



Editor-in-Charge's Note

Dear friends, the November issue of Sikkim University Chronicle wishes you all a Happy Diwali and warm moments of togetherness with friends and family. Amidst all festivities, we once again bring you highlights of some of the major events in the past few weeks at the university. Starting with a note on freedom and equality, marking the Third Convocation Ceremony of the university, this issue of the Chronicle takes you past a varied range of academic experiences, from an international symposium on Next generation approaches for sustainable development of hill and upland Horticulture, through some of the most spectacular moments captured in lens, at the ongoing Landscape of the Himalayas photo contest and exhibition, an open conversation on ways of broadening our vision on China, by carrying research initiatives beyond its periphery and relating it to our Himalayan neighbours, and deliberations on Gender violence in Partition Literature. May all of these experiences light up our lives with the brilliance of wisdom, compassion, joy and peace, may they expel all ignorance, may they help create altogether a new meaning of education and the educated.

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Third Convocation Ceremony of Sikkim University



The Third Convocation Ceremony of Sikkim University was held on 9 November, 2015 at Chintan Bhawan. The solemn occasion was graced by the presence of the Hon'ble Chancellor of Sikkim University, Justice (Smt.) Ruma Pal, Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. T. B. Subba, Registrar, Shri T. K. Kaul, members of the Executive Council, Academic Council and Finance Committee of Sikkim University, eminent dignitaries, proud parents of gold and silver medallists, friends from print and electronic media and all members of the university fraternity. The Chief Rector of the university, Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim, Shri Srinivas Patil could not be present due to prior family commitments but had sent his blessings for the occasion. Professor Pratap Bhanu Mehta, who was supposed to chair the Third Convocation Ceremony as Chief Guest, could not be present due to the sudden aggravation of an illness. His Convocation Address was read out by the Controller of Examinations, Sikkim University, Dr. Debasish Choudhury. Professor Mehta, President and Chief Executive of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, and a political scientist by profession, having taught at Harvard University, the New York University School of Law and Jawaharlal Nehru University, highlighted in his address, the prime responsibilities of students as citizens of the country. He envisioned young graduates from Sikkim University to be ambassadors in a new fight for freedom, while reimagining India as a new zone of freedom. Madam Chancellor, Justice (Smt.) Ruma Pal, in her presidential address, reiterated the need for every citizen of the country, including members of student community, to acquaint themselves with the chapter in the Indian Constitution



on Fundamental Rights. She explained that if individuals believed in the principles of justice and equality, then they would need to recognize the same rights in the other person, and act towards the other, with respect and dignity, irrespective of the other's caste, creed, gender, religion and economic status. Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University, Professor Dr. T. B. Subba, delivered the welcome address and presented a report of the university. Amongst the several milestones which the university had crossed since the last convocation in March 2014, the following few have been the most significant ones. MPhil and PhD programmes have been introduced in nine and eleven departments respectively, seventy percent of faculty positions have been filled-up, two centres of study have been established further, one,

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International Symposium Organised by Horticulture Department, SU



Inaugural function of the International Symposium

An International Symposium on "Next Generation Approaches for Sustainable Development of Hill and Upland Horticulture" was organized from 5 to 7 November, 2015 by Dept. of Horticulture, Sikkim University at CAEPHT, CAU, Ranipool, Sikkim. The inaugural session of the symposium on 5th November was presided over by Shri Shrinivas Patil, Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim who is also Chief Rector of Sikkim University. Dr. M. Anandaraj, Director, Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut and Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. The objectives of the international symposium and its relevance of organizing in Sikkim was informed to the august gathering by Dr. S. Manivannan, Organizing Secretary of the Symposium. The presidential address was delivered by Dr. T. K. Kaul, Registrar, Sikkim University. The book of abstracts and souvenir of international symposium was released by Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively in the inaugural session.

The Hon'ble Governor in his address highlighted the

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Seminars

Dr. Dhriti Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese delivered a talk, titled, "An intensive study of Chinese grammar through modular packages: Gateway to innovative teaching and effective learning" at the Chinese Language Conference 2015, organized by the Indian Air Force, at Air Force Station Bagdogra, from 27-28 October, 2015.

