



सिक्किम विश्वविद्यालय  
स्थापित: 2007

## Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

The month of July is quite significant in the history of Sikkim University as it was in the month of July 2007 that our revered University was established by an Act of Parliament. This year we celebrated the 12th Foundation Day of the University. Padma Shree Geshe Ngawang Samten was invited for the Foundation Day lecture on "Buddhism and 21st Century". Some faculty members, staff and students were felicitated on the occasion.

We also congratulate our Vice-Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare on receiving the Award for Excellence in Academics and Education at a function held in Delhi.

We also congratulate our student, Shri Indra Hang Subba on being elected the Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, from Sikkim in the general elections 2019.

Kunjini Prakash Darnal

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Volume: VII

Issue: IV

June & July 2019

# SIKKIM UNIVERSITY CHRONICLE

## Shri Indra Hang Subba Felicitated

Shri Indra Hang Subba, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, was felicitated by the University on 13th June at Cauveri Hall. Mr. Subba is a research scholar in the Department of Physics of the University. The officiating Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang handed over a letter of commendation to MP Indra Hang Subba and Registrar Sh. T.K. Kaul presented a memento.



## Vice-Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare felicitated

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Avinash Khare was honoured with the prestigious Alumni of Hindu College Delhi University Award for Excellence in Academics and Education on 27th July 2019. The function was held in New Delhi at the India Habitat Centre. The award function was graced by the Union Minister, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pema Khandu and noted Hindi film maker, Shri Imtiaz Ali.



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## Second Court Meeting Convened

The second meeting of the University Court was held on 10th June 2019. This was the first visit of the Chancellor Lt. Gen (Retd.) Dattatray B. Shekhatkar after being appointed the third Chancellor of the University in March 2019 by the President of India. The Court meeting was chaired by the Chancellor. Various issues pertaining to the developmental activities and the overall growth and progress of the University were discussed at the meeting. Deans of Schools of Studies also attended the meeting.



## Capacity Building in Chinese Studies in Northeast India

The Second Institute of Chinese Studies- Havard Yenching Institute Colloquium was organised at Sikkim University on 11th June 2019 at Cauveri Hall in collaboration with the Department of Chinese, Sikkim University. The theme of the colloquium was Capacity Building in Chinese Studies in northeast India and the prime aim of the colloquium was to spread awareness amongst upcoming PhD scholars of a unique initiative which is "The Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS)- Havard- Yenching Institute (HYI) Joint Scholarship Program" for registered doctoral students in Indian Universities for promoting multi-disciplinary research on China in India. Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi is known to all as one of the oldest research institutions in the country on China and East Asia, while Havard Yenching Institute is recognised as an independent foundation dedicated to advancing higher education in Asia in the humanities and social sciences. It is one of the premier institutions in the country promoting multi-disciplinary research on China in India.

Resource persons present for the colloquium shared their experiences as recipients of the ICS-HYI joint doctoral scholarship and also presented their respective areas of study. Dr. Nirmola Sharma presented a talk on "Making a case for studying Chinese History in India: Locating Northeast India in the India-China historical interaction paradigm", where she emphasised upon the significant role of history in creating a holistic, comprehensive understanding of China with special focus on the northeast of India. Dr. Veda Vaidyanathan in her paper titled, "China as a global actor: Learning from the grassroots" focused upon the Chinese presence in the African market and argued that it was no longer China as the state playing the economic role, but rather individual entrepreneurs taking the call for economic expansion. Dr. Madhurendra Jha's paper on "Researching Chinese Cinema: the Indian Perspective" opened up a new concept of cinematic text, which in his opinion, could function as a critical research tool towards exploring diverse aspects of Chinese society, both in the past and the present. Dr. Bhim Subba, in his talk titled, "Studying the Chinese Party- state in the Periphery: Trends and Significance" suggested the emerging role that Sikkim could play in understanding India China engagements. There was also a vibrant question and answer session following the presentation.

Sikkim University and the Institute of Chinese Studies in the near future would hopefully be able to identify common research interests and chalk out future possible avenues of academic cooperation in the form of joint research projects, founding of centre of excellence in Chinese Studies and student internship program.

## International Yoga Day

International Yoga Day was observed in the University on 21st June 2019. The programme was held at Greendale Senior Secondary School, Tadong. Ms. Kamala Rai from the Art of Living Foundation, Sikkim Chapter was the Yoga instructor for the day. Ms. Kamala Rai demonstrated different yogasanas and explained the benefits of each of the asanas. The programme was organised by the NSS Cell of the University with the theme to resolve the pressing concern of climate change and pledge to make efforts to address the issue.



## 12th Foundation Day celebration

The 12th Foundation Day celebration programme of the University was held at Manan Kendra on 31st July 2019. On the occasion a special lecture was delivered by Padma Shree Prof. Geshe Ngawang Samten, Vice- Chancellor of the University of Higher Tibetan Studies Sarnath on "Buddhism and 21st Century". Prof. Samten was born on 7th July 1956 at Dokra in Central Tibet and came to India along with his parents after the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1959. He began his academic career in Research Department and became the Head of the Research Department devoted to the restoration of the lost Buddhist texts into Sanskrit, based on classical Tibetan translations made in ancient times jointly by the Indian and Tibetan Pundits. He has made substantial contribution to the improvement of academic standards at Central University of Higher Tibetan Studies particularly through teaching and research. He is instrumental in promoting Buddhist Studies in India. In 2009 Prof. Samten was awarded the Padma Shree by the President of India for his distinguished services in the field of education and literature.

In his address, Prof. Samten spoke on how Buddha brought a paradigm shift in the philosophical world by introducing the fundamental concepts of impermanence, inter- dependent origination, selflessness and emptiness. He also mentioned as to how Buddhism has made a significant contribution to spirituality and human knowledge pertaining to various fields of studies in ancient Indian Philosophy, epistemology, cognitive science, logic and psychology. Buddhism is a religious system with strong intellectual foundation of analysis and investigation for the exploration of reality. The Buddhist science of mind provides a sophisticated account of system of mind and emotions, their nature, characteristics, causes and conditions, their impact, how to reduce, subdue and eliminate the destructive emotions like anger, hatred, jealousy and cultivate and develop the positive emotions like patience, compassion and love. Prof. Samten also mentioned in his address that Tibetan Buddhist tradition today attracts the top world scientists and intellectuals, consequently for over three decades they are having interactions with Buddhist scholars and practitioners to explore in to the nature of mind on which Buddhism has a lot to offer.

On the occasion of the 12th Foundation Day, faculty members, staff and students were felicitated for their exemplary performance in the field of research, academics and administration. A cultural programme was also organised on this day to mark the 12th year of establishment of the University.

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