

# CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

## ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES

18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025

# ‘हिमाचल प्रदेश की सांस्कृतिक विरासत’

## वार्षिक व्याख्यान श्रृंखला

18 से 20 अगस्त 2025




**मुख्य वक्ता:**






**आयोजक: राजकीय महाविद्यालय धामी, स्थित 16 मील शिमला हि.प्र.**



### धामी कॉलेज में सांस्कृतिक विरासत पर हुआ व्याख्यान

शिमला। राजकीय महाविद्यालय धामी में हिमाचल की सांस्कृतिक विरासत विषय पर तीन दिवसीय वार्षिक व्याख्यान श्रृंखला सोमवार को शुरू हो गई। पहले दिन सोमवार को श्रीनिवास जोशी (संयोजन) अर्थात् एवं साहित्यकार और डॉ. सत्य नारायण स्नेही (सहायक प्राध्यापक, हिंदी विभाग, राजकीय महाविद्यालय टिबो) ने बतौर विषय विशेषज्ञ शिरकत की।

शिक्षक दिनेश शर्मा ने वक्ताओं का स्वागत किया। उन्होंने हिमाचल की लोक संस्कृति के संरक्षण के लिए किए गए कार्य और योगदान से विद्यार्थियों को अवगत कराया। डॉ. स्नेही ने लोक जीवन और लोक संस्कृति और श्रीनिवास जोशी ने हिमाचल की संस्कृति एवं



धामी कॉलेज में साहित्यकारों को सम्मानित करते हुए। स्रोत: स्कूल लोक संस्कृति पर विद्यार्थियों को किया गया जागरूक

भाषा विषय पर व्याख्यान दिया। प्राचार्य डॉ. जनेश कपूर ने ज्ञानकर्षण के लिए वक्ताओं का धन्यवाद किया। छात्रों

### छात्रों को आत्मसंवाद व प्रकृति संवाद के लिए प्रेरित किया



शिमला छात्र। धामी में हिमाचल की सांस्कृतिक विरासत विषय पर तीन दिवसीय वार्षिक व्याख्यान श्रृंखला सोमवार को शुरू हो गई। पहले दिन सोमवार को श्रीनिवास जोशी (संयोजन) अर्थात् एवं साहित्यकार और डॉ. सत्य नारायण स्नेही (सहायक प्राध्यापक, हिंदी विभाग, राजकीय महाविद्यालय टिबो) ने बतौर विषय विशेषज्ञ शिरकत की। शिक्षक दिनेश शर्मा ने वक्ताओं का स्वागत किया। उन्होंने हिमाचल की लोक संस्कृति के संरक्षण के लिए किए गए कार्य और योगदान से विद्यार्थियों को अवगत कराया। डॉ. स्नेही ने लोक जीवन और लोक संस्कृति और श्रीनिवास जोशी ने हिमाचल की संस्कृति एवं भाषा विषय पर व्याख्यान दिया। प्राचार्य डॉ. जनेश कपूर ने ज्ञानकर्षण के लिए वक्ताओं का धन्यवाद किया। छात्रों को आत्मसंवाद व प्रकृति संवाद के लिए प्रेरित किया।

## Cultural Heritage of Himachal Pradesh Annual Lecture Series REPORT

Government College Dhami, located at 16 Mile, Shimla, successfully organized a three-day Annual Lecture Series from 18 August to 20 August 2025, with the theme **“Cultural Heritage of Himachal Pradesh.”** This series aimed to foster cultural and social leadership among students by offering them a rich institutional platform for personal and intellectual growth. Through this initiative, the college sought to nurture young minds, drawing upon the wisdom, traditions, and lived experiences of our ancestors. These budding learners serve as vital carriers of cultural continuity and preservation. The lecture series offered them an opportunity to explore their roots—understanding who we are, the struggles involved in shaping our distinct identity, and the evolution of art, language, and culture in these hills. Such events help students connect to the past while recognizing their role in preserving and sustaining our heritage.

