

# NEHU PANORAMA

MARCH, 2024 ISSUE

RISE UP & BUILD

VOL-II ISSUE-III

*Oral History Association of India (OHAI) in collaboration with the Department of Journalism & Mass Communication, NEHU, The North East India Archive and Sasakawa Peace Foundation conducted the Ninth OHAI Annual Conference titled **Mountain History: At the Intersection of Memory, Politics and Identity** On 13th, 14th, 15th March 2024*

**Date: 13th, March:** Shri. Rakkam A. Sangma, Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Education Department, Government of Meghalaya, was the Chief Guest at the inaugural of the conference on March 13, 2024 at the auditorium of U Kiang Nongbah (Old) Guest House, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong.



**Keynote address by Shekhar Pathak: Activist, Author, spoke on the Himalayan Histories: Looking at the Corners.** He said Himalayas is like the spine of a living body of thousand mountain range and valleys, further emphasising that, in the Himalayas, the dynamics of uncertainty has shaped the behaviours of the lifestyles of the locals and the Oral histories in the Himalayas have prompted the art of writing. He also opined that “While written words can walk, oral expressions can fly.”



**The first session was on the theme Exploring Pastoral life- worlds,** Chaired by Sumallya Mukhopadhyay. In which the first presenter Nikita N. spoke on the Route, Rituals and Relationships between Gojri Buffalo herders and the Alpine meadows. On the same line, the second presenter Garima Sudhan spoke on the life along the Mountain Frontiers with special context on Post Partition Dilemmas of pastoralists in Kashmir. She spoke of the challenges that force the pastoralists leading them to lose access to pastures due to “shifting borders” and said this ambiguous nature of borders often pose challenges to the pastoralists forcing them (Gujjars and Bakarwals) to do labours of various kinds. The third speaker Swati Condrolli opined that the cuisine serves as a gateway

to understand various cultures. The Fourth Speaker was Rosaline Varsangzuali who spoke on the Oral History of Mizo Dress: Tawlhloh Puan as a symbol of Identity and Politics. And how the dress evolved and symbolized into a political statement and symbolism for nationalism and cultural identity. Fifth Speaker Regina Gurung presented her paper on Funeral rites and practices of the converted Buddhists and Christian communities in Sikkim Himalaya. The sixth participant Aman Kant Panta discussed the Role of the Himachal Devtas in Times of Social change. His study showed that the deities in the western Himalayas are changing, transforming and reorganizing due to which the forms of castes in the ‘lower castes’ are also impacted.

**The second session was on the theme: Histories, evolving masculinities and ecofeminism Chaired by Barath N.** The first speaker C. Lalmuansanga explored the creation of masculinity in Mizo society through Myths, Legends and Heroes. Where he found that the Christian ideology and the Mizo culture intertwine hence; the Christian sense of masculinity or manhood stands well with the Mizo culture and is widely accepted. The second participant Rohit Mahanta explored the paradigmatic embodiment of ecofeminism in India taking Kong Spelity as a subject of his study who is revered as a ‘Hero’ among the locals for her resistance against the Uranium mining in the state of Meghalaya.



**On DAY 1, in a parallel session with the theme Music Tradition in the mountain Chaired by Dr. Karen Donohue, Asst. Professor, JMC, NEHU.** The first speaker Shantanu Majee studied the sound of the Pahadi Music. On the same vein, the second presenter discussed the wedding folk songs of the Tamangs. **The second session was themed Linguistics, toponymy and the construction of moral geographics which was chaired by Sangamitra Chatterjee, Secretary, OHAI** The first speaker Santhwana Santosh spoke of the Mountain narratives and reading Tottam of North Malabar. The second speaker Upasana Chettri dis-



