

RIWATCH



International Conference on Interpreting Cultures and Traditions: Shifting the Lens

Organized by

RIWATCH

Research Institute of World's Ancient Traditions Cultures and Heritage



19th Friday to 21st Sunday, December 2025

Venue: RIWATCH Campus, Khinjili village, Roing, Lower Dibang Valley,
Arunachal Pradesh (India), Pin Code -792110

Email : riwatchindia@gmail.com

Website: www.riwatch.in

In Association with



Overview of the Conference

Culture and traditions continue to serve as the bedrock of collective identity, offering insights into values, worldviews, and social practices of communities. Yet, in the process of studying and interpreting these traditions, the lens through which they are viewed plays a crucial role. Historically, dominant perspectives have often overshadowed local voices, leading to partial or distorted understandings. Today, there is a growing recognition of the importance of shifting the lens—adopting approaches that are inclusive, participatory, and sensitive to indigenous and community-driven frameworks.

This conference seeks to foreground these concerns by focusing on traditions not as static relics of the past, but as dynamic practices that continue to adapt to changing social, political, and technological contexts. Discussions will highlight the diversity of ethnic practices in the North Eastern region of India, situating them within broader comparative contexts with neighbouring regions. Equally, the conference will engage with the relevance of rituals, ecological wisdom, food systems, textiles, storytelling, trade, and performative arts in the present day, examining their contributions to sustainability, resilience, and creativity.

The lead speakers will deliberate on strategies for conducting research across these domains, while research scholars will present their investigations into the intersections of tradition and modernity. By bringing together multiple perspectives, the conference aims to create a platform where communities, scholars, and practitioners collaboratively explore and understand the evolving significance of culture and traditions through our own perspectives.

About RIWATCH

The RIWATCH is a centre of excellence dedicated to the preservation and study of cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge systems. Established to bridge traditional wisdom with contemporary scholarship, the Institute actively engages in research, exhibitions, training, and community initiatives that highlight the living value of traditions in today's world.

RIWATCH serves as both a knowledge hub and a cultural repository. Today, the Institute houses an Ethnographic Museum, a Documentation Centre, Herbal Garden with Panchakarma facilities, a Centre for Mother Languages, a specialised Library, and research cottages that support visiting scholars and practitioners. These facilities make RIWATCH not only a resource centre for academics and policymakers but also a vibrant space for community participation and intercultural dialogue.

Through its programmes, publications, and outreach activities, RIWATCH creates a platform for local voices to be heard in global conversations. Its role in convening this International Conference reflects its continuing commitment to advancing knowledge, preserving traditions, and fostering meaningful cross-cultural exchange.

Objectives of the Conference :

- To examine how cultures and traditions are redefined through shifting perspectives.
- To promote interdisciplinary discussions on definition of cultural studies, transmission, and transformation.
- To foreground indigenous wisdom and community-rooted knowledge systems in cultural research.
- To encourage the documentation, reinterpretation, and recontextualization of traditional practices.

The Theme of the Conference :

The International Conference on "Interpreting Cultures and Traditions: Shifting the Lens" aims to bring together interested minds towards observing and understanding ancient traditions and culture from our point of view. The event seeks to encourage dialogue between scholars, researchers, and practitioners working on diverse aspects of cultural traditions and their relevance in contemporary times.

Sub-Theme of the conference should be but not limited to the following :

1. Observing and Understanding Traditions: Methodologies and Approaches
2. Rituals and Belief Systems: Continuity and Transformation
3. Nature Conservation and Traditional Ecological Practices: Sustainability and Relevance
4. Food and Textiles: Identity, Innovation, and Cultural Narratives
5. Language and Oral Traditions: Preservation, Change, and Adaptation

- 6.Narratives of the North East: Contextualizing Local Stories with Neighbouring Regions
- 7.Music, Dance, and Performing Arts: Living Expressions of Identity
- 8.Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Relevance in Contemporary Society
- 9.Festivals and Community Gatherings: Negotiating Tradition and Modernity
- 10.Tourism and Cultural Exchange.
- 11.Storytelling and Folklore: Transmission and Interpretation
- 12.Education and Learning: Traditional Modes of Knowledge Transmission
- 13.Art, Craft, and Architecture: Expressions of Community Values

The sub-topics should be presented effectively by linking to the theme of the conference.

Abstract submission Guidelines

- Abstract should not be more than 500 words (excluding references).
- It may be mailed to: riwatchindia@gmail.com by 15 November, 2025 in MS Word format.
- Each abstract will undergo a double-blind peer review.
- Notifications of acceptance confirmation will be issued by 20 November, 2025.

Abstract Formatting Guidelines

- **Title** : Maximum of two lines
- **Font** : Times New Roman, 12 pt
- **Margins** : 2.5 cm on all sides
- **Spacing** : Single-spaced, with one blank line between paragraphs
- **Page limit** : Two pages (excluding references)

Patron

- Shri Sandip Kavishwar, Organising Secretary, ICCS-BHARAT, New Delhi

Keynote Speaker

- Dr. Yaswant Pathak
Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, University of South Florida, Tampa, USA.

