

**UGC SPONSORED  
NATIONAL SEMINAR  
ON  
“A ROLE OF SUFIS IN ASSAM  
TO SPREAD COMMUNAL HARMONY & BROTHERHOOD  
AMONGST THE POPULACE OF ASSAM: A BOND OF FRATERNITY”**

DATES: 30<sup>TH</sup> & 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 2016

VENUE: M. C. DAS COLLEGE, SONAI



*Organised by :*

**Department of Persian, Madhab Chandra Das College, Sonai**

Silchar, Cachar, Assam, PIN 788119

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*In collaboration with :*

**Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Madhab Chandra Das College, Sonai.**

### *Invitation*

*It is our immense pleasure to inform you that Department of Persian of our college in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) is going to organize Two-day UGC sponsored National Seminar on the topic entitled “A Role of Sufis in Assam to Spread Communal Harmony & Brotherhood amongst the Populace of Assam: A Bond of Fraternity” on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. It is our earnest expectation that the National Seminar will provide a suitable platform to scholars, students, teachers, administrators and policy makers of colleges and universities to interact and exchange their views on the topic.*

*We, therefore, extend our invitation to you and members of your esteemed Institution / University / Department to participate in the Seminar. We hope your presence and participation will make the occasion more valuable, meaningful and thought provoking.*

*With thanks,*

Dr. Baharul Islam Laskar  
Chairman & Principal  
M. C. Das College, Sonai.

Mr. Sabir Ahmed Chowdhury  
Coordinator, IQAC  
M. C. Das College, Sonai.

Dr. Abdul Khalique Laskar  
Organising Secretary  
Asst. Prof., Dept. of Persian  
M. C. Das College, Sonai.

## M. C. DAS COLLEGE AT A GLANCE

Madhab Chandra Das College of Sonai, one of the premier institutions of higher education in the Barak Valley was established in the year 1972 when it was a mere vision to lay the foundation stone of a degree college in such a remote area. But under the efficient and dynamic leadership of the founding Principal in co-operation with vibrant Management the college has been successful today in establishing itself as a prestigious institution of higher education with all the three streams of Arts, Science, and Commerce.

Sixteen KM, away south Eastward from Silchar town, this college stands at a spot rich in charming natural serenity and grace that is conducive to arouse aesthetic pleasure.

The College was first affiliated as a constituent College to Gauhati University and was subsequently brought under the deficit system of Grant-aid of the Govt. of Assam. Thereafter with the establishment of the Assam University the affiliation naturally got shifted to its fold. Soon after the shifting of affiliation from the Gauhati University to the newly establishment Assam University, the College received the UGC accorded 2(f) 12(b) status. And to add more to this prestigious status the UGC sponsored NAAC peer team accorded the enviable 'B' Grade status to this college. And to crown it all, the College proudly celebrated its Silver Jubilee festival amidst great festivity with the participation of a host of renowned personalities, local dignitaries with the spontaneous partaking of the mass people. And now by arranging another National Seminar within a short span of time the College advances another step on its way to entering the arena of intellectual exercise.

### FOCUS ON THE THEME

The very name of Sufism is derived from the root '**Suf**' means wool. As the Sufis wear woolen robe to distinguish themselves from others, they came to be known as Sufi. Shihabuddin Saharwardi is a Arif who writes in his famous book entitled 'Awariful-Marif' derivation of the term 'Tasawwaf' is more suitable and appropriate to any other derivation, in fact from the earliest time, 'Sufi's coarse woolen garments have been regarded as a symbol of simplicity, virtuousness, self-renunciation, avoidance of luxurious and comfortable life.

Some of the scholars are of the opinion that '**Sufism**' is neither Arabic word nor Islamic term. Rather than it derived from the Greek word '**Sofia**' when the translation of Greek words started taking place this mystical term came into Arabic.

**Sufism or Mysticism** is commonly understood to mean an idea and belief that the knowledge of God and real truth may be obtained through meditation or spiritual inside independently of the mind and sense.

Sufi saints were responsible for the introduction of the mystical form of Islam. Hindus and Hinduism were deeply influenced by the Sufi saints. Sufi scholars were instrumental in the social, economic and philosophical development of the masses.

