



Govt. of Assam
JANAJATIYA GAURAV DIWAS
JANA JATIYA GAURAV (TRIBAL PRIDE) SEMINAR
REMEMBERING VEER BIRSA MUNDA ON HIS 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY
 In collaboration with: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
Two-Days National Seminar on
"Echoes of Resilience : Celebrating the Tea Tribes of Assam and
Birsa Munda's Enduring Legacy"

Organized by Department of Assamese and English Bir Raghav Moran Government Model College, Doomdooma
 DATE - 22nd & 23rd August, 2025
 VENUE - Bir Raghav Moran Government Model College, Doomdooma

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

This is to certify that Prof./Dr./ Parismita Bhagawati of Bir Raghav Manan Govt. Model College, Doomdooma College/University has actively participated/ presented a paper entitled Between Symbolism and Sincerity: Analysing the Politics of Cultural Recognition through Assam Govt's Jhumair Bimantini Programme in the Two-Days National Seminar on "Echoes of Resilience : Celebrating the Tea Tribes of Assam and Birsa Munda's Enduring Legacy" organized by Department of Assamese and English Bir Raghav Moran Government Model College, Doomdooma on 22nd and 23rd August 2025.

We appreciate his/her valuable contribution to the academic discourse and engagement in the seminar, which aimed to explore policy-relevant insights for the transformation of North East India.

Dr. Amorjit Saikia
 Principal

Resource Person

Dr. Pronita Neog
 Convener

Dr. Shrestha Bharadwaj
 Co-convener

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE NATIONAL SEMINAR



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Between Symbolism and Sincerity: Analyzing the Politics of Cultural Recognition through Assam Government's Jhumoir Binandini Programme

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Abstract :

The Jhumoir Binandini dance programme, recently promoted by the Government of Assam, ostensibly celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the Tea Tribes, an Adivasi-origin community with a long history of marginalization and socio-economic struggle. While state-sponsored cultural initiatives can serve as powerful vehicles for recognition and empowerment, they also raise critical questions about political instrumentalization, especially when framed within electoral contexts. This paper investigates whether the Jhumoir Binandini programme reflects a genuine effort at cultural revitalization

and respect for the Tea Tribe legacy, or whether it functions primarily as a performative gesture aimed at political consolidation and vote-bank appeasement. Drawing from research methods of content analysis and discourse analysis, and interviews with cultural practitioners, the study situates this programme within the broader theoretical frameworks of cultural politics, symbolic capital (Bourdieu), and the state's role in constructing "authorized heritage discourse." Furthermore, this research traces the interlinkages between cultural revivalism, electoral strategies, and identity assertion among Assam's Tea Tribes.

Keywords : *Tea Tribes of Assam, Jhumoir Binandini, Cultural Politics, Electoral Strategy, Symbolic Recognition, Birsa Munda, Indigenous Identity, Assam Government, Adivasi Heritage, State-Sponsored Culture.*