

**Dedicated to Mother Earth**  
**in gratitude for her resilience and boundless gifts.**



# DULIAJAN COLLEGE

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Dist. Dibrugarh (Assam)

NAAC Re-Accredited (3rd Cycle) with B+ Grade

(Registered Under The Society Registration Act. XXI of 1860)

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## Message from the Principal : Duliajan College



It gives me immense pleasure to learn about the initiative undertaken by the North-East India Forum of Green Studies, under the aegis of the Department of English, Duliajan College, to publish a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary research journal entitled *EcoVisions: Thinking Beyond Disciplinary Silos – A Peer-Reviewed Interdisciplinary Research Journal of Green Studies*. At a time when the world is grappling with unprecedented ecological crises, environmental degradation, and climate-induced socio-cultural transformations, the launch of a scholarly platform dedicated to Green Studies is both timely and intellectually significant.

Higher education institutions today carry a responsibility that extends far beyond classroom teaching. They are expected to generate knowledge, nurture critical inquiry, and contribute meaningfully to society through research that addresses contemporary challenges. In this context, the proposed journal represents an important academic intervention that seeks to engage with environmental concerns not in isolation, but through an interdisciplinary framework that integrates literature, culture, ecology, ethics, history and social sciences. Such an approach is particularly relevant in the Indian context, and more so in Northeast India, a region marked by rich biodiversity, indigenous knowledge systems, and complex human-nature relationships.

The idea of “thinking beyond disciplinary silos” as articulated in the title of the journal, reflects a progressive and forward-looking academic vision. Environmental issues cannot be adequately understood through the lens of a single discipline. They demand collaborative thinking and cross-disciplinary dialogue.

By encouraging contributions from scholars, researchers and practitioners working in Green Studies, Environmental Humanities, Cultural Ecology, Eco-criticism, Indigenous Studies and allied fields, EcoVisions promises to create a vibrant intellectual space for critical engagement and innovative scholarship.

I appreciate the commitment of the editorial team to maintaining high academic standards through a rigorous peer-review process and adherence to established editorial and ethical guidelines. The emphasis on originality, scholarly integrity and academic credibility will undoubtedly enhance the journal's reputation and ensure its acceptance within the wider academic community. The allotment of ISBN further strengthens the journal's institutional legitimacy and ensures its accessibility and recognition at national and international levels.

Duliajan College has consistently encouraged faculty members and academic forums to undertake research initiatives that contribute to knowledge production and community engagement. The proposed journal aligns well with the institution's vision of promoting research culture, interdisciplinary learning, and socially-responsive scholarship. It also offers an excellent opportunity for young researchers and early-career academics to publish their work alongside established scholars, thereby fostering mentorship, collaboration and intellectual growth.

The focus on environmental humanities and green studies is particularly significant for Northeast India, a region that occupies a unique ecological and cultural position within the subcontinent. The journal can play a crucial role in foregrounding regional ecological narratives, indigenous perspectives, and locally grounded research that often remain underrepresented in mainstream academic discourse. By providing a platform for such voices, EcoVisions can contribute to a more inclusive and nuanced understanding of environmental issues.

I would also like to commend the North-East India Forum of Green Studies for its sustained efforts in promoting ecological awareness, interdisciplinary research and academic dialogue. Initiatives such as this journal demonstrate the Forum's dedication to advancing scholarship that is not only intellectually rigorous but also ethically and socially relevant. Such efforts are essential in cultivating environmental consciousness among students, researchers and the wider academic community.

The successful publication of a peer-reviewed journal requires collective effort, perseverance and institutional support. I am confident that the editorial board with its academic expertise and commitment, will steer the journal towards excellence. I also hope that the journal will, in due course, become a recognized forum for scholarly exchange, contributing to policy discussions, pedagogical practices, and public understanding of environmental issues.

On behalf of the institution, I extend my wholehearted support to this academic endeavour. I sincerely hope that EcoVisions will evolve into a sustained and impactful publication, inspiring meaningful research and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration across institutions and regions. I wish the editorial team every success in their efforts and look forward to the journal making valuable contributions to the field of Green Studies and Environmental Humanities.

May this initiative encourage deeper reflection on our relationship with nature and reaffirm the role of academia in addressing the ecological challenges of our time.

With best wishes for the successful publication and future growth of the journal.

