

Department of History

Rajiv Gandhi University

Rono Hills: Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh

In Collaboration with

Institute of Distance Education, Rajiv Gandhi University

Organises

FIVE DAY FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

On

NEW PERSPECTIVES IN THE HISTORY OF NORTH EAST INDIA

3rd August -7th August 2020

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 Tana Showren, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Rajiv Gandhi University.
- (c) Professor Sarah Hilaly, Head, Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University.
- (d) Professor Ashan Riddi, Director, Institute of Distance Education, Rajiv Gandhi University

Coordinator

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

Co-coordinators

- (a) Dr Tajen Dabi, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University.
- (b) Dr P.K.Nayak, Associate Professor Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University.
- (c) Ms Moyir Riba, Assistant Professor, Institute of Distance Education, Rajiv Gandhi University.

Organising Committee

- (a) Professor S. K. Singh, Dean Academic Affairs, Rajiv Gandhi University.
- (c) Dr Tade Sangdo, Assistant Professor Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University.
- (e) Mr. Sunil Koijam, Assistant Professor Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University.
- (f) Ms. Bide Mindo, Consultant, History, Institute of Distance Education, Rajiv Gandhi University.

Technical Committee

- (a) Mr Tsering D. Megeji Joint Director, Computer Centre, Rajiv Gandhi University.
- (b) Mr Solung Sonam System Analyst, Computer Centre, Rajiv Gandhi University.
- (c) Mr Gyan Rai, Technical Assistant Computer Centre, Rajiv Gandhi University.

Acknowledgements:

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Executive Summary:

The Five Day Faculty Development Programme, on 'New Perspectives in the History of North East India' (3rd -7th August 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 I : PREFACE

1.1 ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

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.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

The Department of History has completed 36 years of its existence till date. Since its inception it has been successfully implementing its mission of providing quality education and carrying out research activities focussed on the cultural history of Arunachal Pradesh. The Department had been functioning since 1980 in Jawaharlal Nehru Government College at Pasighat, which was taken over by the erstwhile Arunachal University (now Rajiv Gandhi University) in 1988 from the Punjab University. Since 1988 the Department has been functioning within the present precincts of the Rajiv Gandhi University. Along with the Postgraduate programme the department also offers M. Phil. & Ph. D. programmes on regular basis. Apart from conventional areas the curriculum lays special emphasises on the studies related to the borderlands, pre-colonial and colonial relations with the tribes; traditional socio-economic, political and religious history of the tribes; history of North East India, and Oral Traditions.

INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

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. Background about the Issue:

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 Outcome:

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: None

1.7. Resource Persons:

1. Prof. Sajal Nag, Head, Department of History, Assam University, Silchar, Assam.
2. Prof. Sarah Hilaly, Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills: Doimukh
3. Dr Suryasikha Pathak, Associate Professor, Centre for Tribal Studies, Assam University Diphu Campus, Diphu Karbi-Anglong, Assam -782460
4. Dr Chandan Sharma, Associate Professor Department of History, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam.
5. Dr Jangkhomang Guite, Associate Professor, Department of History, Manipur University, Indo-Myanmar Road, Canchipur – 795003, Imphal, Manipur.
6. Dr Binayak Dutta, Assistant Professor, Department of History, NEHU, Shillong-793022
7. Dr Sanghamitra Mishra, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Delhi, North Campus, Vishwavidyalaya Marg, New Delhi-110007
8. Dr. Hmingthanzuali, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Ethnography, Mizoram University, Aizawl- 796004, Mizoram.
9. Dr Kaustav Saikia, District Museum Officer, Karbi Anglong District, Diphu, Assam

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: (03.08.2020) 10.30 am-11.30 am

