

Transition From Raiganj College To Raiganj University: A Documentary

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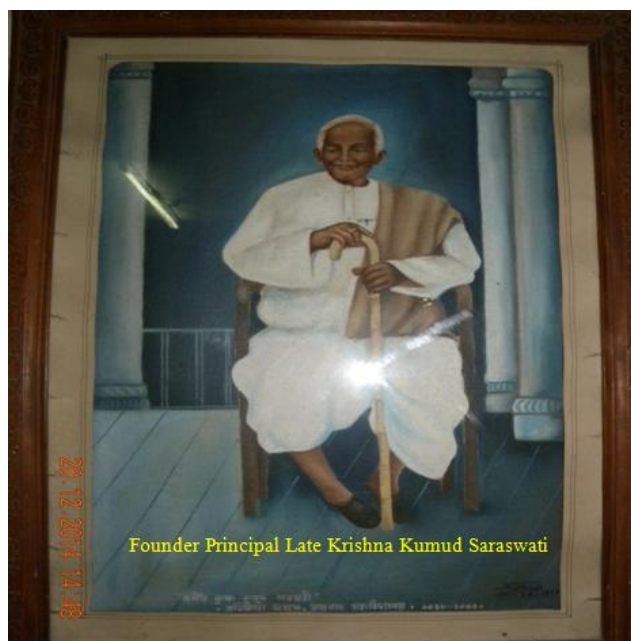
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Abstract: Raiganj College (University College) is one of the biggest colleges in the northern part of West Bengal which was established in 1948, affiliated by Calcutta University. The campus sprawls over an area of 13.63 acres of land which contains various traditional subjects with honours and general courses in Under-graduate level. The college was recognised by U.G.C. as per its Act 2(f) and 12(B) since 1956. The college has been taken over by the University of North Bengal in 1968 as University College. Indeed the Raiganj College is as like Presidency College of North Bengal for the scholasticism. So many scholars passed out from this institution and served the country and abroad in various fields. The NAAC team analysed and assessed the college and has given grade B+ level (77.35) in December 2003. The college upgraded to a University (State University) i.e. Raiganj University in 21st January 2015. Professor Anil Bhuimali joined this University as the first Vice-Chancellor of Raiganj University on 16.04.2015. The Raiganj University has started the journey with 10 P.G. courses and Research Studies with U.G. Courses also.



1. Introduction

The college holds so many historical importance for the development and spread of the Higher Education in the North Bengal as well as the students from the other States and overseas also. Uttar Dinajpur is a backward District in every respect and it is the only District that has no women's college among other nineteen Districts of West Bengal and that's why students mostly depends on Raiganj University to get higher education since 1948. The main purpose of this paper is to reveal its history of foundation, gradually up gradation and qualitative education.



II. Historical Background: Ancient Times

Geographical position of Raiganj: As per “The Gazetteer of Bengal and North East India”-by B.C.Allen; E.A.Gait; C.G.H.Allen; H.F.Howard [1] Raiganj situated in twenty five degree thirty seven minute north and eighty eight degree nine minute east, on the Kulik river. Raiganj is an important trade centre, exporting a large quantity of jute from the historic time.

[2]The district of West Dinajpur comprises an area which in ancient times a part of the kingdom of Pundravardhana. Pundravardhana was the country of the Pundras. Some curious legends are mentioned about the origin of the Pundras in the Mahabharata, the Matsya and Vayu Puranas and the Aitareya Brahmana. According to the Mahabharatas and the Matsya and Vayu Puranas, the sage Dirghatamas had five sons by queen Sudeshna, the wife of king Bali, and these five sons named Anga, Vanga, Kalinga, Pundra and Sumha. The Pundras are the descendants of this Pundra. According to the Aitareya Brahmana, Pundras are the descendants of the sons of Visvamitra, who had been cursed by him. The Sabhaparvan of the Mahabharata on the other hand refers to the Vangas and Pundras as well-born Kshatriyas. The Karatoya has been mentioned as a sacred river in the Tirtha-yatra section of the Mahabharata. Karna is said to have vanquished the Pindras. Krishna also is said to have defeated the Pundras. Patanjali in his Mahabhashya makes a reference to Pundras. It is mentioned in the Ramayana that search parties that were sent to the east in quest of Sita, were asked to visit the land of the Pundras.

According to the Brihatkathakosa of Harisena, Bhadrabahu, the Jaina guru of Chandragupta Maurya, was a son of a Brahmin of Kotivarsha in Pundravardhana. The Jaina Kalpasutra is said to have been compiled by Bhadrabahu, and this led to the foundation of a number of schools having a general affiliation to the main church. According to this tradition, Godasa, a disciple of Bhadrabahu, was responsible for the foundation of a school called Godasa-gana which in course of time had four shakhas, three of which were called Tamraliptika (Modern Tamluk), Kotivarsa and Pundravardhaniya. This Kotivarsa has been identified with Devkot which again has been identified with Bangarh in police station Gangarampur. A curious legend is associated with Bangarh. It appears that Bali Raja reigned over this part of the country. He was a devotee of Shiva. His son was Ban Raja.

In the period from 3rd century B.C. to 3rd century A.D. Buddhism and Jainism spread in Pundravardhana. Two believers of Buddhism a lady named Dharmadatta and a gentleman named Rishinandan, both of Pundravardhana, gave contributions towards the construction of the railing and gate of the famous Sanchi Stupa of Bhupal. Not only that the Mahasthangarh Fragmentary stone plaque Inscription and Bangarh excavation in 1937-41 refers that this region developed in every concerns.

