



# INDIA JAPAN LABORATORY, KEIO UNIVERSITY, JAPAN REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES

HELD IN WEST BENGAL, INDIA  
DURING THE PERIOD  
5 – 8 JULY 2024



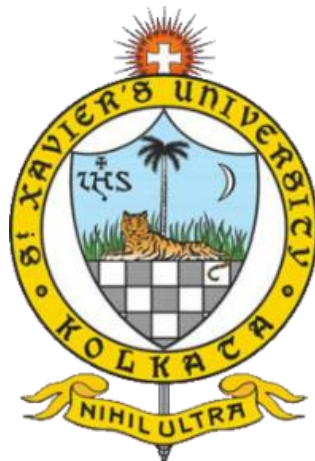
## ACTIVITIES

1. Signing of MoU with St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

2. International Seminar on Disaster Risk Reduction & Disaster Risk Communication at Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal, India.

3. Workshop on Disaster Risk Communication with special reference to Landslide at St. Joseph's College, North Point, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India





## Inauguration Ceremony of the Collaboration between India Japan Lab, Keio University, Japan and St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

Organized by,  
Fr. Lafont Centre for Excellence in Research and Innovation (LCERI)  
St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

Minute to Minute of the Inauguration Ceremony  
(5<sup>th</sup> July 2024)

10:30 am – 10:35 am	Lightening of the Lamp
10:35 am – 10:40 am	Welcome address by Dr. Soma Sur, Professor, Xavier Business School Honorary Director, LCERI, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
10:40 am – 10:45 am	Felicitation of the Guests
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Address by Dr. Rajib Shaw, Professor, Graduate School of Media Governance, and Director, India Japan Lab, Keio University, Japan
11:00 am – 11:10 am	Address by Mr. YAMASAKI Matsutaro, Acting Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata
11:10 am – 11:20 am	Address by Mr. Javed Ahmed Khan, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Dept. of Disaster Management & Civil Defence, Govt. of West Bengal
11:20 am – 11:25 am	Vote of thanks by Dr. Sitangshu Khatua, Associate Professor and Dean, Xavier Business School, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

**EMCEE:** Dr. Manodip Ray Chaudhuri, Professor, Xavier Business School, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

**Signing of MOU for Collaboration between India Japan Lab, Keio University, Japan  
and St. Xavier's University, Kolkata**

Venue: Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Loyola Tirtha, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

Time: 11:30 am – 12:00 pm

11:30 am	Arrival of Guests to Fr. Vice-Chancellor's Office
	1. <b>Mr. Javed Ahmed Khan</b> , <i>Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Dept. of Disaster Management &amp; Civil Defence, Govt. of West Bengal</i>
	2. <b>Mr. YAMASAKI Matsutaro</b> , <i>Acting Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata</i>
	3. <b>Mr. Gautam Ray</b> , <i>Cultural officer, Japan Consulate, Kolkata</i>
	4. <b>Dr. Rajib Shaw</b> , <i>Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, and Director, India Japan Lab, Keio University, Japan</i>
	5. <b>Dr. Kapil Ghosh</b> , <i>Assistant Professor, Diamond Harbour Women's University</i>
	6. <b>Mr. Jayanta Basu</b> , <i>Senior Journalist &amp; Environment Specialist</i>
	7. <b>Dr. Snehasis Sur</b> , <i>President, Press Club, Kolkata</i>
11:30 am – 11:45 am	Refreshments for Guests
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	Signing of MOU for Collaboration between SXUK and IJL, Keio University by <b>Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J.</b> , Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SXUK and <b>Dr. Rajib Shaw</b> , Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, and Director, India Japan Lab, Keio University, Japan
	In presence of
	1. <b>Mr. Javed Ahmed Khan</b> , <i>Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Dept. of Disaster Management &amp; Civil Defence, Govt. of West Bengal</i>
	2. <b>Mr. YAMASAKI Matsutaro</b> , <i>Acting Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata</i>
	3. <b>Prof. Ashis Mitra</b> , <i>Registrar, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata</i>
	4. <b>Mr. Gautam Ray</b> , <i>Cultural officer, Japan Consulate, Kolkata</i>
	5. <b>Dr. Kapil Ghosh</b> , <i>Assistant Professor, Diamond Harbour Women's University</i>
	6. <b>Mr. Jayanta Basu</b> , <i>Senior Journalist &amp; Environment Specialist</i>
	7. <b>Dr. Snehasis Sur</b> , <i>President, Press Club, Kolkata</i>
	8. <b>Dr. Soma Sur</b> , <i>Professor, Xavier Business School and Honorary Director, LCERI</i>
	9. <b>Dr. Sitangshu Khatua</b> , <i>Dean, Xavier Business School</i>
	10. <b>Dr. Manali Bhattacharya</b> , <i>Professor In-charge, Centre for Global Network and Initiatives</i>

11. **Dr. Bidisha Kantha**, Assistant Professor In-charge, Centre for Global Network and Initiatives

