दार्जीलिङ पार्वत्य विश्वविद्यालय

DARJEELING HILLS UNIVERSITY

Activities report

2026



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ACTIVITIES REPORT 2026

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NOVEMBER 2026

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Darjeeling Hills University is a State-Aided University under the Government of West Bengal, and was established through the Darjeeling Hills University Act, 2018. The objective of the University is to disseminate knowledge by offering programmes in higher education and research facilities with special emphasis on the amelioration of the socio-economic status of the people of this region as well as the widening of their academic, intellectual and cultural horizon.

Published by Darjeeling Hills University

November 2026

dhu.edu.in

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न्याय ज्योति बाल्दछौँ

अनेक भारतवासी छौँ

विभिन्न भाषा-भाषी छौँ,

मार्ग धर्मजाति अनेकौँ

रूप डाल आकृति कैयौँ

अनेकता लिई एकता

डोरी कसिलो बाट्दछौँ

तुलसीबहादुर छेत्री 'अपतन'



CONTENTS

1. Messages / 5

Message from the Vice-Chancellor / 5
Message from the Registrar / 6

2. Academic Departments / 7

3. Departmental Activities: Academic, Research and Cultural / 8
Department of English and Cultural Studies / 8
Department of History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage / 9
Department of Communication and Media Studies / 13
Department of Mathematics / 16
Department of Nepali and Himalayan Studies / 18
Department of Political Science and Public Policy / 20

4. University Engagements and Research / 23

5. Academic Facilities / 29

6. New Academic Horizons / 32

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Universities like Darjeeling Hills University are meant to be a public trust, tasked with the responsibility to serve the public good. In this connection, a University has the mission of not only furthering higher learning and creation of new knowledge through research and innovation, but also to foster social equity, justice, inclusiveness and diversity, and bring about social transformation in the region. The function of a University is not merely to develop skills for employability, but has a larger role to play in fostering civilizational values and strengthening democracy through the growth of a critical citizenry, development of critical faculty, reasoning, pluralism and tolerance. As a University still in its nascent stage, it is a matter of satisfaction to us that in the brief period, our University has laid the foundation to create a space for such an endeavour. We are aware that the establishment of a University in the hills represents the century long aspirations of the people of the region for a higher educational institution rooted in the ecosystem, its distinct cultures, the traditions of the Eastern Himalayas, and to fulfil the long-cherished hopes of a better future and sustainable development of the region. Within the constraints and challenges faced by any new University, our emphasis has been to create a conducive academic environment. Regular academic classes in offline mode started from the temporary campus at Bhasmey, Mungpoo, from April 2024. Since September, 2025, eighteen Guest Faculty members have been appointed to strengthen the academic component. Holistic academic growth coupled with inculcation and development of both human and ecological empathy remain our top priority. The Eastern Himalayan region in the anthropocene will be subjected to multifaceted ecological challenges, and Darjeeling Hills University is ideally located to take up leadership in building interactions, synergise with institutions of higher learning across the borders, and create a space for research, dialogues, production of knowledge, most importantly, praxis to ameliorate and resolve these challenges. Thank you.



Professor (Dr.) Tejimala Gurung Nag
Vice-Chancellor
Darjeeling Hills University

MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR

दार्जीलिङ पार्वत्य विश्वविद्यालयको आठौं स्थापना दिवसमा सम्पूर्ण पहाड़बासी र शिक्षा क्षेत्रमा रुचि राख्नुहुने सम्पूर्ण सहृदयी, सचेत जनमानसलाई आन्तरिक हृदयबाट शुभकामना चढ़ाउँदछु। आठ वर्ष अघि स्थापित भएको दार्जीलिङ पार्वत्य विश्वविद्यालय विभिन्न कारणले सुचारू रूपले संचालन हुन सकेन, यसैले यथार्थमा दुई वर्ष अघिदेखि मात्र सुचारू रूपले मङ्पूको भष्मे डाँड़ामा यस विश्वविद्यालय संचालन भइरहेको छ। यस थोरै अवधिमा यस दार्जीलिङ पार्वत्य विश्वविद्यालयले कुलपति, कुलसचिव, परीक्षा नियन्त्रक, वित्त अधिकारी प्राप्त गरेर पूर्ण अनि जीवन्त रूपमा क्रियाशील छ। चौबीस महीनाको अन्तरालमा दार्जीलिङ पार्वत्य विश्वविद्यालयले ६ वटा स्नातकोत्तर विभाग संचालन भइरहेको थियो भने आगामी सत्रदेखि थप नयाँ स्नातकोत्तर विभागहरू 1. Department of Economics and Development Studies, 2. Department of Geography and Himalayan Environment Management, 3. Department of Human Sciences पनि शुरू गरिनेछ। यी बाहेक आगामी सत्रदेखि दार्जीलिङ पार्वत्य विश्वविद्यालयले ६ वटा स्नातक तहको शैक्षणिक सत्र साथै ६ वटा सर्टिफिकेट डिप्लोमा कोर्स पनि संचालन गर्ने अनुमति प्राप्त गरेको छ। एन.ई.पी.-2020 अन्तर्गत पूरानो विभागहरूको नाउँलाई नवीकरण गरेर वर्तमान परिप्रेक्ष्यमा आवश्यक हिमाली भेकको सुगन्ध भएको पाठ्यक्रम समेत बनाउन सक्षम भएको छ। यस छोटो अवधिमा दार्जीलिङ पार्वत्य विश्वविद्यालयले पाँचवटा अन्तराष्ट्रिय स्तरको, सातवटा राष्ट्रिय स्तरको अनि धेरैवटा क्षेत्रीय स्तरको सेमिनार, कार्यशाला र संगोष्ठीको आयोजन गर्न सफलता प्राप्त गरेको छ। विश्वको शैक्षणिक प्रांगणमा अल्प अवधिमा दार्जीलिङ पार्वत्य विश्वविद्यालयले आफ्नो परिचय अनि स्थान सुरक्षित राख्न सफल बनेको छ।

