

## Contents

Sl.	Topic	Page(s)
-----	-------	---------

### **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

#### **Chief Patron**

Professor Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University.

#### **Patrons**

(a) Professor Amitava Mitra, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University.

(b) Professor Tomo Riba, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Rajiv Gandhi University.

(c) Professor Ashan Riddi, Head, Department of History and Director, Institute of Distance Education, Rajiv Gandhi University.

#### **Coordinator**

(c) Professor Sarah Hilaly, Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University.

#### **Co-Coordinator**

(a) Ms Moyir Riba, Assistant Professor, Institute of Distance Education, Rajiv Gandhi University.

#### **Team**

(a) Professor Tana Showren, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, RGU.

(b) Professor S. K. Singh, Dean Academic Affairs, RGU.

(c) Dr Tajen Dabi, Assistant Professor, Department of History, RGU

(d) Dr Tade Sangdo, Assistant Professor Department of History, RGU.

(e) Mr. Nyajum Lollen, Guest Faculty, IDE, RGU.

(f) Mr. Saurav Mitra, Guest Faculty, IDE, RGU.

(g) Ms. Tunung Tabin, Guest Faculty, IDE, RGU.

(h) Ms. Bide Mindo, Consultant, History, Institute of Distance Education, RGU.

(i) Ms. Ponung Darang, Research Scholar, Department of History, RGU.

#### **Technical Team**

((a) Mr Solung Sonam System Analyst, Computer Centre, RGU.

(b) Mr Gyan Rai, Technical Assistant Computer Centre, RGU

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Department of History and Institute of Distance Education acknowledges the academic support received for the Five Day, Faculty Development Programme, from the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor. For financial support received from the University it acknowledges the support of the Registrar and Finance Officer. For Technical support it acknowledges the support of Ms Moyir Riba and team IDE as a special contribution.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Five-Day Faculty Development Programme, on New

**Perspectives in the History of North East India, Series II** (2nd-6th November 2020), sought to bring in new research from older and younger scholars from the region within the discipline of history. Building on the expertise of each scholar they not only provided a window to their own research, but offered vistas of what kind of new researches can be taken up. Based on the overwhelming response of the participants another FDP in the same series is being planned shortly.

## Part 1: Preface

### 1.1. About Host Institution

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University) is the premier institution for higher education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and has completed thirty-six years of its existence. 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. Ever since its inception, the university has been trying to achieve excellence and fulfil the objectives as envisaged in the University Act. The University received academic recognition under section 2(f) from the University Grants Commission on 28th March, 1985 and started functioning since 1st April, 1985. It received financial recognition under section 12-B of the UGC on 25th March, 1994. Since then, Rajiv Gandhi University then Arunachal University has carved 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 University Grants Commission from among universities in India. The University was converted into a Central University with effect from 9th April 2007, according to a notification by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

The Institute of Distance Education is affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University. The institute aims is to provide higher education opportunities to those who are unable to join regular academic and vocational education programmes in the affiliated colleges of the University and make higher education reach to the doorsteps in rural and geographically remote areas of Arunachal Pradesh in particular and North-eastern part of India in general. The education through distance mode is an alternative mode of imparting instruction to overcome the problems of access, infrastructure and socio-economic barriers. The institute offers Master's degree, Bachelor degree and Certificate programmes in the field of Arts.

### 1.2. About the Sponsoring Agency (if any) Rajiv Gandhi University

### 1.3. Regional histories evolved during the colonial period within the framework of creating knowledge about the subject populations and the norms of periodisation introduced by them. A replication of the categories used in writing national histories was implicit in the history of regions too. In the aftermath of independence, the trajectory of history writing in the regions while continuing to replicate colonial knowledge also grew within the shadows of the frames of history writing of the nation state. Since the last decade of the twentieth century in North East India history writing has emerged out of the meta-narrative of the national frame and developed a distinct trajectory circumspect by its landscape, population, state formations in the early and medieval period, distinct experiences of the national movement, varied experiences of colonial rule across the hills and valleys, nuances of the

enclave economy, the modalities of creating colonial knowledge, partition experiences etc., to outline a few areas of research. This programme seeks to bring out these emerging perspectives which have enriched the corpus of history of the entire region. It also seeks to decentre the valley centric historiography of the past.

#### 1.4. Objectives

1. To broadly outline the long-term historical trends in North East India.
2. To focus on new perspectives in historical research in North East India.
3. To explore new methodologies and prospects of historical research in North East India

#### 1.5. Expected Outcomes

1. The participants will be acquainted with historiography of North East India
2. Participants will be benefitted by the discourse on recent trends in historical research in North East India.
3. The participants shall be driven to deeper enquiry into prospective areas of research in history and historiography of North East India

#### 1.6. Themes and Sub-themes

THEME: Five Day Faculty Development Programme On New Perspectives In The History Of North East India-Series II

SUB-THEMES:

- Archaeology as a Source of History: Perspectives from Northeast India
- Law and Colonial Frontiers in the 19th century
- Forests and Land Use in Colonial Assam: Historical Perspectives
- Floods and Nationalist Politics in British Assam
- Border and Beyond: Understanding the History of Northeast India through Trans-Border Perspective
- Labour Mobilisation for Road Building in Nineteenth century Northeast Frontier of India
- Space, Time and Religious Transition in Northeast India
- Framing Arunachal Pradesh through Cartography and Botany
- Tagin Encounter with the Nation State: The Achinmori Event and its Aftermath.

#### 1.7. Resource Persons

1. Prof. Rajib Handique, Head, Department of History, Guwahati University.
2. Prof. Ashan Riddi, Head, Department of History & Director IDE, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh.
3. Dr. Pum Khan Pau, Associate Professor, Department of History, Manipur University
4. Dr. Reeju Ray, Associate Professor & Assistant Dean, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, Jindal Global University.
5. Dr. John Thomas, Assistant Professor of History, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati.
6. Dr. Manjil Hazarika, Assistant Professor and Head (i/c), Department of Archaeology, Cotton University, Guwahati.
7. Dr. Monisankar Misra, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Tripura University, Agartala.

