

LEARNING FROM THE FIELD...



DEPARTMENTAL RESOURCES

With books, journals, digital maps, and GIS technology, learning becomes practical and interactive.



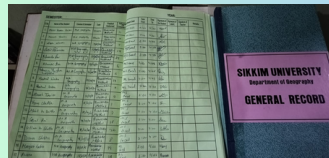
GIS LAB

The Departmental GIS Lab serves as a hub for geospatial analysis and remote sensing. Equipped with modern computing facilities, licensed GIS software, and advanced surveying instruments. GIS Lab is equipped with 22 computer workstations and licensed GIS/RS software like ArcGIS (30 user licensed) and ERDAS (10 user licensed). The instruments include Garmin GPS (6 nos), Parallax Bar (3 Nos), Plotter-cum-Scanner (1 nos), Leica Total Station (1 nos), and Compass Suunto KB (5 nos).



GIS Lab

The Practical Record and General Record Books, as shown in the picture, are maintained by the Department to document student's practical work and GIS Lab usage. During the semester, the Practical Record documented 671 user entries from 6.02.2026 to 29.08.2026, while the General Record documented 344 user entries from 25.02.2026 to 29.08.2026. The GIS Lab also hosts Ph.D. viva voce examinations, workshops, webinars, and M.A. practical classes, including Quantitative Methods in Geography (GEO-P-506) and Analytical Physical Geography Techniques (GEO-P-506).



Record Books



Dissertations and Reference Materials

DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARY

The departmental library currently holds 133 books, 241 M.A. dissertations, 15 M.Phil. dissertations, and 4 Ph.D. theses. These resources have been systematically documented, assigned accession numbers, and organized for easy access and record-keeping. The library is managed by two research scholars and remains open on all working days from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM for students and scholars.



Departmental Library

Advisory Board

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DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
SCHOOL OF HUMAN SCIENCES
SIKKIM UNIVERSITY



Newsletter
GeoVision

Vol. 01 • Issue 1
Spring Edition, 2026



Welcome to the inaugural edition of the newsletter of the Department of Geography, School of Human Sciences, Sikkim University.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Geography, School of Human Sciences, Sikkim University, was established in 2010 with a strong emphasis on integrating theoretical knowledge with empirical and field-based research, and particular focus on the Eastern Himalaya. Since the beginning, the department has produced more than 200 postgraduates while 33 M.Phil. and 13 Ph.D. degrees have been awarded. The department is further supported by a functional GIS Laboratory and a Library-cum-Documentation Centre, providing essential resources for teaching, research, and academic activities

Major Themes in the Newsletter

- Organizing Workshops and Seminars
- Students' Engagement in Workshops and Seminars
- Faculty Research collaborations
- Learning from the field
- Departmental Resources

Highlights...

- M.A. Fieldwork to Agartala, and academic Visit to Kumrek Riverside for Field-Based Learning.
- Dr. Manika Mallik joined as Post Doctoral Fellow (ICSSR) under the supervision of Dr. Abdul Hannan on 6th February 2026..
- 04 externally funded collaborative research projects supported by MoES, ICSSR and NRPPD.
- World Environment Day Celebration & Awareness Programme on 5th June 2026.
- Mr. Vishal Kumar qualified for UGC-NET Junior Research Fellow in December 2025.



Beyond the Classroom:
Geography in the Field ...

M.A. Fieldwork (22-30 December 2025)

The Department organizes annual fieldwork for Master's students as a part of the "Fieldwork and Dissertation" course (GEO-PG-C-411). A total of 22 students from the 2024-26 batch visited Agartala and nearby villages under the able guidance of Professor Sohel Firdos to gain practical experience through field observation, data collection, and community interaction. Fieldwork in Mohanpur Block, West Tripura, highlighted socio-economic transformation, while also revealing challenges related to landlessness, livelihoods, healthcare, education, and rural development.



Tea processing unit, West Tripura

Academic Excursion & Field Observation (11 April 2026)

An Academic Excursion and Field Observation Programme was organized by the Department of Geography, Sikkim University at Kumrek Riverside, Ranipool, East Sikkim on 11 April 2026. The field observation provided practical insights into tourism, waste management, rural economy, fluvial processes, and landslide hazards through direct field-based learning. It enhanced students' and scholars' skills in field observation, data collection, analysis, and understanding human-environment interactions.

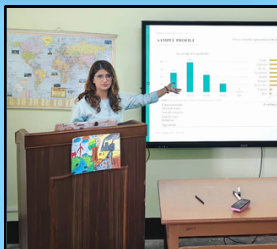


Students observing the field at Kumrek

DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS

MASTER'S DISSERTATION PROGRESS PRESENTATION (MAY, 2026)

Final Semester Masters students (22) presented dissertation progress to receive feedback on research design, methodology, and analysis to strengthen their final submission.



Ph.D. Presentation Sessions

PhD SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS PRESENTATION (15-22 JUNE, 2026)

17 Ph.D. Scholars Presented six-monthly research progress to get faculty guidance for improving methodology, analysis, and ensuring timely thesis completion.



ORGANIZING WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS...



Capacity Building Workshop (9-11 February 2026)

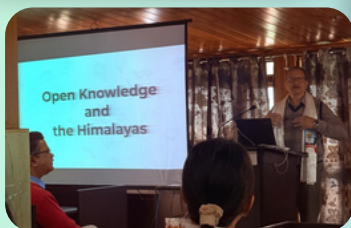
Dr. Abdul Hannan as convener, and Dr. Anant gautam as co-convener organised a three-days Capacity Building Workshop on "Designing Research Proposals and Hands-on Training in Statistical Software" on 9-11 Feb 2026 funded by the office of Dean, School of Human Sciences, Sikkim University. The workshop was attended by 30 participants from the Department of Geography, Anthropology, and Psychology. The resource persons included Prof. Elumalai Kannan (CSRD, JNU, New Delhi), Prof. Sohel Firdos, Prof. K.R. Rama Mohan, Prof. Snehlata Jaswal, and Prof. Nitish Mondal and Dr. E. ishwarjit Singh from Sikkim University. Participants received hands-on training in NSS data extraction and analysis using R and SPSS, strengthening their quantitative research skills.



