

RIWATCH CENTRE FOR MOTHER LANGUAGES (RCML)

Khinjili, Roing, Arunachal Pradesh-792110

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2025 - 2026

Promotion and Literary Development of
Mother Languages of Arunachal Pradesh

Supported by

North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong, Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India

Through the Nodal Agency

Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA), Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.



Journey of RCML

- **Establishment of the Centre**
- **Planning & Consultative Meetings**
 - **Meetings with experienced scholars**
 - **Consultative meetings with community elders**
- **Fieldwork & Documentation**
 - **Language documentation**
 - **Oral tradition recording**
 - **Ethnographic documentation**
- **Development of Educational Materials**
 - **Pictorial glossary books**
 - **Primers**
 - **Bilingual folktale books**
 - **Bilingual folksong books**
- **Publications**
 - **Ethnographic books**
 - **Books on oral narratives**
 - **Audio-visual Documentaries**
- **Community & Youth Engagement**
 - **Literary events in mother tongues**
 - **Competitions for native speakers & students**
 - **Bilingual folktale writing competitions for youths across Arunachal Pradesh**
 - **Outreach Awareness program on the role of native speakers in language revitalisation**
- **Academic & Cultural Outreach**
 - **National seminars**
 - **International seminars**
 - **State-level exhibitions of publications**
 - **National-level exhibitions of publications**
- **Capacity Building**
 - **Orientation programs**
 - **Training for native language teachers**
 - **Visits of DIA (3–4 times annually)**
- **Institutional Development**
 - **Establishment of Language Gallery in RIWATCH Museum**
- **PRESERVING LINGUISTIC HERITAGE**
 - **Promoting Mother Languages of Arunachal Pradesh**

Introduction

The Annual Activity Report of RIWATCH Centre for Mother Languages (RCML) from April 2025 to April 2026 highlights the Centre's continued commitment to documenting, preserving and promoting the indigenous languages, oral traditions and cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh and Northeast India. Through extensive field studies, workshops, seminars, publications, outreach programmes and collaborative initiatives, RCML worked closely with indigenous communities, scholars, educators and cultural organisations to safeguard endangered knowledge systems and strengthen community participation. To date, the Centre has published 34 books, conducted 11 field studies across 13 indigenous tribal communities, organised seven workshops and three seminars and produced a number of audio-visual documentaries, children's pictorial glossaries, and collections of oral literature. These initiatives have significantly contributed to the documentation, preservation and long-term digital archiving of the linguistic and cultural heritage of indigenous communities.

A major focus of RCML's activities was the promotion of participatory and community-based approaches to language revitalisation and cultural preservation. Workshops, awareness programmes, literary competitions, orientation programs and celebrations encouraged linguistic pride and intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge among younger generations. The Centre also strengthened academic visibility and institutional partnerships through collaborations with universities, government departments and cultural bodies at regional, national and international levels. Collectively, these initiatives reaffirm RIWATCH's role as a leading centre for indigenous research and heritage preservation while contributing to broader discussions on multilingualism, cultural identity and decolonising approaches to knowledge production.



Summary of the Achievements

1	Books published	34
2	Field Studies	11
3	Workshops	07
4	International Seminars National Seminar	02 01
5	Communities studied	13
6	Books under Print	06
7	Outreach Mother Language Awareness Programs	08
8	Audio-Visual Documentaries	11
9	Literary Competition Programs in Mother Languages	05
10	Training and Orientation Programs	02
11	Collaborative Language Promotion Programs	06

Communities Studied

(Communities covered: 13 nos)

1. Idu Mishmi (Lower Dibang Valley District)
2. Kaman Mishmi (Lohit & Anjaw Districts)
3. Meyor (Anjaw District)
4. Singpho (Changlang & Namsai Districts)
5. Tangsa (Changlang District)
6. Nah (Upper Subansiri District)
7. Ashing-Adi (Upper Siang District)
8. Tawra (Taraon) Mishmi (Lohit District)
9. Adi (Siang District)
10. Aka Hrusso (West Kameng District)
11. Sherdukpen (West Kameng District)
12. Wancho (Longding District)
13. Sajolang (Bichom District)



Official inspection visit of the NEC

April 17, 2025: Smt. Parna Sahana from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) and Shri Sokhep Kri, Director of Department of Indigenous Affairs, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, visited the RIWATCH Centre for Mother Languages for an official inspection of the ongoing project “Promotion and Literary Development of Mother Languages of Arunachal Pradesh,” supported by the North Eastern Council through the Department of Indigenous Affairs. During the visit, Smt. Parna Sahana appreciated RCML’s efforts in documenting and promoting the linguistic heritage of Arunachal Pradesh through publications, language awareness programs, and outreach activities among native speakers, students, and teachers. She also encouraged the Centre to intensify research, documentation, and the development of children’s literature in mother languages. On the occasion, she released three pictorial glossary books in the Singpho language prepared collaboratively by RCML researchers and members of the Singpho community.



