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Dr. C V Ananda Bose, Chancellor & Governor of West Bengal (center) and Prof. Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor, JU (left) awarding medal to a student in the Annual Convocation

Jadavpur University
The 65th Annual Convocation 2022

Jadavpur University organizes its Annual Convocation on 24th of December every year as the extended Court Meeting of the University for the purpose of giving formal approval to the University degrees. This year, the 65th Annual Convocation was held at the University Open Air Theater (OAT) in the main campus of the University after a gap of two years for COVID pandemic with a lot of enthusiasm from the degree recipients. Dr. C V Ananda Bose, His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal and Chancellor of Jadavpur University presided over the Annual Convocation and lauded the University for securing high position in the National Institutional Ranking Framework of the Government of India. Prof. Bimal Kumar Roy, Former Director of Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata and Former Chairman of National Statistical Commission was the Guest-in-Chief of the programme. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Suranjan Das delivered the convocation address. All the degree recipients took the convocation pledge when the Hon'ble Chancellor read it out for them.

Degree scrolls were awarded to the successful students by the Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chiranjib Bhattacharjee. Out of 4693 number of students whose final results were published in between 6th December 2021 and

5th December 2022, 3882 students were present in the Annual Convocation to receive their degrees in person.

Degrees were awarded to 467 successful Ph.D. candidates and 196 M. Phil candidates. Furthermore, at the postgraduate level, 917 M.A degrees, 314 M.Sc degrees and 565 degrees in M.E./M.Tech/M.Arch/M.Pharm were conferred. On the other hand, at the undergraduate level, 800 students were awarded B.A. Degrees, 267 B.Sc. Degrees, 1167 Bww.E/ B.Tech/ B.Pharm/ B.Arch Degrees. The special moments were cherished by everyone present.

Dr. C V Ananda Bose,
Chancellor & Governor of West Bengal

Prof. Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor, JU

Prof. Chiranjib Bhattacharjee, Pro Vice-Chancellor, JU

Dr. Snehamanju Basu, Registrar, JU

Glimpses of 65th JU Convocation 2022

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Shubho Nababarsha!

The first issue of IQAC Newsletter, published in September, 2022, receivedoverwhelming response from the University community. Encouraged by that, we are now presenting the second issue of the Newsletter containing information between June to December, 2022. The issue contains news of the last convocation of the University, which was held after a gap of two years. The issue also contains two very interesting and thought-provoking feature articles written by two senior professors and an account of the Institute Innovation Council. In addition, there are regular news items gathered from the University. I would request everyone for their comments and suggestions and at the same time urge to provide us with the important news for the future issues to make the newsletter more comprehensive.

Several developments took place in the quality front since the preparation of the last issue. We got a very high rank in Indian Ranking 2022, **Fourth in the University category**, which is the best rank so far for the University in NIRF. We also got improved ranking in the Engineering and Research categories and was ranked in the Pharmacy category for the first time. It was possible with the sincere efforts of the IQAC team supported by the entire University community. We have taken a similar effort in preparing data for NIRF 2023, which we submitted in January, 2023. While preparing for the NIRF process, we coordinated with all the faculty offices and the library in uploading the PhD theses on the Shodhganga portal. We have to continue the uploading process as a regular activity considering the mandate of UGC. We have also submitted data for the QS global ranking 2024. Besides compiling data, it needed efforts to reach out to the peers and employers with the activities of the University. QS subject ranking 2023 was declared and our University found positions in ten different subject categories. It is good that in all these categories the rank has improved compared to that of the previous year.

IQAC organized several quality initiatives during the last six months. It includes creating fresh awareness about the "Outcome Based Education (OBE)" among the faculty members of various departments and schools. I would like to thank a team of faculty members from the Mechanical Engg Dept., led by Prof. Abhijit Chanda for this initiative. NBA peer team visit has been conducted for assessing the UG programs of three Engineering Departments – Information Technology, Instrumentation and Electronics Engineering and Power Engineering. NBA accreditation of the Engineering programs was long awaited and I would like to thank the NBA Coordination Committee, led by Prof. Rana Saha, the three departments and all other stakeholders associated for their efforts and support. IQAC took several initiatives during the last six months to create awareness about quality initiatives, accreditation and ranking. We also organized events to increase collaboration possibilities with top Universities of the world.

I hope that this issue of the newsletter will draw equal interest as before among the readers.

Prof. Amitava Datta
Director, IQAC, JU

IQAC COMPOSITION

Prof. Suranjan Das	Vice-Chancellor and Chairman, IQAC
Prof. Chiranjib Bhattacharjee	Pro Vice-Chancellor
Prof. Amitava Datta	Pro Vice-Chancellor & Director, IQAC
Prof. Suchorita Chattopadhyay	Dean, Faculty of Arts
Prof. Ardhendu Ghoshal	Dean, Faculty of Engg. and Tech.
Prof. Subenoy Chakraborty	Dean, Faculty of Science
Prof. Tushar Jash	Dean, Faculty of ISLM
Dr. Snehamanju Basu	Registrar
Mr. Gour Krishna Pattanayak	Finance Officer
Dr. Sanjay Gopal Sarkar	Joint Registrar
Prof. Kunal Chattopadhyay	Faculty Member, Comparative Literature
Prof. Abhijit Gupta	Faculty Member, Department of English
Prof. Swarnendu Sen	Faculty Member, Mechanical Engineering
Prof. Abhijit Chanda	Faculty Member, Mechanical Engineering
Prof. Rajib Bandyopadhyay	Faculty Member, Instrumentation & Electronics Engg.
Prof. Debajyoti Ghoshal	Faculty Member, Department of Chemistry
Prof. Mitali Mandal	Faculty Member, Department of Physics
Prof. Nandita Dhawan	Faculty Member, School of Women studies
Mr. Sanjay Budhia	Noted Industrialist and External Member
Prof. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay	Vice-Chancellor of SNU and External Member

JU - Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

IQAC initiatives 2022-23

Workshop on NAAC Assessment and Accreditation

A one-day awareness workshop on the assessment and accreditation methodology of NAAC was organized by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Jadavpur University with the sponsorship of NAAC on 27th September, 2022 at Kolkata. West Bengal State Council of Higher Education (WBSCHE) collaborated in organizing the event. Prof. Bhusan Patwardhan, Chairman NAAC inaugurated the workshop and addressed the participating institutions.

The workshop had a special session which was presided over by Prof. Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University. Shri Bratya Basu, Minister-in-charge of School and Higher Education, Government of West Bengal was present during the session. In the presidential address, Prof. Das focused on the direction in which the higher education in the country has to move. Honorable Minister Shri Basu highlighted the initiatives taken by the Government of West Bengal in further improving the quality of education in the state with the participation of all the stakeholders. Shri Manish Jain, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education and Shri Jaydip Mukhopadhyay, Special Com-

Prof. B. Patwardhan, Chairman NAAC addressing the participants in the workshop during the special session

Honorable MIC Shri Bratya Basu delivering his speech in the special session

missioner, Dept. of Higher Education gave account of the accreditation status of the higher education institutes in the state. They also stressed upon the initiatives taken by the government in encouraging the institutes to participate in the assessment procedure of NAAC to ensure quality. Prof. Patwardhan, Chairman NAAC, in his address, congratulated the state administration for promulgating the quality culture in the higher education institutes. He highlighted the changing scenario in the education sector in the country to meet the requirements of the society at large.

The workshop had two technical sessions which were addressed by Dr. L. Manjunatha Rao, Deputy Adviser, NAAC

and Dr. Ruchi Tripathi, Assistant Adviser, NAAC. Prof. Amitava Datta, Director, IQAC, JU initiated the proceedings of the technical sessions by welcoming the participants. Prof. Koushiki Dasgupta, Vice Chairman (Academic), WBSCHE chaired the first technical session. During this session, Dr. Tripathi elaborated the methodology of the present framework of NAAC. She explained the process of registering the institutions in the NAAC portal and the step by step procedures to be followed in the form of a flow chart. Both Dr. Tripathi and Dr. Rao described in details the various key indicators and metrics for the Universities and affiliated colleges.

The second technical session of the workshop was chaired by Prof. Chiranjib Bhattacharjee, Pro Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University. In this session, Dr. Rao discussed the Data Validation and Verification (DVV) procedure, which is conducted by independent partners, following the submission of the SSR. He explained the mechanism of DVV clarification based on the DVV report which the institutes have to address within a stipulated time.

An extensive Q&A (Question and Answer) session was held following the formal presentations. Both the NAAC experts patiently addressed the queries being raised. Finally, Prof. Amitava Datta and Prof. Koushiki Dasgupta, Vice Chairman (Academic), WBSCHE on behalf of the

organizers, thanked the NAAC experts and the participants for the intensive deliberations and interactions held over the workshop. They also sincerely thanked NAAC for sponsoring the workshop.

More than one hundred participants from different Universities, autonomous and affiliated colleges of West Bengal physically participated in the workshop. The proceedings of the workshop were streamed live through a YouTube link and another nearly 90 participants joined the event and viewed it online.

A view of the participants engrossed in the discussion during the workshop

IQAC developed online paperless CAS software

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) has developed a software for the application by the teachers for promotion under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) following the guidelines of the Government of West Bengal dated 07.12.2017. The development was carried out by Ms. Sayantani Chakraborty, Program Assistant of IQAC with the assistance of a team comprising faculty members and officer. The software has been built using Django which is a high level back-end server-side web framework written in Python. The developers have also used an advanced, enterprise class, open source relational database (ORDBMS) named PostgreSQL that is currently one of the most popular database management systems. The languages used for the visual aspects of the website or the front-end are mainly HTML, CSS and jQuery. The following are the key features and tangible benefits out of the development.

▶ The CAS Application has been divided into eight broad categories/parameters and the applicant can save their data section-wise without completing the entire application in one go.
▶ For supporting documents, the applicant can provide relevant web links or use Google Drive for storing and sharing of documents. This will significantly reduce the server space usage and also the size of the final document.

▶ The most significant feature of the software is the automated API calculation for all the criteria based on various benchmarks. The applicants can view their calculated self-appraisal score for each and individual data and also the total score received for each metric. After completing the application, there is a summary sheet that will inform the applicant about the score and status of each API category.
▶ Another important feature is the concurrent generation of a PDF document after completing the mandatory parameters. This document will contain all the information entered by the applicant with relevant scores and also have the links for the supporting documents so that it will be easy for both the applicant and the reviewer to verify the documents seamlessly.

In addition, the software will offer some other benefits as well. Through this software, the University will be able to preserve data in a structured manner and build a repository for the future. The process will also offer a standardization of the existing regulations for promotion under CAS. It will make the promotion application process paperless and fast. This is in line with the University's pledge towards sustainability, saving in carbon footprint for the mitigation of climate change.

Interaction with German Institutes

Internal Quality Assurance Cell of Jadavpur University organized an interactive meeting between the University departments and a few German institutes, led by DAAD New Delhi, as a part of the matchmaking session for academic and research collaboration on 10th November, 2022 at the Committee Room No. 1 of Aurobindo Bhavan. The German team was led by Dr. Katja Lasch, Director, DAAD, India and had representatives from the Universities of Applied Science, Erfurt, Dresden and Muenster, Berlin School of Economics and Law. Prof. Chiranjib Bhattacharjee, Pro Vice-Chancellor led the Jadavpur University team. The Deans and teachers of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology and Faculty of Interdisciplinary studies, Law and Management attended the meeting. Finance Officer and Joint Registrar were also present in the meeting. Director, IQAC and a team of faculty members of JU coordinated the event.

