



Editor-in-Charge's Note

Dear friends, it feels great to be reaching out to all of you, once again, with yet another issue of Sikkim University Chronicle for the calendar year 2016. The editorial team is indebted to each one of you, for your warm support and vibrant presence, and we hope to see many more years of such enthusiastic cooperation to keep this endeavour of ours going strong. The Spring Semester is soon to commence. In these last few weeks of January, most of us are now preparing to head back to Gangtok, where duty calls. While, for most of us, the winter vacation has been a time for unwinding, traveling back home to our friends and family, and re-energizing ourselves to make a fresh start this academic semester, for few of the other members of our university family, it has been a routine of untiring work behind desks and shelves, through shades of grey, dim visibility and wind chills. One such area, having witnessed serious prolonged commitment from its officers and staff over the recent few years, has been the Central Library of our university. In this issue of Sikkim University Chronicle, we introduce to you a special feature on the innovative restructuring of the Central Library, the rich repertoire of its resources and its user-friendly services, all of which, we sincerely hope, will eventually help consolidate the infrastructural facilities here. We also have in this issue, a column by Dr. Anju Verma, on competency-based education, an emerging trend in contemporary higher studies, infusing innovation with creativity, and it surely will be an interesting read for all of you. We wind up this issue with a peep into a magical evening in Kolkata, a literary meet and an Indian Classical Instrumentals Workshop. Let the spirit of creativity and innovation mark the beginning of this academic year.

Dhriti Roy

Introducing Sikkim University Library System and Services

Library landscape has been ever changing, having been often influenced by every new information technology. The present scenario of libraries in 21st century is entirely changed mainly in scholarly publications their tools and techniques of organization, storage and dissemination of information. Such changes are likely to continue in near future. Library and Information Science is of the subjects which are influenced most by new technology. Most of the advances in information technology have their applications in information storage and management which calls for their adoption in libraries. Types of information resources which are many and varied continue to grow exponentially and their management is becoming more complex and challenging for library professionals. Users too are changed in their information needs and information seeking behavior. They want everything just now or never in a single click on their devices available with them, with least dependence on physical visits to the library. Physical visits to the libraries have sharply declined in the present century. Preferences are for digital resources mainly due to convenience of use; anytime anywhere and easy availability and accessibility. Nevertheless, physical library spaces still continue to have their value and relevance. Therefore, in Indian conditions hybrid structure of libraries is likely to continue in near future. Keeping all these changes and challenges in view, Sikkim University Library is endeavoring to cope up with the changed new landscape and generate need-based new and innovative information services to its users.

Our Mission

Library aims at to serve the users to their utmost satisfaction by:

- ☛ Providing them resources beyond the boundaries of space and time.
- ☛ To take measures to promote usage of resources.
- ☛ To build up need-based collection in printed and e-version.

- ☛ To modernize and automate all functions and services.
- ☛ To reach out users with their information wherever they are.
- ☛ Improve accessibility to resources

Collection

Library is hardly 8 years old, even then its collection is growing fast with the addition of 4000-5000 books every year. However, emphasis is not on ownership but to provide accessibility irrespective of space. The present collection strength is as under:

• Total collection of the library	45,000
• CD collection	662
• Braille books	1178
• Theses	100
• No. of Journals on subscription	242
Printed	162
On-Line	80
• Newspapers	21
• Popular Magazines	15

Reaching Out Users

To know the availability and accessibility of resources in the library is the primary concern of library users. In view of this library has compiled up-to-date on-line catalogues of books and holdings including serials. The information relating to journals being subscribed to each department, new arrivals, books on order are also available on library portal which is being regularly up-dated. The list of on-line journals gives links to its URL to have direct access to the issue concerned along with its content pages. To provide remote access beyond university local network is under active consideration to reach library users wherever, they are.

Services through Library OPAC

The library software provides following web-enabled information to the users:

My Information:

User can login to know the status of books issued to him/her. Also can reserve and renew books on-line.