Prof. Saket Kushwaha, the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University, while giving his inaugural address as chair of the **Five Day Faculty Development Programme** in “**New Perspectives in the History of North East India**”, conducted by Department of History in collaboration with Institute of Distance Education, RGU, **from 3rd to 7th August, 2020**. He aptly cited the story of the “five blind men and the elephant” as an instance of how relevant it is on having variety of perspectives in the discipline of history. While commenting on the NEP 2020 he pointed to the relevance of historians and the subject history in framing a holistic view of the nation. He further stressed that most of our national history has been written by outsiders and hence it is high time for responsible historians and academicians to take it upon themselves to correct the course of history of the Indian nation, which so far has been poor, he added. He further cited an example based on the surname of Rabindranath Tagore which he construed was an mispronunciation of the word ‘Thakur’ to ‘Tagore’ by the British. This passive acceptance of a deliberate misrepresentation by the colonial force is worrisome as we ourselves are misidentifying ourselves. He hoped that with the help of the New Education Policy and the responsible guidance and leadership of historians and academicians the necessary correctives in history shall be made. He welcomed all the participants and speakers of the programme and thanked them on behalf of the University fraternity for agreeing to spare time to speak in this FDP. He also congratulated the organising team for this event and wished them success for all the days of the programme and the future endeavours.

The programme had started with an introductory remark by Prof. Sarah Hilaly, Head of Department of History, RGU and the Coordinator of the five day event. At the outset she welcomed all the dignitaries and the participants to the five day FDP. She thanked the dynamic leadership of the VC, RGU, for his constant guidance in organising these events. She also shed light on the importance of looking at and bringing into limelight the history of North-East from new perspectives with new methodologies. Prof. Tana Showren, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, said that teaching-learning of pedagogy of history of North-East is challenging as it has a plethora of diverse and distinct cultures. The composite history of North East History across India has not been adequately represented and need to be reviewed properly. Post-Modernism strengthened the culture of oral narratives and there is a need to put stress on it and do more research in this area, he added. There is a need to have a critical understanding of North-Eastern, History.

Prof. Ashan Riddi, Director, Institute of Distance Education, expressed his happiness over the association of IDE and Department of History in conducting this FDP. He informed to august gathering that the first representation of indigenous

history started only in the 1990's. He said that this FDP will throw light on prospects of research in History in the North-East. The inaugural session ended with a Vote of Thanks by Ms. Moyir Riba, Assistant Professor IDE, who is also the Co-coordinator of the program.

There were 222 applicants for the event out of which 150 were selected for participation on first come first serve basis. Their participation of during the entire inaugural session and the technical session was very strong as on an average there were 120 participants throughout.

The e-program ended with the VC of RGU joining the once again to deliver a condolence message for the untimely death of Late Dr. R. D. Pradhan who was the former governor of Arunachal Pradesh, on the 31st of July, 2020. He was the second governor of Arunachal Pradesh,(1987-1990) and as the Chancellor of the then Arunachal University he played a crucial role in the early days of its growth. The entire RGU fraternity observed two minutes silence in respect and memory of the departed soul. All participants muted their microphones and turned off their videos for 2 minutes as a mark of respect.

2.2 Plenary Sessions (If any) : None

2.3 Technical Sessions:

Day I

Technical Session 11.30 am -12.30 pm

At the outset Prof. Sarah Hilaly introduced **Prof. Sajal Nag** an eminent scholar from the region is the Dean and Head of Department of History, Assam University. His lecture was on **New Areas of Research in North Eastern History**. He stated that there are a few attempts to integrate national and regional histories and particularly the history of North east India. He began by pointing out that though Burma essentially constituted a part of greater India from 1885-1937. It was linked through various regulatory regimes of the British linked the region to Northeast India, yet there seems to be an erasure despite so many tribes here have clan ties with those across the border. He also pointed to the absence of any discourse of this region in the subaltern collective. He pointed to new ideas and scholarship emerging among the younger generation of scholars. He pointed to a series of works discussing the history of tea, particularly drawing attention to a scholar who links ban on opium cultivation being proportional to growth of the tea industry. He pointed to the new history of landscapes that have been taken up by various scholars .He drew attention to particular sites in the landscape such as the Bhuban Hills in Cachar became an important sites from which various socio-religious movements' emanated from there. Further, he drew attention to the work on migrants who could not get power and remained at the margins and on researches on communication; medicine; economic history of the medieval period; and environmental history. He drew attention to the kind of work being centred around the discourse of Zomia of James Scott with scholars arguing on both sides.

