

Annual Report 2024-2025

North East Regional Research and Resource Centre, Miranda House

Overview

North East Regional Research and Resource Centre (NERRRC), is an undergraduate Research Centre at Miranda House, that has been established with funding from the North Eastern Council Shillong, Government of India. It is the first of its kind UG multidisciplinary Research Centre within Delhi University College. The primary objective is to cultivate research, innovation, and entrepreneurial endeavours, particularly among young women. NERRRC acts as a dedicated research and resource hub focusing on women-centric research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the North Eastern Region (NER) at Miranda House. The initiative aims to foster closer connections and understanding among students, recognising the youth as pivotal ambassadors. Through active engagement, knowledge sharing, and practical research methodologies, NERRRC endeavours to bridge gaps and promote collaboration, envisioning a vibrant platform for learning and growth.

Incubation and Start-up Initiatives

Project Bloom

Project Bloom is a bamboo incubation initiative by the North Eastern Regional Research and Resource Centre (NERREC), initiated by Karishma Brahma and Bidyaluxmi of Miranda House. The project aims to promote sustainable bamboo-based products and create employment opportunities for women in nearby villages through the skill hub of Miranda House.

The main objectives of Project Bloom are:

- Promote sustainable bamboo products: Provide support and resources to focus on developing sustainable bamboo-based products and services.
- Empower women: Promote women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment through the development of sustainable bamboo-based businesses.

Project Bloom provides incubation services to bamboo products, including mentorship, business development support, access to finance, and networking opportunities. The program is designed to help develop innovative and sustainable bamboo-based products and services that meet market demand. Project Bloom aims to promote the development of the bamboo industry, empower women, and support the incubation and growth of sustainable bamboo start-ups. By adopting a comprehensive approach that focuses on incubation, value chain development, market development, and women's empowerment, Project Bloom aims to create a vibrant and sustainable bamboo industry that benefits local communities and the environment.

Utkrisht Miranda

‘उत्कृष्ट Miranda’ is a visionary initiative under the Miranda House Skill Hub and ‘North Eastern Regional Research and Resource Centre’ aimed at empowering women from neighbouring communities through tailoring, stitching green bag making and severs other training. This initiative is designed to provide women with practical skills that not only foster financial independence but also enhance their confidence and self-reliance.

Rooted in the broader mission of contributing to a “विकसित भारत” (Developed India) and promoting women-led development, उत्कृष्ट Miranda aspires to create opportunities for women

to become economically active and self-sufficient. By equipping them with specialized skills, this initiative helps transform their potential into tangible livelihood prospects. This initiative stands as a testament to Miranda House's dedication to inclusivity, empowerment, and nation-building, creating a ripple effect that uplifts not just individuals but entire communities.



Digital Presence of NERRRC

The North Eastern Regional Research and Resource Centre (NERRRC) has established a robust digital presence to enhance its reach and impact. Through its website, social media

channels, and online platforms, NERRRC connects with a diverse audience, disseminates information and fosters engagement with its initiatives. NERRRC actively engages with the public through various social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn

Conferences

Unpollute: The Sustainability Conclave

UnPollute 2024 – A Sustainability Conclave was held from 30 September to 1 October 2024 at Miranda House, University of Delhi. Organized as a platform for climate action and innovation, the conclave focused on climate change mitigation, waste reduction, and the promotion of a circular economy. The event featured 22 impactful startup pitches, offering young entrepreneurs an opportunity to present sustainable solutions to pressing environmental challenges. Selected winners were connected with potential investors, fostering pathways for real-world impact and scalable green innovation. The conclave was marked by a keynote address from Shri Sanjiv Singh of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, who highlighted the importance of sustainable business practices in national development. *UnPollute 2024* successfully brought together students, innovators, policymakers, and industry experts in a collaborative effort to address environmental sustainability.



International Conference on “Indian Diaspora from North East and Other parts of the Country

North East Regional Research and Resource Centre, Miranda House, in collaboration with the Organisation for Diaspora Initiatives, India, organized the **International Conference on “Indian Diaspora from North East and Other parts of the Country: Comparative Journeys, Identity, and Challenges of India Connect”** at India International Centre, on 24-25th October 2024. The Conference was the **first of its kind** where the journeys and challenges of India’s North East Indian Diaspora, along with the comparative experiences of the other regions of India, were brought to the forefront.