8. Dr. Santosh Hasnu, Assistant Professor, Hansraj College, Delhi.  
9. Prof. Sarah Hilaly Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh.

#### 1.8. Target Population

1. Faculty Members in History from Colleges and Universities in India and Abroad
2. Research Scholars working on North East India in India and Abroad.
3. Social Scientists.
4. School Teachers

#### 1.9. Budget

Rs 20,000/- for paying honorarium, logistical support and refreshments.

#### 1.10. Modus Operandi

Online Mode

### Part 2: Session Wise Deliberations

#### 2.1. Inaugural Session:

(02.11.2020) 10.30 am-11.30 am

**The inaugural session of the Five-Day Faculty Development Programme on NEW PERSPECTIVES IN THE HISTORY OF NORTH EAST INDIA-SERIES II**, organised by the Department of History Rajiv Gandhi University, in Collaboration with Institute of Distance Education, Rajiv Gandhi University began on 2nd November. Prof. Ashan Riddi, Department of History & Director Institute of Distance Education welcomed the Chairman of the Session Prof Saket Khuswaha, and other dignitaries. He welcomed the esteemed Resource persons, the Coordinator of the FDP, members of the Organising Team of the Department of History and members of Team IDE and most of all the participants.

Prof Sarah Hilaly Coordinator of the Faculty Development Programme welcomed the Honourable Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, other dignitaries and the participants. She welcomed the team of Research Scholars working behind the scene. She introduced the theme of the programme and stated that regional history for long has been replicating the national trends of history writing, using its frameworks in periodisation and methodologies. Since the last decade of the twentieth century, history writing of North East India emerged out of the meta-narrative of the national framework. There grew distinct strands of history writing in areas like landscape, state formation, with varied and distance experiences on aspects like national movement, colonial rule, partition etc. This programme aimed at bringing out these emerging perspectives on the history of the region.

In his address Prof. Saket Khuswaha the Vice-Chancellor stated that documenting history in this region was a myopic concept as research was based on limited information. At this was the Second Series in the faculty Development Programme, he stated that Rajiv Gandhi University should be the epicentre to bring out new information in the discipline of history of this region. While welcoming the Head, Department of History, Resource

Persons, Members of the Organising Committee of the Department of History and IDE he congratulated the Coordinator Prof. Sarah Hilaly for organising such a programme and wished it a success.

The programme concluded with the formal Vote of Thanks by Ms Moyir Riba Assistant Professor, IDE and the Co-Coordinator of the programme. She profusely thanked the Honourable Vice- Chancellor, other dignitaries, Head of Department History and the Coordinator, members of the Department of History and IDE, Research Scholars and the 241 registered participants.

2.2. Plenary Sessions (if any) NA

2.3. Technical Sessions

**Day I: 02.11.2020**

**Technical Session 11.30 am -12.30 pm**

**Prof Rajib Handique:**

**Title of the Lecture: Forests and Land Use in Colonial Assam: Historical Perspectives**

As a pioneer of Environmental history in the North Eastern region he stated that this sub-discipline had its roots in the environmental movements of the late twentieth century. To understand the history of colonial forestry he argued one has to know the geography, the flora and fauna as this is not contingent on political boundaries, rather on the zonation. Hence the North-eastern region falls within the South-Southeast Asian zone and the Indo-Malayan bio-geographical area containing a lot of endemic floral species to which its faunal wealth is intricately linked. He pointed to the fact that despite colonial attempts to classify the less-denser forests for commercial use and actual inventory of all the forest wealth is not available. Older texts like Kalika Purana, Mahabharata, text of Shihabuddin Talish early British writers like Buchanan Hamilton, John M'Cosh and Foresters like Brandis and Ribbentrop allude to the abundance of forests in Assam on the diverse geography of river valleys, lower Himalayas, mountains, hills, alluvial tracts, plateaus etc. The practice of Hum in the hills as a practice of rotation of plots instead of being understood as an issue of land abundance was construed as primitive/barbaric and degrading to the environment hence criminalised as a practice. During the Ahom period certain forest produce was state controlled like Elephants, Aloeswood and Shellac.

The colonial state viewed forest as a hindrance to prosperity of the empire hence had to find means for its productive use. While jhumming was criminalised agriculture was sought to be elevated from the subsistence level to one of surplus by reclamation of land at a larger scale than the medieval period. The thrust on increasing the revenue base through an expansion of agriculture led to deforestation. Classification of unused commons as wastelands made available land for setting up the tea-plantation industry which through the wasteland grants alienated immense section of sub-montane land. Out of the total land under the plantation industry only one fourth was planted. Huge tracts of diverse forests were lost. The setting up of the Forest Department as a measure to conserve it from exploitation rather strengthened the position of the state in a monopolistic and systematic exploitation of the forests. While forests became unavailable to the forest dwellers within their natural habitat, it was commercially exploited for railway sleepers and many other construction purposes. Silviculture

was done only of commercially viable plants while many precious species not valuable were lost in the process. These measures according to him has reduced Assam from a land abundant province to one of deficit resulting in many ethnic conflicts that go on till today.

