

Abstracts of

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ENGLISH SECTION

**POLITICS OF CONVERSION :
READING THE SUCCESSFUL
EXPERIMENTATION OF CONVERSION
THREAT BEHIND THE HISTORIC TEMPLE
ENTRY PROCLAMATION OF MODERN
KERALA**

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ABSTRACT : *Temples have played a major role in the history of India as a whole. As the visible icons of a religion, it exercised awesome power and influence in society many a time and becoming a causative factor in socio-economic and political history of the land. Though the emergence of temples as power radiating centres was a later phenomenon in the Kerala context, it became a part of life with the Hinduization or the Brahmanization of the land. The historic Temple Entry Proclamation made by the last Travancore Maharaja Sree Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma-II with the active support of his Diwan C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer on 12 November 1936 that guaranteed the right of entry into Hindu temples to all Hindus irrespective of caste differences when the society of Kerala experienced socio-political movements that aimed at revolutionary changes. If we make a closer analysis of the developments that preceded the temple entry proclamation, we can see several factors that prompted the Maharaja Sree Chithira Thirunal and Diwan C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer and the most significant being the political threat of conversion created by numerically predominant Hindu community – the Ezhavas of the Princely state of Modern Travancore.*

Keywords : *Abstention, Conversion, Mithavadi, Sahodaran, Samudayam, Swathanthra*

NUMBER AND BEYOND : POVERTY DEBATE AND INDIA'S NORTH EASTERN REGION

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ABSTRACT : *An end of planning era in India in the 2014 had halted the production of any official poverty data and pushed poverty debate that dominated country's political economy for several decades to the margin. This subsequently was filled up by the international narrative, which credited India's poverty to be reduced significantly to claim it as 'no longer a poor nation'. The paper argues that the claim of India being no longer a poor nation is not a reflection of its states and regions, which are essentially marked by both diversity and disparity. India's Northeastern Region which had been grossly undermined in the national poverty debate since the beginning, has been considered to test this proposition of poverty reduction. Attempt has been made to understand poverty of this region with both numbers and by moving beyond numbers to unfold its immense challenges. It furthermore raises the pertinence of producing official poverty data to mainstream its reduction process in the context of COVID-19 when millions are apprehended to be fallen freshly below the poverty line, especially in the region like the Northeast which is already marked by high poverty concentration.*

Keywords : *Multidimensional poverty, Northeastern region, Poverty data, Regionality,*

A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON TWO MEDIEVAL ASSAM STRUCTURES : UNFOLDING OF THE STORY BEHIND

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ABSTRACT : *The paper is on two identical medieval Assam structures, apparently built in the 18th century CE. The two structures are: the Namath Kali temple of the very famous Kamakhya temple complex located in the city of Guwahati, lower or western Assam and the Ghanashyam's House of Joysagar located in upper or eastern Assam. Of the two, the first one is a complete ruin and is in a dilapidated condition. Architecturally both the structures belong to the Bishnupur group of temples of the neighbouring state of West Bengal. It is a deviation from the Ahom School of temple architecture though both of them were constructed under Ahom royal patronage. Second important aspect with regard to the two structures is that written history is silent about them even though they are two beautiful examples of love of the Ahom kings for art and architecture. A third interesting fact about them is that, while one is a temple, the other is not. The Namath Kali is a Hindu temple where daily oblations are paid to the presiding deity. On the other hand, at the Ghanashyam's House, there is not even a corner for an altar to be placed in despite its complete adherence to the Bishnupur group of temples. Under these circumstances, an attempt has been made to study the two structures, both from the points of view of architecture and history.*

Keywords : *Ahom monarchs, Ghanashyam Khanikar, Ghanashyam's House, Medieval Assam, Namath Kali temple.*

