

A SHORT TERM COURSE ON

DOING RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC WRITING

07-15 MARCH 2020

A Report



Submitted by

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY
RONO HILLS, DOIMUKH**

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Acknowledgements

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The Department expresses special appreciation and thanks to all the Resource Person for their valuable sessions and support towards the success of the course.

We are also thankful to all the participants, who have made an immense contribution in conducting the course successfully.

Organizing Committee

Chief Patron: Prof. Saket Kushwaha
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
Rajiv Gandhi University

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Members: Dr. Doyir Ete, Assistant Professor, Dept of English, RGU
Dr. P.N Piraji, Assistant Professor, Dept of English, RGU
Dr. C. K. Panda, Assistant Professor, Dept of English, RGU

PART 1: PREFACE

1.1 Introduction

The course aims to develop research aptitude amongst the participants. This course will prepare them for research in a variety of academic and other contexts. It is felt that there is a need to develop students' interest in research during their postgraduate studies so that they feel enabled and prepared to pursue a career in research. Cultivating such interest amongst them is important to sustain a research environment in educational institutions and Universities. Hence, this course has been designed to nurture interest and motivate them for research. It will equip the participants with the methodology required for pursuing academic research. The aim of the course is to impart research skills to beginners and help them to undertake quality research work in future. The course would provide the participants with the opportunity to improve their skills in writing research papers and other academic texts.

1.2 Objectives:

- To inculcate inquisitiveness regarding inter-disciplinary research and develop research aptitude among the participants.
- To develop curiosity regarding new and emerging fields of research in language and literature
- To provide the background knowledge and research tools essential for pursuing research degrees such as Doctor of Philosophy, Masters in Philosophy etc.
- To enable the learners to write various research reports, thesis, dissertations, research papers, articles and essays

1.3: Outcomes:

- After the completion of the course the participants will feel motivated and confident for doing research.
- They will be equipped with the methods, tools, and techniques essential for conducting research.
- They will be able to employ the style and mechanics of research and academic writing.

TARGET GROUP: Students Pursuing Postgraduate Courses in English Literature and Language

DURATION: 30 Hours (07-15 MARCH 2020)

1.4 Resource Person:

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3	DR. C. SHIV SHANKAR	Assistant Professor Dept. of Education RGU Arunachal Pradesh	Email: chintalsivasankar@gmail.com Phone: 9863281141
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5	DR. RAVI RANJAN KUMAR	Asst. Professor Dept. of Social Work, RGU, Arunachal Pradesh	Email- ravi.rankan@rgu.ac.in Mob- 8414842016
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1.5. About the Sponsoring Agency

Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh

1.6. Budget

20000/- (INR) (Twenty Thousand RupeeS)

PART 2: SESSION WISE SUMMARY

2.1 SESSION- I: RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC WRITING I

Topic: "Handling Academic Writing in English"

RESOURCE PERSON

DR. SARAT KUMAR DOLEY

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Summary of the Session:

The session began with an introduction to different scientific theories behind language acquisition. It made the class aware of the parts of the brain involved in the ability to comprehend language. Various new research techniques and findings were highlighted to the class, such as the existence of a particular gene called FOX P2, which is responsible for learning language. The session focused more on the ways to develop good writing habits. Several steps and techniques were enumerated to the trainees. The resource person stressed on the importance of developing reading as a habit to achieving proficiency in writing and highlighted that writing does not lead to better writing but reading does. In the later part of the session, different examples or samples of academic writing were displayed to make the students aware of the various styles and techniques of academic writing. The participants were introduced to several useful phrases that are used in academic writing.

2.2 SESSION- II: DOING RESEARCH IN CULTURAL STUDIES:

Topic: "Folklore & Communication for Social Change in Assam"

RESOURCE PERSON

DR. JAYANTA VISHNU DAS

Asst. Professor

Dept. of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University

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Summary of the Session:

The session began with an introduction to the concept of "research." It delved deep into the different types of research and their implications. The session also gave the trainees sufficient idea of the different parts of a research paper and a complete theoretical description of each part, such as the abstract, introduction, conclusion and referencing, etc. were also given. Other important aspects of research, like selection of research problem and selection of materials and spelling out the research objective etc. were thoroughly discussed. The concept of action research was also introduced. Lastly, the session highlighted the reliability and validity of a particular research. Large scale social surveys and social change projects undertaken by the resource person were also showcased and explained, which gave the participants a practical demonstration of survey research and how research is important to bring in a social change.

