



पसाम पुचऱ गुथि, युक्त लण्डन

PASA PUCHAH GUTHI, UK LONDON

Email: info@ppguk.org | Web: www.ppguk.org

PRESS RELEASE

Newah Activism: Perspective from Nepal and Beyond

Oxford, 20th April 2024

On Saturday 20 April 2024, Pasa Puchah Guthi UK - London organised a thought provoking Talk program on 'Newah Activism : Perspectives from Nepal and Beyond' at the Pauling Human Sciences Centre at Oxford University. The event was attended by over 30 participants and the event showcased insights from four guest speakers from Nepal and one from the UK.

The event commenced with welcoming remarks from Lisa Dali Shrestha, General Secretary of Pasa Puchah Guthi UK - London, followed by a welcome address by Sushil Prajapati, Chairman of Board of Trustees, PPGUK. Adding a touch of cultural richness, Sudan Munikar, Charya Dance Expert and Newah Activist performed a captivating Manjushree Dance performance. Dr Sachetan Tuladhar, the event moderator, then steered the program smoothly, introducing the speakers and facilitating engaging discussions between them and the audience.

Ojesh Singh, Patron, Pasa Puchah Guthi UK, shared valuable insights into the establishment and the ongoing endeavours of PPGUK over the past 24 years, emphasizing its mission to preserve and promote newah culture in the UK while fostering community unity.

Next, Achut Prajapati and Padma Sundar Shakya, Heritage photographers from Kipagraphy Bhaktapur, shared their inspirational journey into photography, catalyzed by the devastating earthquake in Nepal in 2015. Their mission to preserve cultural heritage through photography resonated deeply, emphasizing the importance of passing these legacies to future generations.

Sudan Munikar, in his address, illuminated his personal journey with Charya Dance and newah activism, adding depth to the discourse on cultural preservation and advocacy.

As a special guest, Ganapati Lal Shrestha, Newah Culture and Heritage Activist, delivered a powerful presentation titled 'Legacy of the past to be protected by the present for the Future'. Mr Shrestha shared his remarkable journey in Newah activism, highlighting pivotal victories such as halting the privatisation of cultural heritage sites and combating encroachment on historic landmarks such as



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Ranipokhari, Tundikhel, Kamalpokhari,, Shleshmantak Forest – Pashupatinath World Heritage site, Boudhanath Stupa etc. He recounted his tireless efforts in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake, advocating for the preservation of cultural treasures amidst adversity. Notably, Mr Shrestha played a leading role in opposing the Guthi Bill, securing a significant victory. His ongoing initiatives to safeguard cultural heritage and UNESCO sites in Nepal serves a beacon of inspiration for preservationists worldwide.

Concluding the event, Dr David Gellnar, the Newah and Nepal academic who has been Patron for Pasa Puchah Guthi UK, praised how much time and energy Newahs spent in Nepal and UK to reproducing and recreating their culture. However, he expressed his concerns about the increasing pollution in Kathmandu valley in his closing remarks. The program ended with a vote of thanks from Rukmani Manandhar, President, PPGUK London.