

National Seminar on

Border Communities of Eastern Arunachal Pradesh: A Historical Perspective

02- 03 February, 2017



Organised by

Department of History (under UGC SAP)

Rajiv Gandhi University

Rono Hills, Doimukh (Itanagar) 791112

Arunachal Pradesh

Organising Committee:

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Professor S. N. Singh, Co-ordinator of the Seminar

It is our pleasure to inform that the Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University, is organising a national Seminar on **Border Communities of Eastern Arunachal Pradesh** during 02- 03 February 2016. The Seminar will focus on documenting the history and traditions of the communities of eastern 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 the Seminar

Border Communities of Eastern 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 1964 and later as NEFA (North East Frontier Agency), it acquired the status of a Union Territory in 1972 with a new political identity as Arunachal Pradesh under the charge of a Chief Commissioner. In its trajectory of administrative and political evolution it acquired the status of the state in February 1987.

There is almost unanimity amongst scholars that the present Arunachal Pradesh had been a gateway for prehistoric and early tribal migrations and movements in India's north east region and this migration had continued till more recent times, even till 20th century. British annexation of Assam in 1838 and subsequent collapse of Ahoms had brought the people of this area into contact with the British. The tribes were not immediately reconciled to the British rule in Assam and remained suspicious of their intentions leading to skirmishes and wars. The British followed a policy of strictly regulating intercourse of all kinds between the tribes and the plains people. No policy shift took place till sometime after independence of the country in 1947.

Dr. Verrier Elwin divided Arunachal tribes culturally into three main areas on the basis of their belief systems and practices. The first two divisions he envisaged corresponded broadly to what may be referred to as western and central Arunachal while the third division he conceptualized corresponded to eastern Arunachal Pradesh- the theme area of the seminar.

Eastern Arunachal Pradesh presents a varied picture not entirely conceptualized in Elwin's schema. There are numerous tribes and each one is distinguished for their indigenous and traditional institutions: social, political, economic, religious and cultural. They have also their own distinctive ways of narrating their past- their oral traditions, myths and legends, etc., that tell about their past- origin, migration and settlement patterns. However, there are scanty documentary evidences and historical documentation based on a rigorous method of a historian and researcher with regard to them.

A historian's endeavor is always to explore the past in the context of the present. The deeper he goes the more complex pictures start flashing with multi-layered meanings and connotations. The present national seminar on **Border Communities of Eastern Arunachal Pradesh** is proposed with this perspective in focus. It is needless to state that documenting the history and traditions of the communities of eastern Arunachal Pradesh is the sole objective of this effort.

The seminar will be organized under the following sub-themes:

1. Society
2. Polity
3. Religion
4. Culture
5. Women
6. Environment
7. Language
8. Knowledge System
9. Craft and Technology
10. Agriculture
11. Trade and trade routes
12. Cross-border relations
13. Ethnicity
- 14.

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, approximately 425 kms away from here.

Accommodation

Accommodation for the participants will be arranged at the University Guest House and nearby Hotels at Naharlung from 01 February evening to 04 February 2017 morning. Accommodation may also be arranged in hotels on prior request on the basis of self payment.

Registration

Registration fee: Rs 500 (academic and professional bodies)

Rs 200 (research scholars and students)

Call for abstracts

Abstract should be submitted as per approved format in about 300 words, excluding title, affiliation, etc.

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to edit/reject the abstract, if required.

Last date for receipts of abstracts is 20th December 2016

Abstract and full paper should be in MS word, Times New Roman (12ft) 1.5 spacing

Submission of Full Paper : 20th February, 2016.

Co-ordinator of the Seminar : Prof. Shyam Narayan Singh

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Arunachal Pradesh

Kindly send abstract and full paper through

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