Book Release Program and Inauguration of Manau Shadung

On 10 May 2025, the Manau Shadung of the Singpho community was inaugurated at RIWATCH to promote cultural heritage. During the event, two Singpho children’s books published by RCML—Ruhkum (Numerals) and Shingra Măka hteq Grupyin Măshă (Nature and Environment)—under the theme, *Jinghpaw Ga Shārin La Gaq* (Let Us Learn Singpho) were released as an initiative to support language revitalisation among youth. The event brought together more than 100 members of the Singpho community, who gathered to witness sacred traditional rituals and a spirited cultural dance performance led by elders, women and youth.



Workshop on Documentation of Tawrã Mishmi Language and Culture

RCML conducted a two-day workshop on documentation of Tawrã (Taraon) Mishmi language and culture at the RIWATCH on 16 and 17 June 2025. The workshop focused on authentication of Tawrã pictorial books and documentation of extensive wordlists and sentence lists of Tawrã Mishmi. The audio-visual recordings of language data were carried out at the RIWATCH recording studio for phonological and phonetic analysis and long-term digital archiving.



Internship Programs at RIWATCH



During 2025, RIWATCH hosted internship programs for students from reputed educational institutions to provide practical exposure to field research and community engagement. Three students from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, completed their internship from 2 June to 21 July 2025 under the guidance of RCML's faculty members. They participated in documentation, fieldwork and language preservation activities of RCML.

Similarly, six students from the Jomin Tayeng Government Model Degree College, Jia, completed their internship from 1 July to 30 August 2025 under the guidance of RCML's faculty members. They engaged in field-based studies and data collection on individual topics related to culture, heritage, and education. The internship helped them develop practical research skills and understand community-based learning approaches, while strengthening RIWATCH's academic collaboration with regional and national institutions.

Manoj George from University of Kerala was selected in the Vidya Bharti Uchcha Shiksha Sansthan Research Internship Programme in collaboration with IKS Division, MoE. He completed his internship in RIWATCH under the supervision of the Centre Head, RCML.

Field Study Documenting Oral Traditions of Aka Hrusso, Sherdukpen, Sajolang Communities



RCML successfully completed comprehensive field studies focusing on the Aka (Hrusso), Sherdukpen and Sajolang (Miji) communities of West Kameng and Bichom districts, Arunachal Pradesh. The study was conducted over a 17-day period from 14th to 31st July 2025. The project aimed to document the oral traditions, folk narratives and endangered languages of these indigenous groups. RCML researchers worked closely with elders, storytellers and native speakers, recording a wide range of oral histories, folktales and linguistic data—many of which face the risk of being lost forever. This initiative is part of RCML's larger mission to revitalise and preserve indigenous languages and promote a reading culture through community engagement. A major outcome of the project will be the publication of folktale books, serving as educational tools and helping transmit traditional knowledge across generations.

Fifth Academic Council Meeting

Held on 10 August 2025 at the Conference Hall, RIWATCH Campus, the 5th Academic Council Meeting, chaired by Dr. A.K. Tripathy, aimed to strengthen academic programs and institutional collaborations. The Council approved the launch of a Certificate Course in Research Methodology, the publication of the RIWATCH Bulletin, and the organization of a International Seminar in December 2025. It also resolved to prepare a database of institutional MoUs to streamline partnerships. During the meeting, Academic Council members reviewed RCML's ongoing activities and the action plans for the Centre's future initiatives.



79th Independence Day Celebration

On 15 August 2025, RIWATCH celebrated the 79th Independence Day at its Campus with enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. Dr. Nandini D, Visiting Faculty and Academic Council Member, hoisted the National Flag and addressed the gathering, emphasising unity, collective responsibility, and the sacrifices of freedom fighters. The event witnessed the presence of Director Shri Vijay Swami, Dr. M.S. Awan and staff members of RIWATCH. The ceremony concluded with the singing of the National Anthem, symbolising harmony and national pride within the RIWATCH family.