**Technical Session 12.30 pm-1.30pm**

**Dr. Monisankar Misra**

**Title of the Lecture: Floods and Nationalist Politics in British Assam**

Dr. Monisankar Misra pointed to the dominance of Forest Histories in the sub-discipline of Environmental History till the 1990s. The work of Rohan D'Souza on Flood control and Dams in the colonial period has been pioneering. When he wanted to work on Floods in Assam initially, he was dissuaded in the archives and he could unearth material when he checked material on Agriculture. He alluded to how the issue of floods has dominated the critique of the colonial policies towards it. He also points to two distinct trajectories of the public debates on colonial policies in controlling floods in the Brahmaputra and Barak-Surma valleys. In the Brahmaputra valley he alluded to the large-scale construction of Alee's or Embankment-cum-roads which were aimed at protecting the administrative centres and agricultural areas from excessive flooding. Since the 1880s the middle class raised the issue that these old embankments be restored as a measure of reviving the lost legacy of Ahom architecture and with its restoration agriculture can benefit which would help recoup the condition of peasants. There was also an insistence of construction of more such embankments as a flood control measure to which the Chief Commissioner from the initial indifference in 1878 categorically stated that no such endeavours would be undertaken, while a Committee constituted provided a scientific explanation in its support. However, the matter was continuously raised in the legislative forums.

The Barak- Surma valley being flatter was prone to floods and retention of flood waters for a larger duration. Topography, particularly the presence of small hillocks which were used for habitation helped the sparse population to evade the effects of floods. However, since the second half of the nineteenth century the setting up of Tea-gardens along this elevated lands till the foot of the Mizo Hills alienated such elevated lands from the local population and so did reservation of upland forests. The encouragement of immigration led to overpopulation which led to settlement on the flood-plains exposing them to floods. While the revenue base of the colonial state increased with expansion of agriculture, tea-plantations and setting up railways. The demographic change impacted habitation patterns. Floods became more devastating with the colonial state taking no measures to mitigate floods. A series of severe floods from 1913-1916 led to public demand in the legislature to find out the causes and mitigate the woes of the people. While the government blamed on overpopulation of the floodplains, public discourse stressed that the alignment of the railway without taking into account local drainage conditions has blocked natural flow of water, making floods devastating. They insisted on an enquiry and undertaking of corrective measures on the railway embankments.

**Day II:03.11.2020**

**Technical Session 10.30 am -11.30 am**

**Dr. Manjil Hazarika**

**Title of the Lecture: Archaeology as a Source of History: Perspectives from Northeast India**

Dr. Manjil Hazarika while trying to draw the link between History and Archaeology tried to introduce the basics of archaeology. Though he argued that while both disciplines seek to study the past yet their vantage points are different. Archaeological resources are drawn from material remains like stone tools, potsherds and human remains; Ecofacts like food grains, clay lumps and other botanical remains and traces of human activities like plough marks, hearths etc. While through remains of the paleo-environment the climate can be gleaned; from animal remains hunting and consumption patterns; hearth to understand food practices and human remains can not only explain affinities, age, diseases, death etc.

In the context of Indian pre-history, most of the focus has been Bronze age civilization like the Indus Valley and consequently North India for a substantial period in early Archaeological Research. Archaeological research into regions has been a late phenomenon. In North East India in 1961-1963 Daojali Hading in North Cachar Hills (Now Dima Hasao). Thereafter a number of Neolithic sites have been excavated across the hills, mountains and plains of the North Eastern region. Shifting cultivation survives as an incipient agriculture with use of shouldered celts found also across Sikkim, Tibet and Kashmir etc. extracted from botanical remains. In Myrkhan, Meghalaya, cord impressed pottery has been found. Such pottery approximately 2500 BCE is prolifically found in South East Asia, East Asia and North East India. Certain modern pottery too continues with these designs. Stone pottery of Andro in Manipur too are pre-historic survivals. Colonial photographs show tribes like Apatanis, Idus and Meyor using Tibetan bowls. Beads are another archaeological survival unearthed in this region. Archaeology too provides clues of river sites like the Brahmaputra and growth of urban centres in Guwahati and Goalpara. Evidence is found of the Gangetic valley extension into Mainamati in present day Bangladesh. Therefore, archaeology is a potent source of understanding history and its precedents.

**Technical Session 11.30 am -12.30 pm**

**Dr. Reeru Ray.**

**Title of the Lecture: Law and Colonial Frontiers in the 19th century**

Dr. Reeru Ray focused her work on her findings in her PhD Thesis. According to her the British subjects were created through legal frameworks. Resource extraction in men and material resources was the focus of the colonial state. On the other hand, the discourse on science and cartography produced the idea of a frontier from a larger spatial understanding of the nation. Here Law and Knowledge created an abstraction of the people based on the experiential reality of the colonial state which added to corporeal violence. Different forms of resistance as articulated through resistance in the lived space were subsumed. The colonial representation alongside local ideas of spaces and people resulted in an alternative geographical understanding was created. This is particularly visible in the categories like Non-Regulating spaces making invisible the people who inhabited these areas. Alongside the legal category of frontier came the category tribe. Legal categories as such appeared for commercial and strategic purposes, though largely represented as untamed people and landscape. Impinging on social relations such focus areas were represented as backward. Usually, settlements at the frontiers were viewed as beyond the revenue settlements yet offering the scope for expanding revenue.

On the other hand inauguration of Regulations like the Bengal Regulation X of 1822 and 1833 were enacted when Special Courts were sanctioned in the Garo Hills. This system of indirect rule created Non-Regulated Tracts where legislations were not permitted though in reality administrators legislated at will citing contingencies. A centralised executive went hand-in-hand with fixing jurisdictions. Male heads of polities like Garo Headman or Khasi Syiems were tied through agreements. Such agreements were renewed time-to-time redefining the power of the chiefs to negotiate treaties thus limiting the rights of the local authorities in due course. Rather such regulations aimed at securing the interests of the Europeans, private traders. Missionaries etc. The Indian state inherited this legal structure.

**Day III:04.11.2020**

**Technical Session 10.30 am -11.30 am**

**Dr. Pum Khan Pau.**

**Title of the Lecture: Border and Beyond: Understanding the History of Northeast India through Trans-Border Perspective**

Dr. Pum Khan Pau begun his discourse questioning as to what has borders done to social spaces? A lot of studies on the region has ended with the process of political boundary-making as areas of fixed lines. In the context of the current studies or borderlands on North East done by Yasmin Saikia in the Tai-Ahom context, Gunnel Cederlof on the Indo-Burma borders, with the spatial conception of Zomia coined by William Van Schendel provides a perspective on the covering the highlands of South Asia and South East Asia. According to these discourse borders in the North eastern region have not been able to limit cultural and economic ties. Rather they have become spaces for the establishment of transnational culture areas.

