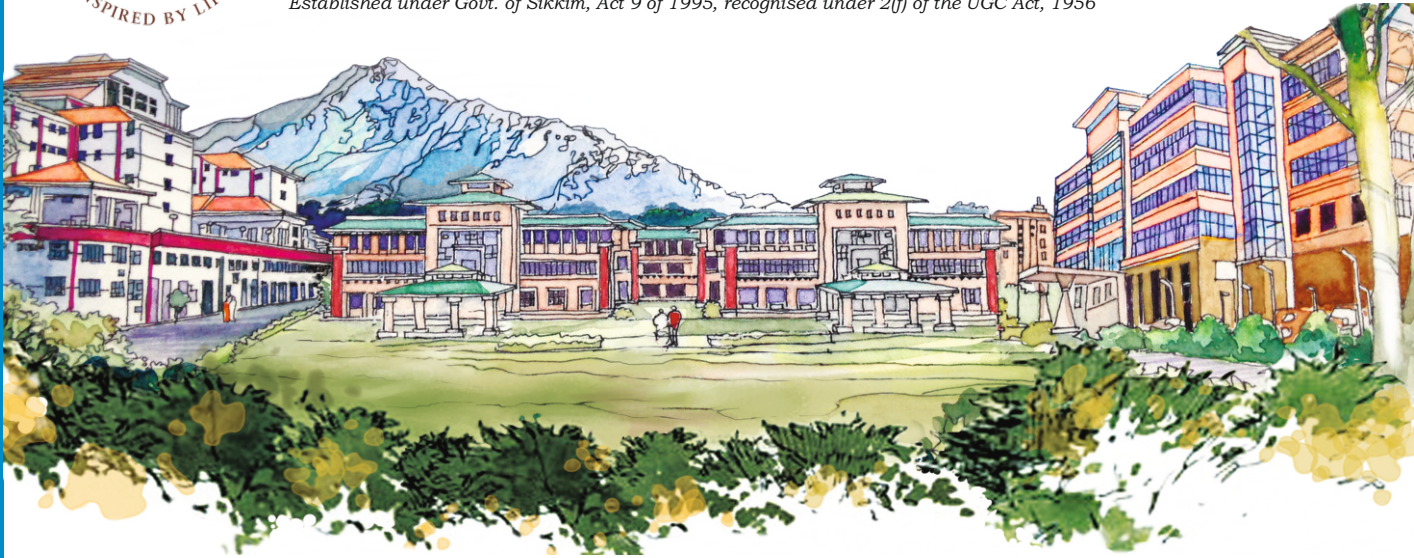




# SMU SIKKIM MANIPAL UNIVERSITY

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



# NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUG 2024 VOL: 1 NO: 3



## SMU SIKKIM MANIPAL UNIVERSITY

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## 28<sup>th</sup> MESVCC Meeting

# Welcome Delegates

SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2024

SIKKIM MANIPAL UNIVERSITY, GANGTOK, SIKKIM

SMU is honoured to host the 28th Meeting of the Manipal Education System Vice Chancellors' Council (MESVCC). Team SMU warmly welcome all esteemed delegates and wish you a pleasant and memorable stay in the scenic state of Sikkim.

## EDITORIAL

### Shining Through Monsoon Challenges

Dear Readers,

We are thrilled to present the July-August 2024 edition of the SMU Newsletter. Our commitment remains to continuously enhance the way we bring the vibrant life at SMU to you through our publications.

The months of June to August mark the peak monsoon season here in Sikkim. Like many parts of the country, the heavy rains have caused disruptions, particularly impacting National Highway 10 (NH10)—Sikkim's vital lifeline. The incessant rains led to numerous blockages along NH10, temporarily isolating our small Himalayan state from the rest of the country. Commuters were forced to take longer detours to the nearest railway station and airport, causing considerable challenges for our people.

Despite these difficulties, life at our Tadong and Majhitar campuses remained undisturbed. With resilience and a positive mindset, our students and staff persevered. Both campuses continued to provide a safe and secure environment for our students, and our dedicated faculty pressed on, teaching with unwavering determination and compassion. This is a testament to our commitment to ensuring the well-being and academic success of our students.

Editor

## IN THE NEWS



### Substance abuse prevalent among college students and govt employees of Gangtok: Study

**SE Report**

**GANGTOK, July 5:** Dr. Sushrut Varun Satpathy and Dr. Ena Pradhan of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Central Referral Hospital (CRH), under Sikkim Manipal University successfully submitted the report of their study titled 'Prevalence and pattern of substance abuse among college students and government employees of Gangtok District' at the DC Office here today.

