NEWSLETTER

2025 VOL. 2 NO. 1

Hello Spring!
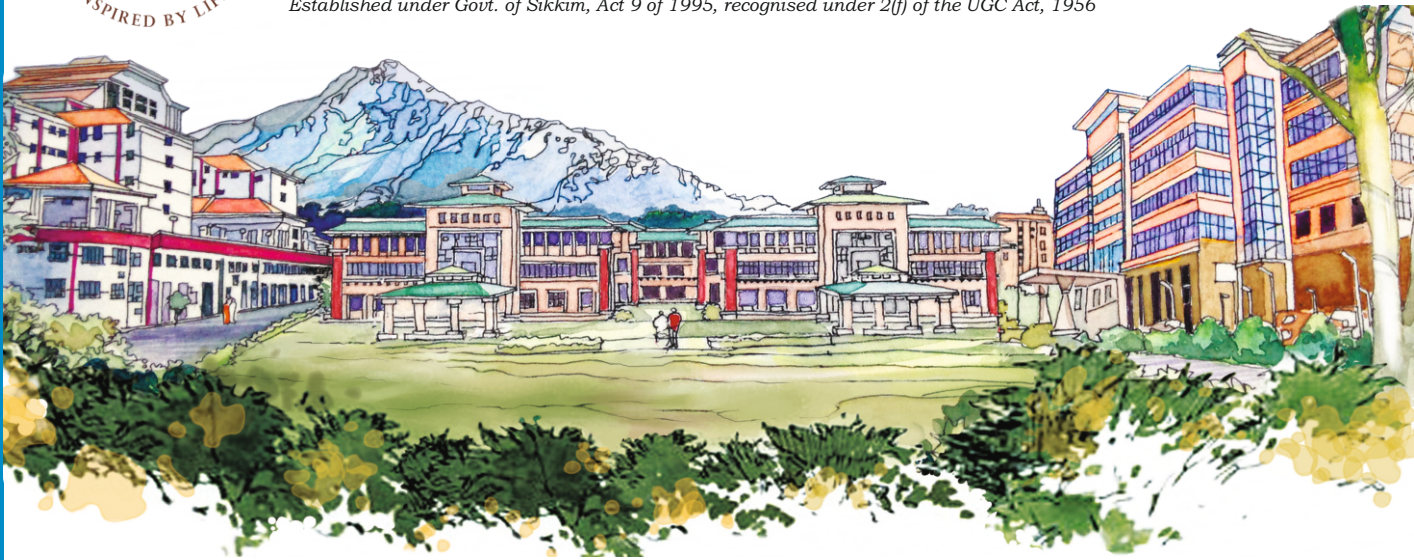
SMU SIKKIM MANIPAL UNIVERSITY

Established under Govt. of Sikkim, Act 9 of 1995, recognised under 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956

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EDITORIAL

Welcoming 2025 with Renewed Energy and Aspirations

Dear Readers,

First and foremost, we extend our heartfelt wishes for a Happy New Year 2025 to all members of the SMU community. It is with great enthusiasm that we bring you the January-March 2025 edition of the SMU Newsletter, capturing the vibrancy and dynamism of our campuses.

Spring is in the air, painting our surroundings with the soft pink hues of the peach blossoms (Prunus persica), a timeless symbol of renewal and beauty. The crisp winter chill has made way for warm, sunny days, and our majestic mountains stand adorned with snow-capped peaks, offering breathtaking views to all. Sikkim, as always, has become a magnet for visitors eager to experience its natural splendour.

As we step into the new year, both our Tadong and Majhitar campuses are abuzz with activity. From rigorous academic pursuits to cultural and extracurricular engagements, SMU continues to foster a holistic environment where students and faculty thrive. The energy on campus is palpable, reflecting our commitment to excellence in education, innovation, and community engagement.

SMU celebrated the 76th Republic Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour under the theme "Swarnim Bharat – Virasat aur Vikas" across all colleges and units in both the Tadong and Majhitar campuses. The event highlighted the rich heritage and progressive vision of our nation, bringing together students, faculty, and staff in a spirit of unity and pride.

May this new year bring inspiration, growth, and success to all. We invite you to immerse yourself in this edition and celebrate the journey ahead with us.

