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Editorial

The NEHU Journal, being a multi-disciplinary journal, welcomes research papers from different disciplines. The number of submissions for publication has been increasing over the years, especially after we started bringing out the online version of the journal. To accommodate the increasing demand, we have included nine papers in this issue. The themes of the papers ranges from boundary making, mate selection, Missionary writings, Goods and Services Tax, regional disparities, magical theatre of Ratan Thiyam, use of ICT in ELT in Bangladesh to research done in chemistry to minimise the dangers of Arsenic chemicals.

The first three papers are related to northeast India. In the lead article, Zhoto Tunyi and Jelle J P Wouters show that over and above international boundaries that have India's north-eastern states with neighbouring countries, there are different invisible boundaries between and within north-eastern states, separating the people and the territories. These visible and not-so-visible boundaries make nation building much more complex and difficult. The questions as to who prefers to marry whom and why receive considerable attention of people as well as scholars. In the second article, giving an account of scholarly studies on the subject of mate selection, A.K. Nongkynrih presents his interesting findings about preferences of the tribal students in northeast India. In the article that follows, Hasnahana Gogoi, attempting at post-colonial reading of the Missionary writings in colonial Assam, examines the complex relations between Christian missionaries and British colonialism and analyses the Missionary perceptions of the people and society in Assam.

The next two papers are related to political economy. Sanjoy Roy's paper lucidly presents the much debated Goods and Services Tax (GST) controversy. Apart from explaining in detail the benefits expected out of GST, he refers to the obstacles that stand in the way of its implementation and the intricate issues that needs to be

resolved before GST becomes operational. In the subsequent paper, applying Kendall's ranking co-efficient method, Chand Sultana and Nasim Aktar compare and analyse socio-economic disparities in the district of Malda. Their classification of different development zones within the district helps in identifying factors for development of the backward blocks.

The next two papers concerns the roles that literature and theatre play in different social contexts. In every culture, religious and philosophical values are imparted through stories and fables that could be understood by the masses. Mankhrawbor Dunai in his analysis of the C.S. Lewis' children's book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* discusses how the Christian values of Sin, Punishment and Redemption are imparted through different characters in the fiction. In the paper that follows, Subhash Chandra Das explains how Ratan Thiyam beautifully blends the western and Indian traditions of theatre and describes how the distinct form of theatre he developed has been able to showcase the history, cultural forms and political uncertainties of the state of Manipur through his performances.

In the subsequent paper Md Zakir Hossain Talukder and Saba in their paper presents the policy, problems and prospects of introducing ICT based English Learning in Bangladesh at secondary level education. In the last article, M Pathak and Raghavendra Pathak focus on the damages caused by Arsenic chemicals to land, water and human health and gives us an overview of the research done to minimize the impact of Arsenic chemicals through photochemistry.

The Editorial Committee sincerely thank the authors, reviewers and the readers for their contributions to the journal. Apart from bringing out two general issues, the committee is planning to bring out one special issue every year on particular themes. We will let you know once the plans materialize. Your feedback always helps.

H. Srikanth
Editor