

# **“INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON INDIGENOUS SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT: INTERSECTING TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE, SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY AND SOCIO-CULTURAL PRACTICES”**

**Sponsored by NEC, Shillong**

<https://necouncil.gov.in/events/tourism-culture-and-sport>

## **1. Title of the Event**

International Seminar on Indigenous Science Development: Intersecting Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Scientific Inquiry and Socio-cultural Practices

## **2. Date and Venue**

Dates: 24–25 October 2025

Duration: Two Days

Venue: St. Edmund's College, Laitumkrah, Shillong, Meghalaya

## **3. Organizing Agency**

The seminar was organized by St. Edmund's College, Shillong, jointly by the Department of Environmental Science and the Department of Social Work, with financial assistance from the North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong.

## **4. NEC Support: Rs. 8.62 Lakhs**

## **5. Objectives of the Event**

The seminar was organized to provide an international platform for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange on Indigenous Science and its relevance in sustainable development. The major objectives were:

- To critically examine the relationship between Indigenous Knowledge Systems and modern scientific inquiry.
- To promote recognition, validation, and revitalization of Indigenous Science as an important source of knowledge.
- To encourage interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, Indigenous communities, policymakers, and educational institutions.
- To explore the role of traditional ecological knowledge in biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, sustainable resource management, healthcare, and food security.
- To promote ethical research practices, equitable knowledge sharing, and respect for Indigenous intellectual property rights.
- To strengthen research partnerships and encourage future collaborative projects at national and international levels.

## **6. Brief Proceedings and Major Highlights**

The seminar commenced with an inaugural session attended by distinguished guests, academicians, researchers, Indigenous knowledge holders, government officials, and students. The keynote addresses highlighted the importance of integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems with scientific research for sustainable development.

The programme featured keynote lectures by eminent experts, thematic panel discussions, oral paper presentations, poster sessions, interactive workshops, and dialogue

circles. Sessions focused on Indigenous epistemologies, environmental conservation, socio-cultural practices, policy frameworks, ethical research, intellectual property rights, and education.

Participants actively engaged in discussions and exchanged experiences, research findings, and best practices from different parts of India and abroad. Interactive workshops and networking sessions encouraged collaboration between researchers and Indigenous communities. Cultural presentations showcasing Indigenous traditions further enriched the seminar and emphasized the significance of preserving cultural heritage.

The seminar concluded with a valedictory session, presentation of recommendations, distribution of certificates, and a vote of thanks.

### **Major Highlights:**

- International participation from scholars and Indigenous knowledge holders.
- Keynote lectures by renowned experts.
- Technical paper and poster presentations.
- Interactive workshops and dialogue sessions.
- Cultural performances showcasing Indigenous traditions.
- Productive networking leading to future collaborative initiatives.

### **Participants**

The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- Indigenous knowledge holders, elders, and community leaders.
- Faculty members, scientists, researchers, and academicians.
- Students and research scholars from various universities.
- Representatives from government departments and policy institutions.
- NGOs, community-based organizations, and development agencies.
- National and international participants associated with Indigenous studies and environmental research.

**Total Participants:** (Approximately 350 participants attended the seminar through both offline and online modes, making it a vibrant platform for interdisciplinary learning and collaboration)

## **7. Outcomes/Impact of the Event**

The seminar significantly enhanced awareness regarding the value of Indigenous Science and its contribution to sustainable development. Participants gained a deeper understanding of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and its relevance in addressing climate change, biodiversity conservation, healthcare, education, and environmental governance.

The event strengthened collaboration among universities, research institutions, Indigenous communities, and policymakers, leading to the development of new research networks and partnerships. It also encouraged ethical knowledge exchange, promoted respect for Indigenous intellectual property, and generated valuable recommendations for integrating Indigenous Science into policy, education, and research.

The seminar contributed to strengthening the recognition of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and highlighted the importance of preserving cultural heritage while addressing contemporary environmental and social challenges.



**Panel Discussion**



**Panel discussion on Indigenous Science, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders**



**Valedictory program**



**Participants and dignitaries of the Indigenous Science programme during the inaugural session**



**Keynote speaker- Ms. Ridhima Pandey, Climate Activist**