

# RIWATCH

Research Institute of World's Ancient  
Traditions Cultures and Heritage



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023-2024



**Khinjili, PO-Roing-792110**  
**Lower Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh**



<https://riwatch.in/>



## About RIWATCH

RIWATCH is a leading and upcoming cultural research institute of Northeast India, based in Roing, Dibang Valley district of eastern Arunachal Pradesh. Established in 2009, it has been making remarkable contributions to promote cultures with ecological sustainability and economic development by hand-holding with research institutions, universities and community organisations of Arunachal Pradesh. It has a managing council with Arunachali experts and scholars, with a Fulbright Scholar as Executive Director. RIWATCH also has a unique ethnographic museum since 2017, the only people's museum in NE India.

RIWATCH is ideally located in the serene environs of a 5-hectare campus, far from the madding crowds in Khinjili village, 10 Kms off Roing town. It is also a qualitative facilitation centre for various universities to execute field studies in different disciplines related to the ethnic life of the local communities for awarding M.A., M. Phil, and Ph.D. degrees. Since 2013, every alternate year, RIWATCH executes Study Abroad Program for the students of the University of South Florida, Tampa, USA.

RIWATCH has established academic partnerships with a network of colleges and universities of national and international repute, fostering collaborative research, knowledge sharing, and educational exchange.

Today RIWATCH houses an ethnographic Museum, a Documentation Centre, Library, Herbal Garden, RCML (RIWATCH Centre for Mother Languages) and Research Cottages. The strength of RIWATCH comprises its volunteer force, honorary visiting faculties, traditional knowledge holders from different ethnic communities and above all great support of local people from Arunachal Pradesh.



The year 2023-2024 for RIWATCH was full of activities both in academic front and developmental program. The year offered tremendous hope, enthusiasm and growth potentials in all spheres. We provide herewith a glimpse of activities and accomplishments achieved during the year.

## Inauguration of RCML



RIWATCH Centre for Mother Languages (RCML) was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, Arunachal State University, Pasighat Dr. Tomo Riba on 27th May 2023 at RIWATCH Campus. Its aim is to preserve and promote cultural and linguistic diversity of Arunachal Pradesh. The Centre works not only to raise awareness about the importance of mother languages but also provide resources and supports for language communities in documentation and revitalization efforts. The Centre has now seven staff including four faculties, one Field Coordinator and other office staff.

## Workshop on Documentation of Language and Culture

The RCML organized number of workshops among Tawra Mishmi and Idu-Mishmi for documentation of their mother language, as their language does not have a script and all traditional knowledge is in oral traditions. The RCML in association with their Apex bodies, community elders and academicians, organized number of workshops, among Idu-Mishmis for four days from 5th to 8th August 2023 and among Tawra Mishmis from 7th to 10th December 2023. The Objective was to document and publish six glossaries for the primary school children and thereby preserve, nurture and promote daily used important words.



## National Seminar in collaboration with RGU

RIWATCH in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi University organized a National Seminar on “Shamanic Practices and Narratives among the Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh” from 18th to 19th September 2023 at the Conference Hall of Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies (AITS), Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh. Total 22 papers were presented by the research scholars. Some of them presented small documentaries along with their PPTs. The Seminar was inaugurated by the Director, AITS, Prof. Simon John.



## National Seminar in collaboration with NAMCARE Group of Institutions, Guwahati



A National Seminar on “Northeast India’s Traditional Wisdom : Bridging the past and present through knowledge systems, Health Practices, Agriculture, Art and conservation” was organized in association with NAMCARE Group of Institutions, Mirza, Guwahati, and Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India (APTI) Assam State Branch at the Auditorium of NAMCARE from 23rd to 24th February 2024. The Seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Dinesh Baishya, Vice Chancellor, Krishnaguru Adhyatmik Vishva Vidhyalaya, Barpeta, Assam. Total nine papers and 60 poster presentations were presented during the seminar. The poster presentations were presented from all over the Assam and distant colleges and universities. It was marked with intellectual talks and cultural programs. The concluding program was chaired by Dr. Numal Momin, Dy. Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly and attended by Dr. Pankaj Protim Bordoloi, Dy. Director, President House Museum, Delhi, India, and Col. Omkar Singh, Registrar, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong.

## Cotton University Guwahati - Field Study at RIWATCH



Total 12 students with two faculties of Social stream of Geography department of Cotton University, Guwahati, Assam had been at RIWATCH Campus to accomplish 5 days field study on "Exposure to Traditions and Culture of Adis and Idu-Mishmis of Arunachal Pradesh". RIWATCH connected them to the elders of various villages of both the communities. There were quality discussions and exchange of thoughts on geographical set-up and community development etc. To have more organized thoughts on the subject,

the RIWATCH organized interactions with Smti. Soumya Sourabh, Dy. Commissioner, Lower Dibang Valley and Shri. Mukut Mithi, former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh and former Governor of Pondicherry.

## Farmers Training Program on Millet

The RIWATCH, as a part of community development initiatives, organised one day training program for farmers of 15 villages situated around RIWATCH Campus. The training on Millet cultivation was provided by the faculties of College of Horticulture & Forestry, Pasighat. The Dean of the college inaugurated the training. Total 100 Kg of Foxtail Millet was also distributed to the participants.