Book Distribution Program at Walong Secondary School

On 26 August 2025, RCML organised a Book Distribution Program at Walong Secondary School, Anjaw District, to promote awareness of the Meyor language and culture. 90 Copies of 3 sets of the Meyor pictorial glossary books were distributed among students from Classes 1 to 10 by the school's Principal. The initiative aimed to encourage linguistic learning and cultural appreciation among the younger generation, fostering pride in their heritage and supporting efforts toward the preservation of indigenous languages.



Inspection Visit by Secretary & Director, Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA), Government Arunachal Pradesh.

On 15 September 2025, RIWATCH received an official Inspection Visit from Shri Pige Ligu, Secretary, Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA), and Shri Sokhep Kri, Director, DIA, to assess the institution's ongoing programmes and infrastructure. The delegates conducted a thorough inspection of the RIWATCH Centre for Mother Languages (RCML), the RIWATCH Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage (RCICH) and the Arogya Centre. The visit was followed by a formal presentation at the RIWATCH Conference Hall, where institutional progress, recent publications, and collaborative engagements were highlighted. Shri Pige Ligu expressed appreciation for RCML's sustained efforts in documenting, preserving and promoting the endangered languages and cultural practices of Arunachal Pradesh, acknowledging the Centre's vital role in safeguarding the region's rich indigenous heritage.



RCML Publications exhibited at Bahu Bhasa 2025 held at IIIT Hyderabad

From November 6–8, 2025, RCML, RIWATCH participated in Bahu Bhasa 2025, a national festival on India's linguistic diversity held at IIIT Hyderabad and organised by Open Knowledge Initiatives (OKI). The event brought together scholars, activists and indigenous community representatives across the nation to discuss language preservation, documentation and digital inclusion. RCML also presented an exhibition of its publications on the linguistic and cultural heritage of North-East India, which attracted strong interest and appreciation from attendees.

A key highlight was the address by Dr. Mechek Sampar Awan, who stressed the urgent need to document and technologically support underrepresented languages of the North-East. He emphasised linguistic diversity as a vital cultural asset and called for inclusive representation in the digital era. RCML's participation reinforced its commitment to preserving linguistic heritage and contributing to national efforts to safeguard India's diverse languages and traditions.



An Outreach Program for Language and Cultural Promotion – Wakro Circle, Lohit District

15 November, 2025: RCML conducted a Language and Cultural Promotion Program at Wakro Circle, Lohit District, aimed at strengthening awareness and pride in the Kaman Mishmi language and culture among school students. The programme brought together Heads of Departments, representatives of CALSOM and the Kaman Language Development Committee (KLDC), school principals, teachers, and students from four institutions — Govt. Hr. Sec. School (GHSS) Wakro, KGBV Wakro, Apna Vidya Bhavan (AVB), and Don Bosco School — reflecting broad community and institutional commitment to safeguarding indigenous linguistic heritage. A total of 80 students participated in an extempore speech competition and a pictorial quiz competition conducted in the Kaman Mishmi language, with GHSS Wakro securing first position and KGBV Wakro second, demonstrating commendable linguistic competence and enthusiasm.

Aligning with the objective of RCML in raising awareness on the significance of safeguarding and promoting their mother languages, the programme underscored the importance of engaging with one's mother tongue in both academic and social contexts, and highlighted the role of indigenous languages in transmitting traditional knowledge, ethical values and cultural worldviews across generations. Concluding discussions emphasised the need for sustained documentation, integration of indigenous languages into educational practice and stronger community participation. The initiative reaffirmed the value of collaborative, community-based approaches to language revitalisation and contributed meaningfully to strengthening linguistic and cultural consciousness among the Kaman Mishmi student community.



Workshop on Aka Hrusso Language and Culture

The Research Centre for Mother Language (RCML) conducted a three-day intensive workshop on the documentation of the Aka Hrusso language and culture, held from November 20 to 22, 2025 at RIWATCH.

The workshop focused on verifying linguistic data collected during their field study in West Kameng District. The Centre aims to produce extensive audio-visual documentation to support long-term preservation initiatives; during the workshop RCML researchers successfully documented more than 1,400 words, 500 sentences, and 38 folktales. The linguistic dataset will contribute to future grammar and lexicon studies, while the collection of folktales will support upcoming publications dedicated to the community's oral literature.



