

Brief Write-up
Two Day National Seminar
On
Act East and Northeast: Prospects and Challenges
Organized by
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata
and
Department of Political Science, Assam University, Silchar

In March 12-13, 2019 the Department of Political Science, Assam University has organized two-day national seminar on the theme 'Act East and Northeast: Prospects and Challenges' with the financial assistance received from Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS).

The Seminar was attended by distinguished luminaries in the field of Foreign Policy and International Relations and a large number of faculties, research scholars and PG students.

Prof. S.D. Muni, Professor Emeritus of JNU and Member of the Executive Council of IDSA delivered the **Key Note Address**.

Academicians like **Prof. Samir Kumar Das**, Professor of the University of Calcutta, **Prof. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury**, Vice-Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University and **Prof. Kapil Kumar**, Director, Centre for Freedom Struggle and Diaspora Studies presented '**Invited Papers**'.

Besides, faculties from the **MBB University of Tripura, North Eastern Hill University and Manipur University** attended the conference and presented paper. A host of college teachers and research scholars from various parts of Northeast and West Bengal also presented papers in the Seminar. On the whole more than **sixty papers** were presented in the seminar.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Dilip C. Nath, **Honorable Vice-chancellor of Assam University** and Prof. Sujit K Ghosh, **Honorable Chairman, MAKAIAS** also graced the occasion and made his valuable remarks on the theme of the seminar. Besides, the inaugural programme was attended by Prof. Debasish Bhattacharjee, Dean, JNS School of Social Sciences, Assam University, Prof. R.R. Dhamala, Head of the Department and Prof. S.D. Muni. The Welcome address of the Seminar was delivered by the programme coordinator, **Prof. Joyati Bhattacharya**. Dr. Harsha S conveyed the Vote of Thanks.

Besides, being a huge success, the two-day deliberations have also resulted in certain important policy decisions. Establishing Southeast Asian Study Centre in the universities of Northeast to collaborate with the institutions of higher learning in countries of Southeast Asia was considered to be an important step to enhance constructive collaboration and people to people contact by many academicians who presented paper on the occasion. Arrangement of festivals on our common culture and traditions in collaboration was also suggested to be a means to promote tourism and trade and also to restore the links between the

two regions. Energizing the border hats was emphasized as it would help to remove informal trade and also the progress in projects undertaken as part of Act East Policy should be reviewed in short periodic interval. The Seminar was concluded with a discussion on the report of the rapporteurs and vote of thanks from the programme coordinator.

Gajali Bhattacharya

PHOTO OF THE SEMINAR

Picture: Dignitaries in the dais in the inaugural program



Two Day National Seminar

on

Act East and Northeast: Prospects and Challenges

organized by

**Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS),
Kolkata**



and

Department of Political Science, Assam University, Silchar



March 12 and 13, 2019

at

Department of Political Science, Assam University, Silchar

CHIEF PATRON

Prof. Sujit K Ghosh, Chairman, MAKAIAS, Kolkata

PATRON

Prof. Dilip Chandra Nath, Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Silchar

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

Prof. Joyati Bhattacharya, Department of Political Science, Assam University

ABOUT THE SEMINAR “ Act East And Northeast: Prospects and Challenges”

In the early 1990s there was a marked shift in India's foreign policy and the idea of the Look East Policy (LEP) was contemplated. Many believed that the policy would not only open a new horizon in India's foreign policy relations in the post-90s era but would also initiate and generate new avenues of development for the otherwise backward and landlocked North-eastern region of India. It was also believed that enhanced trade relations and free markets with Southeast Asia will in course time end insurgency and ethnic conflict in Northeast and would usher an atmosphere of peace and tranquility in Northeast. However, things did not move in the direction as it was expected. As successive governments looked east, Northeast was overlooked. Under the present NDA regime, 'Look East' policy was given a new lease of life. The renaming of the policy from 'Look East' to 'Act East', the creation of Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs and the opening of its branch office in Guwahati seem to have been initiating the process to address the aspirations of the people of the region. So far, the LEP's success in empowering Northeast India and making its residents stakeholders is marginal. However, the prospect seems to be bright under the present 'Act East' Policy. What is required is concerted effort and interaction among the central government, the state government and the civil society to earn dividends for Northeast. A clear-cut vision is necessary to make Northeast a complementary partner in India's AEP rather than a mere corridor to link Southeast Asia.

SUB-THEMES OF THE SEMINAR

- India's Look-East Policy: Origin and Evolution
- Northeast and Look east: Problems and Prospects
- Look East to Act East: Continuity and Change
- North East India and ASEAN: Connectivity, Transit and Trade Facilitation Measures

- Northeast of past, present and future
- Act East Policy: Changing contours of India's Foreign Policy
- Regional Economic co-operation: Possibilities For Northeast
- Impact of globalization on LEP
- Role of China and the U.S

EXPECTED SPEAKERS IN THE SEMINAR

- **Prof. S.D. Muni**, Former Professor, JNU (Key Note Speaker)
- **Prof. Samir Das**, University of Calcutta
- **Prof. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Choudhury**, Vice Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University
- **Prof. Monirul Hussain**, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
- **Prof. Lipi Ghosh**, University of Calcutta

ABOUT ASSAM UNIVERSITY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Assam University (established by an act of parliament in 1989) came into existence in January 21, 1994. It has two campuses – Silchar and Diphu. Silchar campus is located at Dargakona, 20 kilometres away from Silchar town and 45 kilometres away from the airport. The campus of the university, spreading over 600 acres of land, is surrounded by lush green hillock, natural lake and picturesque tea garden. At present, there are 16 schools and 41 Departments in the university. In 26 years of its existence, the university has undergone NAAC accreditation twice, participated in NIRF ranking and India Today's ranking of universities and institutes and has made impressive stride to establish itself as a foremost institution of higher learning.

Department of Political Science, under the Jadunath Sarkar School of Social Sciences, was established in the year 1995. The Department started its journey with one faculty and 77 students in Ghungur campus in Silchar. Besides the post-graduate course, the Department offers M.Phil and Ph.D programmes. Current faculty strength of the Department stands at 11.

CALL FOR PAPER AND REGISTRATION

Teachers, professionals, research scholars and PG students are invited to contribute papers. An abstract of 300 words with filled in registration form should reach the

coordinator of the seminar by February 28, 2019 in the e-mail mentioned in 'Address for Correspondence'.

Payment of Registration Fees is to be made either in cash or by DD/Cheque/NEFT in favour of 'Joyati Bhattacharjee', Central Bank of India, Silchar, A/C No: 1705737173, IFSC CODE: CBIN0281352, MICR Code: 788016002

REGISTRATION FEE

Teachers/Professionals **Rs. 1200/-**

Research Scholars **Rs. 600/-**

Post Graduate Students **Rs. 300/-**

This fee shall include seminar kit, refreshment and working lunch.

SEMINAR VENUE

Bipin Chandra Paul Auditorium and Conference Hall, Department of Political Science, Assam University

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Prof. Joyati Bhattacharya, Department of Political Science

Assam University, Silchar-788011 Mobile: 9101953506

Email ID: joyati09@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Date for Abstract Submission: February 28, 2019

Last Date for Submission of Registration Form and Registration Fees: February 28, 2019

Dates of Seminar: March 12 and 13, 2019

IMPORTANT NOTE

All communication to the applicants will be made via e-mail.



**National Seminar on Act East and Northeast: Problems and
Challenges
12th and 13th March, 2019
Organized by Department of Political Science, Assam University, Silchar**

REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name: _____

2. Gender: (i) Male ☐ (ii) Female ☐ (iii) Transgender ☐

3. Address of Correspondence: _____

4. Email: _____

5. Mobile no. _____

6. Affiliating Department and Institution: _____

7. Are you employed? (i) Yes ☐ (ii) No ☐

If yes, your designation and institution _____

8. Are you presenting a paper in the seminar? (i) Yes ☐ (ii) No ☐

If Yes, provide the title of your paper _____

9. Amount of fees paid _____ 10 (i) Mode of payment _____

(ii) Transaction no. (Cheque no./RTGS/NEFT) _____

10. Food preference (i) Veg ☐ (ii) Non-Veg ☐

The information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Date: _____

(Signature of the Applicant)



Two Day National Seminar On Demographics of Northeast Region India
Organized by the Department of Law
March 30, 2019





SEMINAR REPORT

On

**Problems and Prospects of Oral History and Traditions in Northeast India
(27-28, February, 2019)**

Organized by

**Department of History, Assam University (A Central University),
Diphu Campus, Diphu, Assam-782462**

Sponsored By

**Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi
& IGRMS, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**

SEMINAR REPORT

Background

The discovery of present living traditions is not an accidental affair. It has evolved through several forces in the past. Therefore, an understanding of changing discourse of traditions at present will certainly lead to the study of their past. But, reconstruction of past is a very difficult task, accurately because they have had no written records by themselves. Whatever limited sources are available, they are written by 'others' such as colonial ethnographers and Indian scholars who are influenced by the 'Meta Narratives' of colonialism' with different interests and compulsions. Though, these writings are mostly divorced from the objective and subjective conditions of 'Meta Narratives'.

Of late, the scholars from India questioned the Western academia of not allowing the colonized to speak for them. As a result, these scholars have initiated to theorize the cultural importance of folk communities of India especially in the case of northeast India. The folklorist, Jawaharlal Handoo (2006) questioned the traditional paradigm of history writing, which he called the 'Palace Paradigm'. It is not only obscured the real story, but also perpetuated the dangerous ideology of power politics. He advocated the oral word as against the hegemony of the written word. The voice of the vast majority of marginal communities hardly found any space in the discourse of history writings. As a result, historical writings have become mouthpiece of elites. Thus, oral history provide an opportunity as alternative histories of the people who, being excluded and vanquished, are often not able to document their story but may have cultivated and preserved living oral traditions. As a result, oral history plays a vital role in exploring historical past of the ethnic communities and helping it to rewrite their history based on their living traditions. Though oral history is a complex and multi-vocal field in which multiple perspectives, ideologies, and narratives create a mixture of unexplored voices that reveals the intricate ideas of the past in form of oral narratives and traditions.

On the other hand, oral history is not folklore, gossip and rumor, but it is the 'historical discourse' translates from the ideas and perspective of the people. Since the 1980s, oral history has become as 'methodology of the ethnic communities' in order to liberate it from colonial and other hegemonic writings. In many societies, history has replaced oral traditions, similarly the most of the ethnic community in northeast India dispossessed by any written records and

documents. Due to these reasons living oral traditions has become vital source of information for studying about cultural history of the ethnic communities. Oral historian, Paul Thomson (1978) argues that “the discovery of oral history by historian... is not only a discovery but recovery. It gives a future no longer tied to the cultural significance of paper documents...” Thus, oral traditions of the community are not a passive depository of facts, but an active process of creation and attribution of historical meanings to the past. Recently, the scholars from northeast India also consider the same view that oral history can enhance scholars in reconstruction of the history of the ethnic communities through the studying various living oral traditions.

Focus of the Seminar

- This seminar tried to attempt the problems and prospects of oral history and its relevance for the construction of history of northeast in today’s context.
- It also critically discusses how the concepts of oral traditions have appropriately been used in different historical contexts and how it has changed the course of history of northeast India.
- This seminar perused oral history as discourse to explore the diverse ways in which the past shapes the present perceptions and focus on a wide range of questions relating to the history, migration and identity formations.
- This seminar has not only to explore historical past but also the role of plural narratives of the ethnic communities that influence in shaping their history, migration and contesting itself in diverse forms of ideas by taking up oral history as discourse.

Subthemes

- Conceptualizing Oral History
- Oral Literature and Oral Traditions
- Oral History and Historical Documents
- Verbal and Non-Verbal Narratives
- Oral History and Cultural Past
- Oral and Written Traditions
- Oral based Traditions: Jokes, Riddles, Proverbs, Gossip & Rumors, Ballad & Epic Poetry
- Oral based Narratives: Legends, Myths and Tales
- Knowledge based Traditions: Beliefs and Indigenous Knowledge

- Oral Traditions in Documentaries, Films and Advertisements
- Representation of Oral Traditions
- Social Folk Customs and Material Culture
- Oral History as Alternative History
- Meta Narratives in Historical Discourse
- Oral History, Literature and Marginal Communities
- Migrational Memories and Identity Formation

Inaugural Session: (27-28, February, 2019, Time: 10.00 am -1.00pm)

It was great a privilege for us to mention here that the Department of History, Assam University Diphu Campus has organized two days National Seminar on *Problems and Prospects of Oral History and Traditions in Northeast India* during 27-28, February, 2019 at Former's Growth Centre, Near SBI Main Branch, Diphu, Assam at 10.00 am in collaboration with Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Sivasish Biswas, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Diphu Campus and Dilip Singh, Joint Director, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh was represented and delivered honorary speech. Prof. Anil Kumar Boro, Department of Folklore Research, Gauhati University has been invited to deliver keynote speech in this seminar.

The inaugural session started with garlanding of Semson Sing Ingti's Portrait (who was the founder of Karbi Anglong District) by the distinguished guests on the dais and was followed by the welcome song by the students of Department of History, AUDC. After that the speeches of the guests followed. The highlights of the inaugural session are as follows:

The welcome address from the department side was delivered by Dr. Paul. B. Chonzik, HoD, Department of History, Assam University, Diphu Campus. In his Welcome address he welcomed all the participants, resource persons, guests and students to the two days national seminar and expressed gratitude and thanks to the Vice Chancellor and Pro-Vice Chancellor and administration of AUDC and faculty members, who played an instrumental role in making the

seminar into a reality. He also introduced the objectives and activities of the department to the participants. He mentioned in his speech that the Department of History offers integrated Post Graduate, M.Phil. & Ph.D courses. The programs are being designed especially to provide students/scholars in basic historical method and ethnographic method respectively. The Department offers a range of inter-disciplinary courses to fulfill the needs and interests of students' especially tribal students of the region with different levels of learning in life. After that Prof. Sivasish Biswas, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Diphu Campus and patron of the seminar also welcomed all the guests and participations to the Seminar. He appreciated and extended thanks to the ICHR, New Delhi and IGRMS), Bhopal for their collaboration with the Department of History, Assam University, Diphu Campus for organizing this seminar. He also extended his thanks to the Vice Chancellor for his support and cooperation.

The theme of the seminar and concept note was introduced by Dr. Vull Dhanaraju, Seminar Coordinator. He narrated the importance & objectives of the seminar and also introduced all the themes which the seminar has to take up for the two day discussion. He also highlighted the background of the initiative for organizing this seminar. In his speech he has highlighted the relevance of the seminar in exploring oral history of the ethnic communities in northeast India. He has cited the quotation which seminar has taken up as discourse on the writing history from their experiences. African Proverb says "Until the story of the hunt is told by the lion, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter". He argues that like many other tribal groups of the world, the tribes did not have a written language and hence there is no written history about their origin, spread and settlement. The researchers, therefore, often had to depend on the oral history in order to explore the history of the tribes in Northeast India. Oral history can be defined as the recording, preservation and interpretation of historical information, based on the personal experiences and opinions of the speaker. It may take the form of eye-witness evidence about the past, but can include folklore, myths, songs and stories passed down over the years by word of mouth. While it is a priceless way of preserving the knowledge and understanding of older people, it can also engross interviewing younger generations. Oral history is a very subjective and personal form of evidence but this is also one of its great strengths. He also discussed that understanding of contemporary tribal societies requires a basic appreciation of the historical processes that have determined the course of successive changes which have affected the peoples of northeast, which were equally influenced by the forces of change which were economic, socio-cultural, ideological

and political in their manifestations. Keeping in view of this one can only generalize that the historical experiences would be as variable for different people as their interaction with their environment and the socio-political forces that they might have encountered from time to time. This time and space framework is essential to understand the tribes of northeast in the right perspective.

In his concluding speech Dr. Vulli extended thanks to all the participants, Resource Persons, Hotels who provided accommodations to all outstation participants, LB's-Food Catering and special thanks to the print & electronic media. He also extended special thanks to Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi and IGRMS, Bhopal for their financial support and collaboration with Department of History AUDC to organize this seminar.

After that Dilip Singh, Joint Director, IGRMS, Bhopal, MP has given delivered speech and given contribution of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh in the field of Museum and research. Prof. Anil Kumar Boro, Department of Folklore Research, Gauhati University has given keynote speech in this seminar. Dr. Vulli Dhanaraju, Seminar Convener.

Prof. Anil Kumar Boro, Department of Folklore Research, Gauhati University has given keynote speech in this seminar. He stated in his speech that oral history of any community is closely linked to the oral traditions of the community. We know about written history and talk about it in our everyday parlance but are ignorant or unaware about oral history. But the fact is, hundreds of our oral communities and tribes depend only oral traditions and oral historical accounts as presented through the oral traditions. We in the discipline of Folkloristic and oral history strongly believe that oral tradition is an important source of history especially among the oral societies. There is no doubt that oral traditions are potent sources of history as these contain unwritten messages preserved by generations of people. These are the repositories of past experience. These can explain the why and how of many present day happenings. The mythical narratives, legends and narratives songs and ballads extant among the ethnic communities embody meaningful messages from the past. They provide evidence of the past as well as the significant inside information of the community concerned.

The historical data embedded in the oral tradition and folklore materials of north east tribes like the Bodos, Nagas and Karbis and Khasis are not still explored by the 'main stream' or regional history writing in Assam and Northeast. It is the call of the hour to glean historical data from those materials. The scholars and historians with an interdisciplinary approach to the study of oral traditions must not forget that the 'oral traditions still remain the vehicle for the transmission of history.) Historians can glean snippets of historical importance of oral tradition and folklore. Historians may not consider these to be authentic history as they may not fit 'in to the pattern of rational and interpretation'. However, these are historically relevant and significant for the oral historians and folklorists.

Oral narratives have their own independent entity and value without any reference to historical events or characters. Like the great epics and songs they do not depend on historical accuracy or actualities for their greatness. As Richard Dorson (1973) writes, "Homer's songs would equally be great if Troy and the Trojan war and Agamemnon and Achilles and Helen never existed". We all know that oral tradition and folklore texts evolve through a continuous process of constant re working and re-creating of flexible pre-fabricated units. The oral tradition and folklore texts reflect the realities of a historical period. They may not reflect the details of historical reality in chronological setting, rather they present the composite vision of the past. This nullifies the view of scholars who completely neglected the historical value of oral traditions. For example Frazer considered myth as 'False science' and legend as 'false history'. Oral tradition and folklore materials are helpful in re constructing the social and cultural history of the community. Like other documentary evidence, oral tradition materials need to be handled with care.

The tribal groups and communities, like other tribal societies of the North east, are lacking in written history. Rather they are kept out or sidelined of the mainstream regional history. Oral tradition and folklore material may help the interested scholars and historians in knowing and understanding the pastness of the past and reconstructing the history of these tribal groups.

Legends, of all other forms of oral narratives, contain a 'historical core' which is found in the reading of an historical event. The narrative within the legend, according to Timothy Tangherlini may distort the historical content, but the account is ultimately historical. What the

historian does or would do is to isolate the ‘historical core’ from the traditional packaging. Still a very pertinent question may arise here. Do the legend and other oral tradition texts can provide historical accounts? In reply to this, we can humbly submit and say:

1. Legend and other oral tradition/folklore texts incorporate anything that the tradition participants deem to be important.
2. Legend and other oral tradition /folklore texts contain accurate records of the folk history as opposed to official history.
3. Legends and oral tradition texts provide accurate reflection of external reality and serve as the historical or ethnographic account.
4. Oral tradition texts like the legends, ballads contain historically verifiable material like the historical figures, kings and snippets of material culture.
5. Legends and other oral tradition/folklore texts are more meaningful as historical narrative because of their easily verifiable topographical features and reliance on culturally credible characters.
6. Legends and all oral tradition /folklore texts are based on folk belief

From the above it is evident that oral history of the communities of northeast is still an unexplored territory although vast bodies of the oral traditions of the communities are rich materials of oral history. Oral tradition and folklore texts can play a role in the reconstruction of history of those communities. The legends, ballads, myths and folk expressions have value as sources of history. These oral tradition /folklore TEXTS can provide interesting clue to historical core as well as the ethnographic evidence behind the historical data.

The oral tradition texts are there already; our creative writers and historians need to come forward to reframe those oral narratives and oral tradition texts full of oral historical material for the purpose of reconstruction of history. Some ethnic groups have shown interest in these; many African nations have shown the positive results .Oral history may be subjective/ personal form of evidence- but this is also one of its strengths. As Alessandro Portelli, the Italian Oral Historian states, “oral sources tell us not just what people did, but what they wanted to do- what they believed they were doing what they now think they did... Subjectivity is as much the business of History as the more visible facts...” (History Workshop Jouenal,12. Autumn 1981)

Oral history gives voice to individual and groups who are very often marginalized in conventional histories- the classes /groups like the working classes, women and ethnic minorities. It can provide new information, so to say, the alternative explanation and insights which are of enormous value. The ‘spoken word’ in oral narratives as source of history can convey feelings and emotions with immediacy and an impact that the written word cannot. It also plays a role in collecting local dialect and the folk accents. It allows the historian to ask question to the informant who is present at the moment of the creation /collection of historical source.