Dr. Dhriti Roy presented a paper titled, "Hindu Gosains, Tantric Buddhism and the Sahajiya Cult: Exploring the complex patterns of cultural negotiations in Pre-modern Bengal and Tibet through Chinese historical records", at the 8th All India Conference of China Studies, organized by the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi and Sikkim University, from 5-7 November.

Dr. Panu Pazo, Guest Faculty, Department of Chinese presented a paper titled, "Hydropower, Transportation and other Infrastructure Projects in Sikkim Effects and Responses from the Borderland", at the 8th All India Conference of China Studies, organized by the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi and Sikkim University, from 5-7 November.

Publication

Dr. Sudarshan Tamang, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Sikkim University has the following publication to his credit.

Sudarsan Tamang, Kyungnam Kim, Hyekyoung Choi, Youngsik Kim and Sohee Jeong, Synthesis of colloidal InSb nanocrystals via in situ activation of InCl₃, Dalton Transaction (Royal Society of Chemistry), 2015, 44, 16923-16928 (Impact factor: 4.2)

Special Lecture at the History Department



As part of the Special Lecture Series, the Department of History had an interesting and thought provoking lecture by Dr. Bodh Prakash, who teaches English Literature at Zakir Hussain College, Delhi. The lecture was held on 7th October 2015 at 10 am in the

Seminar hall of the Department. Dr Bodh Prakash delivered a talk on 'Gender Violence in Partition Literature'. His lecture covered literature on partition ranging from early partition literature like Krishan Chandev's Hum Veshi Hai, Ramand Sagar's Aur Insan Mar Gaya and Hayatula Snsari's Lahu ke Khoon to later works like those of Manto, Bisham Sahni and Yashpal, who have written mainly about violence of partition. The talk also touched upon the 'Sita Myth' as depicted in certain novels. Works of authors like Amrita Pritam, Jyotirmoyee Debi and Joginder Pal were discussed in order to bring out the imaginative construct of gender violence during and after the partition years. After the lecture there was an interactive session where the audience comprising of students from various departments asked questions and interacted with Dr. Bodh Prakash.

Brainstorming session: Horticulture

A brainstorming session on Indian Citrus Industry was organized by Dept. of Horticulture at ATIC Conference Hall, CAEPHT, CAU, Ranipool on 15 November, 2015. As the productivity of mandarins is declining, it is a matter of great concern for citrus growers and scientists. The objective of organizing this session was to find out exact problems of decline in productivity of Citrus sp. and measures to solve it. Dr. N. K. Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr. D.R. Singh, Director, NRC Orchids, Dr. R.K. Awasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Sikkim Centre, Tadong, Dr. P.C. Tripathi, Principal Scientist, Chaitali Research Station, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Officials from Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of Sikkim, Dr. P.K.

Srivastava, Dean, CAEPHT, Ranipool and faculty members from CAEPHT, ICAR KVK, State Govt. KVKs, faculty members from Uttar Banga Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Hill Campus, Kalimpong, officials from SAMETI, Sikkim Supreme, NERAMAC, SIMFED, farmers from Kalimpong, faculty members and students from Dept. of Horticulture, Sikkim University also participated in the brainstorming session. There were thorough discussions on various reasons for citrus decline in north-eastern part of the country and possible ways to mitigate the problem. The production, processing and marketing aspects of Citrus sp. were discussed. Two publications of NRC Orchids, Pakyong i.e. "Directory of Orchid Growers", "Postharvest Technology of Cymbidium and Dendrobium sp." were also released by DDG. The programme was presided over by Prof. T.B. Subba, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor,

8th All India Conference of China Studies



The 8th All India Conference of China Studies was organized by the Department of Chinese, Sikkim University in collaboration with the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi with support from ICSSR, Delhi and NERC Shillong from 5-7 November at Hotel Sikkim Retreat. The theme of this conference was "Regionalism and Sub-regional Multilateralism".