Editor

IN THE NEWS

SMU students participate in Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram State Day celebrations at Raj Bhavan

SE Report

GANGTOK, February 21: Ten students of Sikkim Manipal University (SMU), Tadong Campus from Arunachal Pradesh participated in the Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram State Day celebrations held at Raj Bhavan, Gangtok on February 20. The event was organized under the banner of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' in the presence of Governor Om Prakash Mathur.

The participating students were from the Sikkim Manipal College of Physiotherapy (SMCPT), Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing (SMCON) and MBBS students from the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS) under SMU. The group was accompanied by Sarikah

Atreya, PRO, SMU. As part of the celebrations, the students presented two traditional dance performances from Arunachal Pradesh, which received high appreciation from the Governor and the audience, informs a press release.

"The event showcased India's vibrant cultural diversity through performances by students and security personnel from Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. It provided a unique platform for SMU students from Arunachal Pradesh to exhibit their rich cultural heritage while reflecting the diverse student community at SMU."

Officials from various Central government institutions, security personnel and students from various

universities in Sikkim Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram residing in Sikkim were the special invitees.

Addressing the gathering, Governor Om Prakash Mathur emphasized the significance of such events in strengthening national unity. He stated, "The celebration of this auspicious occasion will further reinforce the spirit of

unity under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' observance of Sikkim in all Raj Bhavan and Prime Minister Modi's initiative

SMCON holds mass awareness programme on mental health

SE Report

GANGTOK, February 21: A mass awareness psychoeducation programme on mental health, myths and stigma, and stress management was held at the Nepali Dharmasala Hall in Singtam on February 20.

The programme was organised by Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing (SMCON), Sikkim Manipal University, Tadong with an aim to educate the community on mental health and stress management, informs a press release.

West Pendam panchayat Pankaj Rai graced the occasion as the chief guest, alongside psychologist Sonam P. Tongden from District Hospital Singtam.

A thought-provoking skit on mental health, myths and stigma, and stress management was performed by 1st-year MSc Nursing students of SMCON.

The skit was conducted under the guidance of SMCON principal Prof. Champa Sharma, associate professors Prerna Karki, Shrijana Pradhan, and Nazung Lepcha.

The event was well-attended by community members of Singtam, including self-help group members from Chuwatar.

Additionally, the first-

year MSc Nursing students delivered an insightful health talk on the importance of mental health and stress management techniques, release mentions.

Central Referral Hospital launches KareXpert

ISABELLA GURUNG

GANGTOK, February 2: Central Referral Hospital (CRH), Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) launched 'KareXpert', an advanced Hospital Information System (HIS) and mobile app at the premises of CRH, Gangtok today. The mobile app will be available on Android and iOS within two weeks, it was informed.

The software and mobile app were launched by the hand of SMU VC AVM Dr. Dilip Chandra Agarwal, in the presence of SMU officiating registrar Dr. Gopal Thapa, CRH chief medical officer Dr. Subendu Prakash, additional medical superintendent Dr. Sampat Bhandari, SMU liaison officer Dr. Sandeep Kashyap and the staff of CRH.

The cutting-edge solution, which is the first in Northeast India, aims to transform healthcare delivery in Sikkim.

KareXpert, a Reliance Jio-backed venture, has built the Enterprise Healthcare PLATFORM for multi-specialty hospital chains, making it world class SMART hospitals. KareXpert will streamline hospital operations, making

friendly and paperless. The system offers comprehensive features viz, electronic medical records (EMR), appointment scheduling, pharmacy management etc, all accessible via a user-friendly mobile app.

The benefits of KareXpert software and app to patients include reduced waiting time, appointment scheduling, EMR, prescription management, telemedicine & virtual consultation, laboratory & radiology reports, and convenience & accessibility, all from the convenience of their smartphones. Additionally, healthcare professionals will benefit

for managing patient information, reducing errors and enhancing the quality of care.

"Our team has been working continuously for 6-8 months, to make KareXpert a reality, and the software and mobile app is the first in Northeast India. I would like to congratulate CRH chief operating officer Subendu Prakash, IT head and team for their effort. The team spent months on research, reviewing other apps, and consulting with hospitals. KareXpert is a step towards modernization and will not just benefit patients but will also help hospitals in better record keeping, with no

Confidentiality of the patients will be maintained," said SMU VC.

The VC informed that the mobile app is free to patients, and the maintenance fee of the app would be covered by the hospital. The launch of KareXpert in CRH is a significant landmark towards bringing world-class healthcare to Sikkim, making medical services more accessible and efficient everyone, he added.