After that Prof. Sivasish Biswas Pro-Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Diphu Campus formerly inaugurated the seminar and heartily welcomed all the resource persons, participants and students to the two days seminar. He also extended best wishes for the success of the seminar and wishes all the resource persons and participants a pleasant stay at Diphu. He also appreciated the Department of History for their initiative and efforts to organize this seminar at Assam University, Diphu Campus. Finally, He opened up the technical sessions with best wishes to the paper presenters.

The inaugural session was followed by plenary lectures from 11.45 am to 1.15 pm after tea break. The parallel Technical sessions were held in two rooms. The first day completed six technical sessions from 2.00 pm to 5.15 pm.

Technical Sessions: (Date: 27th February, Time: 11.45 am – 5.00 pm)

The Inaugural Session was followed by special panel discussion on ‘Doing Karbi History’ by Kasang Teronpi (78), Karbi women Folk legendary in Karbi Anglong District of Assam. This session was introduced by eminent scholar, Dharamsing Teron, Director, Centre for Karbi Studies, Karbi Anglong, Assam. He translated and narrated Kasang Teronpi’s songs and stories on origin of Karbis in northeast India. There are prevalent narratives about the Karbi migration in the existing literature. The existing oral narratives of the Karbis stated that “during the long past, once they use to live on the bank of the rivers the Kalang and Kloppli and the entire regions, where the famous National Park of Assam is located. During the reigns of the Kachari King, they were driven to the hill and some of them entered into Jaintia hills, the erstwhile Jaintia kingdom and live under the Jaintia suzerainty. While a section of the Karbis remained in Jaintia Kingdom, other move towards northeast by crossing river Brapani, a tributary of the Kapili and entered into the Rongkhang Range. There they established their capital at the place called Socheng. Those

who continued to live under the suzerainty of the Jaintia king had to face constant harassment at the hands of the Jaintias and this had compelled them to migrate northward. A good number of them have entered into the Ahom territory. The Karbi who migrated to the Ahom kingdom had to face the Burmese invasion. The Karbi at that time took refuge in the deep jungle and high hill. In order to save themselves from the greedy eye of the Burmese invaders, the young Karbis girl started to use a black line from their forehead to the chin which is known as *Duk* with a view to make them ugly. While some of them migrated to lower Assam, some have crossed the Bhramaputra and settled in the north bank. From the point of inhabitation, the Karbi are divided into three groups namely Chingthong, Ronghang and Amri". Even these narratives could not escape its own silences and selectivity and defiance of the presence of its own margin. The approaches above offer a very wide and generalized idea about the migration of the Karbis.

That is the reason why the oral history should be used as tool of methodology for the exploration of cultural past of the Karbis. This study will conduct oral interviews bringing diverse narratives on their migration and settlements through tools and techniques used by oral historians. Karbis are rich in oral narratives, folk tales, folk songs, folk dance, ballads and other legends. The folklore of the Karbis mostly reflect during the rituals and festivals. The Karbis folk narrative is called *Mosera* (recalling the past). *Mosera* is one of the lengthiest folk narratives which describe the origin and migration story of the Karbi. *Mosera* is sung in the occasion of *Riso Chojun* and in a funeral ritual called *Thi Karhi* or *Chomangkan*. The rituals are inalienable component of Karbi culture. In this context her narrative is an attempt to explore folk songs and oral traditions of the Karbis while dealing with how these songs and traditions played an important role in changing discourse of the Karbi history and identity.

After panel discussion one technical session and Folk and Oral Performances was followed immediately after lunch break. The first day completed 2 technical sessions from 11.30 am to 3.30 pm. This technical session covered 7 papers on various themes of the seminar. The third session focuses on Folk and Oral Performances by the local tribal communities from 3.45pm to 5.00pm. After the completion of all sessions, all the participants were taken to their respective hotels/guest house by the transports arranged by the seminar Organizing Committee. The second day covered four technical sessions

Contribution of the Seminar

1. During the two days conference, there were 44 Paper presenters and 5 Resource Persons representing from several Universities, Institutions & Colleges from northeast states of India.
2. The seminar papers have broadly covered important categories like History, Culture, Literature and Language, Economy, Politics, Indigenous Knowledge. These thematic divisions helped us to explore the oral history of the ethnic communities of northeast India.
3. The seminar outcomes helped us to find out the gaps and problems in the existing research by understanding of ethnic history and its problems in general and local oral communities in particular.
4. The seminar covered all the research areas such as culture, identity customary laws, language, literature, politics, economy, environment, indigenous technology and role of women in order to explore the inclusive history of the ethnic communities in the contemporary academic discourse of northeast India.
5. The seminar purports to highlight the History and culture of the local communities by negotiating through the oral narratives. Reconstruction of their history is a very difficult task, accurately because they have had no written records by themselves. Whatever limited sources are available, they are written by 'others' such as colonial ethnographers, Assamese and Bengali writers with different interests and compulsions. That is the reason why we have selected this topic to reconstruct the history, culture identity of local communities from oral perspective.
6. The seminar has taken up panel discussions on 'Doing Karbi History' which was an attempt to explore the history and migration Karris through folk songs and narratives.
7. This seminar is the first attempt to explore the history of small community in the context of reconstruction of history in the northeast. This seminar has given more scope on local ethnic communities that led to the more participation and explored the History from their

own perspective. This seminar also considers the same approaches that could enhance scholars in reconstruction ethnic history.

8. One of the unique characters of the seminar is to receive received more papers on traditions and culture of local tribe, Karbi.

Thus, the seminar has taken the resolution that selected papers will be published with help of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). These proceedings may be used by research scholars, academicians and policy makers as source of History Northeast India. Since there is no proper academic work on oral history of ethnic communities this volume will certainly make a new dimension to understand the small ethnic history of northeast India. Finally, this report is concluded with the note that on behalf of the Department of History, Assam University Diphu Campus (AUDC) greatly extended our gratitude and a heartfelt thanks to the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) New Delhi and IGRMS, Bhopal for their financial support and collaboration with Department of History & AUDC to organize this national seminar.

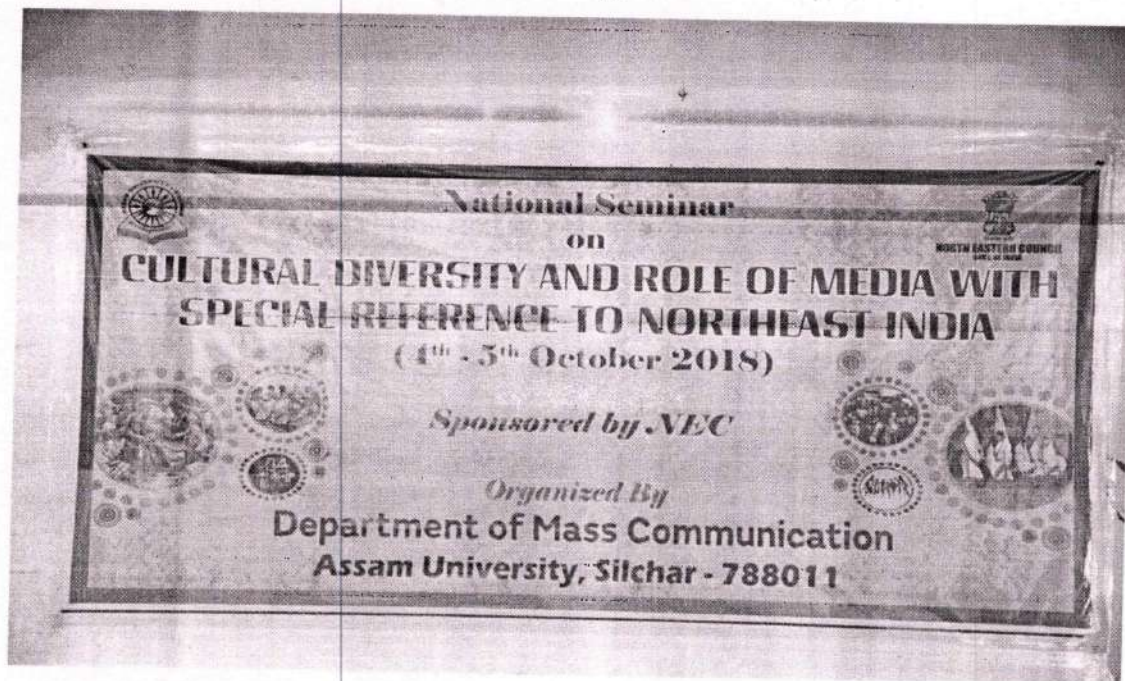


(Dr. Vulli Dhanaraju)
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Two Day National Conference On Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development
Organized by the Department of Commerce
Assam University
March 30, 2019





BANNERS FOR THE TECHICAL SESSION SEMINAR HALL

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REPORT

The Two-day National Seminar Titled “Cultural Diversity and Role of Media with Special Reference to North East India” was organized on 4th - 5th October 2018 by the Department of Mass Communication, Assam University, Silchar under the Convenership of Dr. Paromita Das, Assistant Professor, Assam University. The Innaugural Session of the seminar was held at 10:30 AM on 4th October, 2018 at Bipin Chandra Pal Auditorium in the Assam University premises. The grand session was attended by Prof. Dilip Chandra Nath, Vice chancellor, Assam University as the chief guest, Prof. (Dr) Sanjeev Bhanawat, Former Head, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur and Prof. (Dr.) O.P. Singh, Director, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Institute of Journalism and Tourism, M. G Kashi Vidyapreeth, Varanasi, U.P as the guest of honours and Prof. G.P. Pandey, Head Dept. of Mass Communication and Dean Abanindra Nath Tagore School of Ceartive Arts and Communication Studies as the chairman.

The Convenor, Dr. Paromita Das has delivered the welcome speech. At the outset she welcomed each and every dignitaries and participant of the National seminar. In her speech, she has given emphasis on all the eight north eastern states, their culture and what role media can play. She also added that, “People from outside have been fascinated by the cultural diversity of the land to comprehend and appreciate them from eras”. At conclusion she conveyed her special thanks to the sponsor, NEC for the financial support along with Assam University administration for the logistics. Dr. Das conveyed her heartfelt gratitude and thanks to everyone for their gracious present during the seminar.

Different resource person from all over the Nation has graced the Inaugural Session. The Vice- Chancellor who was also the Chief Patron of the Seminar Prof. (Dr.) Dilip Chandra Nath has attributed that, “North Eastern states has its own identity and rich culture and emphasis should be given on the preservation and promotion of these cultures.” He added that the topic of the seminar was the need of the hour. He also congratulated the convener and the organizers for organizing a seminar on such a relevant issue and he specially praised the organizers for the theme based decoration of the entire auditorium which speaks of their efforts and detailed work.

Prof. (Dr.) G.P. Pandey, Head, Department of Mass Communication and Dean, Abanindranath Tagore School of Creative Arts And Communication Studies, who was also the chairman of the seminar in his speech has emphasized on, “Peoples Participation regarding preservation and promotion of rich and diverse Northeastern culture”.

Prof. (Dr) Sanjeev Bhanawat, Prof. (Dr.) O.P. Singh and Associate Professor of Tezpur University Dr. Uttam Pegu have attended the seminar as a guest of honors.

Prof. (Dr). Sanjeev Bhanawat while addressing the gathering said that, "North eastern region is a land of Culture and diversity. Cultural Integrity in north eastern states compasses the culture of nation and the subcontinent." He added that Cultures of North easter states have always been an attraction to him though he belongs to mainstream India.

Prof. (Dr). Sanjeev Bhanawat speech was followed by Prof. (Dr.) O.P. Singh's speech. He in his speech said that, "Language plays a large role in identity formation, and the loss of a language has significant consequences on any culture or community."

It may be mentioned here that each and every guest have stressed in their speech and praised the decoration of the venue and the dias which was decorated with pictures of the cultural instruments of each and every tribes of the North east.

In the mid-time, the Abstract book was released by all the dignitaries. The Seminar was coordinated by Anuradha Dey and Jyotish Dutta, Research Scholars from the Department of Mass communication, AUS. More than 40 Papers were presented during the seven technical sessions of this two-day Seminar which dealt with major issues like Preservation, Promotion and Assimilation of northeastern culture, Exploring the Tribal Culture of North Eastern Region, Unity in Diversity etc.

On the Inaugural day, 4 Technical sessions were arranged by the organizing body, which were chaired by different resource persons who were expert in their respective fields. Technical session 1 was chaired by Prof. Dr. G. Ram, Technical session 2 was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Bhanawat which was followed by Technical Session 3 and 4. The sessions were chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Jayati Bhattacharjee and Dr. Uttam Pegu respectively.

On the Second day, Three Technical Sessions were arranged which were chaired by Prof (Dr) O.P. Singh, Prof. (Dr.) Debashish Bhattacharya and Shri Ritesh Pathak (Correspondent of All India Radio, Silchar).

More than 40 research papers have been presented during the seminar, which was related to following sub themes:

1. HISTORY, RELIGION AND CULTURE OF NORTH EAST INDIA
2. CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
3. MEDIA IN PROMOTION AND PRESERVATION OF CULTURE
4. MEDIA AND CULTURAL STUDIES
5. MEDIA COVERAGE OF CULTURAL ETHNICITY
6. MEDIA AND TRIBAL CULTURE OF NORTHEAST INDIA

7. MEDIA AND ETHNIC GROUP

Some of the important papers, presented during the seminar which deals with major and sensitive issues have been mentioned below:

The first paper presented in the seminar was "Women and Culture in Contemporary Hindi Drama Based on Ancient Tales" by Kiran Tiwari. In the proposed research paper an attempt has been made to critically analyze and examine the status of women, conflicts in their day to day life, revolutionary thought of women, family and social conditions and the ongoing debates of women supremacy in contemporary Hindi dramas based on ancient tales as well as to also see the various aspects of different women characters in Hindi dramas and their interrelationship with cultural dimension.

Author Sib Sankar Majumder has presented his paper titled "*Ankiya Nat-Bhaona* of Assam: In Search of its Aesthetic Roots" In this paper he has attempted to investigate the aesthetic roots of Ankiya nat plays in order to decipher its commonalities with other classical Indian theatrical forms.

The research paper titled "Bhaona: The Traditional Folk Media of Assam" has been presented by Dr. Charu Joshi, Prof. (Dr.) G.P. Pandey & Achyut Gogoi. In this paper the researcher has talked about Bhaona. Bhaona which is staging of drama inspired from religious texts or books like Krishna purans and Ramayana. Bhaona materializes Srimanta Sankardeva's vision of unity and harmony and brings everyone from all walks of life to come together and whole heartedly enjoy bhaona.

Prof Dr G.P. Pandey and Dr. Mita Das talked about diverse Religion of Northeast India. The study was conducted on historical and theoretical research method.

In the present scenario, As Natural resources are very much limited that's why Sustainable Development has become much more important. Papers like "A study on Barman Culture and Use of Forest Resources in Joynagar Forest Village of Cachar District Assam". For this study, the authors (Rajdeep Dutta & Dr. Joyshri Dey) have relied on primary sources and data have been collected from respondents who are actively engaged in forest resources in Joynagar forest village with the help of an interview schedule. Further, information related to culture practices and use of forest resources were collected by conducting Focused Group Discussion (FGD) with the key persons such as Mother group, Youth Club, Bandhan Group, Anganwadi workers, Helper, ANM, ASHA, Head Teacher, Goan Bura of the Joynagar forest village and through direct observation. Apart from this, case studies of two live experiences on life threatening problems in the forest life have been conducted to supplement the

quantitative descriptions. With this background, the paper also underlines implications for future research and practice.

Another paper titled "Role of media in cultural diversity and sustainable development: with special reference to radio" by Swagata Das deals with the importance of Radio as a media, mainly the Community Radio which can develop a sense of cultural protection among people. Radio helps people understand the importance of cultural development and follow the concept of sustainable development of culture. It also helps people focus on the present as well as the future generation.

Media is a fourth pillar of a democratic nation and it also plays an important role in promotion and preservation of culture. North-eastern region comprises of eight states and in each of the state, there exists different small cluster of communities with their unique style of living, food habit, dance forms etc. The whole nation is very much attracted towards the popular culture but they are unaware about the unique and diverse north-eastern culture. So, here comes the role of media in preservation, promotion and assimilation of those diverse cultures. In this seminar maximum number of papers related to the sub-theme "Role of media in Promotion and Preservation of Culture" has been presented by different authors. Papers like "Media and Cultural Tourism: Study of the Promotional Video *Awesome Assam*" was presented by Dr. Arpan Paul. In his paper he focused on Assam tourism. The recent state tourism promotional video of Assam, titled *Awesome Assam*, has been a major step to boost tourism industry in Assam. The major objective of the study is to understand the various cultural cues that have been incorporated through the video in portraying Assam and its inhabitants. *Awesome Assam* though has been an ardent step to improve the state's economy in selected fields, it undoubtedly presents Assam in new light and enhances its cultural and ethnic legacy to be explored and experienced by others.

In any culture, language is an important component to represent that particular community. North eastern states has different language of its own but due to different reason like inter-caste marriage, migration, increase in Christian missionaries and their interference in modern education system, the ancient languages of the north eastern region are hampering day by day. Dr. Paramita Purkait in her research paper titled "Preservation of Culture with particular reference to the Languages of North East India" focused on endangered languages of North East India and its preservation since they reflect the culture of that particular group using that particular language or dialect. Loss of language is the loss of culture and we need to preserve it.

In a particular society, films play an important role in preservation and promotion of any culture. Research papers like "Films in Promotion and Preservation of culture" and "Role of Assamese films in preservation of Assamese culture" by Dr. Rashmi Sarmah and Anuradha Dey deal with Assamese films. As Assamese community is a very small community. They are inhabited only in some parts of Assam. Therefore, to conserve their culture and traditions, some Assamese film makers made such films which depict/present the culture, tradition, language, dance and art forms of Assamese community.

In the North-eastern states there exist different Tribal communities who are very much different from one another. Dima Hasau district in Assam, which is an autonomous district, earlier called North Cachar Hills where approx majority of population are Hilly Tribe. Some Tribal communities which are popular in Assam are Hmar, Dimas, Cachari, Karbi, Kuki etc. Name of some states are named after the Tribal Community who reside there. Example Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura. So, Tribal Culture is part and parcel of North-Eastern Culture. During the Technical Session of the Seminar, 3-4 papers were presented on Tribal community and Tribal Culture.

Research Paper titled "A Study on Culture, Lifestyle and Media habits of Oriya Tribes in Ramdurlavpur Tea Garden in Tripura" presented by Moumita Gope, Prof. (Dr.) G.P. Pandey & Dr. Supratim Biswas. Their paper has been focused on Ramdurlavpur Tea Garden area in Dhalai District and most of the Tea Garden Laborers have come from the State of Orissa and belong to Oriya Tribe. Here the author has tried to convey that, "In any society language plays an important role in cultural transmission. The tea garden laborers converse in Bengali language apart from their mother tongue". This implies that, they have adopted Bengali language and generation after generation they are forgetting their own language.

Another paper titled, "Exploring the Identity and Ethos of the Lotha Nagas through their Folklore" presented by Liyingbeni R Kithan Folklore". While explaining the topic, the author said that, "The values of folklores in traditional society cannot be overemphasized. This important genre of traditional literature plays a significant role in imparting education, traditional, cultural, religious and social ideologies of the society to the growing generation".

Dr. Paromita Das while presenting her paper- Media Shadow or Media Ignorance? which is basically a case study on "CHIRU" and "CHOREI" TRIBES of Barak Valley spoke about how media sometimes highlight the already highlighted things and thereby shadows new things which requires media attention.

While talking with Dr. Uttam Pegu, who has chaired one of the technical sessions, said that, "Research basically means searching something new or adding new elements to the existing

one. According to him some papers were excellent, where the authors have sincerely carried out the whole work with a graceful attitude. Whereas some papers were incomplete, which lack proper research and the researcher should do appropriate modification before publication.

During the valedictory ceremony, four guest of honor i.e. Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Bhanawat, Prof. (Dr.) O.P Singh, Dr. Uttam Pegu and Shri Ritesh Pathak along with prof. (Dr.) G. P Pandey had shared their thoughts and has put forward their views regarding the two day seminar.

On the occasion, Dr Uttam Pegu has said that, "North-eastern region is one of the most ethnically and linguistically diverse regions in India. Each of the states that form this part of India has its own religion, culture and tradition which requires media promotion to reach mainstream India as well preservation of the same".

Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Bhanawat in his valedictory speech talked about his two day experience and has also said that, "This is his 5th visit in Assam University and in his every visit he has learnt something new regarding this region." He added that attending this seminar gave him an opportunity to know more about the cultures of this region.

Prof. (Dr.) G.P Pandey as a chairman of the seminar has expressed his gratitude to the organizing committee and has also attributed that, "Each and every one in the department has worked hard to make the seminar a successful one".

Shri Ritesh Pathak has described that, "During his student life, he has read the books written by Prof. (Dr.) O.P. Singh and now he is sharing the stage with him". He also thanked the organizing committee for inviting him as a guest of honor.