My Reading:

Members can know the list of books read during the specific period.



Browse:

Can browse library resources under various access points.

Arrival:

Gives list of new arrival in the library.

In This Issue

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- Faculty Column by Dr. Anju Verma 
- Events and Activities 

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Publication

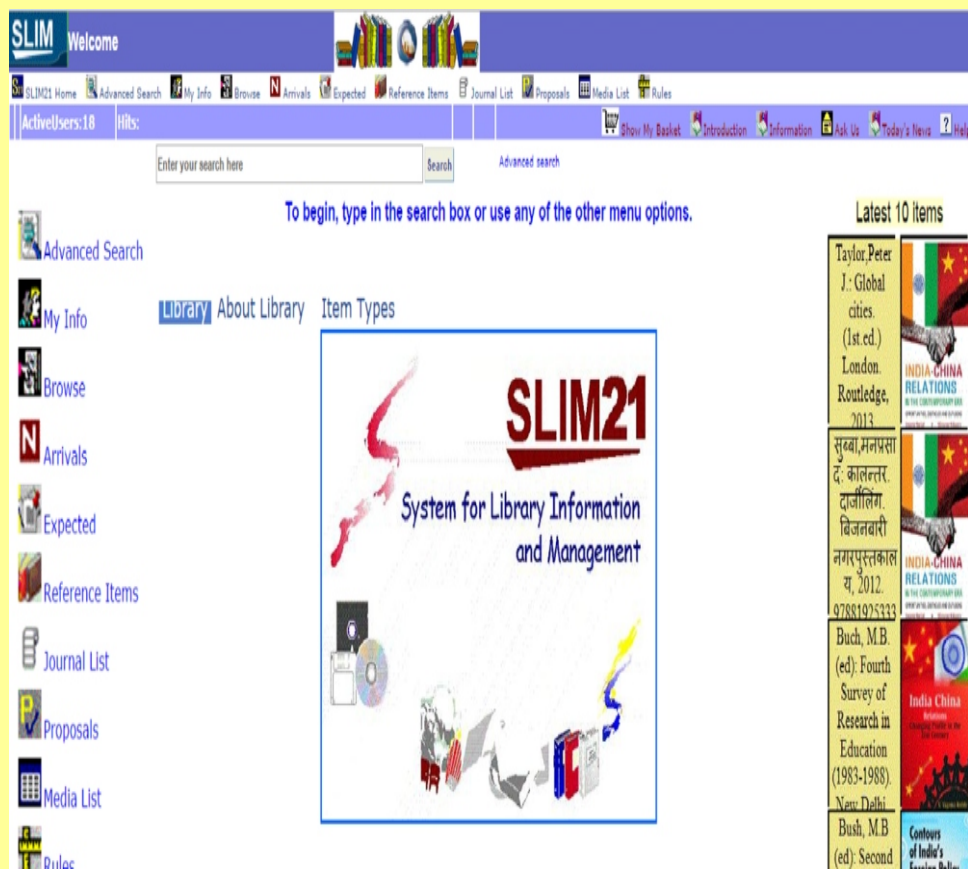
Ms. Erinjiyal K. Santha, Research Scholar, Department of History, Sikkim University has the following publication to her credit.
 Erinjiyal, K. Santha. **“Gender Question and the CPI (M): An Analysis in the Context of Kerala”**, Economic and Political Weekly, December 19, 2015, Vol. 1, No. 1.

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Expected: Shows books on order which are yet to be received.
Proposal: Users can recommend books for purchase on-line.

Menu of the above is shown below:



Check-in and Check-out System

All collections are RFID tagged which enables users to self-check-in and check-out books independently. At the same time it does not allow any unauthorized documents to be taken outside the library through security gate at the exit.