## **Meeting for Future Collaborative Projects**

Venue: LCERI Conference Hall, 3rd floor, Arrupe Building

Time: 12:15 pm – 01:00 pm

### **Participants:**

1. <b>Dr. Soma Sur</b> , Professor, Xavier Business School and Honorary Director, LCERI, SXUK
2. <b>Dr. Rajib Shaw</b> , Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, and Director, India Japan Lab, Keio University, Japan
3. <b>Dr. Sitangshu Khatua</b> , Dean, Xavier Business School, SXUK
4. <b>Dr. Saugat Ghosh</b> , Astt. Professor, Xavier Business School.
5. <b>Dr. Kapil Ghosh</b> , Assistant Professor, Diamond Harbour Women's University
6. <b>Dr. Snehasis Sur</b> , President, Press Club, Kolkata
7. <b>Mr. Jayanta Basu</b> , Senior Journalist
8. <b>Ms. Indrani Barui</b> , Research Scholar, Diamond Harbour Women's University
9. <b>Ms. Shabari Bhakta</b> , Research Scholar, Diamond Harbour Women's University



**(From left) Dr. Snehasis Sur, Dr. Kapil Ghosh, Dr. Rajib Shaw, Mr. Yamasaki Matsutaro, Mr. Javed Ahmed Khan, Father Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, Mr. Ashis Mitra, Dr. Soma Sur, Mr. Jayanta Basu, Dr. Sitangshu Khatua, Dr. Monodip Roychoudhury**

## Signing of MoU between India Japan Laboratory, Keio University Japan and St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

### REPORT

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Time:** 10:30 am to 03:00 pm

**Venue:** St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

### Introduction

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, as a part of its endeavour to propagate high quality research and state of the art international collaborations started a new partnership with the India Japan Laboratory of Keio University, Japan. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two universities in Kolkata on Friday, 5 July 2024.

### Attendees

Students and Faculty members of XBS



### About the Programme / Event

An Inauguration Ceremony of the Collaboration between India Japan Lab, Keio University, Japan and St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, India was held on Friday, July 5, 2024 in presence of Mr. Javed Ahmed Khan, Chief guest of the programme and Minister for Disaster Management & Civil Defence, Govt. of

West Bengal, and Mr. Yamasaki Matsutaro, Special guest of the programme



and Acting Consul General of Japan in Kolkata followed by signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between St. Xavier's University, Kolkata and India Japan Laboratory, Keio University, Japan.

Mr. Javed Ahmed Khan, Minister for



Disaster Management and Civil Defence, Govt. of West Bengal mentioned that government is keen in disaster risk reduction and set up a system for the same at the block level.

The Acting Consul General of Japan Kolkata Mr. Yamasaki Matsutaro referred



to the long-standing relations between India and Japan.

Prof. Rajib Shaw in his address mentioned to share Japan's technological advancements in the field of disaster resilience to the projects to be undertaken



jointly by St. Xavier's University, Kolkata and India Japan Laboratory of Keio University, Japan.

This session was followed by the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between St. Xavier's University, Kolkata and India Japan Laboratory, Keio University, Japan. The MoU was signed by Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata and Dr. Rajib Shaw, Director, India Japan Laboratory, Keio University, Japan in presence of Mr. Javed Ahmed Khan, Minister for Disaster Management & Civil Defence, Govt. of West Bengal and Mr.

Yamasaki Matsutaro, Acting Consul General of Japan in Kolkata.

This partnership will enable both the universities to share resources in the field of academics and to undertake research projects in the areas of sustainability, environment, disaster, and resilience management. One of the thrust areas of



capacity building and research will be disaster management including disaster resilience, disaster risk reduction and disaster communication.

A roundtable meeting on the future collaboration on research projects was held at the conference room of LCERI in the presence of Dr. Soma Sur, Professor of Xavier Business School and Hon'y. Director, LCERI, Dr. Rajib Shaw, Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, and Director, India Japan Lab, Keio University, Japan, Dr. Sitangshu Khatua, Dean, Xavier Business School, Dr. Manodip Ray Chaudhuri, Professor, Xavier Business School, Mr. Jayanta Basu, Senior Journalist and Environment Specialist, Dr. Snehasis Sur, Senior Journalist and President, Press Club, Kolkata, Dr. Kapil Gosh, Assistant Professor, Diamond Harbour Women's University, Dr. Saugat Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Xavier Business School and Ms. Indrani Barui, Research Scholar, Diamond Harbour Women's University. The meeting focused on discussing about a proposed research project on the impact of climate changes on

the livelihoods of people in the Sunderbans, West Bengal.



**Feedback:** The ceremony marked a significant milestone in international collaboration, promising enhanced research and resource sharing between the universities.



# The Telegraph



(From left) Rajib Shaw, Reverend Father John Felix Raj, Javed Khan and Matsutaro Yamasaki at the MoU-signing ceremony

## Universities sign pact to protect Sunderbans

**JAYANTA BASU**

Calcutta: Two universities, one in Calcutta and another in Japan, have joined hands in countering environmental issues bothering the Sunderbans.

St Xavier's University of Calcutta and the India-Japan lab of Keio University in Japan signed a memorandum of understanding last Friday to work on issues of mutual interest. The disaster management of Sunderbans features at the top of the list.

The agreement was signed by Reverend Father John Felix Raj, the vice chancellor of St Xavier's University, and Professor Rajib Shaw, a professor of Keio University and a disaster communication expert.

State disaster management minister Javed Khan and acting consul general of Japan in Calcutta, Matsutaro Yamasaki were also present on the occasion. "This latest collaboration is in sync with our consistent pursuit for quality research," said professor Felix Raj.

The acting consul general of Japan referred to the long-standing relations be-

tween India and Japan and promised all support to the latest endeavour.