After Mr. Pathak's speech, convener of the National Seminar Dr. Paromita das has delivered the vote of thanks.

With the Distribution of Certificates, the Seminar was successfully ended with the flying colors.

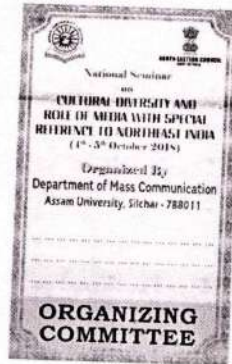
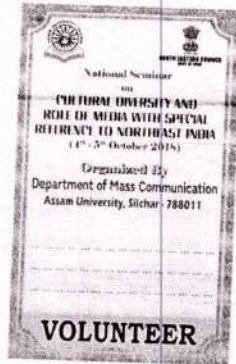
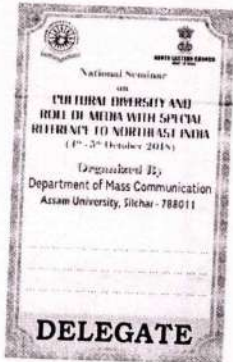




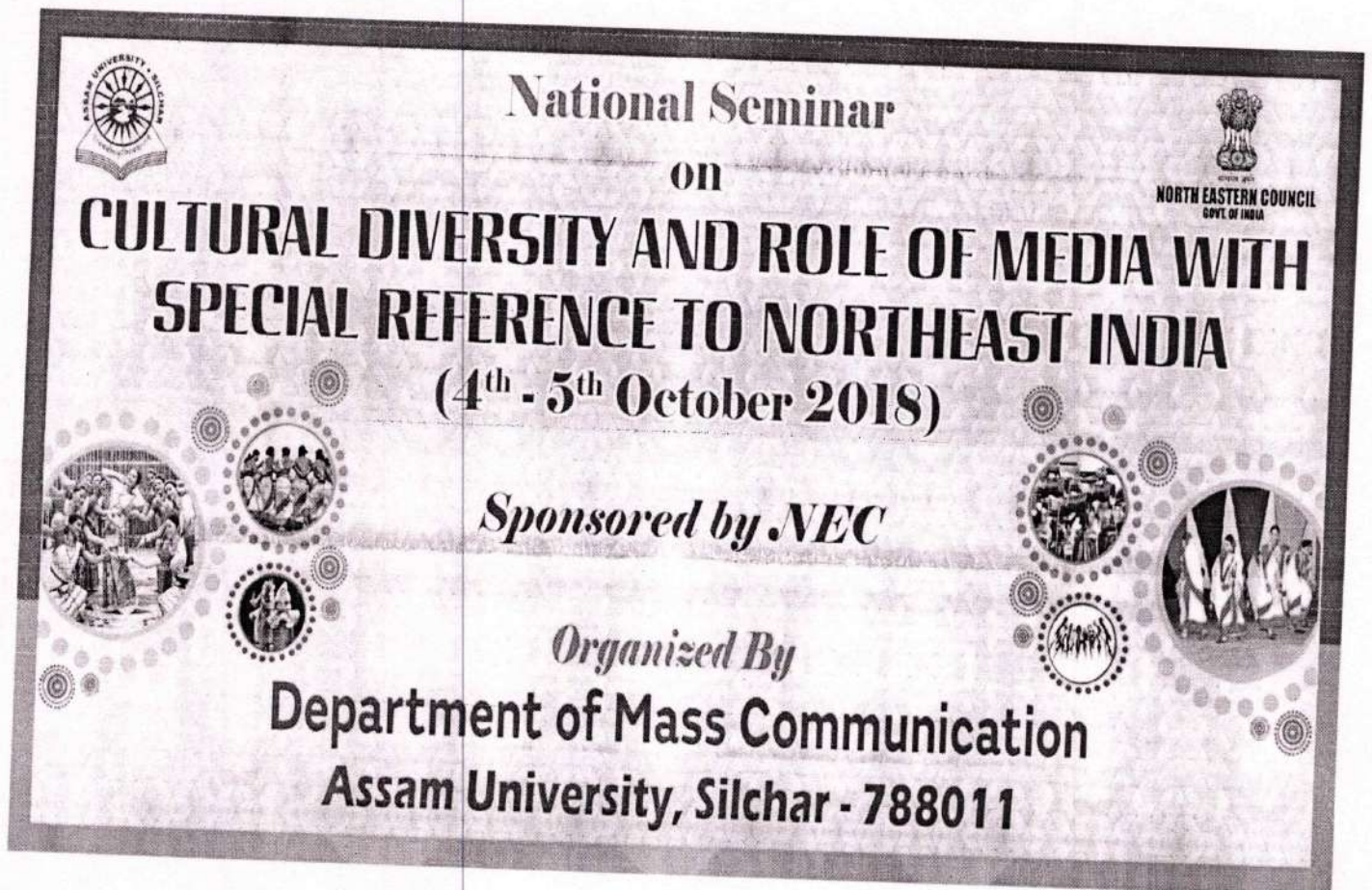
LANDSCAPE PICTURE OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE INCLUDING CONVENER DR. PAROMITA DAS, CHAIRMAN PROF G.P PANDEY, GUEST OF HONOR , COORDINATORS AND STUDENTS CUM PERFORMERS

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Important photos



Delegates Card
Volunteer card
Organizing committee card

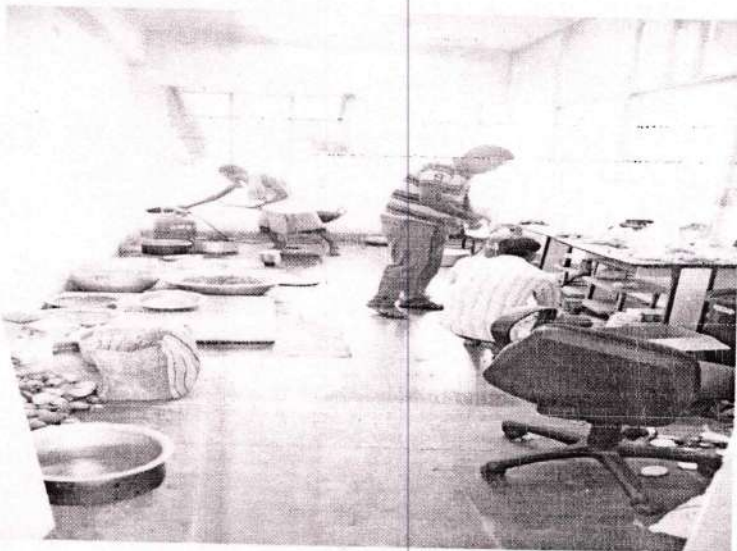


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SEMINAR REPORT

Debating 68 Years of Sixth Schedule: Autonomy of Tribes in Northeast India (16-17, November, 2018)

Background

The idea of 'self rule' or autonomy to the tribes of northeast India was envisaged in the 6th Schedule of the Indian constitution through the framing of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs). The idea behind this Schedule was to provide a separate type of administration which would provide the tribes maximum autonomy to safeguard their distinct customs and traditions. The constitutional makers had extensively defended the self autonomy of the tribes though there was severe opposition during the Constituent Assembly debates. Before Indian independence, the British colonial rule implemented the 'policy of isolation' in administering tribes regions of northeast India and categorized these regions as 'backward tract' under the Government of India Act of 1919, and 'excluded and partial excluded regions' under the Government of India Act of 1935. After independence India's policy towards the northeastern region could be described as 'Nehru Elwin Policy' where quick administrative expansion associated with the 'revivalist protectionist approach' towards tribal development in the hill areas was followed. However, it was broadly within the framework of the colonial Inner Line Regulation Policy (1871) framework, which ensures non-interference from the people of the plains and also carve out an area of unimpeded self-development for the tribes of this region.

There are two types of Autonomous Councils at present in terms of the status granted by the central and state government. In the first category, the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) are established by the central government under the 6th Schedule of the Indian constitution; while the second category consists of the Statutory Autonomous Councils established through the enactment of state legislature. The articles 244(2) and 275(1) of the constitution of India provide the ADCs for the administration of the tribes regions in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. At present 10 Autonomous Councils are functioning in four states under 6th Schedule among which there are 3 each in the present state of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram respectively and 1 in Tripura. The 6 Statutory Autonomous Councils are established in

Assam and Manipur respectively. However, in 6th schedule, the natures of the ADCs are different from place to place. For instance, the District Councils in Assam and Meghalaya have been constituted at the district level whereas in Mizoram, the District Councils have been created at both the district and sub-divisional levels. On the other hand the 6th Schedule was primarily made to address the political aspirations of the Naga people. But the Nagas refused to accept it. Finally, the Nagas were provided with separate 371(A) article. This article excluded Nagaland from the 6th Schedule. This article says no law of the parliament applies unless it is approved by the Nagaland State Assembly.

After its implementation, a section of tribes of plain areas also started agitation for extension of this schedule to them. Consequently, the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) was created in 2003 under 6th Schedule for Bodo tribe. The creation of BTC led the aspiration of other plain tribal residing in other parts of Assam. The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly has also passed a bill to create four Autonomous District Councils under the provision of 6th Schedule in 2003. However, the Parliament is yet to approve it. Mizoram and Manipur has also created a number of Autonomous Councils and wanted to include it under 6th Schedule. However the demand is under the scrutiny of the Central government.

It is established opinion in the ground level that despite the promises given in 6th Schedule after 68 years of its implementation it is not successful in bringing about any noticeable change in the hill areas of the northeast. The ADC or Regional Councils have neither been able to do anything of standard in the interest of hill tribes nor to involve the poor tribes in development activities. As a result, the separate statehood movement and autonomous state under 244 (A) demands have been emerged in this region. It has also created a conflict situation between tribes and non-tribes in one hand, the conflict is continuing between State and Autonomous District Councils over powers and functions of 6th Schedule in the other.

Keeping in view of this background, this seminar will explore the problems and prospects of 6th Schedule by studying the present status of ADCs and its role in bringing self autonomy to the tribes of northeast. An important development took place in 2014 where the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government came into power in centre,

they adopted a new policy towards northeast India called, *Act East Policy* which has replaced the *Look East Policy* of previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government. As the *Act East Policy* justifies that the ‘Act East Policy’ will help to protect the northeast region from China and neighboring countries and will play a vital role in development of the region. Subsequently, more states of this region came under NDA rule in northeast at present. In this context it is important to state here that a proper assessment and critical review of the 6th Schedule is required in order to understand the role of Autonomous District Councils and people’s responses towards implementation for the last 68 years.

Thus, it was a great privilege to organize a National Seminar on *Debating 68 Years of Sixth Schedule: Autonomy of Tribes in Northeast India* during 16-17, November, 2018 at Assam University, Diphu Campus, Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam in collaboration with the Asiatic Society, Kolkata. The seminar organizing Committee really felt that the place where the Diphu Campus of Assam University is situated needs to organize such seminar which would boost the morale of the local community who are actively involved in the movement for strict implementation of the provisions of the sixth schedule to the Indian Constitution.

I. Inaugural Session

(16th November, 2018, Time: 10.00 am -1.00pm)

The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Dilip Chandra Nath, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Silchar. There were six distinguished guests invited to the inaugural session of the seminar. They were: Dr. S B Chakrabarti, General Secretary, the Asiatic Society, Kolkata; Prof. Sivasish Biswas, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Diphu Campus; Prof. Mahendra P Lama, Noted Indian Development Economist and Professor of South Asian Economies, School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi; Prof. Virginius Xaxa, Noted Indian Sociologist and Professor of Eminence, Department of Sociology, Tezpur University, Assam, Dr. Paul. B. Chonzik, Head, Department of History, Assam University, Diphu Campus and Dr. Vulli Dhanaraju, Seminar Coordinator.

The inaugural session started with garlanding of Semson Sing Ingti's Portrait (who was the founder of Karbi Anglong District) and Dr. B.R Ambedkar's portrait by the distinguished guests on the dais and was followed by the welcome song by the students of Department of History, AUDC. After that the speeches of the guests followed. The highlights of the inaugural session are as follows:

The welcome address from the department side was delivered by Dr. Paul. B. Chonzik, HoD, Department of History, Assam University, Diphu Campus. In his Welcome address he welcomed all the participants, resource persons, guests and students to the two days national seminar and expressed gratitude and thanks to the Vice Chancellor and Pro-Vice Chancellor and administration of AUDC and faculty members, who played an instrumental role in making the seminar into a reality. He also introduced the objectives and activities of the department to the participants. He mentioned in his speech that the Department of History offers integrated Post Graduate, M.Phil. & Ph.D courses. The programs are being designed especially to provide students/scholars in basic historical method and ethnographic method respectively. The Department offers a range of inter-disciplinary courses to fulfill the needs and interests of students' especially tribal students of the region with different levels of learning in life. After that Prof. Sivasish Biswas, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Diphu Campus and patron of the seminar also welcomed all the guests and participations to the Seminar. He appreciated and extended thanks to the Asiatic Society, Kolkata for their collaboration with the Department of History, Assam University, Diphu Campus for organizing this seminar. He also extended his thanks to the Vice Chancellor for his support and cooperation.

The theme of the seminar and concept note was introduced by Dr. Vull Dhanaraju, Seminar Coordinator. He narrated the importance & objectives of the seminar and also introduced all the themes which the seminar has to take up for the two day discussion. He also highlighted the background of the initiative for organizing this seminar. He mentioned in his speech that the Asiatic Society organized one day colloquium on Sixth Schedule in Northeast India in Kolkata in March, 2018 where all the speakers were critical about the provisions of the Sixth Schedule. In this colloquium Vulli

had proposed this kind of seminar should be held in Karbi Anglong and emphasized the involvement of the local communities who are part of the Sixth Schedule areas in northeast India. Accordingly, the General Secretary of the Asiatic Society accepted his proposal for organizing this seminar in collaboration with the Assam University, Diphu Campus.

He stated in his speech that one of the peculiarities of Indian constitution is that each marginal community has been taken care of in accordance with its particular needs rather than leaving them alone. Since India is diverse in terms of cultural, ethnic and religious matters it needs to be relooked through its constitutional arrangements that have been initiated for promoting 'inclusive diversity'. This diverse nature of Indian society is one of the key reasons for considering 'self rule' to the tribal areas of this country. The idea of 'self rule' or 'autonomy' to the hill tribals of northeast India was envisaged in the 6th Schedule of the Indian constitution through the framing of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs). The idea behind the 6th Schedule was to provide a separate type of administration which would provide the tribal's maximum autonomy to safeguard their distinct culture and traditions.

He also brought out the concept of Sixth Schedule by stating Ambedkar's interventions in the constituent Assembly debates on the issue of providing Autonomous District Councils. It is shown that it is precisely on the basis of the principle of 'inclusive philosophy of Ambedkar' that the Sixth Schedule was framed out. Ambedkar had extensively defended the District Councils though there was severe opposition by the other members present in the Constituent Assembly. In these circumstances Ambedkar had persistently convinced the members that there was a difference between the tribals in Assam and the tribals in other parts of India. In this milieu he resolved the issue of criticism on providing self rule to the tribals by bringing an analogy between the tribals in Assam and the Red Indians in the U.S.A as against the white immigrant of U.S.A. The U.S.A created reservations within which the Red Indians lived. Though they were formally the citizens of the U.S.A by the law but they were separate and independent people. He has clearly stated that the District Autonomous Councils for the tribal areas in Assam were conceived in the same spirit in which the U.S made special arrangements for the Red Indians. For that reason, the inclusive philosophy of Ambedkar has to be

discussed in the present context of government of India's approach which is negating his 'inclusive philosophy' as he envisaged in Indian constitution.

Finally, he extended thanks to all the participants, Resource Persons, Hotels who provided accommodations, to all outstation participants, LB's-Food Catering and special thanks to the print & electronic media. He also extended special thanks to the Asiatic Society, Kolkata for their financial support to organize this seminar.

After that Dr. S B Chakrabarti, General Secretary, the Asiatic Society, Kolkata delivered his speech. He mainly spoke about the objectives, Mission and historical background of the Asiatic Society. He stated the Asiatic Society was started by Sir William Jones who was a Poet, Linguist and great Orientalist scholar on 15th January 1784. He also mentioned in his speech that Former Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi declared the Asiatic Society as "National Institution of Excellence" in 1984. She appreciated this society's contribution by stating that 'Some institutions reflect history, some contribute history'. But the Asiatic Society had been doing both the activities". Her encouragements gave impetus and strength to work hard to produce research in India in particular and Asian continent in general. Accordingly the Society has extensively started doing research in India. He stated that expansion of manuscripts from various sources and study of Indian Culture and Civilization were one of the immediate objectives of this society. This society also expanded its activities like to establish, build, erect, construct, maintain and run research Institutions, reading rooms, museums, auditoriums and lecture halls and organize lectures, seminars, symposia, discussions, meetings and award of medals, prizes and scholarships in keeping of the objectives of the society.

He also mentioned in his speech that of late, the society has expanded their focus on northeast India and accordingly the society itself is conducting seminars/workshops and academic programmes etc,.. Very recently the society has conducted one day Round Table Colloquium on Sixth Schedule and invited a few experts on this topic in March, 2018. The society felt that extensive discussion is required on this topic in order to explore the opinions and views of the local communities who are part of the Sixth Schedule areas. The present seminar is one of the first attempts under this focus. He also

stated that the present seminar needs to reexamine the powers/functions/nature of working of Autonomous District Councils in Northeast India and bring out the suggestions for strengthening of 6th Schedule. He strongly felt that the seminar also needs to study all the areas like political, cultural and administrative issues which were already covered in the seminar concept note in connection with the Sixth Schedule. This will certainly help to the Government to take such measures to implement the provisions of Sixth Schedule.

Prof. Mahendra P Lama delivered the Inaugural Lecture in the seminar. He started his speech by focusing on the achievements of the Sixth Schedule. He felt that the Sixth Schedule of Indian Constitution fulfilled most of the objectives and also not fulfilled/sidelined certain objectives. In this view he has given example of the Panchayat Raj System which is not applicable to the Sixth Schedule of Northeast India due to self governance/autonomous district Councils. He mentioned that it is not possible to understand the Sixth Schedule in uniform perspective due to complexities/ multiple nature of ADC's /parallel administrations which are functioning differently based on the nature of regional disparities in Sixth Schedule areas.

In his speech he also brought out the concept of 'borderland'. He said that border land plays an important role in economic development of this region. As he stated 99 % of the border of Sixth Schedule areas of northeast are interlinking with neighboring countries. Therefore, the ADCs can bring change in face of the economy of northeast with the help of border land business. Since the ADC's are self governing bodies they can develop trade relations with neighboring countries under the existing rules of the Government of India. He suggested the Government of India to frame policies under 'the Act East Policy' in keeping view of the possibilities of such kind of relations with the neighboring countries.

He also spoke about the representation of minority hill communities in ADC's. Many communities are neglected for getting benefits in the provision of the 6th Schedule that lead to conflict situation in those areas as it was witnessed in many occasions. It is very interesting to see in his argument that unless the hill dominant communities

negotiate with the non-tribal and other tribal minority communities the statehood or autonomous state under the article of 244 (A) may not be successful. He suggested them to start political negotiations with these communities for the common interest of the region within the framework of the existing system.

He also raised the issue of implication of Globalization in northeast India. He felt that the economic reforms of the country never reached to those communities but there is an impact of those reforms on hill communities. He suggested that globalization can be understood in two perspectives i.e 'the localization of global' and 'the globalization of locals'. It is a time for the local communities to popularize the local products or personalities like Hima Das, Marikom, Bhupen Hazarika etc, by using the information technology. He gave much importance to the indigenous knowledge systems like indigenous medicine or forest products which always get the attention of the international market. He also emphasized the importance of national institutions in sixth schedule areas of northeast India. The Government should establish institutions like educational, industrial, NITs, IITs, Environmental etc in these areas which help them to develop the hill communities that lead to integration of these regions into Indian union. Finally he suggested the people to use the institution of Governor who play a vital role in the implementation of the provision of the Sixth Schedule.

After that Prof. Virginius Xaxa delivered the keynote speech in the seminar. His speech was very critical about the provisions of Sixth Schedule and the concept of tribal autonomy. He started his lecture with the concept of 'Autonomy'. He argued that the concept of autonomy is intricately connected with freedom. According to him "freedom is state of condition which is only possible when the Government provide special arrangements/provisions for tribes of the northeast". The Autonomy or self autonomy/self governance are the institutional arrangements for them. He came up with his argument by bringing historical narratives which are very much relevant to discuss in the context of 68 years of Sixth Schedule in northeast India. He raised certain questions like why the tribal autonomy was matter of discussion in the Constituent Assembly for the state immediately after independence?. He argued that tribals lost their autonomy due to interventions of colonial market economy in forest regions that led to a series of tribal

revolts in various parts of India. As a result the British rule brought various administrative mechanisms. The British rule implemented the 'policy of isolation' in administering these regions by introducing certain Acts like the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, The Schedule Areas Act of 1874 or Inner Line Regulation of 1873 and also categorized these regions as 'backward tract' under the Government of India Act of 1919, and 'excluded and partial excluded regions' under the Government of India Act of 1935. All these administrative mechanisms were used as tool to pacify the unrest or resistance among the tribes. In view of this background the Indian state has introduced the provisions of Sixth Schedule for reinstating the autonomy of the tribes that they lost due to colonial market economy. He said that the ADCs have great potential and at the same time they have limitation as well. In this context the role of Sixth Schedule need to be re examined. The autonomy was not properly discussed in Constituent Assembly in term of larger interest of the tribes rather it was discussed in keeping view of the sovereignty of Naga tribes. But the Nagas were not included in this setup. Though the provisions were like 'state within a state' or 'miniature state' but did not work due to the active interference of state and the governor in ADCs.