यस अवसरमा पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार, सरकारी पदाधिकारीवर्ग, शैक्षणिक संस्थानका प्राचार्य-प्राध्यापकगण, प्रधानअध्यापक-अध्यापकगण, संघ-संस्थाका पदाधिकारीवर्ग अनि सदस्य, प्रेस मिडियाकर्मी लगायत सम्पूर्ण सहयोगी महानुभावहरूलाई हार्दिक धन्यवाद जनाउँदछु। दार्जीलिङ पार्वत्य विश्वविद्यालयको आगामी भविष्य उज्ज्वल, सुदृढ़ अनि गरिमामय हुनेछ भन्ने कुरामा म विश्वस्त छु।

डा० सुजाता रानी राई
कुलसचिव
दार्जीलिङ पार्वत्य विश्वविद्यालय

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

Darjeeling Hills University presently has six academic departments, each of which offers postgraduate programmes of study. Starting next year, these departments will also offer undergraduate programmes of study. Academic departments at the University, and their curriculum, have been designed as multidisciplinary, field-oriented and policy-relevant hubs, and a distinctive strength of these academic departments lie in its focus on the Eastern Himalayas with an emphasis on the Darjeeling hills region. Modelled on the National Education Policy 2020, the new curriculum design and pedagogy intention has strived to build on traditional disciplinary foundations and augment them for challenges and opportunities that are unique to mountainous regions; a praxis driven curriculum aiming to train a proactive workforce to understand and resolve existing and approaching problems in the region. As a higher education institution established specifically to address the educational, developmental and research requirements of the Eastern Himalayan region, the University has been able to orient its academic and institutional priorities towards regional challenges and opportunities, moving beyond the earlier one-size-fits-all approach to higher education in the region. Following are the present six academic departments at the University:

1. Department of English and Cultural Studies
2. Department of History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage
3. Department of Communication and Media Studies
4. Department of Mathematics
5. Department of Nepali and Himalayan Studies
6. Department of Political Science and Public Policy

Approval has also been granted by the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, to commence three new academic departments:

1. Department of Economics and Development Studies
2. Department of Geography and Himalayan Environment Management
3. Department of Human Sciences

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES; ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND CULTURAL

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Sounds from the Soil to the Sky, from Ancient to Contemporary | June 9, 2026

The Department of English and Cultural Studies, Darjeeling Hills University, organised a Hungarian music concert titled *Sounds from the Soil to the Sky: From Ancient to Contemporary* on 9 June 2026 at Rabindra Bhavan, Mungpoo. The concert was presented by Krisztina Lanczkor-Kocsis, a distinguished Hungarian flautist associated with the Szeged Symphony Orchestra. The performance introduced the audience to Hungarian musical traditions from different historical periods. It offered an opportunity to experience the development and diversity of Hungarian music. The programme was hosted by Bishal Biswakarma, faculty member of the department. The event was organised with the support of the Hungarian Visiting Lecturers Network and the Liszt Institute. It provided a platform for cultural exchange and strengthened academic and cultural connections between Hungary and India.

The Portrait Painter and the Dictionary Writer — Two Indian-Travellers from the Nineteenth Century Multiethnic Hungary | June 9, 2026

The Department of English and Cultural Studies organised a special lecture titled *The Portrait Painter and the Dictionary Writer: Two Travellers from the Nineteenth-Century Multi-ethnic Hungary*. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Margit Köves and Gábor Lanczkor. It explored the journeys of Hungarian linguist Alexander Csoma de Koros and painter August Theodore Schoefft, who travelled independently to India during the nineteenth century. The speakers discussed the historical circumstances that brought these two personalities to India and examined their contributions to language, art and scholarship. The session was hosted by Dr. Edu Sherpa, faculty member of the department. The programme helped students understand

the historical connections between Hungary and India. It also encouraged interest in cross-cultural research and the exchange of knowledge.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND EASTERN HIMALAYAN HERITAGE

76th Constitution Day | November 26, 2025

The Department observed the 76th Constitution Day of India on 26 November 2025 by organising a special lecture at the University Conference Room. Professor (Dr.) Naved Jamal from the Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, was invited as the resource person. His lecture was titled *The Making of the Constitution of India and Its Relevance and Implication in the Present Day*. He discussed the historical process through which the Indian Constitution was framed and explained its importance in shaping the country's political and social life. The session introduced students to the background of the Constitution and its continuing relevance. The programme provided an opportunity to reflect on India's constitutional foundations and democratic institutions.

Lecture on Scientific and Technical Terminology | November 27, 2025

The Department of History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage organised a special lecture on scientific and technical terminology on 27 November 2025. Dr. Shahzad Ahmed Ansari, Assistant Director, Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, Ministry of Education, was invited as the resource person. He introduced students to the work and responsibilities of the Commission. The lecture explained how scientific and technical terms are developed and standardised for use across different academic disciplines. He also discussed the importance of using clear and commonly accepted terminology in education and professional communication. The session helped students understand the role of language in the development and sharing of knowledge. It also introduced them to an important national institution working in the field of academic terminology.

MA First Semester Research Presentations | November 27, 2025

The Department of History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage organised a research presentation session for its MA First Semester students on 27 November 2025. Four students presented their research on different aspects of the history and heritage of the Darjeeling hills. Anushka Bhujel spoke about the megaliths of Garsingh village, while Neha Sherpa presented research on the histories of cinchona plantations. Noel Lepcha examined the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, and Yarusha Lepcha discussed Longho Peling Gumba of Sittong. The programme was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, invited academician Dr. Bhawana Rai and faculty members. The presentations were followed by comments and suggestions from the guests and teachers. The session encouraged students to explore local history and develop their research skills.