BEHAVIOUR CHARACTERISTICS AND OVER INDEBTEDNESS

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ABSTRACT : *This paper examines the relationship between behaviour characteristics and over-indebtedness among a sample of 392 credit consumers. The behaviour characteristics included for the study are optimism, deliberative thinking and risk aversion. To study the relation between behaviour characteristics and over indebtedness multi logistical regression is used. The dependent variables taken for analysis is level of indebtedness which is a categorical variable representing low, medium and high level of indebtedness. Three categorical variables representing the behavior characteristics of consumers such as optimism, deliberative thinking and risk aversion are taken as independent variable. From the study it can be concluded that deliberative thinking and debt literacy are negatively related to level of indebtedness among consumers. It means that as deliberative thinking and debt literacy increases their indebtedness significantly decreases. At the same time as level of optimism increases their level of indebtedness also increases. Similarly, it is also found that low level of risk aversion significantly increases the level of indebtedness of the consumers.*

Keywords : *Deliberative thinking, Optimism, Over indebtedness, Risk aversion*

COLONIAL DEMARCATATIONS AND ITS IMPRINTS IN 1947 : A STUDY ON THE SOUTHERN KHASI FOOTHILLS OF MEGHALAYA

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ABSTRACT : *The Khasi-Jaintia community had a long drawn history of relations with the people of Sylhet for centuries. The indigenous communities depended on Sylhet to trade their produce and natural resources in return for staple commodities like rice, salt, dried fish and so on. On the arrival of the English East India Company and their gradual political establishments in Bengal, ripple effects were observed to the territorial shores of the Khasi-Jaintia rulers who influenced the northern plains of Sylhet. The contest over these important mercantile northern plains adjoining the hills paved a colonial centric understanding of the geographical and political identity of the Khasi-Jaintia communities. Through conquests and alliances, the Khasi-Jaintia hills began to be indirectly administered beginning from the early decades of the 19th and 20th century, where colonial demarcations made attempts to clearly define the northern borders of Sylhet needed for their mercantile interests and taxation (as per the Diwani Rights). This hill-plain dichotomy was made concrete in the discussions of the Boundary Commissions as the Radcliffe line was drawn across the region largely based on the geographical contours. The effects of the Partition of India in 1947 needs to be addressed equally, throwing light of the North-east regions as well, keeping in mind the livelihood dependency of the Khasi-Jaintia on trade and commerce with Sylhet for generations. The paper will therefore, attempt to understand the demarcations and the subsequent hardships that reign the southern Khasi-Jaintia foothills beginning from the 17th of August 1947.*

Keywords : *Demarcations, Diwani Rights, Hill-plain relations, Partition of 1947*

THE PAÑCAMAHĀYAJÑAS : LAUDABLE VENTURE OF SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS VEDIC SEERS

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ABSTRACT : *According to the Vedic tradition and culture, yajña has socio-religious significance. In the various scriptures of the Vedic literature, the Vedic sacrifices are described in detail. The Śatapathabrāhmaṇa and the Taittirīyāranyaka discusses about the Pañcamahāyajñas named Brahmayajña, Devayajña, Bhūtayajña, Pitṛyajña and Manuṣyayajña, at length. These five great yajñas have very important place in the Gṛhyasūtra and the Dharmasūtra. It is prescribed that these five great sacrifices should be performed daily by householders. These have some ethical and religious significance as laid down in the Vedic texts.*

It is aimed here in this paper to study the significance of the performance of the Pañcamahāyajñas as dealt with in the Vedic literature. In addition, it also has been highlighted here how these were designed for rendering services to the society as a whole.

Keywords : *Householder, Pañcamahāyajñas, Socio-religious, Vedic civilization*

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বাংলা বিভাগ

মিলে অমিলে : শ্রীরামকৃষ্ণ ও রবীন্দ্রনাথ

সুমিত্রা দত্ত

গৃহ নং ১৯২-সি, প্রেমতলা, শিলচর - ৭৮৮ ০০৪

**IN CONCORDANCE AND CONTRADICTION :
SRI RAMAKRISHNA AND RABINDRANATH**

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ABSTRACT : Over the years, Bengalees have hashed over Swami Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore's association and affinity. Sree Ramkrishna was not spared of this scan either. Tagore, about 25 years of age when Ramkrishna passed away, has often been accused of maintaining eerie silence about the spiritual leader. Speculations have spun around their tentative meets and Rabindranath's inarticulate reference of Ramkrishna. This piece is a dive into their lives to explore the treasure trove.

