



**ABOUT THE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMANITIES AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES, NITS**



Situated in the rolling landscapes of Assam, the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at NIT Silchar offers a rich intellectual environment. Since its inception in 1967, the department has been devoted to academic inquiry, committed to understanding the intricacies of human thought, culture, economy, and society. Immersed in the cultural richness of Northeast India, the department integrates the domains of humanities and social sciences to create intense, contemplative inquiry into the world.

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राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान सिलचर  
**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
SILCHAR**

An Institute of National Importance

A TWO-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

**THE DECOLONISATION PROJECT  
AND TRIBAL ETHNIC IDENTITIES IN  
INDIA THROUGH THE TIMES**

28-29 MARCH 2026

HYBRID MODE

Organised by

Department of Humanities and Social  
Sciences, National Institute of  
Technology Silchar, Assam, India



Sponsored by

Indian Council of Social Science  
Research- North Eastern Regional  
Centre (ICSSR-NERC)

# CONCEPT NOTE

Contemporary discourses on decolonization in India call for a critical re-evaluation of how tribal communities and their identities have been historically represented, categorized, and understood. Colonial ethnographic practices, administrative classifications, and missionary interventions significantly shaped the representation of tribal societies as primitive, static, or peripheral to the grand narratives of Indian civilization. Such portrayals continue to influence academic discourse, governance, and public perceptions in the post-colonial period. This conference seeks to critically examine how tribal identities have been constructed and transformed across time, from the pre-colonial to contemporary India. It aims to explore how colonial views and development policies contributed to the categorization and marginalization of tribal communities, while also highlighting how these communities have resisted, negotiated, and rearticulated their identities. By bringing together scholars from diverse disciplines, the conference seeks to foster critical dialogue on indigeneity and cultural preservation of tribal communities. The conference intends to foreground tribal perspectives, challenge the persistence of colonial epistemic frameworks, and contribute to the development of more inclusive and decolonial approaches to study tribal ethnic identities in India.

## Sub-Themes

We invite abstracts including, but not limited to, the following research areas:

1. Theoretical Perspectives on Decolonization in the Indian Context
  - Conceptual frameworks of decolonization and indigeneity
  - Postcolonial and subaltern approaches to tribal studies
2. Colonial Knowledge Systems and the Construction of Tribal Identities
  - Colonial ethnography and anthropological representations
  - Missionary writings and colonial narratives on tribal communities
3. Decolonizing Historiography and Rewriting Tribal Histories
  - Tribal perspectives in historical writing
  - Archival recovery and marginalized histories
4. Oral Traditions, Cultural Memory, Literature, and Cultural Expressions
  - Oral traditions, folklore, myths, and storytelling as carriers of cultural memory
  - Rituals, performance traditions, and indigenous aesthetic practices

5. Language, Translation, and Indigenous Linguistic Heritage

- Tribal languages, linguistic diversity and preservation
- Translation of tribal texts and narratives

6. Land, Ecology, and Indigenous Cosmologies

- Indigenous ecological knowledge and environmental ethics
- Tribal relationships with nature and sustainability

7. Media Representation, Digital Spaces, and Emerging Tribal Voices

- Representation of tribal communities in media and cinema
- Comparative indigenous perspectives and global decolonial debates

## Submission Guidelines

**Font:** Times New Roman

**Font Size:** 12 pt

**Line Spacing:** 1.5

**Abstract:** within 300 words, with 4-5 keywords  
Selected participants are required to submit the **full paper (4000-5000 words)** before the conference

**Style:** APA 7<sup>th</sup> Edition File

**Format:** Word doc

**Authorship:** Up to 4 authors

**Submission mail id:**  
icssrnercmarch@gmail.com

**Submission must be the author(s)'s original work**

## Important Dates

Last date for Abstract Submission: 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

Selection announcement:  
20<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

Last date for registration: 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Dates of Conference: 28-29<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

## Registration Fee

Students & PhD Scholars: 650

Faculty: 850

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Prof. Sajal Nag**

Distinguished Professor in History  
The Assam Royal Global University,  
Guwahati

- **Dr. Manjeet Baruah**

Assistant Professor  
Special Centre for the Study of North East  
India  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
New Delhi, India

## CONTACT US

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### NOTE:

The conference will not provide accommodation. However, the conference organisers can provide information about hotels.

### PAYMENT DETAILS:

Account holder name: **National Institute of Technology, Silchar**  
Account no: **40593349332**  
IFSC Code: **SBIN0007061**  
State Bank of India

### Registration link:

To register, scan the QR code

