

**Kiranti Khambu Rai Sanskritik Sansthan**  
**Annual Central Committee Meeting, November 27, 2022**

**OVERVIEW**

**K**iranti Khambu Rai Sanskritik Sansthan, an association of Khambu Rai of Darjeeling hills and plains of North Bengal, however, following the introduction of new constitution of KKRSS, it has given all the privileges to expand Pan-India or national level, which KKRSS will have to take initiative seriously in coming days. Currently, one of the primary task of KKRSS central committee is to implement new constitution at the grass-root level. Primarily, it is very important to understand every portfolio holder of KKRSS to comprehend the objectives of constitution precisely, only then, implementation of constitution at the grass-root level is possible. It is also emphasized to make the existing *Sakhas* very active in order to make a strong central committee for the unity of the overall Khambu Rai community. Sakha is the root of the KKRSS which need to be given importance to strengthen it.

The current body of Central committee was officially elected on September 19, 2021, under the expert supervision of Shri Pranay Rai, president of Election committee, president of Constitution Drafting committee, Legal Advisor of KKRSS. Election committee was setup to elect Central committee democratically and transparently, 12 member's election committee was comprised of founder members and distinguished members of KKRSS from across the hills and plains of North Bengal.

For the immense contribution of Shri Pranay Rai towards the Khambu Rai community, such as the introduction of the new KKRSS constitution and set the trend for the free and fair election of central committee. KKRSS is highly obliged and decided to felicitate him officially on November 27, 2022.

**VISION AND OBJECTIVES:**

The primary objective of KKRSS has always been the preservation and upliftment of Khambu Rai culture and its cultural values, followed by acquiring tribal status for the Khambu Rai community. Given the significance of the issue of tribal status, a committee led by Shri M. S. Rai was formed within 14 days of the formation of the newly elected body of the KKRSS to pursue Schedule Tribe status. There have been numerous Meeting on ST issues held in Darjeeling, however, we have kept it confidential as it is very sensitive matter, for which Tribal Committee president Shri M. S. Rai will have details on his report today. In my opinion, only the Tribal issue will unite Khambu people as one in India.

The Central Committee has already started communicating with the Government of West Bengal, primarily for:

1. Introduction of Khambu Language (Bantawa) in primary level of Darjeeling hill's schools.
2. Government holiday in Khambu Rai festival Udauli or Uvauli.
3. Recognition of Khambu heritage site in Darjeeling hills.
4. New chairman for Khambu Rai Development Board.

## **Development Board:**

Memorandum has already submitted personally to Hon'ble Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Hon'be Minister Aroop Biswas, for a new Chairman of Khambu Rai Board, during the visit in Darjeeling. KKRSS has also sent emails/fax for the same. Mainly because of, Khambu Rai Development Board has also become one of the important issue for Central committee. During the last few years, functioning of Khambu Rai Development Board has impacted negatively to our organization and among the members of KKRSS at grass-root level, subsequently in collection of subscription. General members of KKRSS have been complaining against the Development Board and strongly demanding that it take appropriate action, which compelled KKRSS to act accordingly.

## **Website:**

Now, to cope with the current situation and information technology, KKRSS has launched its own website: [www.kkrss.org](http://www.kkrss.org) in May 2022. Where all the information and activities of KKRSS are updated regularly. Moreover, due to lack of technical manpower, it has not been fully utilized. Anything about KKRSS, currently, it is available at our website and it is fully functional.

## **Namza:**

It is also important to highlight on Namza, an identity for Mangmas and Mangpas. To distinguished our Mangmas and Mangpas from others, it is important to symbolize Namza as distinct identity of Khambu Mangma or Mangpa. So far, Central committee has already distributed over 62 Namza to Mangmas and Mangpas from across Darjeeling hills.

## **Four Books are released:**

In recent past, KKRSS has been able to released 4 books related to Khambu Rai culture and people.

