

A Two Day National Seminar on

Border Communities of Central Arunachal Pradesh

29-30 March 2019



Organised by

Department of History (under UGC SAP)

Rajiv Gandhi University

Rono Hills, Doimukh (Itanagar) 791112

Arunachal Pradesh

Organising Committee:

Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor, Chief Patron

Prof. Sarah Hilaly, Head of the Department, Member

Prof. Sudhir Kumar Singh, Co-ordinator of UGC SAP and the Seminar

Prof. Ashan Riddi, Deputy Co-ordinator of UGC SAP and Member

Prof. Tana Showren, Member

Prof. Shyam Narayan Singh, Member

Dr. Prasanta Kumar Nayak, Deputy Co-ordinator of the Seminar

Dr. Tajen Dabi, Member

Dr. Tade Sangdo, Member

It is our pleasure to inform you that the Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University is organising a National Seminar on **Border Communities of Central Arunachal Pradesh** during 29-30 March 2019. The Seminar will focus on documenting the history and traditions of the communities of Central Arunachal Pradesh. In this context we would like to extend our warm invitation to you- fellow members of academia, research institutions, researchers and those involved in such projects to participate in the seminar.

About Itanagar and Doimukh: Itanagar, the capital town of Arunachal Pradesh is a beautiful historic place deriving its name from 14th-15th Century Ita Fort ruins. It is located at a distance of around 425 kms from Guwahati, the gate way to North East India. Located in the foothills of the Himalayas at an elevation of 350 metres above mean sea level, the capital town and adjoining Doimukh area boast of a rich natural bounty of scenic greeneries and riverine jingling.

About the University: Rajiv Gandhi University, (formerly Arunachal University) is the premier institution for higher education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the university on 4th February 1984 at Rono Hills, where the present campus is located. Since then the university has carved out a niche for itself in the educational scenario of the country following its selection as a university with potential for excellence by a High Level Expert Committee of UGC from among universities in India. It was converted into a Central University w.e.f. 9th April, 2007 as per Notification of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The teaching and research programmes of the university are designed with a view to playing an affirmative role in the socio-economic and cultural development of the state.

Connectivity: Rajiv Gandhi University is located atop Rono Hills in the vicinity of Doimukh and Itanagar. It is well connected by road, air and rail network. The university is at a distance of 5 kms from Gumto and 10 kms from Naharlagun Railway Stations; 6 kms from Nirjuli Bus Stand and 8 kms from the Naharlagun Helipad. It has regular bus, train and chopper services from Guwahati.

Accommodation: Accommodation for the participants will be arranged at the University Guest House and nearby Hotels at Naharlagun from 28th March (Evening) to 31st March 2019 (Morning). Accommodation may also be arranged in Hotels on prior request on the basis of self-payment.

About the Department of History: The Department of History is one of the oldest departments of the university and has a history of over three and half decades since its establishment in 1980 at Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat. Ever since then it has been able to carve out a niche for itself in the North East India. The Department offers academic courses for Postgraduate, Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy programmes. There are several ongoing research projects undertaken by the Department. The Department of History is among one of the two first

Departments in the university to be awarded **UGC Special Assistance Programme (SAP)** which has now been upgraded to the DRS-Phase III with the thrust area of study on **Border Communities of Arunachal Pradesh**. The Department is also undertaking another flagship project on **Oral Traditions: Archiving and Compiling the Tribes' Histories of Arunachal Pradesh**. In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the University of Missouri, USA to foster an international cooperation, collaboration and faculty exchange programme in the field of research and sharing know-how between the two universities.

About the Seminar (Border Communities of Central Arunachal Pradesh)

Stretching across south-eastern Himalayas and having a long international boundary with Bhutan to the west, China to the north and north-east and Myanmar on the south-east, the state of Arunachal Pradesh is one of the culturally most important and strategically located states of India. Known previously as North-East Frontier Tract (NEFT) till 1954 and later as NEFA (North East Frontier Agency), it acquired the status of a Union Territory on 20th January 1972 with a new political identity as Arunachal Pradesh under a Chief Commissioner. In its trajectory of administrative and political evolution it acquired the status of the state on 20th February 1987.

There is almost unanimity amongst scholars that the present Arunachal Pradesh had been a gateway for prehistoric and early tribal movements in India's North East Region which had continued till more recent times, even till 20th Century. British Occupation of Myanmar (Burma) in 1826 and subsequent collapse of Ahoms had brought the people of this area into contact with the British. The tribes did not immediately reconcile to the British rule in Assam and remained suspicious of their intentions and activities leading to skirmishes and wars. The British, no wonder, followed a policy of strictly regulated intercourse of all kinds between the tribes and the people of the plains. No policy shift took place till sometime after independence of the country in 1947.

Central Arunachal Pradesh presents a varied picture with numerous tribes and each one is distinguished for its indigenous and traditional institutions: social, political, economic, religious and cultural. They have also their own distinctive ways of narrating their past through oral traditions, myths and legends etc. However, there are scanty documentary evidences and historical documentation with regard to them.

A historian's interest is to explore the past in the context of the present. The deeper we go, more myriad pictures start flashing with multi-layered meanings and connotations. It is with this insight in focus that the present National Seminar on the topic **Border Communities of Central Arunachal Pradesh** is proposed. It aims at documenting the history and traditions of the communities of Central Arunachal Pradesh.

The seminar will focus on the following sub-themes:

- Society
- Polity
- Religion
- Culture
- Women
- Environment
- Language
- Traditional Knowledge System
- Craft and Technology
- Agriculture
- Trade and Trade Routes
- Cross-Border Relations
- Ethnicity

Important Markers

Call for Abstracts

Abstracts should be submitted as per approved format (1.5 spacing, font size 12, Times New Roman) in about 300 words, excluding title, affiliation, etc. The Organising Committee reserves the right to edit/reject the abstract, if required.

Submission of Abstract: 25 March 2019.

Submission of Full Paper: 29 March 2019.

Please send your confirmation and abstract of your paper to:

Professor S. K. Singh
Co-ordinator
Department of History
Rajiv Gandhi University
Rono Hills, Doimukh - 791 112
Arunachal Pradesh
94360 42037

Dr. P. K. Nayak
Deputy Co-ordinator
Department of History
Rajiv Gandhi University
Rono Hills, Doimukh - 791 112
Arunachal Pradesh
94360 45556

Kindly send abstract and full paper by E-mail @
sudhir.singh@rgu.ac.in or prasanta.nayak@rgu.ac.in

A

Prasanta Nayak
11/3/19