## G-20 participants visit RIWATCH

G-20 was hosted by the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh at Namsai from 09th June to 11th June 2023. Total 150 delegated from various countries deliberated on civil society and sustainability. As a part of role model of community initiatives and research on ancient traditions, the G-20 members visited RIWATCH and it's Museum on 12 June 2023. It was a great learning for each other.



## Governing Body Meeting

The 15th Governing Body Meeting was held on 25th October 2023 at 10.30 am at the conference hall of the Chief Engineer, WRD (Western Zone) at Itanagar. Total 10 members attended the meeting. Various developmental issues, financial matters, and new initiatives on various activities, including starting of Pancha Karma Therapy was thoroughly discussed in the meeting. The Members also discussed about the ongoing construction of Guest House and Water tank. An important decision on taking a leading role by RIWATCH in organizing a Triennial ICCS International Conference 2024 at Shiksha Valley School, Dibrugarh in January 2024 was unanimously taken in the meeting.

## Publication of books

During the financial year ended on 31 March 2024, the RIWATCH published five books, three for the school students and two for research scholar. Four more books are under print. Five research papers have also been received and shall be published soon.



## Inauguration of Panchakarma Therapy Centre

A Panchakarma Therapy Centre was inaugurated on 07th October 2023 by Shri Pawan Kumar Sain, IAS, the Commissioner, Urban Development and Housing, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh in the presence of Smti Soumya Sourabh, IAS, Dy. Commissioner, Lower Dibang Valley and Shri Shashvat Sourabh, IAS, Dy Commissioner, Lohit, Arunachal Pradesh. The Center is a part of Arogya - Ram Gehani Centre for well being and Naturopathy. Today the Panchkarma Centre houses standard equipments like massage table, Steam Bath, Shirodhara and other disease specific related equipments and medicines. The centre in a short span of time achieved great popularity and name and fame.



## Inauguration of two blocks of Museum



RIWATCH Museum has three new additions: Block-1 dedicated to Northeast India, Block-3 dedicated to International Understanding and Central Hall dedicated to Indology. These new additions were inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri. Pema Khandu, on 01 February 2024, in the presence of galaxy of dignitaries – Shri Chowna Mein, Dy. Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Mukut Mithi, Former Governor of Pondicherry, Shri Mutchu Mithi, Hon'ble MLA Roing and other district officials and delegates of International Conference and Gathering of World Elders. More than 150 people attended the program. The cultural troupes of Adis and Idu-Mishmis mesmerized the international delegates. The foreign delegates from South Africa, Spain, Colombia, USA, New Zealand etc. contributed their own traditional artefacts of cultural importance to RIWATCH Museum. It was a spontaneous move. The artefacts will be displayed in our third Block dedicated to Museum of International Understanding.

## Leading role of RIWATCH at ICCS International Conference



RIWATCH shouldered a commendable responsibility and played a leading role in organizing an International Conference and Gathering of World Elders held at Shiksha Valley School, Dibrugarh. Total 42 traditions from 34 countries represented by 150 foreign delegates and equal number of Indian delegates participated in the conference. There were lectures, sharing of TK, singing and sharing of folklore and folksongs, morning ceremonies and evening cultural programs, all these were directed to identify the commonalities among global cultures. The conference was inaugurated by RSS Sarsanghchak Dr. Mohan Bhagawat ji and was attended by Chief Minister of Assam Shri Hemanta Biswa Sarma, Central Minister, Sarvananda Sonowal, and delegates of other northeastern states. It was a five days conference from 28 January to 01 February 2024.

## Book Distribution

Book Distribution was undertaken in a very remote village 'Nyereng Village' of Tuting Circle to Promote Indigenous Language. On March 6th, 2024 Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies (AITS) of Rajiv Gandhi University, RIWATCH Centre for Mother Languages (RCML) and Tribal Health Collaborative, Piramal Foundation (THC-PF) jointly conducted a book distribution-cum-outreach event to 'Promote and Revitalize Mother Language' at Nyereng village of Tuting circle in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.



## Audio-Visual Documentation Projects

The RIWATCH Centre for Mother Languages (RCML) since its inception has made every effort to document the linguistic diversity of Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from conducting language awareness campaigns and bringing out books and pictorial glossaries, the Centre is focusing on systematic and organized efforts to document and preserve the languages and cultures of various communities of the state through audio and visual recordings.

The Centre is in the process of documenting the death rituals of the Mishmi communities of Arunachal Pradesh. The Mishmis are divided into three tribes i.e. Idu Mishmi, Kaman Mishmi (earlier known as Miju Mishmi) and Tawra Mishmi (earlier known as Digaru Mishmi). So far, the documentation of death ritual of the Kaman Mishmi has been completed.



The Centre has also documented the Hindu festival called Chhath Puja- a worship of sun god by offering river water. It is celebrated every year in Roing by the devotees. Chhath Puja is an ancient Hindu festival, native to the Indian subcontinent and of heritage to the Indo-Nepalese. It is celebrated all over India.





## Some Glimpses of our Activities



Medical Camp at Koronu : 05.01.2024



UPSC Students from Maharashtra visit RIWATCH on 16.02.24



National Reading Day celebrated at Govt. Sec. School, New Abali: 19.06.2023.



Outreach program on "Awareness of Mother Tongue" conducted at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in Hunli: 27.06.2023