

RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

Decolonizing Trauma: Exploring Memory, Identity and Healing in Post-Colonial Ghanaian and Zimbabwean Literature(A Short Communication of Ph. D. research work in the University Department of English, Ranchi University)

The research work, *Memory, Trauma, and Identity: A Study of Selected Fiction of Post-Colonial Ghana and Zimbabwe*, by Biswajit Mondal, under the supervision of Dr. Sumit Kumar Dey, critically examines the psychological, cultural and historical trauma represented in the novels of Ayi Kwei Armah (*Fragments and Two Thousand Seasons*) and Tsitsi Dangarembga (*Nervous Conditions trilogy*). This study employs an interdisciplinary approach, intertwining Literary Trauma theory with Postcolonial Trauma theory to address the colonial and cultural impositions on marginalized communities.

EDITORIAL

Embracing New Horizons: A Message for 2025

As the calendar turns and we welcome 2025, it is a time to reflect on the progress made and set new aspirations for Ranchi University. Over the past year, the university has achieved remarkable milestones, laying a strong foundation for further growth.

One of the most notable achievements has been the introduction of our very own sports playground after 64 years. This is not merely a space for athletics but a testament to our commitment to holistic development. From fostering sporting talent to introducing the much-anticipated B.P.Ed. programme, this facility symbolizes a new chapter in the history of Ranchi University.

The NAAC peer team's visit highlighted our progress in creating world-class infrastructure, equipped with smart boards, state-of-the-art conference halls, and upgraded laboratories and libraries. These advancements reflect our dedication to providing an enhanced learning environment. However, their feedback also reminds us of the importance of strengthening our research ecosystem, increasing national and international collaborations, and filling critical academic positions.

The recently concluded Reejh-Rang Youth Festival showcased the unparalleled talent of our students and celebrated the cultural diversity of our university. As we prepare to represent Ranchi University at the upcoming Youth Festival in West Bengal, we are confident that our students will continue to bring laurels to the university.

Looking ahead, 2025 offers exciting prospects academic advancements, infrastructural growth and a continued focus on nurturing the aspirations of our students and faculty. Together, let us strive to make Ranchi University not just a hub of academic excellence but a beacon of innovation, inclusivity and creativity.

On behalf of the Ranchi University Newsletter team, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire university community for your unwavering support. Let us embark on this new year with renewed vigor and determination, working towards our shared vision of excellence.

Wishing you all a productive, fulfilling and successful 2025!

Dr. B K Sinha

Challenging Cathy Caruth's Eurocentric trauma framework, the research emphasizes the necessity of a decolonized lens. Through detailed analyses of the selected novels, Mondal highlights how the "European memory plantation" metaphor explains the imposition of colonial identity systems in African societies and examines its psychological ramifications on fictional characters like Tambu, Baako, and Nyasha. Additionally, it identifies three stages of trauma healing: Safety, Re-membering, and Reconnectivity.

The findings underscore the lasting impacts of colonial oppression, materialism and internalized ideologies, while emphasizing literature's vital role in preserving cultural identity and offering healing strategies. By exploring broader socio-political implications, the study contributes to bridging trauma theory with postcolonial narratives and paves the way for analysing colonial trauma across other geographies, including India's Partition literature and Dalit narratives.

This research enriches academic discourse on trauma, identity and resistance, encouraging a reimagining of decolonized frameworks for understanding literary trauma.

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NEWS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In the Process of Accreditation: A Step Towards Continuous Quality Improvement

In its ongoing journey towards continuous quality improvement, Ranchi University (RU) recently hosted a team from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) from December 5th to 7th for a three-day accreditation process. Out of the seven members, six-member reported to the university for accreditation process, which was led by Colonel Prof. Shiv Singh Sarangdevot, was warmly welcomed with a traditional tribal ceremony, showcasing the university's rich cultural heritage. The vibrant performances by dancers in traditional attire left a lasting impression on the visiting team.