The duo submitted their report in the presence of Gangtok DC Tushar Nihare and SDM GL Meena, informs a press release.

The study was a collaborative effort between

the District Collector Office, Gangtok, the Social Welfare department, and Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Central Referral Hospital.

The data collected during the yearlong pilot study highlighted the prevalence and pattern of substance abuse among college students and government employees in Gangtok District.

The report suggests a high percentage of substance users among government employees, along with college students, and necessitates intervention at the basic level.

The study intends to serve as a benchmark for further similar studies in the future, covering the entire State of Sikkim, the release mentions.

### Raj Bhavan holds meeting with university representatives

**SE Report**

**GANGTOK, June 26:** A meeting was held today at Raj Bhavan today where representatives from different universities presented updates on range of educational agendas.

The key topics of discussion included National Education Policy 2020, wearing of gowns during convocation ceremonies, basic information and recognition status of each university, national and international assessments, National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), the functioning of Internal Quality Assurance Cells (IQAC), ongoing PhD work, academic and examination calendars, academic programs and courses,



feedback systems, student enrolment efforts, faculty profile improvement measures and research promotion, informs a Raj Bhavan release.

The meeting was chaired by Raj Bhavan secretary J.D. Bhutia. In his address, Bhutia highlighted the Governor's commitment to quality-based education in higher studies. He emphasised on the importance of increasing student enrolment in university courses tailored to achieving learning outcomes and securing placements.

The vice chancellor of SRM University, Dr. C.H.

adopting best practices to improve university recognition, achieve NAAC accreditation, and attract student enrollment from other States in India.

The meeting was attended by Sikkim Global Technical University vice chancellor Dr. Swami Prasad Sinha, Khangchendzonga State University vice chancellor Dr. Ashish Sharma, NIT Sikkim registrar Dr. Rajan Basak, Sikkim Manipal University vice chancellor D.C. Agrawal, Sikkim Skill University vice chancellor Kalyan Kumar Shah, Sikkim Professional University vice chancellor H.S. Yadav, Medhavi Skill University registrar Dr. Siddharth Shankar, Raj Bhavan deputy secretary Diwas Gautam and OSD Dr. Sham Narayan.

### मणिपालको अर्थोपेडिक्स विभागले गर्‍यो १०० संयुक्त प्रतिस्थापन शल्यक्रिया



**रम्पू, १९ असार।** मेट्रोल रेफरल अस्पताल, सिक्किम मणिपाल विश्वविद्यालयको अर्थोपेडिक्स विभागले १०० भन्दा बढी संयुक्त प्रतिस्थापन शल्यक्रियाको सफलतापूर्वक पुरो मीर पाल्पलुको कोसेदुङ्गा अस्पताल गरेको छ। यस उपलक्ष्यमा तीन-स्तरिय आर्थोपेडिक्स रेफरल प्रदान गर्न र बिमारीको निदान बढाउन विभागको सफलतालाई स्वागत गरिएको छ। प्रख्यात आर्थोपेडिक्स सर्जन्सको टिम टोलेन्को नेतृत्वमा, विभागले उपर्युक्त निदानको प्रदान गर्न उच्च प्रविधिको प्रयोग गरी हिन, पुँडा, काँध, र कुहिनो शल्यक्रियाहरू सहित विभिन्न प्रकारका संयुक्त प्रतिस्थापन

प्रक्रियाहरू प्रदर्शन गरेको छ। टोलेन्को प्रयासले गर्दा संयुक्त सभ्यताहरूबाट पछिपछि आर्थोपेडिक्स विभागमा प्रयोग हुँदै आएको सुपरिस्ट्रुक्चर पुनः प्राप्त गर्न महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका खेलेको छ। रोगीहरूको जीवनको गुणस्तर सुधार गर्नुलाई आर्थोपेडिक्स शल्यक्रियामा नवीनता र उत्कृष्टताको लागि विभागको

प्रतिबद्धता अन्य चिकित्सा प्रतिविधहरूलाई पारित गर्न र बिमारी हटाउन सुधार गर्न निम्त्याउन प्रोत्साहित गर्नु छ।