So, in ancient times the district was a part of the country of Pundravardhana. During the reign of Chandragupta Maurya, Pundravardhana was noted as a seat of study in Jaina religious doctrines. Bhadrabahu was born in Devkot in Pundravardhana. After Bhadrabahu's death different sets of doctrines grew up within the Jaina religion and two of these schools of thought within the Jaina religion came to be known as the Kotivarshiya School and the Pundravardhaniya school. Pundravardhana was a “Bhukti” of the Gupta Empire. In fact, at the time of Gupta reign that Sanskrit was understood by the educated. Coming down to the reign of Pala

Emperor's, we found Pundravardhana occupying a conspicuous place in spreading the Buddhist religion. According to Sandhakaranandi, the court poet of Ramapala described Sonitpura or Devkot as a city full of learning having been confined to Brahmanas mostly in those days, and that also in religious instruction, the presence of so many temples in that city indicates its character as a seat of learning just as Varanasi. The Badal Pillar Inscription of Devapala and the Bangarh Copper-plate Inscription of Mahipala –I records gifts gives us about learning. Study of Hindu religious literature in Sanskrit continued under the Senas.

III. Mediaeval Times

Muhammad Bakhtyar Khalji conquered North Bengal immediately after his victory over Lakshnasena at Nadia. He established a military outpost at Devkot and has established madrasas and makhtabs in conquered area. Although Persian had been adopted as the official language, the Muslim sultan of Bengal encouraged the growth of Bengali literature. By the 14th century A.D. Mangalakavyas began to be composed in Bengali and one of the poets, Jagat Jiban Ghosal, wrote such a poem in the 17th century, was born in the district of Dinajpur.

IV. Modern Times

The district of West Dinajpur came into existence in August, 1947, with the partition of Bengal. The province of Bengal came to be divided into two parts in accordance with this partition. In accordance with the Award of Sir Cryl Radcliffe the dividing line passed through the district of Dinajpur, the portion lying to the West of the line being named West Dinajpur. (Gazetteer of India: West Bengal, West Dinajpur: by J.C.Sengupta).

[3] "Gleanings in science and the Journal of the Asiatic society, 1833, ["Geographical, Statistical, and Historical Description of the District, or Zila, of Dinajpur, in the province, or Soubah of Bengal" by DR. Francis Buchanan (Hamilton)] described that there were six high schools in the district in 1947, immediately after it came into being. Of these, the Balurghat High School was affiliated to Calcutta University in 1910. The Raiganj Coronation High School (The mother of the Raiganj College) was affiliated to Calcutta University in 1917, the Harirampur A.S.D.M. High School and the Kaliaganj P.S. High School in 1947. There were also 31 middle schools teaching up to Class VI, 51 primary schools, 01 tol and 11 junior madrasas. There was no high school for girls in the district, nor was there any training institution. Of the 31 middle schools only two were for girls, one of which was located at Balurghat and the other at Raiganj. The state of higher education the only College in the undivided district of Dinajpur was situated in that part of the District which has become a part of East Pakistan, two new Colleges had to be established, one at Balurghat and the other at Raiganj for providing facilities for higher education to the young men of the district.

V. Brain Child Of The Raiganj College

In the time of the painful partition of India there are so many people came over to the border district erstwhile West Dinajpur and Raiganj provided many of them with food and shelter. To these uprooted people education of their children was an essential element for the wheel of fortune on which they turn. At this juncture those great personalities, educationists and social thinkers of this town who felt the necessity of building a college for higher education in this backward region in the darkest hour of the history of our nation for imparting education to the children of those uprooted families, coming from East Pakistan, and to those, living and partly living in this poverty-stricken town.

In this regards Late Sukumar Guha and Late Nirmal Chandra Ghosh played a leading role. By the effort of above mentioned famous persons a meeting was convened among the conscious local eminent and interested persons to establish a college for higher education. Those persons were signed on that meeting was 1. Banamali Das. 2. Durgapada Sarkar 3. Brajendralal Banerjee. 4. Dr. Jagadish Chandra Sen. 5. Sasindra Chandra Dey (Former H.M. of Raiganj Coronation High School National Awarded by the President of India) 6. Kshirod Chandra Saha. 7. Rabindra Nath Bhowmik. 8. Kumaresh Chandra Roy. 9. Kshitish Chandra Mitra. 10. Rohini Mohan Nag. 11. Kalyan kumar Goswami. 12. Kishan Lal Ghosh. 13. Hajarilal Agarwala. 14. Naharmal Kalyani. 15. Md. Golam Hamidur Rahaman. 16. Sasadhar Bhowmik. 17. Shyamaprasad Barman. 18. Jitendram Bakshi. 19. Kumaresh Chandra Bhowmik. 20. Mohit Ranjan Sikder. 22. Jogendra Kumar Roy. 23. Ramendra Nath Dutta. 24. Bijoyankar Choudhury. 25. Md. Afuj Ali. 26. Manager of the Bahin Court of orders and others. All the members of that meeting unanimously decided to establish a college and appealed to the peoples to donate land and money for this purpose. In 1948 they appealed to the Calcutta University for affiliation.

Famous social worker and political person Nisith Nath Kundu have been brought out the affiliation of Raiganj College from Calcutta University in 1948.

So far as higher education is concerned, the only college in the undivided district of Dinajpur was situated in that part of the district which has become a part of East Pakistan, two new College had to be established, one at Balurghat and other at Raiganj providing facilities for higher education to the young men of

the district. The Balurghat College was opened in September, 1948 as an Intermediate Arts College, and was given affiliation for the I. Sc. Course in 1950. It then became affiliated up to the B.A. and B.Sc. standard of Calcutta University. THE RAIGANJ COLLEGE was opened in August, 1948 and received affiliation from Calcutta University for teaching up to the I.A. Examination in Arts only from 1948-49. At present, it is affiliated for both the I.Sc. And B.A. standard. The only difficulty in regard to the successful functioning of these two colleges has been the persistent dearth of qualified lecturers and professors who seem to be unwilling to serve in the district of West Dinajpur. Balurghat College comes under the “sponsored colleges” scheme of the Government, while Raiganj College gets grants from the Government. The professors and lecturers are paid salaries prescribed by the University and the Government, and fees are realised from students at rates approved by the Government. Recently with the establishment of the University of North Bengal, both the colleges have become affiliated to it.