He also raised the present problems of Sixth Schedule. The state failed to implement the MoS's or Land/forest laws of the ADCs and also failed to provide funds and establishment of Finance Commission that led to the ADCs as nominal institutions without any autonomy. However, he appreciated the vision of Constitutional Makers who were instrumental for making these provisions. For instance, the position of tribes from northeast India is good when it is compared to the tribes from other parts of India. If the Sixth Schedule was not provided to these regions the condition of tribes of northeast would have been different.

After speeches of the Guests, Prof. Dilip Chandra Nath, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Silchar formally inaugurated the seminar and heartily welcomed all the resource persons, participants and students to the two days seminar. He also extended his best wishes for the success of the seminar and wished all the resource persons and participants a pleasant stay at Diphu. He also appreciated the Department of History for their initiative and efforts to organize this seminar at Assam University,

Diphu Campus. Finally, the vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Bikash Chanda Dash, Department of Political Science, AUDC. The Seminar organizing Committee extended thanks to Dr. Mahua Bhattacharjee, Department of History, AUDC for well organized anchoring of the Inaugural programme of the seminar.

II. Plenary Lectures

(16th November, 2018, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm)

The inaugural session was followed by three plenary lectures from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm after lunch break. Three guests were invited for plenary lectures from three different academic fields. The plenary speakers were: Prof. Pradip Chattopadhyay, Professor of History, The University of Burdwan, West Bengal; Prof. Jangkhongam Dounghel, Head, Dept. of Political Science, Mizoram University, Mizoram; Dr. Gorky Chakraborty, Associate Professor, Institute of Development Studies Kolkata (IDSK), Kolkata.

Prof. Pradip Chattopadhyay's lecture, *Indian Nation State and North-East India: Debating Validity of the 6th Schedule in Post-Colonial North East India* tried to attempt the present reality of the northeast India. He argued that the purpose of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution was to create a special type of administration in order to provide safeguard to the rights of the tribes. But neither the political situation nor the socio-economic conditions of the tribes living there seem to have shown enough signs of improvement over the decades. On the contrary north-east India has been in a state of turbulence ever since independence which only intensified with the passage of decades. However it was not just secessionist insurgency that keep making headlines in newspapers, the reality in north-east India today is riddled with ethnic conflicts, autonomy movements, inter-tribal and tribal-non-tribal hostility, violent resistance to illegal immigration and a host of other problems that seem to offer a serious challenge to the validity of the Indian nation state. The state of isolation of the north-eastern states during the colonial period seem to have given way to a state of violence in the post-colonial period as north-east has seen violence more than any other part of the country since independence. He clearly stated that these awkward realities confronting the states of North-East India encompassing both the colonial and post-colonial period

need to be addressed in the light of where and how things went wrong even after the implementation of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. Are the current political states of affairs in these states inevitable or are they avoidable by welcoming changes in policy, strategy and implementation ethics are issues that merit scholarly investigation.

Prof. Jangkhongam DOUNGEL's lecture, *the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India: Evolution, Functioning, Issues and Relevance* attempted to analyze the evolution of the provision of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India by tracing its political history since pre-colonial era. It briefly attempted to highlight the status of tribal areas during the pre-colonial and colonial period and various administrative measures, enforced by the colonial power for preservation of the ethnic identity of the tribals were also highlighted. He stated that the statuses of the ADCs under Sixth Schedule and outside the Sixth Schedule are not worth comparing. The reason being, ADCs under Sixth Schedule enjoy constitutional status with autonomous power whereas, ADCs and other councils outside the Sixth Schedule have been created only by legislation of the State Legislature. There are many complaints and allegations against the functioning of ADCs and other councils under the Sixth Schedule, and there are also certain truths to the charges and allegations. However, had ADCs and other councils under the Sixth Schedule been not in existence, would the little works, performed by them might have been done by the Union Government and respective State Government? It is indeed, a doubtful proposition. In fact, the issue of the Sixth Schedule can be termed as one of the most complex political issues in North East India. The reason being, most of the political movements and political slogans have been linked with the Sixth Schedule issue in one way or the other. Over and above that, the Sixth Schedule issue cannot be compared or linked with the Look East Policy or the so-called Act East Policy. Look East Policy has no connection with the Sixth Schedule and Act East Policy is only change of terminology for show of oratory skill without proper action to be seen in the focused area up till now.

Dr. Gorky Chakraborty's lecture, *the Land Question in the Sixth Schedule: A Snapshot from the Hills of Northeast India* tried to analyze the issues of land and its laws in northeast India. He argued that land ownership patterns among many tribal societies (which have been largely communal, with varying degrees of individual

occupancy/ownership as well) ideally have a dual connotation e.g. while on the one hand, devolution of property has been from the community to the individual, the devolution itself is subject to the control of community, on the other. So individual right thereby remain subsumed within the community right as ‘no person or group can have property in anything except as it is acknowledged by the relevant community’. In this sense, ‘property has never been private’ among the tribes of the northeast India. Attempts has been made on the part of the state through Constitutional means to preserve this ideal situation as well as the ideational notions attached to non-private lands in tribal societies and the enactment of the Schedules has been an experiment in this direction.

It is interesting to note that way back in 1930, the Indian Statutory Commission (also known as Simon Commission) commented, “the state of development reached by the inhabitants of these areas prevents the possibility of applying to them the methods of representation adopted elsewhere. They do not ask for self-determination, but for security of land tenure, freedom in pursuit of the traditional methods of livelihood and the reasonable exercise of their ancestral customs”. Such observations must have played an important role in the process of the formation of the Sixth Schedule to the constitution. Accordingly, this Schedule of the Constitution guaranteed that land along with various other local/traditional issues related to the tribal population groups will be governed by the Tribal Autonomous Council’s which will be comprised of tribal population only. Land and related issues remained within the jurisdiction of the Autonomous Councils in order to protect their unique character vis-à-vis the non-tribal areas.

Under such a situation of the interplay of the Sixth Schedule he raised certain questions like how do different property relations emerge in land? What role does the external agency play in influencing such an order? Are the changes in the land relations endogenous to the tribal power structure? Is a different land use pattern a harbinger to a new set of land relations? Does the continuation of the customary laws prohibit bringing about progressive land legislations? How the socio-cultural construct associated with land changes with a change in land relations? A set of similarly inter-related questions

emerge when one analyses issues related to land in the tribal societies located in several states of NEI. Being a son of the soil he himself has organic experience with the people who are part of the sixth schedule areas and he has supported the view of the theory of the son of the soil in relation to land question and supported for the protection of community land.

III. Round Table Colloquium by Organic Intellectuals

(16th November, 2018, 4.00 pm-7.30pm)

The Plenary Lectures were followed by Round Table Colloquium by ‘Organic Intellectuals’ who are local community leaders and belong to the Sixth Schedule area. There were six community leaders from Karbi and Dimasa communities presenting their views on nature of implementation of the Sixth Schedule. This Colloquium was chaired by Longsing Teron, Editor of *Thekar* (A Karbi daily) & President, Journalist Federation of Assam (JAFA). This session was very interesting to learn the facts of Sixth Schedule and its role through the experiences of these local communities who are directly associated with the working of ADCs. The local community leaders raised certain important issues in relation the powers and functions of KAAC and also raised the voice against the failure of KAAC and the Government of India in fulfillment of MoU of 1995 and MoS of 2011. They demanded for strict implementation of the provisions of the Sixth Schedule and the implementation of Article 244(A) of the Constitutions.

Holiram Terang is the present president of Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC) and ex. Minister in Assam State Assembly of Karbi Anglong District. He stated that the Indian state never responded to the question of Autonomous State for the Karbi and Dimasa communities. The states only respond to the demands of these communities when there is a vigorous movement. Being a signatory of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of India and the Government of Assam, he has fought for more autonomy to the KAAC and accordingly, the Government of India brought out necessary constitutional amendments like upgrading the Karbi Anglong District Council (KADC) to Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC). The Government further the jurisdiction of Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council and North-Cachar Hills Autonomous District Council for the exercise of executive powers

extended to 30 (thirty) subjects / departments. But the main demand of the Karbi and Dimasas' Autonomous State is not fulfilled. He also questioned the discriminatory and negligent approach of the state government in connection with the fund transfer and involvement of the state in preparation of Budget, failure to establish the separate Finance Commission and also questioned the misuse of Governor's discretionary powers.

John Ingti Kathar (IAS (Rtd) & Advisor, Sixth Schedule Implementation Committee, Karbi Anglong) is one of the key personalities of Karbi community who has been fighting for the implementation of the rules framed in the Sixth Schedule to Karbis. He stated that the "the Sixth Schedule is a legal document which has been considered as 'constitution within a constitution' or 'mini Constitution' and therefore, it could be treated as separate Constitution for the people of hill communities. As a result, this legal framework will certainly play a role for constructing 'Mini India'. It shows that he has put his argument from the perspective of sub nationalism. He criticized KAAC and its leaders who often compromise with the mainstream political parties for their vested interest. He raised certain important issues which urgently need to be addressed by the state in Karbi Anglong District. They are: the outdated and defective rules of 1951 still being used by the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and state government. The non tribal emigrants have taken away political power of the schedule tribes guaranteed by the constitution of India. According to Para 2 and sub Para 6 of the Sixth Schedule, the rules for conduct of the first Council elections in 1951-52 were framed for temporary use. Under Para 2 and sub Para 7, the first Council should have made an Act and rules for conduct of elections but it has not been done till today. Why the delay in framing the rules? The 1951 rules, framed by the then governor without passing any Act are outdated. As the rules were framed hurriedly, there were many mistakes, ambiguities and contradictions in the Sixth Schedule itself". He alleged that because of the lapses, the names of outsiders had entered the electoral rolls. All 26 elected members of the current council are tribals but they were dependent on non-tribal voters. He also questioned on proposal of two council for non-tribes of this region

After that Kangjang Terang, Ex. Deputy Chairman, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) shared his experience in UPDS organisation and his role in KAAC during his tenure as Deputy Chairman and Member . He argued that the KAAC failed to prepare new electoral roll as per paragraph 2 (7) of Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India and failed to respond to his questions in the council. Being a member in KAAC he was criticized by his own community and failed to get support from them for the cause of community. He suggested to his community that the ultimate goal of Karbis is to get the implementation of Article 244 (A), for which the student should play an important role and fight for the injustice done to the community. He is one of the main signatory of A tripartite Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) in 2011 that was signed between the Central Government, Government of Assam and United People's Democratic Solidarity (UPDS) in the presence of the former Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram and former Chief Minister of Assam, Tarun Gogoi. He opined that the Government failed to implement the points mentioned in this MoS.

Apart from the above speakers rest three speakers (Bahimchandra Langthasa, President, Sixth Schedule Implementation Committee, Dima Hasao District; Angton Engti Kathar Member, UKSA, Karbi Anglong Karbi Anglong and Sanjeevan Langthasa) from this panel also raised the issues of Karbi and Dimasa community. They argued that due to dilutions of the provisions of sixth schedule, all government funds for development, government job, land, trade and commerce reserved by the sixth schedule under paragraph-20 have been snatched away by the illegal migrants. Secondly, they opposed the decision of the Central Government of granting ST(Hills) status to the Boro Kachari people residing in the district of Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong. They said that the Boros were not the original inhabitants of the twin hills district. And moreover, they were the second largest population in Assam. They are already categorized as ST (Plains) and some have migrated to the twin hills districts in recent years only. Therefore, their demand for ST (Hills) status was unjustified. And if such largely populated group was included in the ST (Hills) category, the actual indigenous beneficiaries who were lesser in population and weaker in many aspects would be wiped out totally. And the main purpose of the Indian Constitution to uplift the already backward classes would be driven to trench. They also opposed the imposition of

Panchayat Raj system on the Sixth Schedule areas which indisputably hamper the autonomy of these communities.

IV. Technical Sessions

(17th November, 2018, 10.00am-5.00pm)

The panel discussion was followed by technical sessions in the second day of the programme. Three parallel technical sessions were held in three rooms. The second day completed six technical sessions from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. During the two days seminar, there were 70 Paper presenters, 6 Resource Persons and 3 plenary lectures speakers and 6 speakers for Round Table Colloquium. The seminar papers have broadly covered thematic sections like History, Culture, Language, Politics, Developmental issues, Economy, Look East and Act East Policies etc,. The seminar outcome helped us to find out the gaps and problems in Sixth Schedule and Tribes Autonomy of Northeast India. The seminar has taken the resolution that selected papers will be published by the Asiatic Society and the Seminar Coordinator was given the responsibility of editing of the selected papers for the publication. Since there is no single review or academic work on the Sixth Schedule and Autonomy of Tribes this book will certainly make a new dimension to understand the concept of sixth schedule and autonomy of the tribes for the policy makers and academicians in the field of social science research.



(Dr. Vulli Dhanaraju)

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Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam-782 462

TEN-DAYS WORKSHOP ON

Understanding Paradigm Shifts in **Research Culture** in Social Sciences & Humanities

Mahatma Gandhi School of Economics and Commerce, Assam University, and Manab Kalyan, Silchar (A Non-Government Organization) is organizing a ten days research methodology workshop on “UNDERSTANDING PARADIGM SHIFTS IN RESEARCH CULTURE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES” from 1st October, 2018 to 10th October, 2018. This workshop is designed to impart and revisit the emerging dynamics of humanities and social sciences research. The proposed workshop aims to contribute towards building capacity among faculty members and doctoral students in mapping the research paradigms which center around on creating and strengthening research culture and promoting interdisciplinary aspects of social sciences and humanities.

Objectives of the Workshop

- Understand the role of Humanities and Social Sciences in development of Knowledge
- Thoughtful introspection to the modalities of collaboration among interdisciplinary segments
- Revisit the scope of Humanities and Social Sciences Research in Indian Subcontinent
- Intertwinement of emerging disciplines within the universe of Humanities and Social Science Research
- Contemplate on the ethical aspects of research
- Develop critical faculty to navigate in a media saturated ecosystem
- Contextualize the quantitative and qualitative methods
- Data Processing and management by applying statistical tools

Participants

Young faculty members and Research Scholars from different branch of Humanities & Social Sciences are eligible to apply for this 10-days workshop on the prescribed application format available on the Assam University website, www.aus.ac.in. Selected candidates would be informed by email.

The workshop had 32 participants from both Assam and the rest of the North East. The programme was convened by the Head of the Department of Economics and the Dean of Mahatma Gandhi School of Economics and Commerce Prof. (Dr) Niranjana Roy. Dr Brajesh Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce and Dr Joydeep Goswami, ICSSR Project Post Doctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, Assam University were the co-conveners. The Workshop was a grand success under the able leadership of the conveners.



REPORT

NORTH-EAST MEET OF ASTRONOMERS 2018 (NEMA-4)

Date: November 26-28, 2018

Venue: Bipin Chandra Pal Seminar Hall, Assam University, Silchar

Organizer: Department of Physics, Assam University, Silchar-788011

Coordinators: Prof. Ranjeev Misra (IUCAA) and Dr. Himadri Sekhar Das (AUS)

The three-day meeting of the North East Meet of Astronomers 2018 (NEMA-4) was held at the Bipin Chandra Pal Seminar Hall of Assam University, Silchar, during Nov 26-28, 2018. This meeting was organized by the Department of Physics, Assam University, Silchar in collaboration with the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune.

NEMA-4 began its journey on November 26, 2018, at 10:15 am with inviting the dignitaries on stage in the following sequence:

- Prof. Asoke Kumar Sen, Dean School of Physical Sciences, Patron, NEMA-4
- Prof. Ranjeev Misra, Coordinator, IUCAA, Chief Guest of the session.
- Prof. Barin Kumar De, Tripura University, Guest of Honour.
- Prof. Atri Deshamukhya, the Head of the Department of Physics, Chairperson NEMA-4.
- Dr. Himadri Sekhar Das, Coordinator, NEMA-4

After the felicitation of the dignitaries, the lamp lighting ceremony was held along with an Inaugural song performed by the Postgraduate students from the Department of Physics, Assam University, Silchar. The inauguration program continued with the speeches of the dignitaries, starting with the welcome speech by the Coordinator of NEMA-4, Dr. Himadri Sekhar Das. The abstract of NEMA-4, 2018 was unveiled by the dignitaries on stage after the welcome speech. Finally, the inauguration program of NEMA-4 was closed with the vote of thanks by Dr. A. Senorita Devi followed by the National Song of India. **In this meeting, one keynote address, 13 invited talks, and 30 contributory talks were presented.**



Dignitaries on stage



Lamp lighting Ceremony

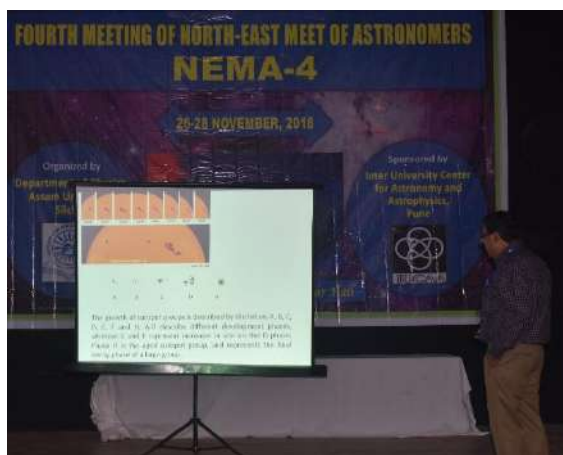


Inaugural Song



Abstract Unveiling

The technical *Session-1* started at 11:15 am on November 26, 2018, was chaired by Prof. Asoke K. Sen. In this session, Prof. Barin K. Dey from the Department of Physics, Tripura University presented an invited talk on “Periodicities in solar features or activities” followed by one contributory talk from Gautam Saikia and the other talk by the MSc students Sukalyan Deb and Abhijit Dey. The session ended with the second invited talk given by Dr. Sanjeev Kalita on “Some astrophysical issues with the Λ CDM universe”.



Invited talk by Prof. Barin K. De



Contributory talk by Gautam Saikia

After a lunch break of 1 hour, the technical *Session-2* began which was chaired by Dr. Umananda Dev Goswami from the Department of Physics, Dibrugarh University. The session started with an invited talk on “Cosmic Rays and Extensive Air showers” by Dr. Moon Moon Devi from the Department of Physics, Tezpur University followed by three contributory talks from Anshuman Baruah, Tanay Ghosh, Amritaksha Kar and two contributory talks by the MSc students Ritam Adhikary & Animesh Bhattacharjee, and Rupana Ferdous Khan & Ruksana Kowsar.



Invited talk by Dr. Moon Moon Devi



Contributory talk by M.Sc. Students

Technical *Session-3* began after a short tea break of 15 minutes which was chaired by Prof. Barin K. Dey. In this session, Prof. Asoke K. Sen presented an invited talk on the “Results from some recent Cometary space missions and ground based studies” followed by one contributory talk contributory talk by Parag Bhattacharya.



Invited talk by Prof. Asoke K. Sen



Contributory talk by Parag Bhattacharya

Dr. Biman J. Medhi from the Department of Physics, Gauhati University chaired the technical *Session-4* which was the first technical session of Day 2 of NEMA-4. Dr. Monmoyuri Baruah from the Department of Physics, Assam Don Bosco University presented an invited talk on “Study of the Absorption Edge of Luminous supersoft X-ray Sources” followed by three contributed talks from Gulafsha Begom Choudhury, Ayesha Maryam Mazarbhuiya and Ng. Ibohal and one

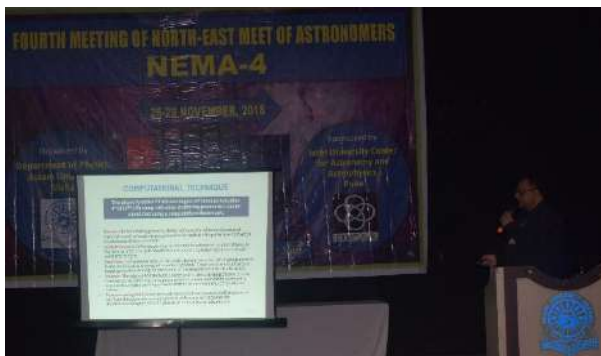
contributory talk from the MSc students Deepanjali Deb and Purnima Gogoi. The session ended with an invited talk presented by Dr. Gazi Ameen Ahmed on the “Computational modelling of analogues of non-spherical interstellar dust for light scattering studies”.