**Date: 14th, March:** On DAY 2 of the conference, the keynote speaker was Vasudha Pathak who is a retired Professor at Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi. She spoke on the topic ‘Telling’ Tales of Mountains and Changing Himalayan Landscape. She observed that The British created an understanding of the Himalayas and looked at mountains in terms of the river systems. They commodified the mountains. **The session was themed Perspectives on World War-II from North east India. chaired by Manash P. Goswami, Heas of Department, Journalism and mass communication, NEHU.** The first presenter on this theme was Lianboi Vaiphei who spoke of Recollecting the oral Narratives of second world war from the tribes in North East Frontier and its Impact of Modernity on the Tribal world. She observed that the locals of Manipur saw the airplanes as a symbol of suffering and death. On

cussed Tales, Toponymy and Terrains through the Exploration of the Geography of Sikkim in Lepcha Folklore. **The third session was themed Evolving trends in Mountain Histories was chaired by M Indrakumar Singh.** Sonam Chhomo presented a paper on Re-imagining home through folktales and adivasi futurism in Subhash Thebe Limbu’s Ningwasum. The second presenter Nakhrai Debbarma presented her paper on Mountain and Ecosystem, cultural Narratives and Conservation. The third presenter Lobsang Norbu Bhutia, traced the construction of indigeninity through oral history.

the same thread, the second speaker Sochanphy A. Shimray narrated the Journey of a young girl in the Tangkhul Hills during World War II through the eyes of a young Tangkhul girl through personal anecdotes. The third speaker Dawa Lhamu Sherpa explored the historical Trajectory of Military Recruitment of the Gorkhas of Darjeeling Hills.

**The preceding session was on the theme Studying Animals, diseases and the environment through orality chaired by Rahi Soren.** The first presenter of this session Ritu Mehra studied the Traditional Interpretation of Bird Calls in the oral histories of Bhumiyathal Village in the Kumaon Region of Uttarakhand she emphasised that the problem in the area is not deforestation rather overgrowth and the lack of proper care for the aquifers which forces the birds to move towards larger water bodies. The second presenter was Darisha Lyngdoh who probed into the history of Environmentality and Orality in Khasi-Jaintia Hills. While the third presenter C. Lalrinchhani spoke of the COVID 19 pandemic and Mizo society which was a socio-cultural study. Fourth presenter Tenzin Nyima Bhutia delved into the topic of Tibetan Buddhist Monks, Reviving Faith, Revisiting Memory and Revising Culture in the Eastern Himalayan Regions of India as a custodian. The fifth speaker of the session Adhiraj Singh Bhist spoke on Brahmanism, Masculinity, Orality and Text in the Deific Cosmology of the Kullu valley.



**On the 2nd day, the parallel session was themed Oral History from below: protests, and rebellions in the hills chaired by Etawanda Saiborne.** The presenters, Rahi Soren, Richa Raj and Arpeeta Sharma spoke of Hul Narratives, Halla Bol and the Gorkha women testimonies. **The 2nd session was themed Oral History perspectives from the Western Ghats chaired by Ravindra Vemula.** The presenters Jagath V. and Parvathy V. presented their studies on memory and displacement and the struggles for identity in Wayanad respectively. **The 3rd session was themed The making and unmaking of places chaired by Dr. Cherry Kharshiing, Board member, NEIAV.** Where speaker Antarlina Bhattacharjee spoke of the narratives weaving Jampui Hills and its nostalgic tapestry.

***Date: 15th, March:*** On day 3, the theme was **Constricting mobility, constructing precarious economies which was Chaired by Aniket Alam.** The first speaker Speaker: Somashree Choudhury traced the movements of Hakka Chinese in India and their series of migration to various locations. The second speaker Lahun Dashisha Rumnong traced Iewduh's Past through storytelling of a farmer who aspired to be a poet. The third speaker of the day Kishan Sirswal mapped the Trans Himalayan Trade in the Darjeeling Mountain economy through Oral History.



The Afternoon session ended with valedictory Session followed by lunch and a visit to the Ever-Living Museum was arranged for the interested participants.



**About OHAI:** The Oral History Association of India (OHAI) is a professional organisation dedicated to the promotion and preservation of oral history in India. Since its founding in 2013, OHAI has provided a vital platform for networking, sharing, and communication among individuals and institutions engaged in oral history research, interpretation, and archiving.



***Department of Sociology, NEHU in collaboration with the Zublee foundation and NEDFI under the project VARDAAN, conducted a workshop on Deceased Organ Donation***

**Date: 18th, March:** The Department of Sociology, NEHU in collaboration with the Zublee foundation and NEDFI under the project VARDAAN, conducted a workshop on Deceased Organ Donation at the Department of Sociology, NEHU Shillong on the 18th of March 2024. It was attended by a large number of participants including MA students from various disciplines, research scholars and Faculty members which marked a significant milestone in project VARDAAN's mission to enlighten and inspire action on Organ Donation.