The team further that KareXpert will strong with a of the market, brea breed software with and well software

SMU declares 2025 as 'Year of Skills-Based Education'

SE Report

GANGTOK, February 13: Advancing the mission of Skills India and recognizing the growing importance of skills-based education, Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) has declared 2025 as the "Year of Skills-Based Education."

Announcing this initiative at SMU Retreat 2.0, Air Vice Marshal Dr. Dilip Chandra Agarwal, (Retd.) the vice chancellor of SMU, underscored the urgent need to equip students with practical skills alongside their degrees. He emphasized that enhancing students' employability is crucial in today's competitive and rapidly evolving job market.

Dr. Agarwal highlighted that several skills-based courses have already been

Majhitar. He further stated that these initiatives will soon be expanded across all constituent colleges and departments at both the Majhitar and Tadong campuses.

He stressed the importance of industrial collaborations, an industry-aligned curriculum, interdisciplinary research, and expanding course electives to ensure students gain relevant expertise.

"This is the need of the hour—to ensure our students are employable in an increasingly demanding and shrinking job market," he stated. He also directed all departments to introduce at least two new skills-based courses in 2025 that will enhance the curriculum and improve students' career prospects.

excellence across multiple disciplines. As part of this initiative, the university launched the mentor-mentee scheme, 'Saarathi-Saathi', to support students and faculty in research endeavours. This has led to a robust research ecosystem at SMU, marked by high-quality publications

of PhD scholars, especially full-time researchers.

The SMU Retreat 2.0, themed "Connect, Reflect, Rejuvenate," served as a platform for fostering collaboration, reflection, and innovation among university leaders. This annual event encouraged meaningful

growth.

The Retreat b together key official SMU and its cons colleges to review and achievem departmen exchange developmen solutions

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NEWS & EVENTS

Safe Working Environment

A safe working environment fosters productivity, collaboration, and psychological security. By prioritizing trust, respect, and open communication while eliminating fear-based control, organizations can create a supportive workplace

Dr. K RAMNARAYAN
(MBBS MD PG Dipl. Higher Education)
Pro Chancellor-Sikkim Manipal University;
Emeritus Professor of Medical Education-Manipal Academy of Higher Education;
Former Vice Chancellor-Manipal

Fostering a Safe Working Environment: Principles and Practices

A safe working environment is essential for fostering productivity, collaboration, and employee well-being. It goes beyond physical safety measures and extends into psychological security, mutual respect, and an inclusive culture. As the saying goes, "Get the working environment right, and the work will look after itself." A positive workplace does not emerge by chance but is cultivated through conscious effort. This essay explores key principles that contribute to a safe working environment and their impact on workplace dynamics.

Maxim 1: Don't Undervalue Relationships

At the heart of a thriving workplace are strong interpersonal relationships built on trust, respect, and open communication. Employees perform at their best when they feel valued and supported by colleagues and leadership. Rapport, patience, positive reinforcement, and approachability create an environment where individuals feel safe to express their ideas and concerns.

Respecting different viewpoints and fostering trust ensure a workplace where collaboration flourishes. As the maxim states, "We work best with people we care about and with people who, we believe, care about us."

Maxim 2: Don't Use Fear, Threat, or Sarcasm to Establish Control

A workplace should be free from intimidation, ridicule, and hostility. Fear-based control strategies lead to anxiety and disengagement, ultimately hampering productivity. As Barrie Wade aptly states, "Pain from words has left its scar on mind and heart. Cuts and bruises now have healed; it's words that I remember." Creating a psychologically safe environment where employees feel encouraged rather than threatened ensures better teamwork and overall job satisfaction.

Maxim 3: Don't Show Off Power, Show Them Concern

True leadership is not about exerting dominance but about demonstrating knowledge, confidence, and approachability. A great leader is knowledgeable, decisive, and an expert authority while also being personable, affable, and approachable.

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NEWS & EVENTS

Safe Working Environment...

Effective leaders balance intellectual and interpersonal dimensions, fostering an environment where employees feel comfortable seeking guidance and expressing their concerns. A leader who shows concern rather than superiority can build a motivated and cohesive team.

