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Editor's Note

Dear All,
In the month of August there were many events that were organised in the University. The National Conference of History and Historiography was a significant one which aimed at initiating a dialogue among historians of Indian Science and Technology on various aspects of traditional knowledge system.

We congratulate Dr. Swati Akshay Sachdeva, Asso. Prof. Dept. of Sociology on having presented a paper at the United Nations, New York, on Social and Psychological Cost of Development on Traditional Societies: A Study of Sikkim.

On 16th August 2018 India mourned the death of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee- an eminent leader, politician and poet. A condolence meeting was organised in the University to pay respect to the late leader.

This issue highlights some of the events and activities organised in the University and I hope you enjoy reading it and keep writing and contributing articles for the SU Chronicle.

Kunjini Prakash Darnal

In this Issue:

- Editor's Note
- 72nd Independence Day Celebration
- Condolence Meet: Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- National Seminar on Indian Science: History and Historiography: A brief Report
- Training of Trainers' Programme: A brief Report
- Social and Psychological Cost of Development on Traditional Societies: A Study of Sikkim: Dr. Swati A. Sachdeva, Asso. Prof. Dept. of Sociology
- Brainstorming Workshop on NIRF
- Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas 2018
- 132nd Birth Anniversary of Maithilisharan Gupta

Independence Day Celebration

The 72nd Independence Day was observed in the University with much fervor and enthusiasm. The faculty members, staff and students of the University gathered at the Kanchendzonga Management Block to mark the occasion. The Vice- Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang hoisted the National flag and conveyed his good wishes to all on the occasion. Registrar Sh. T.K. Kaul addressed the gathering and congratulated everyone present on the occasion of the 72nd year of Indian Independence.



Condolence Meet

On the 16th of August 2018 India lost one of its eminent leaders Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Shri Vajpayee had served as the Prime Minister of India from 1998- 2004. He was conferred with the highest Civilian Award, the Bharat Ratna in 2015 by the then President Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Shri Vajpayee suffered a stroke in 2009 which impaired his speech and had taken ill since then. He breathed his last on 16th August 2018.

A condolence meet was organised at the Kanchendzonga Management Block of the University on 17th August 2018 to pay tribute to the late leader and the former Prime Minister of India.



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Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas

Dr. Pushpa Sharma, Head of Department of Nepali

The Department of Nepali organised the 26th “Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas” and 204th “Bhanu Smaran Karyakram” on 24th August 2018. The programme was presided over by the Vice- Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang. The Chief- Guest for the programme was Shri Rudra Poudyal, President Sikkim Sahitya Parishad. Shri Poudyal delivered the keynote address at the function. Dr. Kabita Lama, Dean School of Languages and Literature spoke about the life and works of Bhanu Bhakta Acharya. Dr. Nawal K. Paswan, Dean School of Social Sciences spoke on the importance of language in disseminating culture and heritage.

The students of the Department of Nepali presented Nepali songs, poems and dances. The programme was attended by the faculty members, non- teaching staff and students of the University.



132nd Birth Anniversary of Maithilisharan Gupta

Dr. Brijendra Kumar Agnihotri, Department of Hindi

The 132nd birth anniversary of Maithilisharan Gupta was organised under the aegis of the Department of Hindi on 3rd August 2018. Dr. Chuki Bhutia in her detailed deliberation on the justification of Maithilisharan Gupta’s literary contribution as a national poet, introduced the society with the ignored characters of historical and mythological stories adding them to contemporary references. The students of Hindi also discussed on the literature of Maithilisharan Gupta and recited some of his popular poems. Dr. Brijendra Agnihotri recited some of his self composed poems from three of his published poetry collections- “Yaadein”, “Poojagni” and “Khwahishein”.