The resource person was Miss Priyanka Borah, CEO, Zublee Foundation who was accompanied by the team members from the organization. Prof. R.L Nongkhlaw, Dean Students Welfare highlighted the importance of organ donation and encouraged to host more of such workshops on the noble cause in future.

Prof. B Panda, Head of the Department of Sociology addressed the gathering and spoke about the significance of blood donation and organ donation. He presented diverse aspects relating to organ donation. He also pointed out that awareness needs to be created in this aspects.

Dr. Rashmi Bhargava, of the Department of Sociology, NEHU proposed the vote of thanks.



## *Celebration of the International Day of Forest on 21st March 2024*

**Date: 21st, March:** The Department of Forestry at NEHU Tura campus organized and celebrated the International Day of Forest on 21st March 2024 to raise awareness of forest innovation and conservation. PG students presented a power point presentation and poster on the theme '**Forest and Innovation**'. Prof. Gopal Shukla, Head, Department of Forestry spoke on the significance of the forest especially in the context of North-East India. Participants were inspired by the speech delivered by Chief Guests Dr. R. Sasikumar, Associate Professor, Department of Agribusiness Management and Food Technology and Prof. C.P. Suresh, Head, Department of Horticulture on the value of forests. Planting of forest saplings were carried out in the vicinity of the department. The program concluded with the quiz competition for the students of the department.



## *National Conference on Recent Trends in Applied Sciences: A Special Focus On Nano-Science And Nano-Materials (Rtas 2024)*

**Date: 22nd-23rd, March:** The Department of Basic Sciences and Social Sciences (BSSS) organized a two-day national conference on the theme, RECENT TRENDS IN APPLIED SCIENCES: A SPECIAL FOCUS ON NANO-SCIENCE and NANO-MATERIALS (RTAS 2024), at the School of Technology, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya from 22nd to 23rd March 2024, in hybrid mode. The conference was sponsored by North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya, India.

The conference was responded well by odd seventy participants from across India, through the oral presentation as well as the poster display. Four speakers took part in the conference in online mode from outside India as well, thus having taken the category of the conference to an international level. Participation of six invited speakers made a value addition on the theme of the conference which benefitted the students and research scholars of the University at large.

The conference was inaugurated by Prof. N. Saha, the Vice Chancellor-in-Charge of the University as the Chief Guest on 22nd March 2024 accompanied by Prof. Md. I. Hussain, the Dean, School of Technology as the Guest of Honour. Prof. Saha appreciated the very concept of organizing such conference in the North-



east India on the advancements in applied sciences and thus to facilitate the researchers to get benefitted from such academic discourses. Prof. Saha shared his experience and views on the significance of the fast emerging discipline of research related to Nano-sciences and Nano-materials, and its vast applications for human welfare at large. The Dean, School of Technology, Prof. Hussain congratulated the Department of BSSS for organizing the Nation-

al level conference. Dr. P. Khongji, the Head of the BSSS Department and Chairman of the conference welcome all dignitaries and participants in the conference. Dr. J. Narayan, the Coordinator of the conference presented a brief note on the aspects of the conference while Dr. H. Choudhury presented the vote of thanks in the inauguration programme. The inaugural programme concluded with National Anthem.



Prof. P.S. Shukla, Hounourable Vice Chancellor of NEHU, the Chief Guest of the Valedictory programme on 23rd March, acknowledged an overwhelming response of a sizeable number of the researchers taking part in the conference and thus making it a success. The best three awards in the categories of oral as well as poster presentations were presented by the Chief Guest, Prof. P.S. Shukla in the Valedictory Programme. The Valedictory Report on the Conference RTAS-2024 was delivered by the conference Coordinator Dr. J. Narayan. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. J. Dutta in the Valedictory programme followed by National Anthem.