International Seminar on “Interpreting Cultures and Traditions: Shifting the Lens”

(19–21 December 2025, RIWATCH, Roing, Arunachal Pradesh)

RIWATCH organised a three-day International Seminar titled "Interpreting Cultures and Traditions: Shifting the Lens" from 19 to 21 December 2025 at its campus in Roing, with financial support from the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata, and in collaboration with ICCS Bharat, Rajiv Gandhi University, IFCSAP, and Arunachal Pradesh University, Pasighat. The Seminar aimed to critically reassess dominant frameworks of cultural interpretation and promote indigenous, participatory, and decolonising approaches to the study of traditions, providing an interdisciplinary platform for documenting, preserving, and reinterpreting living traditions grounded in community-rooted knowledge systems. Keynote and plenary sessions were delivered by eminent scholars and policymakers including Prof. Yashwant Pathak (University of South Florida, USA), Prof. Tomo Riba, Shri Mukut Mithi, and Dr. Chowna Mein, Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, while special lectures and book launches featured important RIWATCH publications on festivals, geo-heritage, and regional culture.

The Seminar drew participation from scholars and practitioners across India and six countries — the USA, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan — with 43 research papers presented across 11 technical sessions covering themes such as indigenous knowledge systems, rituals, language, oral traditions, ecology, material culture, and methodological innovations. RCML played a vital role in the seminar by leading the technical sessions. A sub-theme of the conference titled ‘Language and Oral Traditions: Preservation, Change and Adaptation’ received research papers from several international participants. Cultural programmes formed an integral part of the proceedings, with documentary screenings and traditional performances by troupes from Manipur, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh — representing the Adi, Singpho and Idu Mishmi communities — illuminating the living, performative dimensions of indigenous traditions. The Seminar strengthened interdisciplinary dialogue, fostered academic networking, and reinforced ethical and community-based approaches in cultural research, significantly enhancing RIWATCH's academic and public visibility and contributing meaningfully to contemporary discourse on indigenous cultures and heritage preservation.



RIWATCH Observes 77th Republic Day; Plans Festival of Languages of North East Bharat

26 January, 2026: RIWATCH observed the 77th Republic Day at its campus in Khinjili, Roing, with Dr. Mechek Sampar Awan, Centre Head, RCML, unfurling the National Flag and addressing the gathering on the responsibilities of citizens in upholding the Constitution, emphasising civic responsibility, national unity, and active participation in nation-building. The celebration was followed by a consultative meeting on RIWATCH's future academic and cultural initiatives, attended by Prof. Simon John, Director of the Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies, Rajiv Gandhi University, who shared insights on innovative strategies for the revitalisation, preservation, and promotion of indigenous cultures and languages.



A significant outcome of the meeting was the unanimous resolution to organise a Festival of Languages of North East India at RIWATCH in 2027 — a proposed platform to celebrate the region's linguistic diversity and bring together scholars, researchers, and indigenous communities to showcase, document, and revitalise native languages. Preliminary conceptualisation covered the festival's academic, cultural, and community-oriented components. The initiative reflects RIWATCH's sustained commitment to the preservation and promotion of indigenous knowledge systems, languages, and cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh and the wider North East India region.



Book Exhibition at Shapawng Yawng Manau Poi Festival 2026

During the Shapawng Yawng Manau Poi Festival (12–15 February 2026), RCML collaborated with the Singpho Development Society to organise a book exhibition showcasing key documentation of Singpho linguistic and cultural heritage. Featured publications included the Children's Pictorial Glossary, the Singpho Folksong Book, and other RCML Publications. The exhibition drew an encouraging response from community members and international delegates, with many actively purchasing books, among the over 2,000 festival participants. Shri Ongyun Maio, General Secretary of the Singpho Development Society, commended the initiative as vital to the preservation, promotion, and development of Singpho language and literature.

The exhibition also sparked meaningful cross-border engagement. Shri Nbyen Dan Hkung Awng, Director of Kachinland College, Kachin State, Myanmar, expressed appreciation for the breadth of publications on Singpho and other languages and cultures of Northeast India, and welcomed the platform as an opportunity to strengthen cultural ties across borders. He further conveyed keen interest in future collaborations with RIWATCH to revitalise indigenous knowledge and ancient wisdom. By integrating scholarly and cultural documentation into one of the most significant celebrations in the Singpho calendar, the exhibition reaffirmed RIWATCH's commitment to language revitalisation and community-rooted cultural preservation.



