University, P.O. Raiganj, Dist. Uttar Dinajpur, Pin- 733134.
2. The Vice-Chancellor, North Bengal University, P.O. Raja Rammohanpur, Dist. Darjeeling, Pin- 734430.

3. The Secretary, Higher Education Department, Bikash Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091.
4. The Director of Public Instruction, West Bengal, Bikash Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091.
5. P.S to Hon'ble MIC, H.E. Deptt. Bikash Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091.

Assistant Secretary

Members of the Court

As a mark of gradual development of Raiganj University under the leadership of Professor Anil Bhuimali, the first Court of the University was formed in the academic year of 2017-2018. The first meeting of the Court of Raiganj University was held on 29.05.2017 (Monday) at 2.00 p.m. at Raiganj University Campus. The members of the University Court were three categories namely 'Ex-Officio Members', Representatives of the Departments of Raiganj University and 'Chancellor's Nominees'. Members present in the first Court meeting of the university were:

1. Professor Anil Bhuimali, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University.(Ex-Officio Member)
2. Dr. Ashoke Chanda, Special Officer (Law), West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (Ex-Officio Member) & (Nominee of the Chairman, West Bengal State Council of Higher Education).
3. Professor Dipak Kumar Roy, Head, Department of Bengali, Raiganj University, (Representative of the Department of the University).
4. Professor Asim Kumar Bothra, Head, Department of Chemistry, Raiganj University, (Representative of the Department of the University).
5. Shri Subrata Saha, Head, Department of Economics, Raiganj University, (Representative of the Department of the University).
6. Dr. Nuruzzaman Kasemi, Head, Department of Geography, Raiganj University, (Representative of the Department of the University).

7. Dr. Aniruddha Das, Head, Department of History, Raiganj University, (Representative of the Department of the University).
8. Professor Kali Shankar Tiwary, Head, Department of Mathematics, Raiganj University, (Representative of the Department of the University).
9. Dr. Tapas Mohanta, Head, Department of Philosophy, Raiganj University, (Representative of the Department of the University).
10. Dr. Sakuntala Gupta, Head, Department of Physics, Raiganj University, (Representative of the Department of the University).
11. Dr. Gopal Sharma, Head, Department of Political Science, Raiganj University, (Representative of the Department of the University).
12. Dr. Shanti Chhetri, Principal, Prasannadeb (P. D.) Women's College, Jalpaiguri, (Nominee of the Hon'ble Chancellor).
13. Dr. Jitesh Chaki, Principal, Buniadpur Mahavidyalaya, Dakshin Dinajpur, (Nominee of the Hon'ble Chancellor).
14. FR. Dr. Joseph Victor Pitchai S. J., Principal, North Bengal St. Xavier's College, Siliguri, ((Nominee of the Hon'ble Chancellor).
15. Dr. Pankaj Kundu, Secretary, Court, Raiganj University & Registrar, Raiganj University.

From the resolutions of the first Court meeting of the university it is found that approximately the University has procured total Rs. 16,75,45,460.00 from the State Govt. for the year 2016-2017. Apart from this, the University collected admission fees and others to the tune of Rs. 4,00,72,080.00. It is reported in the Court meeting that boundary wall of eastern side of the campus has been completed. Regarding 'Faculty recruitment in different departments'-it is reported and approved that the University has so far 75 teachers on permanent substantive basis, 13 teachers on contractual basis and 55 guest teachers for teaching at the Under-graduate level only. In case of 'Syllabus revision with CBCS for both UG & PG Courses', it is resolved that matter be reported that the

University has successfully revised the syllabus with CBCS system both UG and PG courses. In fact, it may be reported that Raiganj University is one of the first Universities of West Bengal which is going to introduce CBCS from 2017-2018 academic session. It is known from the resolution of the first Court meeting of Raiganj University that 'the University has successfully running M. Phil. and Ph.D. Programmes in the departments, namely-Bengali, English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, economics, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Microbiology, Sericulture, Commerce since 2015 academic session.' The University has also started D. Lit, D. Sc. degree programmes after giving due thoughts to this programmes.⁷

New courses like MBA and considering the huge burden of the enthusiastic students who want to avail higher education, Self-finance Course in UG and P.G. evening shift has been introduced in Raiganj University from the academic session of 2018-2019. Not only that the university is planning to introduce Agriculture and Fishery departments very soon. As per the decision of the 2nd Court meeting of the university held on 05.10.2018, different centres have been started for interaction with different parts of the society.⁸

Names of the Ex-Officio Members of the Court of Raiganj University:

1. Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Chancellor & His Excellency, Governor of West Bengal.
2. Professor Anil Bhaimali, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University.
3. Shri Nityananda Mandal, Commissioner, Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology (Nominee of the Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology).
4. Shri Samir Kumar Ghosh, Financial Advisor, Education (Nominee of the Secretary, Finance Department, Government of West Bengal).
5. Dr. Ashoke Chanda, Special Officer (Law), West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (Nominee of the

182 Evolution of a Higher Academic Institution of West Bengal

Chairman, West Bengal State Council of Higher Education).

6. The Director of Public Instruction or his nominee not below the rank of Additional Director of Public Instruction.
7. Dr. Ramapada Bera, Controller of Examinations, WBCSC (Nominee of the Chairperson, College Service Commission).
8. Nominee of the Chairman, University Grants Commission.

Names of the Chancellor's Nominees of the Court of Raiganj University:

9. Professor Sankar Ghosh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Kalyani University.
10. Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University.
11. Dr. Shanti Chhetri, Principal, Prasannadeb (P. D.) Women's College, Jalpaiguri.
12. Dr. Jitesh Chaki, Principal, Buniadpur Mahavidyalaya, Dakshin Dinajpur.
13. Dr. Durlav Sarkar, Registrar, Raiganj University, Secretary.⁹

First Meeting of the Executive Council of Raiganj University

Executive Council of any university is considered as a highest decision making body to run the university in a definite direction. In that case it was Professor Anil Bhumali, the first Vice-Chancellor of Raiganj University, who with the consultation of the Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal, adopted necessary steps to form the Executive Council of the university and thereby 1st meeting of the Executive Council of Raiganj University was held on 29th May, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. at the university campus with the following members:

1. Professor Anil Bhumali, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University.

2. Shri Kunal Kanti Jha, A.O. & ex-officio Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology (Nominee of the Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal.)
3. Shri Samir Kumar Ghosh, Financial Advisor, Education, (Nominee of the Secretary, Finance Department, West Bengal).
4. Dr. Ashoke Kumar Chanda, Special Officer (Law), West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (Nominee of the Chairman, West Bengal State Council of Higher Education).
5. The Director of Public Instruction or his nominee not below the rank of Additional Director of Public Instruction.
6. Professor Dipak Kumar Roy, Head, Department of Bengali, Raiganj University.
7. Professor Ashim Kumar Bothra, Head, Department of Chemistry, Raiganj University.
8. Shri Subrata Saha, Head, Department of Economics, Raiganj University.
9. Dr. Phanindra Kumar Mandal, Retired Principal of Raiganj College (University College) and Administrator of Kaliyaganj College.
10. Prof. Islamuddin Khan, Kaliyaganj College.¹⁰

First Convocation of Raiganj University

As per the Item No. 6 'Proposal for convocation of Raiganj University in the year 2019', and Resolution No: 6 (Resolved that proposal for holding Convocation of Raiganj University on 3rd February, 2019 be approved) of the 2nd Court meeting held on 05.10.2018 at 2.30 p.m. in the Conference Hall of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University, the 1st Convocation ceremony of Raiganj University was held on February 3rd, 2019 with outright success. It was scheduled that Governor of West Bengal as well as Hon'ble Chancellor of Raiganj University along with State Education Minister Partha Chatterjee will grace the occasion of the first convocation of Raiganj University,

held on 3rd February, 2019. However, in absence of the Governor, Professor Anil Bhuimali, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the university, inaugurated the events to mark the first convocation in the university campus. Dr. Abhirup Sarkar, noted economist was present as the chief guest at the event, where 94 rank holders in graduate and post-graduate levels were given medals. Appreciation certificates were also given to 10 Ph. D. and 4 M. Phil holders. It is noteworthy that Shri Harimadhab Mukherjee, noted theatre personality of West Bengal and a resident of Balurghat in South Dinajpur, was given away the honorary D. Lit degree during the convocation. Some students like Pintu Karmakar, Bankim Sarkar, Suraj Roy and Salman Islam who received gold and silver medals, were expected that either the state governor or the state education minister would be present to celebrate their golden moment, but due to their absence made them upset. It is known that the governor was supposed to inaugurate the convocation, but he could not make it due to some unavoidable circumstances. Professor Anil Bhuimali, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the university stated that "The Hon'ble Chancellor, sent a letter and expressed his appreciation for our programme and directed me to conduct the programme on his behalf".¹¹

Appointment of Deans

It is known from the university records that as per the direction of Professor Anil Bhuimali, the first Vice-Chancellor of the university, Dr. Durlav Sarkar, Registrar of the university issued an appointment letter to Professor Dipak Kumar Roy, Vide Ref. No. R-484/2018, Dated, 22.11.2018, which inter alia stated that: "As directed by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, I would like to inform you that you are being appointed as Dean (Arts), Raiganj University for the period of six months w.e.f. 22.11.2018". In another letter Vide Ref. No. R-522/2019(Misc.), dated, 22.05.2019, Dr. Durlav Sarkar, the Registrar of the university, as directed by the Vice-Chancellor, further extended the tenure of Deans for a period of six months w.e.f. 22.05.2019 or the recommendation from Dean Selection Committee set up by the Higher Education Department,

Government of West Bengal whichever is earlier. However, according to the recommendation of the Dean selection committee and subsequent order of the State Government [No.1310.Edn (U)(RU)-01/19,dated 31.12.2019] and Professor Dipak Kumar Roy was appointed as the Dean, Faculty of Arts; and Professor Kali Shankar Tiwary was appointed as the Dean, Faculty of Science of Raiganj University w.e.f. 01.01.2020.