Both sides elaborated their respective strength, facilities and requirements for academic exchange showing interest for collaboration in the form of student and staff exchange, summer and winter schools, study and excursion trips, internships of students, joint postgraduate thesis guidance, collaborative research etc. The members present in the meeting deliberated on their respective research interests and some common interest areas cropped up.

Meeting with Chairman NBA

IQAC, JU organized an interactive meeting with Prof. K.K. Agarwal, Chairman, National Board of Accrdedita-tion (NBA) on 12th August, 2022 to discuss various issues of NBA Accreditation process. Prof. Suranjan Das, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JU presided over the meeting. The meeting was attended by Prof. Chiranjib Bhattachar-jee (Pro-VC), Prof. Chandan Majumdar (Dean, FET), Dr. Snehamanju Basu (Registrar), Mr. G.K.Pattanayak (Finance Officer), Dr. Sanjay Gopal Sarkar (Joint Registrar), and Head of the Departments & senior faculty members of the Faculty of Engineering & Technology and Faculty of ISLM. Prof. Suranjan Das introduced the speaker & highlighted the relevance & importance of accreditations and rankings for HEIs under the present context.

Prof. Agarwal during his talk gave a broad insight of the NBA accreditation methodology for the Tier-I institutes, like JU. He elaborated the philosophy of Outcome Based Education system highlighting its relevance for the overall improvement of teaching-learning quality in higher education. He emphasized on the participation of different stakeholders in the enhancement of quality of academic programs. and also on taking feedback for identifying the potential areas of improvement. He later participated in an extensive Q&A session when he patiently answered to the questions raised by different faculty members on quality assessment, benchmarking & NBA accreditation.

Faculty Accolades

AWARDS, HONOURS, AND RECOGNITION

▶ Prof. Ranjan Ganguly has been elected a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering.

▶ Prof. Pulak Sengupta was awarded a fellowship (August to October, 2022) by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to continue his collaborative research on the Metamorphic Evolution of the Mesoarchaean Singhbhum Craton and the adjoining rocks of the Palaeoproterozoic North Singhbhum Mobile Belt. The work was conducted at the Dept. of Geochemistry and Mineralogy, University of Cologne with Prof. Reiner Kleindschrodt.

▶ Prof. Sudipta De was awarded 'Shiksharatna Award 2022' by the Government of West Bengal on 5th September 2022.

▶ Prof. Sudipta De has been elected Fellow of the International Society for Energy, Environment and Sustainability.

▶ Prof. Nandadulal Bairagi, Professor and Coordinator Centre for Mathematical Biology & Ecology visited Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea, under Yonsei Frontier Program for Outstanding Scholars, for collaborative research.

▶ Prof. Susmita Ghosh was invited as a Technology, Industry and Education (TIE) Forum Speaker to the 42nd International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

▶ Prof. Papita Das was awarded STE Water Award in the Inaugural session of the International Conference on Green Energy and Sustainable Environmental Technology (GESET-2022), Bhubaneswar.

▶ Prof. Rajat Chakraborty was awarded Sisir Kumar Mitra Memorial Award for the second best paper published in the IIChE's Journal Indian Chemical Engineer for the article entitled "Optimisation of accelerated biodiesel production under near infrared radiation from de-oiled mustard and sunflower cakes" published in Indian Chemical Engineer, Volume 63, Issue 2 (2021), Pages: 152-160.

▶ 42 Faculty Members of Jadavpur University featured in the World Ranking of Top 2% most cited Scientists (2022) published by a group of researchers of Stanford University and Elsevier in various fields of research based on career long impact.

Achievements

Faculty & students of Geological Science

▶ **Dr. Sadhana M Chatterjee** was awarded the SERB International Research Experience fellowship for the year 2022-2023 supported by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology, GOI. Under this fellowship, she worked from July, 2022 to November 2023 with Dr. Kaushik Das at the Earth and Planetary Science Program, Hiroshima University, Japan.

▶ **Swarnendu Mandal and Aditi Ghosh** (both PG II) secured an overall 3rd position as a team in the Mineral Development Awareness Program (MDAP) 2022, organized by the Society of Geoscientists and Allied Technologists (SGAT) held during 26th to 28th August, 2022 at Joda, Odisha.

▶ **Madhumay Roy** (PwG II) secured 1st position in Western Instrumental Music (solo; Guitar) and Swarnendu Mandal (PG II) secured 1st position in Classical Instrumental Music (solo; Sarod) in the 36th Inter University East Zone Youth Festival, Kriti Utsav organized by Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) at Bhubaneswar from 23rd to 27th December, 2022.

The Way Forward for an Academic Institution – as I See It Today

By **Dr Sivaji Chakravorti**, *Professor of Electrical Engineering, Jadavpur University*[1]

The academic institutions being the pillars of human resource development of a country, one cannot really overestimate the importance of redefining their goals to cater to the rapidly evolving needs of training and educating the future global citizens. While each premier institution has its unique background, demography, and core, they share a large set of common issues and challenges. It is therefore essential to redesign the institutional roadmap and curate it for a holistic development of the institutions and the society at large. It is quite possible that such a development can emerge from a multi-faceted approach, which optimally harnesses the existing institutional resources to buttress each cornerstone of academic excellence. In the following discourse, I share my view on some selected attributes, which contribute to institutional excellence.

Diversity and Range of Programs:

The diversity and range of programs depend on whether it is at the UG or PG level. At the UG level a program is required to (a) provide flexibility to the student to try different subjects depending upon their interest and intended core competence, (b) give opportunity to focus students' energy on the major/program and (c) keep students' options open in the cases they find it difficult to narrow down what they want to do, what's next, or which organization to work for in the future. On the other hand, at the PG level the program needs to (a) offer deep knowledge and expertise, (b) empower a student to master a unique skill set and (c) enable a student to discover new ground-breaking research or ideas (could be a start-up in future), while it may have limited flexibility and a heavier workload.

Multidisciplinary courses are to be initiated in the institution to cater to the emerging needs of industries, research institutions, government organizations and the society. Need of the hour is to have academic programs with global perspective in terms of conceptual and application dimensions.It is also imperative to foster strong linkage between humanities and social science with science and technology for lasting societal benefits. It is not surprising that most high-tech employers presently look for candidates, who have taken courses that blend well the soft skills and perceptions – the hallmarks of humanities courses – with the core technical skills and knowledge, so that their future employees can succeed better in the professional arena.

Curriculum Enrichment:

Competency-based learning may be incorporated in the institution curriculum as a means of curriculum enrichment. It is a relatively modern approach to learning design and is gaining rapid popularity among educational institutions worldwide since it shows a definite improvement in job-oriented skills for students. Enrichment doesn't necessarily translate into more work; rather, it provides meaningful instruction at a higher level.

Competency-based learning (a) is flexible as students can move at their own pace, (b) supports students with diverse learning curves, knowledge backgrounds, and other related aptitudes, (c) prepares the students with the necessary skills to succeed as adults and (d) allows students to take responsibility for their education. It ensures that students are better prepared to face work-related challenges later in life. Apart from helping students develop and demonstrate mastery over a topic, a competency-based curriculum also builds a culture of equity and inclusivity and adequately prepares students for life-long learning.

Research Niche:

Research niche is a specialized corner of the academic field, where the researcher has potential to conduct research and create important, new knowledge over a significant period of time, e.g., a decade. On the one hand, the researcher may be tempted to stay away from crowded, overly competitive areas and to work in a niche area, while on the other it has to be kept in mind that some niches are untouched because these are inconsequential. While identifying a niche is imperative for new investigators, it also is a sage strategy for experienced researchers, who are changing/readjusting course. Strategic actions include (a) readiness to embark in an unchartered direction, (b) networking early to not only listen to the buzz and to brainstorm, but to get feedback on the strengths and skills necessary and (c) get opinion from experienced people about research niches and future opportunities.

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1.   Former Director, National Institute of Technology Calicut

Research Policy:

An academic institution requires a well-drafted research policy to sensitize, guide, encourage, fund, support and monitor core and interdisciplinary research. This policy is expected to not only deal with prioritizing research areas and funding resources, but also to meet the growing economic, demographic and social pressures on institutional research. It should also enable the institution to shoulder the increasing accountability of research, prudently deal with ethical dilemmas, and bring into perspective the broader societal implications. It is a prudent policy to envision institutional research as complimentary to teaching. It would be a tool to facilitate leveraging technology for seeking opportunity amidst adversity, to do more with less leading to better functionality and productivity for the creation of national wealth.

Curiosity-driven Research and Design Thinking:

Curiosity-driven research leads to use-oriented solutions. The idea of curiosity-driven research is that it explores nature and our place within it, and that can often lead to practical benefits. Never accepting what seems obvious, one can always look deeper and more thoroughly at a problem. That curiosity allows us to have opportunities that one wouldn't get if one just accepted the results and never asked "why?" Design Thinking is a powerful process of problem solving that begins with understanding unmet user needs. From that insight emerges a process for innovation that encompasses concept development, applied creativity, prototyping, and experimentation. When design thinking approaches are applied to business, the success rate for innovation improves substantially and transfer of institutional research to market becomes feasible.

It is necessary that we innovate by design and not by accident, adopt agile developmental practices to collaborate and to produce high-quality output, evaluate and optimize output, ensure operational excellence by continuously monitoring performance and create a high-performance culture.

National and International Collaborations and Networking:

Keeping in view that we are fast approaching a regime that is cited as "The World is Flat," national and international collaborations and networking are increasingly looked up as a viable platform that the institution should bolster related to its students, faculty, and staff engagement. These activities could establish faculty research cooperation, cooperative degree programs that draw international students, and extend opportunities to its own students to study and conduct research at other institutions within and outside India. Such collaboration not only accelerate research, but also foster cultural diversity amongst participating institutes.

The institution need to be proactive in developing and deepening partnerships, i.e., the institution should strategically reach out and seek opportunities for institutional collaboration and partnerships instead of just waiting for the prospective collaborators to come to the institution with ideas .

Strategic actions may include (a) identifying synergistic partnerships with inputs from the institutional academic bodies, (b) recognizing whether multiple departments and research centres have overlapping interest and are willing to commit to the partnership, (c) assessing how the partnership impacts the institution in terms of enhancing institution's reputation or revenue, (d) realizing if the partnership is relevant to the institution in socially relevant ways, (e) reaching out to partners to gauge their interest and to visit partner institutes to familiarize with their research/resources/opportunities, (f) assigning competent point of contact person in the institutional departments to facilitate the partnership, (g) forming an Institutional Council on Collaborative Initiatives that should serve as a potential resource to guide future institutional decisions on collaborative and networking partner and (h) endorsing appropriate weightage on collaboration and networking activities for appraisals and career advancement.

There should be a clear signal to all stakeholders that collaboration and networking add to institutional values in terms of its academic enrichment and national and international visibility.