Lectures on Modern Indian History and Culture | March 2, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University organised a lecture series titled *Lectures on Transnational Perspectives on Modern Indian History and Culture* on 2 March 2026. The programme featured Dr. Bhaswati Bhattacharya of the University of Göttingen and Dr. Victor van Bijlert, retired lecturer of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Dr. Bhattacharya examined how Dutch and Belgian newspapers presented Rabindranath Tagore during his European visit in 1920. Dr. van Bijlert discussed the poetry of Tagore and German poet Else Lasker-Schüler, focusing on their reflections on life and mortality. Both speakers explored the connections between Indian and European literary traditions. Students also received useful guidance on archival research and academic publishing. The programme encouraged students to look beyond national boundaries while studying history, literature and culture.

World Heritage Day | April 20, 2026

The Department of History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage and the Department of English and Cultural Studies jointly organised the celebration of World Heritage Day on 20 April 2026 through a lecture and an exhibition titled Exhibition of Ordinary Objects. Mr. Dewakar Thatal, Assistant Professor of History at Southfield College, Darjeeling, delivered an introductory lecture on understanding heritage. The lecture was followed by an exhibition in which students

and faculty members displayed ordinary objects from their homes and communities. These included objects that had been passed down through generations or continued to be used in everyday life. The exhibition highlighted that heritage is not limited to monuments, buildings and valuable artworks. Everyday objects also carry memories and tell stories about people and communities. The programme encouraged participants to recognise and preserve the cultural value of ordinary things.

Paschimbanga Divas | June 20, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University celebrated *Paschimbanga Divas* on 20 June 2026 to mark West Bengal State Day. The programme was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, faculty members, students and staff. Mr. Debraj Ghatak of the Department of History delivered an introductory lecture on the historical background and importance of the occasion. The main lecture was delivered by Nepali poet and author Mr. Pushkar Singer on the subject Nepali Rubaayat Lekhan ra Sanrachana, focusing on the writing and structure of Nepali Rubaayat. A quiz competition was also organised as part of the programme. The event brought together history, language and literature, providing an opportunity to reflect on the cultural contributions of West Bengal and its diverse communities.

Commemorative Lecture on Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee | July 6, 2026

The Department of History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage organised a commemorative lecture on 6 July 2026 to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee. The programme began with an address by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor (Dr.) Tejimala Gurung Nag, who spoke about his contributions to education and public life. The keynote lecture was delivered by Mr. Debraj Ghatak of the Department of History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage. He discussed Mukherjee's life as a barrister, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta and political leader. The lecture also covered his role in education, humanitarian work during the Bengal Famine and participation in independent India's first Union Cabinet. Students and faculty members took part in an interactive discussion. The programme encouraged students to

understand important personalities and events in modern Indian history.

Day of Remembrance of the Partition of Bengal | August 14, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University observed the Day of Remembrance of the Partition of Bengal on 14 August 2026. The programme aimed to remember the suffering and displacement caused by the Partition of India in 1947. Dr. Upasna Chettri of the Department of History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage delivered a lecture titled *A Line that Severed Lives: The 1947 Bengal Partition and its Afterlives*. She discussed the effects of Partition on families, communities, migration and the economy. The lecture also examined the continuing impact of Partition on Bengal and the Eastern Himalayan region. Particular attention was given to refugee movements, changes in regional populations and questions of citizenship and identity. The programme highlighted the importance of preserving memories through historical records, oral accounts and literature.

Workshop on Mountain as Method | November 26–27, 2026 [Upcoming]

The Department of History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage, Darjeeling Hills University, in collaboration with the Highland Histories Lab, IIIT Hyderabad, is organising a two-day workshop titled *Mountain as Method*. The programme aims to bring together researchers working on the Himalayas and other mountain regions of Asia. It will provide a platform for discussing the history, society and culture of mountain communities. Fifteen selected participants from different Himalayan regions will take part in the workshop. Dr. Aniket Alam of the Highland Histories Lab will serve as the resource person and guide the discussions. The sessions will include research presentations, practical exercises and group discussions. The workshop aims to encourage new approaches to studying mountain regions and strengthen academic connections among researchers.

Tribute to Photographer Raghu Rai | May 13, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University organised a special photographic exhibition on 13 May 2026 to pay tribute to renowned Indian photographer Shri Raghu Rai, who passed away on 26 April 2026. The exhibition displayed some of his important photographs documenting India's history, society and people. Students from the Department Communication and Media Studies and the Department of English and Cultural Studies served as curators and guided visitors through the exhibition, explaining the stories behind the photographs. The programme also featured a short masterclass video by Raghu Rai, introducing students to his approach to photography. Students Soyal Rai, Siddhi Vinayak Chhetri and Biswa Mandal presented a PowerPoint on selected photographs. The exhibition helped students understand the importance of photography in documenting history and society and encouraged them to explore visual storytelling.

Campus Radio Programme – Suni Duim Na | May 12, 2026

Students of the Department Communication and Media Studies, Darjeeling Hills University, organised a live campus radio programme titled Suni Duim Na. The programme brought together students from the second and fourth semesters, who took responsibility for presenting and managing the broadcast. Students and faculty members were invited to request their favourite songs, making the programme interactive and engaging. The broadcast also provided a platform for students to display their presentation and communication skills. Through this initiative, students gained practical experience in radio production, programme planning and audience interaction. The programme demonstrated the potential of campus radio as a means of bringing the university community together. It also encouraged creativity and teamwork among students.

MA Dissertation Presentations | June 2, 2026

Two postgraduate students of the Department Communication and Media Studies, Gargi Sarkar and Aavassditya Raya, presented their dissertations at the completion of their semester.

Gargi Sarkar examined the representation of Bengali culture in the Hindi film Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. Her research questioned how Bengali identity and culture were presented through popular Hindi cinema. Aavassditya Raya explored the use of colour and visual storytelling in the films of Hong Kong filmmaker Wong Kar-wai, focusing on Days of Being Wild, In the Mood for Love and 2046. Both dissertations were completed under the supervision of Dr. Smriti Rai. The presentations reflected the students' interest in cinema, visual culture and critical media analysis.

