



Editor's Note

Dear friends,

Three weeks have elapsed since nature unleashed its fury and rocked Kathmandu and the hundreds of towns and villages resulting in a colossal tragedy. Our hearts go out to all those people who have lost their lives and have been affected by the massive earthquake.

The quake unsettled the normal course of life here in Sikkim as well where minor tremors were felt. Despite the trepidation, the University stood ground and carried out its scheduled activities undeterred. It was abuzz with activities with scholars from across the country coming to participate in seminars and conferences. The regular classes in the departments of Management and Anthropology were punctuated by exciting events. This issue contains a blend of reports of those meets, events that are refreshingly informative and a couple of creative writings.

We look forward to more participation in this newsletter from different academic and non-academic departments in the coming issues.

Jasmine Yimchunger

International Conference on 'Cultural Heritage of Sikkim'



Right to left : Prof V. K. Srivastava (HoD Anthropology, Delhi University, Inaugural Speaker); Prof S. K. Chaudhuri (Director, IGRMS); Shri Garjaman Gurung (Hon'ble Minister for Cultural Heritage); Prof T. B. Subba (Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SU); Shri T. K. Kaul (Registrar, SU); Prof. S. Maiti (Organizing Secretary and Dean, Human Sciences, SU); Dr. K. R. R. Mohan (HoD, Anthropology, SU) at the Inaugural Function held on 25.04. 2015.

The Department of Anthropology in collaboration with Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, organized a 3-day conference from April 25 to 27, 2015. The venue of the conference was the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Deorali, Gangtok. Despite the indiscriminate weather conditions and recurrent small earthquakes taking place during the said days, the conference went on uninterrupted to an attentive audience.

In the inaugural session, the Organizing Secretary of the conference and Dean, School of Human Sciences, Prof. Sameera Maiti introduced the theme "Cultural Heritage" and elaborated upon the urgent need and importance of the theme in the context of Sikkim.

Prof. Sarit Chaudhuri, Director, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, briefed the audience about the mission of IGRMS in preserving the cultural heritage of India. He also expressed keenness to collaborate with Sikkim University in conducting research and training for young professionals in conservation techniques and Museology. The Chief Guest of the ceremony, Shri. Garjaman Gurung, Minister of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Sikkim, while praising the endeavor taken up to organize the conference appealed to the delegates to share their findings and suggestions with the Government of Sikkim since these could be positively used in policy framing and preserving the cultural heritage of Sikkim.

In his inaugural lecture on 'Nature and Culture: Some Issues in Heritage Anthropology', Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Head, Dept. of Anthropology, Delhi University opined that cultural heritage is a dynamic process since people have the choice to mould their cultural moorings according to their daily needs and activities. He further stressed the need to discuss the issues at both micro and macro levels to understand further how communities safeguard their cultural traits for its well-being and continuity. The lecture was chaired by Prof. T.B. Subba, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University. The Inaugural ended with a vote of thanks from Shri T.K. Kaul, Registrar, Sikkim University.

A 1- hour lecture on 'The Cultural Heritage of Sikkim' was delivered by Prof. T. B. Subba, Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University. Prof. Subba presented a brief but comprehensive socio-cultural history of Sikkim while analyzing the concept of cultural heritage and discussing in detail the various cultural traits of the region. The lecture was followed by a vibrant interactive session.

Six more lectures were delivered by eminent scholars namely Prof. S. R. Mondal (North Bengal University); Prof. Sukant K. Chaudhury (Lucknow University); Prof. Maitreyee Choudhury (North Bengal University); Dr. Anna Balikci-Denjongpa (Namgyal Institute of Tibetology); Dr. Sanjukta Sattar (Mumbai University) and Ms. Pouriangthanliu (Jamia Mili Islamia). The scholars covered various aspects of conference theme dealing with it both at the global as well as local level.

Apart from the special lectures, eight technical sessions were held in which a total of 37 papers were presented on various themes related to the cultural heritage of Sikkim.

In the valedictory session, Prof. T. B. Subba, Chief Guest of the function, distributed the certificates to the participants. In his address, he highlighted Sikkim University's attempt to preserve the unique cultural aspects of Sikkim for the future generation by setting up a Museum in the University. The conference concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Sameera Maiti, the Organizing Secretary of the conference.