The accreditation process commenced with a formal reception at the university headquarters at Shaheed Chowk, where Vice Chancellor Dr. Ajit Kumar Sinha delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting RU's achievements. Registrar Dr. Vinod Narayan, Finance Officer Dr. Pritam Kumar, and other officials also contributed, showcasing the university's advancements in academics and infrastructure.

During their visit, the NAAC peer team peered all the administrative as well academic departments and facilities of the University. They were particularly impressed by the laboratories, smart classrooms, and the well-maintained campus. The innovative Oxygen Park was recognized for its environmental contribution.

A notable moment was the interaction with Mr. Chanchal Bhattacharya, former coach of cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni and a staff member at RU. The team appreciated his contributions and lauded the university for nurturing talent across diverse fields. Additionally, engagements with alumni, local intellectuals, and prominent figures from the higher education sector provided valuable insights into RU's impact.

While acknowledging RU's progress in infrastructure and technology, the NAAC peer team identified areas for further enhancement. They emphasized the need for increased academic research, particularly the publication of high-quality papers in CARE-listed journals, and the organization of more national and international seminars to elevate RU's academic standing. A key concern was the significant delay in faculty recruitment, with nearly 95% of professor and associate professor positions remaining vacant, which has hindered the institution's academic growth.

To address these challenges, the peer team proposed actionable recommendations, including strengthening research output, expediting faculty recruitment, increasing faculty involvement in

research projects, and expanding hostel facilities to accommodate the growing student population. Encouraging faculty participation in national and international seminars was also suggested to enhance academic development.

Despite these challenges, the NAAC peer team acknowledged the commendable progress made by Ranchi University like infrastructure, modernized teaching methodologies, and enhanced facilities have contributed to an increase in NET-JRF qualified students, positioning the university on a steady path of growth. Vice Chancellor Dr. Ajit Kumar Sinha reaffirmed the university's commitment to addressing the identified gaps and building upon its successes. With a strong focus on academic excellence and infrastructural development, Ranchi University continues to advance as a distinguished center of higher education in the region.

As RU continues its journey towards excellence, this accreditation process serves as a pivotal step in ensuring sustainable growth, innovation, and academic distinction. The university remains dedicated to fostering an environment that supports learning, research, and holistic student development, setting new benchmarks for quality education in Jharkhand and beyond.

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Reejh-Rang: A Spectacular Display of Talent at Ranchi University's Youth Festival

Ranchi University's vibrant Youth Festival, Reejh-Rang, celebrated the creative spirit of its students from 20th to 22nd December. The festival, an exciting showcase of talent, featured students participating in a diverse range of competitions, from dance and music to poetry and photography.

The opening ceremony, held at Aryabhata Auditorium, was graced by Vice Chancellor Dr. Ajit Kumar Sinha, D.S.W. Dr.Sudesh Kumar Sahu and other esteemed officials and faculty members. The programme began with the lighting of the lamp, followed by the national anthem and Kulgeet. Students from various departments presented their cultural heritage through performances like the Bihu Dance and Nagpuri Folk Song, receiving enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Throughout the three-day event, the competition was fierce, with participation from students across various fields such as quiz, debate, elocution, dance, poster-making, spot photography, poetry and music. The festival gave a platform to budding artists to display their creative skills, with many departments contributing vibrant performances.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Sinha expressed his belief in the abundant talent of Ranchi University's students, declaring, "We have immense potential and a wealth of teachers. I am confident that our students will hoist the flag of Ranchi University proudly at the upcoming Youth Festival at Nivedita University, West Bengal." As part of Ranchi University's continuous support for talent, Dr. Sinha announced a Sports Convocation to be held on 10th January 2025, which will recognize the achievements of the Youth Festival's winning students as well.

The closing ceremony on 22nd December saw the winners being awarded certificates and prizes. The Vice Chancellor honoured outstanding performers, who excelled in various competitions. In recognition of their extraordinary contributions, three groups from the music and dance departments were awarded a cash prize of ₹11,000 each. Dr. Sinha reiterated that this year's youth festival marks an important milestone for the university, reflecting both academic and creative excellence.

