Certificate Course on Tibetan Language and Culture under Career Oriented Program (COP) approved By University of North Bengal executed by the Department of Tibetan, Darjeeling Government College.

Prof. In charge: Dr. Lhundup Tsomo Bhutia Year of Commencement: 2022.

The honorable Vice Chancellor University of North Bengal was requested with the Memo. No. 497/T-7/2021, dated 24.12.2021 by the Officer in Charge Darjeeling Government College, after carefully understanding, debating and relating the demand and importance of the Tibetan Language and Culture to the honorable Vice Chancellor which was much desired, sought and looked forward to by the students and faculties of Darjeeling Government College, public and other institutes. Subsequently the respected Inspector of Colleges, University of North Bengal issued permission for introducing the Certificate Course on Tibetan Language and Culture with maximum intake of thirty students for the first time in Darjeeling Government College vied Ref. No. 68/01/Insp-21, dated 28/12/2021 addressed to the Principal, Darjeeling Government College. A meeting was concluded on 11.04.2022 regarding Certificate Course on Tibetan Language and Culture under COP, in the chambers of Principal Secretary of the council for UG Studies, University of North Bengal attended by faculties of Darjeeling Government College, and faculty of Center for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal which discussed the Syllabus, committee, Admission process, criteria etc. for Certificate Course on Tibetan Language and Culture under COP. As a result an expert committee was formed for Certificate Course on Tibetan Language and Culture under C.O.P where in the Principal Secretary of the council for UG Studies, University of North Bengal vide Ref. No. 43/UG-2(4) dated 21.04.2022 informed Dr. Lhundup Tsomo Bhutia, Department of Tibetan Darjeeling Government College of her nomination as Member of the Expert Committee on Tibetan Language and Culture under the Career Oriented Programme (C.O.P). Consequently the Syllabus was framed by the committee and all necessary initiative undertaken to commence the certificate course.

With the large number of students enrolling for the Certificate Course on Tibetan Language and Culture the officer in charge of Darjeeling Government College in consultation with the department of Tibetan Darjeeling Government College wrote another letter (dated 28.05.2022)to the Inspector of Colleges University of North Bengal requesting to reconsider increasing the seating capacity as a result with the Ref. No. 25/01/Insp-22 dated 08/07/22 the respected Inspector of Colleges, University of North Bengal has increased the maximum intake of students from 30 to 50 as of today for which the faculty and students of Darjeeling Government College will remain ever grateful. The total Number of Students who qualified to register after selection process of interview for the academic session 2022-23 was forty nine. After the elections for the GTA where the College premises was under the control of election commission on the request of the District Magistrate Darjeeling 7<sup>th</sup> of July saw the commencement of regular classes for the Certificate Course on Tibetan Language and Culture. Mode of teaching was multilingual as English, Nepali, Bengali and Tibetan are frequently used for the students to easily understand the course and the syllabus which is designed to cover the basic and most frequently used dialect, script and culture

of Tibetan Studies in the Himalayan Region. The interested students, scholars and general public are introduced with the basic Tibetan Language where the students have shown much interest and some have out shown their capabilities in learning and relating to Tibetan Language and Culture.

Respected Principal Secretary of the Council for UG Studies, University of North Bengal has always remained very cooperative and has at all times encouraged rendering all possible assistance for the commencement and successful completion of the first batch of Certificate Course on Tibetan Language and Culture under (COP) for the academic session 2022-23 and continues to provide all necessary assistance despite the busy schedule and overwhelming responsibility that the post of Principal Secretary holds. The Center for Himalayan studies University of North Bengal has also rendered all assistance and cooperation in the smooth functioning of the Certificate Course on Tibetan Language and Culture. The successful completion of Certificate Course on Tibetan Language for the academic session 2022-23 and the continued participation of interested students numbering around forty for the new academic session 2023-24, has further enhanced the importance of Tibetan Studies and lifted the moral of students and faculty alike who strive to provide due diligence to their studies and over all wellbeing. The office of the Principal Secretary has further nominated Dr. Lhundup Tsomo Bhutia, Department of Tibetan, Darjeeling Government College as the Chairperson of the Board of Under Graduate Studies in Modern Tibetan vide Ref No.107/UG-23 dated 02.06.2023.

Activities like Field Study/ Educational excursion undertaken by the Department of Tibetan on 30.08.2022 with the prior approval of Officer in Charge Darjeeling Government College vide request letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Total Number of Students undertaking the field study was twenty two and one faculty member from the Department of Tibetan Darjeeling Government College. The students started from Darjeeling Government College and covered the four main schools of Tibetan Buddhist Studies in Darjeeling one at Jorbonglow, two at Ghoom, and one at Dali. The excursion provided subject related information to students to grasp through visualization and firsthand experience. The report of which was presented to Officer in Charge Darjeeling Government College after the completion of the excursion, also attached here in along with relevant pictures by Dr. Lhundup Tsomo Bhutia Department of Tibetan Darjeeling Government College.

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