***Department of Horticulture, NEHU, Tura Campus along with ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi Organizes Capacity Building Programme for farmers on 'Citrus Biodiversity Fair and PGR Conservation Awareness'***

***Date: December 2023 (Recap):*** A Capacity Building Programme for farmers on 'Citrus Biodiversity Fair and PGR Conservation Awareness' under NEH scheme was organized under the theme of 'Viksit Bharat@2047' by the Department of Horticulture, NEHU, Tura Campus in collaboration with ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi on 11th December, 2023. The programme was organized to showcase the rich citrus biodiversity of Garo Hills region of Meghalaya and also to make the farmers aware about the germplasm conservation. A team of senior and renowned International Scientists from USA and France also participated in the programme through Bioversity International. The programme started with a welcome address by Prof. C. P. Suresh, the Organizing Secretary of the Programme followed by introduction to the programme delivered by Dr. S.K. Malik, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi. Prof. Sujatha Gurudev, Campus



**Display of Citrus Germplasm.**



**Technical session by NBPGR and International Scientist.**

Director, NEHU Tura campus urged the farming community to strive forward and make sure that the region progresses under their active participation. Prof. P.S. Shukla, Honorable Vice Chancellor, North Eastern Hill University Meghalaya, graced the function as chief guest of the programme and he emphasized on the richness of the NE region and the need of the hour for producing good quality planting material for improving the production of the Garo Hills region. The programme was attended by 100 farmers involved in citrus farming from three districts of Garo hills including East, West and South Garo Hills. To encourage the farmers involved in citrus farming, an input distribution programme comprising of citrus saplings, secateurs, spade with handle, vermi composting beds, bag pack and maize sellers were distributed to all the farmers to boost the production of citrus in the region under the NEH scheme of ICAR.



**Inputs Distribution to the Citrus Farmers by Honorable Vice Chancellor, NEHU.**



## ***SOCIAL SCIENCES SCHOLARS' MEET, 2024 - National Seminar on Rethinking Crises: Past, Present and Beyond | 26th-27th March 2024***

**Date: 26th-27th, March:** The Department of Political Science, NEHU in collaboration with the Political Science Research Scholars Forum, NEHU successfully organized the 'Social Sciences Scholars Meet 2024' on 26th-27th March 2024 at NEHU. This is the first ever National Seminar organized by the research scholars of the Department of Political Science, NEHU, Shillong.



The Meet was conceived by the PhD Scholars of the Department of Political Science, NEHU to provide a platform where researchers from diverse, often underrepresented, locations can collaborate and contribute to the evolving knowledge paradigm across the Humanities and Social Sciences disciplines.

The theme for this year's meet, "Rethinking Crises: Past, Present and Beyond" explored the multifaceted crises of today's world, encompassing health emergencies, violence, wars, and environmental issues. Recognizing the interconnected nature of these crises, the seminar welcomed diverse research papers from scholars across India, addressing themes of identity, environment, governance, and war.

Renowned economist Prof. Jean Dreze served as the keynote speaker, while Dr. Sundar Sarukkai, a prominent philosopher, delivered a lecture titled "Crises on Democracy." Dr. Sanjeeb Kakoty of IIM Shillong delivered the Meet's valedictory remarks in the presence of NEHU Vice Chancellor Prof. Prabhas Shukla. The inaugural and valedictory functions were chaired by Prof. T.T.Haokip, HoD Political Science.

## ***Students of M.Sc. (Physics) won 1st prizes in different research presentations***

**Date: March 2024:** In the pursuit of scientific excellence and innovation, participation in research conventions serves as a platform for showcasing novel ideas and discoveries.

"Anveshan" a prestigious research convention, held at North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) on February 22-23, 2024 witnessed participation from various East Zone institutions. This platform promotes innovative

research ideas in current scientific field. 4th semester master students Mr. Pranjal Sharma and Mr. Nituparna Das competed in the interdisciplinary category under the supervision of Associate Professor Dr. Satya Prakash Pati. Their project entitled "Low power artificial neuromorphic synaptic device using Proton as a neurotransmitter," earned substantial praise. The project aimed to mimic the synaptic functions of the

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In another event on February 29, 2024 at the State Convention Centre, Shillong, Mr. Nituparna Das presented a work entitled “Development of a self-chargeable hydrogen-based solid-state cell” as part of the National Science Day celebrations. The project proposed an alternative approach to solid-state cell technology, by utilizing the spill-over principle to extract  $H^+$  ions from moisture, the proposed technology offers a sustainable solution to the limitations of lithium-based systems. Once again the work guided by Dr. S.P. Pati captured the attention of the judges and secured 1st prize.