2.3 SESSION- III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES- I

"Research Methodology: An Empirical Dialogue on Research Process"

RESOURCE PERSON:

DR. C. SHIV SHANKAR

Assistant Professor

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Summary of the Session:

With the remark "research is a search for truth" the session started by giving the outline of various components of doing research. The session highlighted the concept of reasoning, experience and other concepts involved in research and also stated the importance of facts and critical thinking in a research. The session also introduced five steps of research paper writing to the students, namely; identification of problem, definition of problem, forming hypothesis, collecting data, analysing and conclusion. The resource person gave a detailed analysis on each step involved.

2.4 SESSION- IV: LITERARY RESEARCH- I

Topic: "Doing Comparative Literature: With Special Focus on Indian Literatures"

RESOURCE PERSON:

DR. DHURJJATI SARMA

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Summary of the Session:

The session dealt primarily with the area of comparative literature. The resource person started by explaining the concept, meaning and the various scopes in the area of comparative literature. The session focused on the prospect and potential of doing research in comparative literature, i.e. between tribal literature and the mainstream literature. He stressed that identification of "markers" that identify literature in terms of geographical or linguistic area is very important. The session also addressed the concept of Indian literature focusing on its unique features, mainly its cosmopolitan and vernacular nature. Above all, the session aimed at cultivating the promotion of regional literature.

2.3 SESSION- V: "RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES- II"

REOURCE PERSON:

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Summary of the Session:

The session began with the discussion of the importance of social science research. It focused especially on the importance of doing research in the realm of social science. Dr Kumar said that the purpose of social science research should be to reduce social disparity and to sensitize people about various social stigmas and evils prevailing in the society. Several slides were shown which indicated the social disparity and various problems existing in India. Later, the session moved towards the problems and setbacks involved in social science research. The technicalities and nuances of social science research were also thoroughly discussed. He also stressed in his lecture that curiosity and self-motivation are keys to do any research. The importance of methodology was highlighted with the comment that 'the difference between fiction and research lies on aspects of the possibility and probability, if methodology is added to a work of fiction, it can become a research.' Further, the session explained different aspects of research such as, literature review, data collection, and recommendations, etc.

2.6 SESSION- VI "RESEARCH, PUBLICATION & PLAGIARISM"

RESOURCE PERSON:

MR. KURMENDRA

Asst. Professor
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Summary of the Session:

The session started with some vital quotations provided about by Charles F. Ketting and others on research. It highlighted the importance of research as it helps to dig deep into the effects and solutions of a problem. Research also aids in becoming successful etc. Then the session discussed about choosing relevant topics for research. It laid down various aspects and factors that should be kept in mind while choosing a suitable topic. The session shed enough light on effective literature review and why it is needed to identify the gaps and gain insights into existing works on similar topics. It also taught the class how to develop methodology and approaches to research. Preparing a report, synopsis and article were also mentioned in details during the session. Later, the session focused on publication and its challenges, issues and techniques and also about different forms of plagiarism and its offence and consequences.

2.7 SESSION- VII & VIII: "DOING LINGUISTIC RESEARCH: TOOLS & TECHNIQS"

RESOURCE PERSON:

DR. WANGLIT MONGCHAN

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Summary of the Session:

While stressing on the importance of language in preserving culture, the resource person quoted that "language is the road map of a culture". The first half of the session was primarily about tribal culture and ways of doing research in the domain of tribal life. The session was also highly informative about the importance of preserving and transmitting tribal culture through research and documentation. Further, the consequence of cultural loss on the pretext of language death was also duly highlighted. The second half of the session dealt with the basics of linguistics. It recapitulated the basic linguistics components and ways of doing research. Different tools, techniques and methods of linguistics data collection was discussed at length. The data can be either primary or secondary. Different techniques of data collection like fieldwork, participant observation, linguistic survey, questionnaires, interviews and recording etc. were mentioned. Lastly, analysing of data and elicitation techniques were discussed.