In spite of huge constrain, Professor Anil Bhuimali has tried his best to uplift the university from different angles and thereby the following important developments have taken place during his Vice-Chancellorship.

- i. University Statute and Regulations have been framed and approved by the Higher Education Department, Government of west Bengal. All academic and administrative activities are now guided and conducted in accordance with them.
- ii. The University has been entrusted to prepare human resource development report of Alipurduar and Uttar Dinajpur District.
- iii. The Government of West Bengal has allotted a vacant land of 11.19 acres for extended campus of Raiganj University at Abdul Ghata, just 3 km away from the main campus of the university. The second campus of the university will be started in a very short period of time.
- iv. The university is obtained UGC's 2(f) recognition on 3rdSeptember, 2015 and 12 (b) clause of the UGC on 3rd January, 2018 .¹²

Besides these, it is noteworthy that as a result of skillfull persuasion of Professor Bhuimali to the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, 1500 Sq. constructed area has been provided to the Raiganj University for its Camp Office in Kolkata. The confirmation letter in this regard is as follows:

Government of West Bengal
Department of Higher Education,
University Branch
Bikash Bhavan, 6th floor, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-91
No. 100-Edn(U)/IU-28/19
Date: 19.01.2021

From: Special Secretary to the Government of West Bengal.

To: Vice-Chancellor

Raiganj University

Uttar Dinajpur, Pin: 733134

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 11.01.2021, I am directed to inform you that the State Government has decided to provide space of 1500 Sq. feet at the ground floor in the building at BF-142, Sector-1, Salt Lake, presently under possession of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University, for Kolkata Camp Office of Raiganj University.

This issues with the approval of the Hon'ble MIC of this Department.

Yours faithfully,

Special Secretary

Date: 19.01.2021

No. 100/1(3)-Edn(U)/IU-28/19

Copy forwarded for information with requested to take necessary action to:

1). Vice Chancellor, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University:

It is requested to kindly provide the space

2). P.S. to Minister-in-Charge, Higher Education Department, Govt. of WB.

3). Sr. PS to the Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Govt. of WB.

Special Secretary

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Raiganj University Annual Report, July 2018 – June 2019, Edited by Dr. Sanjib Mandal and Dr. Aniruddha Das, Published by Registrar, Raiganj University, p. 1 .(Henceforth, Annual Report...)
2. Annual Report..., p. 2.
3. Raiganj University First Statutes 2016, Saraswati Press Ltd. Government of West Bengal Enterprise, Kolkata, 2017, p.1.
4. 'Viswa Chhul Vidyalaya' (in Bengali) an article written by Sunil Chanda, ex-student of Raiganj College and veteran press reporter, AAjkal, 9th September, 2016.
5. AnandabazarPatrika, 16. 06. 2015; and also see, 'Viswa Chhul Vidyalaya' (in Bengali) an article written by Sunil Chanda, ex-student of Raiganj College and veteran press reporter, AAjkal, 9th September, 2016.
6. *Bartaman Patrika*, 17. 09. 2015.
7. Resolution of the 1st meeting of the Court of Raiganj University held on 29. 05. 2017 at Raiganj University Campus.
8. Resolution of the 2nd meeting of the Court of Raiganj University held on 05. 10. 2018 at the Conference Hall of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University.
9. Raiganj University Annual Report (July 2018- June 2019), pp.7-8.
10. Notice No. R-061/2017, dated, 16.05.2017, circulated by Registrar, Raiganj University.
11. Resolution No: 6 of the 2nd Court meeting held on 05.10.2018 at 2.30 p.m. in the Conference Hall of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University; also see The Statesman, 04.02.2019; also see, From the desk of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, in Annual Report..., p. 3.
12. From the desk of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, in Annual Report..., p. 3.

Some relevant pictures of UGC-12B team members who visited Raiganj University along with the dignitaries of Raiganj University







Some beloved students of the Department of history along with teachers and honourable members of 12B team who visited Raiganj University.

Chapter XII

Conclusion

The present study is by and large confined from the glorious days of Pundravardhana and as a part of it Dinajpur as the centre of enlightenment, division of the District of Dinajpur on the wake of the partition of India along with Bengal on the basis of heated communalism, reflection of the tragedy of partition followed by huge refugee influx, background of the foundation of Raiganj College and its gradual up-gradation phase by phase up to a university in 2015, in which one can experience various issues that dictated the destiny of West Bengal as well as the District of West Dinajpur and particularly the city of Raiganj. Fact remains that the present study touches in its background the origin of the name of Dinajpur and the most critical situation of undivided Bengal leading to the partition of India in 1947 and thereupon how the district of Dinajpur became truncated that gradually led to coming of important personalities at Raiganj, a very small town, from eastern part of Bengal as well as east Pakistan. A real need for reevaluation of the partition of Dinajpur district have largely dictated the atmosphere of the newly created district namely west Dinajpur and foundation of colleges one at Raiganj and other at Balurghat for pursuing higher education among the future generation of the country. The decades after the establishment of Raiganj College in 1948 saw the beginning of a series of development in the arena of spreading higher education in west Bengal particularly during the tenure of Chief Ministership of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (23rd January, 1948 to 1st July, 1962), the builder of modern West Bengal. Our study shows in detail how most of the problems in terms of financial, infrastructural, communication and so on were

ably tackled by the great persons those who initiated to establish a college at Raiganj.

The development of 'Raiganj Middle English School' into today's prestigious "Raiganj Coronation High School' in 1911 and its aftermath that followed others issues which inevitably sowed the seeds of the spread of modern education at Raiganj. The ultimate outcome was of course, the gradual extension of the popularity of the Coronation High School and as a result the organisers of the 'Raiganj College' introduced its classes at the morning shift of Coronation High School so that the normal activities of the school would not hamper. It is noteworthy that after the foundation of the college, the Coronation High School and the Raiganj College are pursuing quality education among the lakhs of students which has been very much established fact across the country and abroad.

The name of Shri Krishna Kumud Saraswati, the first Principal of the Raiganj College has been left a permanent impression into the minds of thousands of his pupils for his selfless contribution towards the all round development of the college. It will not be exaggerated if one recalls the role of revered Shri Krishna Kumud Saraswati, who had overcome all obstacles to recruit the best teachers of that time in Raiganj College; and that holy duty of Shri Saraswati laid the very foundation of the gradual upbringing of the college in the field of imparting quality education in west Bengal and particularly in North Bengal. As the quality teachings of the quality teachers are considered as the arch pillar of any educational institution for its further development and in that case Shri Krishna Kumud Saraswati in real sense may be considered as the forerunner of the up-gradation of Raiganj College to Raiganj College (University College) and thereafter from Raiganj College (University College) to a Raiganj University. The name of Shri Shambhu Nath Roy, popularly known as S. N. Roy is deserves special mention as a worthy successor of Shri. K. K. Saraswati. Actually the name of S. N. Roy converted into a myth as an educationist, successful administrator in the form of a Principal of Raiganj College and later on Raiganj College (University College) for more than 33 years and torch bearer of the spread of education at Raiganj and its adjacent areas. As history teaches us to step

forward taking lesson from the past and in that sense the contributions, emotions and devotions of these great men may open a value based new horizon to the present and future generation of teachers and administrators in academic field.

Not only the academic standard, sacrifices of the teaching and non-teaching staff for the development of the college and detailed NAAC report and its recommendations have also been elaborately mentioned in this documentary book so that one may easily understand what actually the Raiganj College (University College) was. The names of some alumnus those who spread the name and fame of this institution across the country and abroad have mentioned in one of the chapters of the book. Moreover, the contribution of Smt. Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal has been portrayed vividly in a chapter under the caption 'Up-gradation of Raiganj College (University College) to Raiganj University' from which it has been established the fact that the long cherished dream of the people of Raiganj have come to reality.