The guidance and support provided by Dr. Satya Prakash Pati played a key role in facilitating these success. These accomplishments will truly encourage young frontiers of scientific and innovative research field.



(a) Award receiving moment “Anveshan 2023-24”



(b) Award receiving moment “NSD 2024”

## *Report on Pi Day Celebration*

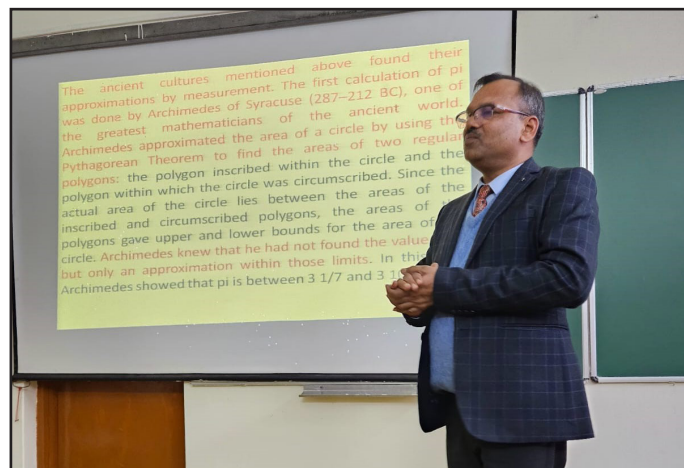
**Date: 14th, March:** The Pi Day celebration held on March 14th, 2024, at the Department of Mathematics, NorthEastern Hill University, Shillong, India, was a gathering of students, faculty, and researchers to commemorate the mathematical constant  $\pi$  and its significance across various scientific fields.

The event included engaging talks and interactive sessions, providing attendees with insights into the practical applications of mathematics. The event commenced with a compelling speech by Prof. Santosh Kumar, who



elucidated the multifaceted applications of mathematics in diverse scientific domains. Prof. Kumar emphasized mathematics' crucial role in modelling complex phenomena, predicting outcomes, and solving real-world problems. Through examples spanning physics, engineering, biology and economics. Prof. Kumar demonstrated how mathematical concepts and techniques underpin scientific advancements and technological innovations.

Following Prof. Kumar's enlightening speech, Research Scholar Dimpy Mala Dutta captured the audience's attention with an interactive session showcasing magic tricks inspired by group theory and modular arithmetic. Dutta's demonstrations not only entertained the attendees but also illustrated how mathematical principles can be applied creatively to create captivating effects. The session served to ignite curiosity and foster creativity among the participants.



Dr. Ardeline Mary Buhphang concluded the event with insightful closing remarks, emphasizing the overarching purpose of the Pi Day celebration. Dr. Buhphang stressed the importance of fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and promoting mathematical literacy among students and researchers. The event served as a platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and appreciation of mathematics as a universal language that transcends disciplinary boundaries.



Throughout the celebration, refreshments were provided, encouraging informal discussions and networking among the participants. The event attracted a diverse audience, including PhD and M.Sc. students, reflecting a growing interest in the practical applications of mathematics across various fields. Overall, the Pi Day celebration was a resounding success, underscoring the versatility, relevance, and beauty of mathematics in contemporary society and fostering a deeper appreciation for its role in shaping the world around us.

***REPORT ON TWO DAYS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
"NEP 2020- TEACHING, EDUCATION AND NEW LEARNING TECHNOLOGY"  
On 18th -19th March, 2024***

**Date: 18th-19th, March:** Department of Education, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong in collaboration with the Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu Nepal and Council for Educational Administration and Management (CEAM) organized a two days International conference on 'NEP 2020: Teaching, Education and New learning Technology' on 18th-19th March, 2024 in Golden Jubilee Auditorium, NIECOD Building NEHU,

Shillong. The primary aim of organizing this conference was to create awareness on National Education Policy 2020 and its impact on higher education.