2.8 SESSION- IX: "RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN SOCIAL SCIECES- III"

RESOURCE PERSON:

PROF. SARAH HILALY

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Summary of the Session:

The session was about historical research and various issues and strengths pertaining to it. The session focused more on the major problems experienced in conducting historical research. As per the resource person, oral traditions are a vast resource having a potential for rich cultural and historical research, yet it poses a huge problem for the researcher. The session next moved to areas of northeast history and its problems, various important events and their subsequent impact on the tribal society of northeast in particular. The resource person also focused on the issues of modernity and indigeneity. She stressed on understanding as to how modernity came into the ways of tribal society. The major focus of the session was on tribal society and how to do research on the rich culture and tradition of tribal communities.

2.9 SESSION- X: RESEARCH IN ELT

Topic: "EXPOSURE TO ELT RESEACH AT THE BASIC LEVEL"

RESOURCE PERSON:

DR. KRUSHNA CHANDRA MISHRA

Head, Dept. of English

RGU,

Arunachal Pradesh



Summary of the Session:

ELT research means research into teaching, more specifically the teaching of English language. Some of the issues and challenges in teaching/learning process are the results of inappropriate methods, material and teaching ability of the teachers. The main objective of learning is to bring a change in behavior of the students. With these points, the session shifted towards discussing different aspects of research in ELT domain. The resource person highlighted that research in ELT is all about asking questions like why does not learning take place or what are the issues in the process of teaching English in classroom situations etc. Asking such questions will create the research problem and the basis for forming the research. The resource person stressed that classroom is the research field for ELT research. Some of the aspects that influence English language teaching are the social conditions, interest level, and economic conditions. Lastly, the session ended with the idea that a researcher has to constantly monitor and evaluate before concluding the results of the findings.

2.10 SESSION- XI: LITERARY RESEARCH-II

RESOURCE PERSON:

DR. MIAZI HAZAM

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Summary of the Session

Since the participants in the Short Term Course comprised mostly of students at the Masters level who would be soon looking for new areas or domains for conducting research once they become eligible for the same, the session was primarily targeted towards making them aware of the possible areas of research in language and literature. While the session also aimed at making the participants aware of the different types of research and the methodologies involved in research in brief, the session aimed mostly in opening up before them the potential areas of research-related studies. The session tried to draw on the existing knowledge of the participants and make them understand how they can use it for charting a road-map ahead. This was done to equip them quite early so that they would not grope in the dark searching for themes and areas for research once they began thinking seriously about engaging in research. The other objective of the session was to make the participants aware of the practical problems involved in research as a long-term activity which requires consistence in approach and perseverance. This part of the talk discussed practical matters such as the choice of the area of interest, the selection of topic and the need for a good and complementary relationship between the research scholar and the supervisor. PPT was used to project the main points of discussion while a good part of the session was interactive.

2.11 SESSION- XII: LITERARY RESEARCH-III

RESOURCE PERSON:

DR. CHANDAN KUMAR PANDA

Assistant Professor
Dept. of English
Rajiv Gandhi University
Rono Hills, Doimukh
Arunachal Pradesh
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Summary of the Session:

Dr. Panda discussed the processes of doing research. He explained the importance of selecting an area. After selecting an area which interests the researcher, further crystallization needs to be done in order to arrive at a specific topic of research. Here the deductive logic needs to be applied to bracket out the non-essentials in order to sharpen the focus. Then a framework of research is to be chosen. The framework determines the course of research and its ambit. By ambit he meant the limit of the research. Every research decides its specifics. The framework streamlines research and helps it to reach its logical conclusion. Every research depends on a hypothesis. This hypothesis formation is not pure speculation. Hypothesis combines facts and supposed claims and conclusions. Research strives to prove the assumed conclusions as factually correct. In the etiology of research, facts are the material cause. Facts empirically collected or epistemologically obtained contribute to reaching desired conclusions. He also emphasized on the essentiality of ethics in research. The lecture was extremely comprehensive in nature and was truly helpful for the aspiring researchers.

2.12 SESSION XIII-XIV: FIELD WORK

On 14th of March, 2020, a field work was conducted under the guidance and mentorship of Dr. D. S. Gupta as a part of the short term course. The purpose of the field work was to acquaint the students to various techniques and strategies in collecting data and analysing them, which forms an integral part of any research. The field work gave first-hand experience to the participants on the ground realities and issues and challenges in surveys. The topic and the area of field work were selected prior to the fixed date. It was decided that a linguistic mapping of Itanagar and Naharlagun city area would be conducted in which students would collect photos of every sign board, name of shops and other advertisement hoardings etc. and also to interview the proprietor of shops on the purpose and reason behind keeping the name of a shop in a particular way. The aim of the survey was to prepare a linguistic map of the capital complex of Arunachal Pradesh and also to find out the linguistic inclination and predilections of the people of the said areas.