Javed Khan, minister for disaster management in the state, pointed out that Bengal is one of the most disaster-prone areas of the country.

"Japan has seen a series of high-intensity disasters over the decades. It can bring in important inputs to disaster management mechanism in Bengal," said Khan.

Shaw pointed out that the collaboration would focus on climate change, disaster, and sustainable development.

"Our intended joint action and policy research on the Sunderbans will focus on the analysis of sustainable livelihoods, risk profiling and link to current, emerging and future markets, which will contribute to sustainability and resilient development of the area," he said.

"It's good that the collaboration proposes to link the market with resilience. Nearly five million people of the Sunderbans will not be able to survive just based on government doles and generosity," said an expert on climate change.

Media Coverage





**VISVA-BHARATI**

A Central University and an institution of National Importance

**International Seminar on 'Disaster Communication'**  
**Organised by**  
**Centre for Journalism & Mass Communication (CJMC)**  
**Viksit Bharat Cell, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan**  
**In collaboration with**  
**India Japan Laboratory, Keio University, Japan**  
**&**  
**Centre for Media Research & Development Studies, Kolkata**  
**PROGRAMME SCHEDULE**

<b>10:00-10:30 AM</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Opening Song</b>
<b>10:40 AM</b>	<b>Traditional Reception</b>
<b>10:45-11:25 AM</b>	<b>Inaugural Session</b>
<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>Lecture on Disaster Communication</b> <b>Dr. Snehasis Sur</b> <b>Secretary, CMRDS;</b> <b>President, Press Club, Kolkata</b>
<b>01:00 PM</b>	<b>Lecture on Disaster Resilience &amp; Mitigation</b> <b>Dr. Rajib Shaw,</b> <b>Director, IJL, Keio University, Japan</b>
<b>02:00 PM</b>	<b>Vote of Thanks</b>

**International Seminar on 'Disaster Communication'**  
**Centre for Journalism & Mass Communication (CJMC)**  
**Viksit Bharat Cell, Visva-Bharati**

**REPORT**

**Date: July 6, 2024**

**Time: 10:00 am to 02:00 pm**

**Venue: Conference Hall, Central Library  
Visva-Bharti**

**Seminar Overview**

The Centre for Journalism & Mass Communication (CJMC) in association with the Viksit Bharat Cell, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan organised an International Seminar on 'Disaster Communication' as a part of the Centre's year-long silver jubilee celebrations on 6th July 2024 at the Conference Hall, Central Library. The seminar was organised in collaboration with the India Japan Laboratory, Keio University, Japan, and the Centre for Media Research & Development Studies, Kolkata.

**Key Attendees and Speakers**



The event witnessed several dignitaries including Prof. Arabinda Mondal, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati, Prof. Sirajul Islam, Principal, Vidya Bhavana as the Chief Guest, Prof. Geeta A. Keeni, Head of the Department, Department of

Japanese Language, Visva-Bharati as the Guest of Honor, Dr Nimai Chand Saha, Librarian and Convenor of the Viksit Bharat Cell, Visva-Bharati, followed by the keynote speaker Dr Rajib Shaw, Director, India Japan Laboratory, Keio University, Japan and another respected speaker Dr Snehasis Sur, Secretary, Centre for Media Research & Development Studies and President, Press Club, Kolkata.

**Inauguration and Keynotes**

The event was inaugurated by **Dr Arpan Paul**, In-Charge (Acting) of CJMC, Visva-Bharati where he highlighted the importance of effective communication in the time of disasters and problems in the North - East regions of India that require



prompt action. **Dr Snehasis Sur** highlighted the key factors to be addressed in the seminar where he mentioned the deliverables on the part of a media person at the time of disasters. He also highlighted that this year marks the 10th year of the strategic relations between India and Japan which made the seminar most important at this juncture. **Prof. Geeta A. Keeni**, recalled that Santiniketan has had a deep-rooted connection with Keio University and Japan since 1905 and

recalled eminent personalities like Tenshin Okakura, Shitoku Hori and Dr. K.R Narayana. She presented how Santiniketan and Japan were connected starting from S. Hori's introduction to the esteemed Institution of National importance at Santiniketan in the year 1902. She also recalls a travelogue titled 'Japanjatri' by Rabindranath Tagore where he mentioned his visits to Japan. **Dr Rajib Shaw** in his inaugural speech, recalled his fond memories of his trip to Santiniketan in the year 1994 when he was pursuing his PhD in Japan. Following the reminiscence, Dr Shaw further added about Keio University, which is celebrating its 166th year of academic excellence and is considered to be the oldest modern University in Japan. Dr Shaw joined Keio University in the year 2017 and formed the India Japan Laboratory in the year 2019. Dr Shaw expressed his views on Indian students studying in Japan and mentioned that one could study in English and enroll themselves in different courses in the country where the language barrier does not seem to be a concern. He concluded with the apt mention of 'Tagore Song', a documentary made by Mika Sakasi and was mesmerised to observe the impact of Tagore on the lives of the people in Bengal. Followed by Dr Shaw, **Prof. Sirajul Islam** proposed the necessity and the outcome of disaster communication and identified it as a cornerstone of the Viksit Bharat mission. He further added how media students can engage themselves in reporting such calamities and contribute towards effective communication for ensuring public safety and disaster management. Similarly, **Prof. Arabinda Mondal** discussed the need for further enhancements in technology and resources and identified that fostering partnerships and sharing resources would be effective during the hours of disaster management. Prof. Mondal concluded his speech by saying that preparedness is a shared obligation that will contribute



towards a safer and equipped Bharat. **Dr Nimai Chand Saha** addressed all the dignitaries, welcomed the attendees, research scholars, the students of CJMC and the faculties of other departments and concluded the inaugural session.

