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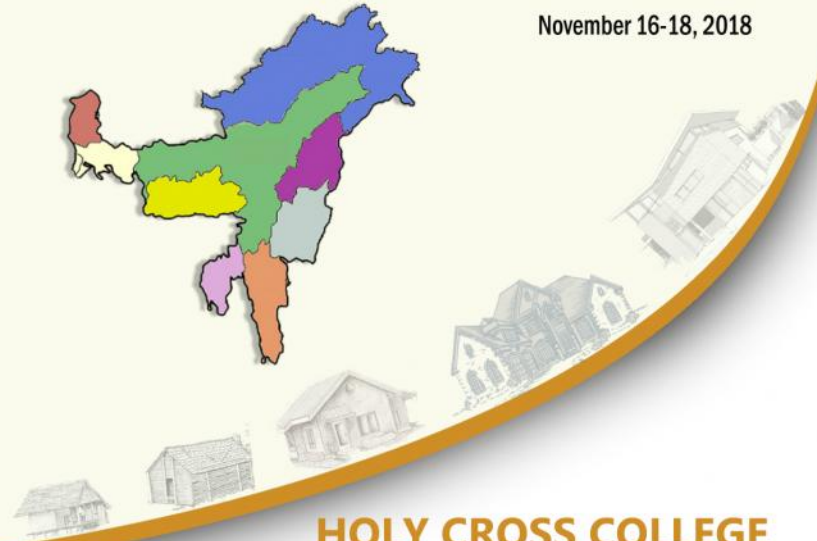
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12th National Conference

Northeast India : Changing Contexts, Shifting Meanings
&
Transformations of Traditions.

November 16-18, 2018



HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

In Collaboration with
SANSKRITI, Guwahati

Tribal Research & Cultural Institute, Tripura
Department of History, Tripura University
Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong

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CONCEPT

Northeast India consists of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. It has a unique landscape, cultural traits and shares international borders with several East and South East Asian countries. Northeast India, known for its diversity on all fronts, is encountering numerous challenges and is exploring ways to harness the best of the region for its inclusive development. This region has an immense treasure of resources and yet grappling with predicament of 'identity and ethnicity'. The advent of globalization, communication technology and the road-air connectivity has resulted an upturn in the economy, character, nature and quality of life in Northeast. The growth in material prosperity, the questioning of traditional values and the influx and outflow of people has introduced a new complexity, challenge and opportunity.

The meanings ascribed to cultural traditions of India's Northeast has shifted and continue to shift in the course of its interactions between people, ideas, actions, technology, political ideology, market and objects. They are always articulated from specific perspectives that social actors have ventured out within historically developed interconnectivities and multifaceted power relations. Being formed and expressed in relation to particular circumstances, they can be said to articulate the specific contexts in which interactions take place. Thus, cultural traditions can be seen as context bound articulations. This conference will examine various interactions within innumerable changing contexts. It will facilitate the scrutiny of social interactions to imagine how these all played out in the past and still do so today, turning our attention to the specific meanings that social actors give under certain circumstances. It will look at structural interactions of cultural, ethnic and political orders, with a view to the context-sensitive meanings resulting from these. Focusing on these multivalent interactions and re-conceptualization of the cultural repertoire will engender a new meaning.

Northeast India has adopted perspectives that have allowed itself to explore objects, culturally specific concepts, and actions as interacting with changing contexts, it becomes clear that such interactions can cause structural formations to shift in a variety of ways. But to contemplate the shaping and reshaping of meaning from a scientific distance is not to obscure the fact that the meanings transmitted by members of cultural communities are a product of how they have interacted within and outside. This conference therefore, to be seen as an attempt to engage with interactions, and how these interactions have engendered new meanings that have transformed and integrated into the already existing multi layered cultural and social structures.

Transitions will explore some of the ways in which traditions are challenged by transcultural interactions, leading to the reshaping of tradition in the context of contemporary society. In addition, the notion of boundaries will be examined, as ethnic groups must negotiate their way through their identities, by its virtue of being a lived phenomenon, life does not remain static. This conference will attempt to capture transitions and transformation of time tested traditions that have occurred in the recent past.

Objectives:

- * To provide a platform to share national and regional experiences on the issues around concepts of Traditions, Changing Contexts, Shifting Meanings and Transformations of Traditions.
- * To arrive at strategies and action framework for cultural parameters for socio-economic development with identity formation.

Sub-themes:

- * Adhering vital traditions, managing transitions and embracing life enhancing transformations: Challenges and Opportunities
- * Challenges to Economic Development with special reference to women's participation
- * Contemporary North East India: Cultural Changes and impact on Families
- * Customary Laws and its impact on tribal communities
- * Endangered Cultures and Languages: Data based studies on NE India
- * Herbal Heritage: Pathways in documentation and preservation
- * Higher education and job placement in the next decade
- * Resource Management: Indigenous Perspectives
- * North East India - an inclusive society: Debates on Regional Aspirations within the National Political Context
- * In search of roots: Sanamahi, Seng-Khasi, Donyi-Polo, etc.
- * Movements: Social unrest & Peace initiatives
- * Tribal Leadership and Development: Contemporary Challenges and Possibilities

Registration Details:

- * Registration Charges: Participant : Rs.500/-, Students: Rs.200/-
- * Outstations participant: Extra Charges for lodging
- * TA/DA will not be provided

Last Date to submit abstract: 10th October, 2018

Last date to submit full paper: 1st November, 2018