North East India after the first partition with Burma in 1937 and that of the sub-continent in 1947 has resulted in the dismemberment of hill tribes as well as people of the plains. In the aftermath marred with boundary disputes a rethinking of the borders is necessary as it not only exists as a periphery, but is made by the people who dwell there. Culture can never be removed from history and produced by power. Rather borders should be understood as symbols and spaces of social control with construction of meanings with integrative rather than conflictual meanings. Therefore, a study of the cultural permeability at the contiguous borders particularly among those sharing ethnic ties can be used to understand the dissected/fragmented spaces. These connections can be cemented by drawing on oral stories on myths of origin, ritual journeys and loss of writing among kindred communities straddling the borderlands. It is the people who can unify these spaces by exchanging ideas and interests.

**Technical Session 11.30 am -12.30 pm**

**Dr Santosh Rex Hasnu.**

**Title of the Lecture: Labour Mobilisation for Road Building in Nineteenth century Northeast Frontier of India.**

Dr Santosh Rex Hasnu, focussed on the history of transportation as it emerged during World War II in the North Eastern Region. The existing railway network in Assam was strengthened and effectively used and was augmented by carriage roads and beginning of aviation. He draws a trajectory of the transportation industry, particularly roads in Assam from the 19th century to World War II. His specific focus was on the

mobilisation of labour for the construction of the arterial roads in North east India with strategic focus during the East India Company's rule. The two roads were the Cachar-Manipur road to complete connectivity with Burma and the Guwahati-Sylhet Road via the Khasi Hills. He argues that Ravi Ahuja in an article draws to the fact that little attention has been paid to the labour mobilisation for road projects as it is a site for interaction of capital and labour. Chitra Joshi draws attention to coerced labour for construction of roads through Regulation and Non-Regulation enactments. For the Khasi Hills road construction, convict labour was drawn as voluntary labour for roads was difficult to come by. Though the Khasi's had the tradition of portage yet did not work on wage labour. They were frequent complaints that labour deserted. Providing surveillance for convict labour became a matter for concern for the district administration. For the Cachar-Manipur Road the colonial state sought to tap on the Corvee system prevalent in the Manipur state known as Lallup through a treaty with Gambheer Singh. They tried to tap the labour among tribes in the neighbourhood by soliciting help of the Manipur Raja through Anudhan system which remained voluntary. As it impacted the corpus of labour available for the public works of the Raja he was reluctant to provide access to such labour. The Raja of Cachar did not have the resources to contribute or command men as by the end of the Burmese invasion it was devastation. Further in 1830 Cachar was annexed to Assam from where they tried to attract wages for labour which was partly successful. He highlighted the problems of labour mobilisation for road construction which was non-regulated in contrast to the contract based coerced tea garden labour.

**Day IV:04.11.2020**

**Technical Session 10.30 am -11.30 am**

**Dr. John Thomas**

**Title of the Lecture: Space, Time and Religious Transition in Northeast India**

Dr. John Thomas foregrounded his discourse on Nagaland where he studied the impact of Christianity on the community. He viewed the Pre-Christian belief system and Christianity within the rubric of Space and Time. According to him the primary contradictions in the religious core occurred over perceptions of Space and Time. He argues that traditional faith and belief system of the Nagas rested on privileging space over time, while Christianity factors temporality over space. He brings out this distinction through the story of a 'boulder' which was considered sacred and no one would traverse it as misfortune would strike anyone doing so. When the missionaries arrived, they not only traversed it but removed it to construct a road. Here the embeddedness which the people had with the landscape was transgressed and shown in an alternate light in the new religious context. The attachment to land and the sylvan spirits brings in a sense of responsibility to the various constituents in a given space. This stems from the belief that all constituents have life and hence worthy of respect and recognition. The religion is not human-centric, with equality among life-forms and hence ceremonial practices geared towards maintaining equilibrium among various constituents rather than arriving on any enlightened space.

In religion of the Missionaries, Vaishnavism of Manipur and Assam, Islam (influenced by Semestism) temporality is more important than space, like concepts of the city of God. Further there is move to standardise religion across spaces and cultural boundaries. Therefore, these religions are geared towards a temporal movement where they seek to convert and redeem everyone. The concern is neither on culture

or space which it seeks to transcend. With a hold over larger spaces and people, they make claims to universal and exclusivist truths. However sometimes local context forces the process of standardisation to digress from claims of one truth. Local religious traditions get transmuted and ideas of living God in Christianity and abstraction from local religious tradition. However certain revitalisation movements too seek to reconstruct their faiths in Monotheistic parameters like the Heraka, Bathou, Donyi-Polo etc. Here Time is privileged over space and on many occasions local traditions and integrated through the social and cultural codes. Most formalised religions therefore increasingly alienate people from their history and social memory.

**Technical Session 11.30 am -12.30 pm**

**Prof. Sarah Hilaly**

**Title of the Lecture: Framing Arunachal Pradesh through Cartography and Botany**

Prof. Sarah Hilaly provided a peek into the colonial policy in the Eastern Himalayas or the Brahmaputra watershed. She argued that for the first two decades of British presence in Assam was marked by treating communities on the borderlands of Burma as buffers. Here the Khamptis and Singphos in the eastern most extremity of Arunachal Pradesh was brought in as buffer communities, the need for which diminished after the 2nd Anglo-Burmese War in 1852. One of the ways through which the colonial state garnered knowledge about a Geography was cartography. Since colonial presence in Assam as early as 1824 their minds were ignited by the watershed of the Tsangpo river as to whether it was the Lohit or the Dihang where it emanated to flow into the Brahmaputra. The colonial presence with most tribes of Arunachal Pradesh was along the foothills through various instruments like posa, duars and kotokies and a series of Regulations commencing from 1873.

