

**A one-day Invited Talk Series on  
“Indian Nepali Literature”  
Department of Nepali, Sikkim University**

A one-day Invited Talk Series on “Indian Nepali Literature” is scheduled on the 22nd of March 2024 at the Cauveri Hall, 5th Mile, Gangtok, Sikkim. The Invited Talk Series is an initiative of the Department of Nepali, Sikkim University. This inaugural Talk Series will focus on the Indian Nepali literature.

**Concept Note**

The birth and growth of Nepali took place in Bharata then or the Indian sub-continent long, before the emergence of political India and the political Nepal of today (Pradhan 2020). The Nepali language may be considered of lingua franca of the Himalayan region. It is one of the Schedule languages of India, a major language of Bhutan, the State language of Sikkim and of West Bengal. The language is widely spoken in the states of Assam, Uttaranchal, and Himachal Pradesh, where all major cities have a large number of Nepali speakers, with Varanasi being a major centre for literary production and publication since AD 1800 (Pandey 2018).

The Nepali consciousness with its epicentre at Darjeeling swelled in its vibrant expressions in the fields of arts, literature, music, theatre, politics and everyday life. While tracing the history of Nepali literature we referred to literature that evolved in Nepali for the sake of a relevant transformation many Scholars have emphasised that modernity in its real form was at first perceived in Indian Nepali literature. Language, religion, culture and thought transcend a political frontier (Pradhan 1984). Bhanu Bhakta Acharya, this Nepali national poet who took his birth and died in Nepali wants to write ‘that late people know it is rare to be born in Bharat land, likewise, Laxmi Prasad Devkota the great Nepali poet Mahakavi wrote “Dear is to me find stories of the ancient world, of our Bharat, of her rise, Shining further as snow glow.” These poems also established the fact that the birth and growth of Nepali took place in Bharat.

The Nepali writings in India trace its history way back to 1877 as evident from the writings and teachings of St. Jandildas 1821-1883 in Udai Lahari and Tungna Bhajan. The writings henceforth in Manipurko Ladaiko Sawai, Abbar Pahadko Sawai (1894), Assamko Sawai (1908), Nagahillko Sawai (1913), Darjeelingko Pahiroko Sawai (1899) etc. are devoid of any cultural or transitional linkages to Nepal. These writings were mainly to strengthen their foothold in the Indian soil. This desired ethnicity as one of the Indian communities got translated into linguistic demand which was fulfilled in 1992.

In this inaugural edition of the Invited Talk Series, the following speakers are invited:

Prof. Ghanashyam Nepal:	Indianess and the Concept of Indian Nepali Literature
Prof. Mohan P. Dahal:	Development of Indian Nepali Literature
Prof. Sanjay Rai:	Indian Nepali Poetry
Dr. Rajendra Bhandari:	Indian Nepali Prose
Dr. Puskar Parajuli:	Nepali Folk Literature in India

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