

Editorial

The North East which is a home to multifarious social, ethnic, religious and linguistic groups is also a centre for new discourse both at national and international levels for the fact that it is connected to the rest of India by a narrow corridor, which is often referred to as the Chicken Neck Corridor, and sharing international boundaries with Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Bhutan, Nepal and Tibet. The region's diversity is unmatched elsewhere in the Indian subcontinent, and continue to provide enthralling diversity, which is not easily conceived by many including people from the region.

Unity is strength and diversity is its binding dynamism, best understood by none other than the people of the North East blessed with dazzling mosaic of ethnic and cultural breath-taking differences. Hence togetherness or coming together/fellowshipping of diversity has a message: loners and homogenous seekers are goners in this region. Even while the insurgency was at its peak in the North East, diversity was never at stake or questioned because diversity is the fact of every state and categorically so for the region. Thus, is it possible and right for the North East to look for a discourse of uniformity? Should the North East sacrifice or renounce the spirit of fellowship of multifarious reality it has lived and experienced of the past millennia? Well, one need to recognise the wellsprings of the North East's creativity *i.e.*, living with differences and setting a narrative - to live and let live undoing the philosophical muddles of One and Many, and opening a new horizon of life – a horizon that is capable of being aware and ready to understand other horizons. In other words, togetherness or fellowshipping of diversity is the spirit of the North East and no one has the 'last' word. It is a discourse/engagement of differences of which North East India is a reality, which is never complete but an on-going discourse which is non homogeneous.

The Journal's current issue presents seven varied themes on the North East. They are:

Theorising Social Fear in the Context of Collective Actions in Manipur, discusses social fear as a collective sense of fear of imminent economic, political and cultural degeneration as a consequence of politically induced demographic change. The social fear referred in this paper is the collective fear of being reduced to a relatively insignificant group in one's own native place due to gradual increase of outsiders and consequent loss of economic and political power and loss of cultural identity.

Parallels and Contrasts in the Popular Folklore of the Chinese and the Nagas, presents the similarities and differences between the Chinese and the Nagas folklore to gain remarkable insights and cultural awareness of the both. The paper attempts to highlight the necessity of insightful research and emergent documentation of folklores.

The Dilemma of the Bishnupriya Identity, discusses the reconstruction of the Bishnupriya identity in Manipur and study it against the Bishnupriyas living outside Manipur in the adjoining areas of Tripura, Assam, and parts of Bangladesh.

History of Neo-Assamese Muslims of Assam and their Contribution to the State, explores the term *Na-Ahomiy Musalman* (Neo-Assamese Muslim), and their contribution to the state of Assam. The Neo-Assamese Muslims are mainly the migrant Muslims who arrived in Assam at different periods of history, especially during the later period of the 19th century and early part of the 20th century.

Teachers' Professional Ethics and Its' Implications, affirms that teachers as professionals, are engaged in one of the most ethically demanding jobs. It is important that teachers should constantly reflect on the ethics of their activities to ensure that they exhibit the best ethical example possible in their work to those they are morally educating. The paper, therefore attempts to bring to light some of the important aspects of professional ethics and its implications in the field of teaching.

Socio-economic Factors Influencing Infant and Child Mortality among the Zou of Manipur, presents the influence of cultural factors to infant and child mortality among the Zou, a tribal population of

Manipur. This paper is an outcome of a cross-sectional study conducted among 533 mothers of age 17- 49 years following house to house visits during 2016- 2017. The findings of the study and the significant correlations (educational level of the mother, household income, breastfeeding practices, child immunization and infant and child mortality in the study population) are discussed in detail.

Everything that exists is but temporal, however, this temporality flashes a new beginning of sparkling freshness and vitality for which the antediluvian must go..... As I sign off as the editor of *Journal of Northeast Indian Cultures (JNEIC)*, a University Grants Commission (UGC) approved and recognised journal bearing UGC Journal No. 41772, I take this opportunity to thank all those who are associated with this Journal. I wish the very best to the in-coming new editor and to her/his associate (team). Long Live JNEIC!

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