

Darjeeling Government College Darjeeling

One-Day State Level Seminar on Indian Knowledge System
Organized by IQAC, Darjeeling Government College

**28.05.2025, Lalita Ahmed Rai Hall, Darjeeling Government College
(10.00 am to 1.00 pm)**

Indian/Indigenous Knowledge System: Exploring Darjeeling Knowledge System

Concept Note:

Indian civilization has a rich heritage of more than 5000 years. The tradition of knowledge in India is not only contained in the Sanskrit texts that have survived since the ancient times but also in the experience of the indigenous communities of the country. However, most of the knowledge that has sustained the indigenous communities has remained unrecorded and very little research has been done in the field. The new emphasis on Indian Knowledge System by the Ministry of Education, Government of India has opened the opportunities to explore the indigenous knowledge that exists in the length and breadth of the country for the benefit of world at large in a sustainable manner.

Darjeeling though occupies a small geographical space in the Eastern Himalayas has long history and diversity of culture. Darjeeling Hills is a salad bowl of many cultures that coexist peacefully along with their cultures. The Lepchas, Tibetans, Rais, Limbus, Tamangs, Newars are only to name a few of the communities that have contributed to the rich tapestry of culture in Darjeeling. British colonization and tea gardens have added yet another dimension to the culture and economy of the region. Many facets of the diverse culture of the region today is at the brink of extinction due to globalization and commercialization in the region.

Darjeeling Government College feels that immediate intervention is needed by the academia in particular and the communities in general to preserve the diverse knowledge and culture of the region and make it available to the wider world with the aim of sustainable development.

The One Day State Level Seminar on *Indian/Indigenous Knowledge System: Exploring Darjeeling Knowledge System* aims to sensitize the faculty, students and community leaders on the necessity and methods for preserving and scientifically recording the Knowledge System(s) produced in and around Darjeeling.

Resource Persons

Dr. TilakChatterjee, Principal, BankimSardar College, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Dr. Pathik Roy, Associate Professor of English, IKS Master Trainer. St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling

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Programme Schedule:

Date: 28.05.2025

**Venue: Lalita Ahmed Rai Hall,
Darjeeling Government College**

- 1. Registration: 10.00 am to 10.45 am**
- 2. Inauguration: Felicitation of the Speakers: 10.45am**
- 3. Address of the Officer-in-Charge: 10.48 am**
- 4. Address of the IQAC: 10.55 am**
- 5. Business Session:**
 - 1. Keynote Address by Dr. Pathik Roy 11.00 am to 11.20 am**
 - 2. Tilak Chatterjee: 11.20 am to 12.20 pm**
- 6. Question answer session: 12.20 pm to 12.40 pm**
- 7. Vote of Thanks: 12.45 pm to 12.55 pm**

Report on One-Day State Level Seminar on Indian/Indigenous Knowledge System: Exploring Darjeeling Knowledge System

A one-day state-level seminar titled “Indian/Indigenous Knowledge System: Exploring Darjeeling Knowledge System” was organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Darjeeling Government College on 28th May 2025. The event was held at Lalita Ahmed Rai Hall and aimed to explore and preserve the diverse indigenous knowledge systems prevalent in the Darjeeling region.

Inaugural Session

The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Partha Ganguly, whose inspiring presence set the tone for the day's proceedings. The program was attended by respected Officer-in-Charge, Dr. Prajjawal C. Lama, Teacher-Council Secretary, Dr. Rujas Yonle, IQAC Committee members, and a host of enthusiastic teachers from Darjeeling Government College, St. Joseph's College, Bankim Sardar College, Cluny College, and Mirik College, to name a few. The program commenced with a ceremonial garlanding by students, reflecting the traditional respect and enthusiasm they had for the dignitaries and resource persons.

The welcome speech was delivered by Dr. Saurav Chakraborty from the Department of Botany on behalf of the IQAC Committee. He highlighted the objectives of the seminar, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding local knowledge systems (like herbal medicines) amidst increasing globalization and cultural erosion.

Seminar Session:

The Seminar session featured two distinguished speakers:

Dr. Pathik Roy, Associate Professor of English and IKS Master Trainer at St. Joseph's College, delivered the keynote address from 11:00 am to 11:20 am. The lecture interestingly revolved around the rich and varied indigenous knowledge systems of the Indian Subcontinent, undermining the Western influence, touching upon the ideas of decolonising our colonial mindset. He also spoke about Darjeeling and how it is rooted in its multicultural heritage.

Dr. Tilak Chatterjee, Principal of Bankim Sardar College, South 24 Parganas, elaborated on sustainable methods of documentation and the potential of indigenous systems in modern academic and developmental paradigms. The event brought attention to the under-researched yet vital traditional practices and philosophies of communities such as the Lepchas, Tibetans, Rais, Limbus, Tamangs, and Newars. He interacted with the participants on key aspects of indigenous knowledge and its integration into mainstream academia.

Vote of Thanks

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Sandip Mandal from the Department of Chemistry, on behalf of the IQAC Committee, who expressed gratitude to the speakers, participants, organizers, and students for making the seminar a meaningful and successful academic endeavor.

All in all, the seminar successfully fostered awareness about the value of indigenous knowledge in the Darjeeling region. It underscored the need for collaborative research and documentation efforts involving academia and local communities to ensure the preservation and promotion of these systems for future generations.

