

# Report on the Special Lecture

*“Traversing the Terrain of Internationalisation of Education”*

*By Fr. Prof. George Thadathil SDB*

*19 November 2024, Conference Hall, University of North Bengal*

The University of North Bengal organized a distinguished lecture on “*Traversing the Terrain of Internationalisation of Education*” by Fr. Prof. George Thadathil SDB, former Principal of Salesian College, on 19th November 2024 in the Conference Hall. The intellectually stimulating event attracted a diverse audience comprising faculty, researchers, and students, providing profound insights into the challenges and opportunities inherent in globalized education. The program was gracefully hosted by Dr. Binayak Sundas, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Himalayan Studies, NBU and the report was precisely. The report was prudently crafted by Manash Esh, Senior Information Scientist, NBU.

## About the Speaker

Fr. Prof. George Thadathil, a respected academic and administrator, was the Principal of Salesian College from 2000 to 2023. He holds a doctorate from the University of Madras, with his research centered on the Sri Narayana Guru Movement. An accomplished scholar, Fr. Thadathil has authored several notable works, including *Communities and Identity Consciousness: South Indian Trajectories* and *Democracy in Darjeeling*. He has edited the *Salesian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* and was awarded the prestigious Silver Medal by the International Association of Facilitators in 2019. Currently, he serves as the General Coordinator for the Salesian University Network Global in Rome.

## Event Highlights

**Dr. Nupur Das**, Registrar (Addl. Ch.), welcomed all dignitaries and participants, setting an optimistic and engaging tone for the lecture.

**Prof. Roy**, Dean of Science and ACL, NBU, and Founding Vice-Chancellor of Alipurduar University, highlighted the pressing issue of unemployment. He emphasized the pivotal role of educators in addressing this challenge and its critical connection to the broader theme of internationalisation.

**Prof. Debabrata Mitra**, Vice-Chancellor of DDU, discussed the transformative impact of the National Education Policy (NEP) in fostering global collaborations. He envisioned the University of North Bengal evolving into a worldwide hub for education, emphasizing the importance of integrating global standards with regional aspirations.

## **Special Lecture by Fr. Prof. George Thadathil SDB:**

In his keynote address, Fr. Prof. Thadathil eloquently explored the evolving dimensions of internationalisation in education. He delved into the opportunities arising from cross-cultural collaboration and global knowledge exchange, while also cautioning against the potential risks of losing local identity and autonomy. His thought-provoking reflections included the broader implications of global student mobility, such as the prominent representation of Chinese students in the United States, and prompted critical introspection on whether countries like India are merely providers of raw intellectual resources in the global educational narrative. The opening up of our economy has brought immense opportunities, but it also compels us to reflect on the broader dynamics of internationalisation. Aspirational growth across nations is evident, with Chinese students constituting a significant proportion of international learners in the United States. This trend underscores the global development in internationalism that is actively shaping educational landscapes elsewhere.

**Prof. Sanchari Roy Mukherjee**, Department of Economics, NBU, and former Vice-Chancellor of RU and DDU, chaired the session. She succinctly summarized the lecture's main points, reflecting on its relevance to contemporary educational challenges. In her valedictory address, she commended the speaker for providing a balanced perspective on the global-local dynamics of education.

**Shri Palash Paul**, Development Officer, NBU, extended heartfelt gratitude to the speaker, dignitaries, and attendees for their invaluable contributions, ensuring the event's success.

The special lecture served as an enriching intellectual forum for examining the dynamics of internationalised education. Fr. Prof. Thadathil's scholarly expertise and nuanced perspectives inspired attendees to reflect deeply on how global engagement can be harmonized with local priorities, fostering a balanced approach to educational innovation in an interconnected world.





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