VI. Minutes Book Of Raiganj Coronation Higher Secondary School

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

Members present. 1. Khegendra Kumar Saha. 2. Nirmal Kumar Saha. 3. Sasindra Chandra Saha (H.M. on and from 04.01.1944 to 31.07.1969). 4. Sushil Kumar Saha. 5. Jagadish Chandra Sengupta. 6. Janab Afuj Ali. 7. Badiruddin Ahmed. Item No. 2. Considered the application of the secretary of the proposed Raiganj College and resolved that the school premises be lent out to the college committee provided there is no interruption with the normal school work. Condition will be imposed when the college classes start.

VII. Class Started

In the year of 1947-49 there were only 19 Pucca house at Raiganj, one of them was Raiganj Coronation High School which was established in the year of 1911. The classes took place at the school building for 6.00 am to 10.00 a.m with 65 students. Some name of the students are mentioned here Naren Das, Hiren Gupta, Susil Dutta, Sunil Pal, Babulal Agarwala, Santosh Saha, Nonigopal Pal, Adhar Das, Dulal Basu, Jiban Sengupta, Mongal Deb, Nirmal Roy, Dinesh Majumder, Sanjib Basu, Manashi Gupta, Kabita Bhowmick, Sova Dam, Bharati Neogi, Ila Basu, Ava Ghosh, Kana Dutta, Sreemati Bhowmick and many others.

Very interesting matter is that for the sake of fund there are several times drama, jatra were performed in local surroundings and in the talkies. A drama named “Parineeta” was dramatized at the stage of Raiganj Institute by the teachers and office stuffs of the college and the money which was got from the values of tickets was deposited in the fund of Raiganj College for the development purpose.

VIII. Affiliated Institutions

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RAIGANJ COLLEGE (P.O. Raiganj, Dist. West Dinajpur) FIRST AFFILIATION, 1948

Short History of its Establishment and Development

[5] Before partition of, August 1947 there was only one college in the whole district Dinajpur. But the district itself was partitioned; two-thirds within the Pakistan and one-third to India. The previous college fell within Pakistan. So this part of the district was then without any college. Raiganj being conveniently connected by Railways with Pakistan, many displaced persons settled here and thus the place grew up into a good Sub-divisional town and an Intermediate College was established here with the strenuous efforts of the generous public and the then authorities of the place.

In the first year of its affiliation the college was fortunate to get a Government grant of Rs. 500/- through the University and Rs. 1,250/- from the Director of Public Instruction, West Bengal. More than 60 percent of the students being refugees the college in the second year of its affiliation got a loan grant of Rs. 44000/- from the Education Officer (Relief and Rehabilitation) for the construction of a part of its own building; in the same year the college also got Government grants of Rs. 2,400/- from the Director Public Instruction, and Rs. 500/- from the University. In the third year also the got Rs. 3,000/- from the director of Public Instruction. With these amounts the college has now got its own building in part, and has improved to some extent the condition of its Library. It requires further help from the Government for its further improvements and development.

Building - With the help of the grants mentioned above the college has completed only 4 rooms on a plot of land situated outside the din and bustle of the town but not very far from it.

Library - The condition of the library has been improved recently.

Hostel - There is a College Hostel with accommodation for 20 students.

Extra-curricular Activities - There is a College Union which organises debates, dramatic performances, etc. There are also arrangements for games and sports. Some students also attend the youth camp.

Subject in which the College is Affiliated and Combination of Subjects Allowed

I.A - English, Bengali (Vernacular), Sanskrit, Mathematics, Logic, History, Civics, Commercial geography, Commercial Arithmetic, and Elements of Book-keeping. (Raiganj College, West Dinajpur, 1948, Under Section 22 read with Section 21(3) of Act viii of 1904 as amended by Act vii of 1921).

All sorts of combinations are allowed except History with Mathematics and Sanskrit with Commercial Arithmetic and Elements of Book-keeping.

IX. Stipends and Scholarships, etc.

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

In 1951-52 two refugee students got stipends of Rs. 20/- each per month for a year.

X. Staff

Sri Krishnakumud Saraswati	M.Sc. LL.B.-Principal
Sri Hiranmay Bhattacharyya	M.A. (Double), Vyakaran Vedantatirtha, Professor
Sri Chittaranjan Moitra	M.A. (Double), LL.B. Professor.
Sri Rabindranath Das	M.A. Professor.
Sri Gopalchandra Majumder	M.A. Professor.
Sri Nalinikanta Bhattacharjee	M.A. LL.B. Professor.
Sri Jyotsnakumar Sen	M.A. Tutor.
Sri Haricharan Debnath	M.A. Lecturer (part-time).

First Principal - Sri Krishnakumud Saraswati, M.Sc. LL.B.

XI. 11. Raiganj College Minutes Book: From 2nd August 1948 To 15th July 1955

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

Governing Body shall be constituted as follows:

- 15.01 Sub-divisional officer. (Ex-officio) president.
- 15.02 Principal (Ex-officio) Secretary.
- 15.03 Two teachers to be elected by the teachers.
- 15.04 Two guardians.
- 15.05 Two educationists.
- 15.06 Two benefactors.
- 15.07 One donor or fonder to be nominated by the syndicate. (A donor who has contributed at least Rs. 5000/- to the College.).
- 15.08 A nominee of the Director of the Public Instructions.

XII. Meeting of the Raiganj College Committee dated 02/08/1948

Those honourable members present in the meeting were Subodh Ch. Talukder, Kumaresh Bhowmick, Banamali Das, Kshirod Ch. Saha, Janab Golam Hussain Rahaman, Janab Afuj Ali, Sashindra Ch. Dey, Brajendralal Banerjee, Sukumar Saha, Nirmal Kr. Ghosh, Bijoyankar Choudhury, Sishir Kr. Ghosh, Kshitish Ch. Mitra. Sashadhar Bhowmick, Rohini Mohan Nag, Mohit Ranjan Sikder, Jogindra Kumar Roy, Jitendra Kumar Bokshi, Rabindra Kr. Bhowmick, Hemchandra Paul, Ashutosh Das, Ramendra Nath Dutta, Prithwis Ch. Mitra, Ajoy Kr. Das.