Workshop on Telescope Making and Astronomy | June 23–25, 2026

Soyal Rai, a third-semester MA Mass Communication student of Darjeeling Hills University, participated in a three-day workshop on telescope making and night-sky observation at Malda College from 23 to 25 June 2026. He was accompanied by Chanchal Thapa, faculty member of the Department Communication and Media Studies. Organised by ICARD and IUCAA, Pune, the workshop introduced participants to the basic principles of optics, telescope construction and astronomical observation. Technical sessions were conducted by experts from IUCAA, including Samir Dhurde, Tushar Purohit and Maharudra Mate. Participants also took part in practical activities and guided night-sky observations. The workshop provided an opportunity for interdisciplinary learning and introduced students to the practical aspects of astronomy.

Theatrical Tribute to Bhanubhakta Acharya | July 13, 2026

As part of the 212th birth anniversary celebrations of Adi Kavi Bhanubhakta Acharya, students of the Department Communication and Media Studies presented a short theatrical performance. Siddhi Vinayak Chhetri and Soyal Rai performed a skit set against the familiar surroundings of Chowrasta, Darjeeling. The play imagined a conversation between a young man and the spirit of Bhanubhakta Acharya. Through humour and dialogue, the poet encouraged the young man to reflect on his choices and responsibilities. The performance connected contemporary social concerns with the literary and cultural legacy of Bhanubhakta. The students used theatre as a creative means of presenting a meaningful social message while paying tribute to an important figure in Nepali literature.

Panel Discussion on Cinema and Eastern Himalayan Identity | September 11, 2026

The Department Communication and Media Studies organised a panel discussion titled *Cinematic Geographies: Representation, Identity, Cultural Memory and the Future of Films in Darjeeling and Sikkim* on 11 September 2026. The discussion featured four regional filmmakers: Abhishek Chettri, Vivek Rai, Mikma Lepcha and Sujan Lamjel. The session was moderated by Malavika Pradhan. The filmmakers discussed the role of cinema in presenting regional identities, preserving cultural memories and telling stories of local communities. They also spoke about the challenges of regional filmmaking and the need to move beyond presenting the Himalayas merely as scenic landscapes. The programme was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, faculty members and students. It provided an opportunity for students to interact directly with filmmakers and understand the role of cinema in cultural representation.

Seminar on Astrophysics, Quantum Entanglement and Wormholes | October 5, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University, in collaboration with the IUCAA Centre for Astronomy Research and Development (ICARD), Malda College, organised a one-day seminar titled *A Journey Through Astrophysics, Quantum Entanglement and Wormholes* on 5 October 2026. The seminar featured Prof. Saibal Ray, Dr. Sagar Dey and Dr. Shyam Das as resource persons. Prof. Ray introduced participants to astrophysics and cosmology through a presentation on the expanding universe. Dr. Dey discussed black holes and wormholes, while Dr. Das spoke about related concepts in physics and astronomy. The programme was hosted by Chanchal Thapa, faculty member of the Department Communication and Media Studies. A major highlight was the inauguration of the University's in-house telescope by Prof. Saibal Ray and Registrar Dr. Sujata Rani Rai. The event encouraged scientific curiosity and practical learning among students.

Second Darjeeling Film Festival | October 30 to November 1, 2026

The Department of Mass Communication, Journalism and Media Studies, Darjeeling Hills University, participated in the Second Darjeeling Film Festival held from 30 October to 1 November 2026 at Deorali, Kurseong. Organised by Living the Culture Foundation under the

theme *The Stories of Our Hills*, the festival showcased 15 films from the Darjeeling hills and neighbouring Sikkim. The three-day programme included film screenings, panel discussions, poetry, theatre and a student film competition. It provided a platform for regional filmmakers to present stories rooted in the lives and experiences of Himalayan communities. DHU's participation reflected the department's interest in regional cinema, cultural documentation and community-based storytelling. The festival also encouraged students to engage with filmmaking and the wider regional film industry.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

National Mathematics Conference Honours Srinivasa Ramanujan | July 2–3, 2026

The Department of Mathematics, Darjeeling Hills University (DHU), organised a two-day National Mathematics Workshop and Conference in honour of the legendary Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan on 2–3 July 2026. The event marked an important milestone in the University's efforts to strengthen higher education and promote mathematical research in the Eastern Himalayan region. It brought together eminent mathematicians, researchers, faculty members and students from universities and research institutions across the country. Nearly 80 participants attended the conference, including 32 Ph.D scholars who presented their research papers, alongside faculty members from various academic institutions who shared their scholarly contributions. The conference was supported by the National Board for Higher Mathematics (NBHM), Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India. The inaugural session was graced by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of DHU, Professor (Dr.) Tejimala Gurung Nag, and the Registrar, Dr. Sujata Rani Rai, along with distinguished academicians and participants from different institutions. The conference featured invited lectures by eminent mathematicians, including Dr. Amiya Kumar Mandal and Dr. Chandan Maity of IISER Berhampur, Dr. Mrityunjay Charan of Chennai Mathematical Institute, and Dr. Sajjad Ali Biswas of SRM University–AP, among others. Their lectures highlighted contemporary developments in mathematical research, emerging areas of investigation and the broader applications of mathematics. The presentations and academic interactions provided a

valuable platform for exchanging ideas, sharing research experiences and fostering potential collaborations among mathematicians and young researchers.

