

NEHU Library and Information Science Dept. Embarks on Study Tour to Sikkim and Kolkata



29 March, 2025: The Department of Library and Information Science at North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, recently embarked on an academic study tour to Sikkim and Kolkata. This journey provided students with the opportunity to explore diverse library systems, understand their management structures, and witness firsthand how traditional library practices are adapting to modern advancements. By visiting a mix of state, academic, and specialized libraries, the students gained valuable insights into how these institutions function, preserve knowledge, and integrate new technologies to enhance accessibility.

Libraries Visited in Sikkim (22nd – 25th March)

The study tour commenced in Sikkim; a region known for its breathtaking landscapes and deep-rooted cultural heritage, where each library offers unique insights into its resources, cultural preservation, and technological integration.

State Central Library, Gangtok

The exploration began with the State Central Library in Gangtok, an essential resource hub for researchers and the general public. Housing a vast collection of books, government documents, and regional literature, the library plays a crucial role in preserving the state's cultural identity. Although still in the early stages of automation, efforts are being made to digitize records and improve cataloging.

and circulation processes. Witnessing this transition firsthand allowed the students to understand the practical challenges involved in modernizing library services while maintaining traditional archival methods.

Namgyal Institute of Tibetology Library

A visit to the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology Library established in 1958 and located in Deorali, Gangtok, further deepened the students' understanding of specialized collections. Renowned for its extensive repository of Tibetan manuscripts, Buddhist scriptures, and research materials on Tibetan culture and language, the library stands as an important center for academic exploration. The NIT Library holds one of the largest collections of Tibetan works in the world outside Tibet, boasting over 60,000 titles. These include Tibetan translations of canonical and non-canonical works from their original Sanskrit or Pali, as well as tantric texts from the four sects of Tibetan Buddhism. Notable collections comprise the bKa' 'gyur and the bsTan 'gyur collection. The library also features the col-

lected works of significant figures such as Padma Lingpa, Mipham Rinpoche, and the Great Fifth Dalai Lama, along with the hagiography of Guru Padmasambhava. The students were captivated by the preservation techniques employed to maintain these invaluable texts and the ongoing efforts to make them accessible to scholars worldwide. This visit underscored the importance of specialized institutions in academic research and cultural preservation.

Namgyal Sowa-Rigpa Library

Continuing their journey through Gangtok, the students explored the Namgyal Sowa-Rigpa Library, a library dedicated to traditional Tibetan medicine. This institution holds a unique collection of texts on herbal remedies and healing practices that have been passed down for generations. Unlike conventional libraries, this collection plays a critical role in safeguarding indigenous medical knowledge. While still largely dependent on manual cataloging, the library is in the process of transitioning towards digital systems to improve organization and accessibility. This visit reinforced the im-



portance of libraries as guardians of specialized knowledge, ensuring that traditional wisdom is not lost with time.

Teesta-Indus Central Library, Sikkim University

The final stop in Sikkim was the Teesta-Indus Central Library at Sikkim University, a hub for academic research and scholarly resources. With a well-organized collection of books, journals, and digital materials, this library serves as an essential support system for students and faculty. Unlike the other libraries visited, this institution has successfully integrated advanced ICT infrastructure, enabling seamless access to information. The students observed how automation has streamlined operations, making resource management more efficient.

Libraries Visited in Kolkata (27th to 29th March)

The second phase of the study tour took place in Kolkata, where students explored some of the most prestigious libraries in India.

American Center Library

From the tranquil libraries of Sikkim, the study tour then led the students to the bustling city of Kolkata, a metropolis known for its rich literary and intellectual legacy. The first stop in Kolkata was the American Center Library, a well-equipped institution that offers a vast collection of books, periodicals, and digital resources focused on American culture, literature, and policy. This library, in addition to being a research hub, serves as a venue for educational and cultural programs that foster global academic collaboration.

British Council Library

The students then visited the British Council Li-

brary, an institution that has played a crucial role in promoting British literature and research in India. This library not only provides access to a diverse range of books and multimedia resources but also offers digital content that allows members to engage with material remotely. The visit provided students with a deeper understanding of how modern libraries are evolving to accommodate digital users while maintaining their physical collections.

Central Library, University of Calcutta

One of the most significant academic institutions on the tour was the Central Library of the University of Calcutta, a prestigious library that supports extensive research across disciplines. Housing a vast collection of books, manuscripts, and scholarly journals, the library exemplifies how academic institutions are embracing automation to improve accessibility. The visit allowed students to see how digital repositories and online cataloging systems are transforming the way researchers access and utilize academic materials.

National Library of India

The tour concluded with a visit to the National Library of India, the largest library in the country. With lakhs of books, rare manuscripts, and official documents, this institution serves as a national repository of knowledge. The students were particularly fascinated by the library's digitization initiatives, which aim to preserve historical texts and make them accessible to a wider audience. Witnessing the scale and impact of such an institution reinforced the importance of libraries in safeguarding and disseminating knowledge on a national level.