Co-operate, Co-Create and Co-Execute:

Co-creation is the practice of co-operating with partners in concept development and the decision-making process. Even the best strategic plans can fall flat without the right execution. Hence, the decisions co-created on problem solving should be co-executed by proper handholding of partners.

Strategic actionable items could be (a) to take inputs on cutting edge research from large entrepreneurs and (b) to give frugal innovation inputs to small entrepreneurs, so that they can do more with less. It would be pertinent to mention here that two major criteria for frugal innovation are core functionalities and optimized performance level in addition to cost reduction.

Recruitment of Top Talents as Faculties and Resource Persons:

Contrary to traditional belief, the institution should realize that recruiting is selling and, hence, it is imperative to highlight the institution's selling points. In order to attract

top-notch faculties, the institution must find something uniquely interesting for them that sets it apart from other institutions. It is important that a prospective faculty clearly understands that there are appropriate resources available on campus and in the community. A prospective faculty will be more likely to want to work with the institution if he/she knows in advance the opportunities the institution offers.

Today's faculties, particularly top talents, value work-life balance and want to feel valued in addition to getting competitive salary. They appreciate it when flexible work schedules, career opportunities like on-the-job training and performance related promotions are offered. These faculties also appreciate opportunities to assume leadership roles on important institutional committees.

It would be beneficial to brief every potential candidate on what the institutional community offers. The candidates need to be informed about what it is like to live where the institution is located, giving them information that deals with issues related to travel, eateries, recreation, quality of education their children can have, the level of health care available in this community or even the career opportunities that their spouses would have in and around the campus. Candidates may also be made aware of what their salary can purchase in the concerned place. A Multicultural Resource Directory could be developed for this purpose. A person relocating, who has the full support of their family, is more likely to have a healthy tenure at the institution. There should be a strong mentoring program to support spouses and children, who are generally more likely to find the new place as "chilly" and "alienating". Building an environment that is perceived inclusive to outstation people will go a long way in helping a person to feel safe and comfortable in their new position. A sense of rejuvenation and freedom is very crucial, or else it would become a traditional workplace of 9-to-5. It is preferable that the institution helps them unwind as well. Happy faculties perform better and they help the institution to attract top talent by showing the potential faculties that they could also thrive at this institution.

Admission of Meritorious National and International Students:

The rapidly evolving digital landscape is changing the ball-game for universities. An institution can no longer rest on its laurels if it wants to attract meritorious national and international students. The institution needs to be different in order to more effectively attract global student pool through a keen focus on value-added admission and orientation solutions.

While it may be safe to assume that the millennials and Gen-Z revert to social media for all their institution related research, the official website of an institution is still a major driving force. Therefore, it is essential to have an updated, optimized website that makes it easy to navigate and enjoyable for site visitors to browse, find informative materials, and read relevant content. Mobile-friendliness is another key feature of the website so that prospective students can access the institution website even on the go so as to gain an interest in the institution. A student should get the feeling that the institution provides an ethnically and culturally diverse environment.

Choosing the right institution is truly a massive decision for national and international students, and hence they weigh everything before taking any decision. By providing mobile app-based virtual tours of the institution, the facilities, campus, and much more, the institution can reach out to national and international students from afar and show them exactly what is on offer. It is a good practice to integrate lots of dynamic content such as blogs, short video stories, and webinars into the mobile app, where data representation could be through infographics as they get shared more. Potential national and international students should believe that a degree earned in the institution equates to better career placement and advancement.

Solid social proof is powerful now-a-days from product reviews to feedback from guests. Nobody is going to make a rash decision on their future institution without doing some digging around to see what other people are saying about the institution. Having current students or alumni come forward to act as advocates for the institution is excellent. With the advent of technology and popular media today, an institution can leverage that for maximum effect.

Good content marketing forges great relationship with the students – past, present or future. By embracing new technologies and strategies geared towards a predominantly young, digital-savvy audience, the institution can look to stand out from the pack with innovative social marketing. The key is to concentrate on the platforms that are most effective for connecting with the target audience and creating content – in many formats - that resonates.

National and International Accreditation of Programs as well as Positions in National and International Rankings:

Accreditation ensures that the institution has sufficient resources, faculty, facilities and student services. But accreditation goes beyond counting the numbers. Accreditation helps potential students, their families and their possible employers to place a certain level of trust on the institution. Accreditation agencies look for different attributes depending on the type of discipline. However, all disciplines are subject to some overarching principles of accreditation that

span disciplines and form the foundation for the process. Hence, for an institution it is essential to have a rigorous internal review program to ensure that accreditation attributes, which are common to different disciplines, are continually being met, while discipline-specific attributes are improved over the years.

However, quality has many different aspects (teaching, research, societal impact, etc.) and is highly dependent on geographic and disciplinary contexts and is not necessarily the same across all parts of even a single institution (faculties, institutes and degree programmes). Different ranking frameworks use different weightages on ranking attributes. It is necessary to have a dedicated institutional team to do SWOC analysis for each ranking framework vis-à-vis the ranking attributes and suggest as well as monitor the annual activities. A proper trend analysis of attribute-wise scores and yearly rank of different institutions can give important guidelines for annual course of actions.

Optimized Utilization of Available Resources:

▶ Three actionable areas could be To employ data-driven decision making in financial planning and resource allocation. Data-driven finance is not just about running the numbers more efficiently. It is about optimizing performance through broader and deeper visibility into operations, more insightful analysis and more rigorous, fact-based decision making.

▶ Bringing improvement in procedures, processes and policies for increasing efficiency, e.g., specifying process details and checklist of documents for activity completion.

▶ Having an institutional review process that is of high quality and integrity.

In the end, I would like to state that most of the aforementioned actionable items can be adopted by an institution (some to the fullest while some in part) despite having limited resources. At the same time, I would also like to mention that quite a few other attributes, which lead to academic excellence of an institution, have not been touched upon in this article for the sake of brevity.

I perceive an excellent academic institution to be similar to a building having tomorrow inside.

Student Success Story
The Go-Kart (MV-K1.0)

Team XLR8, the Motorsports Club of Jadavpur University found a bigger motive for its existence and set its name in stone in the history of this prestigious university. Under the supervision of Dr. Dipankar Sanyal and Dr. Achintya Mukhopadhay, the common interests grew into passion. Soon it changed into an inter-disciplinary club and we started our journey towards our dream – the first vehicle of Jadavpur University, *The Go-Kart, or rather The MV-K1.0*.

31st December, 2022 was the day when MV-K1.0's engine revved for the first time and the wheels turned as they did for our dream to come true. On 1st January, second trials were done and the vehicle ran with zero flaws. 3rd January, 2023 was the convocation date for the batch of 2021 and in the honour of them, Jadavpur University Motorsports Club launched MV-K1.0 in the JU Open Air Theatre to one and all. The crowd-attention and enthusiasm was beyond expectation, and not only did our popularity rose to unforeseen heights but also we were approached by media members of Telegraph. They took a detailed coverage of our team and the project and on 4th January, 2023, JUMSC got its name etched on a national newspaper.

Currently Team XLR8 is fully focused on the electric vehicle venture, of which the chassis and other aspect designs are almost completed. Full-fledged in-house manufacturing will start soon and it will be launched within the second half of 2023. State-of-the-art infrastructure, proper monetary support and the best of the best supervision can help the club to grow unlike never dreamt of.

The first car of Jadavpur University was financed by alumni of JU.
Location: Open Air Theatre, JU, Degree Awarding Ceremony (Convocation)

MOUs Signed

Company Name	Date of Execution & Duration	Type of Collaboration
IKP Knowledge Park	13/06/2022 (for 5 years)	Collaboration for various services without limitation to intellectual property, technology transfer, licensing, sponsored research, spin off formation support, contract drafting and review, IP awareness and commercialization of technology.
PRADIP : Centre for Autism Management	24/06/2022 (for 5 years)	Two years course entitled 'Bachelor of Education. Special Education (Autism Spectrum Disorder)(B.Ed. Spl.Ed (ASD))'
Institute Of Engineering & Management (IEM)	05/07/2022 (for 4 years)	One month certificate course in VLSI Design & Microelectronics Technology
Babes-Bolyai University	07/07/2022 (for 5 years)	Academic and educational cooperation and Erasmus+ Programme
The British Library Board	07/07/2022 (for 2 years)	Project on "Endangered Archives Programme - Regional Network Hubs"
Jadavpur University Alumni Association (Bombay Branch)	25/07/2022 (for 5 years)	Supporting research activities in the form of financial contribution
The Sch. Of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University	28/07/2022 (for 5 years)	Drug discovery and translational medicine research
M/S HIMAAYUSH	28/07/2022 (for 3 years)	Various research projects including multiple prototype products or samples for conducting preclinical in-vivo and ex-vivo studies
Firefront Foods Private Limited	28/07/2022 (for 5 years)	Various research works to develop health related products
Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute (SGCCRI)	29/07/2022 (for 5 years)	Research programme entitled "Ph.D. Programme in Basic & Translational Research"
Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)	27/07/2022 (for 6 months)	Preparation of an Inventory of Waterbodies in Kolkata Municipal Corporation by executing ground verification of NRSA(Aerial) Map and its correction with KMC Tank List
Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC)	29/08/2022 (for 2 years)	Academic collaboration in Research and Education focusing on a long-term institutional partnership in research on Single-Photon Emission Computerized Tomography (SPECT)
Tata Steel Limited	18/10/2022 (for 3 months)	Project titled as - Determination of heat transfer and phase transformation of hot-rolled steel in run-out table: Mathematical modelling and laboratory scale experiments

Company Name	Date of Execution & Duration	Type of Collaboration
Dhirubhai Ambani Institute Of Information & Connunication Tech.	02/11/2022 (for 3 years)	Academic and Research collaboration
National Remote Sensing Centre, ISRO, GOI	07/11/2022 (6 months)	Study of energy budget and its effect on carbon fluxes in East Kolkata Wetlands – A Ramsar Site
Bengal Institute Of Pharmaceutical Sciences	09/11/2022 (for 3 years)	4 years Bachelor of Pharmacy (Ayurveda) (B. Pharm-Ayur) Degree Course
Cardiff School Of Technologies	23/11/2022 (for 5 years)	Academic and Research Collaboration

Projects Sanctioned

Name of the PI	Department	Title of the Project	Name of the Funding Agency	Amount Sanctioned (₹)
Prof. Papita Das	Chemical Engineering	Bacteria doped aerogel/xerogel bioreactor for organic pollutants separation	SERB DST	29,90,900
Prof. Susmita Ghosh	Computer Science and Engineering	Software Reliability and Security Risk Assessment: Modeling and Algorithms	IDEAS (TIH@ISI Kolkata)	66,00,000
Prof. Kunal Roy	Pharmaceutical Technology	Based Expert Systems for Ligand -Based Virtual Screening of Drug Like Substances against Various Toxicity Endpoints in a Non- animal Alternative Approach	LSRB, DRDO	18,68,400
Prof. Kunal Roy	Pharmaceutical Technology	Read-across predictions of property and ecotoxicity endpoints of selected classes of chemicals	GPC Regulatory India Private Limited	27,22,500
Dr. Swagata Paul	Geological Science	Molecular taphonomy of animal-derived macromolecules from the Early Paleogene successions of western India	Inspire Faculty Fellowship Scheme	35,00,000
Dr. Samir Karmakar	Sch. of Languages and Linguistics	A reappraisal of endangered and lesser-known marginalized linguistic communities of North Bengal & Jungle Mahal in WB	ILSR, WB Govt., & Bangla Academy	5,00,000

University is for 'Research' And Teaching for Human-Social-Knowledge Capital Building: Sharing Good Practices from Jadavpur University

By **Dr. Joyashree Roy**, *Former Professor of Economics, Jadavpur University*[1]

"In a university job I get a chance to teach what I research on" was my reply to the Dean who as an interview board member asked me with his unique politeness 'why you want to leave your college job under Calcutta University and join Jadavpur University as there is going to be no pay hike, no title change'? As a state university, Jadavpur University could offer a beautiful green campus with full of biodiversity, a vibrant campus full of life and actions, full of thinking minds to interact with in a creative space with full freedom. Jadavpur University (JU) has a very exceptional uniqueness because of its inspirational history of coming into existence as an institution of higher education, it gives scope for deeper and longer vertical integration of minds due to the presence of brilliant and outstanding undergraduate student population.