Eastern Arunachal Pradesh, specifically the territories under the Adis and Mishmis assumed importance since 1826 as they constantly tried to maintain a cordial relationship, despite undertaking expeditions against violations of British territory. With resistance by tribes to the Trigonometrical survey in 1875 except along the Aka territory, cultivating friendly relations with Adis and Mishmis became an imperative. The ultimate goal being to tour the areas and reach either Pomed or Zayul in search of routes to Tibet as well as settle the origins of the Brahmaputra. This was settled by Morshed and Bailey in 1911 and finally by plant-hunter Frank Kingdon Ward in 1927. The framing of Arunachal Pradesh (which was not annexed to British territory) was through the itinerant state instruments of annual official tours from spaces in Assam designated as Frontier Tracts in Assam. The other source of framing the region was through botanical explorations across South East Tibet by Frank Kingdon Ward also through his collective works provided a glimpse into the relationship that Tibet had with the tribes living in its proximity.

**Day V**

**Technical Session 11.30 am -12.30 pm**

**Prof. Ashan Riddi**

**Title of the Lecture: Tagin Encounter with the Nation State: The Achinmori Event and its Aftermath.**

Prof. Ashan Riddi provided a glimpse into the encounter of tribes living

away from the foothills with the state which was the newly independent India. The colonial state did not make its presence felt earlier in the interior regions of present-day Arunachal Pradesh. This encounter as reflected in the Achinmori Massacre of Assam Rifle Jawan's as well as Galo porters. The government officials moved to spread civilian administration and to establish military outpost too. Since the Tagins had previously not been exposed or in contact with outside people except a cursory survey of the area in the 1912 Miri Mission. They were unable to fathom the movement of outsiders into their area and kept their doors closed.

The new government did not superimpose its institutions rather helping them to retain local polities. The Kebang of the Adis was thought to be a suitable political institution to be introduced locally. With the active presence of Chinese in Tibet since 1950s the government was keen on maintaining status quo. While internally the Indian state adopted a forward policy. In 1950 B.C. Bhuyan went to explore the Tagin areas followed by K.T. Khuma at Aalo in 1951. U Hipson Roy the APO in 1952 toured the Upper Tagin river as a part of the Subansiri Frontier Tract, dividing Tagin territory into two parts. These tours faced occasional resistance. The entourage of Gams and political Interpreters in 1951 were forced back. In 1953 at Achinmori they killed 47 men from the Assam Rifles including Galo porters, holding many as captive too. This brought the Tagins to the national media. To suppress the uprising three columns converged under U Hipson Roy many were killed and their properties burnt among the perpetrators. Officers were posted at Denekoli and Taliha, while demonstration of arms was consciously done to display state power. Wealthy and influential persons were henceforth made a part of the Pro-Government alliance. To make the alliance, binding to both parties Dapo an equivalence of spiritual alliance between spirits and humans was enacted with Mithuns sacrificed to make it abiding. Towards rapprochement officers carried essential items as well as presented, while multi-lingual interpreters always preceded the annual tours. Tagins were engaged as porters and habitual offenders were tried by the IPC. Propaganda highlighting the importance of law, order and development programmes, followed by unarmed visits of touring official brought the Tagins to the mainstream of administration.

2.4. Panel Discussion (if any) NA

2.5. Valedictory Session **(06.11.2020) 12.35 pm -1.10 pm**

The formal Valedictory Programme at 12.45 pm opened with the Welcome Address by Prof. Sarah Hilaly the Coordinator of the Five-Day Faculty Development Programme in "New Perspectives in the History of North East India-Series II". While welcoming the Chairman of the session Pro VC Prof. Amitava Mitra, Head, Department of History and Director IDE, Prof. Ashan Riddi, members of the Organising Team particularly from the IDE, the gathering of Participants and Resource persons. She also took this opportunity to express her gratitude the Vice-Chancellor and all Statutory Officials, and to one and all of those who made the programme a success.

There was a feedback from participants by Dr Dhurrjati Sharma. He stated that there were so many new interpretations of historical material in North east India particularly in the sense that they exist in hindsight. He thanked the Coordinator and the entire team for the idea behind of the FDP programme which brought in scholars from diverse

backgrounds.

Professor Ashan Riddi, the Head, Department of History and Director of Institute of Distance Education, thanked the team for such enriching program and advised the young scholars to look and take up new challenges, ideas and direction, which they have learned in these five days. He also acknowledged the entire team for their effort and successful work.

The Chairperson of the valedictory session, Professor Amitava Mitra, Pro-Vice Chancellor of RGU congratulated the Department of History and Institute of Distance education for the successful completion of Five Day Faculty Development Programme. He appreciated active involvement of university in organizing such educational webinars. He focused on the post-independence economic history of the region and highlighted various concerns for its development. He further expressed his views on the present day alarming unemployment issue in the hill states “low level of industrial activity has unable to absorb the unemployment, thus causing discontentment and insurgents and these factors undermine for genuine economic development”.

Dr.Tajen Dabi, Co-Coordinator offered the formal vote of thanks. He thanked the Chairman of the Programme, the Head of Department and other members of the Organising team. He thanked the esteemed Resource Persons for their valuable contributions to knowledge and the participants for attending and engaging in a fruitful dialogue. He further pointed out the contributions of Prof. Sarah Hilaly and Ms. Moyir Riba for fruitfully collaborating and carrying out the programme successfully despite technical glitches. Ms. Moyir Riba, organizer of the program expressed gratefulness for the overwhelming experience. Despite the pandemic and technical glitches, they could provide intellectual platform for not only young scholars but also enthusiastic knowledge seekers.