The Inaugural Ceremony was chaired by Prof. Ajay Kumar Dubey, SIS, JNU, and President of ODI India. Prof. Bijayalaxmi Nanda, Principal of Miranda House, extended a warm welcome to all attendees and presenters. Prof. Dubey started the session with the Chairperson's remarks, setting the tone for the academic deliberations. Prof. Bashabi Gupta provided an insightful introduction to the conference, outlining the objectives of the discussions.

Guest of Honour, **Smt. S Phangnon Konyak, the first Woman Rajya Sabha Member from the state of Nagaland**, emphasized the cultural significance of the Indian diaspora, especially that of women and the North East Indian Community. The **Chief Guest, Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Former Minister of State for External Affairs and Education**, offered valuable insights into India's engagement with its diaspora and highlighted the need to focus on the Northeast Indian diaspora. The session wound up with a vote of thanks, followed by words from Dr Sushmita Rajwar.

Over the 2 days, 33 offline papers and 13 online papers on various aspects of journeys and challenges of India's North East Indian Diaspora, along with the comparative experiences of the other regions of India were presented.

The conference ended with the valedictory session chaired by Prof. Ajay Kumar Dubey, SIS, JNU, and President of ODI India. Prof. Bijayalaxmi Nanda, Principal of Miranda House, extended a warm welcome and opened the session. Guest of Honour, **Amb. Anil Trigunayat** delivered the valedictory address, where he emphasized the significance of the Indian diaspora, especially that of the North East Indian Community. The **Chief Guest, Shri Niraj Kumar, Joint Secretary, DoNER Ministry**, offered valuable insights into India's engagement with its North Eastern diaspora. The session winded up with a vote of thanks with words from Prof. Bashabi Gupta.





Chal Arunachal Festival

On 9 December 2024, the North East Regional Research and Resource Centre (NERRRC) at Miranda House, in collaboration with NRAI Production and the Arunachal Students' Union Delhi, successfully organized the *Chal Arunachal Festival 2024 – A Celebration of Culture and Heritage*. The festival served as a vibrant platform to showcase the rich cultural traditions, artistic expressions, and sustainable practices of Arunachal Pradesh. Highlights of the event included a captivating documentary that offered an immersive glimpse into the state's landscapes and traditions, fusion dance performances by Miranda House students, and traditional Apatani and Monpa dance presentations by the Arunachal Students' Union Delhi. The festival also featured moving performances by children from Sevadham and a visually stunning ethnic textile showcase and fashion show curated by NRAI students, which highlighted the intricate craftsmanship of Arunachal's traditional attire. In her address, Prof. (Dr.) Bijayalaxmi Nanda, Principal of Miranda House, emphasized the role of cultural festivals in promoting sustainable development and cross-cultural understanding. Chief Guest Shri Pasang Dorjee Sona encouraged the audience to engage deeply with and appreciate Arunachal Pradesh's unique heritage. The event brought together diverse communities in a shared celebration of cultural pride, unity, and collaboration.



Conference on Decolonizing Feminism: Perspectives from India and the Global South

The North East Regional Research and Resource Centre, Miranda House, in collaboration with the UChicago Center in Delhi, the Policy Centre and Gender Lab, and the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, organized a two-day conference titled "*Decolonizing Feminism: Perspectives from India and the Global South*" on **24–25 February 2025** at the UChicago Center in Delhi.

The conference featured five sessions that brought together scholars, activists, and thought leaders to engage with a wide range of topics including feminist theory, women's movements, the decolonization of history, rights, and citizenship. The sessions facilitated critical discussions and debates, highlighting feminist perspectives rooted in the Global South and interrogating dominant frameworks within mainstream feminist discourse.

The event created a space for dialogue and reflection on the complexities of feminism in postcolonial contexts, emphasizing the need to foreground local histories, experiences, and epistemologies in shaping global feminist thought.



International Conference on Indian Diaspora in African Countries: Diverse History of Migration and Settlement in the Western Indian Ocean.