In that meeting resolved the decision regarding appointment of the teachers as follows:

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

In the Meeting of the Governing Body of Raiganj College on 07/08/1948 decision was taken regarding appointments that 1. Rohini Mohan Nag and 2. Jitendra Ram Bakshi be appointed, quarters for principal and staff, Rs. 25/- W.E.F. 18th Sept. 1948. In that meeting also resolved that the raising of the college fund a committee was form the following gentlemen. Hazarilal Agarwalla, Nirmal Kr. Ghosh. Banamali Das, Kshitish Ch. Mitra. Also resolved that a Bank Account to be opened at Central Bank. Hazarilal Agarwalla and Kshitish Ch. Mitra to be operated jointly for one calendar year. In this regards decision was taken that Rs. 1500/- was maximum amount to withdraw at a time.

XIII. Governing Body Meeting Of Raiganj College: Dated: 18/08/1948, Time: 4.30 P.M. REGARDING APPOINTMENT ON VARIOUS SUBJECT TEACHERS WAS RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

ENGLISH

Chittaranjan Moitra. (Logic and English), Satyaranjan Kahali, Ashwini Kumar Choudhury, Santiram Chatterjee.

BENGALI AND SANSKRIT

Hiranmoy Bhattacharya, Sishir Ranjan kar Sastri, Sunil Baran Ghosh.

HISTORY

Sankar Ganguly, Jyotirmoy Roy, Rabindra Nath Das, Santosh Kumar Basu.

COMMERCE

Prafulla Kumar Sengupta. (Civics and commercial geography.), Naresh Chandra Roychowdhury, Hariprasanna Dutta.

CIVICS

Narayan Chandra Samaddar, Bankim Chandra Saha.

LOGIC

Ashwini Kumar Nandi, Dulal Kumar Mitra, Kusum Bhattacharya.

XIV. On The Meeting Of Raiganj College Governing Body, Dated – 03/04/1949.

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

Gopal Majumder, Suresh Chandra Mukherjee, Maheswari Kanti.

In that meeting also resolved that:

Krishna Kumud Saraswati. (Rs. 200/- +Rs. 25/- office allowance), Hiranmoy Bhattacharya.(Rs. 200/-), Rabindranath Das. (Rs. 150/-), Chitta Ranjan Moitra. (Rs. 200/-), Gopal Chandra Majumder.(Rs. 150/-), Kumaresh Narayan Ghosh.(Clerk, Rs. 80/-), Dharendra Kumar Chakraborty.(Bearer, Rs. 30/-).

XV. Governing Body Meeting Of Raiganj College: Dated: 11/05/1949 Time: 5.00 P.M.

Members Present On The Meeting

Hon'ble Shyama Prasad Barman, S.D.O (Raiganj), Munsif (Raiganj), Nirmal Kumar Ghosh, Janab Golam Hussain Rahaman, Banamali Das, Krishanakumud Saraswati, Hiranmoy Bhattacharya, Chittaranjan Moitra Resolved that a condolence message was sent to Chittaranjan Moitra, members of this committee on account of the sad death of his wife. Praying for affiliation of the college to start I.Sc, B.A. and B.Com. Classes in the next session (1949-1950). On behalf of the Governing Body either Secretary or President or any other member is empowered to such a petition. Resolved that the college Accounts be audited by a Chartered Accountant. The college remaining closed for the summer vacation on and from 9th May to 9th July 1949. The staff and employee of the college be paid in advance for May 1949. In that meeting also resolved that the University of Calcutta be requested to supply the rules and regulations for the formation of governing body of a College and these rules may be placed in a meeting before this committee as soon as possible. In that meeting a committee was formed for acquiring some suitable land for the college as soon as possible to make all possible effects to settle the necessary arrangements with the following gentlemen. Nirmal kumar Ghosh, Banamali Das, Hazarilal Agarwalla, Janab Golam Hussain Rahaman. In that meeting sanctioned Rs.500/- for library and furniture. In the meeting on 16th June 1949 the College Governing Body is approached to the Collector, West Dinajpur to acquire at least 50 bighas of lands for the college and the site be selected by the site-selection sub-committee consisting of the following members.

Nirmal kumar Ghosh, Banamali Das, Hazarilal Agarwalla, Janab Golam Hussain Rahaman, Krishna Kumud Saraswati. In the meeting on 23/12/1949 decision was taken on the basis of I.C report no. 220/I.C. dated 28/11/1949 that a separate accounts be immediately opened at the Raiganj Postal Savings Bank, operating by the name Secretary and Principal of Raiganj College, the name of "The Raiganj College Fund", "The Raiganj College Building Fund." An additional sum of Rs. 1500/- was sanctioned for the College Library furniture. For raising College Fund the following gentlemen were responsible to make necessary efforts.

Banamali Das, Kshitish Chandra Mitra, Hazarilal Agarwalla, President Bar Association, President Marketers Bar Association. Land for the College in Mouja Raiganj about Plot No. 2206, 2251-57, 2260-67, 2282, 2497-98 measuring all 16.36 acres or part empowered the following persons to take necessary action for negotiate the land holders a reasonable price by on or before 15th January next.

Nirmal Kumar Ghosh, Banamali Das, Kshitish Chandra Mitra, Sisir Kumar Ghosh

XVI. Regarding Land Donation

On the meeting of 10th February, 1950 at 5.00 p.m. resolved the decision regarding the for the College Building that proposed to be a FREE GIFT from DR. JAMINI KANTA GHOSH be accepted with hearty thanks to the DONOR and that all steps for legalising the transaction be taken immediately and the secretary, Nirmal Kumar Ghosh be authorised to have the TITLE DEED executed registered as soon as possible. This generous gift from JAMINI KANTA GHOSH the committee resolved that the Library Hall of the College be named "GOBINDA-NITYAMANI LIBRARY HALL", the memory of the parents of the said DONOR, i.e. JAMINI KANTA GHOSH. Therefore, a life membership should be offered to a member of the donors family will be considered later on.

