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Editor's Note

May was another month at the university that bustled with activity both academic and extra-curricular. From exchanging of ideas in conferences to testing of team spirit on the football turf; from displaying frozen moments of different shades in 'People of the Himalayas' exhibition to serenading the Gangtok populace with folk music recorded at the Doordarshan Kendra Gangtok Studio, the University had its presence felt beyond the confines of its tower. All of these activities communicated a vital message that the University believes in a holistic excellence of its community and a healthy exchange between the University and the local community.

As we approach mid-year which calls for preparation for end semester exams and as another batch of students graduates and plans to add the next event in their milestone, the editorial team wishes them the very best for the exam and the future.

Look forward but enjoy today!

Jasmine Yimchunger

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'People of the Himalayas' Photo Exhibition



A five-day photo exhibition organized by the University Photography Committee was flagged off on May 11. The event was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. T. B. Subba; Registrar, T. K. Kaul and veteran photographer Mr. Arthur Pazo.

The contest received a total of 120 photographs from 25 participants from 13 different departments of the university. The exhibition captioned "People of the Himalayas" had four categories - Portrait, Family, Group and Activities. Top seven photographs in each category were selected by the judges and these were displayed in the exhibition. The photograph with the highest number of votes by the visitors will be given the title of the Most Popular Photograph. The winner of each category and the winner of the Most Popular Photograph will receive cash prize and felicitation on the University foundation day on 2nd July. All the photographs selected for the exhibition will be part of

the museum gallery of the university museum in the near future.

The Vice Chancellor in his address thanked the organizers for hosting such an event which gave the participants thinking space and an opportunity to showcase their talent and creativity. The Registrar also praised the efforts of the students and the organizing committee and Mr. Pazo in his speech gave some useful tips for the budding photographers.

The contest and the exhibition, although small in scope, received a very good response from both participants and visitors alike.

Reported By:
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International Conference on 'Engendering Democracy in South Asia: Issues and Challenges'



The Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences organised a two-day International Conference on 'Engendering Democracy in South Asia: Issues and Challenges' on 22nd and 23rd May at the Conference Hall. The Conference was attended by over 23 participants representing various universities and colleges from India including three participants from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Inaugural session began with the welcome address by Dr. Durga P. Chhetri, Head of the Department and Conference Convenor. The welcome address provided a broad canvas for the need to deliberate on the problem of engendering democracy in South Asia and the need to identify the points of convergence and divergence in the experiences of South Asian neighbours. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Tanka Bahadur Subba, Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University emphasized on the relevance of the theme of the seminar in the South Asian context with its rich civilizational history and varied experiences. The highlight of the Inaugural Session was the Keynote

Address by Prof. Samir Kumar Das, Former Vice Chancellor, University of North Bengal and presently Dean, Calcutta University. Using Deleuze and Guattari's concept of migrant and nomad, Prof. Das looked at the problem of macro and molecular politics from the eyes of a kidnapped girl from somewhere in Midnapore, West Bengal.

In the plenary session, Prof. Lok Raj Baral, Professor & Executive Chairman, Nepal Center of Contemporary Studies, Kathmandu, Nepal shared the trials and tribulations of Nepal's trust with democracy. Speaking emotionally in the backdrop of the recent devastating earthquake in Nepal, he highlighted the socio-economic and political problems that have held back Nepal from charting a path of political development. Against this broad template set by Prof. Samir Kumar Das and Prof. Baral, the technical session took up the theoretical issues concerning democracy vis-à-vis its specific experiences by the women, adivasis, tribals and also

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Publications

Research Papers:

Tamang, J. P. (2015). Naturally fermented ethnic soyabean foods of India. *Journal of Ethnic Foods* (Elsevier) 2: 8-17.

Chettri, R. and Tamang, J. P. (2015). Bacillus species isolated from Tungrymbai and Bekang, naturally fermented soybean foods of India. *International Journal of Food Microbiology* 197: 72-76 (Impact factor: 3.155).

Pradhan S., Manivannan S. and Tamang J. P. (2015). Proximate, mineral composition and antioxidant properties of some wild leafy vegetables. *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research* 74: 155-159. (Impact factor: 0.505).

Book:

Tamang, J.P. (Editor) (2015). Health Benefits of Fermented Foods and Beverages. CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group, New York, pages 636. ISBN: 978-1-4665-88097.

Book Review:

Dr. V. Krishna Ananth, Review of 'DESTRUCTION OF THE BABRI MASJID A National Dishonour': A.G.Noorani; Tulika Books, 35 A/1 ShahpurJat, New Delhi-110049. In *The Hindu*, May 3, 2015.

Visiting Professor

Professor J. P. Tamang was a visiting Professor at Clinical Trial Centre for Functional Foods, Chonbuk National University Hospital, Jeonju, South Korea from 4th January to 5th February 2015.

Symposium

Jigme Wangchuk Bhutia, Assistant Professor, Department of Tourism, presented a paper titled, 'Eco-tourism in the Sikkim Himalayas: A Catalyst for Sustainable Development' in the 6th Industrializing International Symposium for Agro Healing and Green Tourism organized by Kangwon National University, South Korea, 27-28 May, 2015.