The hosting of the 8th AICCS in Sikkim has been a significant event for both the people of this region as well as members of academia. The fact that Sikkim is one of the most strategically located regions, not only within the Indian geopolitical space but also within the larger territorial domain of south and southeast Asia, and that an intellectual engagement of the stature of the Annual All India Conference of China Studies was planned here in Sikkim, this conference was able to create unprecedented opportunities for exploring avenues for academic

Sikkim University. Prof. Subba informed the esteemed members that Dept. of Horticulture is one of the best departments of Sikkim University and 50 acres of land has been allocated to Dept. of Horticulture at Yangang Campus. He further added that it would be desirable if Dept. of Horticulture, Sikkim University is made part of ICAR network project. Few recommendations of the brainstorming session are that strict quarantine should be followed for Citrus sp., nursery growers should take care of certified planting material while purchasing or selling, for Phytophthora control, rootstocks like Alemow, Jatti Khatti, Rangpur lime etc. should be used, problems should be categorized agroclimatic zone wise, establishment of good biocontrol

conversation on issues related to trans-border negotiations across disciplines. The inaugural session on 5 November was graced by Madam Mohini Menon and Shri Shivshankar Menon, Chairperson ICS Advisory Board, former National Security Advisor and former Ambassador to China and Israel as the Chief Guests, chaired by the Registrar, Sikkim University, Shri T. K. Kaul and attended by students and faculty members all across disciplines and departments. Shri Menon shared few of his thoughts on the status of Chinese Studies in the country in general, and on the research initiatives in particular. He recollected the period in time, during the early decades of the fifties and sixties, had the research focus much upon reviving the ancient ties between India and China, which in the later few decades of the century, shifted to more military strategy based concerns for both the countries. He welcomed more active engagement in Classical Chinese studies wherein ways could be paved towards a broader understanding between the people of the two countries of India and China. Professor Alka Acharya, Director and Senior Faculty of the Institute of Chinese Studies, promised all support to teachers and students of the young department of any research assistance as might be required in whatever capacity possible.

laboratory, right identification of fruit fly species, micro-nutrient spray, colour charts for identification of pests, pre-cooling facility, establishment of good mother stock, good processing facilities etc. It was suggested by DDG that similar meeting should be conducted every two years to take stock of the situation. A coordinated effort of scientific organizations and extension agencies is expected to be there for mitigating the problem of citrus decline in north eastern part of the country. A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. S. Manivannan, Associate Professor and Head, Sikkim University. The session was followed by field visit to nearby citrus orchard and Dept. of Horticulture, Sikkim University.

Student Column

Traditional Health Care System in Sikkim

Subhajt Debnath
Semester IX
Department of Law

Ethnically diverse Sikkim doctrines the aboriginal religious practices, culminates indigenous folk traditions associated with religion and faith based healing therapies. The faith healers and occupational folk medicine therapeutics act as alchemists. The historic events have played a pivotal role in creating such social mosaic assorted with cultural ramifications. Since the primeval days indigenous



knowledge of herbs based panacea is conceded by tradition to the present day. Despite the advancements in medical sciences, faith of the people in the traditional healing practices is robust. It coexists with biomedicine. Still today the urban rural Sikkimese populace approaches traditional healers for curing their ailments. The traditional medicines include all kinds of folk, unconventional medicines, any therapeutic methods of mind and body. The traits of both the naturalistic and personality based system of traditional care prevails in Sikkim. The traditional health care system enunciates theories of disease aetiology and arbitration within a larger cultural framework of moral, ethical, religious and supernatural concerns. When the afflictions do not heal, when a sickness does not respond to treatment, and when the normally expected and predictable does not happen, supernatural explanations are sought. They are locally available treatments contributing mostly to the primary health care with considerably low cost. Unfortunately,

these medicines and therapies are not yet codified, but are widely shared between users and practitioners. The traditional healers are unlicensed.

The Healers

Bhutia religion includes primordial tradition of shamanism. By far the most potent method of driving out spirits is exorcism. There are host of illnesses which are believed to be caused by evil spirits. These are mostly treated by ritual

specialists or magico-religious healer. Diagnosis and propitiation is carried out by the Mun/Bonthing (Exorcist). Mun gives no medicine, nor prescribes the necessary charms and amulets. The Mun mediates between human, supernatural and natural. The therapeutic rituals as practiced by them tend to focus on symbolically encouraging and assisting the putatively natural course of the sickness or on transferring it away from the patient's body, rather than on "treatment" or "cure" in specific sense.

