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Editorial

Dear Researchers and Readers

Dear Researchers and Readers

With life limping back to normalcy, academics has returned to classrooms and laboratories and expecting the days to continue the same without any further disruption.

With academic interactions in offline mode, the new volume of the journal contains articles on varied subjects and blends articles of multidisciplinary nature drawn from Life Sciences, Human & Environmental Sciences, Law and Social Sciences.

The volume begins with a article on **“Partition and the early history of the refugee vs immigrant discourse for Assam (1947- 1950)”** by Binayak Dutta. The author presents debates on the relationship between partition and citizenship in post colonial India which has heated up as a prelude and aftermath of the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. Scholars engaging with the Act seems to focus primarily on the the politics of the political parties, their ideology and the attempts by the Government to overcome the conundrum of the National Register of Citizenship exercise in Assam. This article attempts to locate itself in understanding the relationship between Partition of India and citizenship and trace this early history.

Suktilang Majaw, H. Alfred Thanglorsang and Ungshungmi Horam in their paper **“Ameliorative effect of *Oxalacuminata* Wall. Ex Benth. leaves aqueous extract on high fat diet induced alterations in mice”** present an investigation on the effect of *Oxalacuminata* Wall. Ex Benth. leaves aqueous extract on alterations associated with high fat diet (HFD) in mice. HFD fed mice are considered as an appropriate model for obesity study and the findings provide evidences for the ameliorative effect of OLE against alterations observed in HFD fed mice.

The paper on **“Parameters of forest usage among the Khasi of Meghalaya”** by Rekha M. Shangpliang presents the significance of nature in shaping the culture and ways of life of people in a given habitat which has been a widely recognized subject of social scientists in recent times. Living in harmony with nature has

been an integral part of traditional and indigenous societies. To them nature has often been exemplified as “cultural space” expressed through its invocation and representation in myths, ethics, beliefs and folk ways.

C. Ramhnehzauva in his paper “**Domestic water sources and water storage tanks among different income group in Aizawl city**” presents a study on Water being under-supplied in the study area. The fact that water supply is almost wholly in the realm of the public sector verifies that governments are unable to provide adequate water supplies. It is characterised by poor water supply infrastructure. Services are generally poor for all sectors of society, but for poorer sector, conditions are worst because of their perceived inability to pay house connection fees.

Arigo R. Sangma and SR Joshi in their review “**Areca nut: Traditional processing, uses and products potential of the husk**” discuss about areca nut (*Areca catechu* L.) consumed in many parts of the world including India and its husk considered as an agro-waste that can be used for obtaining different kinds of products. The present review is an effort to compile the available information on areca nut and its husks with respect to its uses as composite material, enzyme production, litter, compost, mushroom cultivation and in removal of dyes.

The article on “**Contamination by fake news distributions during the Covid pandemic**” by Nitesh Sharma encompasses a new challenge of fake news as a malice that has the power to wreak havoc on society. This malice is the spread of fake news and hoaxes that has almost taken pace post imposition of the nationwide lockdown by the Indian Government. In addition to social media, numerous websites, and apps, mainstream media such as newspapers, television, and radio also contribute to the proliferation of fake news. Despite the extensive coverage of the pandemic, there is some information that represents the outbreak, its severity, spread, and other false claims.

Baibhav Raj Barbaruah, Rajat Roy, Upashna Chettri and SR Joshi in their research work “**Currency notes in circulation can be potential sources of transmissible diseases**” present findings on currency as the primary medium for exchange of goods and services and makes it a hub for microorganism to thrive. This paper highlights the presence of multitude of bacteria which have the potential to cause diseases as well as being antibiotic resistant which get circulated through currency

notes.

In the paper “ **Topotecan and (22S)-Budesonide as potential Drug candidates against ORF3a in SARS-CoV-2 virus**” by Rik Ganguly, Shashi Kumar Yadav and Atanu Bhattacharjee present computational study on SARS-CoV-2 RNA virus covered in a spiked glycoprotein envelope which acts as a causative agent for COVID-19. SARS-CoV-2 ORF3 gene encodes a novel structural protein ORF3a whose actual mechanism and functions are still unclear. The study involves in finding an effective drug that can bind to the active pocket of ORF3a protein to reduce the viral load. The authors have used in silico techniques to screen FDA-approved drugs.

I take this opportunity to thank the contributors for their submissions and the reviewers for their promptness in providing valuable comments. Suggestions and cooperation of the editorial members have always been a source of guidance and strength.

My sincere appeal to the scholars to submit/continue submitting manuscript(s) for publication in future issues of The NEHU Journal.

Prof. S.R. Joshi
Editor

