

Centre for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR & Department of
Geography, Sikkim University Joint Seminar

on

***Voices from the Himalayas: Sustainability, Governance Issues and
Historical Memory***

03 December 2025, Sikkim University

Concept Note

As the Indian state's administrative capacities expand and penetrate deeper into the lives of borderland communities, these processes have impinged upon the role of traditional community institutions, which have played a crucial role in governing these societies, causing new challenges and raising questions about the adaptability of traditional institutions for modern governance. Another challenge is that of sustainable development. With the rise in tourist footfall in the Himalayan states and its environmental consequences and the challenges of accessing potable water despite the Himalayas being water-abundant, both the nature of development and the roles and capacities of community-led and state institutions deserve greater attention. Elsewhere, decades after the 1962 conflict between India and China and as memories fade, there is a need for preserving and archiving these memories. This panel is a culmination of the year-long research and fieldwork of scholars focusing on these specific subjects and offers both analyses as well as policy suggestions to tackle the challenges highlighted.

Programme

Time	Session Details
9.30-9.37 AM	Welcome Remarks Dr. Uttam Lal Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Sikkim University
9.38- 9.45 AM	Moderator's Remarks Dr Devendra Kumar Associate Fellow Centre for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR
9:46 - 10:06 AM	Speaker: Dr. Padma Ladon (Online), Post-Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR Title: Tourism and Traditional Livelihoods in Leh, Ladakh: A Case Study

10:07- 10:27AM	<p>Speaker: Dr. Sangay Lachenpa, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR</p> <p>Title: Governing the Margins: Shared Authority, Development, and the Dzumsa in India's Borderlands</p>
10:28-10:48 AM	<p>Speaker: Dr. Rinan Shah, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR</p> <p>Title: An Integrated Approach to Ascertain the Drivers of Domestic Water Scarcity in a Water-Rich Region</p>
10:49-11:09 AM	<p>Speaker: Dr. Rimi Tadu, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR</p> <p>Title: War on Our Land: Indigenous Oral Histories of 1962 War</p>
11:10-11:30 AM	<p>Speaker: Mohan Sharma, PhD Scholar, Dept of Geography, Sikkim University</p> <p>Title: Ecocultural cartographies of the Mishmi Takin: More-than-human Coexistence in the Idu-Mishmi Borderscape</p>
11:31-11:51 AM	<p>Speaker: Yogel Lepcha, PhD Scholar, Dept of Anthropology, Sikkim University</p> <p>Title: Hunting rituals, food and gender among the Rongs of Sikkim.</p>
11:52- 12:07 PM	<p>Discussant: Dr. Charisma K. Lepcha, Assistant Professor, Anthropology Department, Sikkim University</p>
12:08-12:35 PM	Q&A
12:36 - 12:50 PM	<p>Closing Remarks Dr Anand P Krishnan Centre for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR & Dr. Uttam Lal Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Sikkim University</p>