सोअर्थात् - आर्थोपेडिक्स विभागले सफलतापूर्वक अतिरिक्त विभागको सेवा गरेको छ। २०१४ मा पहिलो कुन पुँडा प्रतिस्थापनको साथ शुरू भयो, त्यसपछि २०१५ मा पहिलो कुन पुँडा प्रतिस्थापन र २०१६ मा पहिलो टिबिया कुन पुँडा प्रतिस्थापन गरियो। यो २०२१ मा कर्ण प्रतिस्थापन, २०२२ मा पहिलो कुन कुहिनो प्रतिस्थापनको पारित, आफ्नो विशेषता विस्तार र बिमारी हटाउन सुधार गर्न विभागको प्रतिबद्धता प्रतिबिम्बित राखे।



Om Prakash Mathur  
a day ago  
मणिपाल विश्वविद्यालय सिक्किम के कुलपति डॉ. दिलीप चंद्र अडवाल ने आज राजभवन में शिक्षाकार भेंट की एवं आगामी २६वीं दीक्षा समारोह के लिए अभिवादन किया।  
PMO India



## NEWS & EVENTS



Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) is delighted to extend a heartfelt welcome to

*Shri Om Prakash Mathur*

Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim and esteemed Chancellor of SMU.

We are honoured to have you here with us in Sikkim and look forward to your guidance and support as we continue our journey towards excellence in health & education!

### SMU Vice Chancellor Makes Courtesy Call on Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim & Chancellor, SMU



AVM Dr. Dillip Chandra Agrawal (Retd), VSM, Vice Chancellor, SMU, made a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim, Shri Om Prakash Mathur, who also serves as the Chancellor of SMU, at Raj Bhavan in Gangtok.

During the meeting, Dr. Agrawal warmly welcomed the Governor and provided an overview of the various academic programmes offered at SMU's two campuses, located at 5th Mile Tadong, Gangtok and Majhitara. He also extended a formal invitation to the Hon'ble Governor for the upcoming 24th Convocation ceremony of the University.

The Hon'ble Governor conveyed his best wishes to SMU and expressed his support for the institution's continued growth and success. Dr. Sandeep Kashyap, Liaison Officer, accompanied the Vice Chancellor during the visit.

## NEWS & EVENTS

### AIC SMU-TBI sign MoU with Russia's Skolkovo Foundation



Atal Incubation Centre Sikkim Manipal University Technology Business Incubation Foundation (AIC SMU-TBI) CEO Dr. Tej Chingtam participated in the critical bilateral discussions held at the Skolkovo Foundation, Russia, from September 5 to 7, 2024.

A major highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Russia's Skolkovo Foundation and AIC SMU-

TBI. The landmark agreement paves the way for collaboration in the areas of mutual soft landing, localization, and piloting of high-tech companies from both countries.

The MoU aims to foster innovation by providing opportunities for tech start-ups to expand and adapt their business models in each other's markets, enhancing cross-border cooperation in technology and innovation.

In addition to the bilateral negotiations, Dr. Chingtam delivered a keynote speech on "Innovation Drives: Technology Disrupting Big Business". His address underscored the critical role of technology in shaping the future of global business and economic ties under Russia's Future Portal 2030-2050 initiative.

### SUMMIT SIKKIM 8.0

SMIT MUN hosted SUMMIT SIKKIM 8.0, an international Model United Nations (MUN) conference on August 9 to 11, 2024. This event marks the beginning of a series of intellectual discussions, debates, and resolutions that aim to mirror the proceedings of the United Nations.

This year's SUMMIT SIKKIM 8.0 partnered with organizations like the Times of India Group and the International Human Rights Council. The Telegraph served as the Digital Media Partner, and IWC was the Education Partner, ensuring broad engagement and high-quality learning experiences. SUMMIT SIKKIM 8.0 featured a hybrid format with online committees—UNODC, UNCSW, and UNCITRAL—and offline committees, including UNSC, UNHRC, Lok Sabha, IPC, and FAO, where delegates engaged in high-level debates on pressing global issues.

Delegations from schools and colleges across India and international participated, showcasing their diplomatic skills and addressing critical international challenges.

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES





## NEWS & EVENTS

### Department of Orthopaedics, CRH, Celebrates Major Milestone: Over 100 Joint Replacement Surgeries Successfully Performed

The Department of Orthopaedics at Central Referral Hospital (CRH), SMIMS, SMU has achieved a significant milestone with the successful completion of over 100 joint replacement surgeries.



Led by a skilled team of renowned orthopaedic surgeons, the department has performed a variety of joint replacement procedures, including hip, knee, shoulder, and elbow surgeries, utilizing advanced technology to deliver outstanding results. The team's efforts have transformed the lives of patients suffering from severe joint issues, resulting in excellent post-operative outcomes.

