



**DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
NAGALAND UNIVERSITY
(ACENTRAL UNIVERSITY)
HQRS: LUMAMI, DIST: ZUNHEBOTO
NAGALAND, PIN- 798627**

**ICSSR-NEW DELHI SPONSORED
TWO DAYS NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON**

**ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY:
EMERGING AREAS OF RESEARCH IN
NORTHEAST INDIA AND ITS ROLE IN
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

(19th-20th March,2024)

**CHIEF PATRON:
PROF. JAGADISH K PATNAIK
HONOURABLE VICE CHANCELLOR
NAGALAND UNIVERSITY**

**ORGANIZING SECRETARY:
PROF. SOMENATH BHATTACHARJEE
PROFESSOR AND HEAD
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
NAGALAND UNIVERSITY**

We are pleased to inform that the Department of Anthropology, Nagaland University, Hqrs: Lumami, Dist: Zunheboto, Nagaland is going to organize a two days National seminar on "**ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: EMERGING AREAS OF RESEARCH IN NORTHEAST INDIA AND ITS ROLE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**" scheduled to be held on 19th-20th March, 2024.

Concept Note and sub themes: In India, Anthropology as an academic discipline, for the first time was established in the year 1920 at Calcutta University, Kolkata. It encompasses the study of people throughout the world, their evolutionary history, how they behave, adapt to different environments, communicate and socialize with one another. The subject of Anthropology has a distinctively holistic approach and this probably is the uniqueness of the discipline. It has been traditionally sub-divided into Physical Anthropology, Social-Cultural Anthropology and Prehistoric archaeology.

The discipline has many divisions such as Human Biology, Ethnography, urban anthropology, communication anthropology etc. The focal point of all these divisions is the origin, development and evolution of the human species and his culture. The discipline distinguished itself from other sciences, using a holistic and multifaceted approach concerning biological, evolutionary, linguistic and social aspects of different ethnic groups. A great deal of knowledge has been accumulated over the years in all the three sub-disciplines of Anthropology. A great number of scholars and researchers have made valuable contributions towards the development of the aims and scope of the subject. However, over the years there have been changes in the broad aims and scope of the subject. In this era of globalization and industrial revolution, focuses have changed with the emergence of newer areas of research. These modern trends now demand new theoretical paradigms and methodological approaches.

New dimensions of research in Physical Anthropology primarily include forensic anthropology, child nutrition, maternal and child health, human growth, exposure to toxic elements and changes in gene frequencies of traits both within and between populations. With the development in analytical techniques such as PCR, studies are being initiated to understand and document population affinities. New focus is being given on somatotyping, mtDNA, genetic disorder, lifestyles, dietary practices, nutritional supplementation, cardio-metabolic risk factors, and ergonomics.

In the context of Social-cultural Anthropology, studies dealing with post-modernism, globalization, diaspora,

trans nationalism, ethnicity, environmentalism, natural disaster and ecological sustainability, gender issues, cognition and indigenous knowledge, human rights and culture of peace are the emerging trends. Anthropologists are intensively working towards contemporary issues pertaining to health and health seeking behaviour, have helped in bridging the gap between evolutionary medicine, social epidemiology and public health. They have often acted as cultural mediators, helping to communicate cross cultural understandings of health and illness in order to make public health initiatives more effective for specific groups. Key concern in anthropology of development pertains to up-liftment and improvisation of standard of living. Anthropologists can facilitate developmental schemes envisaged by different agencies in the improvement of the lifestyle of the people.

Northeast India or India's Northeast, along with the eastern Himalayan region forms a distinctive transitional zone between the Indian, Indo-Malayan and Indo-Chinese bio-geographical realms, which occupies an area of 255,000 sq km and about 7 percent landmass of India. This region is the homeland of a large number of ethnic groups who came from different directions in different periods. The region is an ethnic mosaic of more than 130 major tribal communities, of various ethnic stalks, speaking diverse languages and dialects, maintaining their identical traditional customs and practices, having self-sufficient economies, thus creating a multicultural constellation as a whole. Therefore, Northeast India is used here as a term to denote the region not merely as a geographical entity, but also as a mega-cultural interaction sphere. It was also mentioned as the Kiratbhumi in the Indian epics. Apparently the region looks like homogenous, but in reality it is largely heterogeneous from micro to macro level. The Australoids came to this region before the coming of the Mongoloids who partially or fully absorbed the Australoid strains. The main ethnic stalk of the region is the Mongoloid, who came from the north and the east at different periods. It has been stated

that, long ago one section of the Indo-Mongoloids were spread over the whole of the Brahmaputra

valley, North Bengal and East Bengal (now Bangladesh) giving rise to various tribal groups inhabiting this region. Many of the tribal groups have their counterparts across the international boundary in Tibet, Yúnnán province of China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Burma and the Chittagong hill tracts of Bangladesh. Gradually, they were settled down in different habitats and ecological settings of the Northeastern region. Two main linguistic phyla can be found among the present-day tribal populations of Northeast India, viz. Austroasiatic and Tibeto-Burman.

