



NATIONAL SEMINAR

On

TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF ASSAM TEA Innovations, Sustainability and Rural Transformation



8th & 9th
OCTOBER, 2026



ORGANISED BY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
DIBRU COLLEGE, DIBRUGARH

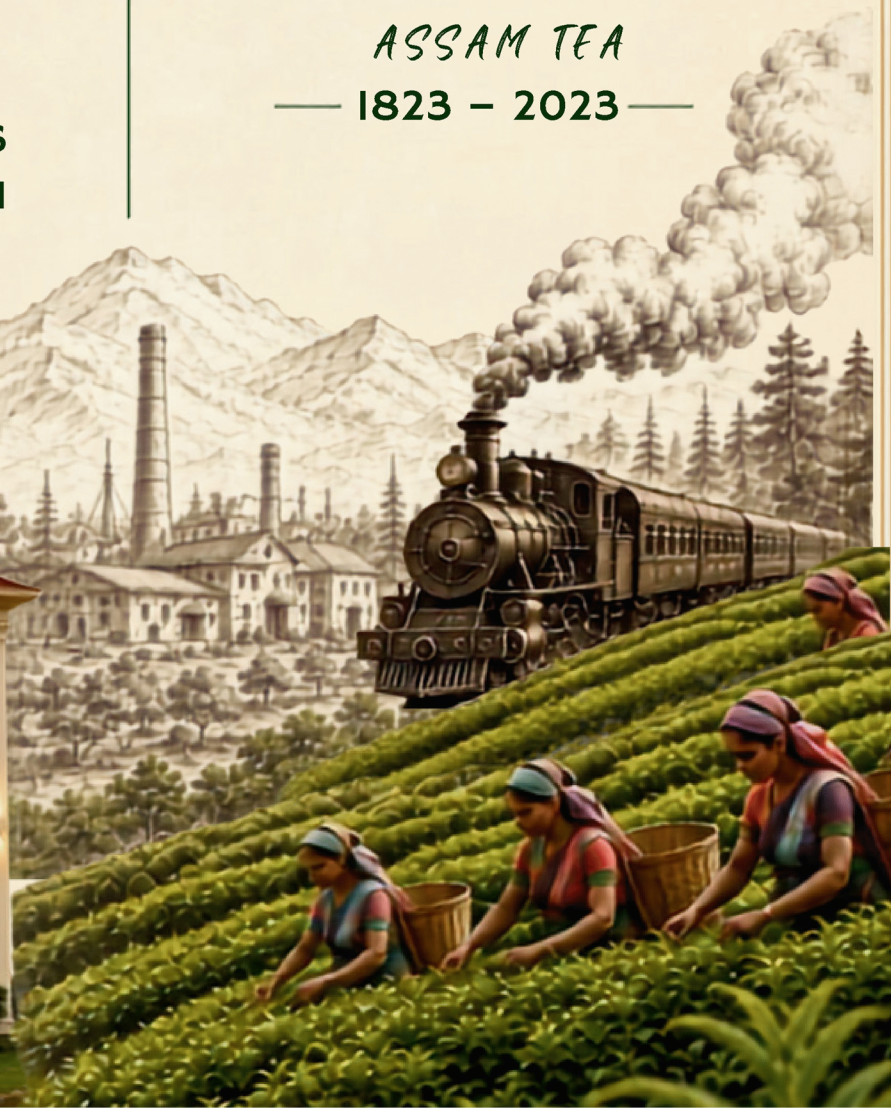


200

YEARS OF

ASSAM TEA

1823 – 2023





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INVITATION

Respected Sir/Madam,

The Department of Economics, Dibru College, Dibrugarh, with the financial assistance of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, has immense pleasure in inviting you to participate in the National Seminar on “Two Hundred Years of Assam Tea: Innovations, Sustainability and Rural Transformation” to be held on 8 – 9 October 2026 at Dibru College, Dibrugarh, Assam.

The seminar commemorates the remarkable two-hundred-year journey of Assam Tea and aims to provide a vibrant platform for academicians, researchers, policymakers, industry professionals, tea growers, research scholars and students to deliberate on the historical evolution, emerging challenges, technological innovations, sustainability issues and the role of the tea industry in rural transformation.

Your esteemed presence and valuable participation will greatly enrich the academic deliberations and contribute significantly to the success of this national event. We sincerely look forward to welcoming you to Dibru College for this important scholarly gathering.

With warm regards,

Dr. Ranjan Changmai

Principal

Dibru College, Dibrugarh, Assam

Dr. Jayanta Saud

Seminar Convenor & Head

Department of Economics

Dibru College, Dibrugarh, Assam

About the College

Established in 1963, Dibru College is one of the premier institutions of higher education in Upper Assam. Situated in the heart of Dibrugarh town amidst the lush tea gardens of Assam, the College has consistently upheld its commitment to academic excellence, social responsibility, and holistic student development. Accredited by NAAC, NIRF-listed and ISO-certified, the College has earned a distinguished reputation for quality education and institutional excellence.