Capacity Building Workshop

Webinar on Linear & Logistic Regression (SPSS) (27 March 2026)

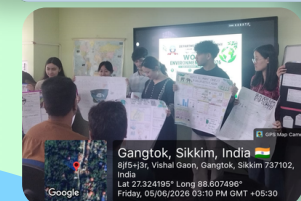
The Department (Seminar and Dissemination Group) organised a webinar on Linear and Logistic Regression using SPSS for M.A. Semester IV students and Ph.D. scholars. Through hands-on demonstrations in SPSS, participants gained practical skills in performing regression analyses and interpreting results for quantitative research.



Open Knowledge & the Himalayas Workshop, Barad Sadan

World Environment Day Celebration

The World Environment Day programme, organized by the Extension and Outreach Group, under the theme "Our Environment, Our Responsibility," on 5th June, 2026 brought together faculty members, research scholars, and students to discuss environmental concerns from scientific, social, economic, and literary perspectives. The programme featured addresses by HoD Dr. Abdul Hannan, Dr. Vinay Kumar Gupta (Associate Professor, CFFS, SLCS, JNU) on 'Ecocriticism', Dr. Rakesh Kumar Ranjan (Head and Associate Professor, Department of Geology, Sikkim University) on 'forests and climate', and Dr. E. Ishwarjit Singh, along with poster presentations by eleven M.A. students on contemporary environmental issues such as 'eco-tourism, urban heat islands, climate change, human-wildlife conflict, GLOFs, and wetlands'. The department cleanliness drive further emphasized collective responsibility and individual action towards environmental conservation.



World Environment Day: Student Presentation Session



STUDENTS' ENGAGEMENT IN WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS



NATIONAL



- **Dr. Manika Mallick** presented a paper titled "Economic and Environmental Sustainability of Small Tea Growers in the Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal" in the 8th Regional Science and Technology Congress at the University of North Bengal, Darjeeling, West Bengal on 3-4 February 2026.



- **Ms. Sunidhi Tamang, Ms. Priya P. Buragohain, Dr. Manika Mallick, Ms. Sathi Nandi, Mr. Sankar Oraon, and Mr. Biswajit Mondal** presented their papers in various sessions in the IIG International Seminar.

- The Seminar was organised by the Department of Geography & Applied Geography, University of North Bengal, Siliguri, West Bengal from 19-21 February 2026,



- **Mr. Vishal Kumar** participated in the National Workshop on "Geospatial Approaches Towards Urban Geographical Research and Hazard-Risk-Vulnerability Analysis", from 19-24 January 2026, organised by the Department of Geography, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

Mr. Vishal Kumar, a Ph.D. Research Scholar (2nd Year), qualified the UGC-NET Junior Research Fellow (December 2025) with an impressive 99.91 percentile.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Ms. Ranjana Adhikari** presented her paper titled "Women's Self-Help Groups in Decentralized Community Health Systems: Evidence from the Sikkim Himalaya" at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2026, held from 1-4 September 2026 at Imperial College London, organised by the Royal Geographical Society and Institute of British Geographers.

- **Ms. Sathi Nandi** presented her paper titled "The Evolution of India's Handloom Industry: Shifting of Concepts and Perspectives" at the International Geographical Union (IGU) Regional Conference 2026, held from 17-21 August 2026 in Istanbul, Türkiye, organised by the IGU in collaboration with the Istanbul University, Istanbul.

FACULTY RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS



- **Dr. Abdul Hannan** is engaged as a co-project Investigator in National Research Programme on Plantation Development (NRPPD) funded project entitled "Profitability and Productivity of Small Tea Growers in Assam and West Bengal". The project focuses on analyzing the cost of tea cultivation, tea yield and profitability of small tea grower in Udalguri and Jorhat district (Assam) and Uttar Dinajpur and Darjeeling district (West Bengal). Ms. Radali Rajbangshi has been appointed as Research Assistant in the project.



Udalguri Tea Garden, Assam

- **Dr. Rajesh Kumar** is engaged as a co-director in Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) funded four-year project (2025-2028) titled "Mapping Hazard Zonation of the High-Altitude Lake Breaches for Sustainable Development in the Tawang Region of Arunachal Himalaya, India."

- **Dr. Ishwarjit E. Singh** has received research grant of about 10,00,000/- for one-year by Indian Council of Social Science Research Council (ICSSR) for carrying out research on "Demographic Transition of Shrinking Population of Sikkim: Determinants and Consequences of New Demographic Reality." As part of the project, one Research Assistant and two Field Investigators have been recruited to undertake the research activities.



Household Survey under the ICSSR Funded Research Project on Demographic Transition in Sikkim



Household Survey under the Jal Jeevan Mission Project funded by ICSSR



Field Observation of Rural Water-Supply Infrastructure

- **Dr. Anant Gautam** has undertaken a one-year ICSSR-funded research project titled "Evaluating the Impact of Jal Jeevan Mission on Rural Communities: A Study of the Gangetic Plain and Himalayan Regions of India." The project aims to assess the impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission on rural communities in Pindra panchayat of Varanasi Uttar Pradesh and Ranka Gram Panchayat Unitt, Gangtok, Sikkim.