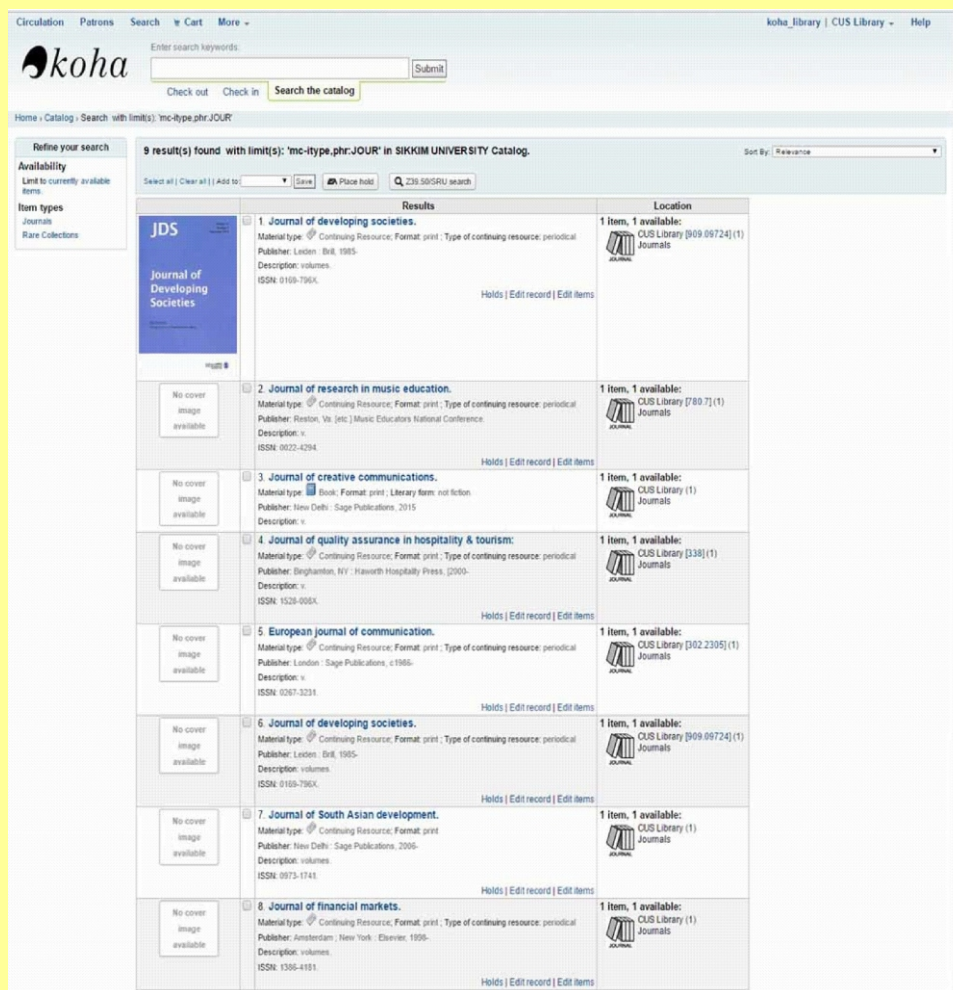
Serial Management

Library provides access to the serial holdings of the library on two platforms; Library software and DSpace (Digital Library Management Software). The list of the journals appears as shown below which provides direct access to the issues and their content. The holding list of journals is also given in Digital Repository with their content pages searchable under every word given in table of contents. Library subscribes 80 on-line journals including IEEE Xplore, Indiastat, Economic Outlook (CMIE) and PsycArticles in addition of 160 printed journals. Library also has access to UGC-Infonet and DelCon consortium which provides access and full-text download facilities to thousands of e-resources. Specimen pages of serial management are given below for reference:

List of Online Journals for the Year 2016-17

Sl. No.	Title	Publisher	Status	Department	Source Link
1.	Journal of Anthropological Research	University of New Mexico	New	ANT	http://www.unm.edu/~jar/
2.	China Economic Journal	Taylor & Francis	Renew	ALC	http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rce/20/current
3.	China Information	Sage Publication	Renew	ALC	http://cin.sagepub.com/
4.	China Report	Sage Publication	Renew	ALC	http://chr.sagepub.com/content/by/year
5.	Journal of Ethnobiology	Society of Ethnobiology	Renew	BOT	https://ethnobiology.org/publications/journal
6.	Alpine Botany	Springer	Renew	BOT	http://www.springer.com/life+sciences/plant+sciences/journal/35
7.	CrystEngComm	Royal Society of Chemistry	Renew	CHE	http://pubs.rsc.org/en/journals/journalissues/ce/1recentarticles&adv
8.	Econometrica	Wiley	Renew	ECO	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-0262
9.	Quantitative Economics	Wiley	Renew	ECO	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1759-7331
10.	Theoretical Economics	Econometric Society, New York	Renew	ECO	http://econtheory.org/

Snap shot of Serial Holding using Koha software



Digital Repository

Library took the initiative of developing digital repository about a year ago. It aims at digitizing as many resources as possible based upon their usefulness to the faculty and students of the University. It has so far archived following resources:

- ◆ Content Pages of Journals and Annuals: The contents pages of all journals and other serials like annual reviews and advances in the subject concerned available in the library have been digitized and archived with the facility of free-text searching of their contents.
- ◆ Publications of Faculty: Articles and books published by faculty members are being digitized and archived.
- ◆ Literature on North-East India and Himalayan Studies: Library is archiving all literature published on North-East India and Eastern Himalaya with special emphasis on literature published on Sikkim. The policy of digitization is not to digitize whole books due to copyright restriction but limit it to cover pages, contents, introduction and one or two chapters so that users could know full contents of the documents and their relevance to them.
- ◆ Theses: All M. Phil theses submitted to Sikkim University have been digitized and archived.
- ◆ E-book Collection: Library is engaged in developing e-book collection. So far it is engaged in re- packaging of open access resources which are being placed in the digital repository.

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dorjee photography

Competency- based Education for Knowledge Aspirants in Present Scenario

Dr. Anju Verma

Assistant Professor & In-Charge
Department of Education

Recently, the terms competency-based education or competency-based learning have become more widely used by (i) online schools or companies selling online learning programs and (ii) colleges and universities, particularly those offering online degree programs. Competency-based education is different from traditional education in that it breaks from the credit hour, today's prevailing measure of student progress. It refers to systems of instruction, assessment, grading, and academic reporting that are based on students demonstrating that they have learned the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn as they progress through their education. It offers returning adult learners a real opportunity to earn a college degree while balancing commitments to work and family, this innovative model is not for everyone. When schools transition to a competency-based system, it can entail significant changes in how a school operates and how it teaches students, affecting everything from the school's educational philosophy and culture to its methods of instruction, testing, grading, reporting, promotion, and graduation. Many for-profit virtual schools and online degree programs, for example, have been accused of offering low-quality educational experiences to students, exploiting students or public programs, and using the popularity of concepts such as "competency-based education" to promote programs of dubious educational value.

In today's traditional higher education model, students must accumulate a set number of credit hours usually 120 to earn a bachelor's

degree. Students earn the same number of credits regardless of the grade they receive from their instructors, provided the grade is passing. Competency-based education turns the traditional model on its head. Instead of awarding credits based on how much time students spend learning, this model awards credits based on whether students can prove they have mastered competencies the skills, abilities, and knowledge required in an area of study. The general goal of competency-based learning is to ensure that students are acquiring the knowledge and skills that are deemed to be essential to success in school, higher education, careers, and adult life. Competency-based educational models are poised to make a significant impact amid the increasing innovations and improvements going on in higher education. The CBE models are adult-friendly and cost effective.