Invited talk by Dr. Monmoyuri Baruah



Contributory talk by Gulafsha B. Choudhury



Invited talk by Dr. Gazi Ameen Ahmed



Contributory talk by M.Sc. Students



Contributory talk by AyeshaMaryam Mazarbhuiya

After a short tea break of 20 minutes, technical *Session-5* began which was chaired by Dr. Gazi Ahmed. In this session, Dr. Biman J. Medhi presented an invited talk on “Astronomical Polarimetry: Optical and NIR approach” followed by one contributory talk from Prithish Halder and two contributory talks from the MSc students Manali Chakraborty, Siuli Singha, Jyoti Biswas, and Richa Narzary.



Invited talk by Dr. Biman J. Medhi



Contributory talk by Prithish Halder

The technical *Session-6* began after a lunch break of 1 hour which was chaired by Prof. Atri Deshamukhya. The session began with an invited talk by Dr. Umananda Dev Goswami on “Gravitational Waves: A window on to the Universe” followed by three contributory talks from Dr. Anuj Kumar Dubey, Naznin R. Choudhury and Dr. Parizath Deb Roy and one contributory talk from the M. Sc. students Kwrwmdao Basumatary, Joy Bhattacharjee and Jayanta Biswas.



Invited talk by Dr. Umananda D. Goswami



Contributory talk by Dr. P. Debroy

After a short tea break, **Prof. Somak Raychaudhury, Director, IUCAA,** Pune presented a keynote address on the “Astrophysics in India: past, present and future” followed by a cultural event organized by the students of the Department of Physics, Assam University, Silchar. Finally, the day ended with an academic discussion followed by a dinner.



Felicitatation of Director of IUCAA



Keynote speech by Director of IUCAA



Interaction Session



Participants attending NEMA-4



Cultural Prog (Ganesh Vandana)



Cultural Prog (Rabindra Sangeet)



Cultural (Ojha Dance)



Cultural (Bengali Song)



Cultural (Manipuri Raas-Leela)



Cultural (Bihu Dance)



Dhamail, a Bengali traditional Dance

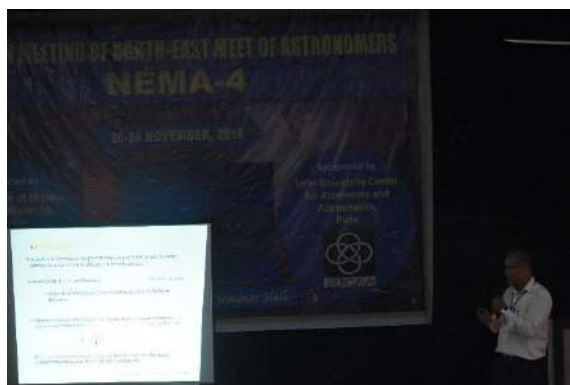


Cultural (Dhamail)

Technical *Session-7* which was the first session of Day-3 of NEMA-4 began at 9:30 am chaired by Dr. Rupjyoti Gogoi from the Department of Physics, Tezpur University. The session began with an invited talk from Dr. Pralay Kumar Karmakar followed by three contributory talks from S. Rita Devi, Irom Ablu Meitei and Akram Chandrajit Singha and one contributory talk from the MSc students Narmada Gohain. The session ended with an invited talk from Dr. A. Seniorita Devi from the Department of Physics, Assam University, Silchar.



Invited talk by Dr. A. Seniorita devi



Contributory talk by Irom Ablu Meitei

After a short tea break, technical *Session-8* began which was chaired by Prof. Ng. Ibohal. In this session, four contributory talks were presented by Aheibam Keshwarjit Singh, Tanuj Kumar Dhar, Anshuman Borgohain and Kabita Deka followed by one contributory talk from the MSc students Ankita Chakraborty and Neha Mallah.



Contributory talk by Tanuj Kumar Dhar



Contributory talk by A. Keshwarjit Singh

Finally, the last technical session of the meet began after a lunch break which was chaired by Dr. A. Seniorita Devi. In this session, an invited talk by Dr. Rupjyoti Gogoi on “Investigating interstellar dust grains through correlation studies” followed by two contributory talks from the MSc students Ankita Bhattacharjee, Rituparna Ghosh, Chinmoy Bora, and Nabajyoti Das. Then Dr. Himadri Sekhar Das presented

an invited talk on “Modeling photopolarimetric characteristics of comets based on ground-based observations and recent space missions”. The session ended with an invited talk by Prof. Atri Deshamukhya on “Inflationary Cosmology: A critical look”.



Invited talk by Dr. Himadri Sekhar Das



Contributory talk by M.Sc. Students



Invited talk by Prof. Atri Deshamukhya

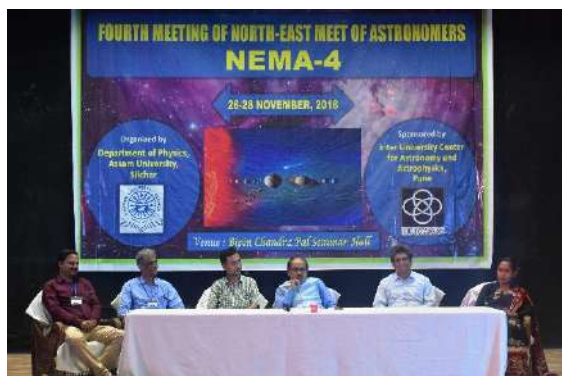


Invited talk by Dr. Rupiyoti Gogoi

After all the technical sessions were over, NEMA-4 came to its end with the valedictory program. In the valedictory program the dignitaries on stage were,

- Honourable Vice Chancellor Prof. Dilip Chandra Nath, Assam University Silchar, Chief Patron, NEMA-4.
- Prof. Somak Raychaudhury, Director, IUCAA, Pune, Chief Guest of that session.
- Prof. Asoke Kumar Sen, Dean School of Physical Sciences, Patron, NEMA-4
- Prof. Atri Deshamukhya, the Head of the Department of Physics, Chairperson NEMA-4
- Prof. Ranjeev Misra, IUCAA, Pune, Coordinator from IUCAA.
- Dr. Himadri Sekhar Das, Coordinator, NEMA-4.

With the speeches from the dignitaries on stage, the three-day program of NEMA-4 officially ended with a speech of Prof. Dilip Chandra Nath, Vice-Chancellor, Assam University, Silchar followed by our National Anthem on the eve of November 28, 2018.



Dignitaries on stage (Valedictory Programme)



Offering the token of love to Prof. Ranjeev Misra

Group photos



Group Photo on November 27, 2018



Group Photo on November 28, 2018



Group Photo: Students and PhD scholars with two Coordinators.

Report prepared by:

1) Prithish Halder, 2) Gulafsha Begom Choudhury and 3) Dr. Himadri Sekhar Das

Seven Day National Workshop

On

Documenting Oral Cultural Traditions of Northeast India

Report

Day 1: 22.04.2018

The Workshop began on the 22nd April, 2018, Sunday, with Academic meetings with Resource Persons and the Organisers at the Department of English, Assam University, Silchar. Registration for the Workshop started at 12 noon at the Department of English, Assam University, Silchar. The total number of applications exceeded 60, out of which 47 were selected. The final number of registered participants was 43.

Day 2: 23.04.2018

The Inaugural Ceremony was held on the morning of 23rd April, 2018. The programme was chaired by the Vice Chancellor of Assam University, Prof. Dilip Chandra Nath. Chief Guest Shree Gouri Sankar Chakraborty, Guest of Honour, Professor Sujit Kr. Ghosh, Special Guest Professor K. C. Baral were present on the stage among other dignitaries. The Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony, Shree Gouri Sankar Chakraborty and the Guest of Honour, Prof. Sujit Kr. Ghosh spoke on the importance of oral cultural traditions, thereby bringing to the forefront the varied and rich oral traditions of Northeast India, especially Barak Valley. The Special Guest of the inaugural ceremony, Prof. K.C. Baral, the Co-ordinator of the Workshop, Prof. Dipendu Das and Dr. Uttam Bathari, ICHR representative also focussed on similar issues, thus setting the tone of the workshop. The inaugural ceremony came to an end with the Vote of Thanks by Dr. Saugata Kr. Nath, Faculty, Dept. Of English, Assam University, Silchar.

The inaugural ceremony was followed by the Key note address by Prof. K.C. Baral, Professor of India Studies, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad and former Pro-Vice Chancellor of EFL University, Hyderabad. The session was chaired by Prof. Niranjana Roy, Dean, Mahatma Gandhi School of Economics and Commerce, Assam University, Silchar.

The Key note address gave way to the Technical Sessions of the day. The first Technical Session of the day involved a presentation by Dr. Uttam Bathari, Deputy Director, ICHR, while the second Technical Session of the day was engaged by Prof. Dipendu Das, Co-ordinator of the Workshop and Head of the Dept. Of English, Assam University, Silchar. Dr. Bathari's presentation was titled *Orality and History: Observations on the History of Dimasas-Kachari* wherein he spoke about the oral traditions of the Dimasas of Barak Valley while Prof. Das reflected on the notion of Androgyne or 'Ardhanarishwar', tracing down the history of its origin in Indian Cultural Traditions. As his presentation was entitled *Androgyne in Indian Cultural Tradition: 'Gurmar Gaan'/'Ojha Naach', A Performing Art Transcending Gender*, it set the ground for the third and last Technical Session of the day which was a folk performance called, "Ojha Nrityo", a traditional folk dance of Assam. This dance was performed by a group of


30/04/18
D. DIPENDU DAS
Professor
Department of English
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dancers from the Valley where the Ojha led the performance by narrating the *Padmapurana* while the other group members supplemented the performance with music.

Day 3: 24.04.2018

Prof. Dilip Bora engaged the first technical session on the second day with his lecture on Bihu as a festival of songs and music. He proceeded with a discussion on how Bihu came to be accepted more as a popular festival than as a communal one. He talked about the significance of Bihu songs, how it embeds within itself the bridge that cuts across cultural demarcations. The songs signify the struggle for survival, of love and aesthetic devotion, and most of all, of harvest. He ended the session with a brief discussion on the two types of oja-pali- 'sukananni' oja-pali and 'byah oja-pali'. Traditionally, Oja-pali as a performative art form comprises of three forms of art, song, dance and drama. While, Sukannani oja-pali is celebrated by performing the story of 'padmapurana', byah oja-pali is celebrated by performing stories from *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*.

The Second Technical Session of the day was by Mousumi Bhowmik of Travelling Archives. Mousumi Bhowmik began the session with a discussion on the composition of history and its authenticity, how the notion of history can be challenged by perceiving it as a political and subjective documentation. The history of the political 'other' that found no space in the popular history of the nation is possibly embedded in the cultural songs of certain communities. Such songs evolved as a merger of cultures across territorial borders, for instance, the songs of Ruhi Thakur and Bhupen Hajarika. This discussion was followed by video clips and voice recordings from the Travelling Archive.

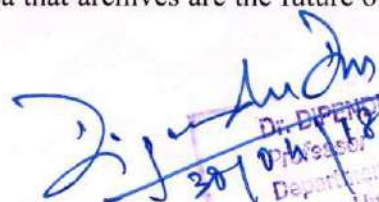
In the third Technical Session of the day, Prof. Nandini Bhattacharyya started her lecture with a brief introduction to oral literature. In the context of Indian subcontinent, trauma events resulting from the holocaust developed as oral narratives. She said, Orality should be given importance for these often record the crimes done against humanity. In this context, trauma events happen to be oral literature because of the confession of the victims. Prof. Bhattacharjee also talked about the rupture brought by John Locke in terms of considering language and writing on the same scale. She referred to Locke's work *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, highlighting the fact that how language is abstracted from reality.

The Final Technical Session of the day was a Performance by the famous Folk Singer Satyaki Banerjee where he sang and talked about his personal philosophy behind the songs.

Day 4: 25.04.2018

The first Technical Session was a thorough demonstrative analysis of Baul songs by Professor Nandini Bhattacharyya. She focussed on Lalan's non-documentation of songs as a philosophical stance and the importance of language in terms of writing and orality- how orality produces a plethora of meanings unperturbed by the barriers of written language, thus, expanding the latitude of oral culture.

The Second Technical Session of the day was by Mousumi Bhowmik where she dealt with the notion of impartiality in archives and the idea that archives are the future of the past.


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The archive is a subjective arena where its creators take the liberty to portray certain elements in one's own way depending on one's own perspective. History can be seen as a space where majority suppress the voice of the margin and thus the role of the archive is to create a space where all voices could have equal participation.

Prof. Amalendu Bhattacharjee gave an introduction to folklore in the Third Technical Session of the day and talked about the ways of classifying the same. He discussed folksongs that can be found in abundance in the Bengali culture of Barak Valley. From the celebration of the birth of a child, to the lamentation on the departure of a person from this world, such songs embody every element. The various types of folk songs are: 'the birth song', 'mamar barir gaan', 'upanayan', 'biyar geet', 'agomoni', 'rono manosi', 'bhai fota', 'mongol kabya', 'surjobroto kirtan', 'dol jatra', 'chorok pujo'.

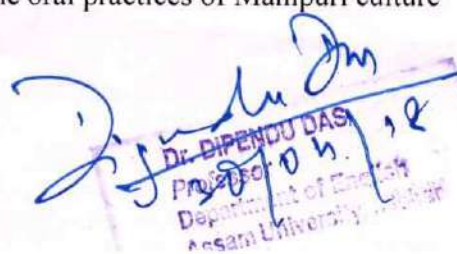
The Final Technical Session of the day was a Performance by Moushumi Bhowmik where she sang and talked about songs collected by the Travelling Archive from field recordings across this region along with a few of her own compositions inspired by the same.

Day 5: 26.04.2018

The first Technical Session of the day involved a presentation by Prof. Dipendu Das. Prof. Das' lecture focussed on the 'bratakathas' of the region, - a situation where women gather and narrate stories related to a ritual. His presentation titled *Folklore, Environment, Society: Re-reading an Oral Narrative from Barak Valley* portrayed the symbiotic relationship between society, folklore and environment, with specific reference to "Rod Rajar Kichcha", an oral narrative emerging from the roots of the valley. "Rod Rajar Kichcha" can also be considered as a ritual, as a 'brata' performed before sowing seeds in the field. The worldwide concern for environment and ecosystem also finds importance in the folklores, which reflect that awareness about the environment was present in the storehouse of knowledge of the rural people.

The second Technical Session of the day opened with a presentation on *Documentation and Preservation of the Oral Literature of North-East: A Sahitya Akademi Initiative* by Prof. Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, Former Director, NBT and Editor of *Indian Literature* of Sahitya Akademi. Prof. Bhattacharjee, in his presentation, talked about his own experiences in the process of documentation of Oral Literature and narrated the story of Rahul Mehrotra and Felipe Vera from the Harvard Graduate School of Design whose serious initiative in documentation resulted in the culmination of their book entitled *Kumbh Mela: Mapping the Ephemeral Megacity*. Prof. Bhattacharjee spoke on the inclusive process of collecting materials and emphasised on the need for documentation and preservation, failing which will result in the loss of a vast tapestry of rich oral cultural traditions.

The third Technical Session of the day was a presentation on Manipuri performing arts by Prof. Nani Kumar Singha, Department of Manipuri, Assam University, Silchar. His paper titled *Tracing Oral Tradition of Medieval Manipuri Performing Arts (Special Focus: Natasankirtan)* mirrored his interests in re-designing and re-discovering the oral practices of Manipuri culture


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in North-east India. Oral tradition, as opined by Prof. Singha, is an important tool for producing new genres of culture .

The fourth and last Technical Session of the day was a performance by a group of Manipuri Martial artists from Manipur, wherein these performers showcased their skill in sword fighting, jugglery and talked about the various folk art forms embedded in their art.

Day 6: 27.04.2018

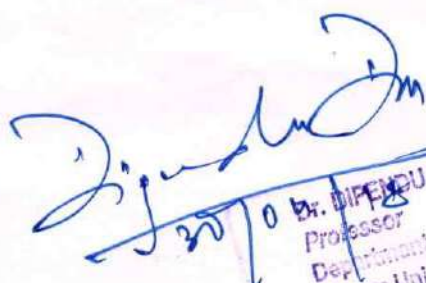
The first technical session of the 6th day was by Prof. Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee. He put forth his arguments about the discrepancy between the status accorded to recorded languages and non-recorded languages. To tackle this issue he added, necessary steps for bringing up new sets of symbols and orthographies, for the dying languages are required. He proposed certain criteria for developing effective orthography by summing it up under five points. With the examples of languages like Khasi, Garo, Dimasa etc., having Bengali as their script language, Prof. Bhattacharjee concluded his talk by throwing some light on how dominance and imposition of a major language works on a minor language, and how this system needs to be eradicated for the proper preservation of dying languages.

The second technical session was by Prof Rama Prasad Biswas. He started with a talk on the multi-lingual and multi-cultural demographic structure of Barak Valley. He focussed his talk on the tea tribes of Northeast India, particularly Assam. He stated that the various tea tribes have different sets of oral narratives, which have similar contents. The change in the structure of those oral narratives is nothing but the result of the movements with settlements to different places, that the different tribes undertake, he said. With the example of few narratives/ fables, such as 'A Fox's Tale' etc., Prof. Biswas tried to point out that the common thing between different oral narratives of the tea tribes of Northeast India is the cultural content, which remains particular to them only.

The third technical session was by Prof. Amalendu Bhattacharjee. He talked about one of the popular cultural narratives of the Bengali community of the Barak Valley region, i.e., the story of deity Manasa, popularly known as Manasamangal Kavya. Interestingly he talked of how small narratives related to the grand narrative of the deity Manasa vary, such as Manasamangal Kavya, Naga tale in Mahabharata, the tale of Janmojaya and Jaratkaru. All these narratives are structured differently, but the content is the same. All these narratives however have collectively been useful in spreading the worship of the diety all over.

The fourth technical session comprised of the performance of a play *Maa Manasa'r Kiccha*, written and performed by Mr. Shekhar Deb Roy, a popular playwright of Barak Valley Region. His play and performance was structured closely on the Manasamangal Kavya. Revolving round the enactment of the establishment of the worship of the deity Manasa. This play written and performed exemplified how the documentation of the oral cultural narratives is done in one way i.e., literary production.

Day 7: 28.04.2018


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The Final day of the Workshop was spent with Presentations (written and verbal) made by the participants of the Workshop. It was heartening to see that the Seven Day National Workshop on Oral Cultural Traditions has given birth to a plethora of new ideas among the participants along with a new zeal in documenting the same. As this was one of the prime objectives of the Workshop, the organisers felt satisfied in successfully achieving the goal.

The presentations and the feedback from Participants was followed by a Special Lecture by the Guest of Honour of the day, Prof. V. K. Srivastava, Director, MAKAIAS. Prof. Srivastava very nicely summed up the entire objectives of this project of documenting, archiving and promoting Orality and Oral Cultural Traditions that MAKAIAS is pursuing under his and Prof. Sujit K. Ghosh's leadership. He talked about the processes, the hardships and the sincerity involved in documentation and archiving drawing upon his personal experiences as well as from anecdotes about other celebrated archivists. Professor Srivastava also encouraged the participants and other researchers present to come up with new initiatives and projects and ensured that there will be no shortage of funds for a good initiative. The session was chaired by Prof. Dipendu Das.

This was followed by the Valedictory Session with Prof. Sanjib K. Bhattacharjee, Registrar, Assam University as the Chairperson. Prof. Srivastava, Prof. Dipendu Das and Prof. Sanjib K. Bhattacharjee distributed the certificates to the participants with congratulations for the successful completion of the Workshop.


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Report on Seminar organized by Omeo Kumar Das Institute for Social Change and Development, Guwahati in collaboration with Centre for Tribal Studies, Assam University, Diphu Campus on Writing 'Tribes' in Northeast India: Past, Present and Future, (19th and 20th March 2018)



Beginning with Bampfylde Fuller's early attempts in producing scientific knowledge about tribes in northeast India through published monographs to the GOI's Tribal Research Institutes (Assam 1963) and later on the People of India initiative by the Anthropological survey of India (1985), research has travelled a difficult path and a long distance. Apart from these initiatives independent research and academic institutions, like universities have contributed to this expanding knowledge.

Hence the dependence on colonial texts have decreased, or have been critically reviewed to understand the category of 'tribe' and specially the communities of northeast India.

Moreover, recent field research have dispelled many myths about communities, for example, on the question of efficacy of jhumming as a means of agriculture, or ‘primitiveness’ of ‘tribes’.

The transformation of ideas is not limited to the academic exercises merely, but springs from various movements which have propelled ‘tribes’ to the vortex of politics in northeast India. The attempt of the communities to define themselves, to seek their pasts and to challenge biased narratives have led to epistemological quests which have altered many dominant opinions.

The journey of writing, thinking and acting about ‘tribes’ has been informed by changing dynamics and hence this attempt to map knowledge creation, both – official and non-official sources regarding the ‘tribes’.

The Seminar was a critical review of the developments of a century of writing, describing, defining ‘tribes’ in northeast india in the context of the sub-continent and global concerns.