XVII. LAND DONOR - DR. JAMINI KANTA GHOSH

Out of the two contractors for the college building Janardan Dam was ready to take up the work within July 1950 and to complete January 1951.

In that day estimate was made for college building Rs. 44000/- and plan and estimate had been approved. Badri Narayan Jhavar and Hazarilal Agarwalla gave loan Rs. 5000/- for college expenses. Service was confirmed Prof. Chittaranjan Moitra. Prof. Rabindra Nath Das, Prof. Gopal Chandra Majumder and Kumarendra Narayan Ghosh (Clerk).

XVIII. Regarding Provident Fund

On the meeting of the governing Body of the Raiganj College dated 06/05/1950 that Provident Fund was introduced. One Anna in the rupee to be contributed by the staff. Half Anna to be subscribed by the college and the DPI be moved to contribute another Half Anna in the rupee to the P.F.

XIX. Foundation Stone

On the meeting of the governing Body of the Raiganj College dated 17.07.1949 at 8.00 a.m. was resolved that Rs. 100/- (One hundred only) be sanctioned in connection with the "Ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the college building." In the meeting of the governing Body of the Raiganj College, in several times resolved to apply the Govt. or the University for Grant, endowment or any kind of financial or other help. Not only that on the meeting of 25.04.1951 due to the financial position of the college most unsatisfactory let an arrangements be made for two charity shows of the local talkies in May next.

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

XX. DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE RAIGANJ COLLEGE

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

The draft committee done the work in time and placed the draft constitution of the raiganj college governing body On 25.04.1952 and resolved that the draft constitution of the raiganj college be sent to the Director of the Public instruction and the university of Calcutta. The secretary, Kshitish Chandra Mitra and Sunil Chandra Majumder will jointly operate the college building fund account of the raiganj post office savings bank and also Central Bank 'The Raiganj College Fund.'

On 1st August 1952 Inspector of Colleges visited the Raiganj College and grant Rs. 3000/- for science apparatus and instruments for the purpose. The Merchant Association of Raiganj donated Rs. 10000/-. In the meeting of 07/09/1952 resolved that for the science laboratories grant from the govt. requested to local M.L.A for the pursue. On the meeting of the Governing Body on 02/12/1952 resolved that for College furniture Rs. 2000/- and Library Rs. 1000/- granted. On 27/04/1953 G.B resolved a College Hall and Hostel for student be constructed.

In the meeting of the Governing Body on 09/09/1953 resolved that an appeal to individual person who contribute Rs. 200/- or more up to Rs. 4999/- contribution shall be deemed to be "benefactor" of this college. Dr. Jaminikanta Ghosh be enlisted as a 'donor' of the college. On that meeting resolved that the following name of gentlemen who contributed to the foundation of the college be enlisted as 'founder' of the college. 1. Bipul Chandra Chatterjee, I.A.S. 2. Nirmal Kumar Ghosh. 3. Hazarilal Agarwalla. 4. Giridhari Lal. 5. Shyamaprasad Barman. 6. Kshitish Ch. Mitra. 7. Jogindra Kr. Roy. 8. Banamali das. 9. Nisith Nath Kundu.

In the meeting of the governing Body on 18/09/1953 resolved that the following persons considered as 'benefactors' on grounds other than cash contribution. 1. Rohini Mohan Nag. 2. Kishan Lal Ghosh. 3. Barada Kanta Das. 4. Nirmal Kumar Ghosh. 5. Golam Hussain Rahaman. 6. Banamali Das. 7. Janardan Dam.

XXI. Educationist

Sasindra ch. De. Birendra Kr. Dutta. Smt. Subala Joardar, Kumaresh Ch. Roy, Durgapada Sircar, Banamali Das, Shyamaprasad Barman, Nirmal Kr. Ghosh, Golam Hussain Rahaman, Sukumar Ghosh, Kshitish Ch. Mitra, Nisith Nath Kundu, Dr. Ramendra Nath Dutta, Prithwis Ch. Mitra, Hem Ch. Sinha, Bijoy Kr. Ghosh (H.M. Kaliayaganj), Anchal Bhusan Bose, Asit Chowdhury, Kamakshya Prasad Chatterjee, Munsif (Raiganj), Anil Sen. Regarding Hostel Building Rs.6000/- estimated and in this regard Rs.2000/- loan from P.F.

XXII. Raiganj College As Aided College

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

CHAPTER II

1. Under The University Of North Bengal

In the year of 1962 the Raiganj College Was affiliated to the University of North Bengal. Gradually Honours courses in English, Mathematics, Sanskrit, Chemistry, and Economics were introduced. In the year of 1967 Commerce Department was upgraded to Degree standard and subsequently Honours course in Commerce (Advanced Accountancy) was introduced. By this time the financial condition of the college was miserable. But the then principal of the college late Sambhu Nath Roy, (Born: 1st November, 1928, Faridpur East Pakistan M.A. Calcutta University, 1949; Prof. & Head Dept. In English, Serampore College, 1950-1960. Principal since 1960 to 31/10/1993.), who took over charge of the college in 1960 and who is the main architect of the academic superstructure of the Raiganj College, tried to his best to tide of the situation. At this critical juncture, the University of North Bengal, took over the college in 1968 to turn it into a University College for its all round

development. The generosity of the then Vice Chancellor of the University of North Bengal and famous engineer professor A.C.Roy and the members of the NBU authority for shaping the college into a University College. The then senate member Anandamoy Bhattacharya, later, who became Chief Judge of the Calcutta High Court, was present on that historical moment. Besides this famous educationist and the then M.P. S.P.Roy, Dr. Haripada Chakraborty and the Inspector of Colleges N.B.U. Sreekar were present on the time of Agreement was signed. On that historical moment the honourable persons were received by the huge people of the Raiganj.

