



CALL FOR PAPERS

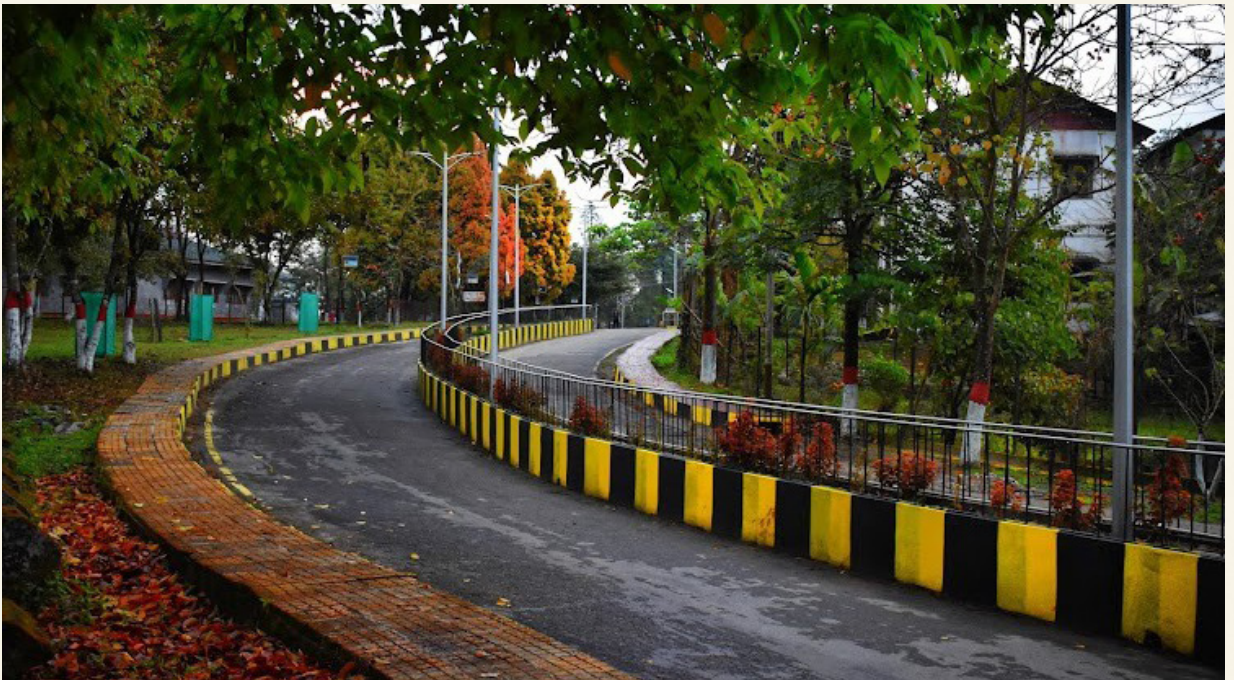
A Two-Day National Seminar on

Reviving And Reimagining Indigenous Knowledge Traditions in Contemporary Discourse

27th and 28th February, 2025

Organized By

Department of English
Rajiv Gandhi University
Arunachal Pradesh



CONCEPT NOTE

Indigenous Knowledge Systems represent expressions rooted in oral narratives, customary laws, rituals and practices. They have been uniquely developed and sustained by the generations of various communities in response to their individual and collective surroundings, experiences and circumstances. India's vast reservoir of distinct and diverse Indigenous Knowledge Systems continues to play a crucial role in culture preservation and showcasing the resilience of native communities. Under the imminent challenges of rapid globalisation and technological advancements, this traditional knowledge system has demonstrated its dynamic nature by continuously adapting and altering itself to contemporary demands. U.R. Anantha Murthy's call to "look in our own backyards for our cultural resources" underscores the richness of Indigenous traditions and their potential to transform contemporary cultural and intellectual discourses.

The seminar aims to explore Indigenous Knowledge Systems at the intersection of revival and reimagination by focusing on the crucial areas of literature, language, and culture. In literature, Indigenous writers are rewriting traditionally marginalised narratives, presenting unique perspectives on colonial histories, traditional practices and realities. Movements focusing on revitalising languages have been growing popular with initiatives to document, teach, and promote endangered Indigenous languages. Popular culture, through art, music, and fashion, is challenging stereotypes and asserting pride in indigenous culture and heritage. However, this process of adaptation comes with challenges. On

being translated into written or digital forms, oral traditions risk losing their communal and performative essence. Similarly, the widespread dissemination of Indigenous literature can simplify or commodify narratives to suit non-Indigenous audiences. Modern language learning enabled through apps or online platforms often results in languages being removed from their cultural and ceremonial contexts. This seminar seeks to examine these intersections, exploring how traditional knowledge and its different applications are being revived, adapted, and transformed in contemporary literature, language, and popular culture while addressing the challenges and opportunities that are brought about by these transitions. Further, the seminar hopes to explore how these knowledge systems can be put to more effective use through mediums of literature, language and culture. It aims to investigate the processes of reimagination and adaptation as well as the complexities of these reimagining that occur as Indigenous knowledge traditions interact with modernity.

