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Sikkim University Celebrates its 6th Foundation Day Colonialism Impacted Social Formation in Sikkim: Prof A.C.Sinha



The process of social formation in Sikkim and the adjoining region were heavily influenced by the policies of the colonial regime according to Prof. A.C.Sinha. Delivering the Sixth Foundation Day lecture on July 2, 2013, Prof. Sinha, National Fellow ICSSR and Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, dwelt at length into the various stages and aspects of the history of social formation in Sikkim and places in and around Darjeeling. The highlight of the lecture was the broad sweep on the role of British colonial rule in determining the future of the region. The Lecture provided a rare insight into the narrative details of the geo political scenario in early twentieth century and how the state of Sikkim and Bhutan were made part of the great game of imperial rivalry.

Satabdi Purush C.D.Rai, known for his prominent role in the making of present day Sikkim was the Guest of Honour at the Sixth Foundation Day celebrations while Shri P.D.Rai, Member of Parliament happened to be a special guest. Shri C.D.Rai, in his brief speech, pointed out that said that the present generation of Sikkim is fortunate to have a university in the state and also narrated the struggle for achieving educational qualification during his time. He also added that the students should utilize the opportunities be-

cause education makes people brave.

Prof T.B. Subba, vice-chancellor, in his welcome address underscored the importance of providing access to higher education in the region and the role of the university in that regard. He made a pointed reference to the decision to provide 50 percent reservation in seats to students with Sikkim Subject certificate in this context. He also pointed to the starting of 11 new departments including History, Political Science, English, and Commerce as part of this effort. The vice-chancellor also listed out the difficulties faced by the university due to the fact that the academic departments function from out of rented buildings and scattered over the town.

Shri N.K.Pradhan, Minister for HRDD, Government of Sikkim, was Chief Guest and he dwelt at length on the measures taken by the State Government with regard to acquisition and transfer of land at Yangang and providing the infrastructure such as roads, water and electricity supply to the proposed campus. Shri Pradhan conveyed that Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling had strived for the establishment of the university and that he was doing all that was required for it. The Minister assured that the State government being aware of its responsibilities towards the society and students in particular will provide every help required for the development of the university.

After the lecture the celebrations continued with students from the university presenting songs and dances and the evening came to an end with a sitar recital by Subranil Sarkar from Kolkata.

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Publications:

Kriti Ghatani , Shankar Prasad Sha and Krishna Kant Yadav, research scholars at the Department of Microbiology: **A Comparative Study of extraction procedures for Isolation and Characterization of Extracellular Polymeric Substances of *Proteus mirabilis***. International Journal of Environmental Research and Development. Vol 3 No 8:39-43, ISSN No: 2249-3131.

Shankar Prasad Sha, Kriti Ghatani, and Jyoti Prakash Tamang: Dalbari, a Traditional Pulses based fermented food of West Bengal. International Journal of Environmental Research and Development. Vol 3 No 8:34-38, ISSN No: 2249-3131.

Dr. Nutankumar S. Thingujam, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology: **“Universal and culture-specific factors in the recognition and performance of musical affect expressions”** in American journal, Emotion which is the official publication of American Psychological Association.

<http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/emo/13/3/434/>

Books:

SIX ACRES AND A THIRD

- Fakir Mohan Senapati

Review by Kavita Lama,
VI Semester student, Department of Law

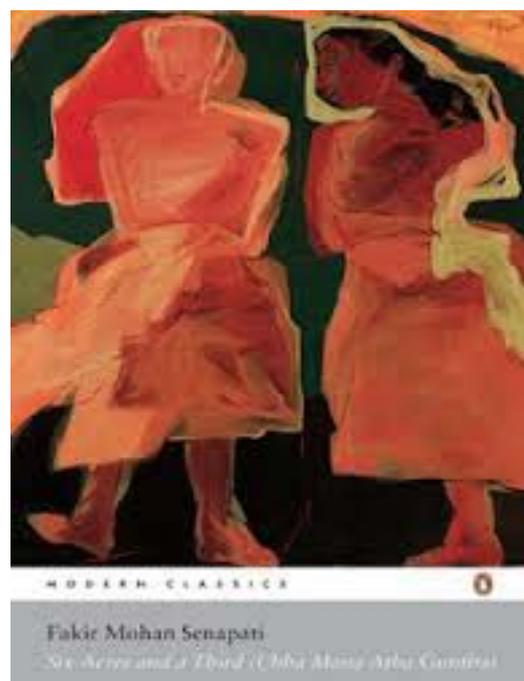
Fakir Mohan's *Six Acres and a Third* (Chha Maana Atha Guntha in Odia), is one of the best book I have ever come across written in the Indian feudal system. The book in a broad sense brought the social system of pre independent India, characters are well defined which makes the text more interesting for readers. The whole story is built in the Zamindari System in Orissa in nineteenth century.

The books deals with the cunning and self-interested nature of Zamindar who misuses the law and order against the poor weaver, it pointed out the flaws in the legal system of the pre independence Indian society. With the flaws in the legal system and

management, Zamindar Ramachandra Mangaraj uses his skills tries to acquire and take control over the six acres and a third land of Bhagia the Weaver and his wife Saria.

Six Acres and a Third is more than just a story or a tale, its critique to the zamindari or feudal system is one of the most important cores of the book. However, the book is not only limited within the vicious nature of the zamindars whereas it also covers the legal system, tradition, customs of the pre independent system. The most important factor, which makes reader more interesting, is its parameter of the story, which has parallel with many lives.

So, what exactly this book presents? Answering this question, *Six Acres and a Third* presents the bottom to top approach of the feudal system of India during nineteenth century. The narration of the book is based in the view from below. The problems faced by the farmers or the weaver have been highlighted due to weak legal system. However, at the end, the story tells that how still the farmers are been exploited no matter whatever changes made in the system. The zamindari of Ramachandra Mangaraj was taken away and which Judge Sahib, the problems of farmers, handed over to another remains the same. It shows the real depth of the story and which can still have its relevance until today.





Editor's Note

The month that went by was busy times for the faculty and the administrative staff while the students had been for the summer break. Admissions to the new academic year, drafting and finalization of the syllabus for the new departments were taken up; results of the Spring Semester 2012-13 were declared and the various departments had completed the admissions process too and put out the list of selected candidates on the website on July 23, 2013.

With the focus on improving the enrolment and 11 new departments, Sikkim University will now see its students strength increasing substantially. All the departments, with the exception of a few, will have as many students as is their intake capacity and that must make the university more vibrant than it is.

There is no denying that quantity will have a positive impact on quality too.

All this notwithstanding, it has been a relatively dry time for the Chronicle. Fewer seminars and other academic activities to report! Kavita Lama, a VI Semester student from the Department of Law has put in a short write up of a book she happened to read. And we have a photo-feature of the foundation day celebrations in this issue.

Over to the new academic year and a warm welcome to those who have joined the university.

Dr.V.Krishna Ananth
Editor





A Photo Feature on the Foundation Day Celebration

