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Workshop organised by the Department of Zoology

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

A lot of workshops and seminars were organised in the months of March and April that have benefitted our students and all the other participants. The Seminar on Role of Buddha's Preaching in Realisation of Human Rights gave an insight into the importance of human values and human rights.

The student fest- Ramailo SU- Khim gave an opportunity to all our students to participate in different activities and competitions that were organised under the aegis of SUSA. Our talented and bright young students participated in them enthusiastically and we hope you continue to be actively involved in both curricular and co curricular activities.

Kunjini Prakash Darnal

A training workshop on "Data Management and Analysis for Biologists using R" was organised by the department of Zoology from 25th February to 9th March 2019. This training workshop was held under the collaborative project "Key Ecosystem Services and Bio-diversity Components in Socio- Ecological Landscapes of Darjeeling- Sikkim Himalaya Driving Management and Policy Inputs and Development of Mountain Bio-diversity Information System", jointly implemented by Sikkim University and Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE) funded by the Ministry of Environment of Forests and Climate Change under National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) through GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPIHESD). Biologists often struggle to deal their bigger datasets and therefore strong analytical approach and the knowledge on recent statistical tools are very important to understand and interpret such datasets. Robust statistical tools and packages help researchers to analyse and present their findings more effectively. The "R" language and its several packages are now gaining popularity across many disciplines and is one of the most powerful tools used for analysis, visualisation and interpretation of biological data. The objective of the training workshop was to introduce the participants to "R" software and basic analytical approaches or packages with emphasis on biological data. The workshop also sought to cover the basics of "R" programming, data management and analytical approaches.

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Two Days' International Conference

The department of history organised a two days' International Conference on "Past and Present of Governance of Rural Resources: Comparative Institutional Analysis of Japan and India" which began at Sikkim University on 5th March 2019. The inaugural session of the Conference was held on 5th March at Cauveri Hall of the University which was presided over by the Dean, School of Social Sciences, Prof. N.K. Paswan. The chief guest for the function was Prof. Altury Murali from the University of Hyderabad. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Takushi Sakurai, University of Tokyo, Japan. Researchers from universities and institutions from Japan, Ohio State University USA, Lock Haven University Pennsylvania USA, Hyderabad, Guwahati and Sikkim University participated in the two days' deliberation on the subject. The aim of the Conference was to study how people and the state viewed and used various common property resources in India and Japan. Since time immemorial people have been using natural resources like land, water, forests etc. for their survival and livelihood and the state has recognised the right of the people on such resources. The Conference also sought to provide a platform to the researchers working in the field from India and abroad to discuss and deliberate over the similarities and differences among both India and Japan as well as to contribute insights regarding the impact of different policies. Wastelands and common lands during the British period in India, common resources properties of the post- independence period in India, grazing lands/ pasture lands, common resource properties in Japan, forests and forest policies of the government were some of the sub- themes for discussion at the Conference. The Conference came to a close on 6th March 2019.



Vietnam Ambassador visits Sikkim University.

His Excellency Pham Sanh Chau delivered a special lecture on "Vietnam India Relations in the context of India's Act East Policy" at Barad Sadan on 28th March 2019 which was attended by faculty members and students of the University. His Excellency Pham Sanh Chau stated that Vietnam has a consistent policy for peace, friendship, co- operation and development and acts as a friend, a reliable partner and a responsible member of the international community. He also highlighted that the history and foundation of Vietnam- India relationship is based on three principles- long standing traditional friendship, high level of political trust and convergence of strategic interests. Honourable Vice- Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare spoke on the evolution of India- Vietnam relations and stated that the two countries have built up a synergy for deeper co- operation as evident from strategic partnership in 2007 to a comprehensive partnership in 2016.