1. *Bantawa Dictionary* by Late Mani Kumar Rai of Sitong, under Kurseong subdivision.
2. *Limchibung* by Shri Madan Thulung from Chulima under Bijanbari block.
3. *Kirati lok kathaharu* (collections folk tales) by Shri M. C. Rai from Rimbik under Bijanbari block and
4. *Nakima* (Chamling words meaning) by Shri Birendra Chamling from Rimbik under Bijanbari Block.

## **Felicitation:**

KKRSS has felicitated distinguished eight Khambus, who have contributed to Khambu Rai community and performed distinguished works in our society at large, the felicitation program was held on May 7, 2022 during the celebration of Uvauli at Chowrasta. They are:

1. Dr. Sujata Rani Rai, Darjeeling, Literature
2. Dr. C. K. Rai, Darjeeling, Nepali literature
3. Miss Minchama Rai, Mirik on Nepali Music.
4. Shri Prem Kumar Rai, Majuwa, Headmaster in remote hills
5. Miss Shanti Rai, Teesta Valley, for her Social service at river Teesta
6. Smt. Samikcha Rai, Kalimpong, Research scholar on Shamanism.
7. Shri Prithman Rai, Goke, for drafting Bantawa Language syllabus upto class 12 in Sikkim.
8. Smt. Deurali Rai, Dharan, Nepal, first Khambu woman who conquered the Mount Everest.

## **ACTIVITIES ON PROGRESS:**

### **Sandewa Title:**

To honor the distinguished Raipas for their contributions, KKRSS has decided to confer Sandewa Title. KKRSS has already passed the resolution for the same, a committee will be setup for the selection process. KKRSS has also decided to felicitate Khambu Research scholars.

### **Banwata Syllabus:**

KKRSS is committed to implement Khambu Rai Bantawa language in Primary level. Accordingly, Syllabus of Bantawa language upto class IV, is likely to be ready shortly. Shri Prithman Rai, from Goke, who has experienced of developing Bantawa language Syllabus upto class 12 in Sikkim, has assured us to provide Syllabus for primary level during our Meeting at his residence on August 2022.

### **Khambu Heritage Site:**

Search of Khambu Heritage site in Darjeeling hills is currently going on. It is basically to symbolize the culture of Khambu Rai and its existence in the Darjeeling hills. KKRSS is solemnly looking for a site, a place which depicts or reflects the Khambu distinctiveness by nature. A delegation of KKRSS has already visited Khalelung, near Labda Mangpoo. The next is schedule to visit Golma Raja Golma Rani in Sitong, under Kurseong sub-division, anytime soon.

### **Events on hand:**

Archery competition, Sili Utsav with Khambu Fashion show and Khambu Music are also being processed, had there been no lack of fund, would have been already held in October 2022.

### **Traditional Attire Suggestion Committee:**

Khambu Rai Traditional Attire (Dress) Suggestion Committee is being setup for uniformity of Khambu attire in Darjeeling and Sikkim. Committee will suggest appropriate traditional Khambu dress for the Khambu Rai people residing in Darjeeling hills. Resolution to form a suggestion committee is already passed in last Central Committee meeting held at GDNS on August 21, 2022.

## **Chronological activities of central committee following its election on September 19, 2021:**

### **1. Election of Central Committee:**

September 19, 2021: Current body of Central committee of KKRSS (Kiranti Khambu Rai Sanskritik Sansthan) was elected on September 19, 2021. All the Central Committee members of KKRSS from across the Darjeeling hills and plains/Tarai were present during the elections

day, 72 Central Committee members out of total 108 Central Committee members were present during the election day.

The election committee comprised of 12 members of KKRSS founders and distinguished members headed by legal advisor Shri Pranay Rai, conducted the CC election democratically and transparently for Core Central committee group. Dr. Pratap Singh Rai, Shri Manikumar Rai, Shri Udhyan Rai, Shri Anup Rai were elected as President, Vice President, General Secretary, and Treasurer of KKRSS Central Committee core group respectively.

