



ABOUT THE NORTH EAST INDIA COMPANY (NEIC)

The North East India Company (NEIC) was established on June 3, 2015 in Silchar, Assam. The organisation aims towards the pursuit of the arts and the humanities in Barak Valley. It also works towards providing a space for the publication of serious academic work and good literature and also work towards enhancing visibility spaces for young and emerging artists. It Organises AFAH (ANUVAD ANNUAL FESTIVAL FOR THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES) and hosts the AAAR residencies every year. The company already has published poets from United Kingdom and from Barak Valley.

IMPORTANT DATES

Conference Dates : 27th & 28th December, 2018
Last date of Abstract submission: 15th December, 2018
Intimation of Acceptance : 18th December, 2018.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

- Faculty: - Rs- 2000/- (with or without paper)
Research Scholars: Rs-1000/- (with or without paper)
- 1) Registration only in cash on the first day of the conference. No other mode of payment will be accepted.
 - 2) In case of a joint paper, presenters need to register separately.
 - 3) Participants are not entitled to any TA / DA.
 - 4) The Registration fees will include breakfast, lunch, tea and conference kit.
 - 5) Lodging for participants on their own expenses can be arranged on prior intimation to organisers.

For any queries please contact Organising Committee members:

Mehdi Hasan Chowdhury, Dr. Arjun Chaudhuri : 8638307515, Santanu Swarup Roy : 9435074315
Panna Paul : 9706169027, Debashree Chakraborty : 9706539853, Monojit Chakraborty : 9957266890

Dr. Bibhas Deb

Principal, Gurucharan College
and Chairman
International Conference 2018

Dr. Panthapriyo Dhar

Head, Dept. of English
and Coordinator
International Conference 2018
94355 03623

Vandana Thousen

Assistant Prof., Dept. of English
and Joint-Coordinator
International Conference 2018
8957172615

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Abstract may be submitted as e-mail attachment to E-mail Id : gccoenglish1935@gmail.com. The abstract must be within 300 words and the title and keywords must be specified clearly. Name, designation and employment status of senders are also to be mentioned.

THE VENUE

Gurucharan College is located at the heart of Silchar, the District headquarter of Cachar, Assam. Silchar is well-connected with the major cities of India like Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Guwahati and others via railways. It also has air connection with Kolkata, Delhi and Guwahati. The airport is located at Kumbhirgram, which is about 20 kms from the main town.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Prof. Jyoti Lal Chowdhury, Honourable President,
Governing Body Gurucharan College
Prof. Kailash Chandra Baral,
English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.
Prof. Nandana Dutta,
Department of English, Gauhati University.
Prof. Ananya S. Guha, Regional Director,
Indira Gandhi National Open University, Shilong.
Prof. Dipendu Das, Department of English,
Assam University, Silchar.
Dr. Shyamali Kar, Formerly Head,
Department of English, Gurucharan College



CALL FOR PAPERS

TWO DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRADITIONS OF CULTURAL PRODUCTION IN NORTH EAST INDIA 27-28 DECEMBER, 2018

Organised by

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
GURUCHARAN COLLEGE, SILCHAR, ASSAM
(Reaccredited with A grade by NAAC, Bengaluru)

In Collaboration with



MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD
INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES (MAKAIAS), KOLKATA
(An Autonomous Body under Department
of Culture, Government of India)



THE NORTHEAST INDIA COMPANY
SILCHAR, ASSAM
Supported by
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TRADITIONS OF CULTURAL PRODUCTION IN NORTH EAST INDIA

Traditions in cultural spaces provide for cultural productions that underline how indigenous cultural forms and formations take shape and also undergo changes and modifications in adapting to ideas from outside. Culture is therefore produced by its 'mediation'- materialising within a set of conjuncts and departures and includes all those societal and behavioural frameworks, contexts and value systems that collectively create the contemporary nature of the societies we live in. In the case of North East India, regimes of colonialism, religion, and capital in the garb of globalisation have mediated the construction and conception of cultural productions and practices. In the present, such mediations are being interrogated and reconfigured with the intention of relocating and contextualising indigenous cultural productions.

Naturally, as contemporary cultural studies see it, this "circle of meaning production" demands a ready inquiry into fundamental aspects of culture – like, how traditions play the role of mediation, where and how did a particular cultural text/practice come into its present form? What are the historical and mnemonic implications of the process of its formation? What are the dynamics of its recall in the present? What is its cultural significance, particularly, in terms of identity formation, its deformation and reformation? The site of cultural production therefore is a competing and contested space. In engaging with tradition and cultural production we need to examine, explore and interrogate a set of assumptions around, oral, written and performative aspects of cultures of North East in order to understand the forces that have shaped and disrupted the North Eastern cultural epistemologies.