Maxim 4: Don't Forget to Recognize Diverse Talents and Ways of Working
Every employee brings unique skills and perspectives to the workplace. Albert Einstein's famous quote, "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid," emphasizes the need to acknowledge individual strengths. Organizations should create an environment where employees can excel in their natural abilities rather than forcing them into rigid roles. Recognizing different problem-solving approaches and work styles enhances creativity and innovation.

Maxim 5: Don't Make the Workplace Suffocating; Allow Ventilation of Ideas
A suffocating workplace, where employees fear humiliation, sarcasm, or peer pressure, stifles creativity and innovation. Such an environment discourages participation, making employees hesitant to voice their ideas. Instead, organizations should foster an atmosphere where employees feel safe to express their thoughts and challenge conventional norms. Encouraging open discussions leads to improved decision-making and greater employee satisfaction.

Maxim 6: Don't Give Feedback That Evaluates or Expresses Secondary Feelings
Feedback should be constructive and focus on growth rather than judgment. Evaluative feedback that expresses secondary feelings can demoralize employees and hinder their progress. Instead, feedback should be descriptive, corrective, and reflective, emphasizing primary feelings. At a leadership level, feedback should involve "feed up" (clarifying expectations), "feedback" (evaluating current performance), and "feedforward" (guidance for improvement). Employees, in turn, should engage in reflection for action (planning ahead), reflection on action (evaluating past performance), and reflection in action (adapting in real-time). This structured feedback approach fosters continuous learning and improvement.

Maxim 7: Don't Forget to Set High Expectations
The Pygmalion Effect suggests that higher expectations lead to better performance. Employees thrive in environments where they are encouraged to aim high and challenge their limits. As Charles Kettering puts it, "High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectations." When leaders set ambitious yet realistic goals, they inspire employees to reach their full potential. High expectations, when combined with encouragement and support, drive motivation and innovation in the workplace.

Maxim 8: Don't Underrate the Value of Cohesiveness
A cohesive work environment fosters unity and cooperation. Henry Ford once remarked, "Coming together is a beginning; staying together is progress; working together is success." A workplace that values teamwork and collective effort ensures that employees work towards common goals, reducing conflicts and enhancing overall efficiency. Cohesiveness builds resilience, allowing teams to navigate challenges effectively while maintaining morale.

Creating a Safe Working Environment: A Holistic Approach
A safe working environment is created through a combination of faculty, function, and facilities. Faculty refers to leadership and management practices that ensure fairness, transparency, and employee engagement. Function includes workplace processes that support collaboration, clear communication, and problem-solving. Facilities encompass the physical and digital infrastructure that promotes efficiency and comfort. Together, these elements create a workspace where employees can thrive both professionally and personally.

Conclusion
A truly safe workplace extends beyond sturdy walls and secure equipment—it encompasses an environment where psychological safety, mutual trust, and inclusivity thrive. When organizations cultivate respectful relationships, replace fear-driven management with empowerment, value diverse talents, encourage honest communication, provide supportive feedback, uphold high standards, and nurture collaboration, they lay the foundation for a workplace that fuels both productivity and personal growth.

NEWS & EVENTS

Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) Declares 2025 as 'Year of Skills-Based Education'

Advancing the mission of Skills India and recognizing the growing importance of skills-based education, Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) has declared 2025 as the "Year of Skills-Based Education." Announcing this initiative at SMU Retreat 2.0, Air Vice Marshal Dr. Dilip Chandra Agarwal, (Retd.) VSM, Vice Chancellor of SMU, underscored the urgent need to equip students with practical skills alongside their degrees. He emphasized that enhancing students' employability is crucial in today's competitive and rapidly evolving job market.

Dr. Agarwal highlighted that several skills-based courses have already been introduced at SMU, particularly at the SMIT (Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology) campus in Majhitar. He further stated that these initiatives will soon be expanded across all constituent colleges and departments at both the Majhitar and Tadong campuses.

He stressed the importance of industrial collaborations, an industry-aligned curriculum, interdisciplinary research, and expanding course electives to ensure students gain relevant expertise.

"This is the need of the hour—to ensure our students are employable in an increasingly demanding and shrinking job market," he stated. He also directed all departments to introduce at least two new skills-based courses in 2025 that will enhance the curriculum and improve students' career prospects.

It is worth noting that in 2024, SMU had declared the 'Year of Research' to promote academic and research excellence across multiple disciplines.