National Seminar on “Indian Science: History and Historiography”

Dr. Venu Pant, Associate Prof. Dept. of History

Department of History organised a three days’ National Conference on “Indian Science: History and Historiography” from 1st to 3rd August 2018. In this Conference various aspects of History of Indian Science and its different narratives were discussed. The Conference was divided into eight sessions including the Inaugural and Valedictory Sessions and two special lectures. The Conference was attended by over hundred scholars from the field of History and Science and 40 presentations over various aspects of Indian Science: History and Historiography took place during the course of three days’ Conference. The inaugural session of the Conference was graced by the Vice- Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Prof. Narayan Rao, Member ICHR and National Vice President of Akhil Bharatiya Itihas Sankalan Yojana, Dr. Bal Mukund Pandey, National Organising Secretary, Akhil Bharatiya Itihas Sankalan Yojana and Prof. Smritikumar Sarkar, former Vice- Chancellor of Burdwan University and President of West Bengal Itihas Sankalan Samiti. A special lecture by Dr. Kumar Ganesh, a renowned Numerologist and Astrologer was organised between the technical sessions on Bharatiya Itihasik Paripakshya Me Jyotish Vigyan. He presented a world view of Indian Astro Science, not only highlighting the contribution of this untouched aspect of Indian traditional knowledge but also pointing out the outreach and dissemination of the same throughout the known world during the ancient and medieval periods. Vice- Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang delivered a special lecture on “History and Culture of Indian Fermented Foods and Beverages”. In his lecture he not only explained the importance of traditional food but also invited the historians to work on the history of traditional food and its scientific value.



Training of Trainers’ Programme

Prof. M. Yasin, Head of Department of Political Science

The three days’ Training of Trainers’ Programme was organised by the Department of Political Science in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, Sriprumbudur, Tamil Nadu from 7th to 9th August 2018 at Cauveri Hall. The Programme was meant for social engagement of Sikkim University by training the local level functionaries associated with the process of rural development in Sikkim as well as for sensitising the NSS officers and volunteers on socially relevant issues and activities. As many as 50 participants took part in the three days’ training programme, majority of whom were elected Gram Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat members from the four districts of Sikkim, NSS officers from different Colleges and the University, besides the research scholars and students from the Department of Political Science. The resource persons for the training programme were from the academic field with wide experience in the process of local governance and rural development as well as from the officials with in-the-field working experience of local governance and rural development. The programme was inaugurated by the Vice- Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang. Mr. Anil Raj Rai, Special Secretary, Department of Rural Management and Development, Government of Sikkim graced the occasion as Chief- Guest. Prof. Inderjeet Singh Sodhi, Head of Department of Local Governance, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India briefed the audience about the objective and rationale of the programme as the Co-ordinator of the Training of Trainers’ Programme.



Brainstorming Workshop on Process and Preparedness for NIRF Ranking

Dr. N. Sathyanarayana, Professor, Department of Botany

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) is a framework that outlines a methodology to rank higher education institutions across the country based on performance. The methodology draws from the overall recommendations and broad understanding arrived at by a core committee set up by MHRD to identify the parameters for ranking various universities and institutions. It was approved by the MHRD and launched by the Honourable Minister of Human Resource Development on 29th September 2015. Sikkim University being a Central University has been participating in this ranking process for the last two years.

A Brainstorming Workshop on the Process and Preparedness for NIRF Ranking was organised on 13th August 2018 at the Conference Hall, Barad Sadan. The workshop was organised by NIRF advisory committee of the University to create awareness among faculty members about the NIRF ranking process and preparedness to be embarked upon to improve the existing ranking of the University. Prof. Biswajit Mahanty, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering and former Dean (Planning) at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur participated as a resource person. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang was the Chief-Guest and the programme was attended by more than 70 participants including statutory officers, Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty members and members of the NIRF advisory committee.

In his address Vice-Chancellor Prof. Tamang emphasised the need for improving the NIRF ranking of Sikkim University in view of its relevance to funding and outlined the measures undertaken by the University to achieve the same. He urged the university fraternity to work together to improve the outputs, particularly with regard to research and professional practices. Prof. Mahanty in his talk, explained in lucid terms, the different parameters that are accounted during NIRF ranking process



“Social and Psychological Cost of Development on Traditional Societies: A Study of Sikkim”

Dr. Swati Akshay Sachdeva, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, presented a paper titled “Social and Psychological Cost of Development on Traditional societies: A Study of Sikkim” in the U.N. (New York) on the 16th of July 2018. This presentation was a part of the 2018 High Level Political Forum (HLPF), sponsored by the American Psychological Association, to discuss the relationship between sustainable development and mental health. She addressed the gap in capacity building and residence and the need to lay down culturally relevant mental health care infrastructure and presented evidence based best practice for the treatment of mental health in low resource setting in developing societies like Sikkim.

During this visit, she also made a presentation on the implementation and training for lay people and community health workers at Columbia University and Pace University, New York.