Sub Themes –

1. Official anthropology and Northeast India
2. Developmental agendas and Tribes
3. Gender and Ethnicity
4. Understanding “tribal” religion
5. Tribal Movements
6. Museums and Tribes
7. Films and Documentaries
8. Colonial Knowledge and post-colonial politics

The Keynote was delivered by Prof VirginiusXaxa, eminent Sociologist who spoke about the evolution of categories like tribes especially in northeastern context. The plenary lectures were delivered by Prof Chandan Kumar Sharma, Tezpur University and Dr Manzil Hazarika, Cotton University. Prof Sharma spoke about historical developments in Assam and Dr Hazarika deliberated on archaeological and anthropological developments. Other prominent speakers were Dharam Sing Teron, noted folklorist who deconstructed colonial labels with reference to the Karbi tribe, Dr Pratha P Borah on Ethnicity, Dr Veronica Khangchian on

Ethnicity and Conflict, Prof Rahim Mandal on the ideas and theories of Anthropology, Dr A. S Shimreiwung on Naga religion, Dr A.K Das on Governance. Many young scholars participated and presented their on going research, eg, KaustuvSaikia on Karbi Youth Festival, VitsinoHaikam on traditional religion and Naga Past, Mohan Sharma and Dr Uttam Lal on hunting economy and conservation in Dibang Valley, Franky Bodo on Folk beliefs among the Bodos, LinsoTimungpi and Rebecca Kramsapi on Karbi worships among others.

Concluding comments were made by Prof BhupenSarma at Valedictory Ceremony.

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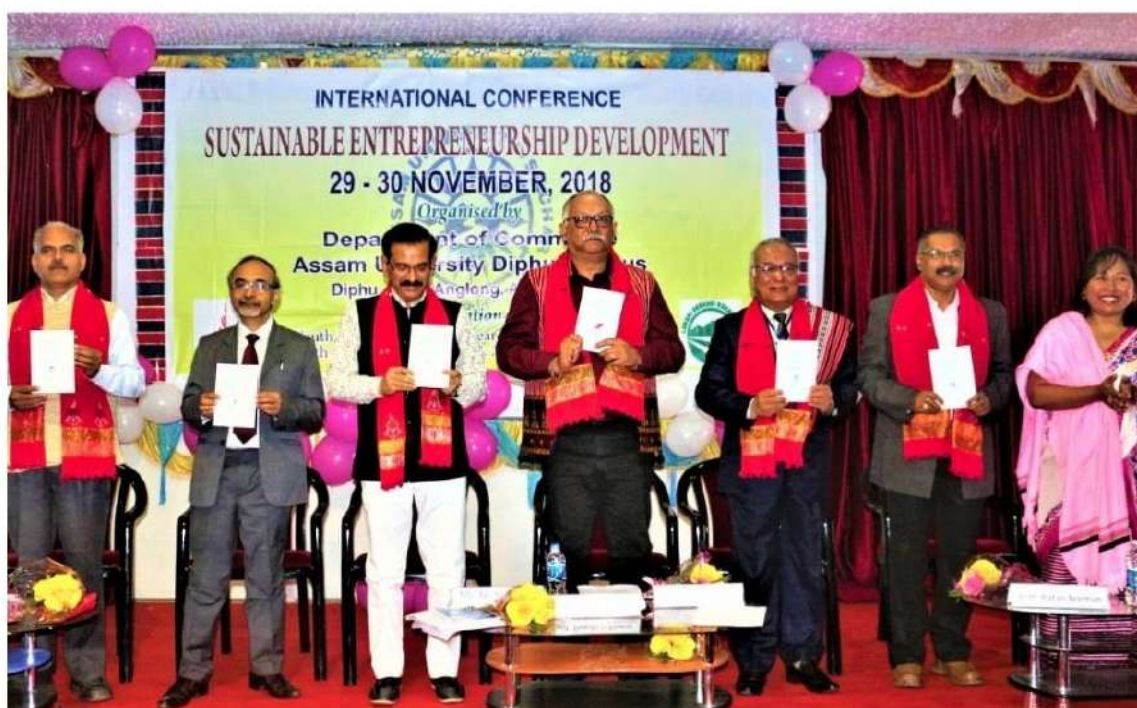
Proceedings of the Two Day International Conference on Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development

29 -30 November 2018

**Organised by: Department of Commerce, Assam University Diphu Campus,
Diphu, Assam India**

**Sponsored by : Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) NERC,
Shillong and Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank, (LDRB), Diphu Assam**

Venue: Farmer's Growth Centre, Diphu



A two day International conference on Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development was organised by the Department of Commerce Assam university Diphu Campus, Diphu , Karbi Anglong Assam India on 29th & 30th November 2018. The conference was sponsored by ICSSR-NERC and LDRB Diphu. The academic partners of the conference were NEICMA and YERA. The conference which was attended by more than 150 participants including delegates from India and abroad, social scientists,

professionals, academicians and students, had 13 different academic sessions and one community interaction programme after the valedictory session. 70 research papers of 103 authors presented in the two days academic event. The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Sivasish Biswas, Pro Vic Chancellor, Assam University Diphu Campus, Diphu on 29th November 2018. The key note speaker of the conference was Prof. Radhe Syam Pradhan, Central Department of Management, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal. The Chief guest of the inaugural session was Mr. M. Hazarika (IAS), Principal Secretary, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and chief guest of the Valedictory session was Mr. M Saikia, Deputy Commissioner Karbi Anglong. Some of the prominent academicians and guests who had attended the conference were Prof M. Z. Mamun of University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dr. Mario Kuratolo, CO, MBC- Switzerland, Prof. Kamal M Pradhan of Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal, Prof A Rajmani of Manipur University, Prof A.P. Singh of Gauhati University, Prof. Pranjal Bezborah of Dibrugarh University, Prof F.B Singh of Banaras Hindu University, UP. Dr. Surya Prakash of Delhi University, Dr. Ramachandran of Anamalai University, Tamil Nadu, Mr. Sushanta Talukdar, former Senior Editor, the Hindu, Mrs Ratna Bharali Talukdar, Associate Editor NEZIME, Mr. Longsing Teron, President Journalist association Assam and Editor, Thekar, Mr. Dibjyoti Dutta, Chairman, LDRB, etc.

The main objective of the conference was to discuss the sustainable form of entrepreneurship development in the present world in a wider term as well as some of the contradictory ideas being involved with this. The case studies of successful entrepreneurs who involve in such areas of entrepreneurship and the possibilities of sustainable entrepreneurship development in North Eastern Region of India also presented during the conference. It was expected that the outcomes of the conference would help to foster a wider understanding of the sustainable entrepreneurship development and provide inputs in making a policy planning of entrepreneurship development for developing countries like India in general and remote areas of the world like North Eastern region of India in particular. The conference has developed a wider concept of *sustainable entrepreneurship that a type of entrepreneurship which has focus on entrepreneurial ideas without compromising social, economic and environmental issues. The sustainable entrepreneurs are those entrepreneurs who develop the ideas that can lead to produce environmentally or socially beneficial innovative products.*

The themes which were included in the conference were :

1. Theoretical aspects of sustainable entrepreneurship Development
2. Role of Government, Entrepreneurship Promoting Agencies, NGOs, international agencies in sustainable entrepreneurship development: case studies
3. Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development for Poverty Alleviation, Social Justice, Environment Protection, Inclusive growth.
4. Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development Models
5. Social Entrepreneurship Vs Sustainable Entrepreneurship.
6. Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Sector
7. Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development in developing countries like India in general North- Eastern Region of India in particular
8. India's Act East Policy and Opportunities for Sustainable trade of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises of North- Eastern Region of India

On the first day of the conference (29th Nov 2018), there were 8 sessions including inaugural session, panel discussion and 6 technical sessions. The inaugural session was attended by a number of dignitaries, paper presenters, students, media persons, etc. The session was presided by Prof. Sivashish Biswas, Pro. Vice Chancellor, Assam University Diphu Campus, Diphu and the Chief Guest was Mr. M Hazarika (IAS), Principal Secretary, KAAC, Diphu. The welcome address was delivered by Prof Ratan Borman, Head, Department of Commerce, Assam University, Diphu Campus, and which was followed by showing a short movie *The Journey*: an introduction to Department of Commerce, AUDC. It was followed by 'Introduction to the theme' by Dr. A. Ibemcha Chanu, Convener, International Conference Organising Committee. She highlighted the objectives of the conference, the list of the participants and expected outcomes of the conference.

It was followed by the address by Guest of Honours. They are :

1. Mr. Debjyoti Dutta, Chairman Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank (LDRB),
Diphu
2. Prof. Pranjal Bezborah, President, North East Commerce and
Management Association (NECMA)
3. Prof. F.B Singh, Secretary, YERA & Editor in Chief, Hermeneutics
4. Mr. LongSing Teron, President, Journalist Association, Assam &
Editor *Thekar*

The 'Book of Abstracts', of the conference and a Book on 'Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development', edited by Dr. A. Ibemcha Chanu, and the special

issue of 'Hermeneutics,' were also released on the occasion. Addressing Chief Guest's speech, Mr. Hazarika (IAS) appreciated the role of the Department of Commerce Assam University Diphu Campus in conducting academic activities like conferences in the relevant topics like sustainable entrepreneurship.

In the key note address, Prof (Dr) Radhe Shyam Pradhan, Central, Department of Management, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal not only presented the evolution of very concept of sustainable entrepreneurship and the importance of such type of entrepreneurship in the present world. He argues that the Sustainable Entrepreneurship is a concept that has emerged from the earlier concepts of social entrepreneurship & via sustainability entrepreneurship. It was followed by the Chairperson's speech by Prof S. Biswas, Pro Vice Chancellor, Assam University Diphu campus. The session ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Atul Kalita, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Diphu Government College, and Diphu, Assam.

After the inaugural session, a Panel Discussion was conducted on the topic 'Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development: Issues and Challenges' and moderated by Prof. Pranjal Bezborah, Department of Commerce, Dibrugarh University and President, North East Commerce and Management Association (NECMA). The panellists are Dr. Mario Kuratulo, CO- MBC Switzerland, Prof. Muhammad Ziaulhaq Mamun, Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Prof. A. P. Singh, Department of Commerce, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam, India Prof. Kamal. M Pradhan, Department of Geography, Tribhuban University, Kathmandu, Nepal. Mr. Debjyoti Dutta, Chairman Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank (LDRB), Diphu, Karbi Anglong Assam, India. Mr. Sushanta Talukdar: Editor, NEZIME, former, Senior Editor, Hindu. The 1st Technical Session was started at 2.00 and continue till 3.30 pm; there were three parallel sessions. In the Parallel Session 1, the theme was: Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development in developing countries and North- Eastern Region of India. It was chaired by Prof. A. Rajmani Singh, Department of Commerce, Manipur University, Manipur and resource person was Ms. Ratna Bharali Talukdar, Associate Editor, NEZIME. Altogether 7 papers were presented in that session; they are Women Entrepreneurship: Socio-Economic Sustainability And Empowerment: A Reality Study At Cuddalore- by Dr. R.Ramachandran Anamalai Univeristy, Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development Through Handloom Industry: An Empirical Study On The Handloom Weavers Of Manipur- by Dr. A. Victoria Chanu, Assistant Professor, & Raibirola Koijam Associate

Professor, D.M College of Commerce. Imphal, Manipur Oinam Sandhyarani Devi Lecturer , Ibotonsana Girls' Hr. Sec. School Imphal, Manipur Problem and Threat to Sustainable Entrepreneurship in North East India: A Study On Handicraft Market In Assam. by Biswajyoti Doley, Asst. Professor, Golaghat Commerce College, Assam. Juti moni Barman, Assistant Professor, Dept of Commerce, Bongaigaon College presented a paper on the Motivation And Challenges Of Sustainability Among MSME Entrepreneurs In Bongaigaon District Of Assam and Dr.Shahnoor Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, DKD College, Dergaon presented a paper on Medical Tourism - Entrepreneurship Prospects in India's North East- Sri Pradip Chandra Das Department of Commerce (Accounting and Finance), Digboi College, & Sri Mukunda Madhav Gogoi.Department of Economics Digboi college, Assam presented paper on Prospects and challenges of sustainable entrepreneurs in Organic Tea Industry: A case study at Digboi.

In the Parallel Session II, the theme was Role of Government, Entrepreneurship Promoting Agencies, NGOs, international agencies in sustainable entrepreneurship development: case studies . It was chaired by Dr. Mario Kuratolo and co chaired by - Dr. Sanjay Kanti Das, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Commerce, Lumding College, Lumding, Assam. a total number of 9 papers had been presented in this session. They were: A Study on the Role of Entrepreneurship Development Agencies in Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD), Assam by Mr. Kaushik Barman, Assistant Professor, Central Institute of Technology, Kokrajhar and Dr. A. Ibemcha Chanu Assam University Diphu Campus, Role of Training Agencies in Rural Entrepreneurship Development: A Study in Bongaigaon District of Assam by Dr. Phatik Chandra Kalita , Assistant Professor, Bongaigaon College, Assam, Nurturing Dreams and Fostering Commitment: A Study on the Entrepreneurial Initiatives Undertaken by Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi (RGVN), Guwahati for Actualizing Entrepreneurial Dreams by Shraddha Sengupta & Manisha Buragohain ,Assistant Professors, Department of Commerce, Guwahati College,Bamunimaidam, Guwahati , Role of NEDFi in financing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises with reference to Assam by Praneswar Kalita Assistant Professor, Gauhati Commerce College, Assam Monalisha Terangpi, Assistant Professor, Diphu Government College, Effectiveness of financial measures taken by Scheduled Commercial Banks for rural entrepreneurship development in Sonitpur District of Assam : A case study by -Sushmita Sharma, Research Scholar, Department of Commerce, Assam Univerity, Dr. Bijoy Das, Assistant Professor,

Department of Social Work, NERIM Group of Institutions, Guwahati, and Mr. Chandra Kr. Chetry, Research Scholar, Department of Commerce, Guwahati University presented paper on Role of NGOs in Promoting Women Entrepreneurship: A Case Study of RWUAA, A State Level NGO in Guwahati, Assam , Rajesh Garg, Assistant Professor, Department Of Commerce, Arya P.G. College, Panipat Haryana. And *Dr. Ayekpam Ibemcha Chanu*, , Department of Commerce, Assam University, Diphu Campus (Assam). on Role Of Government in Entrepreneurship Development in India: a study ; Sunil Kumar Gupta, M.Com, & Ananya Sarmah, Research Scholar, Dibrugarh University, Assam presented on Chief Minister's Startup Fund- *Sarothi*: A Study With Special Reference To Dibrugarh District and Atosü Hibo, Research Scholar, Department of Commerce, Nagaland University, Kohima Campus Role of NABARD in promoting entrepreneurship in Nagaland.

For Parallel Session 1II , the theme was Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development for Poverty Alleviation, Social Justice, Environment Protection, Inclusive growth and chaired by Prof. F.B Singh, Department of Commerce, Banaras Hindu University, Vanarasi, Secretary, YERA & Editor in Chief , Hermeneutics and co-chaired by Dr. Subit Dutta, Assistant Prof, Department of Commerce, AUDC. Altogether 7 were presented . They were : Some Aspects of Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development (SED) for Poverty Alleviation, Social Justice and Inclusive Growth to Establish Global Peace and Restore Environmental Balance- by Dr. Samar Deb, Associate Professor & HOD, Department of Commerce, Gurucharan College, Silchar, Growth of Indian Tourism Industry , and Its Contribution towards Foreign Exchange Earnings by Dipankar Malakar, Assistant Profeesor, Department of Commerce, KK Handique University, Environment Protection through sustainable Entrepreneurship Development with special reference to Bamboo Cultivation and its potentialities in the flood affected areas of Assam by Pharida Begum, Asstt. Professor, Deptt. Political Science, Borholla College, Jorhat, Assam, Microfinance and Rural Development: A Descriptive Study by Mrinal Ghosh, Department of Commerce, Gauhati University, Livelihood Enhancement through Entrepreneurship Orientation of Rural Artisans of North East Region: A Case Study of Wood Carpenters of Baktwang Cluster, Mizoram by Mita Nath Bora, PhD Research Scholar, Assam Don Bosco University , Project Officer, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), MSDE , A study on the relationship of urban utilities with the decision-making process of shopkeepers on shifting of shops from the city center: Case study Fancy Bazar, Guwahati by Jiban

Chandra Phukan, Research Scholar, Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University and Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development : Poverty alleviation in Assam by defeating the Challenges by Dipshree Gohain, M.COM, Dibrugarh University.

The 2nd Technical session started at 3.40 and continued till 4.50pm there were three Parallel Sessions. The theme of the T2 Parallel session 1 was Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development Models ; it was chaired by Prof (Dr) Radhe Shyam Pradhan, Central, Department of Management, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal and co-chaired by Dr. R. Ramachandram, Anamalai University, Tamil Nadu. Altogether nine papers were presented in that session. They were: Sushanta Borah, Branch Manager, SBI, Moriani Branch on Sustainable entrepreneurship development: A case study of an Agripreneur, Ms. Vaneela Rani Das Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, NEF College, Guwahati Assam, Ms Asfa Pravin, Faculty, Abhyaas Academy, A.T. Road, Tokobari, Guwahati-Assam: A Case Study On Eco Hub (Small Enterprise) Engaged in Making Biodegradable Sanitary Napkins For Women Tea Workers In Assam.- Dr. Rajashree Phukon,, Assistant Professor, Sibsagar Girls' College, Dibrugarh University, Assam, India on Importance of indigenous dyes for environmental sustainability-

Trishna Saloi, Research Scholar, Department of Commerce, AUDC & Durlav Kumar Barman, Assistant Professor, Arya Vidyapeeth College, Guwahati presented a paper entitled A Study on the role of Tamul Plates Marketing Private Limited in Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development in Assam- , A Binita Singha & Dr. Sangeeta Roy Assistant Professors, NERIM Group of Institutions, Guwahati presented 'Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development: A Case Study on areca leaves disposable plates marketing with special reference to Guwahati' Tamalika Sikder, Research Scholar & Dr. Amrit Pal Singh, Professor, department of Commerce, Gauhati University, Assam Sustainable Entrepreneurship through Organic Farming: A Case Study on "KRISHI JIGYAS"- the Organic Container Garden at Khetri, Kamrup District, Assam- Anupal Goswami M.Com Department of Commerce, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam Sustainable Entrepreneurship : A Study with Special Reference to M/S Dhansiri Industries of Golaghat District . Dharitri Basumatary, Research Scholar , KIIT, University, Bhubaneswar and Payal Chakraborty, Professional , Public Works Department (Roads) on Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development Model:- with special reference to Ola Cabs- Romananda Saikia, Geetashree Borah, Debasish Gogoi, J B College Jorhat

on Perception Towards Entrepreneurship Development in North East India-A case study on the Bell Industry of Assam

In parallel Session II , the Theme was Social entrepreneurship Vs Sustainable Entrepreneurship and chaired by Prof. Ratan Borman, Department of Commerce, Assam University, Diphu campus, Diphu. All together 5 papers were presented in that session . Phudang Ronghangpi, Research Scholar Prof. A. Bhowal, Department of Commerce AUDC presented a paper on Entrepreneurship through CSR – An Indian Perspective which was followed by the presentation on a joint paper titled Sustainable Entrepreneurship: A Theoretical Review by Dr. Sanjay Kanti Das , Lumding College, Lumding, Hojai, Assam, Dr. Narayan Sharma Asstt. Professor (SLG), Lanka Mahavidyalaya, Lanka and Amal Bhowmick , Associate Professor, Dept. of Commerce, Lanka Mahavidyalaya, Lanka, Hojai, Assam . The other papers were Challenges of Social Entrepreneurship Development in Rural Areas: A case study of Chakchaka Development Block of Barpeta District of Assam- by Anup Karmakar Assistant Professor, Barnagar College, Sorbhog & Ruhit Kemprai, Factors Influencing Sustainable Entrepreneurship In Organic Farming: A Case Study Of Organic Farmers in Golaghat District Of Assam by Digata Kr. Mudoi, Asst. Prof. Dept. of Economics, D K D College, Dergaon, and A Study on the Problems And Prospects Of Women Entrepreneurship With Special Reference to Guwahati City was presented by Rashmi Das, , M.Com (Double), Assistant Professor, (Province College, Guwahati) .

In Parallel Session III, the theme was ‘Theoretical aspects of Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development’; the session was chaired by Dr. Surya Prakash , Sri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi, New Delhi & Editor Hermeneutics and co-chaired by Mr. Joyjit Sanyal, Assistant Prof. Department of Commerce, AUDC. Altogether 5 papers were presented. On scope of sustainability driven entrepreneurship, a paper was presented by Bhawana Bardia and Dr. Amit Kumar Das of Assam University Silchar. A joint paper on Sustainability for the merchants of a moving market: A study on the railway hawkers of North East India and their practices was presented by Dr. D. Ghosh, Associate Professor & Nilanjan Majumdar Research Scholar Assam University, Silchar. Shibu Das, Research Scholar, Department of Commerce , Assam University (Diphu Campus) presented a paper on Entrepreneurship Development among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at Nagaon Town. Mayuri Dutta, M.com & Mousumi Das M.com (Gauhati University) also presented a paper on An empirical study on Role of women entrepreneurs in establishing a sustainable economic development in Assam. .