Independence Day Celebrations with Student Debate | August 17, 2026

As the concluding event of its Independence Day celebrations, Darjeeling Hills University (DHU) organised a debate competition on 17 August 2026 on the topic "India's Vast Youth Population: Demographic Dividend or Demographic Burden?" The event encouraged students to examine the opportunities and challenges presented by India's growing young population. Neha Sherpa and Supriya Chettri spoke for the motion, while Noel Rai and Soyal Rai argued against it. The speakers supporting the motion highlighted the potential of India's youth to drive economic growth, entrepreneurship, innovation and technological development. They also referred to the country's expanding digital economy, start-up ecosystem and large domestic market. Presenting the opposing viewpoint, the speakers drew attention to youth unemployment, the gap between education and employment, skill mismatches, informal employment and unequal access to opportunities. They argued that a large young population can become an economic advantage only when supported by quality education, relevant skills and adequate employment opportunities. The programme was hosted by Pitu Sarkar, faculty member of the Department of Mathematics. Dr. Mausam Sharma, faculty member of the Department of Nepali and Himalayan Studies, and Dr. Upasna Chettri, faculty member of the Department of History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage, served as judges. Following the evaluation of arguments, presentation and debating skills, Neha Sherpa and Supriya Chettri, speaking for the motion, were declared winners. Supriya Chettri was adjudged Best Speaker. The competition provided a platform for critical thinking, public speaking and respectful exchange of ideas, bringing DHU's Independence Day celebrations to a meaningful academic conclusion.

West Bengal State Science & Technology Congress 2026 | September 16–17, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University participated in the West Bengal State Science & Technology Congress 2026 organised by the Department of Science, Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal, which was held on September 16-17, 2026, in Kolkata. Dr. Mabud Ali Sarkar,

Joint Academic Coordinator, Department of Mathematics, Darjeeling Hills University, presented his paper titled "On Convergence and Rational Summability of Power Series over Real and p-adic Fields". Pitu Sarkar and Debashis Mondal, Guest Faculty members at the Department of Mathematics, Darjeeling Hills University, also participated in the Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF NEPALI AND HIMALAYAN STUDIES

National-Level Debate Competition – Bhanu Jayanti 2026 | June 23, 2026

Students of Darjeeling Hills University participated in a national-level debate competition organised at Soreng, Sikkim, as part of the *212th National Bhanu Jayanti* celebrations. The competition brought together teams from Darjeeling Hills University and Kanchanjunga State University, Sikkim. The participating students discussed issues relating to language, literature and communal harmony. Kanchanjunga State University secured the first position, while DHU finished as runner-up. Ms. Neha Sherpa of DHU was selected as Best Speaker for her clear presentation and strong arguments. The University team was led by Urmi Dolma Tamang and included Neha Sherpa, Dipti Allay and Neha Chettri. The participation provided valuable experience in public speaking and academic debate.

212th Birth Anniversary of Bhanubhakta Acharya | July 13, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University observed the 212th birth anniversary of Adi Kavi Bhanubhakta Acharya through a special programme on campus. The event brought together faculty members, administrative staff and students to remember the poet's contribution to Nepali language and literature. Dr. Mahesh Dahal delivered a keynote lecture on Bhanubhakta's literary legacy, particularly his contribution through the translation of the Ramayana. Students Dipti Allay, Ashmita Chhetri, Yarusha Lepcha and Anushka Bhujel presented Ramayan recitations. Faculty members Bishal Biswakarma and Dr. Mausam Sharma presented poems, while Siddhi Vinayak Chhetri and Soyal Rai performed a skit. The programme celebrated Bhanubhakta's lasting influence on Nepali literature and cultural identity.

Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas | August 20, 2026

The Department of Nepali and Himalayan Studies observed *Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas* on 20 August 2026 to commemorate the inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India in 1992. Dr. Mausam Sharma spoke about the history of the Bhasa Andolan and the contributions of writers, poets, teachers and cultural organisations towards securing recognition for the language. He also highlighted the role of important literary figures and early supporters of the movement. Dr. Manoj Limbu discussed the present challenges facing Nepali literature, including declining reading habits and difficulties faced by publishers. He encouraged young people to read, write and engage with Nepali literature through both traditional and digital platforms. Student Dipti Allay presented an original poem dedicated to her mother, bringing the programme to a close.

Symposium on Mountain Folk Culture in Indian Nepali Literature | September 12, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University, in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi and with support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, organised a one-day symposium titled *The Reflection of Mountain Folk Culture in Indian Nepali Literature* on 12 September 2026. The programme brought together writers, scholars and academics to discuss the relationship between literature and mountain culture. The academic session featured research papers by Aruna Rai, Kavir Basnet, Gyanendra Subba and Udai Thulung on subjects including Himalayan identity, historical memory, folk traditions and literature. A Nepali Poets' Meet was also organised, featuring poets Pramila Mukhia, Deolal Moktan, Namita Rai, Surendra Theeng and Pushkar Singer. The symposium provided a platform for academic discussion and creative expression. It highlighted the importance of preserving and promoting the literary and cultural heritage of the Eastern Himalayas.

Special Lecture on Citizenship, Democracy and Public Policy | November 25, 2025

The Department of Political Science and Public Policy, Darjeeling Hills University, organised a special lecture titled *Citizenship, Democracy and Public Policy* on 25 November 2025. The lecture was delivered by Professor (Dr.) Naved Jamal of the Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He discussed important issues relating to democratic governance, citizenship, public policy and the relationship between the state and its citizens. Students of the first and third semesters of the MA Political Science programme attended the lecture. The session was followed by an interactive discussion in which students raised questions about contemporary challenges facing Indian democracy and local governance. Professor Jamal appreciated the students for their active participation and thoughtful questions. The programme provided an opportunity to connect classroom learning with current political and administrative issues.

Lecture on Alexander Csoma de Kőrös (1784-1842), the Founder of Modern Tibetan Studies, by Dr. Margit Köves**| March 30, 2026**

Darjeeling Hills University hosted a special lecture by Dr. Margit Köves, a Hungarian scholar who has taught Hungarian at the University of Delhi for over three decades. The lecture focused on the life and work of Alexander Csoma de Koros, the pioneering Hungarian linguist associated with the beginnings of modern Tibetan studies. Dr. Köves discussed his educational journey, his travels through Central Asia and his research on Tibetan language and Buddhist literature. She also highlighted his association with Tibetan scholar Lama Sangay Phuntsog and the importance of their academic work. The discussion examined the contribution of Csoma to the exchange of knowledge between Tibet and Europe. Students and faculty members participated in an interactive question-and-answer session. The programme was moderated by Malavika Pradhan of the Department of Political Science and Public Policy and encouraged discussion on scholarship, cultural exchange and historical research.