SMU Retreat 2.0

The SMU Retreat 2.0, themed "Connect, Reflect, Rejuvenate," was held in Pakyong, Sikkim on 7-9 Feb, 2025, which served as a platform for fostering collaboration, reflection, and innovation among university leaders. This annual event encourages meaningful social interactions, acknowledges contributions, and promotes teamwork to drive continuous institutional growth.

The Retreat brought together key officials from SMU and its constituent colleges to review progress and achievements in all departments, facilitating the exchange of ideas and the development of innovative solutions. The event was led by Prof. Dr. K. Ramnarayan, Pro Chancellor of SMU, and Vice Chancellor Dr. Dilip Chandra Agarwal.

Through a series of professional and social engagements, Team SMU conducted comprehensive reviews of the activities within each unit and department of the University. These discussions were centered on bolstering teamwork and fostering a collaborative ethos to cultivate innovative ideas and effective solutions, ultimately striving for academic and research excellence. This involved establishing objectives, formulating strategies, and aligning efforts with the University's vision and mission. Moreover, the review process extended to SMU and its constituent units, enabling the identification of strengths and weaknesses and the development of future-oriented strategies and goals.

NEWS & EVENTS

Central Referral Hospital Launches KareXpert, a Cutting-Edge HIS and Mobile App

CENTRAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL

Central Referral Hospital (CRH), SMU, has introduced KareXpert, an advanced Hospital Information System (HIS) and Mobile App, aiming to revolutionize healthcare services in Sikkim. Backed by Reliance Jio, KareXpert is designed to streamline hospital operations, making them more efficient, patient-friendly, and paperless.

CRH is the first hospital in Northeast to implement this comprehensive Hospital Management System.

With this new platform, patients can book and reschedule appointments online, reducing waiting times and eliminating the need for multiple hospital visits. The app also provides access to electronic medical records (EMR), test results, and prescriptions, empowering patients with better control over their healthcare. Through its prescription management system, users can track and renew prescriptions digitally. Additionally, telemedicine and virtual consultations make remote doctor visits possible, especially benefiting those with mobility challenges or in emergency situations.

KareXpert also enhances diagnostic services by delivering laboratory and radiology reports via SMS, ensuring patients receive timely updates on their health. The unified platform significantly improves convenience and accessibility, allowing patients to manage their healthcare from anywhere at any time.

The launch of KareXpert at CRH, Sikkim Manipal University, Gangtok, is expected to enhance efficiency, reduce errors, and modernize healthcare services. By integrating digital solutions into medical services, CRH is taking a major step toward world-class, tech-driven healthcare in Sikkim, ensuring better patient care and accessibility.

Shasya Utsav at SMIT

As part of the Makar Sankranti celebrations, Shasya Utsav was held at SMIT on 12th & 14th January 2025, organized by the Student Council, SMIT, under the Associate Director (Student Affairs).

Events included "Kati Patang" which had three contests, which included kite flying, duo-dash derby, and three-legged dash. Soulful musical performances by Chromatix-the talented band and vibrant dance routines by dance groups like Udaan, Nirvana, and Illusion brought about a sense of camaraderie, togetherness, and shared creative passion amongst the students.

NEWS & EVENTS

SMIT Hosts 6-Day AICTE-ATAL FDP on Artificial Intelligence in Remote Sensing

SMIT successfully organized a 6-day AICTE-ATAL Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Artificial Intelligence in Remote Sensing and Earth Observation" beginning January 20, 2025. The event was jointly organized by the Department of Information Technology (IT) and Artificial Intelligence & Data Science (AI&DS) in coordination with the Centre for Faculty & Staff Development (CF&SD), SMIT.

The FDP brought together 41 participants from across India, offering a platform for immersive learning through expert talks, hands-on training sessions, and interactive discussions. The programme featured an impressive lineup of 10 technical sessions, 5 article discussions, and 5 hands-on laboratory sessions, providing participants with in-depth exposure to cutting-edge advancements in AI applications for Remote Sensing. Additionally, an industry visit to the Sikkim State Remote Sensing Application Centre (SSRSAC) under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of Sikkim, enriched the participants' practical understanding.

The sessions were delivered by eminent scientists, professors, and senior government officers from prestigious institutions such as IITs, ISI, Government College of Engineering Alipurduar, and RRSC-North ISRO, SMIT.

