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## Editorial

I am happy to present to you the January-June, 2014 issue of *The NEHU Journal*. Ever since we started bringing out the online version of the journal alongside the print version, many scholars have been coming forward to publish their papers in the journal. As we have started receiving quality papers, the editorial committee has taken the decision to include a couple of papers more in this volume. We hope this positive trend continues and the quality of journal improves further.

The present issue has altogether six articles and three book reviews. The partition of the Indian sub-continent continues to arouse critical reflections of scholars, creative writers and artists. In India the trauma experienced by the partition refugees who were forced to leave their homeland and seek shelter in another country, found creative expression in English as well as vernacular literature. Suranjana Choudhury's paper, "Pangs of Being 'Un-Homed'", interrogates two Bengali novels, *Bakultala P.L. Camp* and *Arjun* and gives a vivid picture of the deprivations, dominations and dilemmas that the partition victims had to encounter in Bengal.

Rup Kumar Barman's paper, 'State Formation, Legitimization and Cultural Change: A Study of Koch Kingdom', explains the evolution of Koch kingdom in process of state formation in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century AD. The paper gives an interesting account of the process of Hinduization of the Koch tribals and explains how the then emerging Koch kingdom, legitimized its rule by taking up developmental activities on the one hand, and initiating cultural change on the other hand. The paper discusses the role played by Koch rulers in spreading Hindu culture and encouraging the use of non-tribal languages and literatures among the tribes. The author also talks about cultural synthesis that took place in Koch kingdom as a result of interaction between indigenous tribal practices and extraneous Hindu rituals.

The other four papers included in this issue are related in one or the other way to economic development of the northeast. In the paper, 'Food Processing Industry: Opportunities in North East Region of India', the authors - throw light on the possibilities of developing agri-business and food processing industry in the northeast, wherein the land is suited for growth of horticulture. The authors also discuss cultural, technological and geographical constraints and make policy recommendations to overcome the obstacles standing in the way of development of food processing industry in the region. J.U. Ahmed's paper, 'Productivity Analysis of Rural Banks in India: A Case of Meghalaya Rural Bank', discusses the performance of rural banking in India in general and Meghalaya Rural Bank (MRB) in Meghalaya in particular. Based on the study of different indicators, the author argues that MRB's performance is reasonably good; however, for better results there is a need to switch over to profitable activities and deal with loan defaulters.

In the next paper, 'Non-government Organizations and Inclusive Growth', Benjamin F. Lyngdoh focuses on the role played by NGOs in Meghalaya in promoting inclusive growth through financial inclusion. The author undertakes a case study of two NGOs operating in the field of micro-finance and shows how their contributions have ushered in inclusive growth by bringing in economic and socio-political transformation. Given that of late micro-finance intervention has been under serious scrutiny both within the country and abroad, there is a need for more critical studies to understand whether NGOs interventions through micro-finance do promote inclusive growth or not.

A section of economists have been advocating the measurement of economic growth by examining Total Factor Productivity (TFP). Sanjoy Saha in his paper, 'Total Factor Productivity Trends in India: A Convention Approach', argues that TFP trends which were very low and almost stagnant in the 1960s and 70s have begun to show positive trends since 1980s, especially after initiating liberal reforms. The author studies the growth up to 2007, when the economy was experiencing

boom. But whether the same trends are true in the recession period that Indian economy has been experiencing of late is not clear.

The issue contains reviews of three books, Nadeem Aslam's *The Blind Man's Garden*, S Thianlalmuan Ngaihte's *Elite, Identity and Politics in Manipur* and Hilary Mantel's, *Bring Up the Bodies*. The books are reviewed by Aveek Lyngdoh, Jyotirmoy Prodhani and Preetinicha B. Prodhani respectively. We appeal to the scholars to send reviews of the recent works. Those who seek their books reviewed by *The NEHU Journal* may send the copies of their books to the editor. The scholars who wish to send their papers are requested to follow the instructions given in the Notes for Contributors.

**H. Srikanth**

Editor, *The NEHU Journal*