The North East Regional Research and Resource Centre (NERRRC), Miranda House, University of Delhi, in collaboration with the Centre for African Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and the Organisation for Diaspora Initiatives (ODI India), successfully organized the *International Conference on Indian Diaspora in African Countries: Diverse History of Migration and Settlement in the Western Indian Ocean*. The event was supported by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and the Jean Monnet Module – *Democracy, Multiculturalism, and Change in the European Union*.

The conference convened distinguished scholars, diplomats, and policymakers to engage in critical dialogue on the historical and contemporary dynamics of the Indian diaspora in the Western Indian Ocean region. Over the course of two days, the conference explored the diaspora's diverse trajectories of migration, settlement, and its evolving role in socio-economic, political, and strategic spheres.

Highlights of the Conference:

- **Inaugural Session:** Chaired by **Prof. Ajay Dubey** (Former Rector, JNU & President, ODI India), with opening remarks by **Prof. Bijayalaxmi Nanda** (Principal, Miranda House) emphasizing the need for continued academic and diplomatic collaboration.

- **Guest of Honour: Amb. Virendra Gupta** (Former High Commissioner of India to South Africa) underscored the historical goodwill and enduring economic contributions of the Indian diaspora across African nations.
- **Keynote Address:** Delivered by **H.E. Dr. Anil Sooklal** (High Commissioner of South Africa to India), focusing on evolving narratives and perceptions of the Indian diaspora in South Africa.
- **Inaugural Address: Amb. Bhaswati Mukherjee** (Director, India Habitat Centre) provided a comprehensive historical overview of indentured labor migration and the diaspora's role in shaping regional identities.

Conference Themes Across Seven Sessions:

- Patterns and histories of migration across the Indian Ocean
- Post-indenture realities and political agency of diaspora communities
- India's foreign policy and strategic engagement with the diaspora
- Economic influence through trade, entrepreneurship, and innovation
- Maritime security and regional dynamics in the Western Indian Ocean

Notable Speakers Included:

- **H.E. Désiré Boniface SOME** (Ambassador of Burkina Faso to India)
- **Amb. Anil Trigunayat** (Retd. IFS)
- **Prof. Vytautas Čiubrinskis** (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania)
- **Dr. Markandey Rai** (Chancellor, IGTAMS University, Arunachal Pradesh)
- Along with a host of prominent scholars, diplomats, and regional experts

Valedictory

Address:

Delivered by **Amb. D. M. Mulay** (Former High Commissioner of India to the Maldives), who reflected on the legacy and future trajectories of the Indian diaspora in Africa and called for sustained academic engagement and stronger bilateral relationships.

The conference served as a vital platform for interdisciplinary exchange and emphasized the significance of the Indian diaspora as a bridge for cultural, political, and economic engagement across the Indian Ocean region.



Bharat Literature Festival

The North East Regional Research and Resource Centre (NERRRC), Miranda House, in collaboration with the Bharat Literature Festival, is organizing a vibrant literary gathering titled *"Her Story: Voices That Inspire"* on 26 March 2025 at Miranda House, University of Delhi, starting at 11:00 AM. This festival celebrates the rich storytelling traditions and cultural heritage of North East India and beyond, with a special emphasis on narratives centered around women, identity, and empowerment. Through a series of engaging discussions, storytelling sessions, and cultural showcases, the event aims to amplify voices that have long shaped the collective history and consciousness of the region. A special highlight of the festival is the session *"Voices of Transition: Youth Narratives from North East India,"* featuring young writers and storytellers who will share their perspectives on tradition, transformation, and resilience. In addition, the festival includes a dedicated session focusing on emerging literary voices from North East India, offering a platform for young writers to present their work and engage with a wider audience. The festival will host an impressive lineup of speakers including Malini Awasthi, Shiv Khera, Ami Ganatra, Amrita Chaurasia, Nayab Midha, Neeti Shukla, Sonia Mathur, Bhawna Nayar, Prof. Charu Kapoor, Prachi Mishra, Ragini Jha, among others. The event promises to be a powerful platform for dialogue, reflection, and celebration of diverse voices from across the literary and cultural landscape.

