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Prof. Avinash Khare takes charge as the third Vice-Chancellor

Editor's Note

I am delighted to present the October issue of the SU Chronicle as this has been a significant month in the history of the University as we welcomed Prof. Avinash Khare as the third Vice-Chancellor of the University. The University, is just eleven years old, yet it has achieved significant milestones in academics and research under the able leadership of eminent academicians and visionaries like Prof. Mahendra P. Lama and Prof. T.B. Subba- the first and second Vice- Chancellors respectively.

We are also very grateful for the exceptional contribution made by Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Dean School of Life Sciences who served as the officiating Vice- Chancellor of the University for a year.

We extend a warm welcome to Vice- Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare as he takes charge of his duties and we hope to achieve many more episodes of triumph and marvel under his able guidance and leadership.

I hope you enjoy reading and keep contributing articles for the SU Chronicle.

Kunjini Prakash Darnal



Prof. Avinash Khare has been appointed as the third Vice- Chancellor of Sikkim University by the President of India in his capacity as the Visitor of the University. Prof. Khare is an eminent Astrophysicist and one of the most renowned scientists in the field of Plasma Research.

Prof. Kahre took charge as the third Vice- Chancellor of the University from the officiating Vice- Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang on 11th October 2018.

Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang had been the officiating Vice- Chancellor of the University since 13th October 2017 after Prof. T.B. Subba completed his tenure as the second Vice- Chancellor of Sikkim University.

Prof. Khare was welcomed by the teachers, non- teaching staff and students of the University at an induction programme organised at the Cauveri Hall of the University.

Vice- Chancellor Prof. Khare expressed strong desire and willingness to work towards the betterment of the University.

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National Level Competition for Students on Legal Provisions for Women in India

Reported by Dr. Swati A. Sachdeva, Presiding Officer, ICC

The International Complaints Committee (ICC) of Sikkim University in collaboration with National Commission for Women (NCW), India, organised a National level competition for students on the theme “Legal Provisions for Women in India” on 26th October 2018 at Barad Sadan. Thirty- five students participated in the competition from the different academic departments of Sikkim University.

The first prize was awarded to Ms. Monica Lakandri, Dept. of Political Science and the second prize was awarded to Md. Faraz Ahmed, Dept. of Law.

The third prizes were received by Ms. Ishraz Ahmed, Dept. of Law, Nisha Rai, Dept. of Law, Ms. Priyashree Gogoi, Dept. of Anthropology, Ms. Smriti Ghatani, Dept. of Political Science and Ms. Soumita Ghosh, Department of Education.

The prize distribution for National Level Competition organised by the Internal Complaints Committee, Sikkim University was held on 20th November 2018. The guests of honour were Vice- Chancellor Prof. Avinash Kahre, Registrar Sh. T. K. Kaul and Mrs. Navtara Sharda Advocate High Court of Sikkim. The programme was attended by faculty members, students and members of the ICC.

Dr. Swati A. Sachdeva gave a brief report on the various activities of the ICC. It was followed by a lecture on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention and Redressal) Act 2013 by Mrs. Navtara Sharda, Advocate High Court of Sikkim. Mrs. Sharda spoke in detail about the different types of sexual harassment at the workplace and penalties thereof as given in the Act. The lecture was followed by short addresses by the Vice- Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare and Registrar Sh. T.K. Kaul.

Vice- Chancellor Prof. Khare also gave away the cash prizes and certificates to the winners and all the participants who actively took part in the competition. The winner Ms. Monica Lakandri received a cash prize of Rs. 2000, Mr. Faraz Ahmed who stood second received a cash prize of Rs. 1500 and Ishraz Ahmed, Nisha Rai, Priyashree Gogoi, Smriti Ghatani and Soumita Ghosh received Rs. 500 each in the third position. The cash prize was sponsored by National Commission for Women, India.



International Conference on “International Forum on Cross- Cultural Communication of China’s Belt Road Initiative and Journalism and Communication Education”

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Ahriwar, Asstt. Prof. Dept. of Peace and Conflict Studies.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Ahriwar has specialisation in Chinese Studies and he recently attended the International Conference on “International Forum on Cross- Cultural Communication of China’s Belt Road Initiative and Journalism and Communication Education” from October 19th to 21st 2018, organised by School of Journalism and Communication, Shanghai University, Shanghai, People’s Republic of China.

