

Nat'l seminar on border communities of western Arunachal begins



RONO HILLS, MAR 5: A two-day national seminar on 'Border Communities of Western Arunachal Pradesh' organized by Rajiv Gandhi University's History department began here Thursday at the varsity's mini auditorium hall. In his keynote address, Prof Imdad Hussain, Department of History, NEHU, (retd) gave an exhaustive background of the McMahon Line and spoke about the history of the frontier state as a buffer zone during the colonial era. He encouraged social scientists and researchers from the state to carry out a specialized study on the economy and social change. He said, "to achieve a better understanding of the history of the western communities of Arunachal Pradesh, it is equally important to study the cultural history of Tibet." RGU's pro-vice-chancellor, Prof Amitava Mitra congratulated the history department for being the only department to be recognized under UGC- Special Assistance Programme and for signing an MoU with the University of Missouri, USA, in 2017. While delving into the demography and history of the district formation in the state, he highlighted the problems and challenges faced by the border communities of Arunachal Pradesh. Prof AC Sinha, Department of Sociology, NEHU (retd) urged the young scholars "to explore beyond their own communities and study the interface between their neighbors and different societies which would allow them to talk about their own society with authority." Earlier, History Department head Prof Sarah Hilaly introduced the Western Border Communities. She also touched upon the previous two national seminars organized by the department under UGC-SAP on the Eastern and Central Border Communities of Arunachal Pradesh. Faculty of Social Sciences dean Prof Tana Showren while highlighting the importance of the national seminar argued that most of the work previously done on the tribal communities were by foreign anthropologists and researchers who lacked sufficient knowledge about the native dialects and jargon wherein crucial and significant details may have gotten lost. He, therefore, encouraged young scholars to use their indigenous knowledge system and produce credible work about their own culture.

1. News published in: - The Dawnlit Post
2. On 06 March 2020.
3. Type: Regional newspaper.
4. Place : Itanagar Arunachal Pradesh