Moreover, passing of Raiganj University Bill 2014 in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, deliberation of a number of peoples' representative in the Assembly House on that matter, Gazette notification and journey of the Raiganj University under the enthusiastic guidance of its first Vice- Chancellor, Professor Anil Bhumali – everything collectively as if fulfilment a story with happy ending to the people of Raiganj which have been manifested in different times in different ways. The opening up post graduate courses in more than twenty subjects, course work, M. Phil and Ph.D programme undoubtedly opened a new horizon in the history of Raiganj University. Overcoming the nitty-gritty regarding the absorption of the teachers of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) and recruiting many new teaching, non-teaching staff and officers Raiganj University performing its noble duty in terms of imparting education to more than 10 thousands students coming from different corner of this district, other states and abroad also. As the university started its academic activities on the infrastructure of the erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) along with its all academic assignment, naturally in addition to this after introducing various post-graduate and

research programme jointly created acute space problem which is one of the most important obstacles before the smooth functioning of teaching activities at the university. Although, ignoring each and every kind of shortcomings, the teachers and other staff of university administration under the inspiring guidance of its dynamic Vice- Chancellor, are performing their duties to reach the ultimate goal and thereupon within a very short time the university got UGC's recognition in the form of 2F status on 3rd September, 2015 and 12B status on 3rd January, 2018 to confer degrees and awards.

However, keeping in mind the various limitations, university administration under the courageous leadership of its first Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bhumali who continuously communicated with the Ministry of the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal led by Smt. Mamata Banerjee and as a result of that G+9 building is constructing in the campus of Raiganj University. In order to expedite the progress of the work, Dr. Durlav Sarkar, the Registrar of the university in presence of Professor Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University, suitably drew the attention of Smt. Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'able Chief Minister of West Bengal, in an administrative meeting held at Karnojora on 7th December, 2021. In that meeting Smt. Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister assured that the problem will be minimised at the earliest and for that the necessary instruction has been given by her to the concerned officers. It is hope that after the completion of G+9 building many problems specially the space problem of the university will be utterly solved.

Appendices

আমাদের সময় আমাদের স্মার

*Deputy Director,
of Information and
Cultural Affairs*
— শ্যামলা সেনগুপ্ত
১৯৮০.০৫.১৫

আমাদের সময় অর্থাৎ পঞ্চাশের দশক ছিল সবচেয়ে ঘটনাবল। ১৯৪৭ সালের ১৫ই আগস্ট ৩য় রাষ্ট্রীয় ক্ষমতার হস্তান্তর ঘটে। আপন মাতৃবন্ধু বিনীত করে কৃত্রিম বিভাজনের মাধ্যমে সেদিন তৈরী করা হল দুটি রাষ্ট্র। বহু মানুষের মাতৃভূমির জগদগত অধিকার কেড়ে নেওয়া হল। ইতিহাসের এই বিশ্বাসঘাতকতাপূর্ণ জঘনা পরিবেশে এগারে ওপারে আছড়ে পড়লেন লক্ষ লক্ষ গৃহহারা মানুষ। ব্যতিক্রম রোয়েদাদ আর মউস্তাফাচানের চক্রান্ত একমুহূর্তে স্বদেশকে বিদেশ করে তুললো। লক্ষ লক্ষ ছিয়মুল মানুষ রওনা দিলেন নতুন স্বদেশের সন্ধানে।

দিনাজপুর শহরের কৃতী সন্তান কৃষ্ণকুমুদ সরস্বতীও বাধা হলেন ৫৮ বছর বয়সে নতুন স্বদেশের সন্ধানে নিজ জন্মভূমি পরিত্যাগ করতে। তাই কি তাঁর চোখে সর্বদা একটা বেদনার ছায়া লক্ষ্য করা যেত। যাক সে কথা। কেমন ছিল তখনকার রায়গঞ্জ? মাত্র পাঁচ হাজার মানুষের বাস। সামান্য চৌকি মাত্র। ইতস্তত বিক্ষিপ্ত ছড়ানো কিছু বাসস্থান। পাকাবাড়ির সংখ্যা খুবই কম। সারাদিনে দুটি আপ এবং দুটি ডাউন ট্রেন কোনমতে ছোট্ট শহরের ঘুম ভাঙিয়ে চলে যায়। শান্ত, নিরুপলব্ধ জীবন যাত্রা। ইতিহাসে শোমালের ডাক, কাঁচা নরম রাস্তা, শহরের বুকেই ধান ও পাটের চাষ। মাঝখানে জেগে আছে ওখু করোনেশন হাইস্কুল।

অকস্মাৎ প্রাচীন না, জল প্রাচীন নয়, জনপ্রাচীন। ভিটে মাটি ছেড়ে হাজারে হাজারে ছিয়মুল মানুষ আছড়ে পড়লেন এই ছোট্ট শহরে। এমন হুময় বিদারক পরিহিতিতে নতুন করে বাঁচার স্বপ্ন দেখাতে, জ্ঞানের দশদীপ জ্বালিয়ে জীবনের সব অন্ধকার কোনেতে আলোকিত করার তাগিদ নিয়ে মুষ্টিমেয় যে কয়েকজন মানুষ সেদিনকার রায়গঞ্জে এগিয়ে এসেছিলেন অধ্যাপক কৃষ্ণকুমুদ সরস্বতী ছিলেন তাঁদের সর্বপ্রাণনা। তাঁরই ঐকান্তিক আগ্রহে ওখু রায়গঞ্জ কলেজের প্রতিষ্ঠাই হয়নি তাতে প্রাণসম্ভারও করেছেন তিনি। কী অপরিমিত কষ্ট এবং দারিদ্র্যকে হাসিমুখে বরণ করে এবং মতলববাজদের সব চক্রান্তকে বার্থ করে তিনি রায়গঞ্জ কলেজকে মর্যাদার আসনে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করেছেন তা ঝাঁরা না দেখেছেন তাঁরা বিশ্বাসও করতে পারবেন না। একটা বড় সময় জুড়ে অধ্যক্ষ সরস্বতী ছিলেন দুঃস্থ প্রত্নির অনির্বান নক্ষত্র। কিন্তু, এইটুকুই তাঁর একমাত্র পরিচয় নয়, মানুষ হিসেবেও তিনি ছিলেন এক অসাধারণ ব্যক্তিত্ব। ছোটখাট মানুষটির মধ্যে আত্মা এক মমতাময় মাতা এবং সংকল্পে দৃঢ় পিতা উভয়েই একত্রে প্রত্যক্ষ করেছিলেন। মানুষের ভিত্তে আর পাঁচজনের মতো বৈশিষ্ট্যহীন চেহারা ছিল তাঁর, তদুপরি একটা পা ভাঙ্গা থাকায় সর্বদাই খুঁড়িয়ে চলতে হতো তাঁকে। এই বয়সে মানুষ খোঁজে বিশ্রামের বাস। আর কৃষ্ণকুমুদ সরস্বতী তুলে নিলেন কর্মের কর্নিক। তারনোর হেতু ১৯৪৮ সালে গ্রহণ করলেন রায়গঞ্জ কলেজের অধ্যক্ষের দুরূহ দায়িত্বভার। কেমন ছিল সে দায়িত্বভার? নিজস্ব বাড়ির সেই, শিক্ষক-ছাত্র জোড়াড় করে আনতে হয়, টেবিল চেয়ার নেই, খাতাপত্র নেই, মায় চক-ডাস্টারও নেই, সর্বোপরি নেই অর্থের সংস্থান ও চাকুরীর নিরাপত্তা। তবু সরস্বতীর বরপুত্র পিছপা নন। এগিয়ে চলাই যার মন্ত্র, বয়সের বাধা, শরীরের বাধা, অর্থের বাধা, কালের বাধা। আমাদের স্মারকে থামতে পারেনি। প্রথমে মুষ্টিমেয় কয়েকজন শিক্ষককে নিয়ে কলেজগুরু হয করোনেশন স্কুলের বাড়িতে সকাল বেলায়।