#### Keynote Lectures

**Dr Rajib Shaw** began his session on 'Disaster Resilience' by introducing key concepts such as 'Natural Disasters,' often referred to internationally as 'Natural Hazards.' He gradually moved on to explaining the different types of hazards, highlighting tsunamis, COVID-19, and gas leaks as prominent examples of hydrometeorological, biological, and technological hazards, respectively. He referred to the 'Global Risks Report 2020' by the World Economic Forum (WEF), raising concerns about the increasing prominence of environmental risks, such as heat waves and extreme weather in different parts of India and Japan. He noted that infectious diseases like COVID-19 had become high-risk factors, initiated by the 'digital divide' and Japan's ageing population. Dr Shaw also emphasised the significant risk posed by digital challenges, including cybersecurity threats, as highlighted in the 'Global Risks Report 2024' by WEF, which noted the dangers of misinformation, disinformation, and societal polarisation. Dr. Shaw illustrated this phenomenon by misinterpreting facts during the earthquake at Noto Peninsula,

Japan, on January 1, 2024. Some social media users labelled it as a nuclear explosion, causing panic among the population, although comprehensive news updates facilitated early evacuation. Moving on to solutions, Dr Shaw stressed the need for climate-resilient development strategies like Disaster Risk Reduction and local adaptation and innovation. He explained the role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a group of climate scientists and policymakers formed to assess climate change scientifically. Dr Shaw discussed West Bengal's climate issues, including a record 39 consecutive hot days this year, which adversely affected agriculture, and the increased severity and frequency of cyclones like Amphan, Remal, and Asani. He also mentioned the heavy rainfall recorded in the last three years, which raised the necessity for a 'Risk Communication Framework.' This framework proposed holistic learning, incorporating local voices to build credibility and community trust. Dr. Shaw highlighted the shift from conventional to new media, noting that the former provides more credibility with published texts. He raised concerns about media governance, especially within Indian media, where journalists often provide reactive responses during disasters. He clarified that mass media frequently fails to reach the local level and meet the needs of the people. Dr Rajib Shaw concluded his session by urging communicators to address issues like media governance, education and community building, emphasising that media should act as an agent of hope.

**Dr Snehasis Sur** referred to a poignant news capsule about an elephant trapped in the Mahanadi River, where a journalist tragically lost his life attempting to rescue it. Due to time constraints, Dr Sur kept his session concise, focusing on the necessary

steps and precautions journalists must undertake while reporting during disasters. He began by discussing essential preparations, which include physical preparations, such as securing personal documents and preserving essential items, and mental preparations, where individuals acknowledge the risks and make necessary plans to survive. As an experienced professional in journalism, Dr Sur recalled the harrowing experience of covering the supercyclone in Orissa in 1999, which claimed more than 10,000 lives. He highlighted the critical role of ham radio during the Gujarat earthquake, which was instrumental in informing people about the status of their loved ones in the affected areas. Dr Sur's insights underscored the importance of preparedness and the invaluable role of communication in disaster scenarios, emphasising the need for journalists to be physically and mentally well-prepared to effectively and safely report such events.

### **Discussion and Vote of Thanks**



Following the insightful and experience-rich presentations on disaster communication and the role of media by both speakers, the event drew to a close with a short Question and Answer session where Mr Apratim Bhattacharya, Research Scholar, CJMC, pointed out how budding media professionals can engage themselves to prepare for disaster reporting. Dr Rajib Shaw replied that media professionals can act as the voices of the locals, be proactive

and engage in constant communication to avoid panic and restore normalcy by avoiding misinterpretation of facts. Another question raised by Dr Arpan Paul on the provisions at the time of disasters in Japan, Dr Shaw in his reply, mentioned that existing economic segregations and individual awareness of safety can play an essential role in overcoming post-disaster management. The event was succeeded by a vote of thanks by Dr Mausumi Bhattacharyya, Associate Professor and In-Charge at the Centre for Journalism and Mass Communication, Visva-Bharati. Dr. Bhattacharyya expressed her gratitude to all the distinguished speakers, attendees, and organisers for their contributions to the seminar's success, highlighting the importance of continued collaboration and learning in the field of disaster communication.

**Address by Prof. Arabinda Mondal,  
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati:**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great honor and responsibility that I stand before you today to address a topic of paramount importance: disaster communication. In an era marked by increasing natural and man-made calamities, the need for effective communication during disasters has never been more critical.

Natural and manmade disasters strike unexpectedly, putting our determination and preparedness to the test. They do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, or socioeconomic background. In these vital moments, excellent communication can be the difference between chaos and order, despair and hope.

We must provide our communities with the knowledge and resources need to mitigate risks and respond quickly. This entails

educating all citizens, from schoolchildren to retirees, on disaster preparedness, ensuring that everyone understands how to access important information and respond correctly in times of crisis.

In today's digital age, technology can be an effective ally in disaster communication. We will use the most recent advances in telecommunications, satellite photography, and data analytics to improve early warning systems, increase real-time communication during catastrophes, and enable the rapid deployment of resources to affected areas.

