

## **Assam as a Subcultural Zone: An Appraisal**

R.K. KAR

*Professor, Department of Anthropology (Retd.), Dibrugarh University*

**Abstract:** Assam is a frontier state of India on the north-east. Its population, by and large, has a rural background; and they came to this part of the country at different time points and from different directions. The life and culture of the various ethnic groups have contributed towards the growth and development of a synthesized Assamese society and culture through ages. The present Assamese culture is believed to be the outcome of the centuries of migration, admixture and fusion of diverse ethnic groups and their respective cultures.

Assam region, as a matter of fact, did act as a human corridor along which the ancient races moved in from different directions along with their ideas and other elements of culture from pre-historic times. The various tribal and non-tribal populations have generally been influenced by one or the other over the past centuries.

Despite being Pan-Indian as a whole, the modes of expression of many of the cultural elements can be considered to be distinctive in Assam.

In this brief discourse, an illustrative discussion has been made on both the material and non-material aspects of culture in Assam. The discussion prompts us to conclude that Assam is not merely a geographical region of India. The ground realities make it apparent that it is also a clear-cut socio-cultural unit. Over the centuries, this distinctive habitat and its resources, the climate, the various groups of people and the ways of life have inter-mixed with one another to give rise to the prevailing cultural mosaic in the region.

*Key words :* Human corridor, Museum of ethnic varieties, Socialisation, Enculturation, Acculturation, Cultural Synthesis, Assam.