Home Minister Releases RCML's Publications at Tamlã-Dü Festival of the Mishmi Tribes



The RIWATCH Centre for Mother Languages (RCML), in collaboration with the Tawrä Language Development Committee (TLDC) and the Cultural and Literary Society of Mishmi (CALSOM), released six children's pictorial glossary books in the Taraon (Tawrä) Mishmi language. Published under the theme "Taraon (Tawrä) Tükübra Kasa Ringke" ("Let Us Learn Taraon"), the titles cover Animals & Birds, Numerals, Action Verbs, Nature & Environment, Human Body, and Crafts and Artefacts. The books were launched by Shri Mama Natung, Minister for Home and Inter-State Border Affairs, PHE & Water Supply, and Indigenous Affairs, during the 56th Central Tamlã-Dü Festival (13–15 February 2026) at Tezu. A book exhibition was also organised during the festival, showcasing the new glossaries alongside other RCML publications, drawing appreciation from participants and visitors for its role in illuminating Tawrä linguistic and cultural heritage.

In his address, Shri Natung commended the RIWATCH team for their dedication and acknowledged the sustained commitment required for such an initiative. He expressed gratitude for their work in preserving and promoting mother languages, assured continued government support for research, documentation, and awareness programmes, and emphasised the need to develop more children's literature in indigenous languages to strengthen intergenerational transmission. The three-way collaboration between RCML, TLDC, and CALSOM reflects a shared commitment to safeguarding the Taraon (Tawrä) Mishmi language through culturally rooted educational resources — ensuring that younger generations have access to their linguistic heritage in an engaging and accessible form.

RCML organises a Students' Rally on the occasion of International Mother Language Day 2026

RIWATCH celebrated International Mother Language Day 2026 at Central Reh-Ko, Roing, under the theme “Youth Voices on Multilingual Education” on 26 February 2026. The event opened with a student rally in which over 200 students marched from General Ground to Reh-Ko, carrying slogans on the importance of mother languages and linguistic diversity, such as “Speak Your Mother Tongue with Pride”, “Every Language Matters.” The programme was attended by Chief Guest Shri Manish Shaurya, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Roing, and Guest of Honour Shri Amih Lego, DDSE, Roing, along with special invitees Dr. Ista Pulu, President of IMCLS, and Dr. Rasto Mena, Chairman of Pendrive Academy.

In his address, Shri Manish Shaurya urged the younger generation to take pride in their mother tongues, noting that native languages are indispensable to the state's cultural heritage. The Guest of Honour Shri Amih Lego highlighted the role of multilingual education in strengthening cultural identity and fostering inclusive learning. The celebration drew enthusiastic participation from students across nine educational institutions in Roing, reflecting broad community engagement with the cause. The event served as a meaningful platform to reinforce the importance of mother languages as carriers of culture, identity, and traditional knowledge — and to inspire youth to become active participants in preserving and promoting linguistic diversity.



Field study on material culture of Wancho tribe

The RIWATCH Centre for Mother Languages (RCML) conducted a week-long field study on the material culture of the Wancho tribe in Kamhua Noknu, Longkhaw, Niuasa, Mintong, and Niuanu villages in Longdig District from 9-16 March 2026. The fieldwork aimed at documenting and interpreting the traditional material culture of the Wancho community of Longding district to analyse the social, religious and symbolic significance of material objects of the Wancho tribe. A major outcome of the project will be the publication of a monograph, which will serve as an educational tool and help in transmitting traditional knowledge across generations. The informants and community experts who contributed to the field study included Banwang Losu, Jatwang Wangsa, and Wangjen Wangsu.



Orientation Program on Indigenous Language and Culture Preservation

On 11 April 2026, RCML conducted an in-reach orientation program at its campus for around 120 B.Ed. students and faculty from Denning College for Teacher Education, Tezu, sensitizing future educators to the critical role teachers can play in preserving the state's endangered indigenous languages. Administrative Officer Harsh Singh emphasized connecting learners with their cultural roots to make education more inclusive. Dr. M.S. Awan, Centre Head, RCML, presented RIWATCH's initiatives in revitalising the indigenous languages of Arunachal Pradesh and underscored that indigenous languages are living repositories of unique worldviews and traditional knowledge systems — increasingly threatened by limited domains of use, language shift, disrupted intergenerational transmission, and a declining base of native speakers. Having introduced to the cultural significance of linguistic diversity through interactive sessions and a screening of documentaries on the festivals and cultures of Arunachal Pradesh, the participants expressed appreciation for RIWATCH's documentation efforts and its commitment to addressing the genuine concerns of tribal communities.