No single entity can deal with calamities alone. The Vikshit Bharat programme emphasizes collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the commercial sector, and local communities. By creating alliances and pooling resources, we can form a united front against any tragedy that strikes.

However, our efforts do not end here. We must also consider the human side of catastrophe communication, assuring empathy, clarity, and inclusivity in our messaging. Everyone affected, regardless of background or geography, ought to get fast and accurate information.

As we embark on this path together, keep in mind that readiness is a shared responsibility, not just one of the governments. Each of us has a responsibility to play in creating a safer, more resilient Bharat.

In conclusion, let us commit ourselves to the ideals of Vikshit Bharat – to empower, to innovate, and to communicate. Together, we can a nation where disasters no longer leave devastation in their wake, but instead strengthen our resolve and bring out the best in humanity.

**Address by Prof. Gita A Kini, Head of the Department, Department of Japanese Language, Visva-Bharati**

It is indeed a pleasure to be a part of this significant seminar organized by the Centre for Journalism and Mass Communication and Viksit Bharat Cell, Visva-Bharati in collaboration with India Japan Laboratory, Keio University, Japan.

I will briefly touch upon the connections between Japan and Bengal in general and Santiniketan in particular as requested by Prof. Mausumi Bhattacharya, the In-Charge of Centre for Journalism and Mass Communication.

With great interest one finds that Shitoku Hori, a Japanese national joined Brahmavidyalaya that was established in December 1901, to learn Sanskrit. This created a history of Santiniketan having the first foreign student which is one of the many fruits borne out of the Historic meeting between the two luminaries of Asia, Tenshin Okakura and Rabindranath Tagore in 1902. Being attached to the Department of Japanese at Santiniketan for more than three decades, which is in fact throughout the Heisei period, it gives me great pleasure to make a claim that Hori's joining acted as an impetus to Japanese learning at Santiniketan.

The Historic meeting also bore fruits in the arena of fine Arts enriching the Artists of both countries India and Japan. On Rabindranath's request Okakura sent distinguished artists viz. Taikan Yokoyama and Shunsō Hishida to India in 1903. Their visit facilitated introduction of Japanese wash and ink painting (Sumie) to Indian artists. At the same time, they learnt the techniques of Indian miniature paintings from Indian masters such as Abanindranath, nephew of Tagore.

Eagerness to explore each other's cultural domain was further deepened when

Okakura sent Jinnosuke Sano, a graduate from Keio University to Santiniketan in 1905 to teach Jujutsu, on Tagore's request. From Sano's account one comes to know about Tagore's eagerness in teaching Japanese at Santiniketan for which he selected students before Sano's arrival.

In this way, though informally, Japanese language teaching-learning activities began in the first decade of the 20th century (38th year of Meiji period) in Santiniketan.

Sano's contributions towards establishing the India-Japan relationship had dual face; on one hand he taught the language, the martial art – Jujutsu to the people of Brahmavidyalaya, on the other hand, he wrote a number of essays on India and also engaged himself in translating a few representative works of Bengali literature into Japanese.

Relationship with Japan was further strengthened upon Tagore's maiden visit to Japan in 1916. His direct interaction with Japanese people and their culture has been recorded in his travelogue Japanjatri and letters that he wrote to different people narrating his impressive experience on different aspects of Japanese people.

Tagore's eagerness to create a conducive interactive environment for the artists of both countries prompted him to invite the artist Kampo Arai. Needless to mention that this interaction enriched both societies and Tagore's satisfaction is beautifully recorded in the poem that he composed before Kampo's departure to Japan (May 1918). The poem in Bengali and its rendering in Japanese is inscribed on the foundation stone of the Nippon Bhavana.

[One day, you came to my home like a guest / Today at the time of departure, you have come to my heart.]

Visva-Bharati received Kintarou Kasahara family to Sriniketan in 1920. Kasahara

taught wood-crafts and Uttarayan, Tagore's residence, bears the impact of Japanese art and crafts. He also designed and created a Japanese Garden behind Uttarayan.

Tagore's visit to Japan as many as 5 times tells us about the special place that the country had in his heart.

During his final visit he was hosted by Kunihiko Ookura, a friend of Rashbehari Bose and a proponent of oriental culture in Japan, Tagore requested Ookura for a Jujutsu teacher and instructors for tea ceremony and Ikebana, the art of flower arrangement.

Shinzo Takagaki, the 5 DAN Belt Judo instructor came to Santiniketan in 1929. The song Sankocher bihwalata nijere apamaan [Shying away in hesitation is self-humiliation] was composed and Tagore presented it to Takagaki. During his stay at Santiniketan, Takagaki visited different places for Judo demonstration—with his students of Santiniketan. The song Sankocher bihwalata nijere apamaan was sung as an opening song on 16th March 1931 at New Empire Theatre at Kolkata where students of Visva-Bharati performed Jujutsu in Tagore's presence. Takagaki's wife joined him the following year i.e., in 1930. With her came Makiko Hoshi (1930-31), sister-in-law of Rashbehari Bose, who taught Ikebana and Sadou i.e., tea ceremony.

In this way, one finds the century old relationship that was established through Buddhism received a new dimension as a result of this Historic meeting of the two luminaries of Asia. The effect of this meeting expanded to various fields of intellectual and cultural activities ranging from wood-craft, martial art/jujutsu, Ikebana, tea-ceremony, Japanese garden, Japanese language teaching-learning and so on.