Shamanism in the Tibetan culture has a



long and complex history. The Bhutia shaman is Pau whose primary function is to cure illness. Paus, Lamas and monks all perform exorcist rituals. Paus and Lamas do similar curing rituals with very similar structures. But, the Pau's work is never considered religious and the Lama's work is not considered exorcism. Bhutia Paus are capable of seeing spirits in a state of trance. They induce spirits and deities to come and speak through their mouth, diagnose disease and suggest required ritual or sacrifice in order to relieve misery.

Contemporary healing practices in



Sikkim are catered to by the variety of practitioners from domestic, village level healers to the monastic healers. An important role is played by oracular or shamanic healers, by amchis and biomedical practitioners. Amchi is officially sanctioned as a component of the public health system in Sikkim, and provided with the funds for clinical operations and training programmes.

Disease: Perception & Strategies

Every culture has its particular explanation for ill health guided by social mores defined by religion based on values, symbols and practices with a distinction between natural and supernatural existence. Traditional healing comprises of beliefs and practices. Ethnicity provides for different notions

in this regard.

For instance, the Lepchas construe illness is something that is caused by Mung of envy, hatred and quarrelling. If it is annoyed by actions of the offenders it afflicts them with various ailments. They also believe that people born in different years are distressed by specific Mung. Accidents, disability, diseases are readily explained by holding some elements of supernatural or another responsible for.

On a similar trend, the Bhutias perceive sickness is induced by black magic, Shinde and Nazar. The majority of Bhutia rituals are connected with combating the various evil beings and the modes of dealing with them are almost as diverse and numerous as the type of evil beings themselves. In one kind of ritual, the Bhutias invoke Pho Lha (Gods), give them offerings and ask them to join their side in getting rid of the of the offending spirits. When the Deh (Evil spirits) experience how powerful their side is, they go away. While in another kind, evil spirits are asked what they need to satisfy them and their wish is fulfilled.

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National Seminar on "Emerging Trends in Commerce and Accounting"

The Department of Commerce in collaboration with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) the Department of Commerce, Sikkim University organized a Two Day Joint National Seminar on 2-3 November 2015, on the theme "Emerging Trends in Commerce and Accounting". The National Seminar commenced with the inaugural session, chaired by Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University, Professor Dr. T. B. Subba and marked by the arrival of Chief Guest Sri Vanlal Chhuanga, the Principal Accountant General, Sikkim. Guests of Honour included the following eminent personages, renowned scholar and academician in the field of Commerce, Prof. G C Maheshwari,

from New Delhi, CA. V Murali, Chairman Board of Studies, Institute of Chartered Accountant of India, New Delhi, CA. Shyam Kumar Agarwal, Chairman Board of Studies, Institute of Chartered Accountant of India, EIRC Siliguri Branch, CA. Pankaj Maskara, Vice-Chairman Board of Studies, Institute of Chartered Accountant of India, EIRC Siliguri Branch and Sri Manabendra Misra, General Manager, Reserve Bank of India, Gangtok. The chief resource person from Sikkim University was CA PK Singh, Finance Officer. Distinguished resource persons deliberated on the need for encouraging accounting profession and sensitising the youth of Sikkim (the Undergraduate and Post Graduate students of Commerce) towards accounting knowledge and

practice. Further on, six technical sessions, spread over two days, were held at Barad Sadan Conference Hall from 2-3 November, 2015. Resource persons were drawn jointly from various departments of Sikkim University and from amongst renowned accounting professionals from Sikkim to chair various parallel sessions. Dr. V Rama Devi, Dr. Nawal Kishor Paswan, Dr. Komol Singha, CA P. K. Singh from Sikkim University and CA. Pallavi Prasad, CA. Pravin Agarwal, CA Yogesh Marad, Mr. Manabendra Misra, General Manager RBI were amongst some of the eminent resource persons at the conference.

Deliberations were made on the following sub-themes:

1. Developments in the field of accounting knowledge.
2. Mechanism for infusion and evaluation of financial penetration in economy.
3. Paradigm shift in functional areas of management knowledge and practices.
4. Bird's eye view of applied commerce.

Paper presenters from NEHU, SRM University, SMU and ICAI have shared their research works in the variety of areas ranging from Micro-Finance to the HRM practices covering the broad themes of the Seminar.