NEHU Mathematics Department Celebrates Pi Day with Enthusiasm and Insightful Activities

13 March, 2025: On March 13th, the department of Mathematics celebrated the exciting and educational event of Pi Day, a day dedicated to celebrating the mathematical constant π (Pi). This special day, held annually on March 14th (3/14), as the date corresponds to 3.14, was filled with fun, learning, and mathematical marvels. However because of Holy Festival, this year we are celebrating it on 13th. The event kicked off with a Welcome Speech by Anwasha Paul, the Junior PhD Scholar, who warmly greeted all attendees and introduced the significance of Pi Day. Anwasha explained how Pi (π) represents the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter and its importance in mathematics and daily life. She invited everyone to enjoy the series of events planned for the day. Following the welcome address, the Address Speech was delivered by the Head of Department (HOD), who emphasized the importance of mathematics in shaping our world and encouraged the students to explore the beauty of mathematical constants like Pi. The HOD praised the students for their enthusiasm and participation, and reminded them that mathematics is not just a subject, but a language that con-

nects all disciplines.

One of the key highlights of the event was an open to all Pi Marathon and Magic Trick performed by a senior scholar. The magic trick, based on the theme of Pi, involved a series of mind-boggling mathematical illusions that left the audience in awe. It was a brilliant blend of entertainment and learning, showcasing the magic of mathematics in a fun and engaging manner. In addition to the magic show, there was an exciting Math Trivia Quiz conducted by the Banjoplang Shangdiar the Junior Scholar. The quiz tested the participants' knowledge of Pi and other interesting math facts. It was an interactive session, with both the students and the Teachers enthusiastically participating and competing for prizes. The day concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Wallam, who expressed gratitude to all the participants, the faculty, and the organizers for making Pi Day a memorable and successful event. Wallam thanked everyone for their involvement and encouraged them to keep exploring the wonders of mathematics. Pi Day was an enriching and enjoyable celebration, combining learning, fun, and mathematical magic to inspire students to delve deeper into the world of mathematics.

Awareness Program on Nanotechnological Interventions for Mushroom Cultivation Held in Meghalaya



19 March, 2025: Shillong, Meghalaya, India – On March 19, 2025, the Department of Nanotechnology at North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, successfully organized an Awareness Program on Nanotechnological Interventions for Improving Quality, Safety, and Productivity of Mushrooms in Meghalaya. The event, which took place at the Seminar Hall of the Department of Nanotechnology, was sponsored by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), New Delhi under SSR activity.

The event was aimed at educating mushroom cultivators, sellers, and researchers about the transformative potential of nanotechnology in addressing the challenges faced by the mushroom farming sector in Meghalaya, particularly regarding the shelf life and productivity of mushrooms. The program also explored how these innovations could boost income

for local farmers and improve the quality of mushrooms grown in the Meghalaya regions.

The program was graced by several prominent guests, including Prof. Md. Iftekhar Hussain, Dean of the School of Technology (SOT), NEHU, as the Chief Guest. Prof. Hussain spoke about the importance of bridging the gap between academic research and community-oriented solutions, urging that scientific innovations should be extended to benefit society. He highlighted ongoing efforts by various departments at NEHU to connect research outcomes to real-world applications. Dr. Rajesh Bajpai, Guest of Honour from the Department of Environmental Science, emphasized the nutritional and medicinal values of specific mushroom species. He underscored the potential health benefits and utilizations of poisonous and non-poisonous mushrooms and discussed how such

innovations could empower local communities in the future, particularly in terms of societal health and economic growth. The event was led by Dr. Shruti Shukla, Principal Investigator of the SERB-funded project, who welcomed the guests and participants. Dr. Shukla elaborated on the program's importance in utilizing nano-technological interventions to enhance the shelf life and productivity of mushrooms. She shared her vision for helping Meghalaya farmers to increase their income by cultivating a variety of mushrooms and developing value-added products through advanced research in nanotechnology.

The event also saw a diverse range of participants, including mushroom cultivators, sellers, students (bachelors and masters) and research scholars, as well as faculty members from different departments. The attendees

gained valuable insights into the potential of nanotechnology to address the challenges faced by mushroom farmers in the region. Dr. L.R. Singh, Head of the Department of Nanotechnology, concluded the formal sessions by delivering the vote of thanks. Dr. Singh acknowledged the contributions of the distinguished guests, participants, and faculty members, and highlighted the department's ongoing research activities aimed at fostering innovation and advancing nanotechnology applications.

This awareness program was a crucial step in fostering collaboration between academia and the local farming community, demonstrating how nanotechnology can contribute to sustainable agricultural practices and improve livelihoods in Meghalaya.

