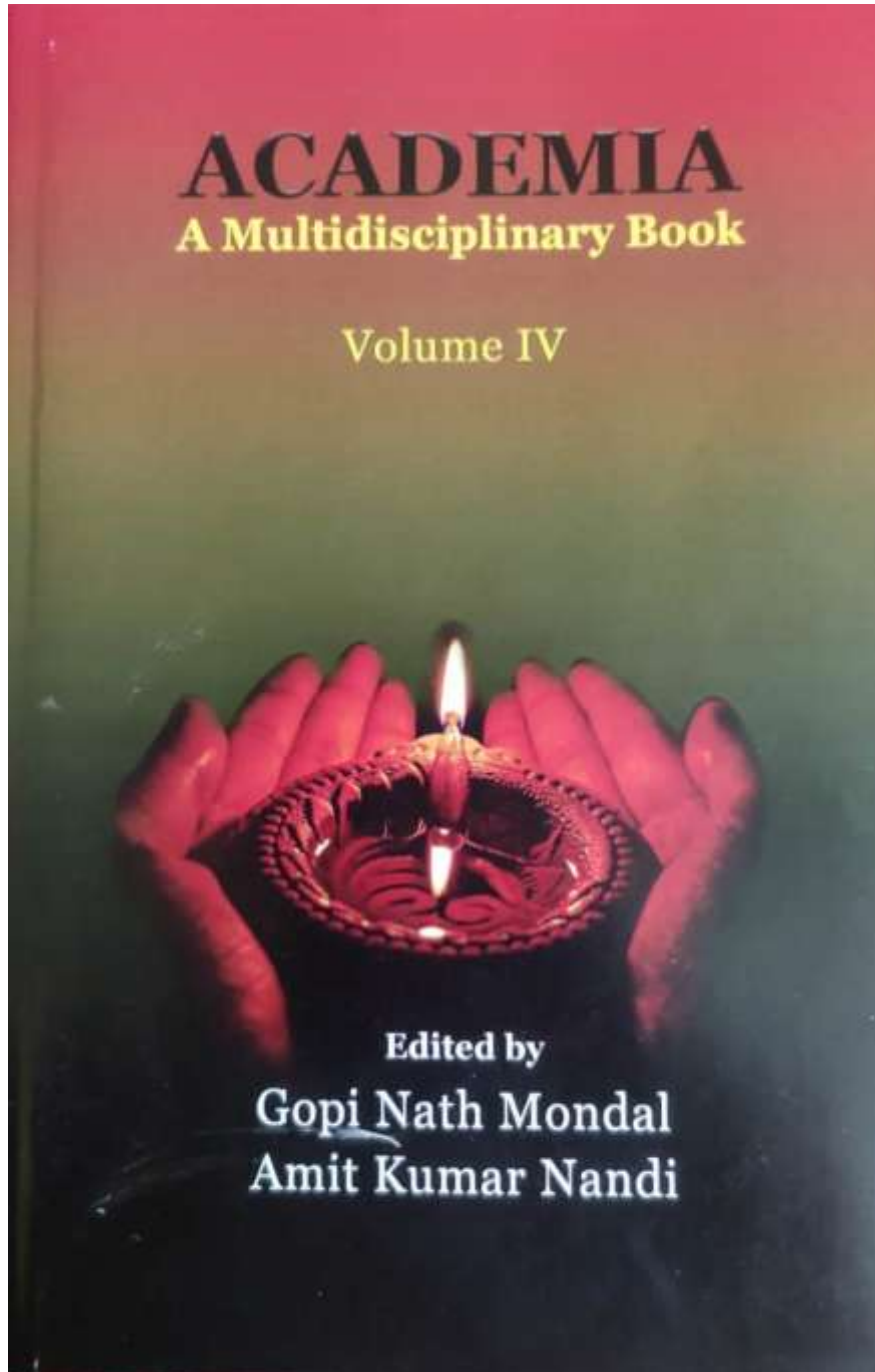


Faculty Name: Dr. Sanchali Banerjee

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ACADEMIA

A Multidisciplinary Book

(Volume IV)

Edited by

Gopi Nath Mondal

Amit Kumar Nandi



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Table of Contents

- Chapter 1: *MARUNI*, a Folk Dance of Darjeeling: Its Aesthetics and Cultural Significance
Yachana Lama, Heramba Chandra College 13
- Chapter 2: Cultural Festivals in India: A glimpse from Purulia
Sanchali Banerjee, Bejoy Narayan Mahavidyalaya 35
- Chapter 3: Skills for Education for Sustainable Development in Teacher Education
Abu Tahir, Charaktala B.Ed & D.Ed College 41
- Chapter 4: Balance of Payment Crisis in 1991 and LPG Reforms - New Economic & Industrial Policy: the Savior of the Economy, A Critical Study
Sambuddha Mukherjee, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Science & Technology 55
- Chapter 5: Teacher Education during Pre COVID-19 Period and COVID-19 Period
Sandipan Garai, Visva-Bharati University 71
- Chapter 6: SENTIMENT ANALYSIS ON UNLABELED TWEETS AND STUDYING ITS CORRELATION WITH THE STOCK PRICE MOVEMENT OF TESLA INC.
Devkumar Gole, Kaliachak Bikram Kishore Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya 87
- Chapter 7: RACIAL FAVOURTISM IN MANUSANHITA
Bibhas Das, Aghorekamini Prakashchandra Mahavidyalaya 103

Cultural Festivals in India: A glimpse from Purulia

Sanchali Banerjee

Abstract: India, an incredible country has different colourts, cultures, religions and traditions. It is a secular country which is full of different diversity, languages, castes and creeds. People of India are involved in different fairs and festivals throughout the year. Fairs and festivals are integral part of India. It is a land of festivity, religious and folkloristic. Here, in this paper I would like to compare two famous festivals-Tusu and Lohri with the beliefs, culture and rituals behind them.

Keywords: Fairs, festivals, Tusu, Lohri, culture, harvest, tribes.

People celebrate each festival uniquely in their own rituals and beliefs. Each fair and festivals have their own history behind that to celebrate. Some festivals are celebrated at national levels while others are celebrated at religious levels. Some of these festivals like Holi, Dussera, Diwali, Makar Sankranti are celebrated across the country. These are well known to us. But there are a number of festivals that are lesser known, sometimes even unknown to people belonging to another region of the country. Even each religion whether it is Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Jain or Christian has their own cultures and traditions. Fairs and festivals give people of different regions and social classes a chance to interact. In other words, people come, celebrate and shape their happiness with each other spreading the message of Unity in diversity.

Every festival celebrates its mythology, traditions and customs. Simultaneous, fairs or "mela" as they are locally called, highlight the local culture of the land in a colourful