

KSU's Department of Lepcha Hosts Training on Traditional Fibre Art

In a bid to preserve and promote indigenous heritage, the Department of Lepcha at Khangchendzonga State University (KSU), Sikkim, organized a one-day hands-on training on Lepcha fibre art for its postgraduate students. The training was held at the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Zero Point, Gangtok, with the aim of bridging classroom learning with real-world cultural practices.

Students of M.A. II and IV semesters actively participated in the session, which focused on traditional Lepcha craftsmanship and sustainable artistic practices. The event was conducted with official permission and support from the Directorate.

Renowned resource persons from the Directorate guided the session. Mr. Tengay Lepcha of Upper Dzongu, Lingdong, North Sikkim, provided a cultural briefing on Sumok Thyaktuk, the traditional Lepcha headgear, elaborating on its historical and symbolic significance. Mr. Passang Lepcha, Additional Director of the Directorate, highlighted the growing relevance of eco-friendly materials like handmade paper in contemporary art and design.

A visit to the handloom section allowed students to witness live demonstrations of weaving Thokro, the traditional male attire of the Lepcha community. Students engaged in interactive discussions with the artisans, gaining insights into the cultural meanings woven into the patterns and motifs.

The training was coordinated by departmental faculty members Mrs. Pushpa Choden Thomas Lepcha (Head of Department), Mr. Sanam Rinchen Lepcha, Ms. Phurmit Lepcha, and Mr. Ugen Lepcha. Their mentorship ensured a rich and immersive learning experience for the students.

The initiative received widespread appreciation for fostering cultural pride, hands-on learning, and sustainable creativity. The Department extended its gratitude to the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom and all contributing resource persons for their support.

The training marked a meaningful step in KSU's continued commitment to cultural preservation and student empowerment through experiential education.