আগে আগে ছাত্র-শিক্ষক বাড়তে লাগলো। আর প্রয়োজনের তাগিদে খোঁজা শুরু হল নিজস্বগৃহের। তখন রায়গঞ্জ শহরের বুক চিড়ে বয়ে যেত ছোট্ট চ্যাবিলি। এখন যেখানে শ্রীজিতেন্দ্ররাম বস্ত্রী মহোদয়ের বাড়ি তার পিছন দিয়ে চ্যাবিলি আজকের সৌন্দর্যের পর্যন্ত বয়ে গিয়ে কুলিকের খাড়িতে মিশে যেত। এখনও লক্ষ্য করলে বিলের খাতটির সন্ধান পাওয়া যায় — বিশেষ করে বর্ষাকালে। আজকের কলেজপাড়া অঞ্চলে যেতে হলে তখন টাউনগারের পাশ দিয়ে যেতে হতো। এই রাস্তা দিয়ে এগিয়ে গেলে বাঁ-হাতে ছিল বন্দরের গোয়ামী বাড়ির বিখ্যাত আম ও লিচুর বাগান — যার চলতি নাম ছিল মিলিকের বাগান। এই বাগানের মাঝেই পরবর্তীকালে গড়ে উঠেছে রায়গঞ্জ হাসপাতাল। এই বাগানের একাংশ এখনও বেঁচে আছে। আর সেই বাগানের একেবারে দক্ষিণ দিকের শেষে চ্যাবিলির ধারে গড়ে উঠেছে রায়গঞ্জ কলেজের নিজস্ব বাড়ি। একসময়ে এখানে আশেপাশে দোকানপাট বাড়িঘর এরকম ছিলই না। প্রথমে মাত্র চার পাঁচটি পাকাঘর নিয়ে এখানে কলেজ শুরু হয়।

আমার কলেজজীবন শুরু হয় ১৯৫৭ সালে। তখনও চার/পাঁচটি ঘরই ছিল। একটি ঘরের মধ্যে পার্টিশন দিয়ে অধ্যক্ষ মহাশয় ও অধ্যাপকবৃন্দ বসতেন এবং সেই ঘরেরই একপাশে ছিল কলেজের অফিস। প্রধান কবণিক কুমারদা ও অন্যান্যরা সেখানেই বসতেন। কলেজের সব অধ্যাপকই আমাদের কাছে ছিলেন হয় "দাদা" কিংবা "বাবু"। একমাত্র 'স্যার' ছিলেন অধ্যক্ষ কৃষ্ণকুমুদ সরস্বতী। আমি কলাবিভাগের ছাত্র ছিলাম তাই ক্লাসে বসে সরাসরি তাঁর কাছ থেকে পাঠ নেবার কোন সুযোগ আমার ছিল না। কিন্তু, কলেজের বৃহত্তর কর্মক্ষেত্রের পার্টশালায় রোজই তাঁর কাছ থেকে জীবনের পাঠ গ্রহণের সুযোগ আমার ঘটেছিল, সেজন্য আমি নিজেকে ধনা মনে করি।

পঞ্চাশের দশকের সেই শেক্ষত্রাণে আমাদের কলেজে ছাত্রদের কোন কমনরুম ছিল না। ছাত্রীদের কমনরুম ছিল বলে আমরা স্ত্রীতমত সীমা করতাম। রোদ-বৃষ্টি-ঝড়ে সামনের লিচুবাগানই ছিল আমাদের কমনরুম। কোথাও একটা ক্যামরবোর্ড খেলার পর্যন্ত জায়গা

স্বর্ণজয়ন্তী স্মারক পত্রিকা ৫১

ছিল না, টেবিল টেনিসের প্রস্তুতি ওঠেনা। তাই 'অফ পিরিয়ড' ওলোতে নিজেদের খুব অসহায় লাগতো, আর যত রাগ গিয়ে পড়তো অধ্যক্ষ কৃষ্ণকুমার সরস্বতীর উপর। যতবারই তাঁকে আমরা অভিযোগ জানাতে খুব তোরজোড় করে তাঁর ঘরে ঢুকতাম তিনি এমন সব যুক্তি হাজির করতেন এবং এমন মায়াময় দৃষ্টিতে তাকাতে যে আমরা কি করব, কি বলব ভেবে না পেয়ে তাঁর ঘর থেকে ওটি ওটি বিদায় নিতাম। যতদিন যেত আমাদের ফোক বাডতো, কিন্তু তাঁর সমানে গিয়ে কিছুই করা যেতনা। রাগে ফোড়ে একবার আমরা ছাত্র ইউনিয়ন থেকে, সিদ্ধান্ত নিলাম যে কমনকমসহ অন্যান্য দাবিতে একদিন ছাত্র ধর্মঘট করা হবে। তখন আমি কলেজ ছাত্র সসেদের সহকারী সাধারণ সম্পাদক। অধ্যক্ষ সরস্বতী খবর পেয়ে আমাদের কয়েকজনকে ডেকে পাঠালেন। আমরাও একটা চূড়ান্ত নিষ্পত্তির জন্য তাঁর ঘরে গেলাম। মদুহাসে তিনি আমাদের স্বাগত জানালেন। আমরা একটা শক্তভাবেই আমাদের দাবি পেশ করলাম তিনি হঠাৎ চেয়ার ছেড়ে উঠে বললেন, "চলো, একটু ঘুরে আসা যাক"। আমরা খানিকটা হতভম্ব, বুকে উঠতে পারছি না কি করবো। তবে তাঁর কথা অমান্য বা অগ্রাহ্য করব এমন মানুষ তিনি ছিলেন না। অগত্যা তাঁর পিছন পিছন আমরাও ঘর ছেড়ে বের হলাম। তিনি আমাদের নিয়ে গেলেন কলেজের সেই অংশে যেখানে গৃহ সম্প্রসারণের কাজ চলছে। তারপর ঘুরে ঘুরে সব দেখাতে লাগলেন, মুখে তাঁর তৃপ্তির হাসি। অকস্মাৎ পরনের পাঞ্জাবীর বোতাম খুলে শীর্ণ বৃকের পাজার দিকে ইঙ্গিত করে বললেন — এই বৃকের পাজার দিয়ে কলেজের এক একটা ইট গাঁথা হচ্ছে, তোমরা তাতে আঘাত করতে চাও? আমি চাইছি কলেজকে বড় করতে আর তোমরা হলজ বন্ধ করে আমার বৃকে আঘাত করতে চাইছ? আমাদের মুখে কোন কথা নেই। সব ফোক বিকোভ কোথায় উধাও। সঙ্গেহে পিঠে হাত বোলাতে বোলাতে বললেন — বাবারা এটা কেন বোকনা উপায় থাকলে আমি কেন বাবস্থা করব না, চারটে ঘরের একটাকে কমনরুম করে দিলে ক্লাস বসবে কোথায়? আমি জানিনা এখন আর এভাবে পরিস্থিতির মোকাবিলা করা যায় কিনা বা তার চেষ্টা করা হয় কিনা। আজকের দৃষ্টিতে কারো কারো কাছে ব্যাপারটি অতিনাক্ষীয় মনে হলেও সেদিন আমরা কিন্তু স্যারের আন্তরিকতায় মুগ্ধ না হয়ে পারিনি। মনে হয়েছিল তিনি যা বলছেন সবটাই তাঁর অন্তরের কথা, একটুও সাজানো নয়।

কলেজের সাহায্যকল্পে যাত্রা-গন্তীরগানের আয়োজনের কথা অনেকেই জানেন। কীভাবে সে সময় আমাদের স্যারের নেতৃত্বে শুধু কলেজের ছাত্র-শিক্ষক-কর্মচারীরাই নয় গোটা রায়গঞ্জ ও তার আশপাশের এলাকা মেতে উঠেছিল তা একটা দৃষ্টান্ত স্বরূপ।

আর একটা ঘটনার কথা উল্লেখ করি। সেবার কলকাতা থেকে প্রায় লক্ষাধিক নগদ টাকা তাঁকে একাকী বয়ে আনতে হয়েছিল। সে সময়ে কলকাতার সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ এত সহজ ছিলনা, সময়ও লাগতো অনেক। মনিহারি শকরী গলি-সাহেবগঞ্জের গোলকধাঘাঘা অনেকেই বিপর্যস্ত হয়ে পড়তেন। অথচ এমন রাস্তাতেই অশক্ত, প্রায়বৃদ্ধ আমাদের স্যার একটা কাঠের বাস্তু করে অকুতোভয়ে অতগুলো টাকা নিয়ে নিরাপদে রায়গঞ্জে ফেরেন। প্রায়সমস্ত রাস্তা বৃকে আগলে রাখেন টাকার বাস্তুটাকে। কলেজ ফিরে তাঁর চোখে মুখে সেরিক উল্লাস আর আনন্দ। আজ মনে পড়ে নেই আনন্দময় মুখ যদি। আজকের বিচারে অনেকেই হয়ত স্যারের সেদিনের সেইকাজকে হঠকারিতা আখ্যা দেবেন কিন্তু নিজের প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য এমন দরদ, এমন কৃৎসি নেবার সাহস, এমন মমতা আজ উধাও হয়ে গেল কেন সেকথা কেউ একবার ভাববেন কী? স্বার্থপরতা, আত্মকেন্দ্রিকতার বেজাজাল দিয়ে ঘেরা আজকের সমাজে কৃষ্ণকুমার সরস্বতীর মত মানুষের প্রয়োজনীয়তা কি আমরা পদে পদে অনুভব করি না?