Constant exposure to the Japanese nationals in a small university-town in rural India gave the people of Santiniketan an opportunity to understand Japan and her people.

Reverend Tsūshō Byōdō, a Buddhist scholar, who studied Sanskrit Alankar Shastra, under Pandit Bhidhu Sekhar Shastri at Santiniketan in 1933-34 needs special mention with regard to the academic and cultural relation that flourished at Santiniketan. It is known that Tagore requested Reverend Byōdō to explore the possibilities of establishing a Japāni Bhavana [Nippon Gakuin] at Santiniketan.

In 1954 Japanese Department was established keeping in tune with Tagore's vision. Almost for 3 decades since its inception, eminent Japanese scholars have graced the department and contributed towards nurturing the department while teaching Japanese language, culture and Buddhist philosophy.

The first Indian faculty member was recruited in March 1985.

The foundation stone of Nippon Bhavana was laid in 1991 by Reverend Byōdō respecting Tagore's wish that was made in 1934, with the active initiatives of Prof. Kazuo Azuma, one of the eminent scholars attached to the Department from 1967-1970. Nippon Bhavana was inaugurated on February 3 1994 by Shri K.R. Narayanan, the then Vice President of India. This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment.

Having a roof of its own provided an impetus to the academic activities of the Department. During this journey the Department had support from The Japan Foundation, The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer Teachers of JICA, the Diplomatic Missions of Japan in India. The Department could expand its teaching

activities from Certificate and Diploma courses to Undergraduate, Postgraduate courses followed by the Doctoral programme.

Till date, Visva-Bharati is the only institution in the Eastern Region of India to offer Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral programmes. Students from different parts of India as well as from neighbouring countries join the Department.

Since 2015 the Department has been recognized by The Japan Foundation, Japan, as one of the centres for conducting the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) in India. This immensely benefits our students as well as Japanese language learners of the surrounding areas and neighbouring states enabling them to go for higher studies and to procure employment. Informatively this is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of JLPT at Santiniketan.

A retrospection shows strong and constant interactions with the Academic Institutions in Japan providing opportunities for the students to acquaint themselves with young people of their age group. Till the first decade of this century our students used to eagerly wait for the Chikushi Jogakuen University's yearly visit to our campus which started in 1991. Their scope of interactions expanded as the Department signed Memorandum of Understanding with a few more Japanese Universities 2015 onwards.

I wish to conclude by paying tribute to Jinnosuke Sano who taught Japanese to the students of Santiniketan way back in the first decade of the twentieth century and by expressing sincere gratitude to our predecessors who cared and nurtured the relationship giving shape to the present-day Japanese Charcha/studies, honouring the founder's wish of making the place

(Santiniketan) a home where the World would meet in one single nest.

I congratulate the organizers for arranging this significant seminar. I am sure the discussions that will take place during this seminar will enrich the bond between the people of two nations through each other's talents and technology. Thank you



**International Seminar on 'Disaster Communication' Centre for Journalism & Mass Communication (CJMC) Viksit Bharat Cell, Visva Bharati**



**Dr. Rajib Shaw, Dr. Mausumi Bhattacharyya, Dr. Snehasis Sur**



# List of Participants & Resource Person



CENTRE FOR JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION and VIKSIT BHARAT CELL,  
VIDYA-BHAVANA, VISVA-BHARATI  
in collaboration with  
INDIA JAPAN LABORATORY, KEIO UNIVERSITY, JAPAN and CENTRE FOR MEDIA  
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, KOLKATA  
presents

## International Seminar on Disaster Communication

Venue: Conference Hall, Central Library Date: 6th July, 2024 (Saturday)

### Attendance List

Sl. No.	Name	Department/ Organisation	Signature
1.	Prof. Anabinda Mondal	Vice-Chancellor (Offg.) Visva-Bharati	[Signature]
2.	Prof. Srajal Islam	Principal, Vidya Bhavana	[Signature]
3.	Prof. Guin A. Keeni	HOD, Department of Japanese	[Signature]
4.	Dr. Rajib Shaw	Director, IIL, Keio University Japan	[Signature]
5.	Dr. Snehasis Sirc	President, Press Club, Kolkata	[Signature]
6.	Dr. Nimai Chand Saha	Librarian, Visva-Bharati	[Signature]
7.	Prof. Biplob Laha Chowdhury	Professor, CJMC	[Signature]
8.	Rajib Shaw	Kea	[Signature]
9.	Dr. Laxay Chatterjee	Asst. Prof. Geography, Bhalla College, Datan	[Signature]
9.	Dr. Krishanu Chatter	Asst. Prof Geography, V.S	[Signature]
10.	Dr Arpan Paul	Faculty, CJMC	[Signature]
11.	RAVI RANJAN KUMAR	MTS, CJMC	[Signature]