With over 50 students winning prizes across different categories, it is clear that Ranchi University students are full of creativity and enthusiasm. Many will soon represent the university at the Youth Festival held at Nivedita University in West Bengal from 8th to 12th January 2025, and the university continues to nurture and celebrate its young talents with events like these.



Seminar on Indian Knowledge Tradition Held at Ranchi University

The Department of Urdu at Ranchi University hosted a one-day seminar on the theme "Indian Knowledge Tradition" on 16th Decembr, bringing together academicians and scholars from various disciplines. Faculty and research scholars from departments such as Urdu, Bengali, Hindi, English and Sanskrit actively participated in this intellectually enriching event.

Dr. Rizwan Ali, Chairman of the Urdu Department, presided over the seminar, while Dean of Humanities, Prof. Archana Dubey, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Rajkumar Sharma, Principal of Doranda College, who highlighted the significance of Sanskrit as the foundation of Indian knowledge systems.

The seminar reflected the commitment of Ranchi University to fostering an understanding and appreciation of India's rich intellectual heritage across linguistic and cultural domains.



Ranchi University Partners with IIT Dhanbad to Propel Research and Innovation

In a landmark event aimed at accelerating research and innovation, Ranchi University (RU) and IIT (ISM) Dhanbad signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 12th December. This collaboration is set to pave the way for groundbreaking advancements in multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary research.

Under the agreement, research scholars and faculty members from both institutions will have access to each other's resources. This includes laboratories, libraries and other research facilities, creating unparalleled opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange. The MoU will enable both RU and IIT Dhanbad to leverage their collective expertise to tackle pressing challenges in various academic and industrial domains.

The agreement was signed by Ranchi University Vice Chancellor Dr. Ajit Kumar Sinha and IIT Dhanbad Director Prof. Sukumar Mishra. Ranchi University IQAC coordinator Dr. B K Sinha, who has been instrumental in providing technical guidance to Ranchi University, was also present at the ceremony.



Ranchi University has been steadily enhancing its research infrastructure, particularly in the postgraduate departments located at its Morhabadi Campus. With adequate faculty strength in most departments, the university has now turned its focus toward fostering a robust research culture.

The signing of this MoU aligns with Ranchi University's broader vision to prioritize research and development. The administration has announced plans to establish an Innovation Center at the university. This center will serve as a hub for nurturing ideas, fostering entrepreneurial thinking and developing innovative solutions for real-world challenges.

Dr. Ajit Kumar Sinha expressed optimism about the partnership, stating, "The collaboration with IIT Dhanbad will significantly enhance our research capabilities. It will provide new avenues for our scholars to explore and achieve excellence. This MoU is a milestone in our journey toward becoming a leading research-oriented university."

Ranchi University Holds Workshop on Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) Implementation

Ranchi University organized an informative workshop on the implementation of the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) on 17th December, aiming to introduce the system to faculty and staff for its smooth adoption.

The workshop was presided over by Vice Chancellor Dr. Ajit Kumar Sinha, who emphasized the importance of ABC in providing flexibility to students, enabling them to accumulate credits from multiple institutions and enhance their academic pursuits. Dr. Sinha highlighted the transformative potential of ABC in improving the learning experience by offering greater autonomy to students in selecting courses and institutions for study.

Dr. BK Sinha, IQAC coordinator, who has been providing technical support for the initiative, elaborated on the operational aspects and intricacies of ABC, explaining how it can streamline the credit transfer process and improve the overall educational structure.

The workshop saw participation from teachers and staff from various colleges, contributing to an engaging dialogue about the future of higher education and the benefits of adopting ABC.