Research creates 'public good'

Research, be it by one individual's private effort or a team's effort, outcome is for the benefit of everybody and thus the outcome of research falls within the category of public good. So, historical tradition of allocating public money for research has a clear justification. Invention of the light bulb was by an individual but for all these year and years to come human race will enjoy the benefit. Research is a process of accumulating knowledge and application of accumulated knowledge to help create new knowledge be it in technology development, understanding social change or development or humanity's progress or blue-sky research. Many countries have adopted good practices of including well researched and designed teaching-learning-training programmes even from the first grade of schooling to inculcate the independent creative thinking minds in children. These efforts are strategically planned around the defined national goals of leading humanities progress by building the most important productive base of their economies: human, social, knowledge capital to value add through innovating physical capital making best use of their natural capital. At JU we experimented by introducing rigorous two semester long research component for undergraduate students in the Economics Department more than two decades back. Success was easy to evaluate from students' feedback, analytic job/recruiting agencies' enthusiasm and vertical movement of these self-motivated students in pursuing extremely successful research careers. NEP 2020 mentions about research after undergraduate degree. But we need to understand it is not about short-circuiting research after undergraduate degree and reducing total schooling years and research time which is actually reverse of what economics of higher education research for human capital building says. If as a nation we want to engage in serious research and knowledge driven socio-economic development in the 21st century we need to plan better the road map of higher education sector's growth path and associated investment to take advantage of demographic dividend of India. NEP 2020 needs to see in the national interest how to provide innovative solutions to grant handsome financial support for training and keeping young minds on research track within the country for longer time and avoid brain drain from academic research. I can share one of the models which we followed within JU to leverage research fund, especially for Social science an humanities research which anyway has lowest fund allocation, to complement the limited public money for a State University that flow routinely. Before I share the example let me say, what I really liked about NEP is the candid recognition of the fact that, I quote, "Despite the critical importance of research, the research and innovation investment in India is, at the current time, only 0.69% of GDP as compared to 2.8% in the United States of America, 4.3% in Israel and 4.2% in South Korea." Further it says, "Unfortunately, public expenditure on education in India has not come close to the recommended level of 6% of GDP, as envisaged by the 1968 Policy, reiterated in the Policy of 1986, and which was

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1. ICSSR National Fellow.
2. Founder advisor to JU-SYLFF programme and Global Change Programme of Jadavpur University.
3. Bangabandhu Chair Professor (2018-2022) and Founder Director of South and South East Asia Multi-disciplinary Applied Research Network for Transforming Societies of Global South (SMARTS), Asian Institute of technology, Thailand.

further reaffirmed in the 1992 review of the Policy. The current public (Government - Centre and States) expenditure on education in India has been around 4.43% of GDP (Analysis of Budgeted Expenditure 2017-18) and only around 10% of the total Government spending towards education (Economic Survey 2017-18). These numbers are far smaller than most developed and developing countries." But what I did not like is I could not find concrete steps on how this will be leveraged? It does talk about New institutional arrangement but without clear road map of allocating more fund for the research in Higher Education institutions which can bring in return for reinvestment in the sector on a spiraling basis for national interest. I think ensuring this and doing publicly funded research on this particular aspect of NEP 2020 is an urgent need to inform concrete policy making.

Philanthropy and private endowments for research and higher education

While speaking as an invited panelist in The Times Higher Education, India Forum event I said without reinventing the wheel we can see many examples from the very long history of Indian educational institutions to shape our actions and policies and cited the example of Jadavpur University. It was with private endowment money for the higher educational institution in early 20th century after the Partition of Bengal in 1906 which led to the birth of Jadavpur University in Independent India. This revolutionary spirit of enlightened leading personalities from Bengal at that time aimed for creating thinking minds with hearts for independent nation building, who can critically analyze societal needs and apply modern training in science and technology to innovate indigenously the socially relevant solutions independent of support from the colonial power. So private endowment was mobilized for creating public good through research and teaching. True, in the past JU emerged out of a revolutionary private spirit for public good creation and now in Independent India we do have options to create our own policies and regulations to mobilise private fund for public good creation for strengthening and accelerating national progress. JU is cited by me to flag the issue that today in independent India when we mobilise private fund for higher education we should not lose sight of the fact that it is for strengthening and expanding the efforts towards 'quality public good creation'. India in this century will be the only country with highest number of young people so for both national and global good these young minds will need to be motivated, engaged and nurtured without leaving behind any one, for contributing positively to building a bright future for humanity as a whole. So, India cannot afford to fail or even be allowed to fail in this process of human capital building in many more decades to come. It should be a real busy peri-

od for all of those who are in higher education sector now so that we are on right track for human-social-knowledge capital building for greater good. India today inherits a very rich base of moderately publicly funded higher education institutions. In sheer numbers need for institutions to accommodate the growing population needs to be no less than four /five times higher if we want to provide equitable access to every aspiring individual a space in higher education. So, there is need for more investment and additional institutions. These are rightly acknowledged in NEW 2020. But I feel NEP 2020 while creating this space for private funds to flow need to regulate it in such a way so the ultimate goal of creating public good through affordable and equitable access of a growing number is met. It also needs emphasis that regulation is necessary, but for implementation we need dialogue, debate, transparent intellectual discourse everyday across institutions for cross fertilization of ideas so that 'public good creation' goal is not lost in the rush. It is not the time for unhealthy competition but for collaboration. Based on my observations, experience from what I hear and read between the lines I find there is like 'gold rush' centuries back there are many new entrants in this new field of investment but not all are following the 'ideal' path of creating public good in higher education space for free minds to interact and grow. True, many publicly funded institutions also need monitoring and evaluation, new rules for rejuvenation but definitely not closure through stopping fund flow as they will lead to huge national loss in the form of stranded asset. Public money for educational infrastructure building, scholarship for merit and equity are the base of an economy.

Getting into the research networks for bridging the science policy gap

It is like achieving summit for a mountaineer. It is an accumulation of experience and practice and small steps and above all the tenacity and will, which build the final confidence and capacity to aim for the summit be it in El Capitan or in Mt. Everest. As researcher we need many dedicated steps, failed steps, to build verifiable record of contributions, however small it may be, for advancing knowledge base in a subject/discipline/field of study. Public universities in India despite perennial fund crunch since independence saw very gradual but steadily rising public fund flow to build research capacity within the universities. With those small funds many of us built our research outputs, published them in international journals which used to look for   high quality original contributions through rigorous peer review and did not ask for money to publish them. Now the situation has changed majority need APC (article processing charges), a new phenomenon in knowledge product creation which is definitely NOT an inclusive process for creating 'public good'. Again, I do not

want to digress and become judgmental on that aspect in this article. Jadavpur University with its excellent faculty profile and through hardwork and dedication with such small funds created a rich human capacity to build their research profile. These faculties working with their students raised more money (corporate, foreign, industry, line ministries both central and state) for targeted research for national development. Adopted villages, communities to enhance their social mobility.

As, humanity is progressing by breaking barriers of everyday living, to attain better quality of life complexity is increasing and solution to problems is demanding collaboration among many thinking minds with in depth knowledge from various disciplines. Two major problems which are calling for design of solutions through such large global scale collaborative actions from research community are the increasing threat from 'climate change' and 'the transformative societal scale change'. Almost two decades back in 2001 and 2003, Jadavpur University became part of these two large scale collaborative processes. Through leadership and collective efforts mobilized, without any hidden string attached, a private endowment fund (SYLFF) from the Nippon Foundation, a Japanese non-profit foundation administered by the Tokyo Foundation under the approval of Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) aims to fund the best and brightest students worldwide intending to pursue higher education in social science and humanities with leadership potential. Starting from 1987 world-wide there are 69 SYLFF endowed universities and consortia in 44 countries. Jadavpur University was the first Indian institution to get the endowment and earn the SYLFF status. Jadavpur University competed for the fund by mobilizing it's faculties from various disciplines within Arts Faculty with its goal of sustained human resource development with the objective of creating a new generation of young minds with vision and knowledge who can see beyond the narrowly focused artificial boundaries of their disciplines, geography, cast, race, economic deprivation, social taboos and political ideologies. The objective of the programme is to support M.Phil and Ph.D students who are already with high potential for leadership in national, regional and international affairs, in public life but also for Masters level students who aspire to start research early in their career by awarding scholarships. Highest valued fellowships in India are awarded at JU to SYLFF fellows who are outstanding students majoring in social science and humanities and whose studies are relevant to contemporary Indian society and focus on broader theme of Tradition, Social change and Sustainable development and who adopt a holistic approach staying deeply rooted within their own disciplines. Recipients become part of global SYLFF network, get scope for global mobility to complete their research and eligible for life long opportunities to have access to various research funding. Till date 50 JU-SYLFF fellows could strengthened research and understanding of issues or problems relevant to contemporary Indian society by viewing human life, change in the context of economic, socio political, tradition and cultural perspective. Many of them have contributed in national and global policy formulation, operationalization of sustainable and holistic development. We need many more such endowments to fund our outstanding students. NEP framework need to incentivize such efforts within the universities through a participatory consultative. As I said we need to multiply number of institutions by a factor of four at least within this decade and should not lose any.

The success story of the climate change research and support from Jadavpur University in preparation of national communication to UNFCCC (United Nation's Framework Convention for Climate change) and contribution in Inter governmental panel for climate change (IPCC) over past two decades has been possible through moderate but steady fund flow of public money for research. Jadavpur University due to it's active engagement and contribution was identified as one of the Universities in National Knowledge Mission in National Climate Action Plan of 2008. Currently, in collaboration with national and international institutions the efforts are going on to develop Net Zero pathway for India and the states as a part of regional and global research network. This is also helping national modeling capacity building for young professionals.

JU provided free academic space for blue sky research, applied research, multidisciplinary research, trying hands in new frontier areas. What we learnt in the process is extremely important and can be helpful in NEP 2020 operationalization context. National public tax payers' money which is for a valid reason a traditional source for funding education in every country worldwide through national budgetary allocation, must grow as country prospers economically. NEP should aim for more budgetary allocation with quality control and incentive design for attracting more money for research within the univs. from all possible sources & by helping in network building for national human capital building. Collaborative research and independent/solo research both need to have their own spaces depending on what is the field and boundary of enquiry. There is no either or. We do need vertical growth in each discipline but horizontal interdisciplinary discourse and teams and collaboration to find solutions for simple and complex societal problems.