Competency-based learning attempts to break away from the regularly scheduled classroom model, where students study the same subject matter at the same speed in a cohort of fellow students. The basic premise behind competency-based education is to achieve the outcome. Competency-Based Education and Training is an approach to teaching and learning more often used in learning concrete skills than abstract learning. It differs from other non-related approaches in that the unit of learning is extremely fine grained. Schools may also use different methods of instruction and assessment to determine whether students have achieved competency, including strategies such as demonstrations of learning, learning

pathways, personal learning plans, portfolios, rubrics, and capstone projects, to name just a few. CBE models encourage building courses, programs, and degrees based on what knowledge and skills a student can successfully demonstrate through reliable and valid measurements. I think this is a good time to explore the benefits of a competency-based approach to training and assessment. Here are six benefits both for the employer and the employee like cost effectiveness, efficiency, increased productivity, improved profitability, reduced risk and increased customer satisfaction. Being aware of these benefits, you should seriously be considering (if not actually implementing) a competency-based approach to training, development, and assessment in the near future.

One positive aspect of Competency-Based Education is the promotion of individualized learning. A model such as CBE that promotes individualized learning while accommodating multiple learning styles and levels of engagement is certainly exciting. Another main attraction for adult students in choosing a CBE educational model is the potential to "get credit" for life and work experience. In more traditional models, everyone generally starts at the beginning of a course and works through each activity to the end before having the opportunity to take the final exam. The most effective CBE models do not rely on a single type of assessment for a course; rather each course has at least two measurements: an objective assessment and a performance-based assessment. The most effective models are also fairly keen to disclose to the student, as much as is

responsibly possible, the standards against which they will be measured and the formats of the tests themselves. From an administrative perspective a CBE educational model opens doors to innovation in course and assessment delivery, many of which have cost-effective measures built in. The concerns over rigor and quality control are real, but are starting to be addressed in functional and research-based ways. It's an exciting time to be part of the innovation and creativity that is jumpstarting the re-structuring of higher education.

Competency-based education is a relatively new approach to learning design which is proving increasingly popular with employers and suits certain kinds of learners such as adult learners seeking to re-skill or searching for mid-level jobs requiring relatively easily identifiable skills. It does not suit though all kinds of learners and may be limited in developing the higher level, more abstract knowledge and skills requiring creativity, high-level problem-solving and decision-making and critical thinking. A feature of most competency-based programs is a partnership between employers and educators in identifying the competencies required, at least at a high level. Competency based training is an approach to vocational education and training that places emphasis on what a person can do in the workplace as a result of completing a program of training or based on workplace experience and learning.

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Sikkim University Library

Screen shot of Digital Repository is given below:

The screenshot shows the Sikkim University Digital Repository interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a navigation menu. Below the search bar, the text reads: "Welcome to Sikkim University Digital Repository! The objective of this repository is to archive and facilitate access to all the publications, theses, dissertations and projects of Sikkim University students and faculty." The name "Prof A S Chandel" is displayed below this message.

Below the welcome message, there are two main sections: "Communities in DSpace" and "Discover".

Communities in DSpace:

- E-RESOURCES: 1808
- FACULTY PUBLICATIONS: 53
- JOURNALS: 393
- Local Collection: 0
- REPOSITORY ON NORTH-EAST REGION: 417
- THESES: 1

Discover:

Author:

- Tamang, Jyoti Prakash: 31
- Arendt, Hannah: 10
- Foucault, Michel: 10
- Agamben, Giorgio: 5
- Bhattacharyya, Amitabha: 5
- Subba, J.R.: 5
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich: 7
- Derrida, Jacques: 7
- Douglas, Mary: 7
- Durkheim, Emile: 7

Subject:

- Sikkim: 185
- Philosophy: 73
- North East India: 40
- North-East: 40
- Himalaya: 35
- Religion: 40
- Ethics: 45
- Himalayas: 42
- Tibet: 42
- Culture: 41

