

ANNOUNCEMENT

A REPORT ON THE SIXTH BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE COURSE ORGANIZED BY THE BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA AT GANGTOK, SIKKIM

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During February 3–7, 2025, the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) organized its sixth botanical nomenclature course at Gangtok (BSI-SHRC), Sikkim Himalayan Regional Centre, India. This academic activity was the result of a collaboration between the BSI-SHRC and Forest & Environment Dept., Government of Sikkim. The course was attended by seventy-one people from across India.

Ashiho A. Mao, Director of the BSI, was the convener of the course. Rajib Gogoi, Head of the BSI-SHRC, served as the organizing secretary, and his colleagues Franklin Benjamin and Monalisa Dey were co-organizing secretaries; they were assisted by Dr. Basant Kumar Singh, Dr. Geetamani Chhetri, Mr. Norbu Sherpa, Ms. Passangkit Lepcha, Mr. Brahmarshi Mandal, and Mr. Palzor Thendup Lepcha as facilitators; Gandhi served as the mentor of the course.

Prior to the commencement of the course, an inaugural programme, anchored by Ms. Pasangkit Lepcha and Dr. Basant Kumar Singh, was held; Gogoi gave the welcome speech, followed by remarks from Mao. Gandhi gave the Keynote talk. The event was graced by Dr. Pradeep Kumar IFS, PCCF & Secy, Forest & Environment Dept., Govt of Sikkim (Chief Guest), Dr. P. Senthil Kumar, IFS (APCCF, Sikkim), Dr. D.



Participants of the 2025 Plant Nomenclature course held at Gangtok (BSI-SHRC), Sikkim Himalayan Regional Centre, India (picture edited by: Daniel Becker, Harvard University Botany Libraries).

Manjunatha IFS (CWLW/CCF, Sikkim), and Dr Samuel Rai (Director, DCOMP, Mungpoo), and all of them emphasized the importance of learning and enhancing one's knowledge. Franklin Benjamin gave a vote of Thanks.

At the end of the course, a valedictory function event was held; all the course participants were given certificates. As a token of appreciation of his teaching the course, Gandhi was presented with a memento by the chief guest Dr. Satish Kumar (Vice-Chancellor, SRM University) and Gogoi. The other guests, who graced the occasion, were Mr. S. Elamurugannan, IFS (Conservator of Forest), Ms. Usha Lachungpa (retd.; principal chief research officer), and Mr. Manas Pratim Sarma (Asst. Director, PIB & R.N.U Head, Akashvani, Gangtok). All the guests spoke briefly about the course and conservation. Franklin Benjamin gave a vote of thanks. Some course attendees (e.g., Ms. Angelin Felicia, Ms. Aryama Mishra (also served as the 'Monitor' of the course), Mr. Kapil Kumar Kemprai, Mr. Rabishankar Sengupta, and Ms. Rekha Chappan) expressed their opinions on the course and mentioned that the course clarified several nomenclatural doubts they had before.