In-Reach Orientation Program for B.Ed. students of Kasturba Gandhi Institute of Higher Education

On 12 April 2026, RCML conducted an in-reach orientation programme for 46 B.Ed. students and 3 faculty members from Kasturba Gandhi Institute of Higher Education, Kebali, with a distinctive emphasis on collaborative reflection through a structured Mandal activity. Participants were divided into three groups — Mishmi, Wancho, and Adi Mandal — each discussing what they had learned from RIWATCH beyond textbooks and how teachers can contribute to language and cultural preservation. The discussions yielded thoughtful responses: students spoke of the need to integrate local languages, traditions, and community knowledge into classroom practice, and observed that connecting lessons with lived cultural experiences nurtures respect for indigenous identity and builds a stronger sense of belonging among younger learners. Exposure to traditional artefacts, ways of life, and belief systems deepened participants' appreciation of Arunachal Pradesh's indigenous heritage, while RIWATCH's research, documentation work, and its natural campus setting made the experience both informative and reflective. The programme concluded with group presentations, reinforcing a shared understanding that education must draw from culture, community, and lived realities — not textbooks alone.



Workshop on Documentation and Authentication of Sajolang Language and Oral Tradition

A two-day workshop on Documentation of Sajolang (Miji) Oral Tradition and Language was held at RIWATCH from 27–28 April 2026, bringing together six resource persons from the Sajolang community of Bichom District — Dr Rijin Deru, Shri Leikharu Rijiju, Shri Solung Rijiju, Shri Sanjay Chongroju, Shri Brijung Rijiju, and Shri Richang Rijiju. The workshop achieved significant documentation milestones: authentication of 35 folktales in consultation with native speakers and traditional knowledge holders, elicitation of a lexical database of approximately 1,000 wordlists across semantic domains, compilation of 200 sentence lists for grammatical and syntactic analysis, and high-quality audio-visual recordings at the RIWATCH Recording Studio for phonetic analysis and digital archiving. Dr Rijin Deru, President of the Sajolang Indigenous Faith and Culture Preservation Society, commended RIWATCH's initiative in documenting the critically endangered oral traditions of the community, while Dr M.S. Awan, Centre Head, RCML, underscored that community participation remains central to the success of such preservation efforts. As a key outcome, a volume of Sajolang folktales is currently under preparation and expected to be published in the near future.



Visits of Emminent Personalities



1. Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik (Retd.),
Governor of Aruachal Pradesh



2. Shri Y.D. Thongchi, Padmashree and Sahitya Academy Awardee and President of APLS



3. Shri Pige Ligu,
Secretary, DIA



4. Shri Wangki Lowang (Minister for Environment & Forest)
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh



5. Dr. Yashwant Pathak
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at the College of Pharmacy, University of South Florida



6. Shri Sokhep Kri,
Director, DIA



7. Smti Parna Sahana, Under Secretary,
MDoNER.



8. Shri Amjad Tak, IAS
Commissioner of Education, Arunachal Pradesh

RCML Team

People behind promotion of Indigenous Languages



Vijay Swami
Project Director



Dr. Mechek Sampar Awan
Centre Head



Dr. Rotnojoy Reang
Research Officer



Ama Pinky Kago
Jr. Research Officer



Sapna Lingi
Field Coordinator cum
Research Assistant



Miju Mena
Research Assistant



Nabu Umbrey
Jr. Documentation Officer

Academic Consultants



Sokhep Kri
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Prof. Simon John
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Dr. Lisa Lomdak
Asst. Professor,
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Dr. Kombong Darang
Asst. Professor,
Mass Com. Dept. APU

About the Centre

Established on 27 May 2023, the RIWATCH Centre for Mother Languages (RCML) is dedicated to the preservation, promotion and revitalisation of the linguistic and cultural diversity of Arunachal Pradesh. The Centre works towards strengthening the literary development of indigenous mother languages and promoting greater awareness about the crucial role of native speakers in safeguarding linguistic heritage and sustaining intergenerational transmission.

Its ongoing project, titled “Promotion and Literary Development of Mother Languages of Arunachal Pradesh,” is supported by the North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong, through the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA), Government of Arunachal Pradesh, as the nodal agency. Through this initiative, the Centre continues to undertake field studies, workshops, publications and outreach activities aimed at preserving endangered languages and promoting community-based approaches to cultural sustainability.

To date, the Centre has published 34 books, conducted 11 field studies across 13 indigenous tribal communities of Arunachal Pradesh, and organised seven workshops and three seminars. It has also produced a range of audio-visual documentaries, children's pictorial glossaries, and collections of oral literature. Collectively, these initiatives have engaged over 2,000 indigenous community members, contributing meaningfully to the documentation, preservation and long-term digital archiving of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the region's indigenous communities.



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