

## Editorial

The North Eastern states of India - Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, sharing a common border with five countries namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Nepal is one of the most ethnically diverse regions on earth with overlapping ethnicities, culture and colonial history, which sometimes is referred to as mini-India. The region's rich cultural mosaic opens to cultural dialogue, invite academic discourse and engagement of fellowshipping of cultural communities.

Ethnic discourse particularly in the North East India is undergoing a transformation. The path of violence, ethnic conflicts and insurgency in the region is steadily moving to the path of peace. The region is evolving from a conservative treatise of ethnicity to an open and dynamic discourse of the importance of 'others'. Cultural fellowship is yet another insignia of this renovation of the region. However, this discourse is not without challenges and confusions, needing the openness and the rigour of academic engagement. Hence, the *Journal of Northeast Indian Cultures* engage with varieties of themes pertaining to the region to explore and promote cultural dialogue and fellowship.

This volume of the Journal invites its readers to seven different themes and a book review:

*Marks of Distinction? The Schwartz Value Scale and Traditional Communities*, attempts to study human values – its definition, universality and measurement by discussing the past efforts of scholars who sought to address these three questions and then present the results of a somewhat informal attempt to investigate this among the youth of two Northeastern

traditional communities, the Pnars (Jaintias), most of whom live in eastern Meghalaya, and the Dimasas, mostly in Assam.

*Madrassa and Girls' Education: Reflections from a Muslim Village of Assam*, tries to examine the causes behind the differential preference of Muslim parents regarding their children's education. The paper argues that the choice of school depends not just on economy but also on cultural ideas about the good conduct of young men and women.

*Changes in the Dynamic of Politics in Manipur*, presents the changes witness after the battle of Imphal (1944). It explores the changes that took place in the politics of Manipur especially with regard to the integration of Manipur state with India, and attempt to examine the discontent and the grievances that the people of Manipur faced after integration.

*The Implementation of Koha Web-OPAC: A Study of Assam Don Bosco University Library*, presents the step-by-step process of the customization stages of Koha Web-OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue), URL: 14.139.209.89 at Assam Don Bosco University Library. A Web-OPAC which acts as a discovery tools for finding the relevant information by the library users. The study shows the usage statistics of the University Web-OPAC, and encourages the libraries of the North East region to implement Koha Web-OPAC in their libraries.

*Drug and Alcohol Abuse among Women and its Effect on Social and Health Issues*, deals with drug and alcohol abuse, stigmatisation and health issues of women in Nagaland. The paper depicts the main three factors for women taking to drugs and alcohol in Kohima, Dimapur and Phek districts of Nagaland.

*India's Encounter with Consumer Culture: Role of Internet and Communication Technologies*, attempts to explore and understand the role of internet and communication technologies in accelerating the growth of the consumer culture in the urban context of India. The paper argues that Indians have steadily drifted towards a more open and homogeneous culture based on massive consumption of commodities and services owing

to government's adoption of new economic policy promoting liberalization and globalization.

*An Anthropological Peep into the Ali: Aye: Lrigang Festival of the Misings of Assam*, attempts to study the various aspects of Ali-Aye-Ligang, the principal social festival of the Mishing tribe of Assam related to agriculture with an insight into the conspicuous changes brought about in its traditional manner of celebration in the wake of modernity. It is an empirical study conducted in a Mishing village of Majuli district of Assam.

And, a book review - **James C. Scott: *Against the Grain: A Deep History of the Earliest States***. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017, 312 pages, ISBN: 9780300182910, Hardcover \$26.00.

The deliberated themes are expected to encourage reflective questions and engage the readers to further strengthen the cultural discourse of the North East even if it replete with contestations and counter-views. There is no dialogue or discourse without dissent. A fellowship is a communion of differences. Academic engagement and discourse on the North East matters because it about its future.

The Board of editors express our deepest regret for the delay of this issue.

**Dominic Meyieho**