The Department of Orthopaedics at CRH has demonstrated steady progress in surgical advancements, beginning with its first Total Hip Replacement in 2014, followed by the first Total Knee Replacement in 2015 and the first Bilateral Total Knee Replacement in 2016. This trajectory continued with the first Hemi Replacement of the Shoulder in 2021, culminating in the first Total Elbow Replacement in 2023, reflecting the department's commitment to expanding its expertise and improving patient care. With this milestone, the Department of Orthopaedics, CRH continues to lead the way in orthopaedic surgery in the region, setting new standards in patient care and surgical excellence.

### SMCON awarded 3rd Best Nursing College in Eastern India at ICC National Nursing Excellence Awards 2024

Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing (SMCON) was recognized as the 3rd Best Nursing College in Eastern India at the IIC National Excellence Summit and Nursing Excellence Awards 2024.

This prestigious event, organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in collaboration with knowledge partners such as the Indian Nursing Council (INC), AHPI, CAHO, and AIMED, took place in Chennai on August 10, 2024.

Prof. Champa Sharma, Principal of SMCON, Sikkim Manipal University, accepted the award on behalf of the institution. She also delivered an insightful talk, focusing on the strategies that need to be planned, developed, and implemented by councils, educational institutions, CEOs, and unit heads to advance towards a future-ready nursing model.



## NEWS & EVENTS

### CRH Achieves Milestone with First-Ever Major Tongue Cancer Surgery

Central Referral Hospital (CRH) is thrilled to share the incredible news of a successful major tongue cancer surgery performed in the department of ENT and Head Neck Surgery, CRH, SMIMS, SMU by Dr Sunita Dhakal, M.Ch., Head & Neck Surgery, Consultant Surgeon and her team.

This is the first of its kind surgery done in Sikkim.

The dedicated team of surgeons, nurses, and medical staff worked tirelessly to ensure a positive outcome for the brave patient. The patient is now on the road to recovery, and the team is optimistic about her future health and well-being.



(The Head & Neck Surgery Team, Dept of ENT, CRH, SMIMS)

### SMIT Signs MOU with Heartfulness Education Trust

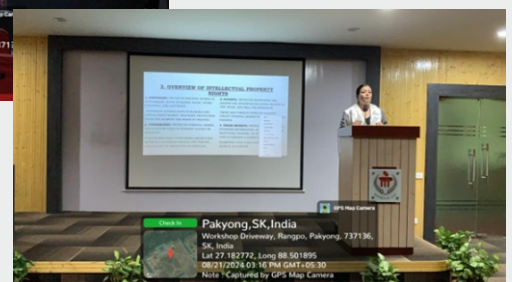


Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT) and Heartfulness Education Trust signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on July 17, 2024 in the presence of Shri Ravindra Telang, Additional Chief Secretary of the Education Department, Govt. of Sikkim; AVM (Dr.) Dilip Chandra Agarwal, VSM (Retd), Vice-Chancellor SMU; Prof. (Dr.) G.L. Sharma, Director, SMIT; and representatives from Heartfulness Education Trust, including Shri Sanjay Agarwal (Regional Coordinator, Sikkim), Shri Sanjay Upreti (IRAS), and Prof. Hema Palte.

The partnership between SMIT and the Heartfulness Education Trust aims to pioneer advancements in education and holistic well-being, setting a precedent for future partnerships in the region.

### How to Safeguard Your Creations: A Copyright Workshop

Dept. of Management Studies & SRF SMIT organised a session on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) led by Advocate Preeti Basnett on August 21, 2024. A comprehensive overview of IPR, in-depth explanation of the different types of intellectual property, including copyright, patent, and trademark was presented by the guest lecturer. She also provided an extensive explanation of copyright law, enriched by real-life examples.





## NEWS & EVENTS

### Anti Ragging Week Observed

Anti-Ragging Week was observed at the SMU Tadong Campus at 5th Mile Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim on August 12-18, 2024 with a series of impactful activities to foster a safe and respectful academic environment.

At the Majhitar Campus at SMIT, the Office of Associate Director (Student Affairs), organized various activities and events to engage students and emphasize the importance of maintaining a ragging-free community.

The events included enlightening orientation on anti-ragging by faculty members and invited guests, underscoring the institution's commitment to zero tolerance for such practices.

Students were also enlightened on the various components, importance, significance, the punishable acts of ragging, effects of ragging on its victims, bridging the gap between junior and senior batches and students were encouraged to collectively take a stand against ragging.