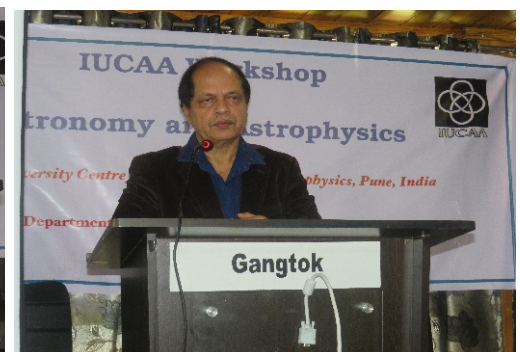
Seminar on “Role of Buddha’s Preaching in Realisation of Human Rights”

Two days’ national seminar on “Role of Buddha’s Preaching in Realisation of Human Rights” was jointly organised by the University and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) India and was inaugurated at the conference hall of the State Tourism department. The inaugural function was presided over by the officiating Vice- Chancellor of the University, Prof. Irshad Ghulam Ahmed and the chief guest for the programme was Ms. Jyotika Kalra, a member of the NHRC. Academicians, historians, writers and human rights activists from across India, who took part in the seminar were of the unanimous view that the teachings of Buddha remain relevant even in the modern concept of human rights since Buddha sought to direct human beings on the path of peaceful coexistence by overcoming wars and human rights violations by transforming their own inner cosmos. In her address Ms. Jyotika Kalra said that Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution should be credited for keeping the light of Buddhism alive in India. She also mentioned that it was essential to attempt to relate the Buddhist approach for humanity to the struggle for human rights in the modern world. The keynote address was delivered by Sh. Arun Kamal, an eminent Hindi writer and poet and winner of the Sahitya Academy award. The academic sessions were addressed by eminent academicians, historians, senior bureaucrats and writers from different parts of India.



Workshop on Astronomy and Astrophysics

The department of Physics organised a three days’ IUCAA workshop on “Astronomy and Astrophysics” from 29th to 31st March 2019. The inaugural session of the workshop was held on 29th March at the conference hall, Barad Sadan. Vice- Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare welcomed the participants and resource persons and also stressed on the importance of such workshops. Prof. Dhruva J. Saikia from IUCAA highlighted the growth of astronomy in the country with several major observational facilities in place and participation in several next generation international telescopes. The resource persons of the workshop were Prof. D.J. Saikia from IUCAA, Prof. Debasish Borah from IIT Guwahati, Prof. Sukanta Deb from Cotton University Guwahati, Prof. Kanak Saha from IUCAA and Prof. Bikash Paul from the University of North Bengal.



RAMAILO SU- KHIM

Ramailo SU- Khim is an annual fest organised by the student body of the University- Sikkim University Students' Association (SUSA). Various events and competitions are organised during the fest and students participate in them with much enthusiasm. This year Ramailo SU- Khim was held from 8th March to 23rd April 2019. Various sports, cultural and art competitions were organised during the fest. SUSA also sought to help an ailing girl Bandana Limboo by collecting some money who is undergoing treatment at New Delhi.



Workshop on Academic Paper Writing

The department of Education organised a three days' workshop on writing of academic papers and referencing in education and social sciences from March 6-8th 2019. The inaugural session of the workshop was held on 6th March at Barad Sadan which was chaired by the Registrar, Sh. T.K. Kaul. The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Madhu Kushwaha, department of Education, Banaras Hindu University.

Writing academic papers efficiently is the mark of proficiency in the world of academia. It presents a professional image as well as it contributes to the knowledge arena. Academic writings refer to a style of expression that researchers use to define the intellectual boundaries of their disciplines and their specific areas of expertise. The most common purpose in academic writing is to persuade, analyse, synthesise and to inform and any research work needs to be reported with scientific objectivity and with clarity. The focus of the workshop was on various types of academic writing and referencing. The workshop also sought to introduce a scientific style of writing descriptive, analytical, persuasive and critical writing. A total of 33 participants from South Bihar University, Gaya, Burdwan University, Visva Bharati University, NEHU, Shillong, Calcutta University, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim University.