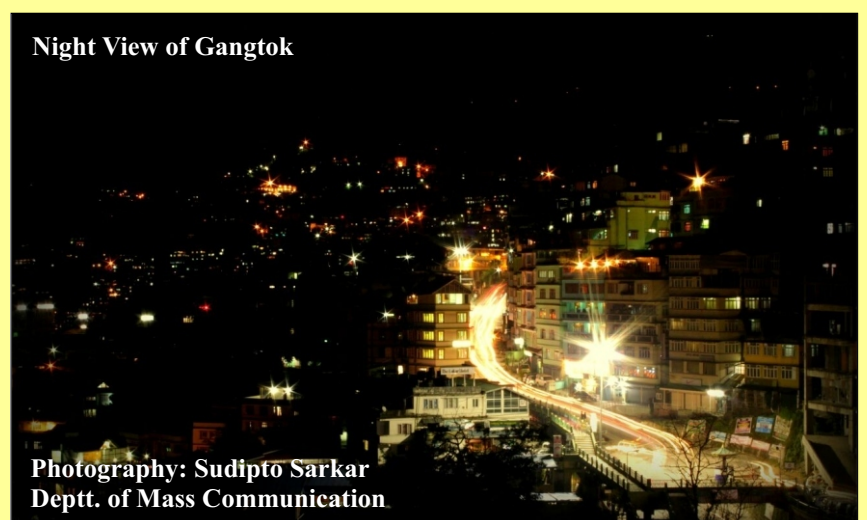
Date issued:

- 2000 - 2069: 2187
- 1900 - 1999: 625
- 1800 - 1899: 7
- 1600 - 1699: 1
- 1193 - 1199: 1

Future Vision

Library presently has a policy of building hybrid collection of printed and e-versions of resources, but shall move towards e-content acquisition and management. To provide the facility of remote access to the authorized users with integrated approach of searching all resources available in the library from anywhere anytime is the immediate priority. Endeavor is to promote accessibility and meet information needs of all categories of users beyond the boundaries of the physical library. It may make it more explanatory. Hope your issue comes up well.

Night View of Gangtok



Photography: Sudipto Sarkar
Deptt. of Mass Communication

Caesurae Collective & Bhasha Parishad Presentation: A Literary Meet & An Indian Classical Instrumentals Workshop with Indradeep Ghosh on the Violin