The students were also made aware of the code of conduct and other policies with reference to institutional and UGC regulations. Students engaged in various creative activities designed to raise awareness and reinforce the anti-ragging message.

A poster-making and essay writing contests were among the highlights, allowing students to express their views and contribute to the cause in meaningful ways.

The Anti-Ragging Week successfully reinforced the message of zero tolerance towards ragging and encouraged students to contribute to a supportive and harmonious campus culture.



### Awareness Workshop on High Performance Computing (HPC)

The Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (AI&DS), SMIT, in collaboration with the All-India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi, and the Centre for Faculty and Staff Development (CFSD) SMIT, successfully conducted a one-day AICTE-SANKALP Awareness Workshop on High Performance Computing (HPC) on July 27, 2024.

The workshop featured Dr. K. V. K. Singh, a C-DAC Master Trainer and AICTE-nominated expert and Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Applications, SMIT, who provided insightful sessions on the fundamental concepts of HPC and parallel programming.



AICTE-SANKALP, an initiative by the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), aims to foster awareness and enhance skills in HPC among students and faculty of technical education institutions, facilitated by AICTE Master Trainers. A total of 100 participants received Certificates of Participation from AICTE.

## NEWS & EVENTS

The Faculty of Nursing Management and Final Year MSc. Nursing students of Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing (SMCON) hosted a one-day State level Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on “Nursing Shortage and Workforce Solution” on August 6, 2024. The main aim of the programme was to provide the knowledge, improve the quality of nursing education and to address the faculty shortage, along with implementation of effective workforce solutions.

A total of 82 participants took part which included nurse managers of Central Referral Hospital, faculty of SMCON & Sikkim Professional College of Nursing and the students of 1st Year M.Sc. Nursing, SMCON.

### Faculty Development Programme on “Nursing Shortage and Workforce Solution”



## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### “Deeksharambh”–Student Induction Programme (SIP) at SMU Welcoming New Batches Across Disciplines

The 23rd Orientation Programme of Sikkim Manipal College of Physiotherapy (SMCPT) began on August 2, 2024, welcoming its 23rd BPT and 15th MPT batches. The 7-day DEEKSHARAMBH Induction featured sessions on personal excellence, time management, mental well-being, and POSH policies.

The Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Liberal Arts (FHSSLA) held its Deeksharambh 2024 Induction from August 16-23, 2024, covering department operations, university rules, NEP 2020, and anti-ragging policies. Students also attended a lecture on start-ups by Prof. Tej Chingtham Singh, CEO of Atal Incubation Centre SMU. The Department of Medical Biotechnology also held a SIP for 1st year B. Sc. and M. Sc. students of 2024-2025 batches.

At Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT), the Heartfulness Enabled Leadership Mastery Program emphasized leadership and meditation practices. Notable alumni, including Gaurav Shukla (Deloitte), Mr. Piyush Bajpai, (Deloitte), Rahul Prasad (Bubble AI Technologies), and Mr. Pragnajit Datta Roy (Aptiv) led sessions on technology leadership, cyber security and innovation and entrepreneurship within the realm of Artificial Intelligence. The Program also included a session on Sikkim's biocultural diversity, which was held from July 15-28, 2024.





## NEWS & EVENTS

### RESEARCH & INNOVATION

#### Substance Abuse Among College Students and Government Employees: A Study by SMIMS-CRH and Gangtok District Administration

Dr. Sushrut Varun Satpathy and Dr. Ena Pradhan from Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS), Central Referral Hospital (CRH), successfully submitted their report titled "Prevalence and Pattern of Substance Abuse Among College Students and Government Employees in Gangtok District." The report was presented on July 5, 2024, in the presence of Shri Tushar Nikhare, District Collector of Gangtok District, and Shri G.L. Meena, Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Gangtok District.

This year-long pilot study was a collaborative effort between the District Collectorate Office, Gangtok, the Social Welfare Department of the Government of Sikkim, and SMIMS-CRH. The collected data highlighted the concerning prevalence of substance abuse among both college students and government employees in the Gangtok District.



The findings revealed a particularly high percentage of substance use among government employees, alongside college students, emphasizing the need for early intervention. The study aims to serve as a benchmark for future research, potentially covering the entire state of Sikkim.

#### Awareness Programme on Melioidosis in India

The departments of Microbiology & Medicine, SMIMS, SMU held an awareness training programme at on 'Mission: A Multi-Centric Capacity Building initiative to Strengthen the Clinical and Laboratory Detection of Melioidosis in India with special focus on the Northeastern States' at the Temi PHC, Namchi, Sikkim on June 27, 2024 under an ICMR Funded Project.

