



ECONOMIA

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Tribute to a Gifted Writer



Dr. Chinta Mani Sharma
Principal, Biswanath College

"It is as natural to die as it is to be born" - Francis Bacon
Yes, the death is inevitable for every creature of this planet and Homen Borgohain, a prolific writer with 13 novels, 5 collection of short stories, one collection of poems, 3 autobiographies, 23 collections of different writings, 12 edited books, one collection of translated stories and 9 books for children and teenagers to his credit, also breathed his last on 12 May, 2021. He possessed a refined and dignified personality and was successful in carving a niche for himself in the domain of Indian literature by his magical words. He was a gifted writer who had a deep sense of understanding of human life and fortified the Assamese language and literature by bringing out myriad facets of human life through his simple and unique style of writing. Born in 1932 and having graduated from Cotton College, Borgohain got an opportunity by dint of his efficiency to serve State civil services as Sub Deputy collector in 1955. He didn't continue the job and quit the lucrative position to join as editor in "Nilachal". Henceforth he joined as editor in "Saptahik Nagarik" and "Lokayat" besides a special correspondent of Bangla daily "Ajkal". He also served as editor of "Asom Bani", "Amar Asom", "Dainik Batori" for different periods. He was associated with journalism for long five decades. He grabbed prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award, Assam Prakashan Parishad Award, Assam Valley Literature Award and many other awards. He served as President of Assam Sahitya Sabha. Homen Borgohain has left unmatched legacy with literary and journalist contributions for which he was considered to be one of the most respected and authoritative figures on Assamese and North Eastern life, both in literature and media. The void created by his journey to heavenly abode will never be compensated. Pray God for his soul to rest in eternal peace.

ECONOMIA

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Editorial

It gives us immense pleasure to present the first issue of "Economia", the annual newsletter of Economics Department of Biswanath College. The vision of the newsletter is to highlight the departmental activities which have been carried out throughout the year as well as the writing skills of our students on various socio-economic issues. This issue contains some agriculture related topics like organic farming, farm mechanization, third agricultural revolution etc. Besides these, the recent pandemic and its impact have taken place in the writings of some contributors.

The world is now in the grip of Covid-19 pandemic. Severe impact of this pandemic is seen in terms of socio-economic activity as well as a loss of human lives. Not only economy but also all the sectors are severely affected by this pandemic. The scale of disruption caused by the global pandemic is so deep that it is shrinking the global economy. Various countries are resorting to lockdown to flatten the curve of the infection. People are confining to their homes, businesses are shutting down and almost all activities are ceasing. A recession in true senses is started with the shrinking of demand and ceasing of growth. It is the need of the hour to adopt alternate principles like 'Shift towards localization', 'Cash conservation', 'Supply Chain resilience and innovation' to cope up with this changing situation. Health facilities should also be improved, vaccination against Covid-19 should be in full swing, social distancing should be maintained strictly and mask as well as sanitizer should be used whenever people are going outside.

Besides, these it is the time to respect the nature, keep the emotional bonding among the relationships, express new ideas, nurture new hobbies and explore own creativeness.





Cooperative Farming: Why is it needed?

Cooperative farming refers to an organization in which each member farmers remain the owner of his lands individually but farming is done jointly. Profit is distributed among the farmer members in the ratio of land owned by them and wages are distributed among farmer members according to number of days they worked. In other words, Cooperative farming refers to pooling of land and practicing joint agriculture. Cooperative farming is not a new concept in India. Since ancient times, Indian farmers have been giving mutual aid to each other in weeding, harvesting etc. Cooperative farming is needed because of the following potentials and benefits:

1. Economies of Scale:

- As the size of the farm increases, the per hectare cost of using tube well, tractor etc. comes down.
- In case of small farms, some land is wasted in forming the boundaries among them. When they are combined into a big cooperative farm, then farmers can also cultivate boundary land.
- Overall, large farms are economically more beneficial than small farms.

2. Cooperative farming solves the problem of sub-division and fragmentation of holdings.

3. Cooperative farm has more men-material-money resources to increase irrigation potential and land productivity. Members would not have able to do it individually on their small farm.

4. Case studies generally point out that with cooperative farming, per acre production increases.

Nikita Hazarika & Henashree Das
BA 5th Semester



The second wave of Covid 19

We are experiencing the world's worst outbreak- the Covid-19 pandemic. Death tolls are transforming to heart-wrenching tragedy. After the steep decline in the Corona virus disease in September, 2020, people were expecting normalcy, but very soon we came under the grip of second wave of this pandemic. The situation is now becoming worst day by day. Many people have to give in their life in front of time. And many are fighting for it. This virus is affecting differently in different people. 10 February 2021, is assumed as the starting date of the second wave of this virus in India.

