

**Report on One Day Seminar
on
Lepcha, Limbu and Bhutia: Cultural Discourse, Organized by Sikkim University, Yangang
Campus on 24.03.2025**

On 24th March 2025, the Departments of Lepcha, Limbu and Bhutia of Sikkim University held a One-day Seminar named **Lepcha, Limbu and Bhutia (LLB): Cultural Discourse** at the Permanent Campus, Yangang. Smt. Raj Kumari Thapa, the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly and Area MLA of the Rangang-Yangang constituency served as the Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Vice-Chancellor of Sikkim University, graced the seminar as the Guest of Honor. The event also featured the presence of Registrar (In-Charge) Prof. Laxuman Sharma and Dean of the School of Languages and Literature, Prof. Rosy Chamling. The distinguished Resource Persons for the seminar included Padmashri Hildamit Lepcha, Padmashri Jordan Lepcha, Shri Sonam Gyatso Dokhampa, Shri Pem Tshering Bhutia, Shri Aita Khajum, and Shri S. R. Khajum. The inaugural session began with Sikkim University Invocation Songs, followed by the lighting of a lamp by the Hon'ble Chief Guest, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Registrar, and special Resource Persons from the Department of Lepcha, Limbu, and Bhutia. Shri Baichung Bhutia (Associate Professor) from the Department of Bhutia, Sikkim University, gave the welcome address. Students of Lepcha, Limbu, and Bhutia presented their folk dance performance.

Prof. Tamang expressed his gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Guest, Smt. Raj Kumari Thapa for her gracious attendance. Prof. Tamang emphasized the language journey of Bhutia, Lepcha, and Limbu in higher education and informed the distinguished gathering about the Endangered Language Project undertaken by Sikkim University to safeguard the Endangered Language. He updated the assembly about the installation of a BSNL tower in Yangang Campus and the processing of new Postal Pin Code for Yangang. Prof. Tamang also encouraged the Yangang property owners of the sites near the University campus to establish medical shops, mini-marts, xerox centers, stationery shops, and quality restaurants or food stalls that would greatly benefit both the students and the Yangang community. He additionally urged the Hon'ble Chief Guest to consider initiating the Helipad in Yangang to improve travel convenience in the future. Prof. Tamang reiterated that the primary objective of Sikkim University is to provide quality and innovative education for societal advancement, which will undoubtedly benefit the Yangang region.

Smt. Raj Kumari Thapa, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Sikkim Legislative Assembly and Area MLA of Rangang Yangang, addressed the audience by emphasizing the challenges faced by the students, particularly regarding their mental health. Madam has stated that she is providing counseling to both graduate and postgraduate students to assist them in managing life's challenges. Madam has advised the students to earnestly take notes provided by the esteemed Resource Persons. She also appreciated the issues raised by the Vice-Chancellor and expressed her sincere gratitude to him for inviting her to the seminar. She concluded her speech by congratulating the organizing committee and sending her warm regards to the students.

Prof. Rosy Chamling, Dean of Languages and Literature, underscored the significance of holding the seminar and conveyed her appreciation to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Sikkim University for his vision in organizing the event. Madam has thanked the Chief Guest and the distinguished Resource Persons from the Department of Lepcha, Limbu, and Bhutia. During the inaugural session, the Bhutia Novel "Recchi" part-II, authored by Shri Baichung Bhutia, was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Guest, Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, and Dean of SLL.

The inaugural session was wrapped up with a formal vote of thanks given by Dr. Kunzang Namgyal, Assistant Professor, Department of Bhutia. The Master of Ceremony for the inaugural session was Ms. Rinchen Ongmoo Lepcha, In-Charge, Department of Lepcha, Sikkim University.

The first technical session of the Seminar was led by Ren N. T. Tamsang, Associate Professor, Department of Lepcha, Sikkim University. The initial speaker of the session was Padmashri Hildamit Lepcha, who discussed Lepcha Folk Music and its relationship with nature. The second speaker was Shri Sonam Gyatso Dokhampa, who spoke about the Bhutia Marriage System. The third speaker was Shri Aita Khajum, who addressed the origin of Cheyabrun/Ke and its significance within the Limbu Community. At the conclusion, the Chairperson briefly summarized the topics presented by the speakers, and the session ended with a question and answer segment. The Master of Ceremony for the first technical session was Shri Yeshey Namgyal Bhutia, In-Charge, Department of Bhutia.

The second technical session commenced after the lunch break and was chaired by Shri. B. B. Muringla, Associate Professor, Department of Limbu, Sikkim University. The session began with Padmashri Jordan Lepcha, who emphasized the importance of the Lepcha Traditional Hat Sumok Thyaktuk and shared his journey to preserve this traditional headwear. The second speaker, Shri Pem Tshering Bhutia, discussed the various types of Thangka and their significance. He also exhibited different Thangka and demonstrated the techniques for folding them. The third speaker, Shri S. R. Khajum, addressed the importance of culture in general and its role in shaping one's identity. The session concluded with feedback from the Chairperson. The Master of Ceremony for the second technical session was Renyue Dukmit Lepcha, Assistant Professor of the Department of Lepcha, Sikkim University. The one-day Seminar on Lepcha, Limbu and Bhutia: Cultural Discourse concluded with a Valedictory address by Shri A. B. Subba, In-Charge, Department of Limbu, Sikkim University. The Chairperson for the Valedictory address was Prof. Rosy Chamling, Dean, SLL. The seminar officially ended with the distribution of certificates.



Hon'ble VC lighting a lamp



Honoring Hon'ble VC with Khada and Memento



Honoring Registrar with Khada and Memento



Prof. Dr. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor



Smt. Raj Kumari Thapa, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, SLA



Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Smt. Raj Kumari Thapa and Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang with Resource Persons



Releasing of Bhutia Novel *Rechhi Part-II*



Hon'ble Chief Guest and Hon'ble VC with Lepcha Students



Hon'ble Chief Guest and Hon'ble VC with Limbu students