

**NATIONAL WEBINAR  
ON**



**Eco-criticism  
&**

**Indian English Literatures**

*Re-citing the perspective in the present  
scenario*

# NATIONAL WEBINAR

ON

## *Eco-Criticism and Indian English Literatures: Re-citing the perspective in the present scenario*

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

The Department of English in Collaboration with IQAC, Government Degree College, Khumulwng takes the honour of inviting your participation in Two Days National Webinar on “Eco-Criticism and Indian English Literatures: Re-citing the perspective in the present scenario” which is scheduled on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

### CONCEPT NOTE

Though evolved and popularized in recent times and applied mainly in the context of literatures produced in English, the term ‘Eco-criticism’ which generally stands for a nature-centric concern in poets and writers, has ever been an active influence actuating literary consciousness though in an oblique way. For example, the exaltation of nature over human artifice in Shakespeare, the pastoral charm in Spenser or the romantics’ treatment of nature as the wick and flicker of joy of imagination and creation only highlight the primacy of nature more as an



inducement to creativity than as an incentive to ecological anxiety. The issues concerning the natural world facing severe environmental crisis at present and its complex relation with man which were once peripheral to literary interest, have now led to the rise of a broad range of questions, problems and texts. A commitment to environmentality and an earth-centric affiliation towards both the flora and fauna around us overall determines the scope of eco-criticism in literature. If all imaginative writings in India have their roots in the epics as it is commonly believed, the *Khandavadahan* episode in the *Mahabharata* which deals with the saga of ecocide for royal purpose of founding the capital *Indraprastha*, serves as a central metaphor in determining the kind of relation between man (the Pandavas) and the animal kingdom (chiefly represented by the reptile *Takshaka* in the epic) which, apart from the immediate context of the epic, has a rich teleological importance in shaping the destiny of a nation. Significantly, the use of myth both as archetype and structure, also often becomes a part of a somewhat eco-critical strategy of poets and writers of modern times who seem to appear more as denizens of earth than those of the world by locating human experience in a larger continuum of time and place. Even in the works of nationalist writers such as R.K.Narayan, the use of myth is often imbued with a strong ecological concern (though in a veiled manner), particularly in a novel for example, *The Man-eater of Malgudi*. Again, in the English literature of the North-East India, the poets and writers most often deal with the creation myths to offer in their writings a glimpse of the lost Elysium beyond the haze of dull contemporaneity.

In the context of present social stalemate in the wake of the pandemic and the common human apathy to the ecosystem, with the education system undergoing a paradigm shift with the dice heavily loaded to the virtual modes of teaching-learning as the only viable means of instruction, the teaching of literature sans the physical presence of both teachers and students has posed an unprecedented challenge to pedagogy. The proposed webinar would help the exchange of views and ideas and hopefully this would lead to the evolving of new techniques and innovations in this direction.

## SUB THEMES

1. Ecocriticism : Generic Development and Recent Trends
2. Ecology, Poetics, Theory: Interdisciplinarity and Literature Departments
3. Ecocriticism: A Cultural Formation or Social Activism
4. Text and Narrative: Perspectives on Indian English Writing
5. Eco-poetics, Ecocriticism and Ecofeminism: Critical Approaches to the Literature of the North East.
6. Treatment of Nature as a cultural construct in literature.
7. Nature, Myth and Story-telling in the literature of the North-East.
8. Any other theme not confined to, yet related to the topic.

### PATRON

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**Last date of online abstract submission: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Kindly send your abstract within 500 word limit at: [arunmukherjee2007@gmail.com](mailto:arunmukherjee2007@gmail.com)

**Phone : 9436475539 (Convener)**

**Webinar Date : 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Webinar Time : 02 PM to 05 PM**

**Platform : Google Meet**

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