Sl. No.	Name	Department/ Organisation	Signature
31.	Saim SK	CJMC	[Signature]
32.	Adroft Bhumi	CJMC	[Signature]
33.	Ajay Das	Geography	[Signature]
34.	Sumal Bhakt	Economics	[Signature]
35.	Shouvik Mondal	CJMC	[Signature]
36.	md Apif SK	CJMC	[Signature]
37.	Akash mandal	CJMC	[Signature]
38.	MD MURJ HOSSAIN	CJMC	[Signature]
39.	Sarnio Sait	Education	[Signature]
40.	Nihal Tamang	Geography	[Signature]
41.	Prigobha Chowdhury	CJMC	[Signature]
42.	Subanya Halder	CJMC	[Signature]
43.	Lokesh Chakma.	CJMC	[Signature]
44.	Siman Tamson	CJMC (Scholar)	[Signature]
45.	Sumanabangam Khadas	Education (PG)	[Signature]
46.	Saimon Mondal	Central Librarian	[Signature]
47.	Bandi Vidan	"	[Signature]
48.	Manu Mukherjee	CJMC	[Signature]
49.	Anatim Bhattacharya	CJMC	[Signature]

Sl. No.	Name	Department/ Organisation	Signature
12.	Pamela Sen	West Bengal State University	[Signature]
13.	Srimati Mondal	CJMC (Scholar)	[Signature]
14.	Sumon De	CCL	[Signature]
15.	Rohit Ray	CJMC	[Signature]
16.	Sukanta Mondal	CJMC	[Signature]
17.	Sudipto Das	CJMC (Scholar)	[Signature]
18.	Tripathi Bal	CJMC	[Signature]
19.	Betha Sankar	CJMC (S.V.)	[Signature]
20.	Dr. Choudhury	CJMC	[Signature]
21.	SAYAMALI SENGUPTA (MAJUMBAR)	Silpa-Sadana P.S.V. Srinidhi	[Signature]
22.	Sukanti Mukherjee	CJMC	[Signature]
23.	Madhu Sudan Halder	CJMC	[Signature]
24.	Mokina Goswami	CJMC	[Signature]
25.	Arunava Ganguly	CJMC	[Signature]
26.	Srimati Mondal	CJMC	[Signature]
27.	Babika Kundu	CJMC	[Signature]
28.	Shranya Rout	CJMC	[Signature]
29.	Kishan Kumar Yadav	CJMC	[Signature]
30.	Sahyabashi Bhattacharya	CJMC	[Signature]

Sl. No.	Name	Department/ Organisation	Signature
50.	Nupur Jaisari	Connect India Japan	[Signature]
51.	Joy Gopal Das	Disaster Lab	[Signature]
52.	Mihika Chatterjee	Connect India Japan	[Signature]
53.	Rajanya Tewari	Connect India Japan	[Signature]
54.	Biswajit Roy	Former Journalist	[Signature]
55.	Debdatta Koley	Scholar, CJMC	[Signature]



# St. Joseph's College

D A R J E E L I N G , I N D I A

**SEMINAR ON DISASTER COMMUNICATION**  
Organised by  
**St. Joseph's College, North Point, Darjeeling,**  
**West Bengal, India**  
In collaboration with India Japan Laboratory,  
Keio University, Japan & Centre for Media  
Research & Development Studies

## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

02:00 pm	Prayer	Rev. Fr. Pragasan, Director, SFC, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling
02:05 pm	Welcoming of Guests	Ms. Smriti Rai, Dept. of Mass Communication, St. Joseph's College
02:10 pm	Welcome Address	Rev. Fr. Donatus Kujur, Principal, St. Joseph's College
02:20 pm	Address	Dr. Snehasis Sur, Secretary, CMRDS & President, Press Club, Kolkata
02:30 pm	Lecture on Disaster Communication	Dr. Rajib Shaw, Director, IJL, Keio University, Japan
03:30 pm	Q & A	Mr. Vikram Rai, HoD, Dept. of Mass Communication, St. Joseph's College
03:45 pm	Vote of Thanks	Dept. of Mass Communication, St. Joseph's College
03:50 pm	Tea & Departure	

**Workshop on Disaster Risk Communication  
with special reference to Landslide  
at St. Joseph's College, North Point,  
Darjeeling, West Bengal, India.**

**REPORT**

**Date: July 8, 2024**

**Time: 02:00 pm to 04:00 pm**

**Venue: M. R Hall Auditorium St.  
Joseph's College, Darjeeling**

A seminar was held on 8th July, 2024 at St. Joseph's College, North Point in Darjeeling in order to raise awareness about the principles and ethics of journalism while reporting particularly for natural disasters.



This was organized by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, St. Joseph's College and in collaboration with Keio University, Japan, and the Centre for Media Resources and Development Studies. The featured speaker for the workshop was Prof. Dr. Rajib Shaw, Director of Keio University, Japan, as the keynote speaker. Dr. Snehasis Sur, President of Kolkata Club, too made an opening statement for the need of the hour with this much needed workshops and seminars especially for Disaster Communication. Fr C. Pragasan, SJ, Director of Self-Financed Courses, St. Joseph's college addressed the members

of seminar and explained the growing importance of disaster communication.

In his address, Dr. Rajib Shaw elaborated on the roles media should play before and after natural disasters. He emphasized the importance of informing regional populations about potential disasters, identifying which areas are at risk and which are safe, and providing accurate and factual news reports post-disaster. He highlighted the media's role as a bridge to communicate the situation to relevant authorities. Dr. Rajiv Shaw also focused on how the reporting should be in collaboration with the Scientists and reports to present factual data and relevant information.

Professor Vikram Rai, Head of the Mass Communication Department at St. Joseph's College, explained the much needed workshop, noting that the Himalayan regions have undergone severe ecological changes over the past few decades, leading to frequent natural disasters.