Keywords : Rabindranath, Ramkrishna, Vivekananda

বাঙালির জাতিসত্তার নির্মাণ :

প্রেক্ষিত প্রাগাধুনিক বাংলা সাহিত্য

সনৎ নস্কর

বঙ্গভাষা ও সাহিত্য বিভাগ, কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, কলকাতা - ৭০০ ০৭৩

**FORMATION OF BENGALEE IDENTITY : LOOKS THROUGH
PRE-MODERN BENGALI LITERATURE**

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ABSTRACT : This article deals with the historical development of Bengalee ethnicity from the 7th century and it tries to find out the origin from Vedic period. We know the history of Bengal is interwoven with the history of broader Indian subcontinent and the advancement of civilization in Bengal dates back four millennium. The oldest inscription of Bengal is discovered from Mahasthangarh, Bagura (now in Bangladesh) which was inscribed in 3rd century B.C. during Mauriya period. Bengal had a strong international maritime trade link with Middle East and Europe from ancient time. On the other hand, the Aryanization of Bengal started from near about B.C.300 and it was ended grossly 400 A.D. in the period of Gupta dynasty. After the fall of Gupta empire a powerful king Sasanka ruled over "Gouda" as a sovereign ruler for three decades only and he is considered as a pioneer of Bengalee nationhood for his political and cultural activities. After the reign of Buddhist Pala dynasty for a long period the last Hindu Kingdom of Bengal ruled by Sena kings. They appeared from Karnataka and reinforced Brahmanism in Bengal and the last king Lakshman Sen was defeated by a Turk warrior Bakhtiyar Khilji. Thus, the advent of Islam started a new era in this province from 1203

A.D. to 1757 A.D. This epoch is marked as Medieval Period in the history of Bengal when the Bengalee identity was flourished and nourished under the heretic rulers. Before coming of Muslim Governors the Bengali language, scripts, literature, art, architecture were formed and grown up with its provincial styles in food, clothing, entertainment, domestic and social customs and rituals from 9th to 12th century. These may be considered as the special identity of Bengalees which are being followed by last one thousand years through its gradual changes to cope with speedy time. The efforts has been taken in this article on that point of view how the Bengalee identity was fostered, nourished and evolved in all spheres of Bengalee life through the ages, which had been reflected in Pre-modern Bengali literature.

Keywords : Bengalee ethnicity, Lakshman Sen, Pala dynasty, Pre-modern Bengali literature, Sasanka.

বঙ্গদেশে বর্ণজাতিকারামোর নির্মিতি : আর্থ-রাজনৈতিক ও ধর্মীয় সমীকরণ (খ্রি.অষ্টম — খ্রি.পঞ্চদশ শতাব্দ)

অভিজিত সাধুখাঁ

বাংলা বিভাগ, কাজী নজরুল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, আসানসোল, পশ্চিম বর্ধমান - ৭৪৩ ৩৬৮

FORMATION OF VARNA-JATI STRUCTURE IN BENGAL : POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND RELIGIOUS EQUATIONS (8TH CEN. A.D. – 15TH CEN.A.D)

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ABSTRACT : In remote past, Bengal was not a Brahmanical center at all. Rather, Buddhist and Jain influences were much greater. From the Gupta period onwards, there was a steady increase of Brahmana population in various sub-regions of Bengal. This is easily understandable from land grant inscriptions. Initially, despite the increase of the Brahmana population, Varna-Jati identity was not very rigid in this peripheral region and the hierarchy was not clearly codified. We find this phenomenon till pre-Pala period. In the Pala and Sena times, there was a gradual change in the formation of Varna-Jati structure and the Brahmana dominance in socio-economic context. The Brahmanas gradually occupied administrative positions and also became big landowners through land grants. This made a significant change in their social position. Specially in the Pala and the Sena period, they continued to become a dominating factor in socio-economic and ritual relations. This process culminated into the codification of *Bṛhaddharma Purāṇa* and *Brahmhavaivarta Purāṇa* which clearly establish Brahmanical dominance in scriptural and ritual level. This Brahmanical dominance was clearly associated with land question, moneymatters and economic mobility of other groups. The process shows a complex relation of politico-economic and ritual status. We will try to look into the matter with the help of epigraphic and literary references in this article.