This specialized FDP aimed at equipping faculty and researchers with cutting-edge knowledge of AI applications in remote sensing and Earth observation — a rapidly evolving area in geospatial science and technology.

SMIT Civil Engineering Department Assesses PMGSY Road Damage Across Sikkim

Demonstrating its commitment to social responsibility and engineering excellence, the Civil Engineering Department of SMIT played a pivotal role in evaluating damaged PMGSY roads across Sikkim.

Acting under directives from the National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA), Government of India, and in close collaboration with the Rural Management and Development Department (RMDD), Government of Sikkim, the department undertook a technical assessment of rural road infrastructure in all four districts of the state.

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The field assessments were carried out from 10th to 13th February 2025. Dr. Sajal Sarkar and Dr. Partha Sarathi Nayek conducted inspections in North and East Sikkim, while Mr. Guru Prasad Sharma evaluated conditions in South and West Sikkim.

The teams performed on-site inspections to assess the extent of damage, identify critical issues, and provide technical recommendations aimed at improving rural connectivity under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Their findings will support efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of rural infrastructure across Sikkim.

NEWS & EVENTS

SMU celebrated 76th Republic Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour under the theme "Swarnim Bharat – Virasat aur Vikas"

SMCON's Prashanti Sharma Shines as 2nd Runner-Up in Miss India Sikkim 2025

SMCON takes immense pride in celebrating the achievement of Miss Prashanti Sharma a student of 3rd Semester B.Sc. Nursing, Batch 2023-2027, who has been crowned the 2nd runner-up of Miss India Sikkim 2025 held in January, 2025 in Gangtok, Sikkim.

Her victory is a testament to her dedication, hard work, and ability to balance academics with her passion for modelling. She participated in multiple rounds of the competition, excelling in talent, personality, and intelligence-based segments. Her confidence and grace set her apart, earning her the prestigious title.
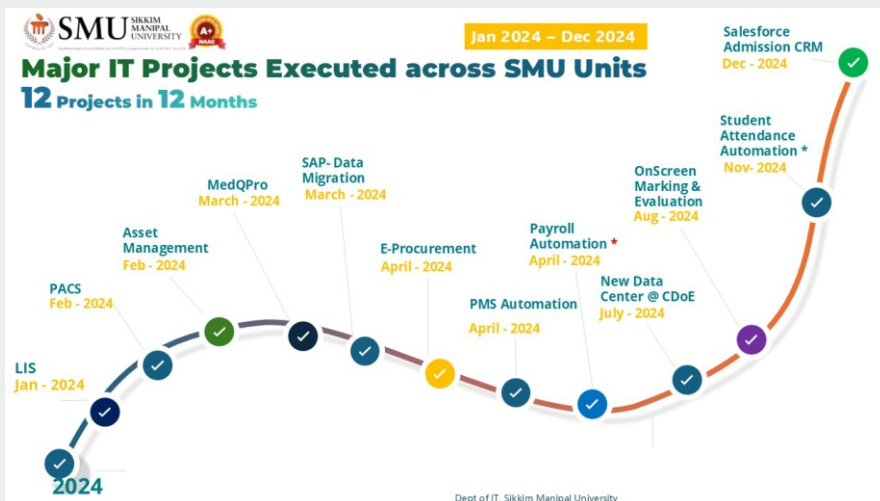
NEWS & EVENTS

TRANSFORMING SMU THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Presenting Glorious 12 Months with 12 Successful Major Projects (2024)
Team SMU-IT drives 2024 as a digital transformation year for the organization, making a significant impact across the institution and beyond

BITOPAN SARMA BARUAH
Head – Information Technology
Sikkim Manipal University

Team SMU-IT has made 2024 a landmark year, spearheading digital transformation across the institution with 12 major projects in 12 months. With innovation at its core, the team has revolutionized education, healthcare, and institutional operations—enhancing efficiency, improving accessibility, and driving SMU towards a tech-powered future.