Institute Events

⚡ Tree plantation drive -CHSP-JU

Centre for Human Settlement Planning (CHSP), Dept. of Architecture, JU collaborated with Centre for Contemporary Communication (CCC), a registered Society, for a tree plantation program in the boulevards of Southern Avenue, Kolkata. This is one of the many upcoming events *aiming for a green, clean, and climate-ready Kolkata.* Final year students of B. Architecture voluntarily participated in this event held on 20th November 2022. They had previously mapped the boulevards and prepared a base plan showing the existing trees and other objects.

⚡ AICSSYC'22

Adorned with legacy and acclaimed by industry leaders and professionals all over the world, AICSSYC'22 yet again stood up to its fame as the members of IEEE JU SB successfully organized this grand event from 17th December, 2022 to 19th Decemeber, 2022. Hosted by Sun City Resort, Mandarmani, *this event witnessed the assembly of students, young professionals, industry leaders and erudite professors from a variety of tracks.* It consisted of keynote speeches delivered by domain experts, such as Mr. Eric Berkowitz (Director Of Membership, IEEE Computer Society), Mrs. Nita Patel (President of IEEE Computer Society), Mr. Shivam Abhilash (Vice Chair, IEEE CS SYP), Mr. Md. Kassim (R&D Manager, MIMOS Berhard) and Prof. Sarbani Roy (CSE dept., JU), and hands-on sessions in various tracks such as AR-VR , AIML conducted by field experts, such as Arijit Hazra(CEO, Think Again Labs).

⚡ Pass The Mic

IEEE JU SB organized Pass the Mic event, the first week of the podcast session saw erudite professors from esteemed insts. & univ. share their valuable opinions about academia. Dr. Sandeep Chakraborty, IIT Kharagpur, Dr. Soham Chakraborty, IIT Roorkee & Dr. Kaushik, CU & the chair of IEEE Joint CSS-IMS Chapter in Kolkata, *shared their valuable insights about a wide variety of topics, from the future of AI to their respective career paths.* The second week of podcast saw the inventive genius of Mr. Jibin Sabu, product marketing manager at Kinect & ex-Microsoft & Google. He *shared tips about innovation & how to crack the Industry to all those budding innovators who dream of translating their well-nourished ideas into industrial success.*
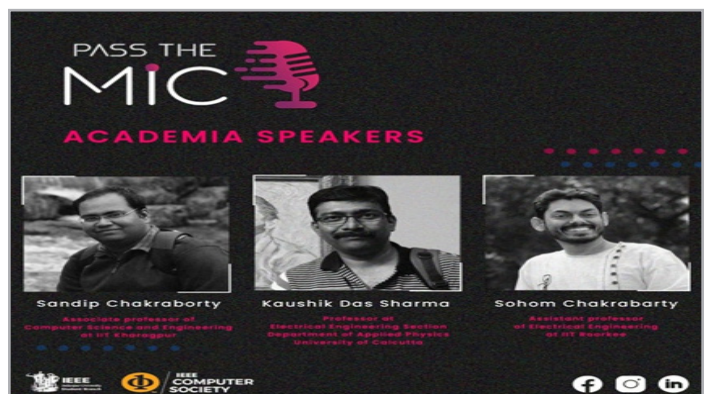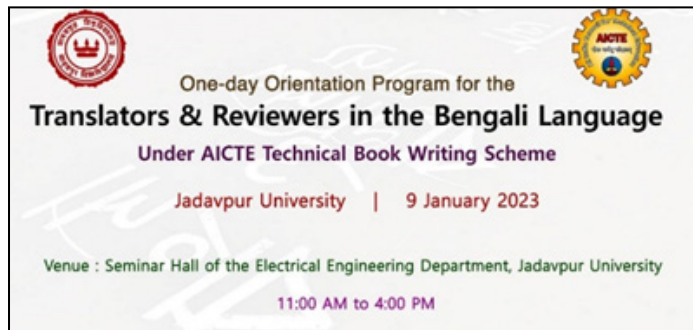
✍ Orientation Program on Technical Book Writing project in Regional Languages

Jadavpur University has been given the responsibility to conduct the translation of technical textbooks from English language into Bengali language by the AICTE. In this context, *JU in collaboration with AICTE organized an orientation programme on 09th January 2023 for the translators and reviewers of Engineering Technical books. The translations are being done in 12 Indian languages and JU is coordinating the translation of books in Bengali.* At present, translation of 46 books pertaining to the second-year diploma courses are to be done by the JU with the approximate project cost of INR 50 lacs.

The orientation program was conducted in hybrid mode. AICTE Vice Chairman Prof. M.P. Poonia, Prof. Chiranjib Bhattacharjee, Pro Vice Chancellor of JU, Advisor of the AICTE ATAL cell, Dr. Mamta K Agarwal, Director of ATAL cell Dr. Sunil Luthra, and Prof. Bhaskar Gupta, Dean of FET, JU were among the dignitaries present in the program.

Dr. Debangshu Dey, coordinator of the project for JU, Prof. Swarnendu Sen, Prof. Sovan Dalai, Prof. Pritam Aitch, Prof. Sudipta Chattopadhyay, Prof. Sarbani Roy and Mr. G. K. Pattanayak, Finance Officer of JU were also present as core members of this project execution team of Jadavpur University.

The program was attended by 72 eminent faculty members of different institutes of West Bengal.

One-day Orientation Program for the
Translators & Reviewers in the Bengali Language
Under AICTE Technical Book Writing Scheme
Jadavpur University | 9 January 2023
Venue : Seminar Hall of the Electrical Engineering Department, Jadavpur University
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

✍ **School of Women's Studies** in collaboration with Dancers' Guild organized VI Ranjabati Sircar Memorial Lecture on *"Folk Lavani/Vulgar Lavani: Gender, Performance and Hereditary Labour"* on 19th July, 2022 at Manjusri Sabhagriha, Mrittika, DD 19, Salt Lake. This memorial lecture was delivered by Dr. Anagha Tamble from Savitribai Phule University and chaired by Professor Madhuja Mukherjee from JU. The introductory lecture was delivered by Professor Aishika Chakraborty. More than one hundred participants were present in the program.

✍ School of Women's Studies organized Sulekha Dasgupta Memorial Lecture on *"Survival and Artistic Identity: Dichotomies for the Actress of the Bengali Stage"* on 21st September, 2022 at International Relations Seminar Hall, JU. This memorial lecture was delivered by Professor Sarvani Gooptu from Netaji Institute for Asian Studies, Kolkata and was chaired by Dr. Samarpita Mitra, JU. More than fifty participants joined the program.

✍ *Gender Mela 2022 Theme:* Satrang a collaborative Seminar organized by Kolkata Anandam in collaboration with the School of Women's Studies on 6th December, 2022 at Vivekananda Hall, Subarna Jayanti Bhavan, Jadavpur University. The one-day seminar celebrated pride and rhythm of Transgender Community through a series of academic talks followed by a cultural program.

✒ East Zone Inter University Tennis Tournament

In a gorgeous affair, *the Inaugural Program of the "East Zone Inter University Tennis (M&W) Tournament 2022-23" was held on 21 Nov. 2022 at 10.00 am at the BTA Tennis court.* The tournament is being jointly organized by Jadavpur University and Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata from 21-24 Nov. 2022 at the Bengal Tennis Association (BTA), Salt Lake, Kolkata under the auspices of Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

A stunning closing ceremony of the "East Zone Inter University Tennis (M&W) Tournament 2022-23" hosted jointly by Jadavpur University and Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata on 24 Nov. 2022 at 2.00 pm at the Bengal Tennis Association (BTA) Court, Salt Lake, Kolkata under the auspices of Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

Reception and Felicitation of Guests

✒ Hackathon 2022

The SERB-INAE Hackathon 2022 was organized jointly by SERB, INAE and Jadavpur University during 3-4 September 2022 at Jadavpur University, Kolkata. The event was financially supported by SERB and INAE. The objective of the event was to bring out the innovation and creative mindset amongst the undergraduate and postgraduate students from different engineering and science institutions of the country through their participation in this national-level, theme-based hackathon. This hackathon was a 30-hour non-stop event on four thematic areas.

Thematic areas

Participants were assigned cutting-edge problems related to four thematic areas:

► Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
► Big Data Computation
► Cyber Security
► Data Driven Finance

Progress of the event:

The registration process of the event was commenced on 3rdSeptember at 8.00 am. Subsequently, the inauguration of the event took place in the auditorium at 9.00 am. Prof. Rajib Bandyopadhyay welcomed Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, Vice President INAE, to formally inaugurate the event and express his views on the ideation process. Subsequently, Prof. Samiran Chattopadhyay briefed the problem statements and the process flow instructions for the participants. The participants spent the entire night in the hackathon venue.

On 4th September, after the completion of 30-hour hackathon, each team was given the opportunity of pitching their outcomes with results in front of jury members. At the end, score sheets were handed by the jury members over to Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti. Prof Indranil Manna, President INAE, and Prof Sandeep Verma, Secretary, SERB, and the Chief Guest of the program, joined virtually during the valedictory session that was held in hybrid mode. Both Prof. Manna and Prof. Verma emphasized on the importance of introducing digital gaming initiatives to young students. Prof Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University, *highlighted that this hackathon provided a platform to solve problems pertaining to the themes, which encompassed new and emerging areas of science and engineering.* On behalf of the organizers, Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti and Prof. Rajib Bandyopadhyay felicitated all the jury members and INAE members. In the end, Prof. Sandip Verma announced the names of the winners; a total of six Prizes were announced at the Hackathon in which Cash Prize of Rs 75,000 was announced to the winning team and Rs 50,000 to the runner-up.

✎ **Hello IEEE** event was organized by IEEE, JU student branch on 14th September, 2022 aiming towards *networking and learning from the global leaders on contemporary topics.* The event was packed with engaging sessions with the experts followed by multiple competitive tracks to engage and reward the attendees. Distinguished speakers for the event were Mr. Eric Berkowitz (Global Director of Membership of IEEE Computer Society, Washington), Mr. Shivam Abhilash (Vice Chair of MGAB for Students and Young Professionals at IEEE Computer Society), Prof. Sarbani Roy (Computer Science and Engineering Department, JU), Prof. Suparna Kar Chowdhury (Electrical Engineering Department, JU) and Mr. Sumanta Mukherjee (Product Manager of a Kolkata-based cybersecurity company). A quiz on various contemporary technological aspects was held along with an event of innovation where the participants tackled real world problems. Over 200 participants attended the event both virtually and in person.

