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Editor's Note

Dear All,

It gives me immense pleasure to bring forth yet another issue of the SU Chronicle. The month of August has been one that witnessed many workshops and seminars that were organised by various departments of the University. India celebrated the 73rd year of Independence and this occasion was observed with much fervour in the University as well.

The 27th Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas was celebrated to commemorate the inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. On this day the 205th Bhanu Smriti Diwas was also celebrated to mark the 205th birth anniversary of the Nepali poet Bhanubhakta Acharya.

Hope you enjoy reading.

Kunjini Prakash Darnal

73rd Independence Day Celebration

The 73rd Independence Day was celebrated in the University with much fervour and enthusiasm. The faculty members, staff and students of the University gathered at the Kanchendzonga Management Block to mark the occasion. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Avinash Khare hoisted the National flag and conveyed his good wishes to all on the occasion. Registrar, Sh. T.K. Kaul addressed the gathering and congratulated everyone present on the occasion of the 73rd year of Indian Independence.



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Panel Discussion organised by the Department of Education

The Department of Education organised a “One-Day Deliberation and Panel Discussion on Draft National Education Policy- 2019” on 9th August 2019 at the Tourism Hall, Metro Point, Gangtok. The inaugural session of the Panel Discussion was chaired by the Vice- Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare. The Chief- Guest for the programme was Shri S.D. Dhakal, Secretary to Chief Minister of Sikkim. The resource persons for the programme were Prof. Anita Rampal, former Dean, Department of Education, Delhi University and Prof. R.P. Shukla, Dean, Department of Education, Banaras Hindu University.



Four Days' Training Workshop organised by the Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology organised a four-day Training Workshop on Skill Development of Women for Employability and Entrepreneurship in North East Region from 21st to 24th August 2019. The inaugural session of the workshop was held on 21st August 2019 at the Conference Hall, Barad Sadan. and was chaired by the Vice- Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare. The Workshop aimed at putting emphasis on enhancing the skills of the workforce in general and women in particular for enhancing employability, entrepreneurship and to facilitate decent employment in North East Region. It also sought to understand the world of work and decent employment and discuss appropriate strategies for skill development in the formal sector occupations. The four days' workshop also aimed at familiarising the participants with skill development avenues and initiatives and situate the importance of skill development for employability, entrepreneurship in general and women in particular.

Students from the School of Social Sciences of the University, officials from the Government of Sikkim and workers' representatives participated in the workshop, Shri P. Amitav Kunthis, Course Director, VV Giri National Labour Institute Noida was also present at the inaugural function. Vice- Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare in his address stressed on the importance of skilled workers and also mentioned that such workshops should be organised more often to encourage participation of women in the growing economy.



Two-Day Workshop organised by the Department of Computer Applications

The Department of Computer Applications organised a two-day Workshop on “Machine Learning and Big Data Analytics: Application to Remote Sensing” from 19th to 21st August 2019 at the Conference Hall, Barad Sadan. The inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by the Vice- Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare in the presence of Dr. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Chairman- IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GSRSS), Kolkata Chapter, Shri Arup Chattopadhyay, Director, NIELIT, Gangtok and other experts and participants.

India is one of the leading countries in gathering remote sensing data from its own space program under the aegis of ISRO. The volume and variety of remote sensing data increased exponentially with the launch of varied sensors from ISRO, NASA, ESA etc. This makes the remote sensing data an ideal candidate for Big Data applications due to its sheer volume and varieties in terms of temporal, spatial and spectral resolution, continuous collection of data and necessity of ground validation. Many scientists in India are actively involved with remote sensing data analysis ranging from SAR data to microwave to optical. Through this workshop, it was envisioned to expand the outreach of the on- going activities with eminent scientists from other parts of the globe.

The aim of the workshop was to provide theoretical and practical insights on different aspects of Machine Learning and Big Data Analysis. This workshop also aimed at providing a platform to learn about the current challenges in developing strategies and tools to address the issue pertaining to remotely sensed data. Vice- Chancellor mentioned in his address that Sikkim University may introduce M.Tech. programmes to address the current needs of the industry and take up education and research in front- end areas like Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics and Remote Sensing. Prof. P.K. Nanda, Chairman of IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GSRSS), Kolkata Chapter explained the role of IEEE- GSRSS in promoting the application of remote sensing in exploring geoscience and highlighted the role of Machine Learning and Big Data Analytics in this domain. He also hoped that a separate chapter of GSRSS may be opened for Sikkim to facilitate the above promotion of research and education.

Shri Arup Chattopadhyay, Director, NIELIT- Gangtok informed about the initiatives of the Ministry of Electronics and IT Govt. of India in generating trained manpower in state-of-the-art IT and IT Enabled Services from 41 NIELIT centres at Pan India level under Digital India- the flagship program of Government of India. He observed that NIELIT Gangtok may offer such courses from its upcoming campus at Pakyong in the near future and may also collaborate with GSRSS and Sikkim University in evolving an NSQF compliant course on Remote Sensing.

Awareness Programme on Intellectual Property Rights Issues

The Intellectual Property Rights Committee of the University organised a one- day Seminar on “Awareness on Intellectual Property Rights Issues” on 27th August 2019 at the Conference Hall, Barad Sadan. The objective of the Seminar was to give an overview on issues concerning copyrights, patents and biodiversity issues. The resource persons for the day long Seminar were Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal, Founding Director, ITAG Business Solutions Ltd., Institute of International Trade, Kolkata and Dr. Shashank Mauriya, Independent IP Practitioner, Former Assistant Director General, ICAR, New Delhi. Dr. Agarwal spoke about the importance of understanding the relevance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in being the drivers of economic growth and also stated the difference between Intellectual Property and Intellectual Property Rights. He elaborated on the legal framework to be recognised in understanding the concept of IPR. Dr. Shashank Mauriya spoke on the vital issues concerning IPR and Biodiversity and mentioned that without Intellectual Property invention cannot prosper.



Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas celebrated

Nepali language was recognised as one of the eight Scheduled languages of India on 20th August 1992 after a decades long struggle. The Department of Nepali organised a day long programme to commemorate the 27th Bhasa Manyata Diwas and 205th Bhanu Smriti Diwas on 20th August 2019 at the Cauveri Hall of the University. The Chief- Guest for the programme was Vice- Chancellor, Prof. Avinash Khare.



Two Days' National Seminar organised by the Department of Hindi

The Department of Hindi organised a two-days National Seminar on "Lok Sahitya ki Rachnatmak Samvedna: Parampara evam Yugbodh" on 28th and 29th August 2019. The inaugural session of the Seminar held on 28th August 2019 at Cauveri Hall was presided over by the Vice- Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare. Folk Literature is as old as human civilisation. In order to understand the cultural background of any community it is imperative to delve deep into its folk culture. This folk culture is the basis of many cultural practices, beliefs, rituals and traditions that are followed by different communities. Today, in the era of globalisation, folk literature and folk culture is losing its relevance. The Seminar aimed at throwing light on the Indian folk tradition and folk literature through discourses.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Chittaranjan Mishra, former Head of Department of Hindi, Deendayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University and Convener, Sahitya Akademi Delhi. Dr. Rajiv Singh, Regional Head, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Guwahati and Prof. Umapati Dixit, Head of department, Antarashtriy Hindi Shikshan Vibhag, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra were also present at the National Seminar.