সে সময়ে কলকাতা ছেড়ে দুরবতী জেলায় কেউ আসতে চাইতেন না অথচ, রায়গঞ্জের নতুন কলেজের জন্য আর্থিক চাই। তাই অনিবার্য ভাবেই কলকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের স্নাতকোত্তর পরীক্ষার সময় আমাদের স্যার গিয়ে হাজির হতেন কলকাতায়। প্রতিটি বিভাগে ঘুরে ঘুরে জোগাড় করতেন ভাল ছাত্রদের তালিকা। পরীক্ষার পরেই গিয়ে হাজির হতেন তাদের আশাবস্থলে। মেহতরা আমন্ত্রণ জানাতেন রায়গঞ্জ কলেজে যোগদানের জন্য। পরীক্ষার ফল বের হবার আগেই চাকুরীর আমন্ত্রণে অনেকেই অবাক হতেন। তবু অধ্যক্ষ কৃষ্ণকুমার সরস্বতীর আমন্ত্রণের মধ্যে এমন একটা আন্তরিকতা থাকতো যা ফিরিয়ে দেওয়া সহজ ছিল না। ফলে পরীক্ষা দিয়েই অনেকে অধ্যাপক পদে বহাল হয়েছেন। আমাদের স্যারের নির্বাচন যে ভুল ছিল না পরবর্তীতে তা প্রমাণ হয়ে গিয়েছে। আজ আর এমনভাবে নিয়োগ সম্ভব নয়, কিন্তু নিজের প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য এমন উদাম, এমন ভালবাসা আজ সবজায়গা থেকে উধাও হয়েগেল কেন?

আমাদের স্যার কিন্তু মোটেই রাশভারী মেজাজের ছিলেন না। কাজের ক্ষেত্রে একদিকে যেমন তিনি ছিলেন দৃঢ়তা অন্যদিকে তখনই একটা পরিহাস প্রিয়তা বা সরসতার বাতাবরণ তাঁকে ঘিরে থাকতো। কোন কিছুই চাপিয়ে দেবার মানসিকতা তাঁর ছিল না। বরং সবকিছুকেই একটা সরস, প্রাণবন্ত মোড়কে তিনি এমনভাবে উপস্থাপিত করতেন যার ফলে সেসব অগ্রাহ্য করার কোন উপায় থাকতো না। আমাদের সময়ে কলেজে ছাত্রছাত্রীদের হাতে লেখা দেওয়াল পত্রিকা ছিল 'পদাত্তিক' আর মুদ্রিত কলেজ পত্রিকার নাম ছিল 'প্রাণ'। প্রথমটি মাসিক এবং দ্বিতীয়টি বার্ষিক। দুটি পত্রিকাই তিনি খুব মনযোগ সহকারে পড়তেন এবং মতামত দিতেন। কোনরকম রক্ষণশীলতা তাঁর ছিল না। নরনারীর সম্পর্ক নিয়েও অকপটে তিনি আমাদের সঙ্গে আলোচনা করতেন। ছাত্রছাত্রীদের প্রীতিপূর্ণ মেলামেশাতেও তিনি কোনদিনই প্রতিবন্ধকতা সৃষ্টি করেন নি। তবে সবকিছুই যাতে শালীনতার সীমার মধ্যে থাকে বা সৌন্দর্যমন্ডিত হয়ে ওঠে সেদিকেও তাঁর তীক্ষ্ণ নজর ছিল।

আমাদের সময়ে প্রতিবছর শারদোৎসবের আগে সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠানের আয়োজন করা হত। একবার এইরকম একটি অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত ছিলেন বিশিষ্ট কথাসাহিত্যিক এবং দিনাজপুরের কৃতীসন্তান শ্রীনারায়ণ গঙ্গোপাধ্যায়। তাঁকে অতিথি বলায় তিনি অত্যন্ত আহত হয়ে মন্তব্য করেছিলেন "ঘরের ছেলে ঘরে এলে অতিথি হয় নাকি? আমি তো এঞ্জেলারই ছেলে, তবে আমরা

ব্রতী বলে দুই সপ্তাহে রাখা হচ্ছে কেন?" বক্তৃতা আন্তরিকতায় বিহ্বল হয়ে অধ্যক্ষ সরস্বতী আমাদের জেলার বরণে সন্তানকে মঞ্চে মাথাই ডড়িয়ে ধরেন এবং তৎক্ষণাৎ ত্রুটি স্বীকার করেন।

সেইসময় আমরা শ্রীগঙ্গাপাধ্যায় রচিত "ভাড়াটে চাই" নাটকটি মধ্যস্থ করি। দুজনেই সেদিনের অভিনয় উপভোগ করেছিলেন। শ্রীগঙ্গাপাধ্যায় উল্লেখিলেন আমাদের সবার কলেজ পড়ার বাড়িতে পরের দিন সকালে আমাদের উপস্থিতিতে নারায়ণবাবু আগ্রহ ভরে অধ্যক্ষ সরস্বতীকে জিজ্ঞাসা করেন — "সার, আমার নাটক আপনার কেমন লাগলো?" আমাদের সার কিন্তু শৌনকমুখি কথা না করেই বলেন — "ভালই, তবে ভাড়াটের সংখ্যা একটু কম হলে ভাল হত।" নারায়ণবাবু সঙ্গে সঙ্গেই সবার কথা মেনে নিয়ে বলেন — "হ্যাঁ সার, ঠিকই বলেছেন। আসলে কলকাতার সাহিত্যিকদের নিয়ে অভিনয় করার জন্য নাটকটি রচিত। বেশিসংখ্যক সাহিত্যিককে সুযোগ করে দিতে গিয়েই ভাড়াটের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি করতে হয়েছে।" অধ্যক্ষ সরস্বতীর দ্বিধাহীন মতামত সেদিন আমাদের গর্বিত করেছিল। বিজ্ঞানের একনিষ্ঠ ছাত্র আমাদের সার সেদিন দিকপাল সাহিত্যিকের সঙ্গে সমানতালে সাহিত্য ও সংস্কৃতির নানা দিক নিয়ে যেভাবে আলোচনা চালিয়ে গেলেন তা শুধু আমাদেরই বিস্মিত করেনি বোধহয় কিছুপরিমাণে নারায়ণবাবুকেও অবাক করে দিয়েছিল।

আর একটা বিষয় ভাবলে আমাদের অবাক হতে হয়। শ্রীকৃষ্ণকুমার সরস্বতী গান্ধীজীর মতাদর্শে বিশ্বাসী ছিলেন এবং জীবনের শেষদিন পর্যন্ত তাঁর সে বিশ্বাস অটুট ছিল। কিন্তু, যেদিন থেকে তিনি রায়গঞ্জ কলেজের দায়িত্বভার গ্রহণ করেন সেদিন থেকে প্রথমত বা পরোক্ষভাবে দলীয় রাজনীতির সঙ্গে সকল সংশ্লিষ্ট ত্যাগ করেন। সবচেয়ে উল্লেখযোগ্য হলো যে তিনি দীর্ঘ অধ্যাপনা পূর্বে একবারের জন্যও তাঁর মতাদর্শ ছাত্র-অধ্যাপক-কর্মচারীদের উপর চাপিয়ে দেওয়ার চেষ্টা করেননি। সবদলমতের মানুষ তাঁর কাছে সমান ব্যবহার পেয়েছেন। ছাত্রদের রাজনৈতিক মতামত বা কার্যকলাপকেও কোনভাবে প্রভাবিত করার চেষ্টা করেন নি — যা তিনি সহজেই পারতেন। এক দুর্লভ নিরপেক্ষতায় নিজেকে সরিয়ে রেখেছিলেন। এই ফলে নানা ঘটনার ঘনঘনায় হৃদয়মুখর পঞ্চাশের দশকে সূদৃঢ়ভাবে কলেজ পরিচালনা করতে তাঁর কোন অসুবিধাই হয়নি। সবমহলেই তিনি ছিলেন সমান জনপ্রিয়।

কিন্তু, না, তাঁর এই জনপ্রিয়তা এবং দলনিরপেক্ষতা ক্ষুদ্র একদল কায়মী স্বার্থবাদীর পছন্দ হয়নি। সেসময়ে সূতোর টানে রায়গঞ্জের সমস্ত কিছুকে এরা নিয়ন্ত্রণ করতে চাইতো। পরমতর্সহিষ্ণু এই বিশাল হৃদয়ের মানুষটিকে তারা কিছুতেই বরদাস্ত করতে পারছিল না — এরই অনিবার্য পরিণতিতে অত্যন্ত লজ্জাজনকভাবে অধ্যক্ষ সরস্বতীকে রায়গঞ্জ কলেজ থেকে বিদায় দেওয়া হয়। একথা স্বীকার করতে দ্বিধা নেই যে সেইপর্বে সেদিনকার ছাত্র হিসেবে আমরাও আমাদের দায়িত্বপালন করতে পারিনি। কলেজথেকে তাঁর অনায়ত্নে অপসারণকে আমরা রুখতে পারিনি। এবেদনা আমাদের চিরকাল থাকবে।

