

HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM : GANGTOK
Record of Proceedings**WP (PIL) No. 03/2025**

DHAN RAJ GURUNG

PETITIONER (S)

VERSUS

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY AND ORS.

RESPONDENT (S)

- For Petitioner : Mr. Kazi Sangay Thupden, Mr. Sajal Sharma, Ms. Prerana Rai, Ms. Srijana Bagdas, Mr. O. P. Bhandari and Mr. Uday Kunwar, Advocates.
- For Respondent no.1 : None.
- For Respondent no.2 : Ms. Sangita Pradhan, Deputy Solicitor General of India assisted by Ms. Sittal Balmiki and Ms. Natasha Pradhan, Advocates.
- For Respondent no.3 : Mr. Zangpo Sherpa, Additional Advocate General with Mr. S.K. Chettri, Govt. Advocate.

Date: 07/08 /2025**CORAM:****HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE BISWANATH SOMADDER, CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MEENAKSHI MADAN RAI, JUDGE**

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ORDER : (per the Hon'ble, the Chief Justice)

This writ petition has been filed by one Shri Dhan Raj Gurung, who is a distinguished scholar, literary figure and a retired Government Graduate teacher in the Nepali language, in public interest. Essentially, the reason for filing this Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is for the purpose of seeking urgent and effective judicial intervention to safeguard the linguistic integrity, Constitutional sanctity and academic accuracy of the Nepali language, as it is being taught and propagated within the State of Sikkim by the respondent no.1, namely, the Sikkim University.

In the present writ petition, there are three respondents, namely, the Sikkim University, Union of India and State of Sikkim. All three of the respondents have been duly served via email at their registered email addresses. The Union of India is being represented by the learned Deputy Solicitor General of

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India. The State of Sikkim is being represented by the learned Additional Advocate General. However, the Sikkim University remains conspicuously absent in spite of being put on notice.

Having perused the pleadings of the writ petition in its entirety, we are *prima facie* of the view that there is an imperative necessity to preserve and protect the linguistic integrity and sanctity of the language which almost everyone here in Sikkim speaks. Even if there are minor distortions noticed while an educational institution imparts through its teachings, the Nepali language, such distortions may compromise with the linguistic integrity and academic accuracy of the language and also cause a direct impact on the delicate distinction between the Nepali language and other languages where the script is common, namely, the *Devanagari* script.

For reasons stated above, we direct the State of Sikkim, being the respondent no.3, to express its views with regard to the delicate subject matter that forms the very basis of the writ petition by filing a report in the form of an affidavit on or before the next date. Based on the views expressed by the State of Sikkim, this Court will pass appropriate directions on the next date to protect and preserve the linguistic integrity, sanctity and the academic accuracy of the Nepali language, which is the most widely spoken language, here in Sikkim.

Let this matter appear for further consideration under an appropriate heading on 19th August, 2025.

(Meenakshi Madan Rai)
Judge

(Biswanath Somadder)
Chief Justice

Jk/ds/ami