The seminar seeks to bring together scholars and writers to encourage discussions on the ethical dimensions of preserving and promoting Indigenous Knowledge Traditions. It will explore strategies to ensure that efforts to document, adapt, and globalise Indigenous traditions remain rooted in upholding the integrity of Indigenous values. Finally, the seminar aims to provide insights into how contemporary trends in literature, language, and culture can contribute to the sustainability, innovation, and evolution of Indigenous Knowledge Traditions.



PAPERS ARE INVITED ON THE FOLLOWING BROAD THEMES

1. Oral Narratives and Memory Studies.
2. Folklore, Mythology and Identity.
3. Decolonising Indigenous Knowledge.
4. Indigenous Children's Narratives
5. Indigenous Women's Narratives.
6. Indigenous Knowledge Tradition and Disability
7. Indigenous Art and Aesthetics.
8. Ecological Narratives and Relational Ethics.
9. Language Revitalisation and Epistemology.
10. Language Attrition in The Digital Age.
11. Indigenous Philosophy and Contemporary Thought.
12. Indian Aesthetic and Folk Performing Arts.
13. Retellings Of Epics and Oral Narratives.
14. Reconstructing Indigenous Historiography.
15. Documentation And Protection of Indigenous Knowledge.
16. Digital Humanities in Indigenous Knowledge Systems.
17. Interface Of Folk Culture and Popular Culture.
18. Indigenous Knowledge Traditions and Sustainability.
19. Indigenous Knowledge and Environmental Activism in Popular Culture.
20. Indigenous Narratives in Contemporary Media.
21. Strategies For Documenting and Preserving Indigenous Language.
22. Implications in Translation of Indigenous Languages.
23. Indigenous Traditions in Contemporary Popular Culture.

Papers on any other sub-themes relevant to the seminar topic are also welcome.

Key Note Speaker



Prof. Debarshi Prasad Nath

Professor and Former Head
Department of Cultural Studies
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Tezpur University, Napaam, Tezpur, Assam, India

Plenary Speaker



Prof. Indranil Acharya

Professor and Former Head
Department of English Literature, Language and Cultural Studies,
Vidyasagar University, Midnapur, West Bengal, India

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Date for Abstract Submission: 20th February 2025.

Confirmation of Acceptance: 21st February 2025.

Last Date for Full-Paper Submission: 26th February 2025.

Date of the Seminar: 27th -28th February 2025

REGISTRATION FEES

Faculty members and other professionals (both online and offline):

Rs. 1500/- only.

Research Scholars and Independent Scholars (both online and offline): Rs. 700/- only.

Student Paper Presenters (both online and offline): Rs. 300/- only.

PAYMENT DETAILS

Account Holder's Name: Kabit Siram

Account Number: 35939764074

IFSC Code: SBIN0010764

(Transaction slip to be mailed at
nationalseminar2025rgueng@gmail.com)

GUIDELINES FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

- Abstract Submission 250 - 400 words with 4-5 keywords.
- Full Paper Submission 3000-5000 words
- Style Guideline MLA, 9th Edition
- Submission email nationalseminar2025rgueng@gmail.com
- Joint paper presenters have to register separately.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- No TA/DA will be provided to the participants/paper presenters.
- Hardcopy of paper to be submitted at the registration desk.
- Accommodation services will be arranged for outstation participants on a payment basis.
- Working tea and lunch will be provided.
- A seminar kit will be provided.
- Selected papers will be published in the form of an edited non-fiction volume with ISBN shortly after the conclusion of the seminar.

CONTACT DETAILS

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RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY



Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), formerly Arunachal University, is the oldest and the lone central university in Arunachal Pradesh. Nestled atop picturesque Rono Hills, it has completed four decades of existence (since 4th February 1984). In 2005, the university was renamed in honour of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The university has been accredited 'Grade A' by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The university offers a diverse range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD programs across various faculties. Additionally, RGU houses specialised institutes and centres such as the Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies, the Institute of Distance Education, and the Centre with Potential for Excellence in Biodiversity. The university has been recognized for its academic excellence. In 2020, it was conferred the title of Best Central University of the Year during the 3rd Himalayan Educators Summit. Furthermore, in the University Ranking 2023 released on May 25, 2023, RGU secured the 16th position among central universities across the nation. RGU also has a network of affiliated colleges throughout Arunachal Pradesh, offering various undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Rajiv Gandhi University's mission is to support students from diverse backgrounds in becoming well-informed global citizens by fostering intellectual, moral, and creative growth. Through dynamic student-teacher engagement, the university aims to instil high ethical and professional standards, equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed for career success and community leadership.



HOW TO REACH

Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) is well-connected by road, rail, and air, making it accessible from various parts of the country. By road, travellers can reach Itanagar from Guwahati via regular state government buses, private travel agency buses, or private taxi services. For those opting for rail travel, the nearest railway stations are Gumto, just a 10-minute drive from RGU, and Naharlagun, approximately 30 minutes away. Air travellers can reach the nearest airport, Donyi Polo Airport in Itanagar, which is around 44 km from Doimukh. The journey from the airport to RGU takes approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes by road. From Itanagar, visitors can continue their travel to the university via road transport.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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