2. Raiganj College To Raiganj College (University College)

Finance Officer,
University of North Bengal.
Ref. No. 6712/ACCTT -68 dt. 27.12.1968
To,
The Principal,
Raiganj College.

Subject : Deed of Conveyance.

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

Meeting of Governing Body on 25.05.1968

Resolved as follows

That the decision of the North Bengal University to take over the college (including the Commerce Section) as a University College with all its assets and liabilities on and from the 1st June, 1968, be accepted with pleasure and that the grateful thanks of the Governing Body be conveyed to the Vice-Chancellor and the University of North Bengal for their kind decision. That the University be sanctioned to open a Special Bank Account with the State Bank of India, Raiganj under the name of style of "RAIGANJ COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE) Raiganj to be operated jointly by the Principal and Secretary and either Sri N. K. Ghosh or Sri R. M. Sikdar, a member of the newly established college council". Extract for the minutes of the first meeting of the college council of the Raiganj College (University College), Raiganj held on Thursday, 6th June 1968 at 5.30 P.M. at the college premises. Item one - To report that the Raiganj college has been taken over by the North Bengal University with effect from the 1st June 1968 in presence of the decision of the Governing Body of the college at its emergency meeting held on 25.05.1968. Recorded Item two - To consider the opening of Bank Account for the Raiganj College (University College), Raiganj.

3. Deed

Transferee 1st party - University of North Bengal, District Magistrate, West Dinajpur, President, Raiganj College, Sub-Divisional Officer, West Dinajpur, Vice-President, Raiganj College, S. N. Roy, Principal & Secretary, Raiganj College. Transferee 2nd party - N. K. Ghosh, Member, Governing Body, Raiganj College, R. M. Sikdar, Member, Governing Body, Raiganj College, K. C. Mitra, Member, Governing Body, Raiganj College, R. N. Agarwala, Member, Governing Body, Raiganj College, H. C. Debnath, Member, Governing Body, Raiganj College, B. C. Guha, Member, Governing Body, Raiganj College.

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

4. Schedule Of Property Conveyed

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

Total area - 13.63 acres.

5. Buildings

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

Written
Ramnath Das, Raiganj
Jitendranath Majumdar,
Raiganj.

Typed by
Ranjit Sengupta
Raiganj College
Raiganj, West Dinajpur

From the year of 1968 to January 2015, University of North Bengal played a pivotal role for the development and spread of the higher education through the Raiganj College (University College) in the district of Uttar Dinajpur and as well as the adjacent region. That is why N.B.U. took necessary steps and action for further development of the College, and Honours Course in Physics was introduced in the year of 1968-69. In the year 1969-70 Honours Courses in History, Philosophy and Political Science were introduced and Biological Science Dept. was upgraded to Degree level. N.B.U. created new posts of teachers and filled up the created posts with young teachers with brilliant academic records. In the year 1980-81 Honours in Zoology and Botany were introduced. Honours Courses in Geography, Computer Science as an elective subject and Sericulture in Vocational Course were started in 1995-96. In the year 2014 Pass Courses in Geography was started.

Besides this two senior Division Boys NCC Companies were formed in the college in the year of 1959 and also the senior Division Girls NCC Unit of our college was formed in 1960 under 4 Bengal Bn. The NSS was started in the year 1969. The Institute of Computer Engineers (India) started a Computer Centre at the College in 1994.

I feel honoured and proud to state that some of the Ex-student of this college is spread all over the world engaged in different fields and occupations. Some of them have attained national and international reputation. Sri priyo Ranjan Das Munshi, an Ex-student of this college, was once a Minister of the Union Govt. of India and also was once the President of All India Football Federation; Subrata Mukherjee Ex M.P. of Raiganj was also an Ex-student of this college. Besides this Minoti Sen Ex M.P. Jalpaiguri was also an Ex-student of this college. Prof. Arnab Ghosh a scientist of international repute was an ex-student of our college.

6. List Of The Principals



RAIGANJ COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)	
Shri Krishna Kumud Saraswati: First Principal.	
Shri S.N.Roy: Principal: 6.7.1960 to 31.10. 1993.	
Shri S.K.Ghosh: Lecturer-in-charge: 1.11.1993 to 31.5.1994.	
Dr. N.K.Das : Principal : 1.6.1994 to 18.9. 1995.	
Shri S.C.Das: Lecturer-in-Charge: 18.9.1995 to 11.8.1996.	
Shri U.Sarkar: Lecturer-in-charge: 12.8.1996 to 31.12.1996.	
Dr. S.Deb Mallick: Teacher-in-charge: 31.12.1996 to 29.7.1997.	
Dr. C. Basu: Principal : 30.7.1997 to 2.9. 1998.	
Dr.S.Deb Mallick: Teacher-in-charge: 3.9.1998 to 25.4.2002	
Dr. P.K. Mandal. Principal: 26.4.2002 to 31.8.2007	
Dr. Dillip De Sarker Teacher-in-charge: 31.8.2007 to 8.1.2012	
Shri S. Singh-Teacher in-Charge: 9.1.2012 to 26.7.2012	
Dr. D. Biswas-Teacher-in-Charge: 27.07.2012 to 7.3.2013	
Prof. Uttam kr.Roy-Teacher-in-Charge: 8.3.2013	

CHAPTER III

1. Raiganj College (University College) To Raiganj University.

11th February, 2013 is special mention for the spread of higher education of the history of Raiganj College (University College). On that day a state conference of All Bengal Principal Council was held at our college premises where present the then Higher Education Minister, Govt. Of West Bengal, honourable Prof. Bratya Basu, Prof. Manik Bhattacharya, president, Primary Education, Govt. Of West Bengal and so many dignitaries. The Raiganj College Authority and all the teaching staff, non-teaching staff and the students of the Raiganj College appealed to transformed and up-gradation from a college to a University to our beloved and honourable Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Govt. Of West Bengal, through Higher Education Minister, Govt. Of West Bengal, honourable Prof. Bratya Basu and Sri Amal Acharya, MLA, Itahar, W.B. In this regard proposals with necessary documents were given with proper channel.