International Yoga Day | June 21, 2026

The Department of Political Science and Public Policy, Darjeeling Hills University, organised an event during International Yoga Day on 21 June 2026 from 6:30 AM to 8:00 PM. The programme was attended by Vice-Chancellor, Professor (Dr.) Tejimala Gurung Nag, Registrar Dr. Sujata Rani Rai, faculty members, staff and students. Hosted by Mrs. Rohini Sharma, the event began with the National Song followed by the National Anthem. Dr. Mahesh Dahal of the Department of Nepali and Himalayan Studies conducted a guided meditation session, encouraging participants to practise mindfulness and awareness. This was followed by a yoga session led by instructor Muskan Thapa, who demonstrated various asanas and breathing exercises. The Vice-Chancellor and Registrar spoke about the importance of yoga in everyday life. The programme highlighted the value of physical health, mental well-being and a balanced lifestyle.

MA Dissertation Presentations | June 23, 2026

The Department of Political Science and Public Policy conducted its MA Dissertation Presentations 2026 on 23 June 2026 at the University Conference Room. Five MA students presented their research on different social, political and developmental issues. The topics included street vendors' relocation in Darjeeling, the literary and activist contributions of Bikash Gotamey, gutka consumption in rural Mungpoo, human-wildlife conflict in Peruk Busty and the relationship between media, masculinity and political perceptions among youth. The presentations were made under the guidance of the students' respective supervisors. Faculty members provided suggestions and feedback to help students improve their research. Students from other departments also participated in the discussion and raised questions. The programme encouraged independent research, critical thinking and academic interaction among students.

Reading Session on Syama Prasad Mookerjee | June 29, 2026

The Department of Political Science and Public Policy organised a reading session as part of the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Smriti Paksha, observed under the theme "*Dr. Syama Prasad*

Mookerjee Jeevan O Adarsha": 'Syama Prasad Mookerjee Smriti Paksha' Udjapane Darjeeling Hills University. The session focused on the theme Syama Prasad Mookerjee and His Contributions in the Drafting of the Indian Constitution. Coordinated by Mrs. Rohini Sharma, faculty member of the department, the programme examined the historical background of the Constituent Assembly and its early proceedings. Particular attention was given to Mookerjee's views during the discussions surrounding the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly on 9 December 1946. The session also discussed the political differences surrounding the Muslim League's boycott of the meeting and the demand for Partition. The programme encouraged students to read historical documents and understand the political debates that shaped the making of independent India.

Fit India Women's Week at Darjeeling Hills University | March 3–9, 2025

The Department of Political Science and Public Policy, Darjeeling Hills University, organised the *Fit India Women's Week* in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India. The University held various events during the week with the help of community leaders, neighborhood associations in Mungpoo, eminent sportpersons from the Darjeeling region, and organizational partners such as the All India Women's Conference and Saraswati Higher Secondary School

UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENTS AND RESEARCH

World Environment Day | June 5, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University celebrated World Environment Day with active participation from faculty members, staff and students representing different departments. A tree plantation programme was organised within the university campus to promote environmental awareness and improve the campus surroundings. Various plants, including rhododendron, cherry blossom, azalea and marigold, were planted during the programme. Teachers and students participated in the plantation activity, highlighting the importance of collective responsibility towards the environment. Rohini Sharma of the Department of Political Science and Public Policy addressed the gathering and spoke about environmental protection and the need to adopt eco-friendly habits in everyday life. The programme encouraged members of the university community to take small but meaningful steps towards environmental conservation. It also reflected DHU's commitment to creating a greener and healthier campus.

Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Campaign | August 2, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University joined the nationwide *Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat* campaign launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. The programme was hosted live on the university campus in the presence of the Finance Officer, Shri Nirmal Subba, faculty members, staff and students. The campaign focused on creating awareness about drug abuse and encouraging young people to make responsible choices. Participants joined the national initiative and reflected on the importance of building a healthy and responsible society. The programme also highlighted the role of educational institutions in spreading awareness and guiding young people towards positive activities. Through its participation, the University reaffirmed its commitment to promoting a healthy campus environment and contributing to the national vision of a drug-free India.

Independence Day Celebrations | August 12–15, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University organised a series of activities on August 12–13, 2026, as part of its Independence Day celebrations. An Independence Day Quiz Competition was held on 12 August, focusing on India's freedom movement, important historical events and the contributions of freedom fighters. The programme was hosted by Dr. Debraj Ghatak of the Department of History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage. Students and staff participated enthusiastically in the competition. On 13 August, the University joined the nationwide *Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign, celebrating the National Flag as a symbol of unity and freedom. Members of the university community came together to mark the occasion. These activities encouraged students to learn about India's history and reflect on the responsibilities associated with freedom and citizenship. Darjeeling Hills University celebrated India's 80th Independence Day on 15 August 2026 with enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. Preparations began several days before the occasion, with students and staff decorating the campus with portraits of freedom fighters and important quotations. The university building was also illuminated with Tricolour lights. The main programme began at 9:00 a.m. with the gathering of faculty members, students and staff for the flag-hoisting ceremony. Registrar Dr. Sujata Rani Rai hoisted the National Flag and addressed the gathering on the sacrifices made during India's freedom struggle and the responsibilities of the younger generation. The celebration continued in a cheerful atmosphere, with members of the university community spending time together. The programme provided an opportunity to remember the history of India's independence and celebrate the values of freedom and unity.