The project team comprised of Dr Luna Adhikari, Professor & Head, Department of Microbiology, SMIMS & Principal Investigator of the project; Dr Mona Dhakal, Professor, Department of Medicine, SMIMS & Co-PI of the project; Dr Deepan Gautam, Department of Microbiology, SMIMS & Co-PI of the project, and Ms Pranomita Chakraborty Senior Research Fellow of the project, and Ms Prabika Bhujel, Laboratory technician of the project.

Topics such as the epidemiology and laboratory diagnosis, clinical presentation, management, and prevention of melioidosis were discussed during the programme.

The departments of Microbiology & Medicine SMIMS have been trained by Kausturba Medical College, Manipal, MAHE and ICMR-Delhi under the said project for clinical diagnosis, laboratory diagnosis and management of melioidosis cases.





## NEWS & EVENTS

## SPORTING ACTIVITIES

### Inter-Section Sports Tournaments

In August 2024, the Sports Council '24 and the Department of Physical Education & Sports at SMIT organized a series of Inter-Section Sports Tournaments aimed at first-year students across various sections, including B.Tech, BBA, BSc, and BCA. Both boys and girls participated in the events, which fostered teamwork and competition. The tournaments included Basketball from August 12-16, Table Tennis on August 5-6, and Volleyball and Futsal from August 22-25, all of which saw enthusiastic participation and helped build a sense of camaraderie among the students.



### National Sports Day 2024

NSS, SMU organised volleyball matches on August 29-31, 2024 in collaboration with the SMU Sports Department to observe National Sports Day 2024 for both Boys and Girls at the Tadong Campus. Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Liberal Arts emerged victorious in both the categories. Similarly, a series of sporting events marked National Sports Day at Majhitar Campus, SMIT, which saw active participation from both students and faculty members.



### SMU Intra-University Sports Championships

The Intra-University Basketball and Table Tennis Championships at the SMIT campus was held on September 8, 2024 doubling as trials for the upcoming East Zone Inter-University competitions. The selected teams will now prepare to represent SMU at the East Zone Inter-University competitions.





## NEWS & EVENTS

# India 15th August INDEPENDENCE DAY

## Glimpses of 78th Independence Day Celebrations





## Circular Economy-based Waste Management: A Pathway to Achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Dr HARI B SHARMA (LUITEL)  
Assistant Professor  
C & EE Department  
Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology

### Introduction

In the pursuit of a sustainable future, the concept of a Circular Economy (CE) has emerged as a key strategy to transform the way we produce, consume, and manage waste. As global challenges such as resource depletion, environmental degradation, and climate change intensify, the Circular Economy presents an innovative solution to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By promoting smarter use of resources, extending the lifecycle of products, and minimizing waste, the Circular Economy not only drives environmental sustainability but also fosters economic resilience and social well-being.