Technical Session 12.30 pm-1.30pm

Dr Jangkhomang Guite, Associate Professor, Manipur University, delivered a lecture on **A Geography of Violence: Locating India's Northeast Highland in History**. Using the framework of James Scott he brought into focus how violence and resistance has been embedded in any discussion of the people of the uplands in northeast India since the colonial period. This has been essentialised as the intrinsic nature of the tribes inhabiting these highlands. Many of such spaces he identifies as borderland heartland and borderland intermediate space. Through his study he seeks to centre these spaces at the margins which are spaces of hybridization and international confluence. He also agrees with James Scott that statelessness could be attributed to the hard geography.

Day II

Technical Session 10.30 am -11.30 am

Dr Chandan Sharma an Associate Professor and Head of Department of History Dibrugarh University delivered a lecture on **Linguistic Nationalism, Valley Rivalry and Sylhet in Colonial Assam**. While defining a region he brought into focus the ideas of Sudipto Kaviraj. He began by questioning the category of a region under colonial rule which had been brought into focus by the merger of Sylhet to Assam in 1874. He pointed to three major markers between 1872-1874, wherein the faint beginnings of the linguistic identity can be traced to. These were the Decennial Census of 1872 wherein the concrete idea of identity in terms of caste and language emerged. The re-introduction of Assamese as an official language and the incorporation of Sylhet into Assam. With the incorporation of Goalpara the Bengali population of Assam became dominant. Here he questioned the European model of creating homogenous regions. As Government jobs began to be an arena of contestation there emerged a discourse seeking the retransfer of Sylhet. Initially according to him the rivalry was on linguistic lines which later after including the discourse on migrants and slowly morphed into religious contests. There began a consistent demand for the transfer of Sylhet since 1924. The valley rivalry according to him impacted legislative conduct, particularly in the context of demands for setting up of a High Court and a University in the Brahmaputra. Though the rivalry was resolved by the Sylhet referendum wherein it was merged with East Pakistan, the ramifications of the extreme behaviour towards Bengalis of South Assam still persists in various forms.

Technical Session 11.30 am -12.30 pm

Dr. Sanghamitra Misra, Assistant Professor at the Department of History, University of Delhi delivered a lecture on **The 'tribe' as State Effect: The Genealogy of a Category**. She drew attention to the trope of 'tribe as state effect' being first brought into play by anthropologist Morton Fried in his classic *The Notion of a Tribe*. She sought to historicise the word tribe in the modern context and use tropes in this region too. She draws attention to the need of not considering themes of uniqueness and isolation, while drawing thematic schemes to study across this region. She includes in her discussion not only a study of the present geography of North East India, but Chittagong Hill Tracts, Nepal and Bhutan looking at it as a

transnational space. She alludes to the use of tribe as a category in greater India in Bhagalpur wherein different tribes were graded according to occupation and particularly on the basis of taxation. Though they were brought within the net of taxation through house and hearth tax, yet they were not within the revenue settlement regime. Tribes had been viewed through the four-stage civilizational frame by various philosophers and thinkers, where tribes remain at the bottom of the hierarchy wherein the project of colonialism was to raise their status to 4th stage of civilization. Tribal practices like shifting cultivation were criminalised in favour of colonial forestry while disbanded soldiers of the native states were essentialised as a criminal tribe or *Thuggee*. Kukis for instance was a fluid category used for tribes on the Indo-Burma border who showed recalcitrance. H.H.Risley adopted the French tradition of craniometry did the racial profiling to show how tribes were inferior which was further used in India by W.W.Hunter and Dalton. She alluded to Arjun Appadurai who states that the tribes as a category through the works of ethnographer historians not only separated them from civilization but also temporally placed them in an antiquated time-scale. While the anthropologist seeks to erase history and brings to the fore how Renato Rosaldo historicises the production anthropology by white anthropologist and how their works while exoticising the tribe in a specific temporal framework empty history out of the tribes. For recovering their history one should read archives against the grain and also use oral traditions carefully.