Plenary Speakers

- Dr. Phirmi Bodo, Asst. Professor, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU, New Delhi.
- Dr. Shashi Bala, President, International Centre for Cultural Studies (ICCS), Bharat.
- Prof. Tiwi Etika, Dean of Faculty Affairs, The State Hindu Institute (IAHN) Tampung Penyang Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia

Advisors

- 1.Prof Tomo Riba, Vice Chancellor, Arunachal Pradesh University, Pasighat
- 2.Dr. Joram Begi, Chairman, RIWATCH.
- 3.Dr A. K. Tripathi, Secretary, APPEIRC, Itanagar

Convenor

Vijay Swami, Executive Director, RIWATCH

Co-Convenors

- 1.Shri. Harsh Singh, Administrative Officer, RIWATCH
- 2.Dr Mechek Sampar Awan, Centre Head, RCML-RIWATCH

Organizing Committee

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1.Prof. Simon John | Director, AITS, Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh |
| 2.Dr. Zilpha Modi | Asst. Professor, AITS, Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh |
| 3.Dr. Nandini D. | Visiting Faculty, RIWATCH |
| 4.Dr. K P Singh | Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, RGU, Doimukh, |
| 5.Dr. Lisa Lomdak | Asst. Professor, AITS, Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh |
| 6.Smti. Maya Murtem | General Secretary, IFCSAP |
| 7.Dr. Tarh Ramya | Asst. Professor, Dept. of Tribal Studies, APU, Pasighat |
| 8.Dr. Kombong Darang | Asst. Professor, Dept. of Mass Communication, APU, Pasighat |
| 9.Dr. Kaling Moyong | Asst. Professor, Dept. of Education, APU, Pasighat |
| 10.Dr. Monuj Dutta | Asst. Prof. Centre for Social Work Studies, Dibrugarh University |
| 11.Dr. Bhaskar Mazumder | Prof. Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dibrugarh University |
| 12.Dr. Dipak Chetia | Prof. Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dibrugarh University |
| 13.Mr. Tage Umbrey | Centre Head, RCICH – RIWATCH |

Conference Schedule

Day	Time	Hours	Sessions
19 Dec. 2025 (Friday)	09:00 AM – 09:30 AM	30 mins	Registration
	09:30 AM – 10:40 AM	1 hour 10 mins	Inaugural Session
	10:40 AM – 10:55 AM	15 mins	Tea-break
	10:55 AM – 11:55 AM	1 hour	Session 1
	11:55 PM – 01:05 PM	1 hour 10 mins	Session 2
	01:05 PM – 02:00 PM	55 mins	Lunch
	02:00 PM – 03:00 PM	1 hour	Session 3
	03:00 PM – 04:00 PM	1 hour	Session 4
	04:00 PM – 04:30 PM	30 mins	Interaction Session
20 Dec. 2025 (Saturday)	09:30 AM – 10:30 AM	1 hour	Plenary Session 1
	10:30 AM – 10:40 AM	10 mins	Tea Break
	10:40 AM – 11:40 AM	1 hour	Session 5
	11:40 AM – 12:40 PM	1 hour	Session 6
	12:40 PM – 01:00 PM	20 mins	Interaction Session
	01:00 PM – 02:00 PM	1 hour	Lunch
	02:00 PM – 03:00 PM	1 hour	Session 7
	03:00 PM – 04:00 PM	1 hour	Session 8
	04:00 PM – 04:30 PM	30 mins	Interaction Session
21 Dec. 2025 (Sunday)	09:30 AM – 10:30 AM	1 hour	Plenary Session 2
	10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	15 mins	Tea Break
	10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	1 hour	Session 9
	11:45 AM – 01:00 PM	1 hour 15 mins	Group Discussion
	01:00 PM – 02:00 PM	1 hour	Lunch
	02:00 PM – 03:00 PM	1 hour	Feedback and Discussion
	03:00 PM – 04:00 PM	1 hour	Valedictory Session

Deadlines

- Abstract Submission : 15 November, 2025
- Acceptance Notification : 20 November, 2025
- Registration : 05 Dec, 2025

Special issue journals

We are pleased to announce that selected high-quality papers from this Conference will be considered for publication in the International Journal of World's Ancient Traditions and Cultural Heritage (IJWATCH), a peer-reviewed biannual journal.

Conference fees (All participants should register individually for the conference)

- Regular participants : Rs. 1500/-
- Students : Rs. 1000/-
- International Participants : \$100

The registration fee covers the conference kit, accommodation, fooding & certificate.

Bank Account Details : Acc. Name : RIWATCH
 Bank & Branch : SBI Roing
 Acc. No. 31503852319
 IFSC : SBIN0005821

For any enquiries mail at riwatchindia@gmail.com.

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