The workshop was attended by staff and students of St. Joseph's College. It was also attended by members of ATREE, WWF, TEEIDI and members of Press Guild, Darjeeling.

During the workshop, a disaster management guidebook for landslides, compiled by the Centre for Media Research and Development Studies, Kolkata, was released. It was announced that the guidebook would be translated into Nepali and distributed among regional journalists for promoting and providing guidelines during natural calamities.

The program ended by question and answer sessions, which was answered by Dr. Rajiv Shaw and Dr. Snehasis Sur as they dealt with doubts and ways to tackle disaster calamities reporting during adversity.

### SJC seminar on disaster reporting

**Our Correspondent**  
**DARJEELING, July 8:** A seminar on disaster communication was held at St. Joseph's College here today.  
 Organized by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of St. Joseph's College in collaboration with the Japan Laboratory, Keio University, Japan and Centre for Media Research and Development Studies, the seminar had speakers focusing on the role of media to bring the right information to people on disaster.  
 "Communication is very important when it comes to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The role of journalists is very important on this. The researchers and academicians do a lot of work on this and it is the journalists that translate it for the common people."



Dr. Rajiv Shaw, director, JIL, Keio University of Japan, said that during a disaster, "communication is one of the main problems with electricity, internet and phone lines down and added that it could combat it with preparedness before the disaster strikes.  
 "Vulnerable areas are known and if certain practices can be applied like evacuating those areas before any untoward incident occurs then many things can be avoided. There is the role of journalists here also as they can make the people there aware of it," said Shaw while also adding that the local people also play an important part in this with them knowing about the condition of their area.  
 Speaking about landslide risk reduction he said that there should be a knowledge among people as to which areas can live or need to vacate along with the need for monitoring earth movement for which sensors can be used for warning systems.  
 Shaw also said that it is seen that landslides are mostly occurring in new settlement areas with people constructing in places where they are not supposed to.

### Farakka Water Treaty renewal will

**SEMINAR ON DISASTER COMMUNICATION**  
 Organized by  
 St. Joseph's College, North Point, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India  
 In collaboration with  
 India Japan Laboratory, Keio University, Japan & Centre for Media Research & Development Studies

S.NO.	NAME	ORGANIZATION	SIGNATURE
1	Yugesh Jangra	ATREE Darjeeling	[Signature]
2	Siddhat Chatterji	Amugyalaya D.O.S.S	[Signature]
3	Brandon Sengpa	Amugyalaya DOSS	[Signature]
4	Tohno Gungy	Amugyalaya D.O.S.S	[Signature]
5	Nehang Subba	MASS COMM Department	[Signature]
6	Siddhik Rai	Mass Com Journal	[Signature]
7	Shradha Mukherjee	Mass Com Journal	[Signature]
8	Yashwanth Lepcha	Mass Com Journalism	[Signature]
9	Deepankar Sengpa	MASS COMM JOURNALISM	[Signature]
10	Bishnu Khatun Dabral	MASS COMM JOURNALISM	[Signature]
11	Priyanka Padhan	MASS COMM JOURNALISM	[Signature]
12	Harsh Gungy	MASS COMM DEPT	[Signature]
13	JAYANT KAN	MASS COMM DEPT	[Signature]
14	Manas Prasad Ghimire	Darjeeling Municipality	[Signature]
15	Santosh Prasad	Darjeeling Municipality	[Signature]

S.NO.	NAME	ORGANIZATION	SIGNATURE
16	Sonal Shrestha	D.T.V. Press	[Signature]
17	Devi Chatterji	News 18 Bangla	[Signature]
18	Reza Pradhan	Sikkim Express	[Signature]
19	Shreya Gungy	Sunshine/Teedi	[Signature]
20	C. Pragasani	St. Joseph's College	[Signature]
21			
22			

## हिमालय दर्पण

## दार्जिलिंग दर्पण

# प्राकृतिक आपदा पत्रकारिताको भूमिकामाथि कार्यशाला

कार्यशालाको उद्देश्य प्राकृतिक आपदाको बारेमा जानकारी फैलाउनु हो। यसको माध्यमबाट प्राकृतिक आपदाको बारेमा जनतालाई सचेत राखिनेछ।

प्रमाणित कर्मचारीको कक्षा प्रारम्भ गरिएको छ। यसबाट प्राकृतिक आपदाको बारेमा जनतालाई सचेत राखिनेछ।

### दार्जिलिंग के नॉर्थ प्वाइंट कॉलेज में कार्यशाला का आयोजन

● प्राकृतिक आपदाओं पर सटीक और तथ्यात्मक रिपोर्टिंग करने पर जोर

दार्जिलिंग (विश्व संवाददाता) प्राकृतिक आपदाओं पर सटीक और तथ्यात्मक रिपोर्टिंग करने के लिए दार्जिलिंग के नॉर्थ प्वाइंट कॉलेज में एक कार्यशाला आयोजित की गई।



कार्यशाला में प्राकृतिक आपदाओं पर सटीक और तथ्यात्मक रिपोर्टिंग करने के लिए दार्जिलिंग के नॉर्थ प्वाइंट कॉलेज में एक कार्यशाला आयोजित की गई।

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### List of Participants & Resource Person

### Media Coverage





## Published by

Dr. Snehasis Sur, Secretary,  
Centre for Media Research  
&  
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P-338, CIT Scheme VI-M, Phulbagan,  
Kolkata-700054.  
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