আজ রায়গঞ্জ কলেজের সুবর্ণজয়ন্তীতে বার বার তাঁর কথাই মনে পড়ে। আজকের আব্বাসবর্ষ, ভোগবাসী যুগে এমন মানুষদের কথা বার বার স্মরণ করা উচিত। সেই উদ্দেশ্যে এই সতত প্রণাম মানুষটির স্মৃতিকে সদাজাগরুক রাখার বিনম্র প্রয়াস হিসেবে রায়গঞ্জ কলেজ প্রাক্তন ছাত্র সম্মিলনীর কলকাতা শাখার তরফ থেকে রায়গঞ্জ কলেজ প্রাঙ্গনে অধ্যক্ষ কৃষ্ণকুমার সরস্বতীর একটি আব্বাসমূর্তি বসানোর উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করা হয় এবং সকলের সাহায্যে বিগত ১৯৯৬ সালের ৯ই অক্টোবর তা যথাস্থানে প্রতিষ্ঠিতও হয়েছে। কিন্তু, আমরা মনে করিনা যে এমন আব্বাসবিদিত হৃদয়বান মানুষের মূর্তি বসানোতেই সব কাজ শেষ হয়ে যেতে পারে। অধ্যক্ষ সরস্বতী যেসব মূল্যবোধের প্রতীক হিসেবে নিজেকে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করতে পেরেছিলেন সেই সবার পুনরুদ্ধার, পূর্ণমূল্যায়ন এবং সেগুলির পুনঃ পুনঃ অনুশীলন আজ একান্ত প্রয়োজন। যেসমস্ত গুণ কৃষ্ণকুমার সরস্বতীকে শিক্ষা সরস্বতীর সার্থক বরণে পরিণত করেছিল প্রতিদিনের জীবনচর্যায় সেগুলির সত্যিকারের রূপায়ন ঘটলে তবেই সফল হবে আমাদের সরস্বতী-স্মরণ। আজকের দেশব্যাপী গভীর অন্ধকারের মধ্যে অধ্যক্ষ কৃষ্ণকুমার সরস্বতীর মতো মহাপ্রাণ মানুষেরাই আলোকবর্তিকারূপে। মমতামাখানো তাঁর হাতের প্রতীপকে নতুন করে নতুন প্রাণে নতুন প্রজন্মকেই বয়েনিয়ে যেতে হবে। সেই আলোকিত সকালের জন্য অগ্রিম অভিনন্দন! □

Our Time Our Sir

**Reminiscence by Mr. Shyamal Sengupta, an Ex-student,
Raiganj College,**

**(Deputy Director, Information and Cultural Affairs,
Govt. of West Bengal)**

(Translated from Bengali to English by the authors)

Time of our i.e. the decade of the 1950's was an eventful in all aspects. The historic 15th August, 1947 was not only memorable for the transfer of power but also dividing the heart of mother land for artificially creating into two separate countries namely India and Pakistan. As a result of the partition a large number of people had to lose their right of mother land by birth. At this critical juncture of treachery and painful event of history - millions of people of both parts of Bengal were compelled to leave their motherland and became homeless, shelterless refugees. The conspiracy of Lord Mountbaten along with Radclief Award all of a sudden converted homeland of the millions of people into foreign lands. Lakhs of rootless people started leaving their ancestral native land for searching new homeland for livelihood.

In that context, Krishna Kumud Saraswati, a famous literary personality and freedom fighter of Dinajpur city of East Pakistan compelled to leave his motherland in the wake of post-partition communal carnage, at the age of 58 for searching a new homeland and livelihood. That is why an intense pain and agony would appear all the time in his two eyes. However, what was the actual condition of the then Raiganj? Only 5000 people would live in Raiganj. It was then only a simple choky. Here and there were some very simple houses. A small number of pucca houses were at Raiganj. Only two up and two down trains used to run daily through the city of Raiganj breaking the sleep of the residents. People of Raiganj lead their life as if there was a pin drop silence, calm and quietly atmosphere. There were mud roads, paddy and jute fields in the middle of Raiganj. There was only a remarkable institution namely Coronation High School (established in 1911) only remain awake in the midst of the silence-mode city of the then Raiganj.

Sudden flood was occurred. No, not flood of water, it was the flood of peoples who were migrated from Pakistan particularly East Pakistan. Thousands of people came at this small town Raiganj, by losing their homeland and ancestral property. Among

these people, some enlightened personalities who showed the dream of new life and wanted to lighten the new lamp of knowledge and wisdom in the form of establishing a higher educational institution in Raiganj. It is important to note here that among these enlightened personalities Krishna Kumud Saraswati, the founder principal of Raiganj College, was one of them. He enthusiastically invested his courages and wisdom with the assistance of some renowned people of Raiganj for establishing the college and indeed he inserts the soul of learning into the college. Peoples who did not know and never believe the foundation history of the College, how labour and efforts were given to establish the college for, how poverty and bankruptcy he had to face. In spite of the above limitations Krishna Kumud Saraswati was always in smile face and he never mind those kinds of obstacles because he had fixed his noble goal to fulfil the dream of young people of Raiganj to promote education and learning for the greater interest of the society as well as nation. He was a man like a bright star in the dark night. As a man, he possessed all kinds of virtues as well as strong and bold mind. Though, physically he was in short heighted, but he was the synthesis of all the qualities of father and mother. His behaviour to others was always very gentle and modest. It is a common phenomenon that at the old age, peoples are generally search for rest, but he was such a man, though bodily aged and mentally so young that never worried to do the work for the future generation of Raiganj and he took over the charge as principal of Raiganj College in 1948 at the age of 59.

What was the nature of the responsibility of the principal of a newly established college? There was no building, no rooms, no chair and table, no teachers and students, no book and khata, even no chalk and duster, no finance and no security of service at the initial stage of the Raiganj College. But Krishna Kumud Saraswati, the founder principal of the college, used to go forward against all kinds of odds and barrier fearlessly. The College was started with only 65 students at Raiganj Coronation High School premises at morning shift with the kind permission of the school authority in 1948.

But, due to the continuous efforts for the betterment of Raiganj College- the number of teachers and students started increasing day by day. Not only that in order to permanent set up of the college which was initially running at coronation high school, Krishna Kumud Saraswati started searching land for constructing college building. My college life was started in the year of 1957.

At that time, the college had only four to five rooms only. A room was partitioned for sitting arrangements of the teachers and principal along with the room for official works of the college performed by the non-teaching staffs. The head clerk of the college was Kumarendra Narayan Ghosh alias Kumarda and Nirmal Chandra Dasgupta, the then accountant who managed the college office in its initial stage. All the professors were called by the other staff as either 'Dada' or 'Babu'. But only one was called 'Sir' and he was the principal of the college Shri Krishna Kumud Saraswati. As I was a student of arts faculty, therefore, I had no scope to attend directly in the class of the principal who had science background and used to take various classes in science stream. But, indirectly in the broader aspects I have got the teaching of the other necessities of the day-to-day life from 'Sir' Krishna Kumud Saraswati and for that I had great respect to him.

Late fifties of the twentieth century of the college had no common room for the boys. We used to feel jealous because the facility of the common room was provided for the girl students only. All the season of our college life we had to use litchi garden (presently Fire station of Raiganj) as common room. There was no place for playing carom and no question at all about table tennis. Due to the lack of rooms and minimum facilities - as a student of the college I had felt very uneasy at the time of the leisure period and thereupon all the grievances of the students would automatically go against the principal. When all the grievances were consolidated and decided to present before the principal, but finally we had to surrender in front of our Sir because of his indomitable personality and rational views in connection with the unavailability of the required rooms and scarcity of many necessary arrangements for the smooth functioning of day-to-day affairs of the college. One day, on behalf of the students' union, we decided that a strike would be called for the shake of the legitimate demand of the college students and Krishna Kumud Saraswati, the principal of the college, called me (as I was an assistant secretary of the students' union of the college) with some other students. We entered the principal's room with boldly; Sir welcomes us with smile face. We placed our demand before him with bold and steadily also. Suddenly Sir stand up and leave the chair and told us that 'let's go for a round the campus.' We were puzzled, what will we do? In that context, we were not in a position to ignore the situation and thereafter we had to leave the room and follow him. We had gone there with him, where the construction work was going on. He started showing everything

of the work with smiling face. Suddenly he opened a button of his Punjabi and signal to his rib of his chest and said, 'each and every brick is being engraved with my rib of the chest, and you boys want to strike there. I want to develop the college but you the students want to stop the work and struck on my chest'? We all were kept calm and quiet and not able to utter a word before Sir. All the grievances of the students were vanished. Very affectionately and lovingly, Sir again said, 'Dear students, why don't you understand that there is no scope to provide you a room for your common room, if I allot a room out of four rooms for the same, then surely classes will be hampered'. I don't know at present day how the situation is being handled by the college authority, but in our time, Sir acted fatherly and honestly to solve all the problems. At the present moment that type of solutions may seem to be dramatic, but we really satisfied and our respectfulness to the principal was increased many more.