Dr. Lok Bikash Gogoi  
Principal  
Duliajan College  
Duliajan



## Assam Pollution Control Board

(Department of Environment Forests & Climate Change ::  
Government of Assam)

অসম প্রদূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ পৰিষদ

(অসম চৰকাৰৰ বন, পৰিৱেশ আৰু জলবায়ু পৰিৱৰ্তন বিভাগ)

*Dr. Arup Kumar Misra*  
Chairman

### Goodwill Message



I am extremely happy to know that “The North-East Forum of Green Studies” established by the Department of English of Duliajan College, Assam, is going to publish an Interdisciplinary Research Journal “EcoVisions: Thinking Beyond Disciplinary Silos”; yet another effort to establish the fact that we cannot achieve sustainable solutions for burning issues like environmental pollution, resource depletion, climate change and eco-disasters by remaining in silos and disciplinary boundaries. The world, at large has accepted that “Environmental Studies” is an emerging multidisciplinary discourse; integrating knowledge from natural sciences with social sciences and humanities, to holistically understand complex human-environment interactions and then offer comprehensive perspectives and foster creative problem-solving for a complex, interconnected world.

I understand, this publication has invited research essays, scientific studies, creative writings and critical reflections on the complex environmental issues that loom large over humanity. What are these complex issues? Is it dwindling natural resources and their conservation and management? Or is it degrading ecological systems and loss in biodiversity? As widely believed, is it mere environmental pollution and control? I think, none of these are fully true or independent issue. Without studies on human population and environment, their culture and heritage, their compulsions and conflicts, we cannot create any sustainable roadmap for the future. The Sustainable Development Goals also do not talk about only science and technology as enablers to solve our problems. Abundant social issues in relation to development and environment, poverty alleviation, gender equity and dignity are equally emphasized in these Goals to make the world a better place to stay by 2030.

This initiative seems to me quite refreshing and innovative. We have seen innumerable Seminars, Conferences, and Symposia etc. in the past addressing environmental problems. But for the first time I am seeing the Department of English of a College breaking the conventional silos and embracing a large number of experts, academicians, researchers and students to voice the concerns in a peer reviewed journal, which I believe is not only very unusual, but the best thing to do under the present state of affairs.

I wish a grand success of “EcoVisions: Thinking Beyond Disciplinary Silos” and extend my best wishes to each and every member of “North-East Forum of Green Studies.”

  
10.01.2026  
(Dr. Arup Kumar Misra)

Chairman, Assam Pollution Control Board  
&  
President, Assam Science Society

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## Message from the Principal



It is highly commendable that North-East India Forum of Green Studies, under the aegis of the Department of English, Duliajan College, is coming up with an Interdisciplinary Research Journal on a very contemporary approach to studying 'literature' and 'culture' from the 'environment' perspective. I am sure the insightful and well researched articles published in the book titled EcoVisions: Thinking Beyond Disciplinary Silos: A Peer Reviewed Interdisciplinary Research Journal of Green Studies will contribute substantially towards popularizing ecological and environmental themes in literature and thereby contribute towards greater awareness on the importance of the environment for the sustenance of mankind.

*Choudhury*  
(Dr. Mriganka Choudhury)  
Principal  
Women's College, Tinsukia  
Principal  
Women's College, Tinsukia

## EDITORIAL

In this volume, we bring together a rich constellation of research essays, scientific studies, creative writings, and critical reflections on the dynamic intersections between environment, science, and the humanities- conceived broadly and pursued across disciplinary boundaries. Our aim is to honour and extend the expanding field of environmental studies by offering a forum for voices that explore how scientific inquiry, literary expression, cultural practices, and philosophical thought converge to shape our understanding of the more-than-human world.

The urgency of such a project is underscored by the scale of the environmental challenges we face- from climate change and biodiversity loss to environmental justice, sustainability, planetary health, and human co-existence with natural systems. At the same time, science offers empirical depth and technical insight, while literature and allied disciplines provide resources of imagination, ethics, memory and narrative- together forming indispensable tools for comprehending and responding to these overlapping crises.

