



साहित्य अकादेमी

Two Day National Conference
on
**Identity and Diversity within Boundaries and Margins: Exploring
Literature & Culture from India's North East**

Organized by

**Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi-110025**

**in collaboration with
Sahitya Akademi
New Delhi**

**Venue: Conference Room, CNESPR
3rd Floor, India Arab Cultural Centre
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi-110025**

Date: 13-14 March 2019

Identity and Diversity within Boundaries and Margins: Exploring Literature & Culture from India's North East

Located in the peripheries of the country, North East India has witnessed the emergence of a vast body of literature both in English and the vernacular in the recent years, as well as an emergence of existing and previous works in translation, with the world now being able to readily access the rich literature from the region. A growing space is now visible for the creation and existence of a vibrant literary culture in the region that has made its presence felt both in print and digital media.

A common thread that holds together literature from the different states is that most voices echo a need to be heard and understood against the mosaic of India's multiculturalism, having undergone historical and political trauma of untold suffering and marginalisation. The various voices in the region have successfully created a new brand of literary repertoire which attempts to preserve their cultural heritage by depicting various communities, their unique linguistic features and oral traditions and folk forms. Such writings albeit often nostalgic in nature, successfully reflect writers caught in the cross current of their historical and political inheritance, their personal tragedies and cultural ambivalence, essentially voices that both contribute and aid in the development of a larger literary consciousness which needs to be both recognized and interrogated. Added to this, there is a need to comprehend and analyze the influence that popular cultural forms have had on the literature and culture of the region with new forms of digital media like blogs, YouTube videos and social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram being used to making previously unheard voices heard.

It is thus that the voices emerging from the region have gone on to not only depict the rich cultural geography and its diversity, but also attempted to chart the problematics of ethnicity and identity in the context of politics of culture and identity, with young voices now expressing themselves through new literary cultures forged through the internet. When reading the literature from the region, it is important to bear in mind that most of the writings in the region have been generated after the textualization of tribal societies took place in the wake of Christianity and western education systems finding their way to the region. The transition of oral to written then becomes significant with various communities of the region seeking new ways to negotiate, translate and expose their world views.

The proposed conference is an attempt to generate a discourse on the region and will attempt to develop a general overview of the emerging literature and culture from India's North East along with their historical and cultural mappings, examine the specifics already in place in terms of oral and folk traditions, and new ones being created by the writers in the region, as well as analyze the literature and culture from the region vis-a-vis the established paradigms to create a wider scope and perception about the writings and expressions from the region. In the process establishing new paradigms within the body of work and accompanying literary and cultural discourse.

Call for Papers

This conference invites scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds across humanities to share their understanding on writings, performing arts and, oral and folk traditions of the North East region as also on emerging digital cultures from the North East. We invite papers around the following themes;

- Oral traditions and its persistence
- Performance, performativity in language, literature and culture
- Folk cultures and traditions and its hybrid forms
- Similarities of tropes in writings from the North East with writings from South East Asia
- Displacement, nostalgia and the idea of home in writings from the North East
- Identity construction and power dynamics in cultures of the region
- Conflict and gender relations and its representation in the Arts
- Colonialism, postcolonialism and attendant literary and cultural discourse from the North East
- State, Nation and Nationalism in Cultures of the North East
- Digital frames and its impact on communities

Submission Guidelines

Outline of papers of 500-700 words with a short bio-note of 100 words should be sent to cnespr.lit@gmail.com by 20th January, 2019. Participants whose abstracts are selected post peer review will be required to submit full papers of 6000 words by 28th February, 2019. Publishers would be approached on the conclusion of the conference to publish papers presented.

Travel and accommodation (as per govt norms) would be provided by the organizers for selected participants.

Important Dates

Deadline for submission of outline of papers- 20th January, 2019

Notification of Acceptance- 25nd January, 2019

Full Paper Submission- 28th February, 2019

Dates of Conference- 13-14th March, 2019

Email for submission of outline of paper and any other queries- cnespr.lit@gmail.com

Organizing Committee

Prof. Simi Malhotra

Prof. M. Amarjeet Singh

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