



Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Mr Rakesh Mochahary, Registration Number: 2170150, PhD Scholar at the Department of International Studies, Political Science and History, School of Social Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday, 06 April 2026 at 09.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

- Title of the Thesis** : **History, Identity and Culture: A Study of Bodo Community in the 19th and 20th Centuries in Assam**
- Discipline** : **History**
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The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva-voce examination.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 17 March 2026

Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

The assertion of identity among the Bodo community settled in Assam, India, has a prolonged history of struggle. This movement initially began in 1906 with the Brahma movement by Kalicharan during colonial rule in India. The early movements solely focused on the social development and spread of education, but later turned to an active statehood movement. The formation of Bodo Chatra Sanmilani in 1919 marked a historical milestone for gatherings and discussions on the Bodo community's upliftment in 1921, 1924, 1925, and finally submitting the first memorandum to the Simon Commission at Shillong on 4 January 1929. Not given enough attention, this movement turned to protest and protection for the Bodo language in 1952 by the Bodo Sahitya Sabha. From the initiation of the social awareness movement to language recognition to the statehood movement, the Bodo community has developed and constructed an identity assertion in Assam, which has profound historical, cultural, religious, and socio-political factors. In 1962, the formation of the Bodo Students Union and the movement of Roman script for the Bodo language in 1971 marked an important historical event for the Bodo.

Bodofa Upendranath Brahma initiated the Bodo movement for statehood in 1987, which led to a series of protests and the formation of insurgent groups such as the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and the Bodo Liberation Tigers Force (BLTF) to fight for the cause of Bodoland. The reason behind such protest and fight remains due to the state and central governments' setting motherly treatment of the Bodo people. To understand the colonial governance and colonial administration that shaped the Bodo identity. It will further analyse the colonial documentation through which the Bodo cultural expressions and narratives have been reshaped in the Bodo community. This research employed semi-structured interviews to explore the lived experiences of participants in the Bodo tribal identity movement in Assam, India, conducted between June 11, 2023, and July 31, 2023. These interviewees were selected based on their involvement in both peaceful and violent protests against the state and central government, aiming to secure greater autonomy for the Bodo community in Assam. The study adopts a qualitative approach to collect and analyse the data; for the thematic analysis, NVivo 14 software is employed to draw codes and themes. These interviews are significant in uncovering the historical and social dimensions of the movement, offering insights into the practical challenges faced by the community in its development efforts, and evaluating the prospects for achieving lasting peace in the region. It tries to fill the gap in analysing the evolution of Bodo identity, colonials and colonial narratives, the advent of Christianity, and identity construction through cultural affiliation and other traditional practices historically.

This research, with the oral narration of their own experiences during the Bodo movement, will integrate oral histories of the historical accounts with modern viewpoints, providing a new perspective on the evolution of the Bodo identity.

Keywords: *Identity Formation, Customs and Traditions, Recognition of Community, Antiquity, Bodo Community*

Publications:

1. **Mochahary, R.**, Chacko Chennattuserry, J., Nathan KK, L., & Anne Liwanag, L. (2024). "Voices of Elders:" The Evolution of the Bodo Movement Through the Student Union and the Rebel Group in Assam, Northeast India. *Peace Review*, 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10402659.2024.2432943>
2. **Mochahary, R.**, & Nathan KK, L. (2024). Rise of Populism in Northeast India: A Case of Assam. *Social Inclusion*, 12, Article 8546. <https://doi.org/10.17645/si.8546> 3.
3. Chennattuserry, J.C., **Mochahary, R.** (2023). Documentary Films in the Age of New Populism. In: Chacko Chennattuserry, J., Deshpande, M., Hong, P. (eds) *Encyclopedia of New Populism and Responses in the 21st Century*. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-9859-0_429-1