Day III

Technical Session 10.30 am -11.30 am

Dr. Suryasikha Pathak is an Associate Professor in the Centre for Tribal Studies, Assam University, Diphu campus, delivered a lecture on **Mission and Missionaries: Looking at Histories of Northeast India**. She outlined the history of contestations between the East India Company and missionaries and the final rapprochement in 1813 which facilitated expansion of their activities within India. It's within this timeframe that she seeks to position the coming of Missionaries and expansion of their activities in North East India, though the earliest contacts with the missionaries in Goalpara, Cachar and Tripura where Portuguese soldiers came was recorded in the 17th-18th century. While outlining the trajectory of the advent of the missionaries and its various denominations like the Welsh Presbyterian Mission, Roman Catholics, American Baptist Mission (Shan Mission) Lutheran Mission which initially worked in the Assam and how from the foothills extended their sway over the tribes in the uplands. She further drew attention to the trajectory of how mission history in North east India should be studied under colonial encounter; racial politics; mission and education; language and literature, mission and culture; prohibition; sartorial change; structure of housing; domesticity, patriarchy etc.

Technical Session 11.30 am -12.30 pm

Dr. Binayak Dutta is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, delivered a lecture on: **Partition Studies as an Emerging Field in North East India Studies and use of Archival Data**. He began by pointing out that in the discourse on Partition studies Punjab is first sector, Bengal in second sector and North east India is the third sector. Partition as an areas

studies programme is in the domain of academia since the 1980s. This region vis-a-vis the nation state is in a space which connects Asia with South-East Asia. This area was the Eastern Frontier of Bengal since 1765. If boundary demarcations are taken literally the first partition took place way back in 1772 when the plain areas of Khasi-Jaintia Hills were added to Sylhet. The partition narratives have continuously focussed on Hindu-Muslim divide in Northeast India too. He urged for the decentring of the Partition narratives in this region. The Pemberton-Maxwell-Johnston Line divided India from Burma and in the process partitioned communities from Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Hills of Manipur and Mizoram. The Radcliff Line and the amalgamation of Sylhet with East Pakistan resulted in loss of territory gain by the Khasi's and Jaintia's. The McMahon Line too divided spaces between India and Tibet, particularly in the context of Arunachal Pradesh and its communities. If studies of these different community's take place it will decentre the existing studies. Currently the studies are based on relief and rehabilitation and migration which he argued can be studied in terms of violence, gender, migration, citizenship, minority management etc. While pointing to the politics of creation of archives he was against a total dependence on it as a source. Therefore he urges on an expansion of sources through oral histories and works in vernacular languages.

Day IV

Technical Session 10.30 am -11.30 am

Dr. Kaustuv Saikia, the District Museum Officer, Government of Assam, delivered a lecture on **Contextualizing Museology in India's Northeast: New Perspectives**. He began by arguing for contextualising of Museology. He drew attention that historians had been sceptical about the use of material culture, but were rather dependent on archival data. Currently as sources and methodologies have diversified, historians are looking at material culture as a source of history. The definition of Museums within the colonial backdrop and their mandate has been guided by ICOM was founded in 1946-1947 at the cusp of the decolonisation process. Since 2018 there is an attempt to redefine museums wherein it tried to break away from the old didactic colonial values. There are arguments on both sides in this attempt to bring new definition while accepting the museums have never been value neutral and have perpetuated racial profiling. While contextualising Museums in Northeast India he points to the various ways in which the movement can gain momentum and also new avenues will open for scholarship too. They were in the Community curatorship; curation as a practice, creation of ethnological museums by the tribes can go a long way to create new definitions of Museums.

