

### **Report on the Poets' Conclave: Sikkim Chapter**

The Department of English, Sikkim University, organized a “Poets’ Conclave: Sikkim Chapter” on the occasion of World Poetry Day on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2025 in Cauvery Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> Mile, Tadong. In keeping with the theme of the UNESCO dedicated World Poetry Day 2025 on 21<sup>st</sup> March “Poetry as Bridge for Peace and Inclusion”, the Department of English had organized this Programme with an objective of fostering harmony and cultural understanding through poetry. Augmenting the belief of the UNESCO that such a day can foster linguistic diversity through creative expression, the Sikkim University Poets’ Conclave saw the presence of four prominent Sikkimese Poets, Dr. Rajendra Bhandari, Shri Tashi Chopel, Shri Guru T. Ladhaki and Shri Prabin Khaling. The Inaugural session was chaired by the Chief Guest, the Vice-Chancellor (Officiating), Professor Dr. Jyoti Prakash Tamang. Professor Tamang talked about the relevance of poetry in society and talked about how poetry encompasses many values that are important for society and focused on the need to preserve endangered languages from Sikkim and how World Poetry Day can indeed play a vital role in fostering creativity, empathy and respect. He congratulated the Department of English for organizing the Poet’s Conclave on the occasion of such a momentous World Poetry Day. Professor Rosy Chamling, Dean, School of Languages and Literature welcomed the distinguished poets and members of the august audience emphasizing the need to appreciate poetry and expressed her belief in the transformative power of poetry. Professor Chamling expressed gratitude to the Patron of the event Vice-Chancellor for providing the logistic and academic support to organize a Programme of such a nature. The Inaugural Session was followed by a poetry panel with Guru T. Ladakhi and Tashi Chopel moderated by Dr. Saswati Saha, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sikkim University. Chopel and Ladakhi read from their works and discussed their work and English poetry in Sikkim at large. The next poetry panel had poets writing in Nepali Dr. Rajendra Bhandari and Shri Prabin Khaling, moderated by Dr. Abrona Lee Pandi Aden. The panel witnessed readings by the Poets with discussions regarding poetry, eco-poetry, the potential for poetry to effect change, and poetry beyond prizes and official recognitions. There was an Open Mic Session in the afternoon where students of Sikkim University read out their poems. This session was conducted by Research scholar Francis Ekka. All twenty-three readers read poems touching upon gender, mental health, the travails of growing up and the various shades of life. The Programme ended with a vote of thanks from Professor Rosy Chamling.





