

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES ORGANISED AND HELD AT NEHU

The University, Departments and Centres organized a number of conferences and seminars in the year under review, some of which are reported below. A National Conference on "Gandhi and Contemporary Society: Challenges and Responses" was organized on 28-30 April 2005 on behalf of the University Grants Commission. With more than 30 senior Gandhian scholars and practitioners on the one hand and a large number of post-graduate students and doctoral scholars attending, the conference was a learning experience for many participants. The event was planned as an opportunity for exposing the youth of the region to the life and contribution of Mahatma Gandhi and their interaction with scholars.

A one day seminar on "Emerging Trends in Chemistry" was organized by the Department of Chemistry on 18 May 2005. A number of distinguished scholars presented papers. 85 participants including teachers, research scholars and post-graduate students attended. The seminar closed with a discussion on the challenges of taking chemistry research as a profession. The seminar has been able to enthuse teachers, scholars and M.Sc students towards newer programmes of research in chemistry and has given a boost to the research programme of the Department.

A regional seminar on folklore titled "Orality and Beyond" was organized by the Centre for Cultural and Creative Studies, in collaboration with the Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, Indian Council for Social Science Research, NERC and the North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur on 26-27 July 2005. 18 papers on the subject largely relating to the oral tradition in the North East region were read and discussed.

The Department of Anthropology celebrated its silver jubilee with a national seminar on "Anthropology as a Career" held on 25-27 August 2005. The seminar brought out some serious thinking on the career prospects available to students in the discipline and how such prospects could be brightened for anthropology students. The plenary speakers speaking on prehistoric, physical and cultural anthropology not only went into the crisis of career that each stream is undergoing but they suggested how the situation could be improved. A broad consensus was arrived at that the core value of the discipline should not be compromised to make anthropology a marketable commodity.

A seminar on "Purvottar Bharat ka Sahitya" was organized by the Department of Hindi on 3 November 2005. More than ten papers were presented by scholars of the North East region relating to the literature and languages of the region including Khasi, Garo, Boro, Mizo, Kokborok, Nyishi, Adi, Dimasa and Manipuri. It was found that the literature of the region was rich and that there was a necessity of translation and comparative study of these literatures.

The Department of Commerce in collaboration with the Institute of Chartered Accounts of India organized a national seminar on "Global Convergence of Commerce Education." The seminar covered four important aspects of commerce education, accounting education, E commerce, value added tax and service tax and corporate governance. 18 resource persons presented papers in four technical sessions. The inaugural and valedictory sessions added to the success of this first national seminar organized by the Department.

The Department of History under its Special Assistance Programme and with funds from the University and the ICSSR-NERC organised a three day national seminar on "State Formation in North East India" 10-12 November 2005. The purpose of the seminar was to bring together scholars of the region who had worked on various aspects of the theme and to collate their findings. 22 papers were read at the seminar covering state formation and arrested state formation processes in the ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary times. It is intended that the proceedings of the seminar will be published shortly thereby enabling scholars to widen their understanding of the processes of state formation in the region.