REPORT ON THE SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) BETWEEN SHYAM LAL COLLEGE (EVENING), UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, AND THE CENTRE FOR TRIBAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, FOLLOWED BY AN ACADEMIC TALK





Under the visionary leadership of Prof. Nachiketa Singh, Principal, Shyam Lal College (Evening), University of Delhi, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Centre for Tribal Studies (CTS), University of Delhi, on 5th November 2026. It was followed by academic talk organised by the North-East Cell of the college. The event marked an important milestone for the college and the North-East Cell, opening new possibilities for academic collaboration, research, cultural exchange, and student engagement.

The programme brought together distinguished academicians, faculty members, invited guests, and students to discuss tribal identity, cultural diversity, indigenous knowledge, and the importance of building meaningful connections across communities.

Dignitaries and Inaugural Address

The programme commenced with the felicitation of the Chief Guest, Prof. Soumendra M. Patnaik, Director, Centre for Tribal Studies; the Guest of Honour, Dr. Alana Golmei, Founder, Pann Nu Foundation; the Patron, Prof. Nachiketa Singh, Principal, Shyam Lal College; and Dr. Avitoli G. Zhimo, Joint Director, Centre for Tribal Studies.

The inaugural address was delivered by Prof. Nachiketa Singh, Principal, Shyam Lal College. He expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration and highlighted the opportunities the MoU would create for academic exchange and research. He appreciated the work of the Centre for Tribal Studies and emphasised the importance of an interdisciplinary approach, particularly the intersection of Political Science and Anthropology, in understanding tribal communities and their experiences.

Academic Talk by the Chief Guest



Prof. Soumendra M. Patnaik, Director, Centre for Tribal Studies, delivered an insightful address on the significance and objectives of the Centre. He emphasised the need for an India-centric understanding of tribal communities, moving beyond colonial approaches that have traditionally influenced their study.

He discussed the relationship between the self and the other and questioned the modern tendency to separate human beings from nature. Referring to this as "mistaken modernity", he explained how tribal communities have traditionally maintained a close and integrated relationship with the natural world. He stressed the importance of recognising this relationship while developing a deeper understanding of tribal societies.

He further explained that the Centre for Tribal Studies aims to provide an academic platform where members of different tribal communities, scholars, and students can exchange ideas and develop a shared understanding of their concerns. He highlighted the importance of recognising the intellectual contributions of tribal communities, preserving their social capital, and strengthening their sense of belonging.

Address by the Guest of Honour



The Guest of Honour, Dr. Alana Golmei, Founder, Pann Nu Foundation, delivered an engaging address on the importance of diversity, mutual understanding, and meaningful relationships across communities.

Comparing society to a mosaic and a rainbow, she explained that cultural differences should bring people together rather than divide them. She emphasised the importance of understanding individuals and their backgrounds instead of making assumptions based on their regions, languages, or cultural practices.

She encouraged students to move beyond stereotypical questions and engage in more thoughtful and respectful conversations. She highlighted how simple gestures, such as correctly pronouncing someone's name and showing genuine interest in their background, can create a sense of respect and belonging.

Sharing personal experiences, she explained how meaningful interactions and an understanding of different cultural backgrounds can bridge social gaps and strengthen relationships. She concluded by reminding the audience that although people may come from different districts, states, and cultural backgrounds, they now share the same campus, opportunities, and aspirations.

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and Future Collaborations





One of the most significant highlights of the programme was the formal signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Shyam Lal College (Evening), University of Delhi, and the Centre for Tribal Studies, University of Delhi. The MoU was signed by Prof. Nachiketa Singh, Principal, Shyam Lal College (Evening), and Prof. Soumendra M. Patnaik, Director, Centre for Tribal Studies, marking an important step towards strengthening academic and institutional relations.

Recognition of Previous Office Bearers

The programme also included a special recognition ceremony for the previous office bearers of the North-East Cell. Certificates of Appreciation were presented in recognition of their contributions, dedication, and efforts towards the society.

Anchoring and Vote of Thanks

The programme was anchored by Dr. Angela Gangmei, Co-Convenor, North-East Cell and the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Nehkholen Haokip, Associate Professor, Convener, North-East Cell, who expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests, college authorities, faculty members, and everyone who contributed to the successful organisation of the event.

Conclusion

The signing of the MoU with the Centre for Tribal Studies has opened new avenues for both faculty members and students of Shyam Lal College (Evening) for academic collaboration, research opportunities and cultural engagement.

More importantly, the event reinforced the importance of understanding tribal communities, respecting cultural diversity, and creating an inclusive academic environment. It also brought a renewed sense of responsibility for the North-East Cell to actively contribute towards the opportunities created through this collaboration.

The successful organisation of the programme was made possible through the guidance and support of the Principal, Convenor, Co-Convenor, Faculty members, and the active cooperation of the society's office bearers and members.


Shyam Lal College (Evening),
University of Delhi
in Collaboration with
Centre for Tribal Studies, University of Delhi
organises
Signing Ceremony of
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
Chief Guest
Time:
3 p.m.
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Delhi, Delhi, India
5, University Road, Faculty Of Science, University Enclave,
Delhi, Delhi 110007, India
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