



**National Seminar
On
Cultural Studies in North East India:
Prospects and Challenges**

January 24-26, 2019



**Organized by:-
Department of History, Tripura University
In Collaboration with
Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, Tripura Pranta
and
Tripura Historical Society**

Invitation

Dear Sir/Madam

It gives us immense pleasure to invite you to a National Seminar on “Cultural Studies in North East India: Prospects and Challenges” organized by the Department of History, Tripura University in collaboration with BSM, Tripura Prantata and Tripura Historical Society be held from 24th to 26th January 2019 in the premises of Tripura University, Suryamaninagar, Agartala, Tripura.

We humbly extend our cordial invitation to all professional, academicians, Social workers and research scholars to participate in the seminar and present a paper. We look forward to your esteemed presence and active participation which will give us the opportunity to organize the seminar and make our endeavour a grand success.

Concept Note of the Seminar:-

North Eastern States consist of many social groups with diverse cultures mingling into the mainstream of India's national life. The unity in diversity has been guiding the road map of Indian culture which can be seen in this far flung enchanting part of India in customary practices, folk songs and dances, food habits and forest life, monuments and sculptures, manuscripts and folk literature, communication and old tradition, hills and dales etc. The people of North Eastern India inhabit a multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic and multi-religious society. They basically belong to three main language groups: Indo-Aryan, Austro-Asiatic and Tibeto-Burman. With the passage of time, hybrid culture is also evolving due to cultural assimilation of different ethno-cultural groups under various socio political economic systems. But this region has been facing challenges as its cops with pressure emanating from its ethnic diversity and 'main stream' culture. The rising challenges of ethno-nationalism and erosion of the state authority pose an increasing threat to the national integration.

There has been a debate over India as a nation. Historians are of the opinion that the boundaries of ancient India roughly coincide with those of South Asian countries in the eastern part of India. There are some who believe that except British rule, India has never been a nation state. Other historians disagree and maintain that since the north eastern India

has greater affinity with the people of South East Asia than those from the rest of India thus the question of India as a nation is under question mark. The political and cultural isolation of the seven now eight sisters have further contributed to these observations. Under these situations, it is imperative to understand north-eastern history under the umbrella of South Asian culture.

Cultural Studies is a field of theoretically, politically and empirically engaged cultural analysis that concentrates upon the political dynamics of the contemporary culture, its historical foundation, defining traits, conflicts and contingencies. It investigates how cultural practices relate to wider systems of power associated with or operating through social phenomena, such as ideology, class structures, national formations, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender etc. Cultural studies combines a verity of approaches, such as semiotics, Marxism, feminist theory, race theory, ethnography, post structuralism, post colonialism, social theory, history, political economy, philosophy, literary theory, media theory, communication studies, museum and manuscript studies, art history, translation studies to study cultural phenomena in various societies and historical periods.

Cultural studies in the North-East India will encompass the subjects of social sciences and humanities. The main objective of this seminar is to explore the missing link of culture through the lenses of archival sources, literary documents, travel accounts, folk literature, oral tradition, manuscripts, archaeological excavations, numismatics and other relevant sources of humanities and social sciences while forming a vision of all India cultural encompassing the spirit of diversity in unity. The seminar will be significant in manifesting the wealth of North-East source materials for cultural studies and prevailing threat in the visualisation of Indian culture in a fashion of our national outlook i.e Bhartiya Darshan.

Sub-themes of the Seminar:-

1. Folklore and Folktales in North-East India.
2. North-East India: Cooperation and confrontation with neighbouring states.
3. Sculptures and paintings in North-East India and its prospects towards exchanging views with others.
4. Language groups and speech communities of North-East India.

5. Cultural identity of the tribes of North-East India.
6. Magic and witchcraft in the societies of North-East India.
7. The tradition of weaving, courting and handicrafts in North-East India.
8. Role of women in the cultural space in North-East India.
9. Traditional knowledge system in North-East India.
10. Popular culture and performing arts in North-East India.
11. Customary law and practices in North-East India.
12. Humanitarian law and Refugees issues.
13. Religious diversity: Shaivism, Vaishnavism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Animism, etc.
14. Manuscript and Northern Culture.
15. Media and North-East Culture.
16. Demographic dynamics of North-East.
17. Socio-political and cultural movements of North-East India.

Important Dates:-

Last date of the submission of abstract: 05th January, 2019. (Format: - MS Word, Time New Roman, Font size: - 12, maximum 300 words)

Last date of the submission of full papers: 15th January, 2019. (Format: - MS Word, Time New Roman, Font size: - 12, submission of two hardcopies of the paper at the time of registration is mandatory.)

Call for Papers:-

Explaining the context of the above subject, well researched papers are invited from Academicians, Research Scholars, Professionals and different stakeholders to present their paper. We further inform you that, only the selected well research and original papers will be accepted to present in the Seminar. All the submission of the papers must be MS Word format, typed in Times New Roman, 12 font size and space 1.5 cm. the paper must not exceed more than 5000 words. Each paper should indicate the first page as the Title page, containing the title of the paper, name (s), affiliations, complete postal address/e-mail ID and

telephone number. An abstract of the Seminar paper (not more than 300 words with 4-5 key words) is to be submitted to: satyadeo11@gmail.com

Details of Registration fee:-

Research Scholars: - Rs. 500/- (Five Hundred rupees)

Teacher/participants: - Rs. 1000/- (One Thousand rupees)

T.A. /D.A. will be provided only to the selected resource persons through Indian Airlines.

Accommodation:-

Accommodation will be provided to the interested **outside** participants by prior information in advance.

Contact Address:-

Prof. Satyadeo Poddar

Convener of the Seminar,

Department of History,

Tripura University,

Phone no. – 9436168068,

E-mail ID-satyadeo11@gmail.com

Sri. Brij Mohan Pandey

Joint Convener of the Seminar,

Department of Law,

Tripura University,

Phone no. – 8787333520,

E-mail ID – brijmp021@gmail.com