Technical Session 11.30 am -12.30 pm

Dr. Hmingthanzuali, Assistant Professor in the Department of History & Ethnography, Mizoram University, delivered a lecture on **Gendered Narratives: Autobiographical Memoirs and Diaries by Women as sources for the History of Conflict in North East India**. She brought into focus the study of autobiography or memoirs as a tool of oral history in recovering the history of the conflict between the Mizo National Front and the Indian state also known as the *Rambui*. Particularly relevant is to recover the existing voices of woman who have been marginal in the story of incarceration in the 20 year armed conflict since 1966. Through the voice of

Zari who joined MNF in 1974 and was jailed in 1975 she sought to defy the norms of understanding body and sexuality under the strong patriarchal norms of the society and the state. Rumours alluding to her loose character abound and despite the silence during her incarceration. Her body became the site of resistance through the silence. Her diary which was printed in the 1980's by the Mize Zirlai Pawl. It became an act of truth-telling and gave her a sense of self. Through the pages she never saw herself as a victim, but her silent resistance as an act of heroism. Thus she hinted on the effective use of autobiographies in history writing by corroborating with official sources to recover the voice of the margins.

Day V

Technical Session 11.30 am -12.30 pm

Dr. Sarah Hilaly is a Professor and currently heading the Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University, delivered a lecture on **Mapping the Landscape of Assam: From Early to the Colonial State**. While basing her lecture on the understanding of how landscape is impinged upon by the state throughout the centuries which is again sacralised by its population too. Through the scanty epigraphic evidence she tried to identify the landscape under the early state of Kamarupa-Pragjyotisha pointing to the extent of state control which was centred in western Assam and at times moved further west beyond the river Karatoya to Pundravardhana. However, since the 9th century the state began to expand southeast and further eastward till in the 11th century it disintegrated leaving the Koch- Kamata, land of the Bara-Bhuyans and some prince's in the east like Arimatta and Gajanka. Between 13th to the 16th century a large number of tribal polities like Kacharis/Dimasas, Chutiya, Koch, Meitie, Tripuri and Jaintia's who constituted a state by the 15th century. It was the Ahoms too who came in from Burma in the 13th century, through phases of expansion since the 16th century reached its maximum territorial limit by the end of the 17th century. She argued therefore the need to take cognisance of the distinct territoriality of the medieval period gets subsumed under the dominant narrative of the Ahoms from whom the British took control and constituted Assam Proper. It was with the annexation of Cachar, Jaintia states and the Khasi confederacy by 1852 that constituted the landscape too. Later incorporations of Goalpara and Sylhet in 1874 have made the landscape of Assam. She attempted in this paper to take a *longue-duree* perspective in trying to map the landscape with identity, particularly in the context of the issue of land and citizenship in the issue of CAA and NRC by telescoping back into the past and showing that the landscape has always been very fluid which makes claims of identity problematic.

2.4. Panel Discussion (If Any): NONE

2.5. Valedictory Session: (07.08.2020) 12.35 pm -1.10 pm

At the conclusion of her lecture, Prof. Sarah Hilly the Head, Department thanked each and every one who has been a part of programme, making it a success. The formal Valedictory programme at 12.35 pm opened with the Welcome Address by Dr P.K.Nayak, the Co-Coordinator of the **Five Day Faculty Development Programme in "New Perspectives in the History of North East India"**. While welcoming the chair of the session and the gathering of participants and Resource persons, he also expressed his gratitude to one and all those who

made the programme a success.

There was a feedback from participants and resource persons where Dr Sukmaya Lama from KKHSOU Guwahati and Dr Goli Bagra from Basar Government College spoke. Among the resource persons Prof. Sajal Nag congratulated team RGU for successfully completing the programme by bringing in scholars from diverse backgrounds.

