



**National Seminar on**

**Legal Pluralism and Northeast India: Transition of Traditions from Colonial Rule to Present Day Judiciary System**

**07-08 November 2023**

**Sponsored by  
Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi**

**Organized by  
Department of Political Science  
Rangia College.  
Kamrup, Assam-781354  
[www.rangiacollege.ac.in](http://www.rangiacollege.ac.in)**

## About the College

Rangia College established in 1963 is progressing with the mandate of leading quality education in the disciplines of—Arts, Science, Commerce, Business, and Vocational. The mission of the college is, the “Transmission of knowledge, wisdom, skill and competence from one generation to another”. The college has a total of 22 departments that provide UG Programs. Govt. of Assam declared Rangia College as a PG College and presently 8 departments of the College- Economics, English, Education, Botany, Bodo, Assamese, Arabic, and Sanskrit provide PG Degree under Guahati University.

## About the Seminar

The Indian state presents itself as the quintessential post-colonial state which is continuously imagining and re-imagining its nature at the interface of tradition and modernity. One of the major zones of this kind of negotiation occurs in the legal framework where various components like democratic constitutional law, community based law and religious personal laws are engaging and negotiating with each other with the framework of universe modern state structure. This universality is sought to be achieved through a process of accommodation and representation of different ethnic groups’ indigenous communities’, caste and gender. There are many types of indigenous community in Northeast India which have their own customary laws along with community values. These laws in tandem with the particular values operate in a complex terrain of the social, political and economic structure. Among the changes that modernisation has introduced among the tribes is the legal system. Studies indicate that it has had both positive and negative impacts on them. It has resulted in a new identity search among most tribes of the Northeast India because of a feeling that modern institutions devalue their culture.

The seven sister states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya in Northeast India, through various legislations over the last two hundred years and several constitutional safeguards including the sixth schedule of the Constitution of India, has allowed local district councils to exercise wide powers in administrative, legislative and judicial matters. As a result, apart from the normal court system, a parallel justice delivery system operates in the tribal areas of the region delivering justice under the customary laws and a pluralistic non adversarial judicial administration is thus seen in the region for the last two centuries.

Legal pluralism has served as a general tool to understand law in all its complexity. There has been immense debate on the definition of law and the concept of legal pluralism

complicates this issue further. Realisation about the inadequacy of hitherto accepted terms such as 'customary law' to denote the legal phenomena of the "indigenous" societies are reflected in the on-going attempts to find labels for identifying legal systems based on different understandings of law, such as official law, state law, modern law, unofficial law, folk law, people's law, tribal law, indigenous law, non-state law, customary law, received law, imposed law. Customary laws very usually become an essential part of a people's culture. The origin of customary laws lies in the habitual practice of people as it usually becomes a custom. In traditional societies that did not have written laws, the customary law maintained social order, prescribed rules of conduct to individuals, and regulated human behavior. The tribe cherished its laws as intrinsic to its identity.

This interdisciplinary conference focuses on non-state legal practices in Northeast India from the perspectives of legal anthropology, sociology of law, political science, legal studies, literature and culture studies. By bringing together eminent scholars and representatives from NGOs and media, the conference seeks to bridge the gap between academia, civil society, and popular media on this important issue.

In the framework of contemporary Northeast India, the conference highlights concerns regarding the status of traditional, customary, and current informal legal practices. Informal legal procedures have little legitimacy in today's society. If they cannot be denied, they are viewed as relics of a bygone era that will be eliminated once modernity has fully developed, or they are rendered invisible by the standard stage theory of the origin of modern society. Therefore, societies with such obvious synchronicity discrepancies are referred to as "developing societies". The people in Northeast India have their own particular culture which governs them in all aspects of public and private life especially right access to resources. The modern state also has its set of universal laws that deal with the issues of rights and access to resources. It will be interesting to examine and participate in a major discussion on the convergence and divergence of customary law and modern law through this seminar.

### **Sub-themes of the Seminar**

We invite contributions from the fields of law, philosophy, sociology, literary criticism, culture studies, political science, or any other related field. The following sub-themes shall be explored in detail:

- ❖ Colonial legacy and legal pluralism
- ❖ Customary law in tribal society
- ❖ Non-State legal practices and political society in Northeast India.
- ❖ Traditional legal practice as revealed in religious rituals and traditions
- ❖ Interferences of parallel Legal Practice in Official Courts
- ❖ Theoretical Reflections on legal Pluralism
- ❖ India's Alternative Legal Modernity
- ❖ Contemporary Legal Philosophy and Customary Law
- ❖ Diverse personal laws and gender justice
- ❖ Conflict resolution systems in the tribal societies of Northeast India
- ❖ Conflicts and controversies in areas such as land rights and other human rights.
- ❖ Prospects for pluralistic legal reforms in Northeast India.
- ❖ Post-colonial Legality: Role of Judiciary in navigating legal pluralism
- ❖ Any other related topics.

The sub-themes are of course only indicative and not strict boundaries. Any good paper falling in the purview of the broad theme will be welcome.

### Call for Paper

Prospective authors are encouraged to contribute and help to shape the seminar through the submission of their research articles. High-quality research describing the original and unpublished result of conceptual, constructive, empirical, and experimental work on the above-mentioned theme/sub-themes is invited for the seminar.

#### Guidelines for paper submission

Submit your full paper as per the following Guidelines:

- The first page must include the title of the paper, name, affiliation, and contact details of the author.
- All the manuscripts should be submitted in MS Word format, Times New Roman, 12 font size, 1.5 space with a margin of 1cm on all sides.
- Citation and references must be written in APA style.
- Abstract should be upto 200-250 words. Assign 4-5 keywords
- Word limit for full-length paper should not be more than 6000 words including the references.
- The manuscript should be plagiarism-free

Important Dates	
Last date for submission of Abstract	24 <sup>th</sup> October, 2023
Notification of acceptance of Abstract	26 <sup>th</sup> October, 2023
Last date for submission of the Full Paper	28 <sup>th</sup> October, 2023
Acceptance of Full Paper	1 <sup>st</sup> November, 2023

Seminar Dates	7 <sup>th</sup> &8 <sup>th</sup> November, 2023
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Abstract & Full Paper Submission Email ID: [bhanu.du1@gmail.com](mailto:bhanu.du1@gmail.com)

Registration Fee:

Research Scholars/ Students- 750 INR

Faculty/Academicians/Others- 1000 INR

General Participants without Paper- 500 INR

Publication Opportunity

The Paper presented in the Seminar after attaining comments received from the Resource Person will be accepted for publication in the Seminar Proceedings/Edited Book with ISBN Number.

[With regards](#)

Dr. Brajendra Saikia

Dr. Bhanu Prabha Brahma

Principal/Chairperson

Convenor

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Members-

Mrs. Ranu Choudhury, Associate Professor & HOD, Department of Political Science, Rangia College.

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Dr. Syed Abdullah Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Department of Arabic. Rangia College.

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