Many Muslim Sufis (Saints) entered Assam during invading of Mohammadan armies in India. Some of these Sufis stayed in this country, while others might have been returned after a short stay. Sufism in Assam was not indigenous growth rather it was imported from Central Asia through Northern India. A large number of Sufis came to Bengal and then to Assam as a trader even before the political Muslims advent. To speak the truth, the flow of Sufism to Assam through Bengal began in the early part of 12<sup>th</sup> century A.D. and it became a strong hold of Sufis in Medieval period and as a result the influence of Sufism became prominent and helped the growth of Muslim culture and humanities in Assam.

Assam produced a large number of Sufis in order to establish universal fraternity, communal harmony and esoteric love amongst the populace of the state. They also contributed their lives in the service of not only Islam but also the people of Assam. The name of Azan Faqir is found in the lips of every Assamese. He is said to have possessed great miraculous powers and a large number of disciples. He introduced Islam and Islamic thought (teaching) through the Zikirs and Zaris in Assam and also propagated Sufi theosophy in the style of Shrimonatha Shankardeva. Hence his name became a byword in every Assamese home. Both the Hindus and Muslims adorned him and appreciated his efforts to uplift the down-trodden from moral degradation and turpitude.

It is to be mentioned that origin of Sufism is based on four theories or factors in the world namely: **(1) Indian (2) Christian (3) Persian (4) Quranic or Islamic.** Due to close and rich relationship between Persian, Indian, Christian and Quranic or Islamic theory in the origin of Sufism. Some are of the opinion that Sufism is not related to any race, creed, language and nation. But it is spiritual appearance. The aim is to highlight the real concept of Sufism and humanity in Islam, universal fraternity, communal harmony amongst the populace of Assam and esoteric love of God.

### **THE SUB THEMES**

- Influence of Vaishnaism of Shrimonatha Shankardeva and Sufism of Azan Faqir to restore fraternity among people of Assam and tranquility in the Assamese society.
- Establishment of social harmony in Barak valley by Sufi personalities.
- Role of Sufi's Mazars of Barak valley to restore communal harmony among people.
- Sufistic activities in the Barak valley and its role to establish brotherhood among different communities – past and present.
- Sufism in Assam as a way of humanism among different faith.
- Advent of Sufis in Assam from central Asia with a message of communal harmony and brotherhood among all communities.
- Contribution of Sufis in the global perspective.
- Any literary topic related to the main theme.

## CALL FOR THE PAPER

- Please submit abstract within 200 words on or before 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.
- Full paper within 3500 words should reach not later than 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.
- The abstract and full papers are to be typed in A4 size and Times New Roman 12 front size with double spacing in MS word. Both hard and soft copies (in CD format) of the abstract and full papers must be submitted.
- Full paper can be presented in English, Bengali and Persian.
- Preference will be given to papers written in English.
- Abstract should be written in English.
- One passport size photo should be attached with the abstract.

## PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDING

Selected papers will be published in ISBN Numbered Book as per recommendation of the Review Committee. Published Book will be sold in cash on prescribed rate.

## ACCOMODATION

Accommodation will be provided to outstation participants. They are also requested to confirm their participation and need of accommodation by **15<sup>th</sup> August, 2016**.

**N. B.:** Preliminary confirmation may be made at the earliest by E- mail or Phone.  
Xerox copy of the prescribed registration form will be accepted.

## REGISTRATION FEE

Teacher participants (with paper)	Rs. 700/-
Teacher participants (without paper)	Rs. 500/-
Research scholar participants (with paper)	Rs. 500/-
Research scholar participants (without paper)	Rs. 400/-

**Registration fee to be paid in cash at the registration counter  
only on 30/08/2016**

## ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

- Dr. Baharul Islam Laskar, Principal cum Chairman, M. C. Das College, Sonai  
Phone: +91-3842-274432(O), 9435988843
- Mr. Sabir Ahmed Chowdhury, Coordinator , IQAC & HOD, English  
Phone: 9707476841
- Dr. Abdul Khaliq Laskar, Organizing Secretary & Asstt. Prof., Dept. of Persian  
Phone: 9854903599
- Mr. Barat Uddin Laskar, HOD, Persian, Phone: 9954169829

**FORMAT OF REGISTRATION FORM**

**TWO – DAY UGC SPONSORED  
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**On**

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**P.O. – Sonaimukh, Cachar, Assam**

1. Name in full (in block letter ) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Designation \_\_\_\_\_

3. Institution \_\_\_\_\_

4. Correspondence Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

E- Mail \_\_\_\_\_

5. Whether contributing a paper? YES / NO

6. Title of the paper \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Whether accommodation required? YES / NO

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Participant