Development Work at Ranchi University to Continue Uninterrupted: Vice Chancellor Emphasizes Proactive Measures Post-NAAC Visit

In a key meeting held on Wednesday, Ranchi University Vice Chancellor Dr. Ajit Kumar Sinha reiterated the university's commitment to continuous development. Addressing the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) members, the VC urged immediate action on pending financial matters highlighted during the NAAC visit. He directed that all pending issues be resolved in accordance with the rules and further action be taken only after the approval of the Finance Committee.

The VC also stressed the importance of adhering to NAAC's recommendations to maintain and improve the university's standards. "Suggestions given by NAAC for improvement should be addressed immediately. Regularity in classes, timely syllabus completion and the active participation of staff and faculty are vital for our growth," said Dr. Sinha.

Mr. Ajay Kumar Appointed as New Financial Advisor of Ranchi University

Ranchi University welcomed its new financial advisor, Mr. Ajay Kumar, on 11th December. Appointed by the Governor, Mr. Kumar will serve a three-year term or until the age of 65, whichever comes earlier. Previously the Deputy Accountant General in Jharkhand, Mr. Kumar brings a wealth of financial expertise to the position.

On his joining, he was warmly welcomed by VC Dr. Ajit Kumar Sinha, Registrar Mr. Vinod Narayan and other key officials. Speaking at the event, the VC expressed confidence in Mr. Kumar's ability to strengthen the university's financial management and expedite development projects.

Ranchi University to Get Its Own Playground After 64 Years: A Landmark for Sports Excellence

Ranchi University (RU) has taken a significant step toward promoting sports and physical education by constructing its own playground after 64 years of its establishment. This long-awaited development will benefit not just students involved in sports, but also elevate the overall athletic culture at the university.

The new playground is being developed at the Institute of Legal Studies and Mass Communication campus under the close supervision of the university administration. The construction work is progressing rapidly, with the leveling of the ground almost complete. According to sports coach Vijay Verma, the track of the playground will measure 300 meters in length, with a width of 85 meters. The radius of the track will be 28.33 meters, making it a perfect spot for athletics and other sports events.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Ajit Kumar Sinha, along with university officials such as Proctor Dr. Mukund Mehta, CCDC Dr. Prakara Kumar Jha and sports trainers, has been closely monitoring the construction work to ensure timely completion. The university plans to offer students a wide array of sports-related activities, including athletics (long jump, high jump, and track events), along with football, kabaddi, kho-kho, and cricket on the net ground.

B.P.Ed. Programme to be Introduced in RU

A significant development accompanying this new playground is the introduction of a Bachelor of Physical Education (B.P.Ed.) programme at Ranchi University. The syllabus for the course has already been designed, and the Academic Council has approved the proposal. This marks a major milestone for the university, as there were no such programmes previously offered in the two state universities of the capital, Ranchi and DSPMU. Students will now have the opportunity to pursue professional studies in physical education while benefiting from hands-on experience in the newly constructed playground.

"By education, I mean an all-round drawing of the best in child and man in body, mind and spirit"

- Mahatma Gandhi

Placement Success

The Placement Cell of Ranchi University proudly hosted a placement drive on Monday, December 23, 2024, in collaboration with Basudeb Motors, a trusted Tata Motors dealership in Jharkhand with a legacy of over 23 years. The event marked a significant milestone as 11 students from various postgraduate programs, including MBA and MCA, were successfully placed in the company.

The day began with an introductory session about Basudeb Motors, detailing the company's operations, roles offered, and growth opportunities. The drive included personal interviews, where 25 enthusiastic students demonstrated their skills and knowledge to secure coveted positions in one of Jharkhand's leading automotive organizations. The selected students will undergo a two-month training program, with a CTC ranging from ₹2.28 LPA to ₹3.12 LPA, contingent on their performance during the training period.

Expressing his delight, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Ranchi University, Dr. Ajit Kr Sinha, congratulated the Placement Cell and Basudeb Motors for their joint efforts in providing students with this exceptional opportunity. "This is a proud moment for Ranchi University. I look forward to many more placement drives that bring success and recognition to our talented students," he remarked.