The inaugural programme started at 10:00 am with the welcome address by Prof. Brinda Bazeley Kharbiryumbai, Head Department of Education and Convener of the conference. She highlighted the flexibility of the policy and child centric policy suited the student's needs and requirements in higher education. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. P.S.Shukla has chaired the inaugural session and motivated the participants through his thoughtful address. The other dignitaries on the dais were Prof. Neelima Gupta, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, HS Gour Viswavidyalay, Sagar who

graced as Chief Guest of the session along with Mr. Fredrick Roy Kharkongor, IAS Govt. of Meghalaya as Guest of Honour in this occasion. Prof. Saroj Sharma, Chairperson, NIOS and Prof. Chitra Bahadur Budhathoki, Dean Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu Nepal delivered their Key Note address and stated the implementation aspect of the National Education Policy 2020 comprehensively. Prof. Sharma highlighted on the different challenges and the role of the teachers that were highlighted on the NEP 2020. She mentioned that, NEP 2020 has put in place systematic reforms that would help in restoring the high respect and status for teachers. In this conference, 186 papers presented in ten technical sessions both in offline and online on the major sub-themes of NEP 2020.

The conference ended on the 19th of March 2024 with a valedictory function in the presence of our Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. P.S. Shukla, Dean School of Education, NEHU Shillong and all other dignitaries present. Vote of thanks was given by the convener of the conference Prof. B.B. Kharbiryumbai.



### *Capacity Building Programme on Mera Yuva Bharat*

**Date: 14th, March:** A capacity building programme on Mera Yuva Bharat and Role of APEDA in Agri Export for students of NEHU, Tura Campus was organised on 14th March, 2024 at Conference Hall, Academic Block-II, NEHU, Tura Campus by APEDA, RO, Guwahati in association with Department of Agribusiness Management and Food Technology, NEHU, Tura Campus & NSS PG Unit, NEHU, Tura Campus. Around 100 students across various departments participated in the capacity building programme. Students also registered on the My Bharat Portal during the event. Prof. Deepak Bhagat, HoD, ABMFT and Programme Officer, NSS



PG Unit, NEHU, Tura Campus gave welcome address and also spoke on the significance of My Bharat Portal. Shri Bidyut Baruah, DGM cum Regional Head, APEDA Regional Office, Guwahati in his online address interacted with the students and spoke on the role, achievements and significance of APEDA especially in the context of north-east India.



Mr. Md. Ashraf Kamal, Business Development Manager, APEDA Regional Office, Guwahati gave hands on training on how to register on My Bharat Portal and also gave presentation on role of APEDA in Agri export. The programme was attended by heads and faculty members of various departments of NEHU, Tura Campus. Towards the end of the capacity building programme the students expressed their happiness on the training imparted during the programme.

### *Farmer awareness program at NEHU, Tura campus*

**Date: 20th, March:** Farmer awareness program on 'Safe and judicious use of pesticide and application of new generation formulation for crop protection in vegetable crop' was organised by Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT), Gurugram, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India in collaboration with Department of Agribusiness Management and Food Technology (ABMFT), North- Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Tura campus on 20th March 2024 in NEHU, Tura campus, Meghalaya. The workshop focused on popularization of the use of locally available botanicals and bio-pesticides along with zero budget formulations to minimize the pesticide residues.





Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest, Prof. P S Shukla, Hon'ble Vice- Chancellor, NEHU, who himself is an agricultural scientist, highlighted the growing need of organic and natural farming. He also acknowledged that programmes like this shall not only attempt to help farmers of the region to get information regarding scientific research and new knowledge in agricultural practices, but shall also provide students of the university to have grassroots exposure and experience. Prof. Sujata Gurudev, Campus Director, NEHU, Tura Campus focussed on the preservation of indigenous knowledge, indigenous crop variety and our ancient wisdom along with judicious use of technology. Dr. Mohana Krishna Reddy Mudiam, Director, IPFT, Gurugram, spoke about how excessive use of pesticide is harmful for both soil and human health and how we should adopt bio pesticides to counter the problem. While welcoming the guests, Prof. Deepak Bhagat, Head, ABMFT, NEHU, Tura Campus highlighted the "Agriculture Extension Series" of the department of ABMFT, NEHU, Tura. He also appraised the farmers on the various testing and food processing equipments available in department. Coordinator of the programme Dr. Gino A Sangma, Assistant Professor, spoke about the programme and its objectives. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Sheena Haorongbam, Assistant Professor, Department of ABMFT, NEHU, Tura.