On the morning the students gathered outside the department and at around 8 am the team set off to the destined place. On reaching Itanagar at around 9 am, the mentor Dr. D S Gupta briefed the students about the survey. Questionnaires were distributed and instructions were thoroughly given on how to do interviews and what questions to ask. The students were divided into groups and parts of the area were assigned to each group. Group leader were selected for each group. Further each group divided amongst themselves the task of performing various duties. Under the group some were to collect photos and while some were to interview the shop owners. With this the task of the survey began on full swing, photos were collected and interviews were done. The survey was done in two shifts with Itanagar market area on the morning and Naharlagun market area in the evening.

The experience of the survey was quite beneficial for the students as it gave them the required information on how to do surveys. The students came to know about the difficulties and challenges of conducting surveys. It made them more prepared for their future opportunities in performing similar field work. Further, the techniques of collecting primary data and analysing the data to come up with the findings made this field work extremely important for the students. Various set of skills and nuances of conducting interview were also practiced. It gave the students an opportunity to learn various social skills which is beneficial not only in research but also in real social life. In a nutshell the experience of the field work was extremely enlightening and a good exercise to hone one's social and research skills.

FIELD WORK



2.13 SESSION XV-XVII: "RESEARCH & ACADEMIC WRITING"

RESOURCE PERSON:

DR. DHRITI SUNDAR GUPTA

Asst. Professor
Dept. of English
Rajiv Gandhi University,
Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh
Email- dhriti.gupta@gmail.com



Summary of the Session:

The session focused on Academic Writing in English and discussed the various steps involved in academic writing. According to the resource person, academic writing is anything that constitutes academic purpose or academic content. The characteristics of academic writing were thoroughly highlighted such as planning, outline, tone, point of view and language approach. Highlighting the things to be avoided while writing an academic paper, the importance of cautious writing was stressed, the session pointed out different things to be avoided in academic writing, such as contraction, interjection and hesitation fillers, addressing the readers directly, phrasal words and direct question etc. It was advised that definite statements or conclusions should be avoided as far as possible. Different aspects of writing such as the use of collocation, logical connectors, and point of view were discussed. Various tasks were given to the students to exercise their skills during the session. In these sessions, the participant had to do different hands-on activities and practical exercises to understand the different conventions and requirements of academic writing.

2.14 SESSION- XVIII LITERARY RESEARCH-IV

RESOURCE PERSON:

Dr. PRACHAND NARAYAN PIRAJI

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Summary of the Session:

The session began with highlighting vast scope of research in literature. The session discussed how to narrow down one's concept of research down to a particular topic from its vast area of study. Various steps were mentioned on how to do so, like exploring, analyzing and concluding. Further, the session recapitulated the topics which were already taught during previous sessions, such as, choosing a suitable topic, formulating a hypothesis, research methodology, data collection etc. Further, the resource person discussed the various aspects on how to locate the resources for a particular research, such as the use of library and internet resources.

2.15 SESSION- XIX: LITERARY RESEARCH-V

RESOURCE PERSON:

DR. DOYIR ETE

Asst. Professor, Dept. of English
Rajiv Gandhi University,
Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh



Summary of the Session:

The lecture focused on Travel Writing as a genre of literature that offers serious research endeavors in the field of Humanities and Cultural Studies. The objective of the session was to introduce travel writing in Indian English literature beginning from the colonial period to the present day. Indian authors R. K Narayan and Amitav Ghosh who were the most recognized travel writers to this genre of Indian English Literature were discussed in depth. R K Narayan's *My Dateless Diary* introduced a novel idea of writing a diary that is intensely personal and anecdotal yet dateless defying all notions of a diary as meticulous date keeping. Narayan's travel across United States of America offers many perspectives as well as cultural analogies between India and America. Ghosh's *The Imam and The Indian* are both a fascinating account of the author's experience in Egypt and other lands and also an ethnographic account of the daily lives of the people of those lands. The lecture also brought out the different stages that travel writing has undergone from the colonial times to the present. The traveler is not just an observer but he/she is also constructing a different culture based on his experiences and observations. Colonial accounts have mostly presented native cultures from a Western/European prism, but this has been challenged in a postcolonial world. Many travel narratives written in the recent times have offered interesting perspectives as well as rich materials for investigating new understanding and experiences. The overall aim of the presentation was thus to put before prospective scholars the rich area that travel writing in Indian English Literature offers to them.

