

Kiranti Khambu Rai Sanskritik Sansthan Central Committee Meeting, April 16, 2023

OVERVIEW

The last KKRSS Central committee meeting was held on November 27, 2022. Members from across the hills and plains were actively participated and there was very good interaction among the KKRSS members and also submitted their reports of respective regions.

With the experiences of last one year, we have witnessed that most of the KKRSS *sakhas* have been adversely affected by many factors, such as largely by the negative activities of Development board and also by the inefficiencies of Central committee.

Now, it is high time for KKRSS Central committee to think working at higher level for the betterment of Khambu Rai community, we need to remain constant in touch with Kolkata for overall issues of Khambu community and Delhi for Tribal Status for the Khambu Rai community. Activities at higher level by the Central committee, only then shall it inspire / motivate *Sakhas* at ground level, which will definitely activate all dormant *Sakhas* currently visible at ground level.

Realizing these facts, thereby, we have already initiated correspondents with the state government, soliciting for implementation for Khambu Rai languages at primary school level, Holiday in Khambu Rai festival or New year. We have also submitted numerous letters requesting for the rightful function of the Development Board to the concerned departments and ministers. We are receiving positive responses but yet to see the concrete results of these efforts from the government.

We are also looking for the natural landscape to symbolize the culture of Khambu Rai and its existence in the Darjeeling hills, a place which depicts or reflects the Khambu distinctiveness by nature. which we will declare as our own Khambu Rai heritage site in the Darjeeling hills. But due to a lack of funds, we have not been able to achieve what we had hoped for.

KKRSS ACTIVITIES SINCE DECEMBER 2022 TO APRIL 2023:

1. Sakela Udhauli 2022

December 10, 2022: *Sakela Udhauli 2022* was celebrated as usual by central committee at *Sinchel Mothan* on December 10, 2022. There were 14 *Sakhas* around Darjeeling town who were involved in organizing and celebrating *Sakela Udhauli 2022*. It was also witnessed the overwhelming participation of members during the festival. During the occasion three distinguished Khambu members were felicitated, they are: 1. Sudhir Rai, 2. Sonu Rai and 3. Dinesh Rai, for their contribution in music fields. Who have also contributed to KKRSS, directly or indirectly.

2. Participated in Silver Jubilee ceremony of Dooars Kirat Rai Samaj Saskriti Sahitya Samity

December 25, 2022: The team of KKRSS headed KKRSS President Dr. Pratap Singh Rai and General Secretary participated in the Silver Jubilee ceremony and Sakela 2022 at Alipurduar on December 25, 2022. It was wonderfully organized the event, distinctively signifying the Khambu cultures in the plains of North Bengal. Moreover, a book “Sumnima” was released on

the occasion, a must read for every Khambu Rai of Darjeeling hills, particularly an article “Kirat Rai Bhasaharu” by Dr. Netramani Dumi Rai.

3. Publication of Calendar 2023

This year too KKRSS has published Calendar 2023 but less in quantity, therefore, this year we could not send to all the *Sakhas* as last years. Sadly, we are yet to collect balance dues of last year Calendar too from many *Sakhas*.

4. Scan of old files

On Saturday, January 7, 2023, in the presence of the Central Committee and Treasurer, Mr. Anup Rai, the files from the old drawers in the Central Office were opened. The documents contained in it are noted in sequence by Treasurer Mr. Anup Rai.

Mr. Santhosh Rai, the president of the handover-takeover committee, was unwell; thereby, responsibilities of the committee were given to Mr. Anup Rai at the CC meeting held on August 21, 2022.

5. Lizahill visit

January 10, 2023: KKRSS General Secretary along with its team visited Lizahill for the celebration of *Sakela Udhauli* and *Yasawa Dosawa* organized by Lizahill *Sakha* under Bijanbari Block. *Yasawa Dosawa* rituals were performed by Mangpas during the occasion. The KKRSS team witnessed the event and interacted with the *Sakhas* portfolio holders regarding the various KKRSS issues. The event was well organized under the leadership of Shri Madan Thulung Rai.

6. KKRSS visit to Tode-Tangta Sakha

January 14, 2023: Following the invitation of the Tode-Tangta *Sakha*, the members of the KKRSS Central Committee, including the General Secretary, Darjeeling District Secretary Shri Kishor Mukshu, Kalimpong District Vice president Shri Shankamani Rai and CC member Mr. Diwas Rai, participated in the programme of the *sakha*, which is located in the remotest part of the Darjeeling Hills.

KKRSS Tode-Tangta *Sakha* is found to have maintained the tradition of celebrating the *Maghe* festival. Since it is located in a far-off and remote area, the presence of Khambu people is usually less; thereby, KKRSS Tode-Tangta *Sakha* practices the all-religion programme, where the heads of all religions and castes, as well as the dignitaries of the place, are invited, as was evident in the programme organised by KKRSS Tode-Tangta *Sakha*.

On the occasion of the event, greetings of Kiranti New Year Yeledong 5083 were exchanged.

In the program, all the members of *sakha* was curious about the actions taken by the Central Committee on the Scheduled Tribes issue, so the General Secretary presented the details of the actions taken by the Central Committee so far on this issue and emphasized the need to strengthen Khambu unity and the formation of Gram Panchayat committee.