The cultural Cultural Programme was conducted from 5.30-7.30pm and the students of the department presented various cultural activities.

On the 2nd day of the conference (30 Nov 2018) a Round Table Colloquium was conducted from 9.45-11.00 am under the theme of Sustainable Entrepreneurship in the context of India and India's North- Eastern Region . The session was chaired by Prof. Amalesh Bhowal, Department of Commerce, Assam University, Diphu Campus, Diphu. The resource persons of the session were Prof. A. Rajmani Singh, Department of Commerce, Manipur University, Manipur. Dr. R. Ramachandran, Anamalai University, Tamil Nadu and Dr. Surya Prakash , Sri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi, New Delhi & Editor Hermeneutics , Representatives from HDFC Bank, Diphu Branch and North East Small Finance Bank Ltd., and local entrepreneurs. all the resource persons placed their views on the importance of sustainable entrepreneurship and challenges of such type of entrepreneurship. It was followed by the 3rd Technical Session and continue from 11.00 am to 12.30 . there were three parallel sessions.

Parallel Session 1 of 3rd technical session was conducted on the theme of Green orientation and Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development and chaired by Prof. Muhammad Ziaulhaq Mamun, Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and co-chaired by Dr. Mario Curatolo, CO-MBC, Switzerland . In that session 11 papers were presented. They are : An Approach Of Sustainable Entrepreneurship In The Context Of Green Marketing by Dr. Atul Ch. Kalita, , Assistant Prof, Department of Economics, Diphu Govt College , The Question of Sustainable Entrepreneurship Opportunity by Mr. Gautam Huidrom, Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, Rajiv Gandhi Administration, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, AP, Green Start-Ups- A Step Towards Sustainable Development by Bandeeta Deka & Bhaskar Acharjya Deka , Assit.Professors, Department of cmmerce , Guwahati College, Green Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Development in India- by Bandeeta Deka & Bhaskar Acharjya Deka , Assit.Professors, Department of cmmerce , Guwahati College, Green Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Development in India- by Sanjeev Kumar Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, Sustainable Human Resource Management as a means to support Sustainable Entrepreneurship- by Arindam Hujuri, & Mrs. Nandini Bora PGDM 2nd year student, & Mrs. Nandini Bora, Assistant Professor, Assam institute of management, Boragaon , Green Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Development in India-By Sanjeev Kumar Assistant Prof., Department of

Economics, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, Understanding Green Finance as a tool of sustainable development – Its products and services in India by Mr. Sandeep Banerjee, Research Scholar, Assam University Diphu campus, Green Entrepreneurship: The Emerging Paradigm for Sustainable Growth and Development in India- by Shibani Borah, Research Scholar, Assam University Diphu campus, A Conceptual Overview Of Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development by Ms Karabi Goswami, Assistant Professor, NERIM Group of Institutions, Guwahati, Assam, Sustainable Entrepreneurship: A Paradigm Shift in the Mindset of New Generation Entrepreneurs by Amrita Dutta Research Scholar, Department of Commerce, AUDC & Dr. Subit Dutta, Assistant Prof. Department of Commerce, AUDC, A Conceptual Overview of Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development- by Tandraleem Kashyap, Research Scholar, Deptt. of Commerce, Assam University, Diphu Campus and Are MFIs sustainable Enterprises: A theoretical review by Trishna Saloi, Research Scholar, Department of Commerce, Assam University, Diphu Campus.

The theme of Parallel Session II of 3rd Technical session was Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Sector and the session was chaired by Dr. Abhigyan Bhattacharjee, Department of Management, North Eastern Hill University, Tura Campus, Meghalaya and co-chaired by Dr. Indu Swami, Department of English, Assam University Diphu Campus, Diphu. Altogether 11 papers were presented in that session. They were : A Growth Perspective analysis of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) of Jorhat district (Assam)- by Mokhalles Mohammad Mehdi, Assistant Professor of Marketing, MIS & IT, School of Business, The Assam Kaziranga University, Jorhat, Assam & Dr. Tridib Ranjan Sarma Associate Professor, Department of Business Administration, Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam, India, Women Entrepreneurship: Socio-Economic Sustainability And Empowerment: A Reality Study At Cuddalore- by Dr. R Ramachandran, Anamalai University, Tamil Nadu; Possibilities of Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development in Assam in Jute Sector by Dr. Manashree Das, Assistant Professor, DKG College, Mirza, Assam. The other papers were: Entrepreneurial problems and prospects in South Assam: A study on the aspiring entrepreneurs of Cachar District by Mr. Deepraj Chakraborty, Lecturer, Department of Business Administration, GC College-Cachar, Assam & Dr. D. Ghose, Associate Professor, Department of Business Administration, Assam University, Silchar. Smriti Rekha Gayan, Ex M.Com Student, Department of Commerce, Dibrugarh

University and Ankita Khound, Ex M.Com Student, Department of Commerce, Dibrugarh: Barriers presented paper on Opportunities of Sustainable Entrepreneurship to promote Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises – A Study of North-East India, Rijumoni Gogoi & Shekha Das, M.Com Students, Dibrugarh University: Sustainable Entrepreneurship In Micro, Small And Medium Enterprise Sector (With Special Reference To Dibrugarh Town)

Sudarshan Borah, Aliza Baruah, & Parishma Dutta, M.Com 3rd Semester Students of Jagannath Barooah College (Autonomous), Jorhat, Assam: Development of Women Entrepreneurship in Assam: A Case Study on Sualkuchi Silk Industry

Anupal Goswami, M.Com Department of Commerce, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam:

Sustainable Entrepreneurship : A Study with Special Reference to M/S Dhansiri Industries of Golaghat District

Arifur Rahman, M.Com (Finance), Department of Commerce, Dibrugarh University: Problems And Prospects Of Apiculture Towards The Growth Of Sustainable Entrepreneurship “A Study Of C.K. Udyog Private Limited and

Mr. Pulin Daimary, Ex Student, Department of Commerce, Assam University Diphu campus presented a paper titled Preception Of Small Tea Growers Towards Government Role For Sustainable Development; With Speceial Refference To Sonitpur District Of None-Revenue Area, Assam.

The Parallel Session II of the 3rd technical session was conducted on the theme of India's Act East Policy and Opportunities for Sustainable trade of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises of North- Eastern Region of India the session was chaired by Prof. (Dr) A. P. Singh, Department of Commerce, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam, India and co-Chaired by Dr. Shankar Thapa, Associate Professor, Department of Business Administration, University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya. Altogether 10 papers were presented in that session. They were: Saurabh Barman, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Geography, Tinsukia College & Neha Boruah, Research Scholar, Arunachal University on India's Act East Policy And Potentialities & Challenges Of Border Trade With North East India: A Geographical Study, Dr. Anju Jain Associate Professor, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi on India's Act East Policy and Opportunities for Sustainable trade of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises of North Eastern Region of India- Prof. Pranay Jyoti Goswami, Department of Commerce, Assam University

Silchar & Archita Paul, Department of Commerce, Assam University Silchar on A Study of Entrepreneurship Education in Higher Educational Institutions in Barak Valley, Assam: Problem and Prospects. Debajit Rabha, Research Scholar, Department of Management, Mizoram: University: Promotion of Entrepreneurship with the Help of Trade between North-East India and Southeast Asia, Mr. Amit Barman, Research Scholar, Dept. Political Science, Assam University Silchar on India's Act East Policy and its Scope: A Study on North East India- by Miss Tripti Haloi, & Santika Timungpi, Research Scholars, Department of Commerce Assam University Diphu Campus on Women Entrepreneurs in Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development: A case Study of select Women entrepreneurs of Gauhati city, Assam.

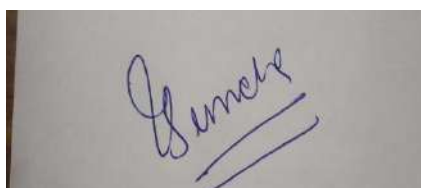
Dr. Ningthoujam Bala Devi, Assistant Professor, D.M College of Commerce, Imphal, Manipur on Marketing Of Handloom Products in Manipur for Sustaining Livelihood , Shri Kemo Padu, & Shri Chandan Das , Lecturers Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies, Dahung (An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India West Kameng Arunachal Pradesh on Power Dynamics between Farmers and Market Masters: A case study of Cabbage Value Chain in Singchung-Magopam region of West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh- Lurai Rongmei, Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, Assam university, Silchar & Dr. A. Ibemcha Chanu, Department of Commerce, Assam University Diphu Campus on A Study of Entrepreneurial Orientation and Inclination for Entrepreneurial Career among Management Students of Assam select Central universities of North East India and Preparation of Curriculum for Entrepreneurship Development. Prarthana Mohon, Research scholar, Department of Commerce, Assam University Diphu Campus: on Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development Through Water Hyacinth Products : With Reference to Namsai District, Arunachal Pradesh.

The Valedictory Session was conducted from 12.45 to 2.00 and the chief guest of the session was Mr. Mukul Saikia, Deputy Commissioner, Karbi Anglong District. The session was chaired by Prof (Dr.) R. Borman, Head, Department of Commerce Assam University Diphu Campus. In his speech, the chief guest appeal for such academic event in the future and appreciated the department for taking such initiatives. The valedictory Welcome address was given by Mr. Joyjit Sanyal, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, AUDC and some of the delegates also put forward their opinions and experiences during the conference. The vote of

thanks was presented by Dr. A. Ibemcha Chanu, Convener, International conference Organising Committee. In her speech, she not only thanked all those who directly supported the conference but also indirectly supported to make the conference a great success. She also mentioned the challenges faced by the department in holding such an academic event in Diphu. It was followed by Chairman's remarks. The conference ended with a chorus 'We shall overcome' and National Anthem'.

After the conference, an outreach cum interaction programme on the theme of the conference was organised by the international conference organising committee, Department of commerce Assam University Diphu campus in collaboration with District administration, Karbi Anglong. The programme was attended by a number of dignitaries and stakeholders including Deputy Commissioner, Karbi Anglong, SDC, Karbi Anglong, social workers, politicians, businessmen, Self Help Groups, representatives of various social organisations of Karbi Anglong including women, senior citizens, students' organisation, journalist union, etc. There was a lively interaction on the very theme of the conference and possible support which could be rendered by the Department of Commerce, Assam University Diphu campus. The prospects and challenges of entrepreneurship development in the district was also expressed by those who attended the programme. All the representatives suggested the Department of Commerce to act as the torch bearer in promoting entrepreneurial environment in the district and appreciated the department in general and convener of the conference in particular for organising such an event in Diphu. It was resolved to set up an entrepreneurial cell under the leadership of district administration in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, Assam University Diphu Campus.

Submitted by :



(Dr. A. Ibemcha Chanu)

Convener

International Conference Organising Committee

Department of Commerce, Assam University Diphu Campus, Diphu.



Call for papers

International Conference on Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development

Date 29-30 November 2018

Organised by: Department of Commerce, Assam University Diphu Campus, Diphu, (a central university) Assam, India 782462

in associationship with

Youth Empowerment and Research Association (YERA), Varanasi

Important Dates

Last date of Abstract submission	31 st October, 2018
Last date of full paper Submission	5 th November, 2018
Last date of registration	5 th November, 2018
Conference Date	29 - 30 November, 2018

The Department of Commerce, Assam University Diphu Campus invites Academicians, Researchers, NGOs, Financial institutions, Politicians, Entrepreneurs, etc to participate and contribute papers/ articles to the International Conference on **Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development** to be held during **November 29-30, 2018** at Assam University, Diphu Campus, Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam, India.

The main objective of the conference is to discuss the sustainable form of entrepreneurship development in the present world in a wider term as well as some of the contradictory ideas being involved with this. The case studies of successful entrepreneurs who involve in such areas of entrepreneurship and the possibilities of sustainable entrepreneurship development in North Eastern Region of India will also be discussed during the conference. The outcomes of the conference will help to foster a wider understanding of the sustainable entrepreneurship development and provide inputs in making a policy planning of entrepreneurship development for developing countries like India in general and remote areas of the world like North Eastern region of India in particular.

Main theme of the conference: **Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development**

In particular, the conference will receive the following thematic paper but not limited to:

1. Theoretical aspects of sustainable entrepreneurship Development
2. Role of Government, Entrepreneurship Promoting Agencies, NGOs, international agencies in sustainable entrepreneurship development: case studies
3. Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development for Poverty Alleviation, Social Justice, Environment Protection, Inclusive growth.
4. Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development Models

5. Social Entrepreneurship Vs Sustainable Entrepreneurship.
6. Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Sector
7. Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development in developing countries like India in general North- Eastern Region of India in particular
8. India's Act East Policy and Opportunities for Sustainable trade of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises of North- Eastern Region of India

Guidelines for Abstract and Full Paper Submission:

- The abstract should not exceed 500 words (MS Word) including main issue (s) of research, research objective(s), research questions, methodology if any, and result(s) and key words.
- Name of the author(s), designation and affiliating institution along with contact email id and contact number should be clearly mentioned.
- Authors are requested to send the abstract to the Convener, International Conference Organizing Committee, Department of Commerce, Assam University, Diphu Campus, Diphu, 782462 through email to **intconfcomaudc2007@gmail.com** on or before **31st October, 2018**.
- Abstracts will be reviewed immediately and acceptance decision shall follow after the review is completed. Authors will be notified of their abstracts' acceptance by e-mail.
- **The last date of full paper submission is 5th November, 2018.**
- The length of the full paper including tables, diagrams, references etc. should be between 4000 to 7000 words. The full paper should be in English and type in MS-Word in Times New Roman with font size 11 and 1.5 spaced. References should be arranged in APA style.
- All submission will be subject to a double-blind review process. Students who want to submit papers should clearly mention class/semester, department and name of the institution.

Publication of Articles

Some of the accepted papers will be published either in the edited book with ISBN or in the peer reviewed international journal with ISSN No.

Registration:

Category	Last date of Registration (5 th November 2018)		
	Indian (INR)	South Asian Delegates	Foreigners other than South Asian Delegates
Academicians/ Professionals/ NGOs (with paper)	2000.00	\$ 50	\$80
Research Scholars	1500.00	\$25	\$ 50
Students of Universities (with paper)	1000.00	\$20	\$ 40
Participants without paper	800	--	---

Registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and dinner during the conference, conference kits, certificates, etc. For multiple authors, registration fees to be paid by separately.

Accommodation:

The organising committee will arrange accommodation for outstation delegates on request. Participants are requested to confirm their participation and the accommodation fee should be sent to the organizing committee. Since, there is limited number of hotels in Diphu, request after 5th November, 2018 will not be taken into consideration. For accommodation kindly contact, **Dr. Subit Dutta**, at Email: subit.dutta@gmail.com, Mobile No: +91-9435174589.

About Assam University Diphu Campus

Assam University, Silchar, Assam was established by an Act of Parliament promulgated in 1989(Act 13) and enforced by a notification of the Government of India on 21st January, 1994. The Diphu Campus was established on 18th July 2018. The Campus is located in the hilly terrain spreading over 273 bighas allotted by Karbi-Anglong Autonomous District Council authority with Mikir, Naga and the Barail ranges of hills at the backdrop. It is about 8km westward from downtown Diphu towards Lumding. The serene setting makes the Diphu campus a unique one with exquisite natural beauty, which captures viewers' imagination and provides an ideal atmosphere for study and research. There are 10 PG Departments and one Study Centre.

About the Department of Commerce

It is one of the ten Departments of Assam University, Diphu Campus that started functioning from July 2007. The Department offers MCom Programme, M. Phil, Ph.D and P.G. Diploma Program in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The department offers range of specialization in the areas of Accounting, Finance, Banking, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Entrepreneurship etc. The thrust of the teaching and Research Program in the department is on developing capabilities among the students for analyzing contemporary business scenario so as to enable them to make correct and timely business decisions. The Department also regularly organizes seminars, conferences, symposium etc.

How to reach Diphu:

Diphu is the headquarter of Karbi Anglong district, which is one of the hill districts of Assam. It is well connected by roads, rail and air. There are a number of trains including Rajdhani Express which have stoppage at Diphu. The nearest International Airport is Gopinath Bodoloi International Airport, Guwahati which is about 213 kms and the nearest domestic airport is Dimapur which is about 60 km from Diphu. For details, one may contact

Tourist Interest: There are number of tourist spots in and around Diphu. For details, one may visit the website <http://karbianglong.gov.in/main-web/tourist.htm>.

For further details, one may contact:

Dr. A. Ibemcha Chanu, Convener, International Conference Organising Committee (Email: ibemchac6@gmail.com, Mobile No: +91-7002298404),

Prof Ratan Borman, Head, Department of Commerce, Assam University Diphu Campus (Email: rborman62@gmail.com, Mobile No: +91- 7002357640),

Dr. Subit Dutta, at (Email: subit.dutta@gmail.com, Mobile No: +91-9435174589),

Ms. Sweety Das, (Email: sweetydass.218@rediffmail.com, + 91-9531071004),

Mr. Joyjit Sanyal, (Email: joyjit50@gmail.com, Mobile No: +91-9706380115).

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**International Conference
Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development
Organized by**

**Department of Commerce, Assam University Diphu Campus
In association with
Youth Empowerment and Research Association (YERA)**

29th -30th November, 2018

REGISTRATION FORM

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Organization/ Institution/ College:

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Mailing Address:

.....

Email ID: **Mobile No.:**

Title of the paper:

.....

.....

Sub theme of paper:

Accommodation Required* (on payment basis) (Yes / No):

If Yes, No. of Persons Accompanying:

.....

Registration Fee (Cash / NEFT): **Amount:**

Place:

Date:

(Signature of Participant)

.....



Two-Day National Seminar on

Civilizational and Cultural Traditions of Northeast India: Exploring the Links

18th & 19th April 2018

Organized by:

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS)

(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Culture)

Government of India

IB 166, Sector III, Salt Lake

Kolkata 700106

&

Department of English

Assam University, Diphu Campus

P.O. Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam-782462

Academic Partners

North East Centre, New Delhi

About the Seminar

Northeast India has its own history, cultures, legends and myths and in spite of geographically located at the remotest corner of so-called mainland India, its presence in India's history, mythologies and literatures is very powerful. Many places of Northeast India find mentions in ancient Indian texts and particularly in the *Mahabharata*. The tales of Rukhmini, Usha, Bhagadutta, Hidimba, Chitrangada, Ulupi, Ghatotkacha, Babrubahan, Iraban etc. have been passed down through generations in the form of popular folklores in Northeast India. The anthropologists are of the view that the region was primarily inhabited by mongoloids and pre mongoloids settlers before the times of the Vedas and they were referred to as Kiratas in *Yajurveda*, *Atharvaveda* and the *Mahabharata*.

Again, there are also a group of historians and anthropologists who consider that it is purely by an accident in history that Northeast formed a part of India. The social formation in the so-called mainland India and Northeast India is far from being homogenous and it is a forceful effort to link up with one another culturally and politically.

In the literature of the Karbis, one is primarily reminded of their oral literature as Karbi literature did not have a written form till the 19th century, all elements of folklore, like social rituals, legends, historical tales, ballads of love and separation, folksongs of Ram-Ravan (*Sabin Alun*), fables etc. prove the linkage with the cultural tradition of India.

The same cultural linkage is found in the case of Dimasa, an indigenous community of people inhabiting Assam and Nagaland states in Northeast India. Dimasa mythology says that they are the children of Bangla Raja (Earthquake God) and the great divine bird Arikhidima. Ancient Dimasa tradition maintains that sixty thousand Moon months (Lunar months) ago, they left their ancestral land when it suffered a severe drought. According to a legend, the royal family descends from Ghatotkacha, the son of Bhima of the *Mahabharata* fame, and Hidimbi, a princess of the Dimasa people. According to Hindu mythology, Dimapur is said to have been named after Hidimba. Dimapur is a corruption of Hidimbapur, meaning the city of Hidimba of *Mahabharata*, who is believed to be the progenitor of the Dimasas.

Although for the last one hundred years most of the Mizo people are practicing Christians, but in the Pre-colonialist Mizos were 'animists' in the language of the colonial historians. Today, approximately 90% of Mizo are Christian, and only 10% are 'animist' in that they worship nature (e.g., the sun, the moon, rivers, and mountains) and their religious cosmology is consisting of a high God called Pathian who rules the macrocosm or the world beyond the community, and a microcosm consisting of the numerous spirits, both good and bad. Just like Shiva in Saivism or Bishnu in Vaisnavism, Pathian in pre-colonial Mizo religion "absorb the nature and functions of the rest and the other Gods become different manifestations of one supreme deity known by other different names in different aspects".