Participation In “walk The Talk Loud” Walkathon Contest



Sixty eight students from various academic departments of University participated in Walkathon contest on 30th October, 2015 at 8:00 A.M. at MG Marg, Gangtok. The programme was organized by Ess India, 24 Hours Inspired in association with RMDD Department, Govt. of Sikkim. The participation of students was in 3 Km walk following path of Zero point, Old secretariat, MLA hostel, Tibet road, Quality corner with starting and finishing

point at MG Marg in front of tourism office. Mr. Satyajit Garnayak (Dept. of Horticulture), Mr. Chongtham Bishwojit (Dept. of Chinese), Mr. Suresh Kumar Ahirwar (Dept. of Law) and Mr. Om Prakash Sharma, Dept. of Microbiology secured 11th, 12th, 26th and 27th rank respectively in 3 Km walk. There were more than 800 participants in 3 Km walk and the contest was common for school and college students. Mr. Satyajit Garnayak (Dept. of Horticulture) and Mr. Chongtham Bishwojit (Dept. of Chinese) had secured first and second rank among college students in 3 Km walk. Among staff members, Dr. Swati A. Sachdeva, Head, Dept. of Sociology and Mr. Gagan Sen Chettri, Administrative staff participated in 1 Km walk following path of Zero point, MLA Hostel, Tibet Road with starting and finishing point at MG Marg in front of tourism office. Dr. Swati A. Sachdeva secured first rank among the participants in 1 Km walk.

Field Visit to Department of Computer Application, Sikkim University

The students of Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School (IT batch) visited the Department of Computer Applications



on 14 October, 2015, as part of their Academic Curriculum. The team was lead by Mr. Anirban Mukherjee. The students were welcomed by Mrs. Chunnu Khawas, In-charge for the Department, who encouraged the students to participate in more of such activities. The field visit was convened

by Mr. Partha Pratim Ray, Assistant Professor, with a lecture on hardware parts of computer. He highlighted on the working of Raspberry Pi model B and its various parts and functionality. Later the students were given hands-on practice on Java Script. It was an eventful day. The Department of Computer Applications reiterated the fact that schools should initiate more of such activities, as field visits are invaluable to gaining experiences. They not only help in knowledge and capacity building on multimedia, but also introduce to learners, the complex network of expertise which goes into making it, and create a feel of those factors which eventually influence scientists behind the scenes. Such field visits also help students develop a comprehensive scientific knowledge.

Participation In Sikkim Run Contest



Dr. Sujata Upadhyay representing NSS Team, Sikkim University at felicitation function

Sixteen students and staff members from University participated in 21 Km Half Marathon in Sikkim Run organized by Zest Event Management Group, Sichey at MG Marg, Gangtok on 1st November at 8:00 A.M. The staff members and students also participated in Dream Walk starting from MG Marg upto

STNM hospital for spreading the word on theme of Sikkim Run for 2015 i.e. “Towards Elevating the Society Above Drug Abuse, Smoking and Suicide”. Shri A.K. Ghatani, Hon'ble Health Minister, Govt. of Sikkim and Shri C.P. Dhakal, Gangtok Municipal Corporation Commissioner and other dignitaries from Govt. of Sikkim lead Dream Walk. A

team of one hundred volunteers from Sikkim University cooperated for organization of the event. Mr. Yogesh Sharma, Dept. of Anthropology served as coordinator for three hundred volunteers from Sikkim University, Sikkim Govt. College, Tadong and Sikkim Govt. College, Burtuk. A team of Mr. Yogesh Adhikari, Mr. Jeet Bahadur Basnett, Dept. of Mathematics and Mr. Abhishesh, alumnus of Sikkim Govt. College, Tadong and presently teacher at a school in South Sikkim presented a wonderful skit on “Prevention of Drug Abuse” based on the theme for Sikkim Run for 2015. NSS team was felicitated on 10th November in a function organized by Zest Event Management Group at Hotel Golden Pagoda, MG Marg, Gangtok by Shri A.K. Ghatani, Hon'ble Health Minister, Govt. of Sikkim and Chief Patron of Zest team. Dr. Sujata Upadhyay, Programme Coordinator, NSS received memento and certificate

as representative of University NSS team. Mr. Yogesh Adhikari, Dept. of Mathematics and team also received felicitation for good skit performance.

