



SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

PRESS RELEASE

An interactive session of Hon'ble Union Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman with the students of Sikkim University was held on February 27 2023 at Chintan Bhawan. About 300 students from different departments of Sikkim University and its affiliated colleges across various disciplines participated in the interaction. Chief Secretary of Sikkim, Shri Vijay Bhushan Pathak and Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Education, GoS, Shri Ravindra Telang were also present.

The program started with National Anthem by the Music Department of Sikkim University. Prof. Avinash Khare, Vice-Chancellor delivered the welcome address and presented a brief report on the progress and achievements of Sikkim University with special reference to University's contribution on saffron cultivation in Sikkim.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman addressed the students and emphasized on the exuberance and energy of the youth in her various interactions and stressed on the huge potential in the youth of India. She accentuated that with all the endowments combined with the potential of the people of India, all it needs is a little push to make India a truly developed nation, an inclusive development with its commitment to the ideals of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas, sabka prayaas'.

Her speech was followed by a very fruitful interactive session with the students of Sikkim University with key questions ranging from post budget, policy matters to allocation of budget for North-East including questions on how some traditional occupations like agriculture could be made more attractive to youth. The students also posed questions pertaining to the preparedness of India in the global economic crisis, the finance department's role in the implementation of NEP, preservation of the cultural heritage of tribal communities amidst the onslaught of urbanization etc. The Hon'ble Union Finance Minister cogently responded to all the questions and talked about the various innovative schemes and initiatives that the government is implementing to help address the needs and issues which the students in their questions asked about.