In the Technical Session, Dr. Amrish Agarwal and Dr. Deepak Jaiswal spoke on bio pesticides and good agricultural Practices. The technical session was moderated by Dr. Dr. Kalkame Ch. Momin, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, NEHU, Tura Campus.



The farmers were provided at kit bag with field glasses, hand gloves, T-shirt along with the user manual. More than 350 farmers from Garo Hills participated in the programme. Towards the end of the workshop the farmers expressed their satisfaction and requested for many such programmes by the university.



## *Farmers Awareness cum Training Programme on “Value Addition of Agri-Horti Products”*



**Date: 6th, March:** Awareness cum Training Programme on “Value Addition of Agri-Horti Products” for farmers was organized on 6th March, 2024 at Darechikgre village, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya by the Department of Agribusiness Management and Food Technology, NEHU, Tura Campus. More than 70 farmers participated in the event. They were provided hands on training by students of the department on various aspects of value addition such as processing techniques, packaging and marketing strategies. Training on preparation of orange marmalade, strawberry jam and awareness on promotion of agri- tourism was also conducted. The in-

augural session was session was chaired by Prof. P. S. Shukla, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, NEHU whose inspiring ideas motivated the participants. He also highlighted the potentials of agriculture through agro-tourism, formation of FPOs and processing to increase the shelf life as well as marketing aspects of the locally available crops. Prof. Sujata Gurudev, Campus Director, NEHU, Tura Campus highlighted on livelihood promotion through agricultural and allied sectors. Prof. Deepak Bhagat, HoD, ABMFT highlighted value addition prospects and the importance of market linkages as well as linkages between academic/research stations and farmers.



The welcome address was given by coordinator of the programme Dr. Gino A Sangma, Assistant Professor, Department of ABMFT, NEHU, Tura. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Sheena Haorongbam, Assistant Professor, Department of ABMFT, NEHU, Tura. Towards the end of training session the farmers expressed their happiness on the need base training imparted the students of Department of Agribusiness Management and Food Technology, NEHU, Tura. This was the first programme the Agriculture Extension Series. Many more need based programmes are scheduled in coming months.

## *Department of JMC hosts Engaging Film Appreciation Session*

**Date: 21st, March:** Shillong, Meghalaya: An interactive one-day film appreciation session- Understanding the Essence of Cinematic Art, organised by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong.

Award-winning filmmaker and faculty member at the Department of Motion Picture Photography, Dr Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film and Television Institute, Assam, Mr Sanjib Parasar, was invited as the resource person for the session.

The session began with a formal inauguration ceremony, wherein the Head of the Department, Professor Manash P Goswami, welcomed Parasar. Dr. Kamaljit Chirom, assistant professor of the department, felicitated Parasar with a traditional Assamese Gamocha.

Mr Parasar began the workshop with a basic introduction to three art forms- representational, performing, and recording, detailing their differences, and elaborating on strengths and weaknesses. He then threw some light into the history of films right from the USSR of 1917 and how the political system there used films to inculcate new ideas among citizens and propagate socialist ideology.