The oral narratives of Zeme Naga speak of the Myth of “Tingwang”, the supreme God who created the heavenly bodies and the son “Banglawang” who was the first ruler of the world links the ancient Indian myth of creation. The tribes of Arunachal Pradesh such as Galos, Adis, Apatanis, Nishis, Hill Miris, and Mishings follow the religion of *Donyi-Polo* which focuses on the worship of the sun and moon, considered the eternal watch deities of the supreme gods, Bo and Bomong. “A follower of Donyi-Polo believes in the oneness of all living creatures, from the tiniest of organisms to the mightiest of animals, and that every living creature has a role to play in his or her life. They believe that a spirit (or soul) resides within all men, plants, animals, and the land that nourishes them, having a strong connection with humans.” (Naina) Similar myths are also found among the other communities of Northeast India which establishes the fact that the region was never delinked from the civilizational and cultural tradition of the so-called mainland India.

So, Northeast India as wrongfully projected is not culturally delinked from the so-called mainland India in spite of having heterogeneous cultural traits. The colonial authorities adopted a policy of segregating the hills and plains people which has been continued by the wrong policies of governments after the independence of India. The oral narratives of these communities of Northeast India are great treasure houses that can challenge this hegemonic concept of unbridgeable heterogeneity and can establish linkages with the similar types of narratives, both oral and written, in other parts of India.

It is in this context the proposed seminar is envisioned to generate a constructive debate around the above theme and also the following sub-themes.

Sub-themes:

- 1) Cultural History of Northeast India and its connection with the so-called Mainland
- 2) Myths and Legends and their interconnections
- 3) Religious practices and exploring their roots with Ancient India
- 4) Shared values of different ethnic communities of Northeast India and exploring the connections with the rest of India
- 5) Indigenous cultural practices existing parallel to accepted modern religions/lifestyle.
- 6) British policy of ‘excluded areas’ or ‘partially excluded areas’ and its impact in fracturing of the Northeast
- 7) Role of Festivals and other cultural conglomerations in bridging the fracture
- 8) Common historic Past – trade, people and culture
- 9) Cultural connections in oral traditions

About MAKAIAS:

The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian studies is a centre for research and learning with focus on social cultural, economic and political / administrative developments in Asia from the middle of the 19th Century onwards with special emphasis on their links with India, and on

the life and works of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Till date, the emphasis had been on specialising on modern and contemporary affairs in South Asia, central Asia and West Asia, and carrying on area studies on the five Central Asia Republics of the former Soviet Union (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan), Turkey, Iran Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The Institute now looks forward to widening its area of study to the Northeast region of India, Southeast Asia and China.

About the Department of English, AUDC:

The Department of English at Diphu Campus of Assam University had its inception in 2007 and it offers Post Graduate Course in English as well as M.Phil and Ph.D programmes by Course Work. The MA syllabus (CBCS) in addition to basic courses put special focus on contemporary theoretical development, Indian writing in English, American Literature, Postcolonial Studies and English Language Teaching. The research scholars who are pursuing Ph.D and M.Phil are working on multiple areas of research viz. Northeast Literature, Contemporary Black British Literature, Postcolonial Literature, Feminist literature, American Literature, Indian writings in English, Literatures from the Sub-continent, Drama Studies etc.

How to Reach Diphu Town:

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Guidelines for Abstract and Full Paper:

Research Papers are invited from the teachers of colleges, universities, research institutes, professionals, academicians, research scholars from Northeast and other parts of India on the above mentioned themes. The research papers based on field study will be preferred for presentation in the seminar. The abstract and full text of the paper should be sent to the Seminar Coordinator, **Dr. Anup Kumar Dey**, Department of English, Assam University (A Central University), Diphu Campus, Diphu, Karbi Anglong (Dist), Assam-782462. The guidelines for submission of abstracts and full papers are as follows.

Abstract

- The abstract should not exceed 250 words.
- It should include title of the abstract the author's name, designation, institutional affiliation, contact address, contact number, E-mail ID.
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Full Paper

- The length of full paper including tables, diagrams, illustrations, references, etc. should be between 6000 to 8000 words.
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- References/Notes should be given at the end of the text.
- The selected full version of papers should be submitted in soft copy latest through E-mail to the ID: **deyanup1@gmail.com** latest by **April 15, 2018**.

A Committee will review the abstracts and full papers and information regarding acceptance, modification, rejection and presentation shall be communicated to the authors subsequently. A limited number of selected papers presented in the seminar will be published in a reputed international publication.

Important Dates:

- Abstract Submission: Latest by April 10, 2018
- Full Paper Submission: Latest by April 15, 2018
- Seminar Presentation: 18-19 April, 2018

Accommodation:

Accommodation will be provided on behalf of the organizer to all the selected participants if the confirmation of participation is communicated by April 13, 2018.

Organizing Committee:

- Patrons: Professor Dilip Chandra Nath, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Silchar
Professor Sujit K Ghosh, Hon'ble Chairman, MAKAIAS, Kolkata
Professor Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Hon'ble Director, MAKAIAS, Kolkata
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Dr. Shreyashi Mukherjee, Department of English, Assam University, Diphu Campus
Dr. Sumi Daadhora, Teaching Assistant, Department of English, Assam University, Diphu Campus



Two-Day National Seminar on

Civilizational and Cultural Traditions of Northeast India: Exploring the Links

18th & 19th April 2018

Organized by:

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS)

(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Culture)

Government of India

IB 166, Sector III, Salt Lake

Kolkata 700106

&

Department of English

Assam University, Diphu Campus

P.O. Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam-782462

Academic Partners

North East Centre, New Delhi

About the Seminar

Northeast India has its own history, cultures, legends and myths and in spite of geographically located at the remotest corner of so-called mainland India, its presence in India's history, mythologies and literatures is very powerful. Many places of Northeast India find mentions in ancient Indian texts and particularly in the *Mahabharata*. The tales of Rukhmini, Usha, Bhagadutta, Hidimba, Chitrangada, Ulupi, Ghatotkacha, Babrubahan, Iraban etc. have been passed down through generations in the form of popular folklores in Northeast India. The anthropologists are of the view that the region was primarily inhabited by mongoloids and pre mongoloids settlers before the times of the Vedas and they were referred to as Kiratas in *Yajurveda*, *Atharvaveda* and the *Mahabharata*.

Again, there are also a group of historians and anthropologists who consider that it is purely by an accident in history that Northeast formed a part of India. The social formation in the so-called mainland India and Northeast India is far from being homogenous and it is a forceful effort to link up with one another culturally and politically.

In the literature of the Karbis, one is primarily reminded of their oral literature as Karbi literature did not have a written form till the 19th century, all elements of folklore, like social rituals, legends, historical tales, ballads of love and separation, folksongs of Ram-Ravan (*Sabin Alun*), fables etc. prove the linkage with the cultural tradition of India.

The same cultural linkage is found in the case of Dimasa, an indigenous community of people inhabiting Assam and Nagaland states in Northeast India. Dimasa mythology says that they are the children of Bangla Raja (Earthquake God) and the great divine bird Arikhidima. Ancient Dimasa tradition maintains that sixty thousand Moon months (Lunar months) ago, they left their ancestral land when it suffered a severe drought. According to a legend, the royal family descends from Ghatotkacha, the son of Bhima of the *Mahabharata* fame, and Hidimbi, a princess of the Dimasa people. According to Hindu mythology, Dimapur is said to have been named after Hidimba. Dimapur is a corruption of Hidimbapur, meaning the city of Hidimba of *Mahabharata*, who is believed to be the progenitor of the Dimasas.

Although for the last one hundred years most of the Mizo people are practicing Christians, but in the Pre-colonialist Mizos were 'animists' in the language of the colonial historians. Today, approximately 90% of Mizo are Christian, and only 10% are 'animist' in that they worship nature (e.g., the sun, the moon, rivers, and mountains) and their religious cosmology is consisting of a high God called Pathian who rules the macrocosm or the world beyond the community, and a microcosm consisting of the numerous spirits, both good and bad. Just like Shiva in Saivism or Bishnu in Vaisnavism, Pathian in pre-colonial Mizo religion "absorb the nature and functions of the rest and the other Gods become different manifestations of one supreme deity known by other different names in different aspects".

The oral narratives of Zeme Naga speak of the Myth of “Tingwang”, the supreme God who created the heavenly bodies and the son “Banglawang” who was the first ruler of the world links the ancient Indian myth of creation. The tribes of Arunachal Pradesh such as Galos, Adis, Apatanis, Nishis, Hill Miris, and Mishings follow the religion of *Donyi-Polo* which focuses on the worship of the sun and moon, considered the eternal watch deities of the supreme gods, Bo and Bomong. “A follower of Donyi-Polo believes in the oneness of all living creatures, from the tiniest of organisms to the mightiest of animals, and that every living creature has a role to play in his or her life. They believe that a spirit (or soul) resides within all men, plants, animals, and the land that nourishes them, having a strong connection with humans.” (Naina) Similar myths are also found among the other communities of Northeast India which establishes the fact that the region was never delinked from the civilizational and cultural tradition of the so-called mainland India.

So, Northeast India as wrongfully projected is not culturally delinked from the so-called mainland India in spite of having heterogeneous cultural traits. The colonial authorities adopted a policy of segregating the hills and plains people which has been continued by the wrong policies of governments after the independence of India. The oral narratives of these communities of Northeast India are great treasure houses that can challenge this hegemonic concept of unbridgeable heterogeneity and can establish linkages with the similar types of narratives, both oral and written, in other parts of India.

It is in this context the proposed seminar is envisioned to generate a constructive debate around the above theme and also the following sub-themes.

Sub-themes:

- 1) Cultural History of Northeast India and its connection with the so-called Mainland
- 2) Myths and Legends and their interconnections
- 3) Religious practices and exploring their roots with Ancient India
- 4) Shared values of different ethnic communities of Northeast India and exploring the connections with the rest of India
- 5) Indigenous cultural practices existing parallel to accepted modern religions/lifestyle.
- 6) British policy of ‘excluded areas’ or ‘partially excluded areas’ and its impact in fracturing of the Northeast
- 7) Role of Festivals and other cultural conglomerations in bridging the fracture
- 8) Common historic Past – trade, people and culture
- 9) Cultural connections in oral traditions

About MAKAIAS:

The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian studies is a centre for research and learning with focus on social cultural, economic and political / administrative developments in Asia from the middle of the 19th Century onwards with special emphasis on their links with India, and on

the life and works of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Till date, the emphasis had been on specialising on modern and contemporary affairs in South Asia, central Asia and West Asia, and carrying on area studies on the five Central Asia Republics of the former Soviet Union (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan), Turkey, Iran Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The Institute now looks forward to widening its area of study to the Northeast region of India, Southeast Asia and China.

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Seminars & Conferences at Assam University

- **NATIONAL SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL INNOVATION AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: PRIORITIES AND PERSPECTIVES**
JANUARY 11, 2020 BY ASSAM UNIVERSITY
- **Workshop cum Training Program on Official Statistics & Policy Research on 27-31st January, 2020**
DECEMBER 4, 2019 BY STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
- **3rd International Conference on Global Business and Social Issues**
NOVEMBER 11, 2019 BY ASSAM UNIVERSITY
- **Workshop on Gene Network and NGS Data Analysis (Organised by: Bioinformatics Centre, Assam University, Silchar)**
NOVEMBER 8, 2019 BY BIOINFORMATICS CENTRE
- **National Seminar on Gandhi's Way to Peace: 21 Century Prospectives**
NOVEMBER 2, 2019 BY ASSAM UNIVERSITY
- **Workshop on "Amplicon based NGS data analysis for Microbial Community Assessment" (30/9-02/10) jointly organized by Department of Microbiology and Bioinformatics Centre**
SEPTEMBER 20, 2019 BY MICROBIOLOGY DEPARTMENT
- **National Workshop on Research Techniques and Tools 2019 (NWRTT-2019)**
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 BY LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
- **Workshop on Statistical Applications on Astronomy & Astrophysics on 20-22nd November, 2019**
SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 BY STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
- **Awareness Camp on fake calls from unscrupulous sources seeking bank details of the personal account**
AUGUST 31, 2019 BY ASSAM UNIVERSITY
- **3 Day Workshop on Bayesian Data Analysis: September 16 to 18, 2019**
AUGUST 26, 2019 BY ASSAM UNIVERSITY
- **3 Day Workshop on Bayesian Data Analysis**
AUGUST 26, 2019 BY STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
- **Two Weeks Capacity Building Programme (CBP) titled, "Research Methodology Course in Social Sciences and Social Work" for Young Social Science Faculty**
AUGUST 15, 2019 BY SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT
- **One day Innovator's exhibition & workshop organized by Innovation Club, AUS**
AUGUST 8, 2019 BY CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT
- **National Workshop on Research Methodology and SPSS usage in Data Analysis in Social Sciences**
AUGUST 1, 2019 BY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
- **'Special Lecture Cum Symposium on Draft National Education Policy, 2019' on 29th July**
JULY 26, 2019 BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCE
- **Notice Regarding two days workshop on "Incubation and Entrepreneurship"**
JULY 17, 2019 BY ASSAM UNIVERSITY
- **Two Day Workshop on Academic Writing Delineating Theory and Praxis**
JULY 10, 2019 BY ASSAM UNIVERSITY
- **National Seminar on "Women in Contemporary Era: With Special Reference to North East India" re-scheduled on 27- 28 May 2019**
MAY 2, 2019 BY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
- **GIAN-2019**
Course on The Function of Reactive Oxygen Species and Antioxidants in plants
MAY 2, 2019 BY ASSAM UNIVERSITY

- **National Seminar on Women in a Contemporary Era: With Special Reference to North East India**
APRIL 1, 2019 BY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
- **GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATION OF PAPERS IN THE SEMINAR ON DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE NORTH-EAST REGION OF INDIA**
MARCH 30, 2019 BY DEPARTMENT OF LAW
- **Registration Form of Two Day National Seminar on Demographics of the North-East Region of India**
MARCH 28, 2019 BY DEPARTMENT OF LAW
- **Two-day National Seminar on “Demographics of the North-East Region of India” on 5th & 6th April, 2019**
MARCH 28, 2019 BY DEPARTMENT OF LAW
- **One Day Workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Brochure**
MARCH 22, 2019 BY DEPARTMENT OF LAW
- **One Day Workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) –(International Arbitration & Mediation)**
MARCH 20, 2019 BY DEPARTMENT OF LAW
- **Two Day National Seminar on Act East and Northeast: Prospects and Challenges**
FEBRUARY 4, 2019 BY DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
- **Five Day Workshop on Data Analysis in “SPSS”**
FEBRUARY 1, 2019 BY STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
- **NATIONAL SEMINAR On Problems and Prospects of Oral History and Traditions in Northeast India, 27-28, February, 2019**
JANUARY 27, 2019 BY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
- **National Seminar on Recent trends on Ecological Research**
DECEMBER 12, 2018 BY DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
- **XI PANE Conference, 21-23 November, 2018**
NOVEMBER 12, 2018 BY DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
- **Youth Convention On the occasion of 125th Anniversary of Swamiji’s Historic Speeches in the Parliament of World’s religions, Chicago And National Youth Day, 2019**
OCTOBER 13, 2018 BY ASSAM UNIVERSITY
- **Prof. Spenta Wadia’s talk at Silchar (Gravitational Wave workshop at AUS)**
OCTOBER 4, 2018 BY PHYSICS DEPARTMENT
- **Two Days International Conference on ‘Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development ‘ at Assam University Diphu Campus, Diphu, India on 29th & 30th November 2018.**
SEPTEMBER 28, 2018 BY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
- **National Seminar on Cultural Diversity and Role of Media with special Reference to North East India**
SEPTEMBER 20, 2018 BY DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION
- **Workshop in the department of Statistics on R to be held from 2nd Jan, 2019 to 5th Jan**
SEPTEMBER 20, 2018 BY STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
- **National Seminar on “Cultural Diversity and Role of Media with Special Reference to North East India ” – Organized by Department of Mass Communication**
SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 BY ASSAM UNIVERSITY
- **National Seminar with the Asiatic Society, Kolkata on Debating 68 Years of Sixth Schedule and Tribal Autonomy in Northeast India during 16-17, November, 2018 at Assam University, Diphu Campus.**
SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 BY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
- **Ten Day Workshop on Understanding Paradigm Shifts in Research Culture in Social Science and Humanities**
SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 BY ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT
- **Workshop on Gravitation and Gravitational Waves: Oct 07 – 13, 2018**
SEPTEMBER 6, 2018 BY ASSAM UNIVERSITY
- **North-East Meet of Astronomers-2018 (NEMA-4) (November 26-28, 2018)**
AUGUST 31, 2018 BY PHYSICS DEPARTMENT
- **Springer Author Lecture on “Scientific Writing and Publishing” organized by Department of Earth Science.**
AUGUST 10, 2018 BY EARTH SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

- **National Conference on “Trade Relations in North East India” organised by the Department of Commerce, AUS**
AUGUST 9, 2018 BY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
- **Brochure of the national seminar of the department of Anthropology**
AUGUST 3, 2018 BY DIPHU CAMPUS
- **MAKAIAS Sponsored Seven-Day National Workshop On Documenting Oral & Folk Cultural Traditions of the North East [Special Focus: Barak Valley]**
- **new** Organized by: Department of English, Assam University, Silchar In collaboration with, ICHR, New Delhi. 22nd to 28th April, 2018
- **Two-Day National Seminar on Civilizational and Cultural Traditions of Northeast India: Exploring the Links new** Department of English Assam University, Diphu Campus 18th & 19th April 2018
- **International Seminar on “INTERRELATIONS BETWEEN VARIOUS ART FORMS” new** Organized by Department of Indian Comparative Literature, AUS 22-23 March, 2018
- **National Conference on “BioScience and Biotechnology” new** Organized by Department of Life Science & Bioinformatics, AUS March 22-23, 2018
- **National Conference on Emerging Materials. new** Organized by Department of Chemistry March 20-22, 2018
- **Calls for paper on Writing 'Tribes' in Northeast India: Past, Present and Future. new** Organized by Tribal Studies Centre, AUS, Diphu Campus, 19th and 20th March 2018
- **National Seminar on Indigenous Voice(s) in Assamese Fiction (□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□ □□□□) new** Organized by Department of Assamese, AU, Diphu Campus On 13 th and 14 th March, 2018
- **DST & EDII Sponsored Faculty Development Program (FDP) new** Organized by School of Management Studies From 19th to 31st March 2018
- **National Seminar on Geriatric Care Management: Rehabilitation and Psychosocial Care and Role of Social Work Profession** Organised by Department of Social Work 20-21st March, 2018
- **National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development as on 28th March 2018 (Wednesday)** Organised by Department of Commerce
- **Corrigendum Regarding the National Seminar by the ICSSR, New Delhi.** Department of Mass Communication
- **International Seminar on MEDIA AND POLITICS .** Organised by Department of Mass Communication, AUS. 6 and 7 December 2017
- **National Seminar on Mass Media and National Integration: Freedom and Responsibility.** Organised by Department of Mass Communication February 8th – 9th, 2018
- **Last date of sending abstract for 1st National Conference on Applied Finance(NCAF) is Extended new** 4th & 5th January, 2018
- **National Seminar on Demonitisation and Approaches towards Digital India** Organised by Department of Commerce, AUDC 4th & 5th January, 2018 January 13, 2018
- **1st National Conference on Applied Finance (NCAF) January 13, 2018** Organized by: Department of Economics and Commerce January 13, 2018
- **International Conference on “Systems and Processes in Physics, Chemistry and Biology”** Organized by: Department of Physics 1st-3rd March-2018
- **National Conference on managing Human Resources at Work Place in the 21st Century”** organized by: Department of Commerce, Diphu Campus 5th-6th January-2018
- **National Seminar on “Transition to Cashless Economy Priorities, Opportunities & the Modes and Options”** organized by School of Management Studies. 8-10 September, 2017
- **Regarding receiving of Shyamaprasad Mukherjee Personality Award-2017 new** 17th June, 2017
- **International Conference Organized by Department of History, Assam University, Diphu Campus. new** 22-23 September, 2017

- [National Seminar on “Frontiers of Contemporary Business Research”](#) **new** Organized By: Department of Commerce 18th of May, 2017
 - National Seminar on “Towards a Better Understanding of Indian Ethics and Religion
 - **new** National Seminar 27th to 29th March-2017
 - International Conference on Scientific and indigenous bio-cultural Knowledge **new** International Conference 27th and 28th July-2017
 - National Seminar on Literature and Value Sense and poet’s meet on 23-24 March, 2017 **new** National Seminar Organized Jointly By – Department of Hindi, AUS and Women’s College
 - [Link for latest updates for National Conference on Chemical Physics, 2017](#) **new** National Conference Organized By – Department of Physics, Assam University, Silchar
 - [National Conference on Recent Trends in Mathematical Sciences-RTMS 2017](#) **new** National Conference Organized By – Department of Mathematics, Assam University, Silchar
 - [NCCP-2017 National Conference on Chemical Physics](#) National Seminar Organized By – Department of Physics, Assam University, Silchar
- Second Circular**
- [One day National Seminar on Management and Commerce Education- beyond the professional age.](#) **new** Organized Jointly by- JN School of Management Studies and The Institute of Cost Accountants of India 16th February 2017
 - [One day National Seminar on Skill Development and Youth: Prospects and Challenges in North East India.](#) **new** National Seminar