Keywords : Varna-Jati structure, Politico-economic Relations in Bengal, Brahmanas, Ritual Status

সূচক শব্দ : বর্ণ-জাতি কারামো, বঙ্গদেশের আর্থ-রাজনৈতিক অবস্থা, ব্রাহ্মণ, ধর্মকৃত্যগত মর্যাদা

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অসমীয়া বিভাগ

অসমীয়া লিপিৰ প্ৰাসংগিকতা আৰু পুৰণি
পৰম্পৰাগত লিখিত মাধ্যমৰ পৰা ডিজিটেল মাধ্যমলৈ
ইয়াৰ উত্তৰণ — এটা অনুসন্ধান

অভিজিৎ পাদুন

মাল্টিমিডিয়া কমিউনিকেচন আৰু ডিজাইন বিভাগ, চিআইটি কোকৰাঝাৰ, কোকৰাঝাৰ - ৭৮৩৩৭০

অমৰেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ দাস

ডিজাইন বিভাগ, আইআইটি-গুৱাহাটী, গুৱাহাটী-৭৮১০৩৯

**SIGNIFICANCE OF ASSAMESE SCRIPT AND ITS
PROGRESSION FROM TRADITIONAL MEDIA
TO DIGITAL PLATFORM : AN EXPLORATION.**

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ABSTRACT : Assamese script has its own history of origination that progressed from 5th century to recent digital era. From the time of rock inscription to typing on a mobile device, the script went through numerous progression phases. After the entry of printing press during British rule and Baptist Missionaries adapting local languages to spread Christianity, the Assamese script moved out of its traditional handwritten practice to machine printing technique. With the progression of time and technology, the script has been transformed from printing to digital platform. But there has been influences from many factors while progression to digital phase. This article discusses about the facts and factors associated with the entire progression of Assamese script along with its identity, individuality and presence on digital platform. Further the article also discusses about the possibility of designing Assamese typeface that could establish an identity for Assamese script on digital platform.

Keywords : Assamese script, Assamese typeface design, Digital Assamese Font, Digital identity of Assamese script.

প্ৰাচীন প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষ-কামৰূপৰ অৰ্থনীতি

ৰক্তিম ৰঞ্জন শইকীয়া

ভূতত্ত্ব বিভাগ, জগন্নাথ বৰুৱা মহাবিদ্যালয়, যোৰহাট, অসম

ECONOMICS OF ANCIENT PRAGJYOTISH-KAMARUPA

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ABSTRACT : Traditionally the time before 1206 AD, is considered as 'ancient period' in Assam history. This period witnessed the development of several stratified states in Brahmaputra Valley. Direct written evidences on economic activity of this period are very scanty. But there are lots of indirect evidences that can reflect the levels of economic activity of that period. These indirect evidences can be extracted from semi religious and semi historical books like Kalika Puranam and Yogini Tantram and the copper plate and rock inscription of different kings of that period. Recently geo-archaeological findings also add knowledge on economics aspects of ancient Assam. This paper tries to address the economic life of ancient Assam from traditional sources and newly generated geo-archaeological findings.

Keywords : Economic aspects of ancient Assam, Geo-archaeological findings, Kalika Puranam, Yogini Tantram,

অৰুণাচল প্ৰদেশৰ ভাষিক বৈচিত্ৰ্য আৰু ভাষিক সংকট

নুৰুল ইছলাম শইকীয়া

অসমীয়া বিভাগ, কটন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গুৱাহাটী- ৭৮১০০১, অসম

LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY AND LINGUISTIC CRISIS IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

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ABSTRACT : Arunachal Pradesh, a north-eastern state of India, is endowed with immense linguistic diversity. There are host of languages, dialects and sub-dialects being spoken by different indigenous tribes of the state. Behind this linguistic diversity of Arunachal Pradesh lies the age-old history of human migration and settlement of that land. But it is a matter of grave concern that most of the indigenous languages of the state are suffering from existence crisis in modern times due to various socio-economic-political reasons. In this paper, an attempt has been made to introduce the linguistic diversity of Arunachal Pradesh, identify the factors leading to the linguistic crisis of the state, and suggest measures that might be undertaken for overcoming the crisis.

Keywords : Human Migration, Indigenous Languages, Linguistic diversity of Arunachal Pradesh, Linguistic Crisis,