Dr. Ahriwar was invited for the Conference at Shanghai Academy which is a research institution co-established by the Academy Social Sciences, China and the People’s Government of Shanghai. In order to promote the communication and co- operation between international scholars to foster pioneering academic studies, “International Forum on Cross- Cultural Communication of China’s Belt and Road Initiative and Journalism and Communication Education” was, therefore, co-organiser with Shanghai Academy- World Media Research Centre and many top- level research institutions to have a get together of established intellectuals from all over the world. The Conference was attended by many Chinese national and international scholars from different parts of the World.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Ahriwar spoke on “The Cultural Globalisation and Confucian Revivalism through Belt Road Initiative (BRI)”, where he discussed the cultural and developmental aspects of BRI and its implication in the emerging world order. BRI is not only economic Globalisation but also to be followed by the cultural Globalisation in the 21st century. BRI is a clear manifestation of Power Transition from West to East. It is the first time, when the power transition is taking place in a conventionally peaceful manner. However, the concept of harmony is rooted in the old Confucian philosophy which is relevant in terms of Cultural Globalisation for China.



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Prof. Avinash Khare did his B.Sc. (Hons) from Hindu College, Delhi University in 1979 and M.Sc. from APS University Rewa in 1981. He completed his Ph.D. on “Instabilities and Turbulence in Mirror Machines” from Physical Research Lab Ahmedabad in 1985.

Prof. Khare has been associated with many renowned International Universities like the University of Oxford, UK, International Centre of Theoretical Physics, Trieste Italy, University of California San Diego, USA, University of Iowa, Iowa City USA, Columbia University New York USA, Centre of Space Plasma and Aeronomic Research, NASA, Huntsville, AI USA. He has also been associated with Institute for Plasma Research Bhat Gandhinagar, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Mumbai and the Department of Physics and Astrophysics, University of Delhi.

Prof. Khare’s research interests lie in Fusion of Plasmas, Tokamak Physics, Non- Neutral Plasmas, Rocket/Space Propulsion, Laser Plasma Interaction, Astrophysics, Gravitational Collapse, formation of Stars and Planets, to name a few.

He has been honoured with awards like Homi Bhaba Young Scientist Fellowship Award (1993-95), INSA Biren Roy Memorial Lecture Award for outstanding contribution to Physics (2016). He also holds important positions like that of Chairman, International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the International Conference on the Physics of Dusty Plasmas (ICPD), Member, International Programme Committee Asia Pacific Fusion Association Conference, Member, International Advisory Committee Plasma College, AS International Centre of Theoretical Physics, Trieste Italy, Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) (2011), Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India, Allahabad, to name a few.

Special Lecture on Current Issues in Plant Sciences

Reported by Dr. Santosh Kumar Rai, Asst. Prof. Dept. of Botany

A special lecture on Current Issues in Plant Sciences was organised on 1st June 2018 at Barad Sadan by the Department of Botany. The programme was inaugurated at 10:00 am with the lighting of the lamp by eminent resource persons Prof. Saroj Kumar Barik, Director, CSIR- National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and Prof. Debasish Banerji Bioscience Advisor, Baba Amte Centre for People's Empowerment, Bagli (Dewas), Indore, Madhya Pradesh and the University officials including the Head of Department. The resource persons were felicitated with traditional scarf (khada) and a bouquet. In his welcome address Dr. Dhani Raj Chhetri, Head of the Department of Botany introduced the activities of the department including research and co-curricular activities. After the welcome address, the gathering was addressed by Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, officiating Vice-Chancellor of the University and motivated the young faculty members and the students for research and publications. The technical session resumed soon after the inaugural function where Prof. Saroj Kumar Barik delivered his erudite lecture on "Bio-diversity based bio-economy in Eastern Himalayas". In his lecture he highlighted the bio-diversity rich Eastern Himalayas and the scientific investigation of bio-resources for the prosperity of people living in the North Eastern states of India. He emphasised that there is a great possibility to find out unique molecules that may be used for drug discovery. He also informed the house regarding new schemes of the Government of India regarding educational tour for the students and promised that he would communicate with the department regarding this matter.



The second lecture was delivered by Prof. Debasish Banerji on the topic "Genetically Modified Crops: The Way Ahead". In his lecture he highlighted the importance of genetically modified crops particularly BT-cotton in the state of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and also highlighted the plight of the farmers as some of the policies of the government is not in favour of the farmers. However, he emphasised that the Genetically Modified Organisms should be accepted for the economic well being of the farmers. The two technical sessions were followed by an interactive session where the participants asked questions to the resource persons and cleared their doubts.

Vigilance Awareness Week at Sikkim University

The University observed the Vigilance Awareness Week from 29th October 2018 to 3rd November 2018 with the theme "Eradicate Corruption- Build a New India". As part of the Vigilance Awareness Week programme, many activities were organised in the University which included quiz competitions, debate, slogan and poster competition, essay writing, elocution and panel discussion.

On 2nd November 2018 a Walkathon was organised from the Kanchendzonga Administrative Block to the Raap- Jyor Cauveri Girls' Hostel at 5th Mile. Faculty members, non-teaching staff and students participated in the Walkathon which was flagged off by the Registrar Sh. T.K. Kaul. As part of the Vigilance Awareness Week an Integrity Pledge was administered to the staff and students of the University by the officiating Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang.