DAAD Workshop on Internationalisation of Higher Education | September 8–9, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University was selected as one of the twenty-five HigherEd institutions in India for the DAAD workshop on Internationalisation of Higher Education. The two-day workshop was attended by participants from Ashoka University, Flame University, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprashta University, IITs, IIITs, Manipal Institute of Technology, NITs, Presidency University, Savitribai Phule Pune University, UPES, Whistling Woods International, and many other prominent institutions. Saurav Rai, OSD to the Vice-Chancellor, represented Darjeeling Hills University at the event. Through such endeavours, in the coming year, Darjeeling Hills

University aims to introduce international student and faculty exchange programs and establish global research collaborations.

Eastern Himalayas Conference 2026 | September 24–25, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University organised the Eastern Himalayas Conference 2026 on 24-25 September 2026 under the theme "Reimagining the Eastern Himalayas: Narratives, Belongingness and Representation" coordinated by Dr. Upasna Chettri of the Department of History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage and Dr. Smriti Rai of the Department of Communication and Media Studies. The conference sought to move beyond writing about the region and to place its own stories at the centre of scholarly discourse. The call for papers drew 173 abstracts, and 102 participants attended from across disciplines and institutions. The inaugural session began with a welcome speech by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor (Dr.) Tejimala Gurung Nag, and an introduction to the conference vision by Dr. Chettri. The keynote address by Dr. Anna Balikci Denjongpa framed the Eastern Himalayas as a living field of history and community, stressing the role of archives, family records and women in preserving local knowledge. In his plenary address, Prof. Sajal Nag argued that the Himalayas, though central to the subcontinent's culture and civilisation, remain marginalised in history and polity, and called for placing the region at the centre of modern Indian history. Over two days, 18 parallel sessions across three rooms covered literature and memory, governance and land, sustainability and biodiversity, archaeology and ritual, colonial infrastructure, digital futures, plantation histories, sacred geographies, oral heritage, socio-economic precarity, and representation in film and media. In the valedictory session Padma Shri Dr. GS Yonzone delivered the valedictory address, emphasising access, equity, quality, excellence and relevance in higher education, the link between teaching and research, and inclusivity in the holistic development of students. The conference concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Smriti Rai. The conference demonstrated the richness of scholarship on the region and argued for an Eastern Himalayas that is central rather than marginal, lived and not merely mapped, and constantly reimagined through its communities and cultures.

Eastern Himalayan Dialogue | September 28, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University participated in the Eastern Himalayan Dialogue 2026 in Kalimpong, which was organised by the Chintan Research Foundation and the Eastern Himalayan Center for Public Policy, on September 28, 2026. The Vice-Chancellor of Darjeeling Hills University, Professor (Dr.) Tejimala Gurung Nag, was part of a panel titled "Institutions for the Frontier: Governance, Capacity Building and Regional Aspirations", where she discussed the need for an alternative framework to 'frontier' policy, and the role of youth, community and local leadership in helping develop region-oriented curriculum and resilient capacity building programmes in higher educational institutions located in the Darjeeling and Kalimpong hills.

Dosro Khel 2026 – Annual Sports Event | October 13, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University organised its annual sports event, Dosro Khel 2026, on 13 October 2026. The event featured indoor sports competitions in table tennis, chess and carrom, providing students with an opportunity to display their skills and participate in friendly competition. Vice-Chancellor Professor (Dr.) Tejimala Gurung Nag attended the programme as Chief Guest and inaugurated the event with an opening table tennis match against Malavika Pradhan of the Department of Political Science and Public Policy. The competitions witnessed enthusiastic participation, with students displaying concentration, skill and sportsmanship. Malavika Pradhan coordinated the event, with Dr. Manoj Limbu of the Department of Nepali and Himalayan Studies serving as co-coordinator. The programme encouraged student participation and provided a welcome break from regular academic activities. It also strengthened interaction and a sense of community within the University.

Cancer Awareness Camp 2026 | March 24, 2026

A Cancer Awareness Camp was organized at Darjeeling Hills University on 24th March, 2026 in a collaborative venture between Live 4 Help Foundation, New Delhi and Roymoni Smriti Foundation, West Bengal, sponsored by Erbe Medical India, New Delhi. The programme was facilitated by Dr. Suvendu Maji, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgical Oncology, SSKM (P.G Hospital). The awareness camp was attended by the students, faculty members and non-

teaching staff of Darjeeling Hills University and by the members of local Self Help Groups (SHG). The objectives for organizing the camp were as follows: (1)to make people aware of the various types of cancer and their symptoms, (2) to educate and inform the participants about methods of early detection and prevention of cancer, and (3) to promote healthy lifestyle for cancer risk reduction. An interactive session was held at the end of the programme between participants and the facilitator which brought forth concerns regarding common risk factors and questions based on personal experiences thereby contributing to the discussion on cancer awareness and prevention.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Regional Workshop at NIT Durgapur | March 19, 2026

Darjeeling Hills University participated in the regional workshop hosted by the Regional Coordinating Institute of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, NIT Durgapur, which is led by Dr. Shri Krishan Rai, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. Professor Arvind Choubey, Director of NIT Durgapur, delivered the keynote address for the workshop. Highlighting the training sessions conducted by the institution for various cohorts in subjects such as artificial intelligence, he discussed the social development initiatives undertaken by the institution. Shri K.E.N. Raghavan, a rural development activist and practitioner, was the main resource person and instructor for the workshop which focused on sustainable farming methods, sustainable family-unit development, and organic waste management. Unnat Bharat Abhiyan PI Coordinators of institutions from various districts in West Bengal and Sikkim participated in the event, such as Kalimpong College represented by Dr. Sarad Gurung, Department of Political Science. Darjeeling Hills University has been selected as a participating institute this cycle, and intends on coordinating with local stakeholders to build rural development solutions in partnership with the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

Darjeeling Hills University Marathon 2026 | December 6, 2026 [Upcoming]

Darjeeling Hills University Marathon 2026 will bring together members of the University and community stakeholders to promote physical fitness and collective participation. This year's marathon will incorporate plogging to promote environmental awareness.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan — Ministry of Education, Government of India

Darjeeling Hills University has been selected as a Participating Institution in the *Unnat Bharat Abhiyan* by the the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The PI Coordinator is Saurav Rai, OSD to the Vice-Chancellor, Darjeeling Hills University. The research project will study the reach and impact of government policies in the rural villages of Rangli Rangliot, conduct household level surveys related to livelihoods, farming, media consumption patterns, and waste management. Reports based on this study will be submitted to the Ministry of Education for sanction of development projects to these rural villages.