## **2. Formation of three Committees:**

1. KKRSS Tribal committee
2. Finance Committee and
3. Handing/Taking over committee

October 3, 2021: After 14 days following the formation of the Central Committee on September 19, 2021, the first central committee meeting was held at GDNS library hall. 43 Central committee members were present from across the Darjeeling hills and plains. The quorum of the Meeting was 24 members. Founder members Shri Hemu Rai, Shri Bharat Prakash Rai, Shri Bijay Kumar Rai, Shri Gajendra Rai and Shri Kailash Rai were also present in the first Central committee meeting.

The president of Drafting committee of Constitution and legal advisor of KKRSS, Shri Pranay Rai, conducted the formation of three committees, viz.

1. KKRSS Tribal committee, unanimously elected Shri M. S. Rai as head of committee
2. Finance Committee, Shri Gazendra Rai was unanimously elected as president.
3. Handing/Taking over committee. Shri Santosh Rai was unanimously elected as the president.

## **3. Formation of Mirik Subdivision Committee:**

November 13, 2021: Mirik Chetriya samity was dormant for a long time, consequently, it was decided to dissolve unanimously as per new constitution of KKRSS, following which senior members of Mirik KKRSS formed the coordinating committee to form the new Mirik Subdivision committee. Accordingly, KKRSS Central committee approved the Mirik coordinating committee and granted permission to initiate for the formation of Mirik Subdivision committee.

On November 13, 2021, the Mirik Subdivision Committee was formed in Mirik in the presence of the president of the Constitution Drafting Committee, legal advisor Shri Pranay Rai, and Central Committee members. Shri R. K. Rai was unanimously elected as president of the Mirik Subdivision Committee.

#### **4. Formation of total GP and Municipality ward:**

As per the new constitution of KKRSS, the formation of Gram Panchayat, Block, Subdivision, District Committee, and Central Committee are musts, as well as Municipality Ward Committees. Existing sakhas of the KKRSS will remain as they are, and the sakhas within the Gram Panchayat region will form the particular GP committee.

Accordingly, KKRSS has formed only 30 GP out of a total of 110 GP. Bijanbari block has the highest GP formation rate, while Kalimpong district has none. Kurseong and Mirik subdivisions must also act quickly on the formation of GP.

The total number of municipal wards in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts is 84. Only Darjeeling Municipality has formed 18 ward committees from 32 wards. No other municipal ward committee (Kalimpong, Kurseong, and Mirik) is formed yet.

#### **5. KKRSS extends Tribute and Honour to**

**-Mangpa Madan Rai (Factu):**

**-Martyr Satyapal Rai**

**-Martyr Bhupen Rai**

November 14, 2021: The distinguished and senior Mangpa of Khambu Rai, who has contributed huge services to the Khambu Rai community and is the most prominent Mangpa of Khambu Rai, Mangpa Madan Rai (Factu), passed away on November 12, 2021, at the age of 81.

A KKRSS delegation led by Shri Dipen Rai, Joint Secretary, paid tribute and honoured Late Mangpa Madan Rai at his residence.

KKRSS extended its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and attended the funeral ceremony.

KKRSS also attended the funeral procession and offered tribute to martyr Satyapal Rai, Takhdah, who was martyred during a helicopter crash, along with Army General and martyr Bhupen Rai, Happy Valley, Darjeeling, who was martyred in Manipur's natural disaster.

