

TCRC Report

Book Release and Seminar : “Splendours of Pahari Embroidery”

10th June 2018 @ Bhuri Singh Museum, Chamba

The Textiles and Clothing Research Centre (TCRC), published its first book, titled, “**Splendours of Pahari Embroidery**” in 2018. A book release function, along with a seminar on “**Chamba Rumals: Embroidered Splendor of Pahari Region**” was organized at the Bhuri Singh Museum, Chamba (Himachal Pradesh), on 10th June 2018 in collaboration with the museum. TCRC extends its heartfelt thanks to Padamshree Vijay Sharma and his team for all the help and support that was provided for the event.

The session started by lighting a lamp and paying a tribute to Late Sri Kamal Prasad Sharma, a contributor to the book and a noted scholar of Pahari Art and Music. Unfortunately, he passed away few months before the book launch could take place. His contribution in the field of Pahari dance, music and musical instruments will always be the guiding light for upcoming enthusiast of Pahari Art and Culture.

Dr. S.M. Sethi, former Senior Curator, Himachal State Museum, Shimla was the chief guest for the event and he did the honours of releasing the book. This book is a collective effort of sixteen scholars from India and abroad, who had come together and explored some of the untouched aspects of one of the most picturesque embroideries of India. They studied different aspects like origin of Pahari style embroidery, technical study of stitches, various subjects and motifs, its folk tradition and its conservation related issues, etc. By studying the collection of various museums of India and abroad, these scholars had tried to look at these several aspects through analysis of the literature, art tradition, folk tradition, social customs and cultural tradition.

The book release was followed by a seminar, which was a reading of the papers published in the book by the scholars. The first presentation was an illustrated talk on Chamba rumals by Mr. Sarang Sharma, a research scholar with M. S. University, Baroda. It was followed by the talk delivered by Dr. Tulsi Raman, the retired Deputy Director of the Department of Language and Culture of Himachal Pradesh, on the variety of colours used in these textiles. The secular themes embroidered on the *rumals* were analysed by Dr. Anamika Pathak, curator at the National Museum, New Delhi. Next, Dr. Toolika Gupta, Director of IICD, Jaipur threw light on the Symbolism of lotus motifs commonly found in Pahari embroidery. The seminar ended with the talk by Dr. Rohini Arora, Assistant professor of Guru Gobind Singh College for Women, Chandigarh, who elaborated on the techniques associated with Pahari embroidery. The event came to an end with Chamba Shilp Parishad and TCRC honouring master craftsmen with Kala-Nidhi awards.

This event which was attended by curators, scholars, professor, researchers, artists, embroiderers and journalists from Delhi, Jaipur, Chandigarh and Amritsar, besides the local scholars, was widely covered in local and national newspapers.