Three-Day Intra-school Inter-disciplinary National Seminar on 'Trends in Contemporary Literature: Issues and Perspectives'



The School of Languages and Literature, Sikkim University organized a three-day intra-school inter-disciplinary national seminar, in collaboration with ICSSR-NERC, Shillong and Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi on 'Trends in Contemporary Literature: Issues and Perspectives' from 29-31 May, 2015. This national seminar was the first such initiative undertaken by the School of Languages and Literature, in bringing together all the four departments of languages namely, Chinese, English, Hindi and Nepali, under one umbrella, and in organizing an academic festival, conducive for mutual interactions and exchanges amongst the various literatures of the world.

The seminar was graced by a galaxy of distinguished scholars and eminent poets, like Professor Anisur Rahman, Professor Amina K. Ansari, Professor Ipshita Chanda, Dr. N R Singh and Dr. Rajendra Bhandari.

Professor Ipshita Chanda from the Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata delivered the keynote address and Professor Anisur Rahman, Professor at the Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi delivered the valedictory speech.

The central objective of this national seminar was to create a platform for young researchers from all fields of literature and to further invite them over for conversation, discussion, interaction, and exchange. In the midst of exploring the ecology of ideas and sensibilities, crosscurrents and parallels in literary texts, and while acknowledging the growing affinity of literature and literary studies with the social sciences in

the form of inter-disciplinarity, this three-day intra-school inter-disciplinary national seminar could most importantly reach out to many a young mind within and outside of the state of Sikkim.

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Workshop on

'A Psycho Social Inquiry into Suicide, Suggestions and Interventions'

In the light of the rising rates of suicide in Sikkim and in response to increasing concerns, the Sikkim University, Department of Sociology (Sikkim University) in collaboration with Department of Health and Family Welfare (Government of Sikkim) held a workshop titled "A Psycho Social Inquiry into Suicide, Suggestions and Interventions" on 28th and 29th of May 2015.



Since suicide is being recognized as an urgent problem that needs to be addressed, a workshop by Sikkim University in partnership with other stakeholders was a very timely, and an important first step in understanding and tackling the problem. It was a strategic coordination and needs assessment workshop to identify resources and bring together the main actors and organizations involved to assess research and interventions needed to ameliorate the situation. It engaged local state organisations and actors already dealing with the issue, and external organisations and agencies such as the Ambedkar University in Delhi, NGOs and other professional psychological organisations.

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The International Biodiversity Day: A Brief Report

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The United Nation proclaimed May 22 as “The International Biodiversity Day (IBD)” to increase awareness on issues related to biodiversity and its conservation. The day was first designated to be celebrated on December 29th when the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) came into force in 1993. The date was later shifted to May 22nd in the year 2000 in order to commemorate the adoption of the Convention on May 22nd, 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit. Since then, IBD is celebrated throughout the world with a specific theme for each year. The theme for 2015 was “Biodiversity for the Sustainable Development” to reflect the importance of effort made to establish a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the UN post-2015 development agenda for the period of 2015-2030 and the relevance of biodiversity for the achievement of sustainable development.



The Department of Zoology, Sikkim University also celebrated IBD on 22 May 2015. Dr Bhoj. K. Acharya, a faculty of the Department briefed the students about the importance of biodiversity and their conservation needs. He also highlighted the three objectives of the CBD i.e. conservation of biological diversity, its sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. The Students were also introduced to the conservation approaches adopted by the world nations and India which include United Nations Convention on Biodiversity and its objective, Indian Biodiversity Act 2002 and its rules 2004.

As part of the programme, final year students of the department accompanied by the faculty visited Himalayan Zoological Park, Bulbulay, Gangtok. In the field, we learned techniques of bird identification and census. The team made observation on birds along the road and inside the park and identified around 25 species of birds. The students were also exposed to studying animal behaviour in both natural and artificial habitat. The students observed the feeding behaviour of Ashy Drongo (Bird) and Red Panda (mammal) in the zoological park. The field visit ended with a final remark from our teacher speaking about the importance of the day and emphasizing the contribution of the students in conserving the biodiversity.

“Apna sthan Apni Safai Apni Jimedari” Cleanliness Drive Organised by the Deptt of Zoology



The Department of Zoology organized a cleanliness event on 02 May 2015 from 10.30pm. Despite being a Saturday and a non working day, all the faculty members and the students enthusiastically participated. At first we cleaned the laboratory extensively. Apart from the cleaning, a special effort was given to orderly arrangement of the laboratory equipments, including the arrangement of the specimen according to their systemic position, keeping the glass wares to their proper racks, arranging chemicals etc. The faculty rooms and the class rooms were also cleaned. The team also cleaned the periphery of the Barad Sadan and disposed off the garbage accumulated therein.