In This Issue

Editor's Note

International Conference on Cultural Heritage of Sikkim

Publication

Seminars/Workshop

'Peoples Of India' Exhibition

NSS Activities

Twin Jottings

Juvenis 2015

Upcoming Events & Seminars

May 22-23, 2015: International Conference on "Engendering Democracy in South Asia: Issues & Challenges"

Organised by
Department of Political Science
School of Social Sciences
Sikkim University,

June 25-26, 2015: International Conference on "India's Northeast and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunitie"

Organized by
Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and Management,
School of Social Sciences,
Sikkim University

In joint collaboration with
ICWA and ICSSR, New Delhi

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Layout & Design by:
Dorjee Sherpa Pinasa
Department of Mass Communication

Mailing Address
suchronicle@cus.ac.in

Publications

Dr. Sebastian N, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, "Islamic Movements Engaging with Democracy: Front Islamique Du Salut (FIS) and the Democratic Experiment in Algeria" India Quarterly (Sage) Vol. 71, No. 3, July-September 2015.

NSS Activities in the month of April, 2015



A special lecture on "Meditation and Stress Management" by Ms. Sheetal Jhunjhunwala and Mr. Arkadeb Bhattacharyya from Yoga Vidya Pranik Healing Foundation of West Bengal, Kolkata was organized on 4th April, 2015 at Barad Sadan, 5th Mile at 9:30 A.M. The faculty members and students participated in the lecture and learnt twin hearts meditation. The speakers informed the audience on courses on Pranik healing also which is a no touch therapy and widely practiced in 120 countries by doctors, scientists, athletes etc.



A cleaning drive at Dept. of Horticulture was organized from 9.30 A.M 12.30 P.M on 11th April, 201. Faculty members of the department and sixty students from B.Sc. II, IV and VI Semester along with laboratory attendant, Mr. Dinesh Rai participated in the cleaning of all the classrooms, faculty rooms, laboratories etc.



A cleaning drive at Central Library was organized by NSS Cell on 19th April, 2015 from 10:00 A.M 12.30 P.M.. Dr. Sujata Upadhyay, Programme Coordinator; Dr. Jigmie W. Bhutia and Dr. Subhash Mishra, Programme Officers, along with twelve students from the Departments of Anthropology, Chemistry, Chinese, Horticulture, Law, Peace and Conflict Studies and Psychology participated in the cleaning of the whole library premises. The student volunteers also pasted messages on usage of dustbins, no pasting of posters in front of the library. TCS conducted an employability training programme from March 18 - 24, 2015 at Teesta Boy's Hostel, Gangtok. A total of 122 students have received certificates of participation from TCS. The course instructor Mr. Indranil Pakrashi had conducted sessions on interview skills, communication skills, debate, group discussion, resume preparation etc. for students. Two students, Ms. Suman Pradhan, UG Final

Seminars, Workshops and Conferences

Jayanta Barman, Assistant Professor, Department of Music, presented a paper titled, "Uttorbanger Lokayoto Badyojantro Dotara: Sangeetik Viseswatyo O Lokojibone Tar Probbhab" in a National Seminar on "Influence of Instrumental music on Human Mind and society." organized by Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, 27 March 2015.

Jayanta Barman, Assistant Professor, Department of Music, presented a paper titled "Musical instruments of Limboo in Sikkim" in an International Conference on "Cultural heritage of Sikkim" organised by Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University and Indira Gandhi Rastriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal in Namgyal Institute of Technology, Deorali, Gangtok, Sikkim, 25-27 April, 2015.

Balaram Pandey, Assistant Professor, Department of Nepali, presented a paper titled "Nepali Literature and Readership in India" in the 2nd International Nepali Literary Symposium organised by Bharat-Nepal Janamaitri Sanskritik Manch, Kolkata, 11-12 April, 2015.

Sameera Maiti, Professor, Department of Anthropology, presented a paper titled "Gendering Monasticism: A Case Study of Sikkim" co-authored with Dr. Swati Akshay Sachdeva, in an International Conference on 'Cultural Heritage of Sikkim' organised by the Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University and IGRMAS, Bhopal, 25-27 April, 2015.

K. R. Rama Mohan, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, presented a paper titled 'Internal Migration among the Scheduled Tribes in Search of Livelihoods: A Case Study of Visakhapatnam District, in a National Conference on "New Paradigms in Anthropology' organised by Department of Anthropology and Anthropological Survey of India, North Bengal University, 19-20 March, 2015.

Charisma. K. Lepcha, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, presented a paper titled "Negotiating between the Lepcha Christian vs. the Christian Lepcha" in an international workshop on "Christianity and Citizenship in India: Contesting history, culture and power" hosted by United Theological College, Bangalore and jointly funded by Knowledge Exchange Research Fund (The University of Edinburgh and Lancaster University, UK), 17-18 April, 2015.

"Peoples of India" Exhibition

The Department of Anthropology in collaboration with Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata organized a 6-day photo exhibition on "Peoples of India" from the April 22_26 in the Department of Anthropology.