7. KKRSS celebrated Yeledong 5083 at Jamune

January 15, 2023: As always, this time also under the initiative of the Central Committee, the *Sakhas* of Rangit I, II and Som Singtam Gram GP within Jamune Takvar Valley celebrated *Yeledong* 5083 in a grand manner. Similarly, *Sakhas* of Bijanbari Block also enthusiastically participated in the program and provided financial support as always. *Sakhas* under Bijanbari Block Committee were headed by Shri Mandal Rai. The coordinator of the program was Mr. Sumendra Rai and his team.

On this occasion, Mangma Shobha Rai and his assistant Mangpa performed the *puja* for the well being of all Khambu Rais. *Yasawa Dosawa* ceremony was performed by Mangma Mangpa in Jamune river. The program was attended by about 300 Khambu Rais from *sakhas* under Takvar Valley and Pulbazar Goke region.

In order to celebrate *Kirati* New Year *Yeledong* every year, an ad hoc committee was formed by nominating three coordinators (Mr. Mandal Rai, Mr. Soomendra Rai and Mr. Kiran Rai) in the presence of the representatives of all present *sakhas* and the representatives of the central committee.

The nominated coordinators will be fully constituted 'Yeledong Festival Committee' by including two representatives of all the *sakhas* within the Gram Panchayat under Takvar Valley and Bijanbari Goke region. This fully constituted body of *Yeledong* Festival committee will permanently take the responsibility of celebrating *Kirat* New year or *Yeledong* every year.

8. Khalilung Diwas

February 25, 2023: *Khalilung diwas* was held at Khalilung, Labda Mongpoo, on February 25, 2023, by performing *Puja* by Mangpas at Khalilung. KKRSS president Dr. Pratap Singh Rai and Central Committee members were present. During the occasion Trial Archery competition was also held and prizes were distributed accordingly to the winners of competition.

9. KKRSS expresses condolences to the late Arun Rai

March 14, 2023: A team of KKRSS central committee members visited Alubari Rai *Gaon* and offered tribute to the late Arun Rai on behalf of the KKRSS. KKRSS also expressed its sympathy and condolences to the family of Arun Rai. Late Arun Rai, who was an integral part of the KKRSS working team. He used to be always there as and when KKRSS needed him. Always willing and eager to work for the Khambu community, late Arun Rai, ardent Khambu member, resident of Alubari Rai *Gaon*, Darjeeling, is an enormous loss to the Khambu community.

10. Meeting of Finance Committee

March 27, 2023: A meeting of the Finance Committee was held at the CC office in Supermarket, presided over by Gazendra Rai. The meeting has unanimously decided to implement new guidelines prepared by Finance President Gazendra Rai on the financial issues of KKRSS. The meeting also decided to form a working finance committee consisting of Shri Gazendra Rai, Dr. Pratap Singh Rai, Shri Kishor Rai, Shri Udhyan Rai, Shri Anup Rai, and Smt. Nirupa Rai.

11. Formation of Traditional Attire Suggestion Committee

April 7, 2023: Ah hoc Khambu Rai Traditional Attire Suggestion Committee has been setup on April 7, 2023, in order to bring uniformity of Khambu attire in Darjeeling hills. The Committee will suggest appropriate traditional Khambu attire for the Khambu Rai people residing in Darjeeling hills, Tarai and Dooars and submit the final report to Central committee. The resolution to form a suggestion committee was passed in last Central Committee meeting held at GDNS on August 21, 2022. The committee is consisted of (i) Shri Balkrishna Rai, Manebhanjyang. (ii) Shri Mohen Rai, Lebong valley. (iii) Shri Manikumar Rai, Siliguri. (iv) Shri Prashant Thulung, Dooars. (v) Shri Kishor Rai Muksu, Darjeeling. (vi) Shri Udhyan Rai (Coordinator). The committee will take full shape following the meeting with Khambu Rai attire experts from all over the regions, such as Jalpaiguri, Mirik, Kurseong, Kalimpong, etc.

12. Formation of Bijanbari block committee via virtual meeting

Bijanbari block is one of the most active block of KKRSS, most of the Gram Panchayat committees have been formed under this block. However, there was vacant position of General Secretary since long, for which a meeting was required and we have been trying to hold the Bijanbari block committee meeting for last six months, but could not do so due to unavailability of time of executive body. Therefore, it was decided to hold meeting via Video conferencing on April 13, 2023, which was absolutely successful and unanimously decided to elect Shri Mandol Rai, as a General Secretary and Shri Gopal Rai, as an another Joint Secretary of Bijanbari block committee.

13. Events pending: Archery competition and Sili Utsav / Khambu Fashion show and Khambu Cultural & Musical show:

Since last year, we have been trying to organize Archery competition, *Sili Utsav* along with Khambu Fashion show and Khambu Cultural & Musical show. We have even issued Notification many times and tried our best to find sponsorship of the events but no Luck. Had there been no lack of fund, would have been already held by now.

Website:

Our website: www.kkrss.org is fully functional for last six months. One can easily find our activities and all our information through our website, which is updated regularly.

14. Formation of Sakela Udhauli Utsav Samiti

A committee is formed as *Sakela Udhauli Utsav Samiti 2023*, which will organize and manage a two-day festival at Chowrasta on May 13 and 14, 2023.



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