



**ICSSR SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
“Exploring Sub-Himalayan Region of West Bengal and her Neighbours:
Society, Religion and Culture Since 1947”**

**Date: 25th, 26th and 27th March,
2019**



Organized By:
Department of History
Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University
Vivekananda Street, W.B., India
PIN-736101

Aims and Objective of the Seminar:

Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University is situated at Cooch Behar, Northern part of present West Bengal. It is better to say that Cooch Behar is at lap of the Himalayan range. So the catchment area of the University is the sub-Himalayan area. It covers the Northern part of West Bengal and some parts of our neighboring country like Bhutan, Nepal, Chinese occupied Tibet, Bangladesh and also some province of Assam, Meghalya, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh. It has rich historical importance from ancient Period. Keeping this point in mind, the University authority has incorporated the history of Kamata -Koch Kingdom and History of North Bengal in U.G. and P.G. syllabus of this University. It covers the history of sub- Himalayan area. So, there is an ample scope to explore the society, religion, trade and culture of the catchment area of this University.

Apart from this, the proposed area is economically poor and backward and neglected though there are huge natural recourses. No such development had been occurred in this area. Along with Hindus multi-ethnic community like Dhimal, Koch, Rajbanshi, Rabha, Bodo, Dhamsi, Madai, Oroang, Muslim etc. are inhabited in this area. They are not economically sound. Many of

them depended on the primary sources. So, they are lagging behind day by day in the field of education, economy, politics and culture. Taking advantages of underdevelopment weakness, many organizations and NGOs fulfill their ill ambition and conversion has been going on silently. So this area is very sensitive especially on culture and religion. In such a situation, the seminar will give a message to the India Government regarding these sensitive issues.

In the age of liberation, privatization and globalization for the promotion of export and import of the country, there is a need for the diversification of trade destination. With the rise of South East Asian economics in the recent decades, India felt the need for the diversification of its trade direction towards the eastern side i.e. East Asia and South East Asia. With the potential of Vast market in East Asia and South East Asia, India Started realizing the need to have closer economy ties with these countries. Not only economic relation, this area has historical, cultural and political relation too. Keeping this point in mind the then Prime Minister, Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao launched the Look East Policy in 1992 that pursuit of a vigorous economic policy with ASEAN and East Asian Countries with Asianisation content. After the initial thrust given by the Narasimha Rao, all the subsequent Governments have also supported this policy and extended all possible support on it. The Last BJP led NDA Government and Congress Led UPA Governments have been fully supporting this policy.

The Look East Policy must be seen both as an opportunity and a challenge for the people of the North East region and particularly for Manipur. A pertinent question would be how good are we in reaping maximum benefits out of the policy while trying to minimize on the negative impacts of the policy. The Look East policy definitely holds great political but it is only for the prepared mind. With the coming up of the Look East Policy, service sector undoubtedly will be the promising area. There is strong need for establishment of Cultural Tourism and Hospitality Management Institutes, an Institute of South East Asian Studies for understanding the similarities and differences of culture between this Sub-Himalayan Countries and South East Asian Countries and better understanding and free interaction with the businessmen and people of South East Asian Countries an institute for Foreign Languages particularly Myanmar's, Thai, Chinese etc. should be establish. For promotion of Cultural relation and entrepreneurship with South East Asian countries Institute of foreign enterprises should be established to provide short term as well as long term course. Though the successive Governments try to build up the good relation and solve the problem with south block gesture, the former did not much attention to the Sub-Himalayan states which have a long historical relation with South East Asian countries .Therefore; our study will explore long historical, economic, political and cultural relation hitherto with the South East Asian Countries.

In addition to this, there are much discussion have been done regarding the Western and Northern Himalayan states but writings in Sub –Himalayan States is very scanty. On other hand, in the present scenario and in the era of globalization and liberalization the growing of relation is necessary in the perspective of political, geographical, economical, and cultural and religion. This Sub-Himalayan region is situated in the international border area. Therefore, it is regarded the gate way of Nepal, Bhutan, China and Bangladesh also. No major discussion is present hitherto regarding this region. So, there is a lacuna of study, but we fill it is the pillar of the Border Line.

The seminar will explore the changes and transition of sub-Himalayan states through the ages and will fill up the gap of historical writings in the realm of social, political, cultural and other aspects

of recent time in elaborate manner. A number of historians and scholars are expected to attend and present papers in this seminar. The interactive discussion will pave the way to come with decision that could be disseminated among the historians and general peoples.

Sub –Themes of the Seminar:

1. Conceptualizing Sub-Himalayan States - Time, Events and History.
2. History and historiography
3. Orientalism and National Culture and - Search for ‘Self’ Identity in Sub-Himalayan People.
4. Popular Religion, Education, Syncretism and Social Mobility in Post Independence Period.
5. Migration and Demographic Changes
6. Indigenous People: land, Voices of Protest and Popular Movements
7. Nation, State and the Voices of the Marginal.
8. Language, Ethnicity and Identity Politics, regional and sub national movement.
9. Ethnic Question of different Sub-Himalayan group of people
10. Historical Research in Contemporary Sub-Himalayan State: History, Historians and Nation Building.
11. Environmental problem and its remedy
12. Issues of Cultural Tourism development

Submission of the Abstract: The abstract on the concerned themes must be typed in the Times New Roman, Font (12 pt) in 1.5 spacing within 250 words. All abstracts should be sent to the following email:

madhab.cbpbu@gmail.com , ksutradhar77@gmail.com

Last date of the abstract submission: 28th February, 2019. All the abstract papers will be scrutinized by the editorial board and the concern scholars will be informed about the status of their paper within one week.

Submission of the Paper:

The soft copy of the main paper must be submitted within 4000 words **within 10th March, 2019.**

Publication:

Selected papers will be published in proceeding form with an ISBN number.

How to reach Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University:

Cooch Behar is a heritage town of West Bengal. Many historical Places are there in Cooch Behar. It is a district town located at the North Eastern border of West Bengal and is well connected to the entire India through rail and bus services. University is situated on Vivekananda Street near Air Port. The Private Bus Terminus and NBSTC (North Bengal State Transport Corporation) are one KM to the University and the New Cooch Behar Rail Station is 3 K.M. to the University. Private Car, Auto and Toto are available at reasonable rates throughout the day and night from the Railway Station and the Bus terminus. The climate of Cooch Behar is not so hot in the month of March.

Patron:

Dr. Debkumar Mukherjee, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, **Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University**, Cooch Behar, W.B.

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Venue:

Department of History,
Seminar Hall

Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University,

Vivekananda Street, Cooch Behar
West Bengal, India,
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REGISTRATION FORM

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Name	
Title of the article	
Accommodation	Yes/No
Arrival and leaving: Date with time	
Vegetarian / Non- vegetarian	
Address, Cell Phone & e-mail →	
Fees	1.Paper Presenters (Teacher) -1000/-(Accommodation Extra) 2. Scholars/Students-500/-(Accommodation Extra) 3. Foreign Delegate: 50\$

N.B. This Registration form must be Submitted to the following email address within 10th February,2019.

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