We understand that the rubric of cultural identity is founded on difference. However, the very construct of difference also undergoes change as identity does that is commensurate with cultural production and its consumption. The North East narrative developed by the mainstream/ the Govt. of India is subject to many gaps as such a narrative has mostly taken an anthropological turn instead of a cultural one describing people and their cultures. What is visible is not always the real that is mostly derived from the geographical, surface visibility influencing the politics of identity and territorial claims. Difference and diversity are the two defining assumptions of the cultural dynamics of North East. In the field of literary production, likewise, diversity is manifest in a Sanskrit trajectory that informs the Bengali, Manipuri and Assamese literatures of the region on the one hand, and the burgeoning literary productions in English that have come to garner wider circulation and import in the present, on the other.

The proposed two day international conference will endeavour to untangle some of the myths and misconceptions about North East's myriad cultural forms and formations and the traditions that have shaped them. While examining traditions, cultural production and consumption, we need to be alert to the concepts of space and place, race and culture, folk life and gender, performative arts and their religious significance, language and politics. We would also invite papers to set into motion key and new discourses about the essential nature of the idea of "North East" India and its cultures.

SUB-THEMES (Relevant to the focus area of the concept note)

1. Ethnicity, indigeneity and difference
2. Culture, memory and cultural memory
3. Cultural production, sexuality and gender
4. Literary production of the North East
5. Religion in the contemporary and the past
6. Ritual spaces, ceremonial commemoration and sources
7. Oral literatures of the near and distant past
8. Performance and identity
9. Marginalities and cultural production
10. Any other issues related to the main theme or the sub-themes of the conference.

EMINENT GUEST SPEAKERS

1. **Prof. Kailash Chandra Baral**, Department of Comparative Literature & India Studies, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.
2. **Prof. Nandana Dutta**, Department of English, Gauhati University, & Director, Gauhati University Institute of North East India Studies, Guwahati.
3. **Prof. Ananya S. Guha**, Regional Director, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Shillong.
4. **Prof. Dipendu Das**, Department of English, Assam University, Silchar.
5. **Kathrin Witte**, Art critic and artist, Germany.
6. **Niccolo Fillippo Rosso**, Journalist, Italy.

ABOUT GURUCHARAN COLLEGE

Gurucharan College, established on 15th July, 1935, is recognised as one of the premier institutions in the field of collegiate education. The college is affiliated under Assam University (A Central University), Silchar. Today, the college has a student enrolment of almost 4000 every year. In 2011, in Phase I (2006-2011) and then in Phase II (2011-2016), the college was recognized as a "College with Potential for Excellence" by the UGC. In 2016, the college was reaccredited with Grade A by NAAC, Bengaluru. In the 83 years of its existence, Gurucharan College has covered many milestones in its way forward and has become the alma mater of innumerable achievers in diverse fields and in many countries across the world. The college is listed under 2 (F) and 12 (B) by the University Grants Commission (UGC). It offers Higher Secondary (10+2) and Three-Year Degree Course (1+1+1) in Arts, Science and Commerce. The college also offers several Diploma Courses (Self Financed) for career improvement of the students.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, GURUCHARAN COLLEGE

Gurucharan College's Department of English has an illustrious history like the college itself. It was established in 1935 and was the first collegiate department of English in Barak Valley. The department has had many students who have topped the university level undergraduate courses. Many of the ex-students have cleared the UGC-NET and are now established as professors and scholars in their own right across the country and even abroad. The department publishes its own research journal *Literaria* which is a peer reviewed, UGC nominated academic publication. A wall magazine called *Genesis* is published regularly by the students. The English Department of the college is one of the first departments in entire North East India to offer a one year Diploma in Creative Writing in English.

ABOUT MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES (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. The Institute has concentrated on Central Asia as a priority area for its research; needless to say, the Central Asian region has acquired a great significance for India in view of our traditional, historical and cultural ties. Under the North-East Programme of the Government of India, the Institute has launched over twenty research projects since the year 2000 in the North-East part of the country on a variety of themes including the study of the society and culture of the tribals of the North - East region. The Institute has been ranked as one of the "Centres with Potential" in a report prepared for Research Councils, UK, by the India Foundation for the Arts, Bangalore, in June 2010.