### **Part 3: Major Takeaways**

#### **3.1. Academic Context**

The discourse on new perspectives in the history of Northeast India was very enriching. The focus was on relooking into the past traditions of history writing while bringing into focus the new kinds of writing histories within frameworks of new ideologies, new sources and new methods. Each Resource person had deliberated on their area of expertise in research and pointed out new possibilities for the scholars of new generation in the discipline of history to take up.

#### **3.2. Research Context**

The content of the lectures were so enriching in terms of resource component that they need to be published for the future generation of historians to use for their research. The diverse areas spanned from history of landscape, partition, linguistic nationalism, tribe as state effect, gendered narratives through autobiography, mission and missionaries, new areas of research in history, geography of violence in the history of uplands and contextualizing museums in north east India.

### 3.3. Policy Making and Practice Context

Could be of value for the policy makers to resolve many of the claims and counter-claims in terms of identity movements and correct many flaws in the existing historical discourse.

### 3.4. Other (if any)

## Part 4: Appendices & Annexure

### Annexure 1: Programme Schedule

 <p>Department of History Rajiv Gandhi University in collaboration with</p>  <p>INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION Rajiv Gandhi University</p> <p>organises</p> <p><b>FIVE DAY FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME</b> on <b>NEW PERSPECTIVES IN THE HISTORY OF NORTH EAST INDIA II</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020</p>	<p><b>Inaugural Session</b> 1030 hrs, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 Chair</p>  <p><b>Prof. Saket Kushwaha</b> Honorable Vice Chancellor Rajiv Gandhi University</p> <p><b>Valedictory Session</b> 1240 hrs, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Chair</p>  <p><b>Prof. Amitava Mitra</b> Pro Vice Chancellor Rajiv Gandhi University</p>	<p><b>LECTURE SCHEDULE</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020</b> Prof. Rajib Handique Dr. Monisankar Misra</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020</b> Dr. Manjil Hazarika Dr. Reeju Ray</p> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b> Dr. Pum Khan Pau Dr Santosh Rex Hasnu</p> <p><b>5<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b> Dr. John Thomas Prof. Sarah Hilaly</p> <p><b>6<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b> Prof. Ashan Riddi</p>
---	--	--

INAUGURAL SESSION		VALEDICTORY SESSION	
1030 hrs	Welcome Address by <b>Professor Ashan Riddi</b> , Head Department of History, RGU & Director, Institute of Distance Education, RGU	1240 hrs	Welcome Address by <b>Prof. Sarah Hilaly</b> , Department of History, RGU & Workshop Coordinator
1040 hrs	Introducing the FDP by <b>Prof. Sarah Hilaly</b> , Department of History, RGU & Workshop Coordinator	1245 hrs	Feedback from Participants
1050 hrs	Remarks by <b>Dr. N. T. Rikam</b> , Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University	1255 hrs	Remarks by <b>Professor Ashan Riddi</b> , Head Department of History, RGU & Director, Institute of Distance Education, RGU
1055 hrs	Remarks from the Chair <b>Professor Saket Kushwaha</b> Vice Chancellor Rajiv Gandhi University	1305 hrs	Remarks by the Chair, Prof. Amitava Mitra Pro Vice Chancellor Rajiv Gandhi University
1115 hrs	Vote of Thanks by Moyir Riba, Assistant Professor, IDE, RGU	1315 hrs	Vote of Thanks by Dr.Tajen Dabi, Assistant Professor Department of History

To REGISTER log in to  
<https://forms.gle/leTmbpRvRvBcmUg>  
To JOIN log in to  
<https://meet.google.com/rnox-ehjv-knrk>

Annexure 2: List of Participants

Sl NO.	Name	email	Designation	Institutional Affiliation	Institutional Address
1	Ms. Abhishikha Bailung	abhishikhabailung5055@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Sonari College	Sonari, Charaideo
2	Dr. Akash Ranjan	1aranjanmedphil@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY (A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY), ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, PIN-791112	RONO HILLS, DOIMIKH, ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, PIN-791112
3	Dr. Ambuj Thakur	ambujtoday@gmail.com	Others	Independent Researcher	Dibrugarh
4	Prof. Amena N.Passah	emi.aap95@gmail.com	Professor	North Eastern Hill University	Mawlai, Shillong,
5	Ms. Annesha Borah	borah.annesha@gmail.com	Others	The Assam Royal Global University	Department of Geography, The Assam Royal Global University
6	Mr. Arindam Ghosh	arindam.pritihivi@gmail.com	Others	Rabindra Bharati University	Kolkata-50
7	Mrs. Babita Kamei	babita kamei2020@gmail.com	Others	Manipur University	Canchipur Manipur