#### **6. Second Central Committee Meeting Held:**

November 20, 2021: Second Central Committee meeting was held at Khambu Rai Development Board office. The meeting was important to pass various Resolutions in favour of Central committee. Following the formation of KKRSS Central committee, it was decided that any decision of KKRSS should be unanimous and adopt the Resolution in CC meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Col. J. D. Rai and unanimously decided to pass 14 Resolutions as presented by Central Committee. The 14 Resolutions are as follows:

(1). Udauli 2021 was decided to be held on December 11, 2021 (2). Yeledong 2021 decided to observe. (3). Decided to print Calender (4). Flag and certificate for deceased members (5). Sandewa title for Raipas (6). Namza: official for Mangmas and Mangpas (7). Retail outlets of Khambu attire and accessories at central office (8). Formation of Legal team (9). Repairing of CC office (10). Vehicle fare for official visit (11). Handover of Account of Darjeeling subdivision committee to Darjeeling District committee. (12). Submission of subscription directly to Central Office. (13). Translation of constitution in Nepali. (14). Increment of salary of Head Mangma of Mahakal Dara.

## **7. Siliguri Sub-Division Committee Constituted:**

January 12, 2022: KKRSS Siliguri subdivision committee was successfully constituted in a meeting held at Sahid Nagar community hall, Siliguri. Members of KKRSS from all the Sakhas of Siliguri such as Bagdogra, Khoprail, Panitanki, Darjeeling-more, Sahid Nagar etc. were actively participated. The meeting was presided over by Shri Amar Kumar Rai and Chief Guest was the president of Central Committee Dr. Pratap Singh Rai. It was unanimously decided to form a Siliguri Subdivision committee, accordingly, Siliguri Subdivision committee consisting of 12 members were unanimously elected during the Meeting. All elected members were sworn in immediately after the elections in presence of Central committee members.

SILIGURI SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE consisted of the following portfolio holders:

PRESIDENT:

Shri Krishna Bantawa Rai, Khoprail

VICE PRESIDENT:

Shri Indra Bahadur Rai, Bagdogra

SECRETARY:

Shri Bikram Rai, Sahid Nagar

JOINT SECRETARY:

Shri Tilak Rai, Khoprail

TREASURER:

Shri Amar Kumar Rai, Darjeeling-More

## **8. Kirat New Year - Yeledong 5082 observed following Covid-norms:**

January 15, 2022: Members of KKRSS Central committee, Bijanbari block, Sukia block and Darjeeling Municipality celebrated the Kirat New Year YELEDONG 5082 on the banks of the river Rangit near *Jamune*. The ritual was performed by Mangma Shobha Rai. About 150 KKRSS members were present who joined in the program and welcomed the arrival of the New Kirat Year.

On the same occasion, a Khambu ritual called YASANWA-DOSANWA is also observed, where it is worshiped to wash away Curses and for the forgiveness of unintentional sins.

Yeledong 5082 was observed following the government guidelines, only the few portfolio holders of the Central Committee, Bijanbari Block, Sukiya Block and Darjeeling Municipality were able to attend.

## **8. KKRSS Constitution in Nepali:**

March 1, 2022: The original constitution of KKRSS is written in English and was drafted and compiled by Shri Pranay Rai, president of the Constitution Drafting Committee and Legal Advisor of KKRSS.

However, the average Khambu Rais person has requested that the Constitution be written in Nepali for ease of comprehension. Therefore, the KKRSS central committee had decided to translate into Nepali, and accordingly, the responsibility was given to Shri Bijay Rai, a founder member of the KKRSS. Following which, Shri Bijay Rai has submitted a Nepali version of the Constitution, which is also printed as per

## **9. KKRSS Central Office Renovated:**

KKRSS Central office, located at the old supermarket, Darjeeling has been renovated to some extent. The fund for the office renovated was incurred by General Secretary and Treasurer, Central committee.

## **9. KKRSS Celebrates Sakela Uvauli 2022:**

May 7, 2022: KKRSS has successfully conducted the Festival of Uvauli 2022 at Chowrasta on May 7, 2022. The entire Khambu people of the Darjeeling Hills participated in the event. Mangma and Mangpa from across the hills were present; over 50 Mangma and Mangpa participated in the Uvauli 2022 and performed their rituals during the occasion. A separate mothan was established in Chowrasta to carry out the rituals for Mangmas and Mangpas. The chief guest of the event was Shri Amar Singh Rai, a former MLA of Darjeeling.

