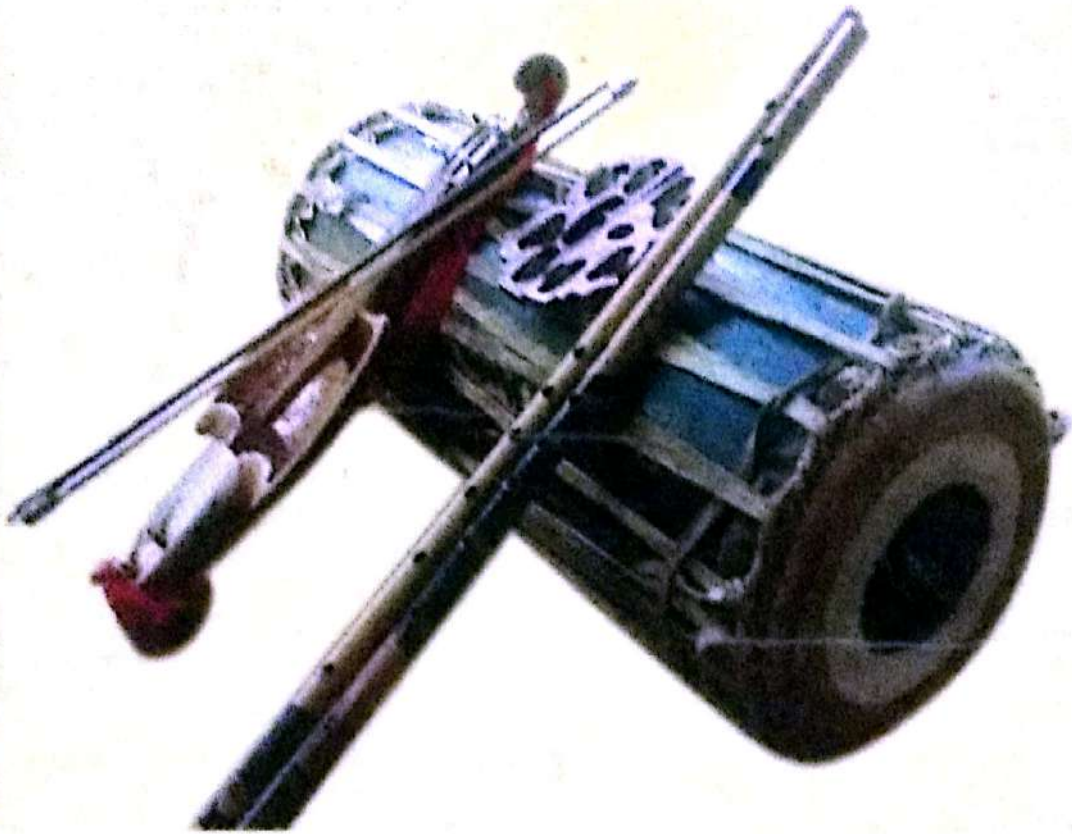


# **The Tribal at the Threshold of the Millennium**



**Editor**  
**Dhananjay Brahma**



# ***The Tribal at the Threshold of the Millennium***

Department of Assamese  
Bengtol College Bengtol  
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Editor-  
Dhananjoy Brahma



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## **Acknowledgement**

“The Tribal at the Threshold of the Millennium” is the first ever book produced by Bodo and Philosophy Deptt., Bengtol College. With the modest aim to make review of the ongoing debates over the Impact of Modernity to the traditional societies, this book is intended to serve as introduction to the problems, prospects and the remedial issues prevailing in various indigenous people of the North-East states of India. The book is edited under the vigil responsibility of Publication Cell with the intention to foster awareness for further research and orientation. If one finds the book harmful, sensitive or malicious, then suggestions are most welcome. The views or the articles published are those of writers and not necessarily of the Editor or the publication Cell.

I owe a lot to my colleague editors, without their tireless efforts the publication of this book would have not been possible. And I wish to express my indebtedness to all the academicians for their contribution of valuable articles and immense thanks to the Principal, Bengtol College.

Khupboi Vaiphei  
Secretary, Publication Cell  
Bengtol College, Bengtol



## Editorial

Modernism or Modernity is a phenomenon that undermines or negates traditional norms, values and institutions to achieve newness or novelty. This negotiation for novelty or what the U.S. poet and critic Ezra Pound called "Make It New" is the core of modernism. Starting in the last part of the 19th century, modernism has brought drastic changes in every sphere of human life. It has not spared any community or nation but left it marked with its lasting impacts. The tribes of Assam also could not remain aloof from the process of change and modification brought by modernity. Therefore, it is undeniable fact that modernity has uplifted the conditions of the tribes of Assam to a great extent, but there arise certain issues of great significance that need to be urgently addressed. Among these, the very survival of identity, tradition, culture and religion of the indigenous tribes which are being hybridized and even marginalized to the point of extinction need serious intellectual deliberation and urgent remedial actions.

*The Tribal at the Threshold of the Millennium*, a bi-lingual book contains research papers and articles of different scholars who made in depth and detached studies on the impact of modernity on different aspects of tribal life, culture and tradition of Assam. While highlighting the problems and prospects of the influence of modernity on the tribes, most of the papers also suggest some significant measures to tackle the problems that have emerged due to this influence. It is sincerely hoped, the book will be of immense help for those who are interested to know about tribal life, culture and tradition of Assam as well as for those scholars and researchers who desire to undertake further research on the same area. It will also help decision making authorities in adopting policies related to welfare of tribes.

The accountability of the thought, content and reference of the papers/articles solely lies with the authors concerned.

I am very much grateful to Dr. R.K. Narzary, the Chairman of the Editorial Board for his wise advise on all matters related to this venture. I am also indebted to all members of the Editorial Board, who helped me in many ways in selecting and editing the papers/ articles. I am ever obliged to them.

Last but not the least, I offer my sincere thanks to the owner and devoted workers of the Oasis Offset Printers for taking the pain of printing this book in short period of time.

Dhananjoy Brahma  
22<sup>nd</sup>, August, 2013





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# **ENGLISH SECTION**

**(A)**

**Impact of Modernity on Tribes of Assam**