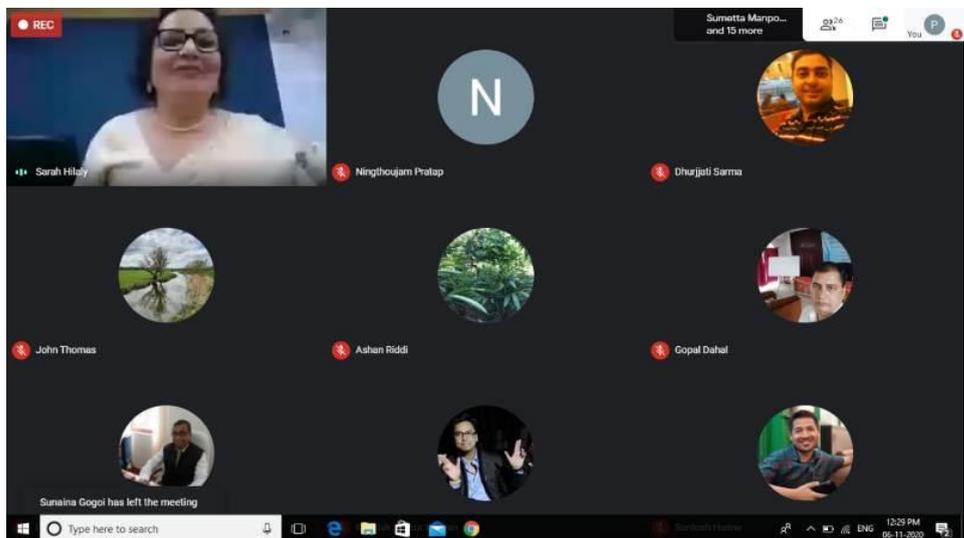
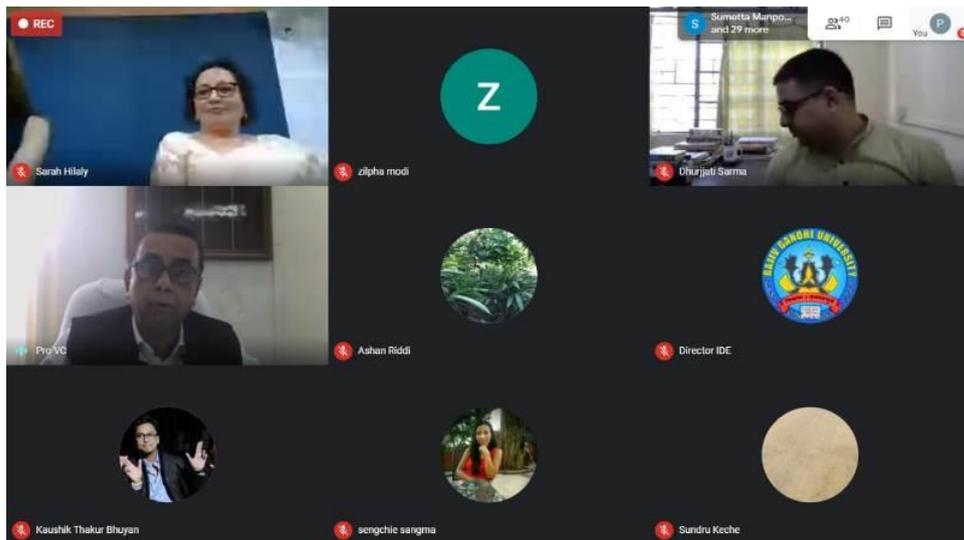
		.com			
8	Ms. Bide Mindo	bidemindo2@gmail.com	Others	Department of history	Rajiv Gandhi University Rono Hills Doimukh Arunachal Pradesh
9	Mr. Biraj Jyoti Kalita	birajkalitadc@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Devi Charan Barua Girls College	District: Jorhat, Assam
10	Ms. Bisakha Pandey	bisakhapandey07@gmail.com	Others	Gauhati University	Jalukbari, Guwahati-781014, Assam
11	Ms. Bishnu Kumari Gurung	gurungpreeti22@gmail.com	Others	North-Eastern Hill University	North-Eastern Hill University Mawlai Shillong Meghalaya
12	Dr. Bobita Dutta	bobitaduttaspr@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Sarupathar College	Sarupathar, Golaghat
13	Ms. BOMNU POTOM	potombomnu@gmail.com	Others	Distance education institutions of Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh	Rajiv Gandhi University Doimukh, distance education institutions
14	Ms. BRITHINA SENGCHIE N SANGMA	sengchie@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	NEHU	DURAMA college
15	Mr. CHIRANJIB DAHAL	chiranjibdahal@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	JDSG College, Bokakhat, Assam	JDSG College, Bokakhat, Assam
16	Ms. Dachanmi Dkhar	dachanmijaintia@gmail.com	Others	North Eastern Hill University, Shillong	Umshing, Mawlai, Shillong, Meghalaya-793022
17	Dr. Dhritiman Sarma	dsanth2015@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Rajiv Gandhi University	Rono Hills, Doimukh
18	Dr. Dhurjjati Sarma	dhurjjati.sarma@live.com	Assistant Professor	Gauhati University	Jalukbari, Guwahati, Assam
19	Ms. Dipti Devi	diptidevi001@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Mazbat College, G.U.	Mazbat College, Mazbat, Udalguri, Assam
20	Dr. Tenzin Jangchup Khampa	tjkhampa@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Saveetha School of Law SIMATS Chennai Tamil Nadu	Saveetha School of Law SIMATS Chennai Tamil Nadu
21	Dr. Doi Ette	doyiett@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Himalayan University	Himalayan University, Itanagar
22	Dr. Eva Dupak	evadupak@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Rajiv Gandhi University	Government College Doimukh
23	Ms. Geyir Angu	geyirangu@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Rajiv Gandhi university	Donyi polo government college kamki
24	Mr. Gopal Dahal	gopaldahal69@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Mazbat college	Mazbat, Dist. Udalguri Udalguri
25	Mr. Gotimayum Indrajit Sharma	igotimayum@gmail.com	Others	Manipur University	Canchipur, Imphal, Manipur

