

MAULANA AZAD CENTRE FOR NORTH- EAST STUDIES

The Maulana Azad Centre for North-East Studies (MACNES) was set up at Sikkim University in 2015 following an MoU signed between the University and the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute for Asian Affairs (MAKAIAS), Kolkata.

Scope of the Research and other Academic Activities

The MACNES at Sikkim University has been envisioned as a Centre for understanding research and related activities like lectures and seminars generally on North-East, and particularly on Sikkim. Keeping Sikkim as a focal point, research will be focussed on adjoining areas of China, Tibet, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and South East Asia. On the thematic side, the following areas have been identified:

- a) History, Culture and Religion in context of Sikkim
- b) Issues related to Tourism, Trade and Transit Border Areas
- c) Human Trafficking, Migration, Ecology and Environment
- d) Suicide (Sikkim-specific)
- e) Locating Sikkim in India's Act East Policy

Nature of Academic Activities

The following academic activities will be undertaken:

- a) Instituting MAKAIAS-SU Fellowship: This fellowship shall be granted to persons of eminence and with considerable seniority on the aforementioned research areas.
- b) Projects: The Centre will invite project proposals through open advertisements on the areas mentioned above.
- c) Holding conferences: workshops (including research methodology workshops), lectures and networking.
- d) Sponsoring academic field visits (including senior PhD scholars).

- e) Publication: Publication of books, monographs, journals, newsletters shall also be undertaken as part of academic activities of MACNES, SU.

Presently, the Centre is engaged in publishing a quarterly newsletter titled ***Bodhi***. Two issues have already been published. The Centre is also working towards a book on Sikkim. The coordinator of the Centre is Dr. Manish and the two Research Assistants under him are Shruti Chettri and Nikita Rai. The Centre is currently located at Kazi Road, Gangtok.