Digi-Tribidentity conference concludes at RGU

RONO HILLS, 3 Nov: The two-day interdisciplinary national conference, 'Digi-Tribidentity 2026', on the theme 'Digital Frontiers and Indigenous Voices: Navigating Tribal Identity in the Age of Social Media', concluded at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) here on Tuesday.

Conducted in the blended mode, the conference attracted more than 100 registered participants, with around 75 attending physically on the first day and approximately 50 participating physically on the second day. A total of 38 research papers were presented, comprising 17 offline and 21 online presentations.

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Digi-Tribidentity conference ...



(From P-1) The conference was organised by the mass communication department of RGU, in collaboration with the mass communication department of Saint Claret College, Ziro (SCCZ), with support from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong (Meghalaya).

The conference featured seven technical sessions, four invited talks and a round-table discussion, providing an interdisciplinary platform to examine indigenous identity, cultural preservation, traditional knowledge systems, indigenous language preservation, digital archiving, artificial intelligence, social media, environmental communication, regional cinema and digital representation.

The sessions facilitated academic exchange among participants from around 14 institutions.

The technical sessions were chaired by academicians and professionals from various institutions, including Prof Ravindra Kumar Vermula, Prof Irene Lalruatkimi, Prof Mohammad Fariyad, Dr Manoj Deori, Prof Uttam Kumar Pegu, BB Sharma, Prof Abhijit Bora, Prof Manash Pratim Goswami, Prof Charvak, Prof Sanjeev Banawat, and Prof Joya Chakraborty.

The sessions encouraged scholarly engagement with emerging digital technologies and their implications for indigenous communities and cultural representation.

A round-table discussion on 'Towards an Ethical Digital Future for Tribal Northeast India' was chaired by Prof Ravindra Kumar Vermula. The discussion brought together perspectives from academia, media and social media, with the participation of SCCZ Principal Dr Fr Allwyn Mendoz, Tezpur University Mass Communication HoD Dr Manoj Deori, former All India Radio, Imphal director BB Sharma, Karnal (Haryana)-based Pandit Chiranjilal Sharma Government College Mass Communication HoD Dr Rashmi Singh, and social media influencer Geyin Miyu.

The discussion explored the opportunities and challenges associated with digital representation, cultural identity and the ethical use of digital platforms in the context of indigenous communities.

Addressing the valedictory session, Prof Ravindra Kumar Vermula appreciated the participation of scholars and acknowledged the quality of the research papers presented. Prof Mohammad Fariyad described the conference theme as timely and significant, stressing the need for "continued academic engagement with digital media and indigenous identity."

Prof Uttam Kumar Pegu encouraged emerging researchers to participate in academic forums and use feedback and critical reviews constructively to strengthen their research.