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Editorial

This is the first issue after the new editorial team has been formed. We hope not only to continue the good work done by the previous team but also enhance its visibility in the academic circle across the country. Every institutional journal (such as The NEHU Journal) is expected to reflect the spirit and ethos of the institution of which it is a part. NEHU was established with a specific objective of contributing to the socio-cultural and economic advancement of the NE region. The NEHU Journal seeks to do this by inviting theoretically well-informed and empirically rich articles that would not only deepen our understanding of socio-cultural, political and economic aspects of this region but also help in formulation of appropriate policies and programmes that could have a visible and concrete impact on the process of development of the north-east region. At the same time, it needs to be recognised that The NEHU Journal must make an effective intervention in the debates taking place elsewhere on different issues both at the national and global levels. Therefore articles which critically interrogate issues of wider epistemological significance would be highly welcome too.

Articles which appear in this issue cover wide-ranging topics that truly reflect the spirit of the journal. Pum Khan Pau examines the three colonial policies which effectively resulted in the fragmentation of the Zo population which inhabited the Chin-Lushai hills into three nations. What was always important to the British rule was 'administrative convenience' rather than the needs and interests of the local population in engaging with people, which was once again proved in the context of the Chin-Lushai hills. The author tried to point out the constant attempt on the part of the colonial masters to privilege their own interests at the cost of those of the local population. Md.Shah Noorur Rahman draws our attention to the organic syncretism that existed between Hindus and Muslims in the medieval India as reflected in music, literature, customs,

architecture and other socio-cultural spheres. This is an important lesson for the present times which are sought to be made deeply divisive on the basis of religion, culture and language. History can be an invaluable teacher provided we are willing to learn from it. Ibameai Hepsa Nongbri looks critically at the patriarchal roots of some of the religious texts such as Manusmriti etc. and how these have contributed to the subjugation of women in the ancient times. Those who are interested in the issue of gender would find this article particularly interesting. A. K. Nongkynrih has dealt with the importance of oral tradition in development communication. Proper nurturing of oral tradition is critically important for development planning. It contains valuable sociological insights which are crucial for ensuring development in the society. In their paper, Amitkumar Singh Akoijam and Mirinchonme Mahongnao look at the innovative practices in shifting cultivation that could be tried to make agriculture a more productive activity. This they do by looking at the documents, previous studies and reports and also by interviewing the members of tribes located in Nagaland and Manipur. They argue that in view of the unavailability of shifting cultivation due to geographical factors, one innovative idea could be that more cash crops should be grown using high-variety seeds. Jenny Jami argues that classification of income levels is usually arbitrary and does not reflect the socio-economic status of individuals in an authentic manner. Sunitibala Yumnam looks at the performances of Lai-Haraoba as philosophically grounded and having a reality of their own.

I wish to thank all the reviewers who have done a very good job of reviewing the articles in a relatively short span of time. I would continue to need their help. Colleagues and research scholars are encouraged to contribute well-researched articles to The NEHU Journal.

D. V. Kumar
Editor