Spread over an area of 8,414.14 sq. metres, the College offers undergraduate and postgraduate education in the faculties of Arts, Science, and Commerce. It currently has 25 academic departments, with 22 departments offering Honours programmes. The College has recently expanded its academic profile by introducing M.A. in Assamese, B.A.-B.Ed., and B.Sc.-B.Ed. integrated programmes, reflecting its commitment to multidisciplinary and teacher education in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The College currently serves around 3500 students, a significant proportion of whom belong to OBC, MOBC, SC, and ST communities, thereby contributing meaningfully to inclusive and equitable higher education. The institution has consistently maintained commendable academic results while promoting students' intellectual, cultural and ethical development.



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Dibru College possesses a well-equipped and fully automated central library with an extensive collection of textbooks, reference books, journals and digital resources. The campus also houses an Institutional Level Biotech Hub, Language Study Centre, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University Study Centre, NSS, NCC and has established several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with reputed academic and research institutions to promote collaborative learning, research and community engagement.

Guided by the motto of fostering all-round development through academic excellence, innovation and co-curricular engagement, Dibru College continues to emerge as a centre of quality higher education and research in Northeast India.

About the Department of Economics

The Department of Economics, Dibru College, established in 1963 along with the College, is one of its oldest academic departments. The Department currently has four faculty members committed to quality teaching, research, academic mentoring and student development. It offers a B.A./B.Sc Major (Honours) Programme in Economics under Dibrugarh University.

The Department's notable initiatives include the Annual Budget Analysis Programme, organised after the presentation of the Union Budget, which enables students to critically examine fiscal policies and their economic implications. It also publishes a Digital Magazine that provides students with a platform to showcase research articles, essays, creative writings and academic achievements.

Research is an important strength of the department. Faculty members have successfully completed several UGC- and ICSSR-sponsored research projects, with a few projects currently in progress. They also contribute to Dibrugarh University as members of Boards of Studies and expert panels. The Department has published edited academic books and actively engages in research, academic mentoring, internships and student development. Faculty members also undertake various confidential activities, examination and evaluation responsibilities at the College and University levels.

Context and Rationale of the Seminar

The discovery of indigenous tea in Assam in 1823 marked a turning point in India's economic history, transforming the region into one of the world's most significant tea-producing areas. Over the past two centuries, the Assam tea industry has evolved from a colonial plantation system into a complex agro-based industry that plays a crucial role in India's export economy and rural livelihood structure. Today, Assam contributes more than half of India's total tea production and supports millions of workers, small growers, and associated stakeholders.

Despite its economic significance, the tea industry in Assam faces several structural and emerging challenges. These include fluctuating global prices, rising production costs, labour welfare concerns, climate change impacts, declining soil fertility and the increasing competition from international producers. At the same time, there has been a notable transformation within the sector, particularly with the rise of small tea growers, technological interventions and efforts toward sustainable and organic tea production.



DIBRU COLLEGE
DIBRUGARH, ASSAM



Indian Council of
Social Science Research
NEW DELHI

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In the context of India's development trajectory, the Assam tea industry offers a unique case study of the intersection between agriculture, industry, labour and regional development. It reflects broader issues of rural transformation, income generation, migration, gender relations and human capital formation. Moreover, the bicentenary of Assam tea provides a timely opportunity to critically reflect on its historical evolution and explore future pathways for sustainable growth and inclusive development.

Against this backdrop, the proposed National Seminar seeks to bring together academicians, policymakers, industry experts, researchers and other stakeholders to engage in a multidisciplinary dialogue on the past, present and future of the Assam tea industry. The deliberations will focus on generating new research perspectives, sharing innovative practices and developing evidence-based insights that can contribute to policy formulation, academic scholarship and practical interventions for the sustainable and inclusive transformation of the tea sector.

Call for Papers

Research papers related to, but not limited to, the main theme of the seminar are invited for presentation. The papers may address theoretical, empirical, historical and policy perspectives related to the Assam tea industry. Contributions are invited on the following sub-themes:

i) Historical and Institutional Perspectives

- Evolution of the Assam tea industry since 1823
- Colonial plantation economy and its legacy
- Institutional frameworks and policy evolution in the tea sector

ii) Tea Economy and Regional Development

- Contribution of tea to Assam's economy and employment
- Tea industry and regional disparities
- Role of tea in export earnings and global trade

iii) Small Tea Growers and Rural Transformation

- Emergence and growth of small tea growers
- Value chains, value addition, market linkages and price realisation
- Role of cooperatives and collective institutions

iv) Labour, Migration and Gender Issues

- Labour relations in tea plantations
- Migration patterns and workforce dynamics
- Gender roles, wage disparities and women's empowerment

v) Sustainability and Environmental Challenges

- Climate change and its impact on tea productivity
- Soil degradation, biodiversity loss and ecological concerns
- Organic tea and sustainable cultivation practices

vi) Technology and Innovation in the Tea Sector

- Mechanisation and productivity enhancement
- Digital platforms, e-auction systems and market efficiency
- Climate-smart agriculture and precision farming



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vii) Livelihood, Income and Human Development

- Tea and rural livelihoods
- Income distribution and poverty among tea workers
- Health, education and human capital formation

viii) Policy, Governance and Future Prospects

- Role of government institutions and regulatory bodies
- Labour laws, welfare policies and social security
- Strategies for sustainable and inclusive development of the tea industry

Papers addressing interdisciplinary perspectives, empirical evidence, innovative approaches, case studies and policy implications are particularly encouraged.