Though University has its own cleaning and maintenance staffs, such initiatives make us more independent and self-reliant. Moreover, such events provide us excellent chance to interact and strengthen the department as a single functioning unit. We anticipate getting more of such opportunities to participate in days to come. The motto of this event was “Apna sthan Apni Safai Apni Jimedari” (our area/place, we ourselves have to clean, our own responsibility). If all the citizens of India take a pledge to clean their surroundings themselves, the objective of Swachha Bharat Abhiyaan will be achieved and, as envisioned by Honble Prime Minister, we will be able to dedicate clean and environmental friendly India to the World soon.

Reported By
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Dr. Hare Krishna Tiwari talks in the Workshop “Biosafety and Bioethics” organized by Sikkim State Council of Science & Technology, GoS.

A talk was delivered by Dr Hare Krishna Tiwari, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Microbiology on “Biosafety and Bioethics in Microbiology” during one-day workshop (22 May 2015) on “Biosafety and Bioethics” organized by Sikkim State Council of Science & Technology at Conference Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, Deorali, Gangtok. With the advent of new tools and technologies particularly for research in the field of agriculture, industry, health and other human/animal welfare, the role of biotechnologist and life scientist become significant. This program was aimed to build scientific temperament, bring awareness on Biotechnology and its allied filed on biosafety and bioethics. The target groups of this talk were MSc/PhD students of Medical Biotechnology (SMIMS), Botany & Microbiology (Sikkim University) and Botany (Sikkim Government College).



Dr H K Tiwari delivering the lecture on “Biosafety and Bioethics in Microbiology”



The audience listening to the talk in the workshop

Sikkim University Sports Board organized an Exhibition Football Match between the faculty and administrative staff at Paljor Stadium, Gangtok on Saturday, the 23rd of May, 2015. Administrative staff won the match by 6-2.



Three-Day Intra-school Inter-disciplinary National Seminar... Cont.

The following papers were presented by PhD Scholars and faculty members in the seminar:

Mr. Dewchanda Subba (Assistant Professor, Department of Nepali) presented a paper titled, "Paryavaran Narivaad" (Eco-feminism).

Mr. Niraj Rai (PhD Scholar, Department of Nepali) presented a paper titled, "Sanskritik Ahayan Antargat Tulanatmak Adhyayan."

Ms. Suchan Pradhan (PhD Scholar, Department of Nepali) presented a paper titled, "Samakaaleentako Sandarbhma Nepali Sanskritiko Moulikta."

Mr. Ratna Bahadur Rasaily, "Rajendra Bhandarko Kavita Darshan."

Ms. Chukey Bhutia (Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi) presented a paper titled, "Samakaaleen Kahaani Mein Stri-Vimarsh."

Mr. Dinesh Sahu (Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi) presented a paper titled, "Samakaaleen Hindi Kavitaon Mein Chitrit Adivaasi Samaj".

Mr. Parasmani Dangal (Guest Faculty, Department of Nepali) presented a paper titled, "Nepali Dainikharuma Dekhiyeka Bhashako Vichalan R Samasya".

Mr. Moromti Baroowa (Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese) presented a paper titled, "Education, Language and Ethnicity in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China".

Dr. Dhriti Roy (Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese) presented a paper titled, "The Unheard Voices of the 'Other': Few Critical Observations on the Dynamics of Contemporary Chinese Literary Culture: On Evolution, Change, and Continuity".



Workshop on 'A Psycho Social Inquiry... Cont.

The workshop was graced by Shri P. D. Rai, Hon'ble Member of Parliament as the Chief Guest; Dr. K. Bhandari, Director cum Secretary of Health and Family Welfare; Prof T. B. Subba, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor; Registrar Shri T.K. Kaul and Shri Akshay Sachdeva, Inspector General of Police, Sikkim Police. The key note address "Aligning with the UN post 2015 Agenda: Strategies to increase Mental Health and Well Being", was delivered by Prof Rashmi Jaipal, Professor Emeritus and Cross Cultural Psychologists, Member of American Psychological Association at United Nations.

The content of the workshop focused on a needs assessment, clarification of roles and responsibilities, coordination of strategies and interventions, and identification of resources current and required, and the gaps thereof. It brought multiple stakeholders together for the first time (universities, researchers, Health officials, NGOs, teachers, doctors, faculty, students, nurses, police, and media) to hear about each other's programs so that they can learn what resources are already available. The workshop leads to agreement on priority research and interventions at many levels, and a project to sustain longer-term effort. This is also very much in line with the WHO 2013 Mental Health Action Plan goal of reducing global suicide rates by 2020.

DD Prasar Bharti shoots Folk Songs of Sikkim

Jayanta Kumar Barman, Assistant Professor, Department of Music along with 14 students of the University recorded five different varieties of folk songs of Sikkim in Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan Kendra, Sikkim . The music was arranged by the faculty, Jayanta Kumar Barman.



International Conference on Cont.

in the institutional sites like local gram panchayats and grass root politics. The question of women and democracy as also the question of democracy and disorder in the Northeast dominated the Conference but there was also a fair bit of variety with papers on women participation in Telangana movement and democracy and politics of language identity in Sikkim.

The Conference witnessed a serious exchange of ideas and experiences at various sites and locations. The valedictory speech was delivered by Prof. Dyutish Chakrabarty and the conference ended with giving away of certificates of participation.