In Sikkim, this is a first of its kind exhibition under the flagship of 'Moving Museum" by Anthropological Survey of India. This exhibition portrayed different aspects pertaining to the origins of man, archaeological sites across India, as well as cultural portraits of communities across India. The prime objective of the "moving museum" is to inculcate a basic understanding of the history and cultures of India.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. T.B. Subba and Mr. M. T. Sherpa, the Director of Higher Education, Government of Sikkim.

In the inaugural session of the opening ceremony, Head of the Department of Anthropology, Dr. K. R. Rama Mohan thanked the Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata for selecting Sikkim University and in particular, Dr Roshina Gowloog, the Superintending Anthropologist, North-Eastern Region, Shillong for her



apt coordination.

Dr. B.N. Sarkar, Superintending Anthropologist, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata; Guest of Honour, Mr. M. T. Sherpa; Mr. Sonam Lepcha, Joint Director, HRDD, Government of Sikkim; Prof. Sameera Maiti, Dean, School of Human Sciences, all spoke about the importance and scope of this exhibition.

Prof. T. B. Subba, Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University, gave a brief account on the genesis of 'Peoples of India' Project initiated by Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata. He announced that Anthropological Survey of India has proposed to have Field Station at Sikkim University. He further mentioned that Sikkim University is in the process of establishing a Museum, to be presided over by the Departments of Anthropology and History.

Mr. T. K. Kaul, Registrar, Sikkim University also expressed his hopes that this exhibition will enrich the students' understanding about the pre-history of India.

Finally, Dr. Roshina Gowloog, Superintending Anthropologist, North East Region, Shillong offered a vote of thanks. She conveyed her thanks to Sikkim University, and the faculty and students of Sikkim University, as well as to the staff of the Anthropological Survey of India.

The exhibition saw a lot of people flocking in from within the university and outside.



Semester, Dept. of Psychology and Ms. Kiran Chettri, UG Final Semester, Dept. of Horticulture have been selected by Tata Consultancy Services, Kolkata after going through a selection process involving a written test, an HR round of interview, and two telephonic interviews in April. The students are required to join TCS, Kolkata in the month of August, 2015 after completion of their course.

Twin Jottings

JAYITA SENGUPTA
Associate Professor
Department of English



"Arghyo" (offering)

you will remain in my memory forever
like some distant dream

like a storm unleashing the fragrance of a blue rose
like a melody which brims the heart with thankfulness

you will remain in my memory forever
as the light cracking through the heart of darkness

like the silence that robs me of all words ...



Song of the road

“And then?” she had asked, coming to the end of the
road ...

“So this was what the journey all about?” The sky by
that time inflamed

with red sang out a tune of parting and betrayal ...

A red veil of shame cast a shadow on earth ...

like those barren branches without cover,
she shivered reaching for the red veil of the sky ...

a pale haze of anguish burned on the hills in the

distance bursting into

a flame of conflagration -

the flames leapt, licking her body with anger and desire
scalding, bleaching, searing pain dug into her flesh and

even her burning soul ...

but the darkening sky with the invasion of the night

whispered a song of love

blanketing her from lures of nature, offering a prayer

for her salvation ...

a curtain of stars popped out of the inky blanket one by

one

to receive her

they draped her in the starry clothes of blue and white

and white and gold ...

All this while he just stood at a distance watching her

...

like some Tiresias unable to embrace or hold her hand

...

for he was turned cold as a stone ...

“Ah well think not of the end, for the journey was my

song offering to you”

his voice melted into the harshness of the mountain

winds grazing the earth, embracing the night.

JUVENIS 2K15



Students' enthusiasm was mirrored in Management Fest organized on April 17th, 2015. Juvenis 2k15 came out as a combo of competition, fun and learning experience. The Management Fest has

been successfully organized with an impressive participation of 92 Management/ Commerce students represented by various colleges.

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. T.B.Subba; Distinguished Chief Guest, Shri Ajit Singh, G.M. HR & Admin, Zydus Cadilla Registrar, SU, Shri T.K.Kaul graced the inaugural function. Management is better learnt by practicing rather than between the four walls of the class room. The Management fest was the right platform to provide learning experience for both the organizing students and participants.

Four events were conducted in Juvenis 2k15. 'Event 1 Ad-mad show' witnessed participation of ten teams comprising four members in each team. The participants displayed their creativity, ad design and ad presentation skills. In 'Event 2 Business proposal', two teams exhibited the skills and talents of budding entrepreneurs. 'Event 3- Business quiz' had impressive participation of 12 teams whose knowledge was tested on latest events in the corporate world, business events, CEOs, etc. 9 participants exhibited smartness, confidence, emotional stability and selling skills in the 'Ultimate Survivor event'.

The program concluded with a valedictory function. Mr.Niraj Bhatt, AGM, Torrent Pharma and Dr.A.N.Shankar, Dean, School of Professional studies graced the function and distributed the winning trophies and certificates.