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Women in North-East India: Are they really Empowered ?



Are women really empowered? This question arises in the mind of the people not only in the North East part of India but also abroad. Northeast India is the easternmost region of our country. There are many ethnic groups in North East India, people speak different languages, have different beliefs, customs, traditions and a very vibrant history. For long we have observed that in the North Eastern states men and women have hand in hand for the development of the states. But there are still certain norms that restrict the women from taking part socially and certain customs and traditions still prevail that women have to follow blindly. Still it is believed that the tribal women of North East India enjoy a better position in the society as compared to other women.

For the empowerment of women education plays a vital role. An educated woman can face the vagaries of life without any fear. Nevertheless, in Assam almost 67% of women are educated so education is the only answer for women empowerment. In the middle of many restrictions and norms, women of north-east India have proved themselves by climbing the stairs of success. Sanjukta parashar is the best example of it; she is the first woman to be appointed as an IPS officer in Assam. She is also known as the "Iron Lady of Assam". Now, how can we forget about the great freedom fighter of Assam- Kanaklata Barua, who was also a part of Quit India Movement? She was not only a strong leader but a strong woman in her personal life as well.

Therefore, we can say that women of northeast India are not totally but partially empowered. There are still some places where development and empowerment of women is lacking behind, but with time women of India will definitely be empowered and developed not only through education but also on the various aspects like economic, social, and political.

Dipika Sharma.
BA 5th Semester.

The second corona virus wave is of great concern because this new mutant SARS-COV is very contagious and has learned to dodge our antibodies. Even the 18-45 age groups, who supposedly have strong immunity, are susceptible. This group has been classified as the COVID-19 super-spreader. They are the ones who have to be out in public the most. This new COVID-19 strain is also infecting children.

Even though the new strains of COVID are accompanied by new symptoms that do not mean the old symptoms are no longer seen. Some new COVID-19 symptoms have been noticed. Sometimes just one of these symptoms is exhibited -Loose motion, Conjunctivitis, Vomiting, Fatigue, Body ache, Headache etc.

Limon Hazarika
BA 3rd Semester

Necessity of third agricultural revolution in Indian Agriculture..

During many phases, Indian agriculture has faced many revolutions for its growth and development. Among them the Green Revolution, which was adopted during the third plan i.e., during 1960's. As suggested by the team of experts of the Ford Foundation in its report "India's crisis of food and steps to meet it" in 1959, the Government of India decided to shift the strategy followed in agriculture sector of the country. Thus, the traditional agricultural practices followed in India are gradually replaced by Modern Agricultural Techniques. For which the Indian Agriculture is transformed and reached at the height of growth. The Green Revolution was introduced by Mexican Prof. Norman Borlaug, with the creation of its high yielding varieties of seeds. Therefore, the Green Revolution starved off famine by raising crop yields dramatically. Accordingly, the "White Revolution" also known as "Operation Flood" introduced by Dr. Verghese Kurien in 1970's, turned India into the largest milk producing Country.

The Third Agricultural Revolution is also known as the Cold Revolution. Due to increase in agriculture production, food losses have also increased and for which the vast majority of farmers remained trapped in the cycle of poverty. The success and the problems are closely connected. In order to safeguard the agricultural products and to store it for a long period of time, India urgently needs a Third Revolution or Cold Revolution to build sustainable cold chain connecting farmers to cities and allow small farmers to develop entrepreneurial agri-business serving the growing urban middle class. With the formation of large cold chains in India, the small farmers and the farmers will be benefited as their products will not be wasted and these products will reach to other states or countries in a good form. The New Cold Chain will conserve huge amounts of food that currently go to waste, leapfrog the old polluting technology that dominate in the developed countries.

India is the world's fastest growing economy and its urban middle class is expanding fast. But due to inadequate cold chain, India is losing this opportunity to the foreigners. During April-September, 2015 report suggests that India's apple imports stood at \$154 million which domestic production declined by as much as 25 percent in a year. So, in order to develop this state, India needs Third Agricultural Revolution or Cold Chain Revolution.

Dipti Gowala, BA 5th Semester

Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic on Global Economy



The economic damage from the global COVID-19 corona virus pandemic cannot be measured properly; however it has severe negative impacts on the global economy. Early estimates predicated that, should the virus become a global pandemic, most major economies will lose at least 2.9 percent of their gross domestic product (GDP) over 2020. This forecast was already restated to a GDP loss of 4.5 percent. To put this number in perspective, global GDP was estimated at around 87.55 trillion U.S. dollars in 2019 - meaning that a 4.5 percent drop in economic growth amounts to almost 3.94 trillion U.S. dollars in lost economic output.

