



Department of Anthropology, Cotton University

Celebrates 76th Foundation Day 2022

On the occasion a lecture will be delivered
by Prof. Dwipen Bezbaruah
on 15th December, 2022, Thursday at 11.30 am.



About the speaker: Dwipen Bezbaruah is currently a senior Professor and former Head in the Department of Anthropology, Gauhati University. He also served as the Dean, Faculty of Science, Gauhati University. For a short period he also served as a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology, Dibrugarh University. Having specialised in archaeological anthropology he has published more than sixty research articles in journals of international and national repute and as chapters in books. He has also edited two books and one book authored by him is in press on his areas of specialisation. He has successfully guided seven scholars for award of Ph.D. degree including three UGC-JRFs. He has completed two minor research projects and three major research projects funded by IGNC, New Delhi including one as Coordinator of UGC-SAP-DRS in the department of Anthology, GU. He was also the member of Programme Advisory Board of IGNC, New Delhi and life member of Indian National Science Congress Association and Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologist of which he is the national Joint Secretary at present. He delivered several lectures as resource person and visiting faculty in several universities and institutes of the country like University of Calcutta, North Bengal University, North East Hills University, IGNC, New Delhi, Rajiv Gandhi University, Dibrugarh University etc. He also visited leading universities of United Kingdom like Brunel University, Cranfield University, and Institute of Archaeology (London University) Oxford University on academic exchange programme.

Context and Connotation of Rock Art Forms in Assam and Adjoining Territories

Abstract: Study and report on Rock Art in northeastern territories of the country have been an unveiled area. Recent investigation by the present author with the support of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi has led to recovery of rock art in the form of engraved figures in different parts of the state particularly in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam. The Brahmaputra valley in Assam and the certain areas of the hilly terrain in Assam and adjoining states namely Dima Hasao of Assam, Tharon areas of Manipur and Champhai district of Mizoram has numerous non thematic engravings on natural rock surface. The content and meaning of the engravings are an important issue which have been discussed in academic circles. While the geometric designs like the labyrinth recorded in different parts of the globe have universal underpinnings the local cultural connotations cannot be ruled out. The figure of human with in action with spreading hands and legs may be the symbolic representation of sorcerers or shaman very common even among the present tribal communities of the region. Another important feature of the occurrence of the rock art sites in this region is their association with archaeological findings which also open up newer dimension of understanding and interpretation. The interesting point is the occurrence of trident with a Buddhist motif from the site at Central Assam indicates the coexistence of Buddhist beliefs with that of Shaivism. The repetitive occurrence of footprints in Tharon areas is found to be associated with the community beliefs and practice. While the figures of animal, bird, leave on a simple term represents the nature the symbolic and the ritualistic figures have a contextual relationship with the society and culture. The paper seeks to discuss these issues in details on the basis of the primary findings by the researcher supported by secondary sources.