The third and fourth linguistic phylum found in Northeast India is the Kradai and Indo-European language families. Besides the tribal groups, a few other non-tribal groups have also come into existence as a consequence of prolong interactions between the cultures of the migrants and those of the indigenous people, that took place as late as the last century have resulted spectacular social, cultural, economic and political transformations in this region. The region has been called a 'living museum of man' because of the mega-cultural diversity, with different groups adopting various traditional economic practices and possessing age old indigenous knowledge systems. This entire region is equally known for its diverse landscapes and bio diversity hotspot. The region has unique physiographic landscapes characterised by hills, plateaus and flood plains. The area comprises a significant proportion of the Himalayan and Indo-Burmese biodiversity hotspots. It frames up an ecological perspective of the socio-economic-cultural lifestyles of these indigenous groups. More than 60 percent of the geographical area is under forest cover, which plays a very crucial role in their traditional economic organization and religious belief system. The entire region can equally be considered as a shifting cultivation based and bamboo based cultural hotspot of India.

We are beyond the centenary year of Anthropology in India. The seminar shall provide a unique platform for the dissemination of the new trends in Anthropology as well as its methodological approaches, among the participating researchers and students. It is primarily focused to find out the relevance of Anthropological researches to redress different social problems, particularly in Indian context and to find out the role of Anthropology in the process of development of the nation.

The sub themes of the seminar are:

- Environment, Ecology and Culture**
- Tribal development: Problems and Prospects**
- Emerging areas of researches in Biological Anthropology and Human genetics**
- Indigenous Knowledge and ecological sustainability**
- Medical Anthropology and Indigenous knowledge of health care systems**
- Forensic Anthropology and personal identification**
- Anthropology of Human Growth and Nutrition**
- Anthropology of Human rights, Culture of peace studies and conflict resolution.**
- Anthropology of Disaster management**
- Researches In Pre Historic Archaeology**
- Emerging methodologies in post COVID Scenario**
- Developmental Anthropology and its role in Nation building.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Opening Call for Abstract submission	: 10-01-2024
Last date for Abstract submission	: 31-01-2024
Communication of acceptance	: By 07-02-2024
Full paper submission	: 20-02-2024
Last date of Registration	: 25-02-2024

REGISTRATION FEE

Category	Amount in Rs./-
Research Scholar/Fellow with accommodation	1,000/-
Research Scholar/Fellow without accommodation	750/-
Faculty member with accommodation	1,200/-
Faculty member without accommodation	1,000/-
Accompanying person/Others with accommodation	1,000/- (per person)
Accompanying person/Others without accommodation	700/- (per person)

The registration fee includes seminar kit, local hospitality, food and accommodation during the National seminar.

MODE OF PAYMENT: Will be communicated with the acceptance of abstract

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT AND FULL PAPER

The participants are requested to send their abstract to the e-mail: somenath_audc@rediffmail.com

The abstract may be prepared within 300 words in

MS-word, Times New Roman, front size 12-pt and 1.5 line spacing. Abstract may be prepared with 4-5 key words and it should mention the complete affiliation details of the author/authors, with their full address. The full paper may be prepared within 3000 words in MS-word, Times New Roman, front size 12-pt and 1.5 line spacing. All references should follow The Chicago Manual of Style

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Nagaland University is one of the vibrant Central University of entire Northeast INDIA, situated in the lush green lap of nature. Department of Anthropology was established in the year 2012. The Department offers Post graduate (M.A./M.Sc.) and Research programmes (Ph.D) in Anthropology. Currently, the department consists of three faculty members, two supporting staffs and number research scholars. The Department has laid special focus on Anthropology of Northeast India, Tribal Ethnography, Medical Anthropology and Ecological Anthropology. The department has been engaged in various research projects, especially among the ethnic/indigenous communities of Northeast India. The research scholars have been participating in various national and international seminars, conferences and symposiums since establishment.

HOW TO REACH: Jorhat and Dimapur airport are the nearest/nearer airport, which is communicated with Kolkata and Guwahati directly. The nearest railway station is Mariani of Assam. From Kolkata and Guwahati station there are several trains for Mariani regularly, which is a pleasant journey. From Mariani to Lumami campus of the University, the organizing committee will try to do necessary arrangements.

Else there are local transports also. In this regard please contact with Mr. Somnath Chakraborty (8777729284)

CORRESPONDENCE

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PLEASE NOTE: All delegates/ participants are requested to manage/meet their travel expenses from their own sources due to paucity of funds

