

# Nagaland Post

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## TGOU national seminar & photographic exhibition



Chief guest and others during TGOU national seminar and photographic exhibition at Dimapur, Friday. (NP)

*Staff Reporter*

**DIMAPUR, FEB 5 (NPN):** Two-day seminar and photographic exhibition on "Eastern Himalayan Domestic Architecture in India's North East" commenced Friday at Hotel Acacia, Dimapur.

The seminar and photographic exhibition is organized by The Global Open University (TGOU), Dimapur, Nagaland in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), New Delhi, and the Society for Cultural Heritage for North East India.

The two days event is organized a purpose to draw the attention of the intelligentsia of the region to rethink on archaeology, its importance in contemporary times and to promote cultural awareness on the vital issue of sustainability of the traditional culture and heritage, as reflected in the domestic architecture of the unique north eastern region of India.

Speaking as on the first day of the seminar as chief guest, TGOU chancellor, T.N. Mannen, IAS (ret'd) presented

a "layman's perspective" to architecture in relation to the theme of the seminar.

He described architecture as a societal product according to the needs of the people, an aesthetic expression to communicate quality and meaning and added that the "styles" of architecture also depends on the conceptualization and the time-frame.

Describing the north eastern region as "basically tribal societies" and further divided into small tribal or sub-tribal groupings, he opined that architecture in the region was not "large, grandeur but rather domestic".

Citing example of the Naga morung structure and its significance, he said that Naga culture is rich in bio-diversity and thus, domestic architecture was also rich. However, with time and modern technological change, Mannen lamented that it has led to the "disappearance" of traditional architecture.

Stating that the "uniqueness" of Naga society was related to "our" traditional structures upon which "our,"

identity was based, Mannen called upon the Nagas to preserve and create awareness on the same.

He then "our" main concern now should be as to how best Nagas could create awareness, to protect and preserve "our" age old traditional indigenous technologies. Mannen added that it was essential to make detailed systematic documentations for each tribe and community.

Citing that there was potential for a tremendous tourism industry taking into regard the architecture, he said that there should be an effort of promotion alongside preservation of traditional architecture.

The chief guest said the promotion and presentation of different domestic architectures could be done by improving the available local materials, traditional technologies and the design and technique of construction to give a unique distinctive architectural pattern by infusing the modern advanced technological knowledge.

He concluded by en-

couraging the youth to be proud of "our" forefathers and indigenous technology.

Guest of honour, Dr. O.C. Handa, D. Lit stressed that "traditional style of living should be followed with due consideration to modernity".

Other speakers like Dr. Heidi Me. Tacier, Art Historian, Switzerland encouraged the delegation to empower the richness and embodied knowledge and Superintending Archaeologist, ASI, Guwahati Circle Dr. Milan Chauley spoke on the "common patterns of architecture" amongst the north eastern states of India.

Earlier, TGOU vice chancellor, Dr. H.N Dutta, warmly welcomed and felicitated the distinguished panel of guests. He further requested the participants presenting their papers in the seminar to submit their papers to be published as part of the proceedings of the seminar.

A photographic exhibition on the theme of the seminar was also inaugurated at the conference hall of tourist lodge, Dimapur, displaying the rich traditional architecture. The photographic exhibition will be kept open for both days for all sections of people.

On both the days, papers will be presented to cover different aspects of "domestic architecture" of the Eastern Himalayan region, covering the states of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Assam, Mizoram and Darjeeling in a pan-Indian context.