Krishna Kumud Saraswati would engage himself each and every moment for the development of the College. Drama, Gombhira-Song, Theatre etc. had been arranged jointly by the teachers, non-teaching staffs and the students to collect fund for the development of the college under the courageous leadership of Krishna Kumud Saraswati, the principal of the college. Not only peoples of the Raiganj, peoples of adjacent areas also extended their cooperative hand to the development of the Raiganj College. I should mention here one memorable event that once near about one lakh rupees he carried with him from Calcutta. It is needless to say that at that time it was a very difficult task due to the lack of communication which has now become comparatively easy task. An intricate problem of the road communication was very common matter because it was connected by road through the Monihari, Sahebganj and Calcutta. But at the old age, the principal brought the money with a wooden box from Calcutta to Raiganj and it was as if a victory of a war. That day we saw the joy and satisfaction in his face for performing great job for the betterment of the college. How far did he love and care the College? Never feel - those who are not seen that and those who are selfish in every aspect they never be able to feel the unselfish work culture of Krishna Kumud Saraswati and his developmental activities for the Raiganj College.

At that time of uneasy communication from Kokata to Raiganj, usually nobody was willing to come to this remote district from the Calcutta, but recruitment of good teacher was very necessary for imparting quality education to the pupils of the newly

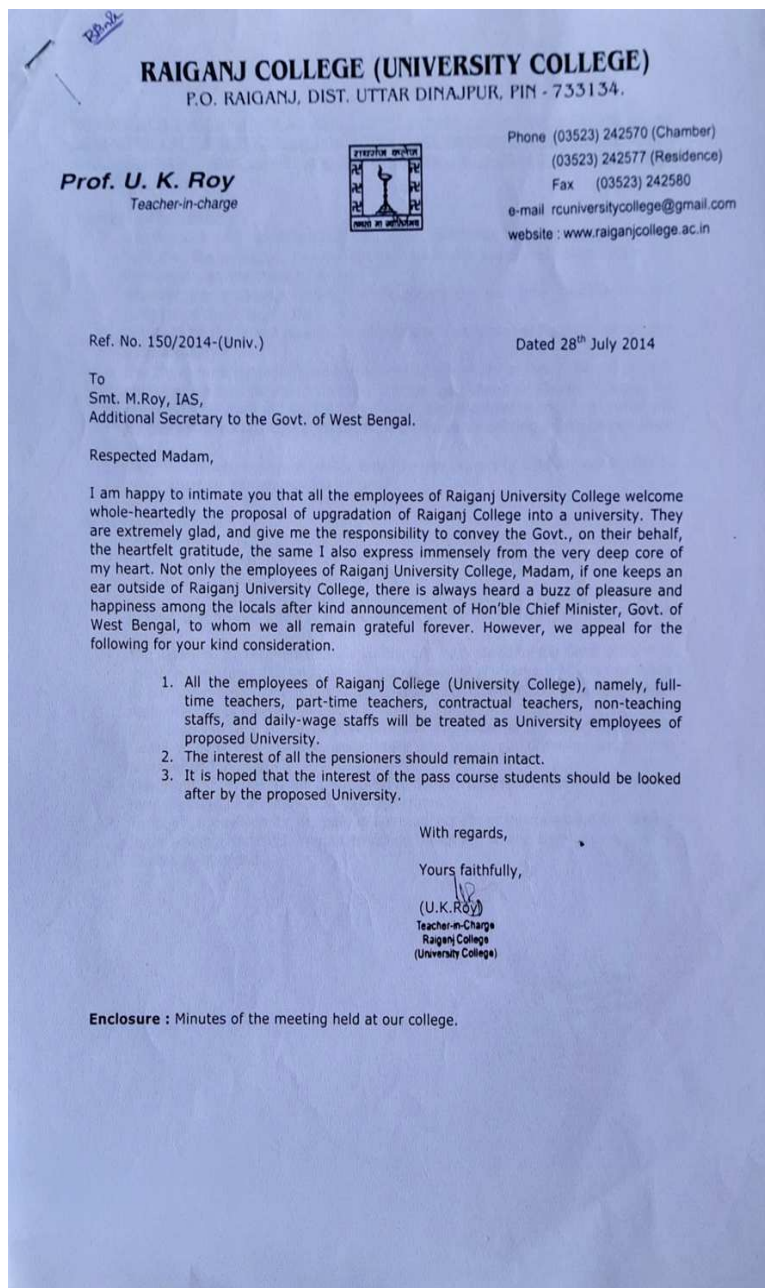
established Raiganj College. That's why every year Krishna Kumud Saraswati would go to Calcutta prior to publish the final result of Calcutta University for collecting address from each and every department's meritorious student who will score probable good result in the post graduate courses. After collecting addresses, he would go to the resident of those particular students and heartily invite them with full of affection to join as the faculty of Raiganj college. It was a matter of astonishment to someone, because prior to get final result in their hand, they had got job offer from the principal of Raiganj College. The way of offer of Krishna Kumud Saraswati was such that they won't deny the offer rather succumbed to the love and affection to the principal of the Raiganj College. How far was he a right person and visionary of future that is proved by the upgradation of the Raiganj College to a unitary university indeed? Very simple in behaviour and manner to others is the key feature of our sir but at the same time he was bold and strong enough to take decision. He never imposed any unethical and selfish decision to others. He always presents every matter with pleasant way to others, that's why nobody could deny it and everybody accept the same with spontaneously.

During our time a hand writing wall magazine would publish namely '*PADATIK*' and side by side a print magazine would have also published by the college authority namely '*PLABAN*'. The '*PADATIK*' was monthly and '*PLABAN*' was published annually. During that time each and every year annual cultural programme was organised before the time of *Durgotsab*. Once, in our time Narayan Gangopadhyay, a son of the soil of Dinajpur and a legendary writer was present as a chief guest of the programme. In that programme when Krishna Kumud Saraswati, the principal of the college started introducing Narayan Gangopadhyayas 'guest' then he (Narayan Gangopadhyay) at the same time had expressed his reservation for addressing him as 'guest', because he would feel himself from the core of his heart as the son of the soil of Dinajpur and 'son of the soil' can never be treated as 'guest'. At that moment of heart touching approach of Narayan Gangopadhyay, Krishna Kumud Saraswati, the principal of the college rectified his address to Narayan Gangopadhyay saying 'sorry' with smiling face and embraced him on the stage. On that evening a drama, written by Narayan Gangopadhyay namely '*BHADATE CHAI*', was performed by the students. Next morning at the college para residence of the principal, Mr. Gangopadhyay asked the principal very eagerly 'what are your feelings and experiences about my drama *BHADATE CHAI*? Our sir replied

at once unhesitatingly “good, but if the “*BHADATE*” were to be less in number it would be better.” Mr. Gangopadhyay agreed with the view of Krishna Kumud Saraswati and promptly replied “you are right sir, but it has been written by me to dramatize for the writer of Calcutta so that many of them could get an opportunity to participate in it”.

Though, our principal was a student of Mathematics but he was interested in literature also. He was such a popular person that irrespective of political parties, groups’ etc. he was accepted to all. But, his popularity as well as neutrality in terms of smooth running of the college administration was not accepted to some narrow selfish men. A group of mean minded and reactionary people who did not want to continue his service smoothly for the development of the college; as a result of that Krishna Kumud Saraswati was forced to take farewell shamefully. It is no doubt that we could not able to perform our duty as students to protect the dignity as well as his oust from the college unlawfully. This twinge will remain forever to us.

We should remember time and again the man like Krishna Kumud Saraswati in today’s self-centric, consumerist age. For the said purpose as a mark of great respect to this all time revered personality, on behalf of the alumni of Raiganj College, Kolkata branch had made an sincere attempt to establish a bust bronze statue of late Krishna Kumud Saraswati in the premises of Raiganj College. It is noteworthy that with the help of all corners lastly the said statue had been set up in front of the college lawn on 9th August, 1996. But, we don’t think that only with the setting up a bust bronze statue of a self-devoted, wide-hearted man all the task will be completed. The most important things are to recover, re-assess, and exercise again and again Krishna Kumud Saraswati, the symbol of moral-values- which are very essential in to-day’s life.