Professor Ashan Riddi, the 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 further pointed out the contributions of Prof. Sarah Hilaly and Ms. Moyir Riba for their fruitfully collaborating and carrying out the programme successfully despite technical glitches. While thanking the Resource persons Ms. Moyir Riba, organizer of the program were grateful 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): NONE

PART 4: APPENDICES & ANNEXURE

Annexure 1: Programme Schedule:

 <p>Department of History Rajiv Gandhi University in collaboration with</p>  <p>organises</p> <p>FIVE DAY FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME on NEW PERSPECTIVES IN THE HISTORY OF NORTH EAST INDIA 3rd to 7th August 2020</p>	<p>Inaugural Session 1030 hrs, 3rd August 2020 Chair</p>  <p>Prof. Saket Kushwaha Honorable Vice Chancellor Rajiv Gandhi University</p> <p>— —</p> <p>Valedictory Session 1235 hrs, 7th August 2020 Chair</p>  <p>Prof. Amitava Mitra Pro Vice Chancellor Rajiv Gandhi University</p>	<p>LECTURE SCHEDULE</p> <p>— —</p> <p>1030hrs to 1230 hrs 3rd August 2020: Prof. Sajal Nag Dr. Jangkhomang Guite 4th August 2020: Dr. Chandan Sharma Dr Sanghamitra Mishra 5th August 2020: Dr Suryasikha Pathak Dr. Binayak Dutta 6th August 2020: Dr. Hmingthanzuali Dr. Kaustuv Saikia 7th August 2020: Prof. Sarah Hilaly</p>
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INAUGURAL SESSION



- 1030 hrs Introducing the FDP by
Prof. Sarah Hilaly, Head
Department of History, RGU &
Workshop Coordinator
- 1040 hrs Remarks by
Prof Tana Showren, Dean
Faculty of Social Sciences, RGU
- 1045 hrs Remarks by
Professor Ashan Riddi, Director
Institute of Distance Education, RGU
- 1050 hrs Remarks from the Chair
Professor Saket Kushwaha
Vice Chancellor
Rajiv Gandhi University
- 1105 hrs Vote of Thanks by Moyir Riba,
Assistant Professor, IDE, RGU

VALEDICTORY SESSION



- 1235 hrs Welcome Address by
Dr P. K. Nayak
Associate Professor
Department of History, RGU
- 1240 hrs Remarks by Professor Ashan Riddi
Director, IDE, RGU
- 1245 hrs Feedback from Participants
- 1255 hrs Remarks by the Chair,
Prof. Amitava Mitra
Pro Vice Chancellor
Rajiv Gandhi University
- 1305 hrs Vote of Thanks by
Dr.Tajen Dabi, Assistant Professor
Department of History
Rajiv Gandhi University.

<https://forms.gle/DSF7CuTd5WfY3kDX8>

To Register Log in to

Annexure 2: List of Participants

Sl. No.	Email address	Name in Full	Designation	Institutional Affiliation	Institutional Address	State
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3	jimmytok56@yahoo.com	MR.JIMMY CAMDIR TOK	Assistant Professor	Dera Natung Government College, Itanagar	Dera Natung Government College, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, PIN-791113	Arunachal Pradesh
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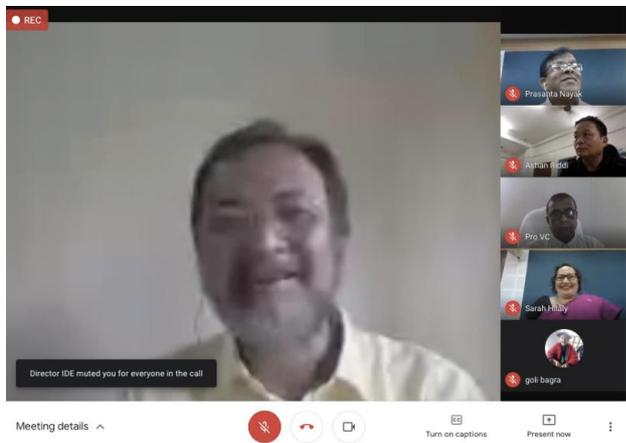
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Annexure 3: Photographs (if any)