PART 3: ANNEXURE

Annexure 1: Course Distribution and Time Table

Sl . No.	Date	Session	Topic	Resource Person
1	07-03-2020 9.30 to 11.00	Session I	Research & Academic Writing -I	Dr. Sarat Kr. Doley Tezpur University
2	07-03-2020 11.00 to 12.30	Session II	Doing Research in Culture Studies	Dr. Jayanta Vishnu Das Tezpur University
3	07-03-2020 01.20 to 2.50	Session III	Research Methodology in Social Sciences-I	Dr. C. Shiv Shankar Rajiv Gandhi University
4	07-03-2020 3.00 to 4.30	Session IV	Literary Research-I	Dr. DhurjjatiSarma Gauhati University
5	08-03-2020 9.30 to 11.00	Session V	Research Methodology in Social Sciences-II	Dr. Ravi Ranjan Rajiv Gandhi University
6	08-03-2020 11.00 to 12.30	Session VI	Research, Publication, and Plagiarism	Mr. Kurmendra Rajiv Gandhi University
7	08-03-2020 01.20 to 2.50	Session VII	Doing Linguistic Research: Tools and Techniques-I	Dr. WanglitMonchan Rajiv Gandhi University
8	08-03-2020 3.00 to 4.30	Session VIII	Doing Linguistic Research: Tools and Techniques-II	Dr. WanglitMonchan Rajiv Gandhi University
9	09-03-2020 3.30 to 05.00	Session IX	Research Methodology in Social Sciences-III	Prof. Sarah Hilaly Rajiv Gandhi University
10	11-03-2020 3.30 to 05.00	Session X	ELT Research	Dr. K.C. Mishra Rajiv Gandhi University
11	12-03-2020 3.30 to 05.00	Session XI	Literary Research-II	Dr. MiazilHazam Rajiv Gandhi University
12	13-03-2020 3.30 to 05.00	Session XII	Literary Research-III	Dr. Chandan K. Panda Rajiv Gandhi University
13	14-03-2020 9.30 to 11.00	Session XIII	Field Work	Dr. DhritiSundar Gupta Rajiv Gandhi University
14	14-03-2020 11.00 to 12.30	Session XIV	Field Work	Dr. DhritiSundar Gupta Rajiv Gandhi University
15	14-03-2020 01.20 to 2.50	Session XV	Research and Academic Writing- II	Dr. DhritiSundar Gupta Rajiv Gandhi University
16	14-03-2020 3.00 to 4.30	Session XVI	Research and Academic Writing- III	Dr. DhritiSundar Gupta Rajiv Gandhi University
17	15-03-2020 9.30 to 11.00	Session XVII	Research and Academic Writing- IV	Dr. DhritiSundar Gupta Rajiv Gandhi University
18	15-03-2020 11.00 to 12.30	Session XVIII	Literary Research-IV	Dr. Prachand N. Piraji Rajiv Gandhi University
19	15-03-2020 01.20 to 2.50	Session XIX	Literary Research-V	Dr. DoyirEte Rajiv Gandhi University
20	15-03-2020 3.00 to 4.30	Session XX	Exam/Presentation	Dr. DhritiSundar Gupta Rajiv Gandhi University

Annexure 2: List of Participants

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Annexure 3: Feedback from Participants

This course wasn't just about doing research, I also learnt about how Academic writing is different...and how one can make his/her writings more appropriate and formal. These are the things I would've never known if weren't for this course.

- Tasso Sumpi

I have benefitted in two different ways from the training. One in an academic outlook and the other about how to live as an intellectual and a good human being. I look up to my teachers who are the epitome of good ideal teachers.