26	Mr. Gulson Gogoi	gulsongogoi nhk@gmail. com	Others	Rajiv Gandhi University	Roni Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh
27	Ms. HAGE YAMANG	hageyamang 25@gmail.c om	Others	Rajiv gandhi university itanagar	Hod history rajiv gandhi university itanagar
28	Dr. Haobam Bidyarani Devi	bidyhaobam @gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Kumbi College, Kumbi	Kumbi, Bishnupur district, Manipur
29	Dr. Hidam Ajit Meetei	hajitmeetei @gmail.com	Others	Manipur University, Imphal	Canchipur, Imphal, Manipur
30	Ms. Hoipi Haokip	hoipahaokip @gmail.com	Assistant Professor	YK College	Wangjing , Thoubal District, Manipur
31	Ms. Jarpa Gadi	jarpagadi87 @gmail.com	School Teacher	Rajiv Gandhi University	Department of History Rajiv Gandhi University
32	Mr. Jeevantu Tikhak	jeevantu.tikh ak@gmail.c om	Assistant Professor	Indira Gandhi Government College, Tezu	Tezu, Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh
33	Mr. Jimmy Camdir Tok	jimmytok56 @yahoo.co m	Assistant Professor	Dera Natung Government College ( affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University )	Dera Natung Government College, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
34	Mrs. Jumrik yomcha	jumrikyomc ha7370@gm ail.com	Assistant Professor	Rajiv Gandhi University	Dorjee Khandu government College y
35	Prof. Kadombini Terangpi	kadomdgc@ gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Assam University silchar	Diphu Government College
36	Mr. Khaled Azam Mazumder	mazumderkh aled@gmail. com	Assistant Professor	Assam University	M.C.D.college, sonai
37	Mr. KIRI TASO	Kiritaso8@g mail.com	Assistant Professor	RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY	RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY, DOIMUKH, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA
38	Ms. L Pakpi Ngulom	pakpingulo m@gmail.co m	Others	Rajiv Gandhi University	Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh
39	Ms. Lucky Kumari	luckyjha37 @gmail.com	Others	Naac A+	C.M.College, Lalit Narayan Mithila University Darbhanga-846008 (Bihar)
40	Ms. Maibam Dolli Chanu	dollichanu@ gmail.com	Others	manipur university	Canchipur, Manipur
41	Dr. Md. Jamil Hassan Ansari	jamilh505@ gmail.com	Others	NAAC A+	Department of History, Lalit Narayan Mithila University Darbhanga-846008 (Bihar)
42	Mrs. MINOO KAMSI	ammykamsi 76@gmail.c	Others	RAJIV GANDHI	RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY

		om		UNIVERSITY ITANAGAR	ITANAGAR
43	Mrs. kabyashree hazarika	kabyashreeh azarika088 @gmail.com	Others	Rajiv Gandhi University	Rajiv Gandhi University
44	Mr. Geri Koyu	geriyuko@g mail.com	Others	Rajiv Gandhi University	C/SECTOR, NAHARLAGUN
45	Mrs. Koj Annu	aanukoj@g mail.com	Assistant Professor	Govt College Yachuli	Govt College Yachuli, Lower subansiri, Arunachal Pradesh
46	Ms. Binea M. Momin	bmomin21 @gmail.com	Others	North Eastern Hill University	Mawlai, Umshing, Shillong, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya
47	Ms. Ms. Roja Ahmed	ahmedroza9 999@gmail. com	Others	North-Eastern Hill University	Shillong, Meghalaya
48	Ms. Namrata Gogoi	namratagogo i@nluassam. ac.in	Assistant Professor	National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam	Hajo Road, Amingaon, Kamrup
49	Ms. NANG SUMETTA MANPOONG	sumettaman poong@gma il.com	Others	Arunachal university of studies	Arunachal university of studies, Namsai, NH-52
50	Mr. Nikam Mangfi	nmangfi@g mail.com	Others	RGU	Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills
51	Dr. Nirmal Bhadra	nirmalbhadr a70@gmail. com	Associate Professor	Swami Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya	Swami Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya, Mohanpur, West Tripura,
52	Mr. Oinam Premjit Singh	oinampremji t2011@gmai l.com	Assistant Professor	Manipur University Imphal Canchipur	Nambol L Sanoi College Nambol Manipur
53	Dr. Paul B. Chonzik	pchonzik@g mail.com	Associate Professor	Assam University Diphu Campus	Diph, Karbi Anglong, Assam - 782 462
54	Dr. Pradeep Kumar Deepak	pk.deepak21 @gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Adwaita Malla Barman Smriti Mahavidyalaya Amarpur	Adwaita Malla Barman Smriti Mahavidyalaya Amarpur, Dist- Gomati, Tripura
55	Mr. PRAKASH KUMAR HAJAM	prakashzku mar123@g mail.com	Others	RANCHI UNIVERSITY RANCHI	RANCHI
56	Dr. Prasanta Kumar Barik	prasantabari k@77gmail. com	Assistant Professor	Department of Education, RGU	Dept.of Education, RGU
57	Mr. Rintu Borah	rintuborah03 @gmail.com	Others	IIT Bombay	Department of HSS, IIT Bombay
58	Mr. S Abrar Ahamed	abrarahamed 2020@gmail .com	Others	Manipur University	Imphal
59	Ms. Sanchayita khakholar	khakholarys anchayita0	Others	Gauhati university	Gauhati university, jalukbari 781014

		@gmail.com			
60	Ms. Senjam Purnima Devi	ranasensjam79@gmail.com	Others	Assam University, Silchar	Assam University, Silchar
61	Mr. Shivumso Chikro	shivumso@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Rajiv Gandhi University , Itanagar	Don Bosco College, Itanagar
62	Mr. Subhendu Manna	subhendu.manna@rgu.ac.in	Assistant Professor	Rajiv Gandhi university	RONO Hills Doimukh,
63	Ms. Sunaina Gogoi	sunaina.history@gmail.com	Others	Research Scholar (NEHU)	House no. 3, Ground Floor, Senduri Ali,
64	Mr. SUNDRU KECHE	kechesundru@gmail.com	Others	NA	NA
65	Dr. TARUN DUTTA	duttarun796@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Assam University Diphu Campus	Karbi Anglong, Assam
66	Prof. Tejimala Gurung Nag	tejimalag@rediffmail.com	Professor	NEHU, Shillong	Department of History, NEHU. Shillong
67	Dr. Thungdemo N Yanthan	thungdemo@unitycollegedimapur.com	Assistant Professor	Nagaland University	Unity College, Residential colony, Dimapur, 797112 Nagaland
68	Mrs. TSERING YANGJOM	tsering.yangjom@rediffmail.com	Assistant Professor	RGU	Dera Natung Govt.College Itanagar
69	Ms. Zilpha Modi	modi.zilpa@gmail.com	Assistant Professor	Rajiv Gandhi University	Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies RGU

### Annexure 3: Photographs (if any)





Annexure 4: Media Coverage

Annexure 5: Other (if any)

**Reference (if any)**