Minutes of a meeting (held on 25.07.2014) urgently called for a discussion on upgradation of Raiganj College into a university (whatever expected problems and proposals stand solid are given below in nutshell for your kind consideration).

Expected Problems: -

1. Whether the existing college teachers to be transferred to other colleges [Please note that the non-govt. college teachers are under sponsored college rules and their service is non-transferrable];
2. Whether the proposed University will accept the part-time teachers as the teachers of University or not;
3. What will be the fate of pass course pupils after conversion of Raiganj College into a University?
4. The Sericulture subject (Pioneer subject) of University of North Bengal is only taught at Raiganj College (University College) as a status of General Course, but proposed University will tag this general sericulture course or not, if not, what will be the fate of two part-time teachers who have been serving in this college since long.
5. Will there be absorption of college teachers into University teachers automatically or will there be certain process for this?

Expected Proposals:-

1. The interest of each and every employee of the college should be protected
2. The superannuation benefits of the teachers (who will retire within a very short period) should be cleared without any hindrance.
3. One responsible college teacher should be appointed in an appropriate chair to protect the overall interest of the teachers and staffs during the transitional period.
4. The salary of the teachers and the staffs must be ensured by the Govt. at least in the inchoate stage. For this purpose the creation of a reserve fund may be made to pay the monthly salary to the teachers and staffs of the college before proper regularization of the salary.
5. Such a unified G.O. should be coined so that every staff of the college may come under a common umbrella since there are many sub-divisions among the teachers and the staffs.
6. The pending issues relating to CAS/Promotion, Course Attending etc. should formally be transferred into its upgraded status.
7. To make a provision for the passed out students (from this proposed University) for attending the B.Ed. course to other University where they should not be treated as outsiders.


Teacher-in-Charge
Raiganj College
(University College)

25.07.2016

To
The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor,
Raiganj University

Sub: Absorption of full time teachers of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) in Raiganj University.

Respected Sir,

With humble submission we the following signatories (full time teachers) beg to state you that we have been assured repeatedly by you regarding the matter of our absorption in Raiganj University. But still this matter remains unsolved, though two of our teacher members (who are incidentally our U.C. members) have been recruited as University teacher in June 2016, ignoring our prior appeal time and again that "as per the Raiganj University Act 2014 and your earlier commitment we want to be absorbed with proper designation in the newly formed Raiganj University unconditionally before fresh recruitment of teacher staff" (Ref: memorandum addressed to you on 12.02.16, 17.02.16 and one is addressed to The Registrar on 24.02.16.)

Sir, as per your direction we are taking post graduate classes and course work classes for Ph. D. programmes, apart from Under Graduate teaching, as and when these have been implemented. Besides these, we have done all the background works, such as framing of routines, syllabi of Post graduate, Under Graduate and course works, purchasing of books, journals, furniture, instruments and chemicals etc. to run the University smoothly.

In the meantime, we have already submitted all the individual documents several times to you and have also appeared before the three member screening committee headed by Prof. D.R. Mandal, Hon'ble V.C., Sidho Kanhu University on 16.02.2016 for our absorption as teachers in Raiganj University. Before that we went for option in favour of staying as teachers in this university.

Today we are very much anxious about our present status and our future. We are stressed in such a manner that it is being felt that "We are the outsiders in our own homeland". But we did not invite this situation at all. In this context, we all the full time teachers of Raiganj College (University College) demand to make quick arrangement for our absorption in Raiganj University unconditionally prior to further recruitment of any teacher from outside. If our present demand is ignored we will have no other option except restrain ourselves from any kind of Post Graduate activities.

We are eagerly waiting for your reply within 30th July, 2016.

With regards,
Yours faithfully

Copy forwarded to:

1. Hon'ble Chancellor, Raiganj University & Governor of W.B.
2. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of W.B.
3. Hon'ble Education Minister, Govt. of W.B.
4. Hon'ble North Bengal Development Minister, Govt. of W.B.
5. Principal Secretary, Higher Education Dept., W.B.

1. Debajit Chakrabarti
2. Bandyopadhyay Anil
3. Arpita Raychoudhury
4. Amal Chatterjee
5. Asim Kumar Borthakur
6. Uttam Kumar Roy
7. Abhijit Chatterjee
8. Arindam Chatterjee
9. Sakuntala Ghosh
10. Kinshuk Barman
11. Partha Sankar Mondal
12. Ananda Kanti Das
13. Indraneel Saha
14. Parimal Mukherjee
15. Rajkumar Sarker
16. Dr. Chatterjee


17. Brajendra Kumar Mahapatra
18. Vivek Ray
19. Taluk Bera
20. Bhaskar Das
21. Sanjib Chatterjee
22. Milan Kumar Roy
23. Sri Majumdar
24. Anjan Das
25. Surajit Das
26. Sanjay Saha
27. Proloy Mandal

* 28. Debarish Biswas
* 29. Rabind Islam
* 30. Parna Chandra Barman
* 31. Goutam K. Saha
32. Rajit Mandal

* These teachers have sent their consent through email, message & whatsapp.

Received on 25.07.2016
Raiganj University
Estd. 24.11.1956
Registrar

RAIGANJ UNIVERSITY
P.O. RAIGANJ, DIST. UTTAR DINAJPUR, WEST BENGAL
PIN - 733134, INDIA



रायगंज विश्वविद्यालय
ESTD. - 2015

Phone Nos. -
Chamber : (03523) 242570
Residence : (03523) 242577
Mobile : 9474090158
Fax No. : (03523) 242580
e-mail - anilbhumali@rediffmail.com

Ref. No. 207/16 - (RNU/VC) Date 01.08.16


To
Prof. Babulal Bala and other signatories,
Raiganj University.

Sir,

In response to your letter (dated 25.07.2016), I would like to inform you that the matter of absorption of full-time teachers of erstwhile Raiganj College (University College) is pending with the Higher Education Dept., Govt. of West Bengal for its final approval. It is hoped that it will reach to this office very soon.


A. Bhumali
(Prof. A. Bhumali)
(Prof. A. Bhumali)
Vice-Chancellor
Raiganj University
Uttar Dinajpur

After being absorbed, the Teachers' of the Raiganj University expressed their gratitude to Miss Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal.



সম্মাননা

তার- ১৬/০৮/২০১৬



মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী সমীপে-

আপনার স্বপ্নকাজলমাখা আবেগময় বলিষ্ঠ পদক্ষেপ আমাদের এই প্রচীন কলেজটিকে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে উন্নীত করেছে। আমরা যারপরনাই আনন্দিত। সাম্প্রতিক আমরা তদানীন্তন রায়গঞ্জ কলেজের অধ্যাপক - অধ্যাপিকাবৃন্দ রায়গঞ্জ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধ্যাপক - অধ্যাপিকারূপে সম্মানিত হয়েছি। আপনাকে আমাদের অকুণ্ঠ কৃতজ্ঞতা, শ্রদ্ধা এবং নমস্কার জানাই। আমাদের নয়জন সহকর্মী (রায়গঞ্জ কলেজের) এই নতুন বিশ্ব-বিদ্যালয়ের অন্তর্ভুক্ত হলেন না। তাদের জন্য আমাদের হৃদয়ে ব্যথা থাকবে অনুক্ষণ। পিছিয়ে পড়া এই জেলার মানবসম্পদ উন্নয়নের কারিগর হয়ে উঠবে আমাদের এই নবীন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় - আমরা এই আশা রাখি।

কুলিক নদীর তীরে রায়গঞ্জ শহর
চরম আবহাওয়া এখানে - বছরভর।
তুলাই পাঞ্জি চালের সুবাস
সারা দেশে আছে তার নামযশ।
রায়গঞ্জ কলেজ - ব্রাকেটে ইউনিভার্সিটি
কেউই বঝতাম না কেন এই ডাইভার্সিটি।
রায়গঞ্জ ইউনিভার্সিটি বিল-দই হাজার চোন্দ
পিছিয়ে পড়া এই জেলায় ইউনিভার্সিটি হলো সদ্য।
আপনার স্পর্শ যেন "মিডাস্ টাচ্"
শিক্ষার প্রসার চতুর্দিকে আজ।
এত ছোট হাত কি করে ধরেছে এই বিশ্ব?
চারিদিকে সেজে উঠলো - আকাশ নীলে
মননে তো নই আমরা নিঃশ্ব
নতুন 'বাংলা' গড়বো সকলে মিলে।

ESTD 2015
বিনীত-
রায়গঞ্জ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের
অধ্যাপক-অধ্যাপিকা বৃন্দ
রায়গঞ্জ, উত্তর দিনাজপুর

AD Line, Raiganj