Submission

Abstract Submission

Authors are requested to submit their abstracts through the Google Form available on the seminar brochure/college website.

Full Paper Submission

Authors of accepted abstracts should submit the full paper in MS Word format to:

economics.dibrucollege@gmail.com

The subject line should read:

Full Paper – Author Name – Short Title of Paper

Guidelines for Paper Submission

- **Abstract:** An extended abstract of **not more than 200 words**, along with the title of the paper, author(s)' name, affiliation, email address, and **4–6 keywords**, should be submitted.
- **Full Paper:** The manuscript should not exceed **5,000 words** (including abstract, tables, figures, references, and appendices) and should be prepared in **Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.5 line spacing**, on **A4 size** with **1-inch margins**.
- The paper should include **Introduction, Objectives, Methodology, Results & Discussion, Conclusion, and References**.
- Tables and figures should be **numbered consecutively**, with appropriate titles/captions.
- References should follow the **APA (7th Edition)** citation style.
- Submitted papers must be **original**, unpublished, and should not be under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- Selected papers, after peer review, may be considered for publication in an **edited volume/ISBN proceedings or a reputed journal**, subject to the publisher's guidelines.



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Important Dates

Activity	Date
Last Date for Abstract Submission	02 October 2026
Notification of Acceptance of Abstract	04 October 2026
Last Date for Full Paper Submission	06 October 2026

Registration

The registration fee for the seminar is as follows:

Category	Registration Fee
Faculty Members/Professionals with Paper	₹ 1000
Faculty Members/Professionals without Paper	₹ 800
Research Scholars/Students	₹ 500

Participants are requested to make the registration fee to the following account:

Beneficiary Name: Dibru College Ex Academic Fee
Account Number: 0603050010072
Bank: Punjab National Bank, Chowkidinghee(Dibrugarh)
IFSC: PUNB0060320

After making the payment, participants are requested to send the **transaction details** to the seminar email.

Accommodation

The College will **not provide accommodation** to participants. Participants are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements. However, the **Organising Committee will provide necessary assistance in identifying suitable accommodation**, if required.



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KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Prof. Madhurjya Prasad Bezbaruah

Retired Professor
Department of Economics
Gauhati University, Guwahati

Prof. Madhurjya Prasad Bezbaruah is a distinguished economist and senior academician with an extensive record of teaching, research and engagement in public policy. A former Professor and Head of the Department of Economics, Gauhati University, his principal areas of academic interest include agricultural economics, development economics and the economic issues of North-East India. He holds an M.A. in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, and a Ph.D. from Gauhati University.

During his long academic career, Prof. Bezbaruah has held several important academic and institutional responsibilities, including Head of the Department of Economics for multiple terms, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Director of the Gauhati University Institute of North East India Studies.

Over the course of his academic and professional career, Prof. Bezbaruah has held several important positions. He served as a Member of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) from 2017 to 2020, a Director on the Board of Assam Power Distribution Company Limited, and a Member of the RBI Committee on the Financial Sector Plan for the North Eastern Region, chaired by Dr. Usha Thorat, former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. He also served as a Director on the Board of Directors of the Assam Industrial Development Corporation from 2001 to 2005 and as a Member of the Advisory Committee for the preparation of the Assam Human Development Report, 2013. He is presently associated with the EGROW Foundation as an Expert.

National Seminar Organising Committee:

Chief Patron:	Prof. Jiten Hazarika Hon'ble Vice Chacellor, Dibrugarh University
Patron:	Prof. Kalyan Bhuyan Department of Physics Dibrugarh University & President, Governing Body Dibru College, Dibrugarh
Chair, Advisory Committee :	CA Jyoti Prasad Kanoi Distinguished Social Worker, Dibrugarh
Chairperson:	Dr. Ranjan Changmai Principal, Dibru College, Dibrugarh
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Convenor :	Dr. Jayanta Saud , Associate Professor, Department of Economics Dibru College, Dibrugarh
Co-Convenor :	Ms. Juri Phukan , Assistant Professor, Department of Economics Dibru College, Dibrugarh
Members :	Dr. Nandini Konwar , Associate Professor, Department of Sociology Dr. Samir Kumar Jha , Associate Professor, Department of Hindi Dr. Sangeeta Sukla , Associate Professor, Department of Education Shri Pranab Paul , Associate Professor, Department of Botany Dr. Mandakini Dutta , Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry Dr. Lachit Saikia , Assistant Professor, Department of Physics Dr. Jonali Das , Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science Dr. Deepshikha Moran , Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology Dr. Himadri Sarma , Assistant Professor, Department of Sanskrit

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

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**FOR
ABSTRACT
SUBMISSION
SCAN
THE QR CODE**