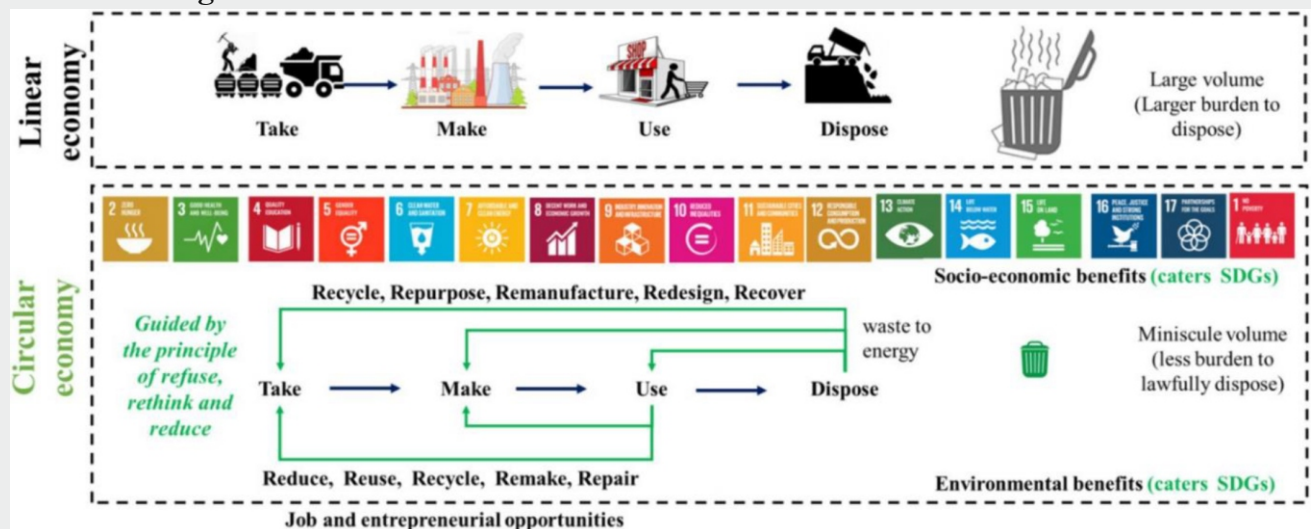


Fig. The difference between linear and circular economy showing ways to achieve SDGs. (Sharma et al., 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.149605>)

### From Linear to Circular: The Shift in Economic Thinking

The traditional linear economy follows a "take, make, dispose" model, where resources are extracted, transformed into products, and eventually discarded as waste. This approach has led to significant environmental consequences, including the depletion of natural resources, pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.

In contrast, the Circular Economy aims to "close the loop" by designing out waste, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. The transition from a linear to a circular economy involves a fundamental shift in how we think about consumption and production. It requires reimagining value chains, redesigning products, and rethinking business models to prioritize sustainability. As the graphic illustrates, this shift involves a series of "R" strategies, each contributing to the rise in circularity.

### Rethinking Consumption: Refuse, Rethink, and Reduce

At the core of the Circular Economy is the idea of refusing and rejecting unnecessary consumption. In a world where consumerism often drives wasteful practices, choosing not to buy or use products we don't truly need is a powerful step towards sustainability.



## NEWS & EVENTS

## FEATURES

*Circular Economy-based Waste Management... Con't from page*

By rethinking the way we use products, such as sharing, reusing, or opting for multifunctional items, we can intensify product use and reduce the demand for new resources. Reducing the amount of raw materials used in production is another crucial aspect of circularity. Whether it's through minimizing material input or optimizing resource efficiency, reducing consumption at the source can significantly lower the environmental footprint of products. Our current consumer culture, driven by the relentless pursuit of material wealth—also known as "affluenza"—fuels the unsustainable cycle of production and waste. Affluenza reflects the societal obsession with accumulating more, often unnecessary, possessions at the expense of the environment. This condition not only perpetuates resource depletion but also traps individuals and societies in a cycle of excessive consumption, which contradicts the principles of sustainability.

### Extending Product Life: Reuse, Repair, and Refurbish

One of the key principles of the Circular Economy is to extend the lifecycle of products and parts. Reuse, repair, and refurbish strategies ensure that products remain in circulation for as long as possible, reducing the need for new resources and minimizing waste. For instance, repairing broken items or refurbishing old products to bring them up to date not only conserves resources but also creates opportunities for innovation and job creation. Remanufacturing and repurposing discarded products or parts for new applications further enhance circularity. By giving products a second life, we can reduce the strain on natural resources and mitigate the environmental impact of production and disposal.

### Closing the Loop: Recycle and Recover

Recycling plays a critical role in the Circular Economy by transforming waste into valuable resources. By processing materials to the same or lower quality, recycling prevents valuable materials from ending up in landfills and reduces the need for virgin resource extraction. The final step in the circular process is recovery, where energy is extracted from waste through incineration or other methods, ensuring that even the last remnants of material are put to use.

### Circular Economy and the SDGs: A Symbiotic Relationship

The Circular Economy is intrinsically linked to the achievement of the UN SDGs. For instance, SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) is directly addressed through circular practices that promote sustainable resource management and reduce waste. By fostering innovation in product design, manufacturing, and recycling, the Circular Economy also contributes to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) by reducing emissions and enhancing resource efficiency. Moreover, the social dimensions of the Circular Economy align with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by creating new employment opportunities in circular industries. The promotion of sustainable agriculture and the regeneration of natural systems also support SDG 15 (Life on Land) by preserving biodiversity and reducing land degradation. The transition to a Circular Economy is not just an environmental imperative; it is also a powerful driver of economic and social transformation. By embracing circular principles, we can create a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future that aligns with the United Nations SDGs. As individuals, businesses, and governments, our collective efforts to rethink, redesign, and regenerate will determine the success of this global shift towards circularity. The time to act is now—let's choose a circular path for a sustainable tomorrow.