A Khambu cultural programme was displayed along with Khambu sili and Khambu music. Around eight Sili groups from the hills and plains took part in the Sakela Udauli 2022. A meal was provided to all who were present and visited the event.

There were 14 groups of KKRSS volunteers to manage the event.

## **10. KKRSS releases the Book 'Nakima' -Chamling words meaning:**

July 31, 2022: *Nakima*, a book published by KKRSS, was officially launched at the Nepali Sahitya Sammelan, Sudhapa Hall, Darjeeling, by Dr. Sujata Rani Rai, the chief guest. The author of the book Mr. Birendra Chamling is a teacher and a resident of Rimbik Dara gaon.

## **11. The Mangma-Mangpa Advisory Council constituted:**

August 8, 2022: In the presence of Dr. Pratap Singh Rai, president of the KKRSS, an advisory council was constituted for mangpas and mangmas at the BSMI School, Darjeeling.

The Mangma-Mangpa Advisory Council unanimously elected Mangpa Kishor Chamling, a Namring resident, as Chief Coordinator, and Mangpa Jagat Bahing Rai, a Mangpu Labda resident, as Deputy Coordinator.

It was also inaugurated BSMI school premises as the Sili Training Center, Archery Training and Rai Language and Culture Study Center.

## 12. Handed over old pending Account:

August 21, 2022: KKRSS's longstanding efforts of resolving old pending accounts was successfully carried out. It was held in the GDNS library hall under the chairmanship of Dr. Pratap Singh Rai. In presence of KKRSS, the chief patron, Shri CR Rai, founding member Shri Hemu Rai, as well as the executive members of the KKRSS, Bagdogra, Mirik, Kurseong, Darjeeling District Committee and Central Committee officials, the accounts and files were officially handed over to Shri Anup Rai, Treasurer, Central committee, by former Treasurer Smt. Mamata Rai. The president of the Handing Over Committee, Shri Santosh Rai, could not attend the meeting due to health problems, and Shri Anup Rai acted on his behalf. Mrs. Mamata Rai, former treasurer, was present on behalf of the former Central Committee.

Mrs. Mamta Rai presented the documents, such as financial details of the last five years (2015-2020), the KKRSS registration certificate, the SBI bank chq. book, and the audited account, in the meeting, in the presence of everyone. The meeting has decided that the handed-over documents will be approved by the meeting of the Central Committee only after the discussion and recommendation of Shri Anup Rai, Treasurer, of the Central Committee.

## 13. Dr. Samuel Rai to write comprehensive Report on Khambu Rais:

October 31, 2022: A delegation of five CC members (Shri MS Rai, Shri Udhyan Rai, Shri Kishor Rai Muksu, Shri Philip Rai), headed by Dr. Pratap Singh Rai met Dr. Samuel Rai at his residence in Mangpoo. Dr. Samuel Rai has already contributed a book on Khambu Rai called "The Saga of Kirati Khambu Rais", justifying the all criteria as per Schedule Tribe status in India. Thereby, delegation has requested Dr. Samuel to rewrite a complete Report on Khambu Rais, incorporating all the criteria as per ST status in India, for which, Dr. Samuel has fully assured the delegation for the same.

## 14. Formation of Mahakal Dara Mangkhim Committee:

November 6, 2022: A meeting was held, and the Adhoc Mahakal Dara Mangkhim Committee became the full Mahakal Dara Mangkhim Committee. The meeting was presided over by Shri Kishore Rai (Mugsu). Founder Member Shri Hemu Rai, former working president Colonel JD Rai, and members from sakhas around Darjeeling participated in the meeting.



**General Secretary**  
**Kiranti Khambu (Rai)**  
**Sanskritik Sansthan**  
**Central Committee, Darjeeling**

---

*A short report by General Secretary, KKRSS, for the submission in Annual Central Committee meeting held on November 27, 2022, in Darjeeling.*