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Third Convocation Ceremony...

called the Maulana Azad Centre for North-East Studies, and the other, the Centre for Endangered Languages. The university Central Library has crossed the threshold of forty thousand books and is in the process of building a digital library. Eighty percent of the boundary wall around the campus is completed, while the master plan and DPR are ready to be executed. The addresses were followed by the solemn ceremony of conferment of degrees by the Chancellor and award of gold and silver medals.

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International Symposium.....

fact that hills and uplands pose unique challenges which hinder our quest for overall prosperity and development. Globally we have been confronting the challenges of geographical isolation, topography and related issues since ages. Available data gives us picture of this global concern. Hills and uplands occupy about one fourth of global terrestrial area and twenty per cent of world human population lives in these landscapes. Half of the world's population depends either directly or indirectly on the resources of hill regions especially for water and rare biodiversity based products. According to the report of UNEP's Millennium Environment Assessment (2005) “both poverty and ethnic diversity are higher in mountain regions and people are often more vulnerable than people elsewhere. Ninety per cent of the global mountain population i.e. 1.2 billion people live in developing countries and countries in transition-with one

third of these in China and half in Asia-Pacific region. Some 90 million mountain people and almost everyone living above 2500 metres live in poverty and are considered especially vulnerable to food insecurity. High lands are commonly characterized by undulating topography, mostly acidic soils with high soil erosion, inaccessibility of most part and poor communication reach etc. Moreover, the other challenge lies in the fact that, most of the people are impoverished. Guest of Honour Dr. M. Anandaraj earlier said for successful organic mission potential of microbes should be properly explored. Further he sought visions from Governor so that research institutes can work in that direction.

Dr. S.K. Mitra, Tropical and Subtropical Network, International Society of Horticultural Sciences, Dr. D.R. Singh, Director, NRC, Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim, Dr. Basavaraja, Dean, Horticulture College, University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, Prof. Shiva Ramakrishnan, Task Force Member, Cabinet Secretariat, Govt. of India, Prof. P.K. Srivastava, Dean, CAEPHT, CAU, Ranipool, Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Principal Scientist, NRC, Citrus, Nagpur,

Maharashtra, Representatives from NABARD, NHB, Spices Board, DSIR, Tea Board, Secretary, H & CCD, Govt. of Sikkim, Dr. H.K. Badola, GBPIHED, MoEF, Sikkim, Prof. C.P. Suresh, Dept. of Horticulture, NEHU, Tura Campus, Meghalaya graced the occasion as chief dignitaries.

The symposium covered various subjects and issues under nine technical sessions on sustainability and economic well being of hill and upland community. The issues like biodiversity and conservation, production technologies in perennial and annual horticultural crop ecosystems, soil and plant health management with reference to abiotic factors, integrated insect pest management, integrated disease and weed management, climate change and adoptive technologies with special reference to crop improvement, post harvest and value chain management, marketing, supply chain management, technology transfer, policy, ICT, PPP which are of paramount concern for hill and upland community were covered in the international symposium. The valedictory function was graced by the presence of Shri Som Nath Poudyal, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture,

Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Irrigation, Government of Sikkim today at CAEPHT Auditorium, CAU, Ranipool. The Guest of Honour for the function was Shri Khorlo Bhutia, Secretary, HCCDD, Govt. of Sikkim. Prof. J.P. Tamang, Dean, School of Life Sciences, Sikkim University introduced and highlighted the initiatives of Dept. of Horticulture, Sikkim University to the august gathering. Dr. S. K. Mitra, Chair, Tropical and Subtropical Fruits, ISHS and Dr. M. Anandaraj, Director, IISR, Calicut and IIHR, Bangalore delivered importance and relevance of such international symposium in the State of Sikkim and appreciated efforts of Dept. of Horticulture, Sikkim University. Shri Khorlo Bhutia informed the audience on the initiatives of Sikkim Organic Mission and encouraged Dept. of Horticulture, Sikkim University to take up the initiatives for welfare of farmers of hills. He suggested university and other research institutes to focus on research on organic horticulture. The Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture highlighted the efforts of Govt. of Sikkim on the organic mission and announced that the entire state will be organically certified by end of this year.