## NEWS & EVENTS

## RESEARCH & INNOVATION

### Dr. Priyanka of CRH Achieves Prestigious FARIS Fellowship in Robotic Surgery

Dr. Priyanka, Consultant in the Department of Surgery at Central Referral Hospital (CRH), SMU has successfully completed the esteemed Fellowship from the Association of Robotic and Innovative Surgery (FARIS).

Dr. Priyanka is not only the first surgeon from Sikkim to earn this prestigious fellowship but also a distinguished member of the inaugural global cohort to receive this honour.

The fellowship was conferred by Dr. (Prof.) Subhash Khanna, the Founder President of ARIS, marking a significant achievement in the field of robotic surgery.

Dr. Priyanka's achievement highlights her dedication to improving surgical techniques and delivering exceptional patient care at CRH, benefiting not only the entire state of Sikkim but also the region.



### Sikkimese Space Applications Researcher Dr. Arpan Sharma, who Predicted the October 2023 Teesta GLOF, to Receive Ph.D. from SMU



Sikkimese scholar Dr. Arpan Sharma has successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis titled "Development of a Machine Learning Model to Assess the Mass Balance of East Rathong Glacier, West Sikkim through Microwave Remote Sensing and GIS" from Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT), SMU. He completed his Ph.D. under the guidance of Dr. Mousumi Gupta, Associate Professor, SMIT; Dr. Santanu Gupta, Assistant Professor (SG), SMIT; and Dr. Narpati Sharma, Scientific Officer, Science and Technology Department, Govt. of Sikkim.

For his Ph.D. research, Dr Sharma received substantial support and grants from prestigious organizations such as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Science and Technology Department, Govt. of Sikkim. Upon defending his thesis, he became the first Sikkimese candidate to complete a Ph.D. in Geospatial Artificial Intelligence, focusing on studying glacier dynamics at East Rathong Glacier.

Previously, during his Master's dissertation, he had predicted the South Lhonak Glacial Lake Outburst using satellite data and geospatial technology which happened recently on 5th October 2023. Additionally, he assisted the Indian Council of Medical Research's COVID-19 assessment project using geospatial technology during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## NEWS & EVENTS

### Tech Talk on Sustainability and Its Impact

On August 22, 2024, the Training, Placement & Industry Liaison (TP&IL) cell at SMIT, in collaboration with Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL), organized a tech-talk on "Sustainability and Its Impact" for students and faculty. The keynote speaker, Mrs. Umit Bhatia, Senior Director of Sustainability Delivery Management at JLL, emphasized the pivotal role sustainability plays in shaping the future of society, the economy, and the environment.

The event included a discussion on various facets of sustainability, highlighting the role of technology in driving sustainable development and the importance of education in fostering a culture of sustainability.



### CDOE Launch online MBA course

On August 1, 2024, the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), SMU celebrated a significant milestone with the launch of its MBA course in online education.

The event marked a significant milestone for CDOE, showcasing the SMU's commitment to providing advanced education and fostering leadership skills among aspiring business professionals.

### Seminar on Research and Development Inadequacy in India

The Department of Mathematics and Student Research Forum (SRF) at SMIT organized a seminar on "Research and Development Inadequacy in India" on August 13 2024. The seminar aimed to identify the gaps and challenges in India's Research and Development (R&D) ecosystem and discuss the reasons behind the inadequacy, such as funding constraints or a lack of private players.

Guest speaker Mr. Ongdi Tamang, Mechanical Engineer and former United Nations Campus Ambassador talked about the obstacles hindering R&D growth, such as a lack of skills, talent, and government policies and the importance of industry-academia partnerships, public-private partnerships, and talent development and retention.

### World Physiotherapy Day 2024

The Sikkim Manipal College of Physiotherapy (SMCPT) celebrated World Physiotherapy Day on September 7, 2024, with a series of events, including a public talk on the multidisciplinary role of physiotherapy in back pain care and an inter-batch poster competition for students. Faculty and students of SMCPT also participated in a week-long program in collaboration with the All Sikkim

Physiotherapists Welfare Association (ASPWA), engaging in activities such as a Solidarity Run, a Postural and Musculoskeletal Awareness program for school students, and a Futsal Tournament. Additionally, under the Unnat Bharat Scheme, SMCPT has adopted five villages from Pakyong District, Sikkim.



## SIKKIM MANIPAL UNIVERSITY

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- ❑ Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS)
- ❑ Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing (SMCON)
- ❑ Sikkim Manipal College of Physiotherapy (SMCPT)
- ❑ Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Liberal Arts
- ❑ Central Referral Hospital (CRH)
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- ❑ Department of Allied Health Professions
- ❑ Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE)

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