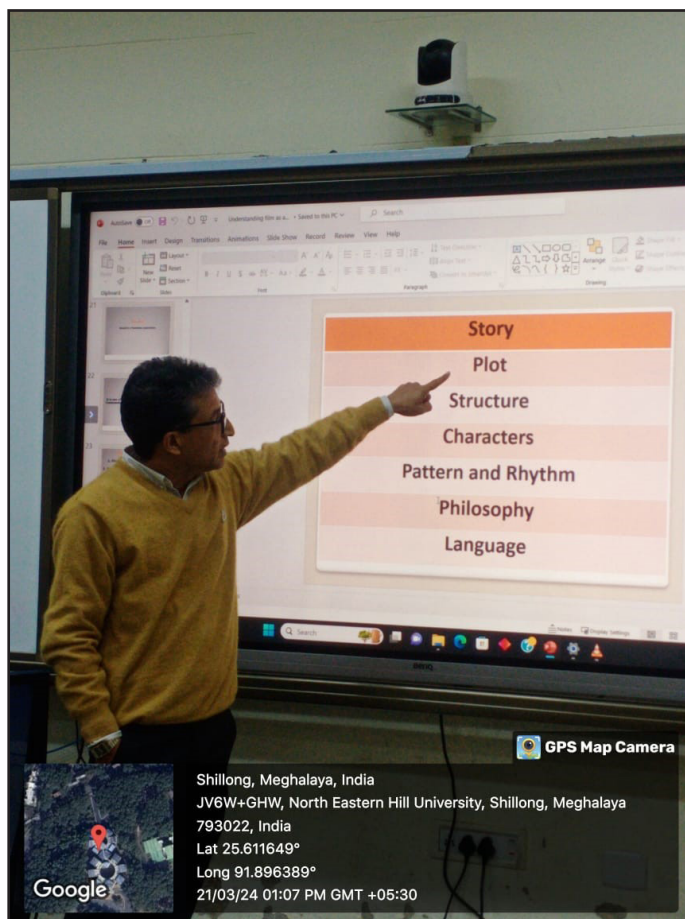
He then talked about the basics of semiotics, the analogy between language systems and film language, paradigmatic connotation and the syntagmatic stage. Mr Parasar, while detailing about these, said, “Images are basic units of films.” He, however, cautioned from using the oversimplified analogy between this and language systems.

Shedding light on it, he said, “English, Chinese and French are language systems.” The films, however, have a language but not a language system, i.e., a proper structure. In the discussion, Parasar showed clippings from The Godfather, The Square, The Shinning, A short film about killing, The Memento and the full film Three Colours-Blue. He used clippings from these classics to discuss cinematography, sound, lighting, content, form



and other techniques used for conveying the stories beautifully.

The workshop concluded with a discussion after watching the full-length Three Colours- Blue. He discussed the usage of fade-in and fade-out techniques for portraying connectedness from the past in the storyline against the precedence of transition.



*NEHU Panorama Wishes NEHU Employees a happy Retirement and healthy life ahead.*

*We wish you all the very best for the coming years.*

1. Shri Nurul Islam Barbhuyan, Assistant Engineer, CDD.
2. Smti Siewdor Gayrie Lyngdoh, Laboratory Assistant, Department of Chemistry.
3. Shri Khlurshai Swer, UDC, Academic Section.
4. Shri Colket R. Cajee, UDC, Examination Department.
5. Smti Wealthy Merry Kharbuli, UDC, Deans Student's Welfare.

## *A Glimpse of Meghalaya: “Chad Sukra”*



The CHAD SUKRA is a spring festival and in many cultures, spring has been celebrated in accordance with the rites and rituals revolving around its importance in food production. In simple language, Spring is associated with the sowing of crops.

Chad Sukra is a community festival celebrated every year by the Pnar people of JAINTIA HILLS in Meghalaya. With the onset of winter and the arrival of spring the indigenous people embracing KA NIAMTRE religion is all set to prepare themselves for the sowing season. However it is the custom as practiced since time immemorial that tribute should be given to the mother earth “KA BEI RYMAW” as she is shielding us in her lap and feeds us for our survival as long as we are destined to live on the surface of the earth.

Chad Sukra holds deep significance, comprising two words, ‘Chad’ and ‘Sukra’. Chad signifies dance, celebration, community gatherings, and the feeling of unity and togetherness, which is evident through this dance. This dance involves many traditional dances, with songs composed to praise Mother Earth for its blessings and the abundant harvests experienced year after year. Chad represents dance and celebration, aimed at uniting people to foster peace and harmony. Sukra is a combination of two words, where ‘Suk’ denotes a spirit of joyfulness, and ‘ra’ signifies “Kara”, ultimately meaning “Ra”, which emphasizes living healthily with a healthy body, mind, and soul. In short, it represents a dance and a spirit of joyfulness with a focus on maintaining a healthy body, mind, and soul.

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