✎ Pritilata Waddedar Memorial Lecture on *"Andhokarer Dinguli: Tetallisher Monnyontar O Bangali Meyera"* organized by School of Women's Studies in collaboration with Biplabtirtha Chattagram Smriti Sangstha on 8th December, 2022 at Seminal Hall, Adult Counseling, Rabindra Bhavan, JU. This memorial lecture was delivered by Dr. Bhaswati Chatterjee from Vidyasagar College and chaired by Dr. Sudeshna Banerjee from JU.
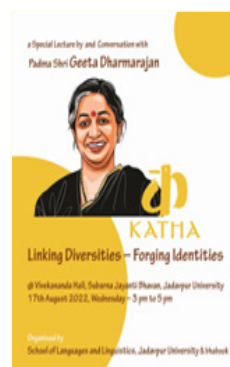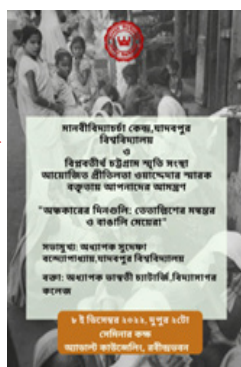
✎ School of Languages & Linguistics organized a special lecture and conversation with Padma Shri Geeta Dharmarajan on 17th August, 2022 around *"Linking Diversities-Forging Identities"* where Shri Geeta Dharmarajan had an engaging conversation with around 100 attendees around her life's work with Katha, a non-profit organization that has helped thousands of at-risk children with overcoming reading difficulties with the use of "story-pedagogy".

✎ School of Language and Linguistics of Jadavpur University organized a talk on *Universal Semantic Representation: Exploring Natural Language Semantics* delivered by Dr. Soma Paul of IIIT Hyderabad on 8th August, 2022. A large number of participants attended the programme held in the Language Lab of the School.
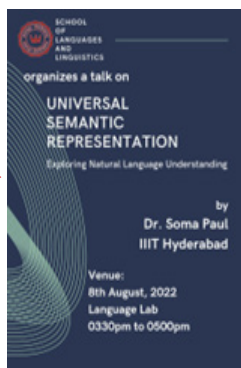
✎ School of Language and Linguistics of Jadavpur University organized a lecture on *Ethnolinguistic Situation in Sub-Himalayan West Bengal* (in Bengali) delivered by Mr. Krishnapriyo Bhattacharya on 3rd August, 2022. The speaker was also felicitated on the occasion. A large number of participants attended the programme.

✎ The School of Languages and Linguistics organized a talk by Dr. Shamim Ahmed, University of Texas, Austin on Topics in *Bangla Segmental Phonology with Special Attention to Metaphony* on 16th September, 2022, The talk was held online and was attended by nearly 50 participants.
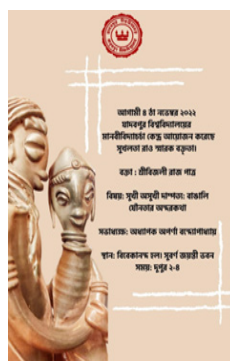
✎ School of Women's Studies organized Sukhalata Rao Memorial Lecture on *"Shukhi Oshukhi Dampotyo: Bangali Jounatar Andarkotha"* on 4th Nov., 2022 at Subarna Jayanti Bhavan, JU. This memorial lecture was delivered by Mr. Bijoli Raj Patra & chaired by Prof. Aparna Bandyopadhyay from Diamond Harbour, Women's University. More than 100 participants attended the program.

Promoting innovations at Jadavpur University: Role of the Institution's Innovation Council

*By **Rajib Bandyopadhyay** and **Sayan Chatterjee** Institution's Innovation Council, Jadavpur University*

The tradition of innovation has been prevailing at Jadavpur University since long. There were some glorious contributions in the past. Our University boasts of building the first digital computer in our country at 2nd April 1966. It was developed in collaboration with ISI, Kolkata and named as ISIJU computer. We could see the remains of this computer during our student days in the Electronics and Tele-communication Engg Department. Very Recently, Golden jubilee celebration of commissioning ISIJU has been celebrated. Currently, there are several opportunities provided by the government and private sectors to nurture and promote innovative ideas, and provide financial and technical support to the startups. Our country is stated to be the third in the world in startup ecosystem.

In order to retain and promote this culture of innovation in a more organized manner, an entrepreneurship cell (e-cell) was formed here at JU on 20th July 2016 primarily to promote the awareness and culture of entrepreneurship among the students. The cell was quite vibrant during the pre-covid period and several programs such as HULT in campus, DAAD FWL, E-Summit, 30 Hrs. Hackathon etc were arranged with the support of the TEQIP program. Our association with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) was grown to such an extent that JU-CII club was formed. At the same time, Ministry of Education advised the Higher Educational Institutes to form the Institution Innovation Council (IIC) and provided guidelines for carrying out the activities in this direction. Here at Jadavpur University, and the council was formed in the year 2018. It was named as IIC 1.0 then and we are now carrying out the activities under IIC 5.0. With the funding of RUSA, another similar body for idea incubation called CAST (Centre for development of Appropriate Social Technologies) was formed during 2019, and under this centre, several programs like patent clinics, writing patents, and patent awareness programs were arranged. Among the notable achievements of IIC, one important aspect has been to participate Smart India Hackathon and earn positions both in software and hardware sections. Another notable achievement was to participate in International Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS- 2018) where, Jadavpur University was allotted a stall to showcase four innovative products in fornt of national and international dignitaries. In 2019 some of the shortlisted ideas were adjudicated for participation in the National Innovation Contest 2020 under the mentorship of Innovation Ambassador. Unfortunately, during the Covid period, we could organize only a few programs related to innovation and entrepreneurship, and that too was in online mode, but after this period, the activities are now visible. Several such programs have been initiated; a national level Hackathon was organized. An office space in the Jupiter Building has been assigned for managing these activities. Seed grants have been arranged to support the students and research scholars so as to enable them finish their products and convert their ideas in to a viable product. We have signed MOUs with a few companies like Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Haldia Petrochemicals, MCCPTA and a few others for providing internship opportunities to the students. Several other programs are now being planned in the next financial year and sources of funding are being explored.

Activity chart of IIC , JU

Shortlisted ideas for National Innovation Contest 2020
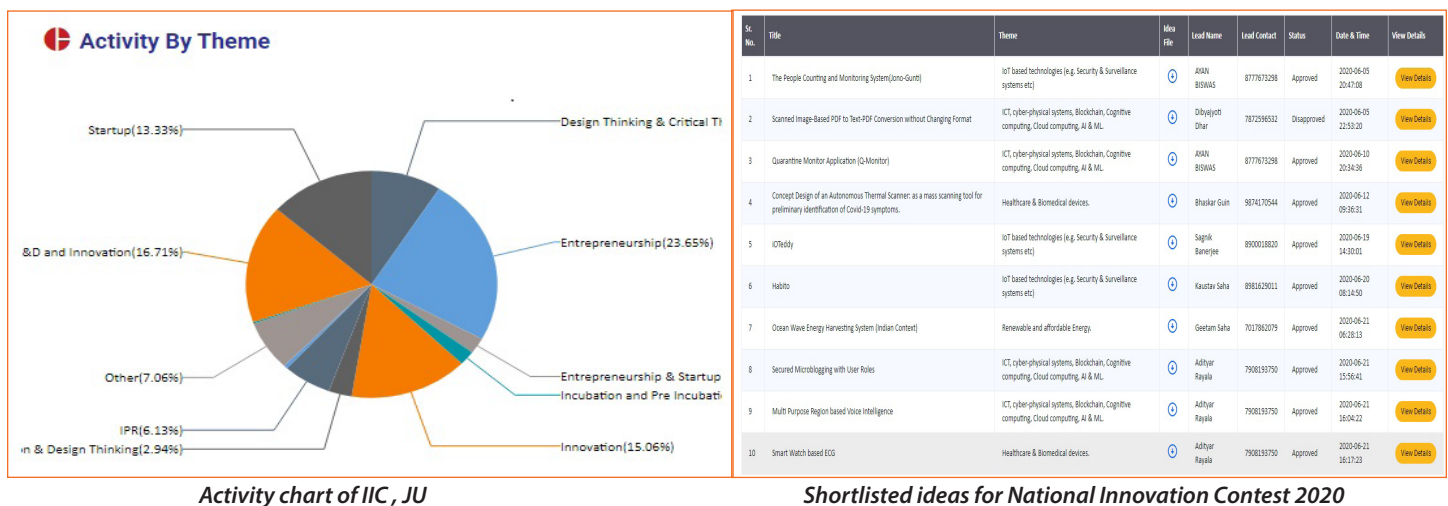
Objectives and functions of the IIC:

Ministry of Education (erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development), Govt. of India established an 'Innovation cell' with a purpose of systematically fostering the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country. MIC has envisioned encouraging creation of 'Institution Innovation Council (IICs)' across the Higher Educational Institutions. A network of these IICs was established to promote innovation in the Institution through multitudinous modes leading to an innovation promotion eco-system in the campuses.

Major focus of IIC

► To create a vibrant local innovation ecosystem.
► Start-up supporting mechanism in HEIs.
► Prepare institute for Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements Framework.
► Establish Function Ecosystem for Scouting Ideas and Pre-incubation of Ideas.
► Develop better Cognitive Ability for Technology Students.

Functions of IIC

► To conduct various innovation and entrepreneurship-related activities prescribed by Central MIC in time bound fashion.
► Identify and reward innovations and share success stories.
► Organize periodic workshops/ seminars/ interactions with entrepreneurs, investors, professionals and create a mentor pool for student innovators.
► Network with peers and national entrepreneurship development organizations.
► Create an Institution's Innovation portal to highlight innovative projects carried out by institution's faculty and students.
► Organize Hackathons, idea competition, mini-challenges etc. with the involvement of industries.

Recent activities under IIC 5.0

► IIC, JU has organized several events in this quarter (August to November) to inculcate idea innovation among students. As a part of this, IIC, JU organized its second continuous 30 hours hackathon.
► As a part of IIC activity, it is necessary to provide awareness among students about the startup ecosystem in and around Kolkata and its working environment. Accordingly, IIC, JU arranged a visit to a promising Startup Company at Kolkata – Sisir Radar formed by the Former Director of Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad. The team comprised of thirty three (33) students of first year of engineering, who showed interest in Startups. Two Professors accompanied them for the visit. The company is developing India's first high-frequency imaging drone-borne search and rescue systems using a technology that produces results that are within everyone's financial reach. The company is spread out over four floors in a building. On the technology floor, they displayed an antenna that can capture a variety of information, including time, data, coordinates, and locations. C, C++, and Python are the languages used in the programming process and they use various microcontroller based boards as hardware for processing. The students found that very interesting and helpful for them, since it provided them with an opportunity to learn how the Rader system operates.