- Marilyn Daimari

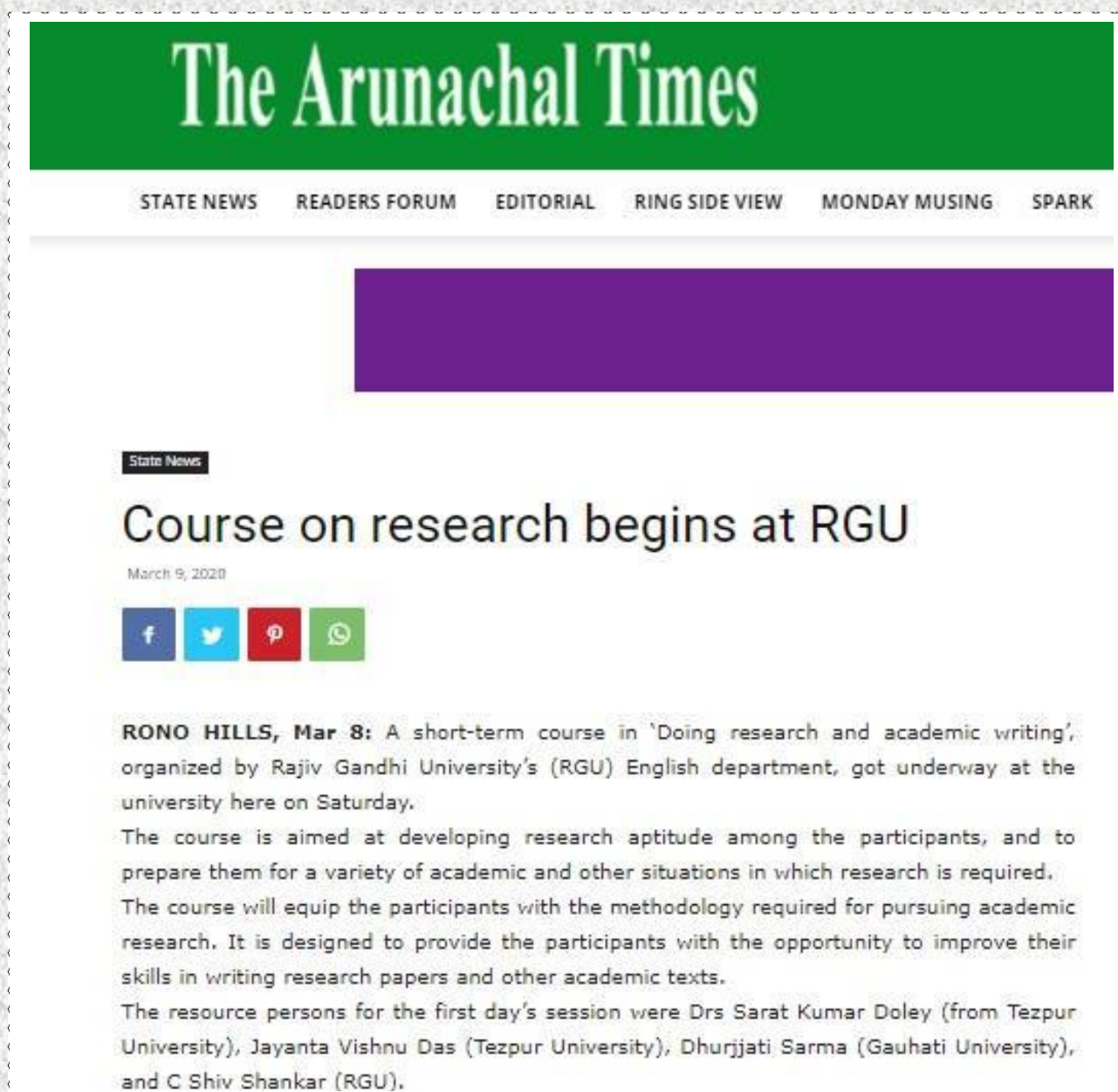
Why we are doing it, how long does it take to complete it, what topics can we choose, etc. All these questions were being answered in this course

- Mumtak Perme

The notes taken down and the experiences shared in the sessions will work as a manuscript for the times to come, and will be referenced from time to time. To my complete surprise, the overwhelming amount of new knowledge was not discouraging, but rather inspiring.

- Tasso Sumpi

Annexure 4: Media Coverage



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY
RONO HILLS, DOIMUKH
ARUNACHAL PRADESH**