Northeast India stands today as one of the world's most extraordinary ecological frontiers- a region where biological abundance and cultural complexity are inseparably intertwined. Stretching from the Eastern Himalayas to the floodplains of the Brahmaputra and Barak, and from dense tropical forests to wetlands, grasslands and shifting river islands, the landscape hosts an astonishing range of flora and fauna. It is recognised globally as part of two of the planet's major biodiversity hotspots: the Eastern Himalaya and the Indo-Burma region. These vast ecological reserves shelter many endangered mammals; rare orchids and medicinal plants; and an extraordinary bird population that draw researchers from across the world. Just as remarkable is the region's cultural biodiversity: many ethnic groups, each with unique ecological knowledge systems, land-use practices, oral traditions, food cultures, and rituals that reflect intimate relationships with forests, rivers and seasonal cycles. In many communities, agricultural practices such as jhum, water management traditions, and forest stewardship are deeply embedded in cosmology, storytelling and everyday life. For both literary scholars and scientists, the Northeast thus becomes a compelling site of inquiry, where cultural imagination and ecological reality overlap, and where the study of environment cannot be separated from language, identity, memory and lived experience.

Despite this richness, systematic research infrastructures that bring these varied perspectives together remain scarce. Environmental studies in the Northeast- whether in biodiversity science, climate research, anthropology, literature, or cultural studies- have often unfolded in fragmented pockets:

isolated projects, discipline-specific publications, or short-term initiatives without continuity. While scientific institutions in the region perform valuable ecological surveys and environmental monitoring, and while humanities and social-science departments document oral histories, narratives of land, or environmental conflicts, there is little institutional space where these strands can converge in an organised, sustained manner. As a result, the enormous potential of the region as an integrated environmental research zone remains under-realised. There is no formal academic forum dedicated to synthesising ecological science with cultural knowledge, to studying environmental crisis alongside indigenous environmental ethics, or to examining biodiversity loss through the lenses of policy, community resilience, literature, and sustainability studies. At a time when the Northeast is facing deforestation, riverbank erosion, urbanisation pressures, resource extraction, and shifting climatic patterns, the absence of a structured academic platform limits both the depth and the reach of research that the region urgently needs. A region so ecologically alive deserves institutions that can match its complexity- institutions capable of building conversations across disciplines, nurturing local scholarship, and making the Northeast a recognised centre for environmental thought.

It is in response to this gap that the North-East India Forum of Green Studies, under the aegis of the Department of English, Duliajan College, positions itself as a crucial and timely initiative. The Forum seeks to create a network of schools, colleges, universities in order to promote a sustained academic environment in which environmental enquiry and awareness can flourish as an interdisciplinary and intergenerational endeavour. The research journal associated with the Forum provides a dedicated platform for scholars, writers, teachers, scientists, and practitioners to explore ecological concerns from multiple angles: from biodiversity conservation and climate modelling to indigenous ecological wisdom, environmental justice, literary ecocriticism, and analyses of cultural responses to environmental change. It offers a space where empirical field studies can be read alongside community narratives, where debates on sustainability can engage with philosophical discussions of ethics and responsibility, and where the environmental challenges facing Northeast India can be documented, analysed and imagined afresh. In doing so, the Forum fulfils its core aim- to foster an intellectually rigorous, collaborative and region-rooted platform for environmental research.

Why frame a volume around environment, science, and humanities together? Because environmental realities cannot be siloed. Scientific data, ecological modelling, and environmental monitoring tell us *what is happening*; cultural narratives, historical memory, and ethical inquiry help us understand *what it means*; creative imagination and public humanities help us consider what can be done. One line of scholarship argues that literature and cultural forms play a formative role in shaping environmental consciousness, fostering empathy and

expanding awareness beyond technical or policy discourse (Radhakrishnan). As Radhakrishnan notes, literature has long served “as a powerful medium for shaping human perspectives on nature and the environment.” Alongside this, scientific research- hydrology, climatology, botany, ecology, conservation studies provide essential frameworks for understanding environmental processes, disruptions, and resilience. This volume therefore not only confines itself to the analysis and exploration of literary narratives but includes essays from scientific perspectives that examine ecosystems, biodiversity, species interactions, and climate dynamics. Together, these modes of inquiry will allow the readers to hold both empirical and imaginative dimensions of environmental life.

A defining feature of this volume is its consciously interdisciplinary orientation. While some essays employ close reading or literary/cultural analysis, others draw from environmental science, ecology, film studies, and social-science methodologies. ‘Interdisciplinarity’ here is not merely additive; it invites us to rethink categories like “nature,” “human,” “animal,” or “environment,” and to consider how knowledge systems from both the sciences and the humanities can complement each other. This generates productive challenges (terminological differences, methodological divergences) but also profound opportunities (holistic understanding, shared conceptual frameworks).