We are fortunate that on 27th Nov. 2013 is a real historical date when our Chief Minister Mmata Banerjee Govt. Of West Bengal, came at karnajora, the district head quarters of Uttar Dinajpur, to attend an administrative meeting and declared and announced that Raiganj College will be upgraded as a University and the University will run from the academic session 2015-2016. From that time the Govt. Of West Bengal, University of North Bengal and the Raiganj College authority engaged with positive mind and rapid success for up gradation. Honourable Vice Chancellor Prof. Somnath Ghosh, University of North Bengal, F.O N.B.U and the whole authority of North Bengal University played a great role for the establishment of Raiganj University.

On the date of 30/04/2014 a letter was received by the then TIC Prof. Uttam Kumar Roy, Raiganj College (University College) from the desk of Mr. P.K.Das, Asst. Secretary to Govt. Of W.B, Higher Education Deptt, University Branch, Bikash Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, dated 4th April 2014 regarding a detail proposal for up gradation of Raiganj College (University College) into a full fledged University. Mr. P.K.Das directed to request the then TIC to furnish a status report converting the total quantum of land, covering administrative block, teaching departments laboratories, quarters, canteen, playground, garden, etc. Sanction strength in teaching and non teaching staff, present strength and vacancy position. Proposed additional requirement of administrative and academic manpower for up gradation of Raiganj College (University College). Such additional manpower may be demanded by the T.I.C. concerned through Finance Departments Memo No.1488-F (p) DT. 20.02.2012. Total financial liability may be mentioned for creation of manpower both in administrative and academic field. Courses offered in undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Proposed introduction of new teaching departments/courses. Whether any new infrastructure for starting a new course is required. If so DPR appropriate from and manner should be submitted. Any other information as is correlated to up gradation of Raiganj College (U.C.) should be submitted along with aforesaid information within 15th April, 2014.

1. Proposed University At Raiganj College (University College)

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

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

The then T.I.C. of Raiganj College send a detail report that total quantum of land is 13.54 acre. Open land excluding water bodies is 4051 acre and Govt. land adjacent to college is approx. 2 acre. Sanctioned teaching stuff is 65 and non-teaching stuff is 33. Vacancy position as on 24.05.2014 is 21 and 8 respectively. In this regards T.I.C. also mentioned additional posts of teaching and non-teaching for Arts dept. for P.G. Courses of Bengali, English, Philosophy, History, Political Science, Sanskrit, Economics the posts of Professor-01, Associate professor 02, Assistant Professor 02 ratio respectively. For each dept. Non-teaching stuff group C and D is 02. Additional posts of teaching and non-teaching for Science Department for P.G. Courses of Physics,

Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Geography, Microbiology the post of Professor-01, Associate professor 02, Assistant Professor 03 ratio respectively. For each dept. Non-teaching stuff group C is 02 and D is 03 ratios respectively. For the P.G. Course of the Dept. of Commerce the post of Professor-01, Associate professor 02, Assistant Professor 02 ratios respectively and non-teaching stuff group C and D is 01:01. In this regards the T.I.C. also mentioned additional New Dept. for P.G. Courses of Education, Sociology, Environmental Studies, Library Science, Home Science, Law, and MBA. The post of Professor-01, Associate professor 02, Assistant Professor 02 ratio respectively each Dept. For each dept. Non-teaching stuff group C and D is 01:01 ratio respectively.

Additional post for the Library Dept. is - 01 Librarian, 01- Deputy Librarian, 02- Assistant Librarian, 04 - Jr. Assistant and 04 - Jr. Attendant. Clerks for the Dept. of V.C. Establishment group C is - 04 and D are - 04. Registrar's Establishment, group C is - 06 and D is - 04. Finance Officer's Establishment, group C is- 08 and D is - 04. Controller's Establishment, group C is- 10 and D is- 06. Inspector of Colleges Office, group C is - 02 and D is - 02. Development Office, group C is - 02 and D is - 02. U.G and P.G. Council Secretary Office, group C is - 02 and D is -01. Guard is -15. Sweeper is - 08. Hostel Cook for three hostels is - 18. Estate Establishment, Officer is - 01. Clerk is - 01 and Attendant is - 01. Health Centre, Doctor (General Physician) is - 01. Compounder is - 01. Attendant is - 01. Regards Watch and Warden Establishment Security Officer - 01, Clerk - 01, Attendant - 01 also mentioned.

Regarding Vice- Chancellor and Officers: 01- Vice-Chancellor, Registrar - 01, Controller of Examinations - 01, Finance Officer - 01, Assistant Finance Officer - 01, Audit Officer - 01, Inspector Of Colleges - 01, Development Officer - 01 U.G. and P.G. Council Secretary - 01, P.A. to V.C - 01, Secretary to V.C. - 01, P.A. to Registrar - 01, Deputy Registrar - 01, Assistant Registrar - 01, P.A. to Finance Officer - 01, Deputy Finance Officer - 01, P.a. to Controller of Examinations - 01, Assistant Controller - 01, Engineer - 01, Sub- Assistant Engineer Gr. III (Electrical) - 01, Technical Assistant Gr. II - 01.

Teaching and Non - Teaching: Total No. of Posts: 1. Professor - 23; 2. Associate Professor- 46; 3. Assistant professor- 54; 4. Assistant Caretaker - 01; 5. Junior Assistant (For Dept.) - 01; 6. Attendant (For Dept.) - 35; 7. Junior Asst. (For Office and Estd.)- 18; 8. Junior Peon (For Office and Estd.) - 18; 9. Guard and Sweeper - 15; 10. Hostel Cook - 18.

New infrastructure requirement for existing dept. Desk and Chair Nos. Required - 470; Generator - 01; Computer - 40; and Construction of New Building (3 x G+4). Books and Journals for the Dept. and above mentioned new infrastructural Cost Approx. Rs. 6.995 crore.

