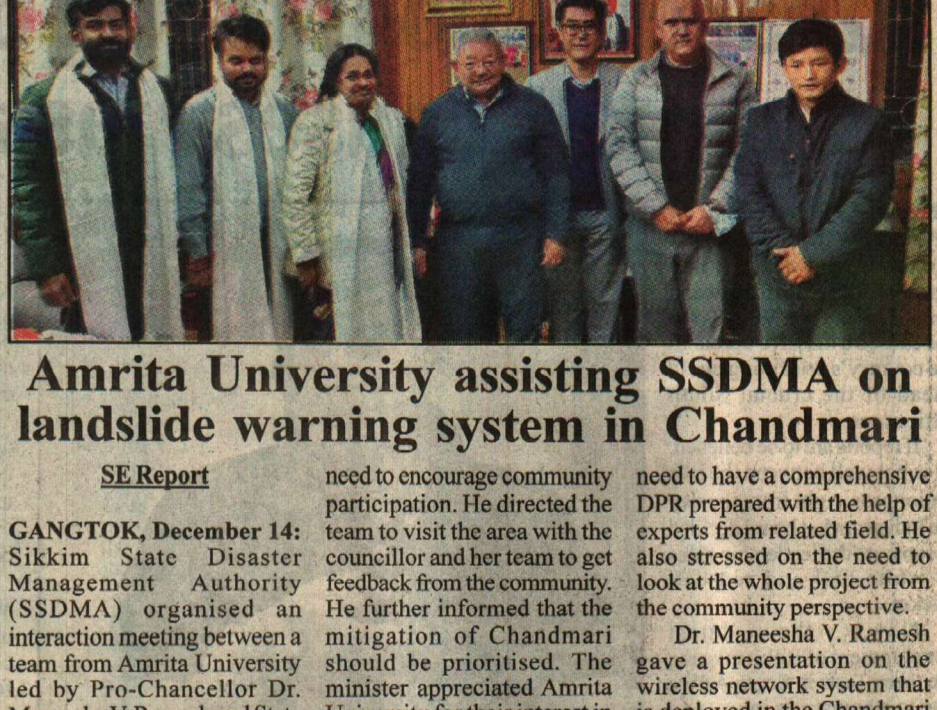

Amrita University assisting SSDMA on landslide warning system in Chandmari

SE Report

GANGTOK, December 14: Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) organised an interaction meeting between a team from Amrita University led by Pro-Chancellor Dr. Maneesha V. Ramesh and State Land Revenue & Disaster Management minister Kunga Nima Lepcha and officers from SSDMA at the minister's official residence on December 12.

Amrita University is assisting SSDMA on developing an early warning system for landslide in Chandmari area. The wireless network system has been deployed in 11 locations across the landslide area in Chandmari with the field management centre located near the taxi stand. A presentation of the system was shown to the minister by the Amrita University team, informs a press release.

Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha, while welcoming the initiative by Amrita University and SSDMA, stressed on the need to encourage community participation. He directed the team to visit the area with the councillor and her team to get feedback from the community. He further informed that the mitigation of Chandmari should be prioritised. The minister appreciated Amrita University for their interest in Sikkim and assured all assistance from the government,

As per the direction of the minister, SSDMA director Prabhakar Rai and additional director Rajiv Roka along with the team from Amrita University visited the Chandmari area and briefed the local public on the overall objective of the project. The community members were led by Upper Chandmari councillor Chunkila Lepcha.

Prabhakar Rai thanked the councillor and her team for supporting SSDMA and informed the gathering of mitigating the landslide area with assistance from NDMA. He also informed that upon the direction of minister, the project is being prioritised.

Rajiv Roka spoke on the need to have a comprehensive DPR prepared with the help of experts from related field. He also stressed on the need to look at the whole project from the community perspective.

Dr. Maneesha V. Ramesh gave a presentation on the wireless network system that is deployed in the Chandmari area. She gave real time data interpretation and suggested a team to be formed among the local members to be trained in Kerala on operating the system. She also agreed to share relevant and meaningful data with SSDMA at regular intervals.

A discussion ensued where the community members voiced some of their concerns regarding the project. The issues were deliberated and SSDMA and Amrita University agreed to find the best possible solution to the issues raised.

Chunkila Lepcha agreed on forming a team of mixed professionals who would be part of the project operationalizing and data interpretation team. She also thanked the minister Kunga Nima.