In the Anthropocene, where human activity is geologically significant, the traditional boundaries between natural science and humanities blur. Scientific observation and cultural imagination must work in tandem. The essays in this volume show how interdisciplinary collaboration allows us to attend not only to texts, but also to ecosystems, infrastructures, climate systems, species, rivers, forests, coasts, and communities.

This book offers a comprehensive, interdisciplinary exploration of ecological consciousness in literature, culture and contemporary environmental discourse, situating the Anthropocene as both a material condition and a narrative framework. The chapters introduce the concept of the Anthropocene and ecocriticism as a whole and examine various Indian and Northeast Indian literary texts- such as works by Easterine Kire, Kanseng Shyam, Janice Pariat, and Bhupendra Chandra Deka- to reveal how regional narratives portray humans as agents, victims and witnesses of environmental degradation while preserving indigenous ecological wisdom. Classical and Romantic traditions are revisited through Kalidasa, Wordsworth and Mary Shelley to demonstrate earlier nature-centric worldviews that challenge modern anthropocentrism. Comparative cultural chapters analyse Asian animated films like *Ponyo* and *Dashavatar*, highlighting myth, spirituality, and storytelling as tools of environmental education. The book further extends ecocritical inquiry to ecofeminism, food practices of indigenous

communities, river pollution, microplastics in agriculture, and energy transitions in contemporary India. By combining literary analysis with socio-environmental studies, the book argues that literature and culture remain vital for fostering ethical responsibility, ecological awareness and sustainable coexistence in an age of environmental crisis.

In assembling this volume, we reached out to scholars and practitioners across the sciences, social sciences, and humanities to reflect on how their respective methods and forms of evidence inform their engagement with environmental issues. We believe that the richness of this volume lies in this interplay: essays that might combine close reading with analyses of rivers, migrations, watershed histories; contributions that draw on ecological science, policy studies, creative practice, and community knowledge; and research that links environmental challenges to questions of justice and sustainability. This also highlights our intention to create a space where different forms of inquiry- academic, experiential, artistic, and scientific- can speak to one another. By encouraging this cross-disciplinary engagement, the volume aims to broaden how environmental issues are understood and addressed, grounding reflection not only in interpretation but also in practice, governance, and collaborative knowledge-making.

Several conceptual frames recur throughout the volume and merit mention here:

- **The Environmental Imagination:** The concept of an environmental imagination helps us understand how different knowledge systems- scientific, cultural, literary, and experiential- shape the ways people see, feel, and respond to nature. While Buell emphasises literature's role in cultivating an "environmental imagination," today the term also encompasses how ecological research, environmental education, field studies, and scientific communication contribute to challenging anthropocentrism and opening new ethical possibilities.
- **Anthropocene and Capitalocene:** Contemporary scholarship increasingly situates environmental studies- across science, humanities, and social sciences- within the era of the Anthropocene, the epoch in which human activity has become geologically significant. The Capitalocene frame, which foregrounds capitalism's role in ecological crisis, further expands this perspective. An interdisciplinary approach helps us engage not only with cultural narratives but also with geology, climate science, Earth-systems research, infrastructure studies, and ecology, enabling a fuller understanding of environment.
- **Multispecies and Posthuman Perspectives :** Moving beyond human-centred frameworks, many essays explore the lives and agencies of non-human beings, drawing from ecology, biodiversity research, conservation science, anthropology, and posthumanist theory. These perspectives reveal ecological networks, symbiosis, microbial life, and the dissolving boundaries between human and

environment-highlighting that environmental relations are always multispecies entanglements.

- **Environmental Justice, Race and Colonial Legacies:** The intersection of environment and society is shaped by questions of power: who bears the brunt of environmental degradation, whose land and resources are extracted, whose voices are silenced in environmental policy? Approaches from environmental science, geography, sociology, indigenous studies, and ecofeminism converge here. This frame brings into focus environmental racism, climate vulnerability, colonial land histories, resource inequalities, and the need for inclusive, community-centred ecological futures.

- **Interdisciplinary Ethics and Praxis:** Finally, the volume asks: what roles do science, scholarship, cultural work, and creative practices play in environmental ethics and collective action? Interdisciplinary praxis includes scientific research informing policy, community-based environmental monitoring, creative and public humanities increasing ecological awareness, and pedagogical initiatives fostering environmental responsibility. Together, these practices imagine and enact regenerative futures.

Editors  
*EcoVisions*