Major IT Projects Executed across SMU Units
12 Projects in 12 Months (Jan 2024 – Dec 2024)

- LIS - Jan 2024
- PACS - Feb 2024
- Asset Management - Feb 2024
- MedQPro - March 2024
- SAP- Data Migration - March 2024
- E-Procurement - April 2024
- Payroll Automation * - April 2024
- PMS Automation - April 2024
- New Data Center @ CDoE - July 2024
- OnScreen Marking & Evaluation - Aug 2024
- Student Attendance Automation * - Nov 2024
- Salesforce Admission CRM - Dec 2024

Dept of IT, Sikkim Manipal University

Educational Transformation: Digital Innovation in Learning

· Smart Classrooms Revolutionized – 10+ smart panels installed at SMIT for interactive learning.
· Automated Attendance System – Real-time tracking via web & mobile for students and administrators.
· SMU's First Online Exam Data Centre – Eliminating 20 years of dependency on external centres.
· On-Screen Digital Evaluation – Faster, precise, and efficient assessment processes.
· Salesforce-Powered Enrolments – Seamless student admissions with CRM-driven automation.

Healthcare Transformation: Advancing Medical Technology

· Laboratory Information System (LIS) – Faster and more efficient diagnostics with integrated machines and mobile-accessible reports.
· Picture Archiving & Communication System (PACS) – First in Sikkim, revolutionizing the Radiology Department.
· MedQPro Implementation – Automated hospital quality management for enhanced efficiency and compliance readiness.

Organizational Transformation: Streamlining Efficiency

· Asset Management System – Smart tracking and management of institutional assets.
· E-Procurement System – Transparent, digitized procurement for improved resource management aligned to SMU Policy.
· PMS Automation – SMIMS – Optimized faculty evaluation with digital Performance Management System.

TEAM IT: One team, one vision – shaping the digital future of SMU

NEWSLETTER

NEWS & EVENTS

Matribhasha Diwas Celebration – 2025

The Department of English of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Liberal Arts (FHSS&LA), SMU, celebrated Matribhasha Diwas with great enthusiasm on 21 February 2025 with an aim to honour and promote linguistic diversity and the rich heritage of Indian languages in alignment with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The celebration highlighted the significance of mother tongues in education, knowledge development, and cultural preservation.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and the eloquence of the students. In the poetry recitation segment followed, wherein students presented poems in their native languages. The recitations reflected the literary richness of different languages and resonated with the audience, highlighting the deep emotional and cultural connection embedded in mother tongues.

The cultural segment featured two song performances, celebrating the musical heritage of Indian languages.

SMU Students Participate in Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram State Day Celebrations at Raj Bhavan

Ten students of Sikkim Manipal University (SMU), Tadong Campus from Arunachal Pradesh participated in the Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram State Day celebrations held at Raj Bhavan, Gangtok, on 20 February 2025. The event was organized under the banner of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' in the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Governor Shri Om Prakash Mathur.

The participating students were from the Sikkim Manipal College of Physiotherapy (SMCPT), Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing (SMCON), and MBBS students from the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS) under SMU. As part of the celebrations, the students presented two traditional dance performances from Arunachal Pradesh, which received high appreciation from the Hon'ble Governor and the audience.

The event showcased India's vibrant cultural diversity through performances by students and security personnel from Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. It provided a unique platform for SMU students from Arunachal Pradesh to exhibit their rich cultural heritage while reflecting the diverse student community at SMU.

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SMU Conducts POSH Sensitization Programme for Faculty

The Human Resource Department of Sikkim Manipal University (SMU), in collaboration with the SMU-SFCDC, organized a sensitization session titled "POSH: Gender Champions and Policy, for Safe Campus Culture" on January 28, 2025, at the SMIMS Auditorium, Level VI.

Attended by 94 teaching staff from SMU and its Tadong campus units, the programme aimed to strengthen awareness of the university's Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) policy and promote a safe, inclusive academic environment.

Dr. Mingma Lhamu Sherpa, Co-Chairperson, SFCDC, and Mrs. Sushma Pradhan, Senior Executive, HR Department, led the organizing team. Dr. Sherpa, along with Dr. Geeta Soohinda, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, served as resource persons.

The interactive session covered key aspects of the POSH Act, reporting procedures, and the role of faculty as gender champions. Faculty actively engaged in discussions, reflecting SMU's commitment to fostering a respectful and harassment-free campus culture.

FDP on "Ethics in Research"

SMCPT organised a Seminar/ FDP led by Dr. Quemeen Gurung on the topic " Ethics in Research" on 7 February, 2025. The programme was attended both online and offline by students and faculty members of SMCPT, SMCON and MHA.

The programme illustrated important history for the inception of ethics in researchers and the methods currently employed to uphold ethical research in SMIMS.