Darjeeling Public Sphere: Assembling the Twentieth Century Archive

Darjeeling Hills University has secured the prestigious international research grant under the Modern Endangered Archives Programme from the University of California, Los Angeles. The research project titled *Darjeeling Public Sphere: Assembling the Twentieth Century Archive* will document, digitise, assemble descriptive bilingual metadata (Nepali and English), and make publicly accessible, print and handwritten artefacts from the Darjeeling hills region which were produced in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Principal Investigator of the research project is Professor (Dr.) Tejimala Gurung Nag, Vice-Chancellor of Darjeeling Hills University, and the Co-Principal Investigator of the research project is Saurav Rai, OSD to the Vice Chancellor of Darjeeling Hills University. Commencement of this project marks the significant initial step towards creating a large-scale public facing digital archive for humanities and social sciences research in the Darjeeling region. We are grateful to our numerous individual archival partners and four institutional archival partners who have supported this project: All India Nepali Bhasha Samiti, Dr. Paras Mani Memorial Library, Gorkha Dukha Niwarak Sammelan, and Nepali Sahitya Sammelan Darjeeling,

ACADEMIC FACILITIES

Institutional Email

During the tenure of their enrollment at Darjeeling Hills University, students will be provided with individual institutional email accounts by the University for academic and research purposes, for example, rsherpa.pspp.2026@dhu.edu.in. This email account will be vital for students to access various restricted academic resources and corporate allowances for educational institutions.

One Nation One Subscription

Darjeeling Hills University has been approved and enrolled in the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative of the Government of India which will allow the students and faculty to access academic resources such as the latest issues of high indexed journals through their enrollment status at the University. A process is also underway with INFLIBNET to set up remote access so that students can continue to use these facilities from their residences.

Global Static Fibre Connection with Power Backup

Darjeeling Hills University has set up a global static fiber connection system with power backup for the students and faculty throughout the ITI Campus. This allows the students and faculty to benefit from the various schemes and initiatives provided by the Government of India without worrying about power outages.

Google Classroom

Darjeeling Hills University offers its students and faculty access to various educational and productivity tools and services in the Google Workspace, such as Google Classroom, for management of assignments, learning materials, and other related tasks.

NAD-Digilocker Credit Integration and the University Level

Darjeeling Hills University is one of the few institutions in India which has integrated the marksheets and degree certificates of all students who have completed their studies from the University, and the NAD-Digilocker team at the University is readily available for help if rectifications of errors are required. NAD-Digilocker integration is vital for students in the transformative vision of the National Education Policy 2020, as it is the primary resource for authentication of degree transcripts and transfer of credits from one institution to another. A quick and responsive NAD-Digiocker team, which exists at the University-level, is pivotal to students in the era ushered in by the National Educational Policy 2020.

Scholarship Help Desk

Darjeeling Hills University actively provides help to students with their scholarship applications at the University Office which continuously implores the students to apply and verify rather than impede.

Research Opportunities and Internships

Darjeeling Hills University is a Participating Institution in the Government of India's Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and offers its students opportunities to learn about rural development policies through fieldwork. Other research projects hosted at the University will offer Research Internships to its students.

Infymeet

Darjeeling Hills University is part of the INFLIBNET's Infymeet platform, which encourages students to host academic events in collaboration with their respective Departments which will be showcased and advertised nation-wide.

SWAYAM

Darjeeling Hills University is set to introduce SWAYAM in its curriculum from the upcoming academic session which will allow students to opt for Courses, the credits from which will be counted towards completion of their degree. SWAYAM will initially be introduced to postgraduate programmes in the sciences.

SAMARTH

Darjeeling Hills University has adopted SAMARTH from this academic session. While the initial Modules adopted will be administrative-centric, the students will, in the long run, benefit from an open-source ERP solution hosted by the Government of India.

Shodh-Chakra

Darjeeling Hills University is set to adopt Shodh-Chakra in the upcoming academic session, which will help students and faculty with their research pathways.

NEW ACADEMIC HORIZONS

Darjeeling Hills University, the first University in the Darjeeling and Kalimpong hills region, was established to cater to the pedagogical and research needs of the region. As an institution established for research and capacity building which are reflective of, and relevant to, the Eastern Himalayas, we are pleased to announce that the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, has approved the commencement of the following Academic Programmes in the year 2027:

1. Integrated BSc-MSc in Geography and Himalayan Environment Management
2. Integrated BSc-MSc in Economics and Development Studies
3. Integrated BSc-MSc in Counselling Psychology
4. Integrated BSc-MSc in Mathematics
5. Integrated BA-MA in English and Cultural Studies
6. Integrated BA-MA in History and Eastern Himalayan Heritage
7. Integrated BA-MA in Communication and Media Studies
8. Integrated BA-MA in Nepali and Himalayan Studies
9. Integrated BA-MA in Political Science and Public Policy
10. Postgraduate Diploma in Horticulture and Medicinal Plants
11. Certificate in Cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
12. Diploma and Certificate in Travel and Tourism Management
13. Diploma and Certificate in Traditional Knowledge and Heritage Management
14. Diploma and Certificate in Digital Media and Content Creation
15. Diploma and Certificate in Digital Communication and Translation Studies

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