

United Nations Chinese Language Day

联合国中文日

20th April, 2022

The Department of Foreign Languages, Tezpur University celebrated its first United Nations Chinese Language Day on 20th of April 2022. The importance of culture in understanding the nuances of Chinese language was emphasized during the event. It featured various cultural and Chinese language activities from the students, along with a special lecture by Prof. Priyadarsi Mukherji from Jawaharlal Nehru University.



A short cultural event graced by the Head of the Department Prof. Prasanta Kr. Das was held at the department. The program began at 10 AM with the host Mr. Jaan Boro, a 2nd semester student of the department extending his greetings to the faculty members, staff, and students of the department. Prof. Prasanta Kr. Das in his welcoming address congratulated and encouraged the students to keep enhancing their learning through various extra-curricular activities. It was followed by a short speech from Ms. Daveirou Lanamai, faculty of the department. In her speech she highlighted the background and origin of the UN Chinese Language Day. She also stressed the significance of understanding cultural diversity through multilingualism.

The students were able to get a taste of Chinese culture and language through poem recitals, songs, and dance. A group recital of the poem 《登鹤雀楼》 *Dēng guàn què lóu* written by Tang Dynasty poet *Wang Zhihuan* was performed by the 2nd Semester students. This famous classical Chinese poem is commonly used to convey the message that hard work, dedication, and persistency are the means to achieve one's goal in life. A performance of modern Chinese dance with a blend of Indian costume depicted the appreciation of rich and vibrant cultures of India and China. A contemporary Chinese song celebrating the bonds of friendship was also presented by the students.



During the afternoon session, a special lecture was conducted through blended mode with over 40 participants online and offline. Mr. Rathijit Chakraborty, faculty of the Department welcomed and introduced the esteemed speaker of the day Prof. Priyadarsi Mukherji, Professor, Centre for Chinese & South East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. Through his in-depth and insightful lecture on the Chinese language, Prof. Mukherji methodically explained the concepts and composition of the Chinese writing system. While citing similarities and differences with Indian languages, he further elucidated the phonology of Mandarin Chinese to nascent Chinese language learners. The talk concluded with a very productive interactive session clarifying doubts related to the language and discussing the prospects of learning Chinese.

The programme came to an end with a note of pledge by the faculty members and the students to observe this day every year to manifest their commitment to teaching-learning of Chinese language in order to develop a comprehensive understanding of the Chinese people and their culture.