The speaker leading the discussions was Dr. Pawan Kumar Yadav, Faculty of Department of Community Medicine, CMP Degree College, University of Allahabad, Prayagraj.

National-Level Workshops on Academic Writing and Research Tools

The Directorate of Research (DoR), Sikkim Manipal University (SMU), successfully organized two national-level online workshops aimed at enhancing academic writing skills and promoting ethical use of artificial intelligence in research. The first workshop, titled "Ethical Use of Different AI Tools in Academic Writing", was held from January 20 to 21, 2025. The two-day event brought together researchers, academicians, and postgraduate students from across the country to explore the responsible integration of AI tools in scholarly work. Experts addressed the challenges and opportunities posed by AI in academia, emphasizing integrity, originality, and proper attribution in the use of generative technologies. This was followed by a second national workshop conducted from February 21 to 22, 2025, on "Review Paper Writing with Bibliometric Analysis & Visualization for Authors & Institutes". Organized in collaboration with eSupport for Research, the workshop provided participants with hands-on training in bibliometric analysis — a critical technique for evaluating research trends and impact — and guided attendees in using visualization tools to enhance literature reviews and institutional research assessments.

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Workshop on E-Waste Management with Hulladek Recycling

The Computer Applications Student Society at SMIT, in collaboration with Hulladek Recycling Pvt. Ltd., organized a workshop on e-waste management to raise awareness about sustainable disposal practices on 26 February, 2025.

The event opened with Prof. (Dr.) Samarjeet Borah, Head of the Department of Computer Applications, emphasizing the importance of responsible e-waste handling. Prof. (Dr.) Gurudaman Lal Sharma, Director of SMIT, addressed the growing environmental challenges due to increasing electronic device usage and poor waste disposal.

Mr. Nandan Mall, Founder and MD of Hulladek, provided insights into e-waste management and stressed the need to reduce, reuse, and recycle electronic products. The workshop encouraged students and faculty to adopt eco-friendly practices in managing electronic waste.

Workshop on Social Media and Mental Health

The Department of Management Studies and the Department of Physics, in collaboration with the E-Cell and Institute Innovation Council of SMIT, jointly organized a workshop on "Social Media & Mental Health", on February 25, 2025 which was attended by 106 students from both departments.

The session was conducted by Mrs. Alisha Chettri, Assistant Professor and Counsellor, who led the workshop with energy and insight. Using a pre-filled questionnaire, the interactive session allowed for personalized discussions, helping students connect more deeply with the topic.

Mrs. Chettri discussed the psychological effects of social media use and shared practical strategies for maintaining mental well-being in the digital age. The workshop successfully sparked meaningful dialogue around the balance between online engagement and emotional health, equipping students with tools to navigate their digital lives more mindfully.

Mental Health Awareness Programme on Myths and Stigma, and Stress Management
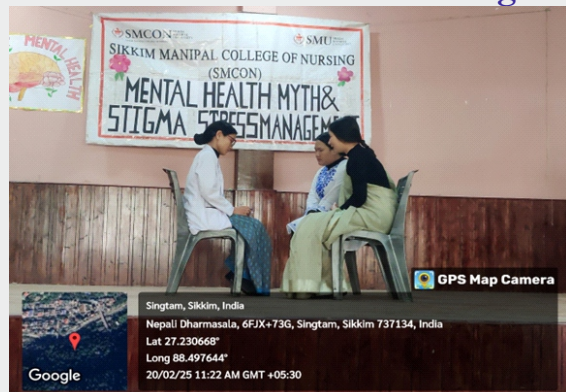
SMCON organized a mass awareness psychoeducation programme on "Mental Health, Myths and Stigma, and Stress Management" on February 20, 2025 at Nepali Dharmasala Hall, Singtam.

Mr. Pankaj Rai, Panchayat of West Pendam, and Miss Sonam P. Tongden, psychologist from District Hospital Singtam, attended as guests. A skit on mental health issues was performed by first-year MSc Nursing students, guided by Prof. Champa Sharma and faculty.

The event also featured a health talk by the students, offering practical tips on managing stress and promoting mental well-being. It drew enthusiastic participation from the local community, including members of self-help groups from Chuwatar, highlighting the growing awareness and need for open dialogue around mental health.

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Design, layout & edited by MS Sarikah Atreya, Public Relations Officer, SMU.
Contact: Email: pro@smu.edu.in Mobile: +91 62979 85120

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