Detail of the building area under Raiganj University is 54847.00 sft. (Fifty four thousand eight hundred forty seven sft. Only).

2. Raiganj University Bill 2014. Bill No.18 Of2014

The Kolkata Gazette. Friday, October 31, 2014

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

GOVT. OF WEST BENGAL. LAW DEPARTMENT. LEGISLATIVE, NOTIFICATION No. 1719-L.-31st Oct. 2014. - The Governor having been pleased to order, under rule 66 of the Rules of procedure and conduct of Business in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, the publication of the following Bill, together with the statement of Objects and reason and the Financial Memorandum which accompany it, in the Kolkata Gazette, the Bill, the Statement of Objects and Reasons and the Financial Memorandum are accordingly hereby published for general information:-

3. A Bill

To provide for constitution of the Raiganj University and for certain matters connected therewith and incidental thereto. WHEREAS it is expedient to constitute Raiganj university in the district of uttar Dinajpur on the land and properties of the existing Raiganj College (University College) by abolishing the existing Raiganj College (University College), and to enable the University to function efficiently as a teaching, training and research centre in various branches of learning and courses of study, including Humanities, Social and Basic Sciences, and promoting advancement and dissemination of knowledge and learning, and extending higher education to meet the requirements of higher education and research in the subjects and to serve the society and the nation; It is hereby enacted in the 65th year of the Republic of India, by the Legislative of the West Bengal, as follows:-

4. Properties and employees of the Raiganj College (University College)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With effect from the date of coming into force of this act, the Raiganj College (University College) shall be deemed to have been dissolved and all bodies and authorities of the Raiganj College (University College), by whatever name they are called, which are in existence immediately preceding the date of coming into effect of this act, shall also stand dissolved with effect from the date of coming into effect of this Act and any decision taken or any order made by such authority shall cease to effect from such date.

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

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

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

The following shall be the members of the Council:-

- (a) The Chancellor;
- (b) The Vice-Chancellor;
- (c) The Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal
Or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of west Bengal;
- (d) The Secretary, Finance Department, Government of West Bengal
Or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of west Bengal;
- (e) Member Secretary, West Bengal State Council of Higher Education;
- (f) Member President, West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education;
- (g) Not less than ten and not more than fifteen persons nominated by the

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

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

The first Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor in consultation with the Minister on the basis of recommendation made by a Search Committee comprising three eminent educationists constituted for this purpose by the State Government. The first Registrar, the first Finance officer and such other officers of the University (including technical personnel) as may be required to be appointed from time to time shall be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Vice-Chancellor as Chairman, a nominee of the Council, a nominee of the Chancellor and a nominee of the state Government, and subject to the supervision, direction and general control of the Vice-Chancellor, they shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties conferred and imposed on them by or under this Act, or delegated to them by the Vice-Chancellor.

The Council may, subject to the approval of the State Government, appoint such administrative, clerical and other staff (including technical staff) as it deems necessary for giving effect to the provisions of this section. The Council may, with the approval of the Chancellor, delegated any of its powers and functions to such body or bodies as may be constituted by it to carry on powers and functions of the Court, the Executive Council, the faculty Councils for Post-graduate Studies, the Councils for Undergraduate Studies, the Board of Studies, the Finance Committee and all other authorities to be constituted under this Act or the Statues or the Ordinances. Provided that such delegation shall not prevent the exercise of any such power or discharge of any such functions by the Council.

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

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

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

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

The other provisions of this Act shall, if in conflict with the provisions of this section, stand modified to the extent provided in this section: Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall affect the power of the Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor under this Act. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the Vice-Chancellor by reason of death, resignation or expiry of his office or otherwise, the same shall be filled up by the Chancellor in consultation with the Minister. Any vacancy in the Council occurring by reason of death, resignation or otherwise shall be filled up by the Chancellor in consultation with the Minister and the Vice-Chancellor, in so far as such filling up is not inconsistent with the provisions of this selection. If, by any reason, any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this selection, the Council shall refer such difficulty to the State Government which may make such order or do such thing, not inconsistent with the provisions of this section, as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.

Powers to give directions -

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

Removal of Difficulties -

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

5. Statement Of Objects And Reasons

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

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

Following shall, *inter alia*, be the objectives of the University -

To encourage and provide for instruction, teaching training and research in such branches of learning and course of study as it may think fit, and generally to promote the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and learning, and the extension of higher education with special emphasis on the study of indigenous as well as culture and rural development; To establish, maintain and manage colleges, libraries, laboratories, museums and such other institutions or centres for study and research as it may deem necessary;

And for such other purposes as may be necessary for dissemination and advancement of higher education. In view of these above, it has been decided that the existing Raiganj College (University College) may be converted into a new University by utilizing land and assets, including the employees of Raiganj College (University College).

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

KOLKATA,
The 30th October, 2014.

PARTHA CHATTERJEE
Member-in-Charge

Conclusion

The Raiganj University has been established by an Act No. XXVI of 2014 of state Legislature of West Bengal as a state University, Notification No. 85-L dated 21st January 2015 and is empowered to award degrees as per the UGC Act 1956. The Raiganj University will help to increase and to spare higher education to the people of the district of Uttar Dinajpur and abroad undoubtedly. I hope The Government of West Bengal, the Government of India and other wings of the educational and financial section will assist to develop whole heartedly to the newly established Raiganj University. The transformation of Raiganj College to Raiganj University is very interesting and it will encourage the next generation.

Acknowledgements

I convey my gratitude to Professor Anil Bhumali, Vice Chancellor, Raiganj University. I am grateful to the kind and necessary help extended to me by the former TICs of Raiganj College; Subhendu Mukherjee, Head Master, Raiganj Coronation High School; Binoy Krishna Goswami, Assistant Librarian of the college; Biplab Roy and Kushal Biswas, employees of the college, have done a valuable help to me. I am very much thankful to my dearest family members and also my colleagues for their helps.

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