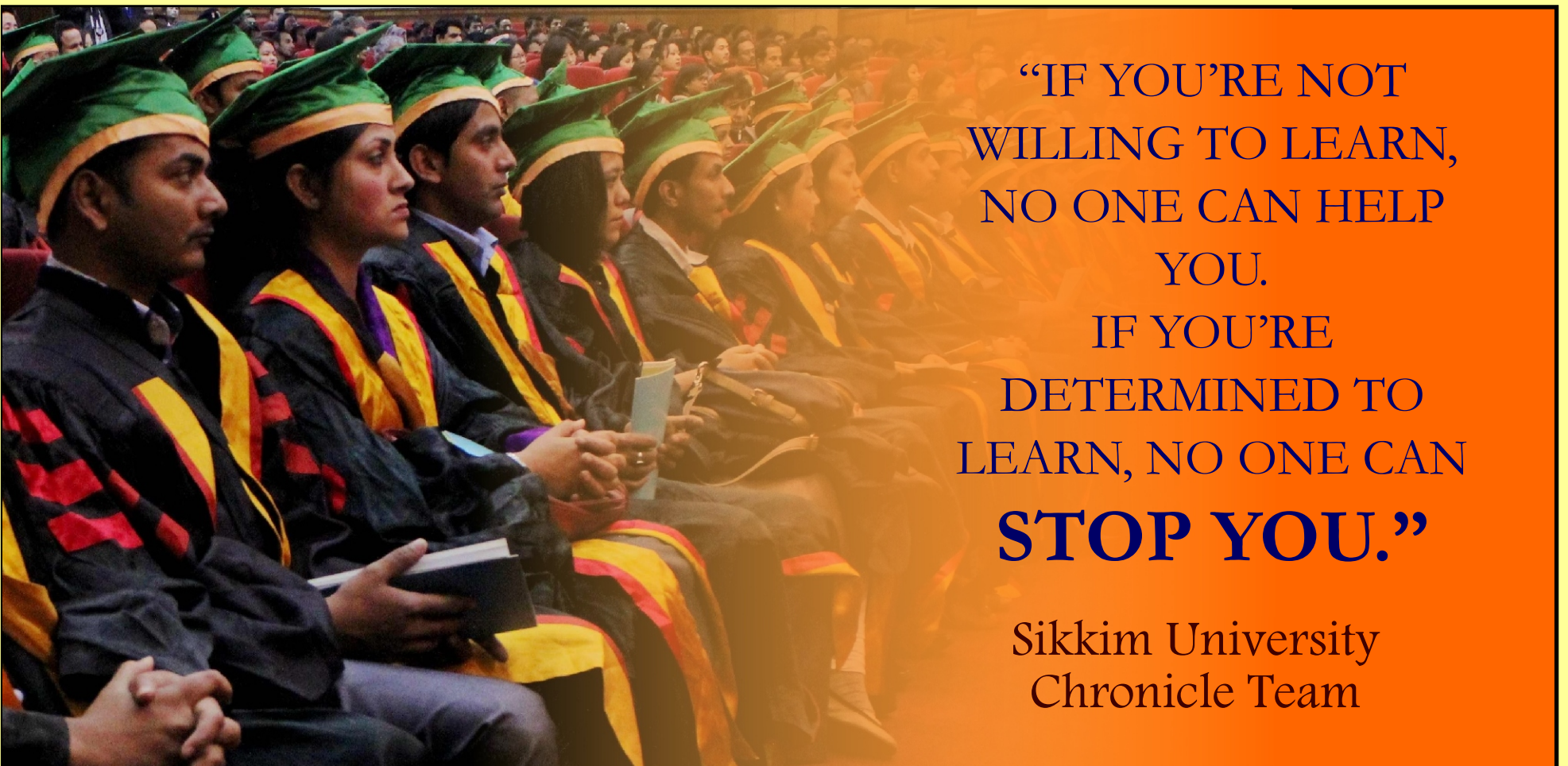
CAESURAE COLLECTIVE, an organization with a peer reviewed international e journal (www.caesurae.org), which has been holding events on literature and other arts, across the nation now, organized two such events in collaboration with Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad. The first was a Literary Meet of young and acclaimed writers and poets, writing in

English on 21 December, 2015. The participants included Bashabi Fraser, Edinburgh University, Anjum Katyal, Kolkata, previously associated with Seagull Publishing and now serves as the Director of the Apeejay Lit Fest, Saikat Majumdar, Stanford University, Rajat Chaudhuri, a writer based in Kolkata who recently got the Hawthornden Literary Award, Sanjukta

Dasgupta, University of Calcutta, Jayita Sengupta, Sikkim University, Debasish Lahiri, of Calcutta University and Julie Mehta, Toronto University. The event was inaugurated by Dr RamkumarMukhopadhyay, the writer and President of Bhasha Parishad and Vice-chair of "Caesurae". The writers read from their unpublished works or work in progress. There was an august

audience, which included international students as well, who later interacted with the participants closely to make the event meaningful and effective. This was followed by a two day Indian Classical Violin Workshop on 2 and 3 January, 2016, with the much acclaimed violinist Sri Indradeep Ghosh, in collaboration with Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad.

A glimpse of 67th Republic Day Celebration at Sikkim University



“IF YOU’RE NOT
WILLING TO LEARN,
NO ONE CAN HELP
YOU.
IF YOU’RE
DETERMINED TO
LEARN, NO ONE CAN
STOP YOU.”

Sikkim University
Chronicle Team