Copyrights

| Inventor(s) Name	Title	Diary Number	Filing date	Status
Sheli Sinha Chaudhuri and Asfak Ali, Md Manarul Sheikh, Debanka Pal, Saifuddin Sheikh	IURWDD: Indian Urban and Rural Waste Detection Dataset and Benchmark	19667/2022-CO/L	17 September, 2022	Filed
Sheli Sinha Chaudhuri, Md Manarul Sheikh, Asfak Ali	DWSD: Dense Waste Segmentation Dataset	19621/2022-CO/L	17 September, 2022	Filed

Patents

Inventor(s) Name	Title of the Patent	Patent Application No.	Date of filing	Present Status
Arkadeep Datta, Arani Mukhopadhyay, Amitava Datta, Ranjan Ganguly	'Never-clog' mesh designs for capture and separation of a dispersed phase from a flowing fluid stream and systems thereof	202231045629	10th August, 2022	Published
Rajat Chakraborty	Biological hydroxyapatite supported solid catalyst(s), reactor configurations and methods of hydrolysis, transesterification/esterification	642/KOL/2012	8th June, 2012	Granted

Books Published
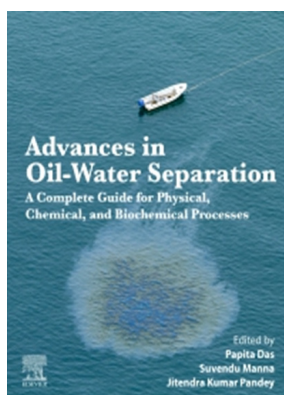
Papita Das, Suvendu Manna, Jitendra Pandey, "Advances in oil-water separation: A complete guide for physical, chemical, and Biological processes ", Elsevier Publication, Paperback ISBN: 9780323899789, eBook ISBN: 9780323886314

Edited By:
Prof. Papita Das, Prof. Suvendu Manna, Prof. Jitendra Pandey
Chemical Engineering Department
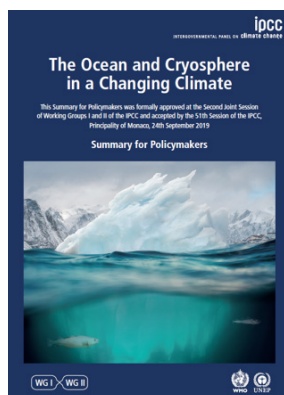
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for assessing the science related to climate change. It provides policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of human-induced climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

Lead Author:
Prof. Tuhin Ghosh
School of Oceanographic Studies, JU
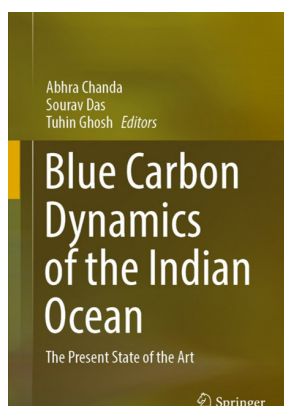
This book gives an overview of various aspects of blue carbon dynamics from each country bordering the Indian Ocean. Given the importance of the topic of blue carbon, it can be assumed that in near future, more and more researchers from the Indian Ocean countries will pursue environmental research in this domain.

Editors and Affiliations:
Prof. Abhra Chanda, Prof. Sourav Das, Prof. Tuhin Ghosh
School of Oceanographic Studies, JU

This Coffee Table book offers an insight into the impact of Cyclone Amphan, compounded with the Covid-19 pandemic, and provides key recommendations to build the resilience and adaptive capacity of the city, especially in multi-hazard scenarios.

Team Members:
Prof. Tuhin Ghosh, Prof. Indrajit Pal, Mr. Subhajit Ghosh, Ms. Neshma Tuladhar, Dr. Anirban Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Josh Louis Arboleda
School of Oceanographic Studies, JU

Faculty Success Stories

Organic Fertilizer from Abattoir Wastes: Fostering Rural Circular Economy

By **Prof. Joydeep Mukherjee**
School of Environmental Studies, JU

In 1987, when the term 'sustainability' was coined in the United Nations' Brundtland Commission, the underlying goal was to ensure needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to cater for their own. Today, recycling is central to sustainability as the process saves materials from ending up in landfills and incorporating them into circular value chain for future reuse. In rural settings, due to lack of infrastructural facilities and proper awareness, majority of the slaughterhouse owners preferred landfilling and or open dumping as cheapest option for their waste disposal instead of waste recycling. This causes serious environmental pollution and public health hazards. Bovine blood and rumen digesta are the major slaughterhouse by-products that do not hold any reuse or resale value but, they contain large amounts of growth-promoting plant nutrients. Therefore our research group developed a cost-effective process for recycling abattoir waste in agriculture where bovine blood and rumen digesta (in 3:1 ratio) were dried at 120 °C for 3–4 h using a newly designed helical-ribbon mixer dryer to obtain a non-hazardous organic product 'bovine-blood–rumen-digesta-mixture' (BBRDM).

Equipment development for waste recycling

The recycling unit comprises of three parts: (a) cylindrical drying vessel assembled on a movable cart for convenient movement and handling, (b) helical ribbon-shaped mixing spindle with sharp edges for uniform mixing and equal distribution of heat, and (c) a burner as a heat source consuming diesel or liquefied petroleum gas. An Indian Patent was granted in 2021 (number 370 569) on the equipment. About 60 L bovine blood and 20 kg rumen digesta are fed to produce 14 kg of BBRDM in one batch. Three batches were produced per day. The shelf life of the fertilizer is about 12 weeks and showed best results when applied within two weeks of manufacturing.

Soil application for enhanced agro-ecosystem health

Judicious application of recycled slaughterhouse waste promoted crop yield, enhanced soil fertility increasing copiotrophic abundance, offered quality food product and maintained farmers' profitability (benefit-cost ratio for BBRDM application is around 4). This approach may reduce dependency on inorganic fertilizers and can limit nutrient loss through improper waste disposal that recently has become a subject of concern especially in South and South East Asia. Moreover, BBRDM treated vegetables attained lower nitrate/ nitrite value compared to chemical treatment. In fact, through application of BBRDM farmers could achieve double benefit due to its strong positive effect on residual yield.

Circular bio-economy through waste to fertilizer conversion

It is imperative to shift our economic mindset from linear to circular to achieve overall sustainability. Waste to fertilizer conversion allowed circulation of nutrients together with economy in each step of the loop. Using this model, small abattoir owners could emerge as multi-product producers to enhance earnings, while farmers could source the fertilizer locally at minimum price for organic farming. This strategy may be adopted in other developing countries having scattered, unorganized rural slaughterhouses for transition towards 'zero-waste society'.

Use of Flame Colour for Monitoring of Flame Health: Early Detection and Control of Lean Blowout

*By **Prof. Achintya Mukhopadhyay** & **Prof. Swarnendu Sen** Mechanical Engineering Dept., JU*

Low NOx technologies are required for combustion in both land-based and aerospace applications to meet the increasingly stringent emission norms. One of the most popular low NOx technologies is lean combustion, where the fuel is mixed with a lot of excess air. The presence of excess air lowers the temperature of the combustion products and thereby prevents the formation of oxides of nitrogen (which occurs predominantly at high temperatures). Lean combustion also ensures complete utilization of all the fuel even in absence of perfect mixing of air and fuel. However, lean combustion is prone to instabilities ultimately leading to a flame-out situation (known as lean blow-out or LBO). LBO can lead to long downtimes in stationary applications and fatal accidents in aircrafts.
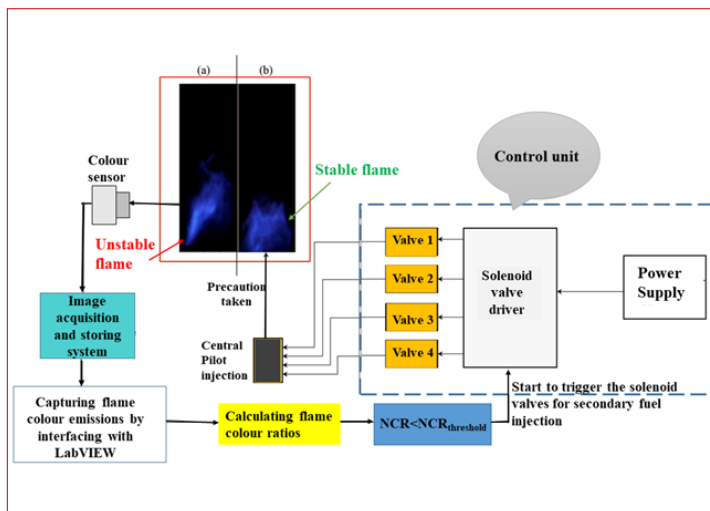
Fig.1 Illustration of the flame colour based control strategy used by JU group lead by Prof. Mukhopadhyay and Prof. Sen.
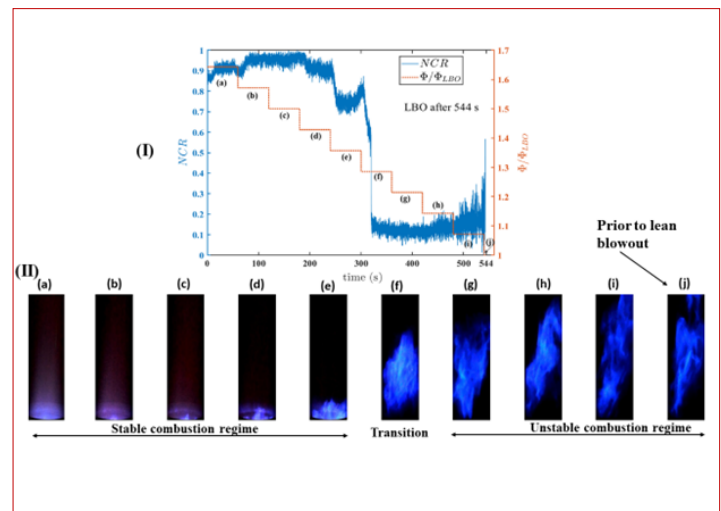
Fig.2 (Top) Normalized colour ratio (NCR=$((\gamma-\gamma\_min))/((\gamma\_max-\gamma\_min))$) where $\gamma=I\_red/I\_blue$ (in blue)and normalized equivalence ratio (Fuel-Air ratio/ Fuel-air ratio at LBO (in red) (Bottom) Flame images at different fuel-air ratios

A group of researchers at Mechanical Engineering Department, led by Professors Achintya Mukhopadhyay and Swarnendu Sen have developed a low cost novel technique based on flame colour for early detection (Fig.1) and control of lean blowout (Fig.2). Unlike the existing methods, which require expensive instruments and sophisticated analysis, this approach requires only ordinary colour digital cameras and nominal computing power. The technique, first ideated by an undergraduate student, **Suvojit Ghosh (BE Mech., 2009)** and developed and perfected by **Dr. Rajendra R. Chaudhari (PhD, 2012)** and **Dr. Somnath De (PhD, 2022)**, uses the electromagnetic emissions in the visible range from different radicals in the flame. The strategy is based on the observation that as the fuel-air mixture becomes leaner and the combustion approaches LBO, the colour of the flame changes from reddish to blue. The proximity to LBO can be quantified by the ratio of the red to blue intensity of the flame, which decreases monotonically as LBO is approached for all types of flames (Fig.1). The control

strategy involves diverting a small part of the fuel directly into the flame, instead of premixing with air, when the red-to-blue ratio falls below a present limit (Fig.2). In this way, LBO is delayed to a much leaner mixture, without any perceptible increase in NOx production. The laboratory-scale studies showed that with the control strategy in place, combustion could be sustained up to ~35 % lean mixture. This simple and inexpensive technique can be specially useful for preventing LBO in industrial furnaces, many of which are found in MSME units.

This research has been partially supported by **ER&IPR, DRDO** and **AR&DB** has resulted in a number of publications in reputed international journals like **Measurement, Combustion Science and Technology and International Journal of Spray and Combustion Dynamics** with the control part published in December 2022. In addition, two Indian patents have also been applied for.