District-Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament Festival 2025 Held at NEHU, Shillong

19 March, 2025: Shillong, March 19, 2025: Two days District-Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament Festival 2025 kickstarted at North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong on March 18th, 2025, at the Golden Jubilee Auditorium, NEHU. The event organised by North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong witnessed an enthusiastic participation of more than 140 registered students from the East Khasi Hills and Eastern West Khasi Hills districts.

The inaugural function was graced by Shri. Rudi V. Warjri, IFS (Retd.) as the Chief Guest, while Shri F. Rumnong, State NSS Officer, attended as the Guest of Honour. Prof. K. Debbarma, Department of Political Science, presented the university's remarks on the significance of the event. The program commenced

with a warm welcome by Prof. Nongkhlaw, who introduced the dignitaries and highlighted the objectives of the festival.

Prof. R. L. Nongkhlaw, Dean Students Welfare emphasized that the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025 provides a unique platform for young participants to cultivate leadership skills, enhance public speaking abilities, and contribute to national development. He informed that 20 outstanding participants from this district-level event would proceed to the state-level competition, and winners at the state level would earn the opportunity to represent Meghalaya at the national event in the Parliament of India, New Delhi.

Addressing the gathering, Guest of Honour Shri F. Rumnong elaborated on the initiative's alignment with the Viksit



Bharat@2047 vision, a transformative agenda launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to empower one lakh young leaders across the nation. He highlighted that the festival serves as a platform for youth to deliberate on governance, economy, national security, and social progress, contributing towards a developed, inclusive, and sustainable India. Encouraging the participants, he urged them to engage actively and develop innovative solutions for national growth and progress.

Chief Guest Shri Rudi V. Warjri commended the initiative and remarked that today's youth are fortunate to have such opportunities that nurture their leadership potential. He emphasized the significance of public speaking as a skill that fosters awareness, confidence, and critical thinking. Sharing his experiences in Parliament, he praised the debating skills of great leaders such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Jawaharlal Nehru, and G.G. Swell, who, despite political differences, upheld a high standard of parliamentary discourse. He encouraged students to

use this platform to build confidence, develop communication skills, and aspire to leadership roles in politics, society, or academia.

Prof. K. Debbarma of Political Science at NEHU reiterated that Viksit Bharat 2047 is a vision to mark India's centenary of independence by making the nation self-reliant and developed in all sectors. He stressed the crucial role of youth in nation-building, stating that they are not only agents of change but also beneficiaries of progress. He highlighted that platforms like the Youth Parliament help young individuals actively participate in democracy and shape the country's future.

The two-day festival will conclude on 19th March 2025 with spirited debates, discussions, and thought-provoking presentations by the participants. The selected students will advance to the state-level competition, carrying forward the vision of a Viksit Bharat led by dynamic and visionary young leaders.

A Glimpse of Meghalaya: “U Kiang Nangbah”



U Kiang Nangbah was a prominent freedom fighter from Meghalaya, remembered for his fearless resistance against British colonial rule in the Jaintia Hills during the 19th century. Born in the village of Tpep-Pale, he came from a humble background and was deeply rooted in the traditional customs and values of his people. During the British occupation, the colonial authorities imposed new laws, taxes and administrative systems that disrupted the indigenous way of life. They also interfered in religious and cultural practices, which deeply angered the local communities. U Kiang Nangbah, witnessing the growing unrest and suffering of his people, took it upon himself to lead a rebellion against the British. He gathered support from fellow villagers and other Jaintia clans and launched a series of uprisings aimed at restoring their autonomy and cultural dignity. Though the resistance was strong, it was eventually suppressed by the superior military power of the British. U Kiang Nangbah was betrayed, captured and later executed publicly by hanging at Iawmusiang, Jowai, on December 30, 1862. Before his

execution, he is believed to have said that if he was truly innocent, a sign would be shown to the people — and according to local belief, the British flag fell to the ground at the moment of his death. Before his execution on December 30, 1862, U Kiang Nangbah addressed the crowd with powerful final words: “Brothers and sisters, observe my face as I die on the gallows. If it turns to the east, our land will be free from foreign rule within a hundred years; if it turns to the west, we will remain in bondage forever.” Although India gained independence only in 1947, 85 years after his death, his last words proved to be prophetic. To the British, he was simply a rebellious figure who had to be eliminated, with little regard or understanding of his true identity beyond his name. His martyrdom has since become a symbol of courage, sacrifice and love for one's land and identity. Today, he is honored as one of Meghalaya's greatest heroes, with institutions, memorials and public events commemorating his legacy every year.

(In recognition of his sacrifice, a government college was established in his name in 1967, and a commemorative postage stamp was issued by the Government of India in 2001.)

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

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

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