Elocution Competition Organized On Concluding Day Of Vigilance Awareness Week

An elocution competition on "Preventive Vigilance as a Tool of Good Governance" was organized on 31 October, 2015 as a part of Vigilance Awareness Week (26 October to 31 October, 2015) at Dept. of Horticulture, Sikkim University, 6th Mile, Gangtok. The students from the Departments of Computer Applications, History, Psychology, Law, Chinese, Geology, International Relations participated in the programme. Ms. Softya Sebastian (Dept. of Computer Applications), Mr. Shaikh Ansar Ali (Dept. of History) and Mr. Harshad Subhash, Dept. of Psychology secured first, second and third positions respectively. The participants were given five minutes time duration for presenting views on the occasion in English, Nepali or Hindi language.

The judges of the competition were Dr. Denkila Bhutia (Asth. Prof., Dept. of Law), Dr. Balaram Pandey (Asth. Prof., Dept. of Nepali) and Shri Shailesh Shukla (Hindi Officer). The judges also presented their views on the occasion and encouraged students to learn ways of working in a harmonious and transparent manner in an organized system. Shri Santosh Kumar (Asth. Prof., Dept. of Music) guided students how to work in a corruption free environment and how to serve for society. He also encouraged students to be associated with their own culture and work towards conservation of cultural practices by citing remarkable examples. Mr. Subhajt Debnath, Dept. of Law also presented his views on the occasion in a very comprehensive and effective way. The programme was concluded at 11:30 A.M. with formal vote of thanks by Dr. Sujata Upadhyay, Programme Coordinator, NSS. The winners of the competition may receive tokens of appreciations and certificates from NSS Cell soon.



Winners of skit competition with Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and Finance Officer in Prize function on 28th October, 2015

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Traditional Health Care System...

Healing.

Self or home treatment is usually the first step in medical care, consisting primarily of concoctions of herbs, barks of trees, flowers, roots, leaves, seeds, etc. and change in diet. It is a set of concepts of health and illness that reflect certain values, traditions and beliefs based on people's way of life. Mostly, indigenous system of health care based on herbs and ritual care are sought. Charms, amulets and incantations are also used by Lepcha-Bhutia to bring about cures of different diseases. Once the cause of the disease is found, the patient consults the practitioner accordingly. They are recommended by the ritual specialists to ward off evil spirits and prevent diseases. Treatment could be from herbs, Tibetan pharmacopoeia and/or within the context of magico-religious healing contained by indigenous framework. The locals rely on lamas and traditional healers like Mun, Bonthing, Jhankris in case of sickness and resort to the Primary Health Centers when all other means have failed.

Inference

In milieu to the traditional health care prevailing in Sikkim the "patient" performs a very important "social function and validates the system by calling into play the group sentiments and symbolic representation to have them" which embodies the real experience. For the traditional healers, the mind, the body and the experiential field are considered as one. They are traditional healers who can be interpreted as the healers of mind, body as well as the community.

Among the people of Sikkim, a sequence of resort does not seem to exist, although the trend is to begin with home remedies to a traditional healer to a biomedical doctor, as the course of illness proceeds and becomes more serious. When a person is sick, she/he or her/his family members are primarily interested in getting her/his health restored, for which they unhesitatingly combine different treatments irrespective of their ontological, epistemic, moral and aesthetic foundation.

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav

"Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav" was organized by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India at IGNCA, Janapath, New Delhi from 1-8 November, 2015.

Shri Jayanta Kumar Barman, Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Sikkim University and specialized in Folk Music, participated in this prestigious music festival as Music Director for the Choreographic Program on Tribal and Folk music and Dance of India during the inaugural function on the 1st of November 2015. Shri Barman also received an invitation from the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata on the same day.

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of

the Ministry of Urban Development of India, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture & Tourism of India, Shri Padmana Bhaacharya, Hon'ble Governor of Nagaland in India and the Directors of EZCC, NEZCC, ZCCSZCC, Ministry of Culture inaugurated the festival on 1 November 2015 at IGNCA, New Delhi. Eminent folk singers Gurudasmaan and Sharda Sinha performed folk songs in this festival. There were a total number of forty nine art forms participating in this inaugural session from the different parts of India.

Glimpse of Third Convocation of Sikkim University



Glimpse of Video Production Workshop organized by the Department of Mass Communication, SU to the Students of JMC, Namchi Govt. College

