



**Department of English, NEHU, Shillong
Presents**

**National Seminar on
'Northeast's Contribution to Indian English Literature'
(20-21 March 2025)**

Call for Papers

The Department of English, NEHU, Shillong is organising a National Seminar on the 20th and 21st March, 2025. The seminar seeks to explore Northeast's contribution to Indian English Literature. Though the literature from the Northeast of India has deeper roots in the vernacular, both in the written and the oral form, the Anglophone literature from the region is relatively young. Temsula Ao, Mamang Dai, Easterine Kire, Esther Syiem, Robin Sing Ngangom, Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih, Desmond Kharmawphlang, Dhruva Hazarika, Mitra Phukan, Monalisa Changkija are some of the major authors who have been instrumental in turning the Anglophone literary writings from the Northeast into a significant and dynamic literary movement that has drawn substantial amount of attention and acclaim both nationally as well as globally, although it is yet to find its due recognition in the Indian English literary domain.

Indian Writing in English (IWE), or Indian English Literature, has evolved over the years through the works of the pioneering authors like Sarojini Naidu, Mulk Raj Anand, R. K. Narayan, Sashi Deshpande, Kamala Markandaya, Nissim Ezekiel, Jayanta Mahapatra, Salman Rushdie and so on. This pan-Indian literary movement culminated into a respected literary category in the late 80s gaining major institutional recognition by being a separate canon of literary studies. Notably, the Sahitya Akademi has also included Indian literature in English among the thirty Indian languages for promotion and publication. However, IWE has been, to a considerable extent, characterised by a metropolitan as well as a class/ caste dimensions as most of the authors were largely from the urban and metropolitan centres, mostly belonging to the affluent class/ caste categories, unlike the vernacular literature where most of the authors came from the rural and marginal spaces of society. The Anglophone literature from the Northeast, on the other hand, has a dominant presence of the indigenous voices from the peripheries of the region.

The proposed seminar seeks to examine the position of the Anglophone writings from the Northeast vis a vis the Indian writings in English as well as its contributions to the larger body of the IWE. It is noteworthy that this literary movement of the country has taken the English language as one of the primary languages of literary expression giving a distinctive identity to what came to be known as Northeast Literature.

The seminar aims to explore the role of Anglophone Literature from the Northeast in enriching the Indian literary scene through its diverse socio-cultural nuances as well as to look at the role and position of the English language in the context of Northeast literature.

The broad sub-themes:

- a. Northeast Anglophone Literature and Indian English Literature
- b. Northeast literature and the English language
- c. Re-mapping Indian Literature in English through the Northeast
- d. Indigenous Turn in Northeast Literature in English
- e. Revisiting the History and Politics in Northeast Indian Anglophone Literature
- f. Northeast Literature as Cultural Texts
- g. Northeast Literature as Witness to Political Disquiet
- h. Northeast Literature as a Search for Self against the Narratives of Nation
- i. Northeast Literature in Translation
- j. Ecology and Northeast Literature
- k. Northeast Literature as part of national folk narratives

The broad themes are suggestive and not exhaustive.

Important Dates:

Submission of Abstracts: 7 MARCH 2025

Intimation of Acceptance: 11 March 2025

Please send your abstracts (maximum 300 words) to

Email: englishdepartmentnehu@gmail.com / hodeng@nehu.ac.in

(Please write **SEMINAR ABSTRACT** on the subject tab of your mail)

Registration Fees: Rs. 1500/- (Without accommodation)

Rs. 4500/- (with accommodation*)

Rs. 1000/- (Research Scholars without accommodation)

Rs. 4000/- (Research Scholars with accommodation)

Rs. 3000/- (Accompanying participants without paper with accommodation in twin sharing basis)

*(Accommodation includes three nights stay with breakfast from 19th March evening to 22nd March morning)

Registration: 12 -15 March through online payment only.

(Please note that the accommodation will be confirmed once the payment is received. There will be no TA/DA to the participants)

How to reach:

By Train: Guwahati is the nearest railway station from where one can take a shared taxi to NEHU at the Mawlai campus of Shillong

By Air: One can take a flight to Guwahati and avail a shared taxi from the airport to NEHU Mawlai campus, Shillong. There are also direct flights to Shillong from select airports.

National Seminar Committee

Chairman: Prof. K. S. Nongkynrih, Head, Department of English, NEHU, Shillong

Convener: Prof. J. Prodhani, Professor. Department of English, NEHU, Shillong

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