Sreemoyee Singh's film *'And, Towards Happy Alleys'* goes to Berlinale

Dr. Sreemoyee Singh's documentary film And, Towards Happy Alleys (2023) has been screened at the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival (16-26 February 2023). Dr. Singh completed her M.A and PhD from the Department of Film Studies of Jadavpur University. The film is a passionate declaration of love for the cinema and poetry of Iran. It offers a frank view of the precarious situation for critics of the present regime of Iran and shows the uncompromising daily struggle of Iranian women against oppression.

Sreemoyee travelled to Tehran several times between 2015 and 2019 with the idea of making a documentary based on her interactions with filmmakers including the celebrated master of Iranian cinema Jafar Panahi, activists and common citizens of Iran. Her knowledge of Persian gave her access to the people who were otherwise hesitant to interact with the outside media.

And, Towards Happy Alleys documents the effect of the Iranian state's strict and omnipresent censorship on the daily lives of Iranian women and a fearless generation raising its voice relentlessly demanding civil liberties.

Image credits: Still from the film And, Towards Happy Alleys (Sreemoyee Singh, 2023)

Symposium, Seminar and Workshop
organised by the University

16th National Frontiers of Engineering (NatFoE) Symposium, 2022

The 16th National Frontiers of Engineering (NatFoE) Symposium was organized by the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) jointly with Jadavpur University and in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur on 18th and 19th June, 2022. This annual flagship event of INAE was held at the Salt Lake campus of the Jadavpur University and was attended by young researchers across various academic institutions, R & D laboratories and industries as speakers and participants. The inaugural program was presided over by the INAE President Prof. Indranil Manna. Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, Vice President, INAE, welcomed the guests and participants. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, former Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, GoI, delivered the inaugural address of the symposium as the Chief Guest.

There were technical sessions on four thematic areas in the symposium–"Field-Deployable Miniaturized Sensors", "Waste Valorization and Circular Economy", "Resource-Constrained Translational Technology", "Nanostructured Surfaces for Functional Materials and Systems". Each session had one plenary talk and four invited talks by experts from the relevant disciplines. In addition, a special session on Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav was organized to commemorate the seventy-fifth year of Indian independence and the achievements of the country during this period. The young participants attending the symposium also presented their research in a poster session separate-

ly organized for them. The speakers and participants from different corners of the country have been chosen by the theme conveners, symposium coordinator and Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti as adviser after thorough review of their research activities. All the talks of every session led to engaging discussions following the presentations and synergistic areas were identified by the speakers and other participants for future research collaborations. A plenary talk was delivered by Prof. P.P.Chakrabarti in a special session on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning portraying the future perspectives of the subject.

Workshop organized by the School of Languages and Linguistics

A workshop was organized in collaboration with Institute of Language Studies and Research, Higher Education Department of WB Govt. on 12/07/2022 at Asanna Bhaban. Dr. Samir Karmakar has addressed the audience with his talk on *"the endangered and lesser-known marginalized linguistic communities of Jungle Mahal in West Bengal"*.

Two-day Seminar organized by the Department of Film Studies

Department of Film Studies organized a two-day seminar on *'From Archives to Arguments'* on 15th -16th November, 2022, at Anita Banerjee Memorial Hall. The annual seminars of the Department are widely recognized as important occasions of convergence of recent scholarship on Indian film and media. The multiplication of archival forms in the digital era, and the enhanced access to historical material, have changed the orientation of research and teaching over the last 20 years or so. The seminar was an occasion to reflect on the new lines of intellectual inquiry that emerge from the experience of building and using such archives. Ravi Vasudevan (Delhi), Madhava Prasad (Hyderabad), Shikha Jingan (Delhi), Sudha Tiwary (Dehradun), Ratheesh Radhakrishnan (Kerala), Rajrajewari Ashok (Kerala), Madhuja Mukherjee and Subhajit Chatterjee (JU), & Ravi Kant (Delhi) were among the speakers.

SohojPath (সহজপাঠ): A Project of RadioJU

***SohojPath (সহজপাঠ)** is the first of its kind government project in the state of West Bengal where street children are getting re -acquainted with their school syllabus through community radio of Jadavpur University, RadioJU, 90.8 Mhz.*

This is a half an hour programme narrowcast between 11-30am & 12noon thrice a week on RadioJU. It includes talks on child rights, music sessions, and storytelling classes along with primary level school syllabus. More than 1000 primary school goer - children listen to the programme directly. Several thousand children in street situations and slum areas get the access to listen to these programmes through WBCPCR's web upload. (URL: http://wbcpcr.org/community-radio.php). Children from rural & suburban Bengal access it through the district administration.

According to a UNITED NATION survey, COVID pandemic has created the largest disruption of education system in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries and all continents. One of the worst sufferers' section of the society is children in street situations who are mostly first-generation learners. Therefore, the Commission felt those children with no access to internet and smartphones may be reached through offline modes which include the use of community methods.

START-UP ACTIVITY

A team of passionate professionals from among the students and alumni of Jadavpur University having deep understanding of the technology landscape and expertise in developing customized solutions for businesses have started a company named INFOMATICAE Technology Private Limited.

INFOMATICAE is a Latin word that roughly translates to Information technology. The start-up aims towards Spirit of Innovation in technology, building great products and managing challenging projects that make people's lives easier. The company also strategizes innovative digital solutions for small startups to the world's biggest Enterprises and has core expertise in Mobile and Web Application Development, Blockchain, IoT, AI, Machine Learning, Computer Vision and in Digital Marketing. INFOMATICAE Technology Private Limited is officially incorporated in June, 2022, and has its headquarter in Kolkata, a development centre at Noida, India, a marketing office in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and a sales and delivery office in Dallas, USA.

Students Corner

Awards and Achievements

▶ **Debanjali Karmakar** (*Dept. of Bengali*, UG-II) secured **two Bronze Medals** in Karate in the '**All India Karate Championship 2022**' organized by Karate-Do Association of Maharashtra (KAM). The competition was held from 17-19 June, 2022 at Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune, Maharashtra.

▶ Sports Board of Jadavpur University hosted **"All Bengal Muaythai Championship 2022"** as venue partner in association with West Bengal Muay Thai Association under the aegis of Bengal Olympic Association and World Muaythai Council, India from 25th to 26th June, 2022 at OAT, JU Main Campus.

▶ The Sports Board of Jadavpur University hosted the **"West Bengal State Grappling Referees Seminar and Rules Workshop"** on 15th July, 2022 and the **"West Bengal Grappling State Championship 2022"** from 16th to 17th July, 2022 at Mrinmoyee Hall (OPT Seminar Hall) in collaboration with & organized by 'Bengal Grappling Association' under the auspices of 'Grappling Federation of India'. Two Women Grapplers **Madhabi Halder** (*Dept. of Bengali*, UGII) and **Chumki Sarkar** (*Dept. IR* UGIII) won **Bronze medal** in

Senior-62 kg Female Category & was awarded Grappling State & National Referee.

▶ **Chumki Sarkar** (*Dept. of IR*, UG-III) IR won **Gold medal** in the Senior -62 Kg. Female category in the **15th GFI National Grappling Championship 2022** organized by Rishikul Vidyapeeth, Sonipat, Haryana held from 18-21 August, 2022.

▶ **Neha Shaw** (*School of Languages and Linguistics*) won '**Silver medal**' in Boxing in the **State Boxing Championship 2022** organized by Bengal Amateur Boxing Federation under the aegis of Boxing Federation of India and Bengal Olympic Association held from 23-25 September, 2022 at Darjeeling, WB.

▶ **Malati Halder** (*Dept. of IR,* UG II) won **GOLD medal** in senior 52kg Female - Low Kick category in the "**West Bengal Kickboxing State Championship 2022**" held from 16th to 18th September, 2022 at Open Air Theater, Main Campus in collaboration with 'Bengal Kickboxing Association' under the care of ' Kickboxing Federation of India' & 'World Kickboxing Federation'.

▶ **Ankan Dey** (*Department of Geological Sciences,* PG-I) clinched a **Bronze medal** in 18+ Male Kata Event in the **6th International Karate Championship** and **Silver medal** in Kyorugi (Fight) in 1st Bengal Hapkido Championship held on 30th July, 2022 and 11th June, 2023. He also won a **Bronze medal** in **Kyorugi event** in the 7th National Hapkido Championship.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS)

Major Achievements

▶ NSS Volunteers from Jadavpur University viz. Mr. S.K. Sahil (Linguistics) and Miss. Arpita Sarkar (Philosophy) participated in **Adventure Programme** organized at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Narkanda Centre, Himachal Pradesh from 10th to 19th November, 2022.

▶ In this year three **Literacy Programme** were conducted by NSS, Jadavpur University, in which more than 80 people were made literate.

▶ NSS-JU organized *awareness rallies on* **Fit India Freedom Run 2.0**, *Clean India Campaign under Swachh Bharat Mission, Observance of Banamahotsab week, Darwin Day and Water Day, rally and seminar on Swachhata Action plan under Swachha Bharat Abhiyan, celebration of 8th International Day of Yoga, Independence day, seminar on Chemical waste management, Drug abuse and illicit Trafficking, James Webb telescope, awareness programme on Dengue & Malaria etc.* A total 2020 students participated in all these programmes.

▶ The initiative taken by NSS, JU in taking part at **Pulse polio immunization programme**, benefited more than 336 children, while the Health check-up camp with health awareness generation programme benefited approximately 2020 people.

▶ More than 250 units of blood were donated in two **blood donation camps**, while more than 1020 saplings were distributed and planted at various places of Kolkata and University campus.

▶ JU, NSS Unit organized a Special Lecture Exhibition and Rally on the **National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas** on October 31st, 2022 to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Incidentally, this year marks the 147th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. A total 310 students participated in this programme.

- Jadavpur University NSS Unit organized a Special Lecture and Counselling session on the topic **"Problems of the student hood in post COVID-19 period"** on September 27th, 2022 at Mulajor Satinath Pathsala (H. S.). A total 256 students participated in this programme.

- **"Partition Horrors Remembrance Day"** was observed on 13th August, 2022 by NSS-JU through the organization of a Special Lecture & Exhibition. A total 300 students participated in this programme.

- NSS-JU organized campaign programme on **against effect of dengue and malaria** at various location of Kolkata and Howrah. 100 students participated in this programme and 2235 people are benefited.

- NSS-JU in collaboration with Alumni Association organized awareness programme under **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** every Wednesday over the year at Jadavpur University Main Campus. More than 1500 students participated in this programme.

- Government of West Bengal organized **awareness programme on Student Credit card** and Celebration of Teacher's day on birth anniversary of Sarbapally Radhakrishnan at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kolkata and Mela Prangan opposite to Science City. More than 150 students participated as volunteer in this programme.

- Jadavpur University NSS Unit observed **8th International Day of Yoga** at OAT, JU on 21st June, 2022 in the morning and a mass rally stated in the afternoon from Arobinda Bhavan, (via Guest house, Arts- Science more, in front of Green Zone,). More than 1563 participated in this programme.

International Yoga Day at Open Air Theatre, JU

Adventure Programme at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Narkanda Centre, Himachal Pradesh

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at Jadavpur University Main Campus

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* This issue contains information between 1st June to 31st December, 2022 and as per data received.