### Day 1 (18-08-2025): Invited Speakers & Their Key Messages

**Mr. Shrinivas Joshi**, retired IAS officer and noted cultural chronicler, used his platform to trace the **evolution of Himachal Pradesh’s culture**, urging us to champion the state’s linguistic mosaic—particularly the Pahari languages (like Mahasu, Kangri, Mandeali, Kullui, Chambeali), alongside Hindi and tribal dialects such as those from Kinnaur and Lahaul—as vital pillars of local identity and creativity. He narrated the early history of the hills, which were once inhabited by Das, Dasyu, Kinner, Kirat, and Yaksh communities.



**Dr. Satya Narayan Snehi**, Assistant Professor of Hindi at GDC Theog and member of the Language and Culture Academy, encouraged reflection on our past, explaining that cultural heritage includes both **tangible elements** (monuments, artefacts, temples) and **intangible elements** (traditions, language, social customs). He reminded us that preserving this diversity empowers future generations.



to build a better-informed future—especially as globalization and social shifts pose growing threats. He noted that cultural heritage shapes our personality and values, as reflected in Himachal’s temples, sculptures, community fairs, and deity traditions. He referred to various traditions and customs of the Mahasu region—such as Thoda, Dev Yatras, and the exchange of Basi (next day of Shivratri festival)—which have played a significant role in fostering unity and a sense of oneness among the people.”

Together, they called for a holistic approach to cultural preservation that honors both visible relics and living practices, and safeguards the linguistic and cultural richness that defines Himachal Pradesh.

## Day 2: Speaker – Sh. S. R. Harnot

S. R. Harnot, celebrated writer and social activist from Himachal Pradesh, illuminated the rich cultural tapestry of the state—district by district—through his exploration of festivals, folk music, artisan crafts, cuisine, and spiritual traditions. He vividly described how temples, art, and ritual are embedded in local narratives, revealing a deep connection between cultural heritage and community identity.



Harnot also shared how he infuses **eco-feminist themes** into his storytelling, showcasing works like *Bhagadevi Ka Chai Ghar*, *Aabhi*, *Nadi Rang Jaisi Ladki*, and *Laal Hota Darakht*. These stories reflect the symbiotic relationship between women’s lives and the Himalayan environment, offering poignant commentary on ecological and social themes.

Overall, his lecture underscored the importance of valuing regional traditions—not only as cultural artifacts but as living, evolving narratives that inform art, identity, and social consciousness.



### Day 3: Speaker – Dr. Om Prakash Sharma

Dr. Om Prakash Sharma—retired Sanskrit professor and Tagore Fellow at IAS Shimla—offered a compelling reflection on Himachal Pradesh’s **cultural soul**, tracing its pulse through ancient manuscripts, folk ballads, oral literature, and endangered Pahari dialects.

He underscored the urgency of rescuing **shrout (oral traditions)** and fading scripts like Tankri—repositories of history, identity, and ecological understanding in danger of vanishing.



Bridging culture and economy, Dr. Sharma—and the broader lecture series—showcased how **heritage preservation** isn’t merely an academic pursuit but a **living tool** for economic progress, tourism, and enhancing community well-being.

### Outcomes of the Lecture Series

Through immersive exploration of Himachal Pradesh’s cultural richness, students emerged with greater **cultural sensitivity**, empathy, and understanding. They learned to critically analyze traditions and heritage practices—developing sharper analytical skills in the process. More importantly, they were encouraged to become **active protectors of cultural heritage**, discovering how these living traditions can inspire sustainable economic development and community well-being.

The series thus served as a powerful bridge—connecting cultural knowledge with social responsibility, critical engagement, and the formation of well-rounded, globally competent citizens. The result is a stronger sense of identity, intellectual growth, and readiness to navigate and contribute meaningfully in an increasingly diverse world.

The concept of the annual lecture series reflects the brilliant vision of our respected Principal, Dr. Janesh Kapoor, who has successfully organized this event for the past four years. This year, Prof. Dinesh Sharma, Dr. Ujjawal Rathore, and Dr. Kavita Kumra did an excellent job in organizing the series. As a result, it proved to be an educational, insightful, and inspiring event that enriched our academic, social, and cultural perspectives.