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Global stock markets have also suffered dramatic falls. The Dow Jones reported its largest-ever single day loss of almost 3,000 points on March 16, 2020 - beating its previous record of 2,300 point that was set only four days earlier.

The economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is largely driven by a fall in demand in the global economy. This is clearly seen in heavily affected industries such as travel and tourism. To slow the spread of the virus, countries have placed restrictions on travel and many people could not purchase flights for holidays or business trips. So the airline companies lost planned revenue and as a result they had to cut their expenses by reducing the number of flights they operate. Without government assistance, eventually airlines will also need to lay off staff to cut more costs. Again with falling demand for oil and new cars as daily commutes, social events and holidays are no longer possible. As companies start to reduce employment to make up for lost revenue, the worry is that this will create a downward economic spiral when these newly unemployed workers can no longer afford to purchase as many goods and services as before. This dynamic makes the economists contemplate whether the COVID-19 pandemic could lead to a global recession on the scale of the Great Depression.

However, there are also reasons to be hopeful that this worst-case scenario can be avoided. The effects of a demand-driven recession can be countered with government spending. Consequently, many governments are increasing their provision of monetary welfare to citizens, and ensuring businesses have access to the funds needed to keep their staff employed throughout the pandemic. In addition, the specific nature of this crisis means that some sectors may benefit from it. E-commerce, food retail, and the healthcare industry provide at least some economic growth to offset the damage. Also, a crisis-induced movement to online activities (working from home, purchasing goods online, contacting family, etc.) can be observed. It gives an opportunity for IT solution providers to increase their market shares. The crisis may have a clear end date when all restrictions can be lifted - this seems to be possible when the majority of the global population is vaccinated against COVID-19. It could then enable the global economy to experience a sharp rebound once the pandemic is over.

Hiranya Saikia, BA 3rd Semester

Multiple Cropping

Multiple cropping is the practice or system of growing of two or more crops in the same piece of land. Instead of growing one crop in the field, we can also grow two or more than two crops in the field in the same season. The multiple cropping systems can be divided into two categories- Sequential cropping and Intercropping. Sequential cropping is the system of cultivation of two or more crops one after another on the same field in a year. On the other hand, Intercropping refers to raising two or more crops together on the same field in a year. We can improve multiple cropping by replacing the low yielding components and by introducing short duration crops, such as soya bean, potato, sunflower into the existing multiple cropping system. Some advantages of multiple cropping systems are as follows:

- 1) It permits cultivation of more than one spice.
- 2) It permits the best possible use of the land resources.

Increasing multiple cropping in suitable areas could increase global harvested areas of currently 1.29 billion hectares by 87-395 million hectares. Thus, multiple cropping is a useful strategy to feed the growing global population more sustainably.

Manisha Chetri, BA 5th Semester



Farm Mechanisation

Farm mechanization refers to the development and use of machines that can take the place of human and animal power in agricultural processes. Impact of mechanization on labour employment was Controversial issue particularly in labour surplus Country like India. The available Evidences suggest that mechanization had helped in overall increase in employment of Human labour. Assam like other states of India is predominantly an agricultural state. However, development of Agricultural sector is still less as compared to other States of the country. Mechanization has often been considered by the critics as detrimental for densely Populated "labour surplus" countries as negative Agricultural employment effects of mechanization in terms of displacement of labour and tenant farmers. Farm mechanization increases on-farm human labour marginally, whereas the increase in off- farm labour such as industrial production of tractors and ancillaries was much more. That farm mechanization displaced animal power to the extent of 50 to 100% but resulted in lesser time for farm work. Many findings revealed that farm mechanization had a tendency to replace human labour. Farm mechanization accompanied by use of new seed technology and adoption of modern cultivation methods had a beneficial effect on employment. But it has also some negative side effects of farm mechanization, it include a smaller workforce and more pollution. Changing agricultural landscape machinery helps to increase productivity and output, has economic safety, and environmental disadvantages. As it has been seen that there are both the positive and negative sides of farm mechanization, we should use the system of mechanization in such a way that there will be no pollution and unemployment so that our country can progress in a better way.

Bhairabi Kalita & Rashmita Nayak
BA 5th Semester

Thalinomics

Thalinomics is a simple and easy way of looking at the economy, offered by the Economic Survey 2019- 20. The final part in the survey reveals a new way of measuring household income -"Thalinomics"- the economics of a plate of food in India is an attempt to figure out how much a meal costs in India. This new concept helps the common people gauge at the economic situation of a country through something as simplistic and easy to understand as food. The 2020's Thalinomics depicts that thali prices for both vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis declined significantly in January -March while rising sharply in April-November period in both rural and urban areas. The Covid-19 pandemic creates a significant variation in thali prices among the states.