Annexure 4: Media Coverage

The History of North East India: New Perspectives

Rono Hills, 03 August, 2020: If five people are blindfolded and asked to touch the different body parts of an elephant, their idea of an elephant goes limited to the part they touch and perceive on it. Thus their perception of an elephant will be incomplete. The person who touches the tusk of the elephant goes with the explanation that an elephant is an approximately two meter long pointy thing. This was the example which Prof. Saket Kushwaha, the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University, gave while commenting on the NEP 2020 and the relevance of historians and the history subject in framing a holistic view of the nation. He further stressed that most of our national history has been written by outsiders who had overpowered our nation forcefully. Thus it is high time responsible historians and academicians take it upon themselves to correct the course of history of the Indian nation, which so far has been poor, he added. He was commenting as the chair of the inaugural session of the Five Day Faculty Development Programme in “New Perspectives in the History of North East India”, conducted by Department of History in collaboration with Institute of Distance Education, RGU, from 3rd to 7th August, 2020. The VC continued his example based deliberation by taking the instance of Rabindranath Tagore. He said that it is sad that just because the British could not pronounce ‘Thakur’ as ‘Thakur’, but ‘Tagore’, we changed his title nomenclature and started addressing him as Rabindranath Tagore. This passive acceptance of a deliberate misrepresentation by the colonial force is worrisome as we ourselves are misidentifying ourselves. He hoped that with the help of the New Education Policy and the responsible guidance and leadership of historians and academicians we will pull ourselves out of this dire situation. He welcomed all the participants and speakers of the programme and thanked them on behalf of the University

fraternity for agreeing to spare time to speak in this FDP. He also congratulated the organising team for this event and wished them success for all the days of the programme and the future endeavours.

The programme had started with an introductory remark by Prof. Sarah Hilaly, HOD, Department of History, RGU and the Coordinator of the five day event. At the outset she welcomed all the dignitaries and the participants to the five day FDP. She thanked the dynamic leadership of the VC, RGU, for his constant guidance in organising these events. She also shed light on the importance of looking at and bringing into lime light the history of North-East from new perspectives with new methodologies. Prof. Tana Showren, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, said that teaching-learning of pedagogy of history of North-East is challenging as it has a plethora of diverse and distinct cultures. The composite history of Pan-India has not been adequately represented and need to be reviewed properly. Post Modernism has strengthened the culture of oral narratives and there is a need to put stress on it and do more research in this area, he added. There is a need to have a critical understanding of North-Eastern, History.

Prof. Ashan Riddi, Director, IDE, expressed his happiness over the association of IDE and Department of History in conducting this FDP. He informed to august gathering that the first representation of indigenous history started only in the 1990's. He said that this FDP will throw light on prospects of research in History in the North-East. The inaugural session ended with a Vote of Thanks by Mrs. Moyir Riba, Assistant Professor IDE, who is also the Co-coordinator of the program.

There were almost 200 applications for the event out of which 150 were selected for participation on first come first serve basis. The participation of during the entire session was very strong as on an average there were 120 participants throughout the entire inaugural session and the technical session which continued.

The whole program ended with the VC of RGU joining the program once again to deliver a condolence message for the untimely death of Late Dr. R. D. Pradhan who was the former governor of Arunachal Pradesh, on the 31st of July, 2020. He was the second governor of Arunachal Pradesh, with his tenure starting from March 1987 and extending upto January 1990. He was also the Chancellor of the then Arunachal University. He played a crucial role in signing of the Assam Accord, the Mizo Accord and the Punjab Accord. He served as an IAS officer in the Maharashtra cadre. He also worked in Gujrat. Later he was an Indian representative diplomat in International Trade and Commerce in Geneva for ten years. He was also the Union home secretary during the tenure of Rajiv Gandhi starting from 1984. He was conferred the Padma Bhushan Award in 1987. The whole RGU fraternity observed two minutes silence in respect and memory of the hugely respected soul. They prayed for the peace of the departed soul and for giving strength to the family members to bear the demise of a family member.

Annexure 5: Other (if any)

REFERENCE (IF ANY)