Editorial Board

Organic Farming : Why is it better?

Organic farming is an agricultural system which originated early in the 20th century in reaction to rapidly changing farming practices . Organic Farming is a system of production that relies on animal manures organic wastes, crop rotations, legumes and aspects of biological pest control. This process avoids the use of synthetically produced fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators and livestock additives. It is based on the minimal cost of the off-farm inputs and management practices that restore maintain and sustain ecological harmony. Organic crop production in the organic farming system is gradually gaining momentum worldwide. Organic agricultural methods are internationally regulated and legally enforced by many nations, based in large part on the standards set by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), an international umbrella organization for organic farming organizations established in 1972. Since 1990, the market for organic food and other products has grown rapidly, reaching \$63 billion worldwide in 2012. This demand has driven a similar increase in organically managed farmland that grew from 2001 to 2011 at a compounding rate of 8.9% per annum. As of 2019, approximately 72,300,000 hectares (179,000,000 acres) worldwide were farmed organically, representing approximately 1.5 percent of total world farmland.

Organic farming is widely considered to be a far more sustainable alternative when it comes to food production. The lack of pesticides and wider variety of plants enhances biodiversity and results in better soil quality and reduced pollution from fertilizer or pesticide run-off. Not only does organic farming build healthy soil, but it helps combat serious soil and land issues, such as erosion. Organic farming helps Keep our water supplies clean by stopping that polluted runoff. Organic farming also helps conserve water. Organic farmers, in general, tend to spend time amending soil correctly and using mulch -both of which help conserve water. It helps to preserve more natural habitat areas and encourages birds and other natural predators to live happily on farmland, which assists in natural pest control. Thus Organic farming practices result in numerous environmental benefits . Beyond these organic food truly tastes better than products that come from conventional farms and methods and organic food appeals to consumers as both a healthy and ethical choice. However, organic farms tend to bring in more profits, despite requiring more employees. It is easy to see the economic benefits derived from job creation that would come from an increase in organic farming. Thus Organic farming is really better than conventional farming.



Samikhya Kashyap, BA 5th Semester



Biswanath College
Chariali - 784176

Our students pursuing higher education in different institutions (2019-2021)

Sl. No	Name of the Student	Enrolling Higher Education Institute
1	Pragati Kanu	MA in Gauhati University
2	Rubul Mankey	MA in Assam University
3	Aali Naushad	MA in Cotton University
4	Priyam Parashar	MA in Rajiv Gandhi University
5	Ishnita Saikia	MA in Rajiv Gandhi University
6	Neha Sarmah	MA in Pragjyotish College
7	Swarnali Chakrabarty	MA in Assam University
8	Jahnabi Das	MA in Rajiv Gandhi University
9	Mehnaj Sultana	MA in Rajiv Gandhi University

Departmental Activities 2021

1. Guardian Meeting on 6/3/2021
2. Inauguration of "Economica", the departmental Wall Magazine on 9/3/2021
3. Meet the Alumni Programme on 13/3/2021
4. Awareness Camp on Animal Husbandry at Kro Arong Village 25/3/2021
5. Field Visit by the Students and Faculty members to Pabhoi Greens, an Organic Firm on 3/4/2021
6. State Level Webinar on "Stress and Anxiety Management of students in the undergraduate level" on 27/4/2021

Budget 2021: Highlights

1. First paperless Union budget.
2. Lays focus on Health and Wellbeing, Physical and financial capital and infrastructure, Inclusive development for Aspirational India, Reinigorating Human Capital, Innovation and R&D and Minimum Government Maximum Governance.
3. The overall Capital expenditure for the 2021-22 financial is increased to Rs 5.54 Lakh Crore.
4. Two public-sector banks and one state-owned general insurance company to be lined up for disinvestment. FDI in insurance sector to be hiked to 74% from 49% now.
5. Health allocation jumped 137% to Rs 2, 23,846 crore in 2021-22 compared with Rs 94,452 crore in 2020-21. Rs 35,000 crore for the Covid-19 vaccine.
6. IT relaxation for senior citizens of 75 years age and above:
7. Fiscal deficit estimated at 6.8 per cent of GDP in 2021-22; it is estimated to touch 9.5% in 2020-21. It will be brought down to 4.5 per cent of GDP by 2025-26.
8. Custom Duty Rates are revised on some items. The customs duty is increased on cotton, silks, alcohol, etc.

Mala Upamanyu,
BA 1st Semester

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Miss Dipika Sharma, BA 5th Semester, MEITY TIDE 2.0 IDEATHON WINNER
2. Miss. Dipti Gowala, BA 5th Semester, 3rd Prize in Essay Writing competition on the occasion of 66th Wildlife week 2020



Glimpses of Some Activities

