



# Laizom

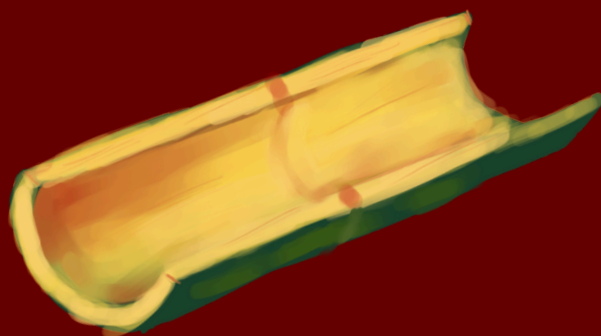
Politics of Culinary Traditions in the  
Northeast: Culture, Identity and  
Belonging in India



# Politics of Culinary Traditions in The Northeast: Culture, Identity and Belonging in India

The theme "Politics of Culinary Traditions in The Northeast: Culture, Identity, and Belonging in India" aims to explore the cultural, political, and social significance of Northeast food in shaping identities and notions of belonging in the country. In Northeast India, food is more than just sustenance – it holds memories, signifying one's legacy and identity. Each community's culinary practices and traditions embody histories of migration, conflict, adaptation, and resilience, making the plate a contested yet unifying space. Though food is a vital political marker, it remains largely overlooked in cultural and political discourse, making its neglect a key reason for choosing it as the magazine's central theme.

Food has long been a site of cultural negotiations in Northeast India. From debates around dietary taboos and religious prescriptions to the politics of meat consumption, food identities are entangled with stereotypes and marginalisation. The persistent homogenisation of Northeastern culture overlooks the diverse food practices that distinguish communities, obscuring how historical events and socio-political dynamics have uniquely shaped the culinary traditions and subjective food practices of each group, often amplifying internal conflicts while reinforcing external misrepresentations. Exploring the politics of the plate thus becomes central in understanding the dynamics of identity, classification, and belonging in a region that has historically been othered.



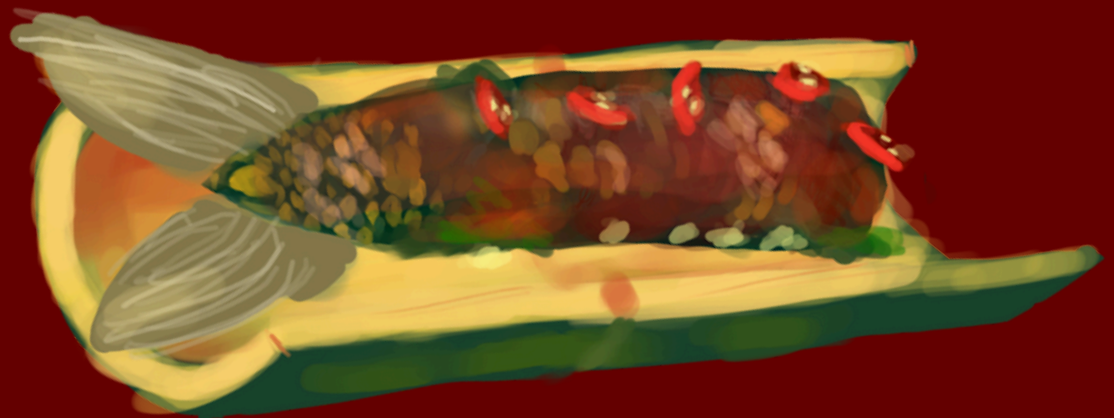
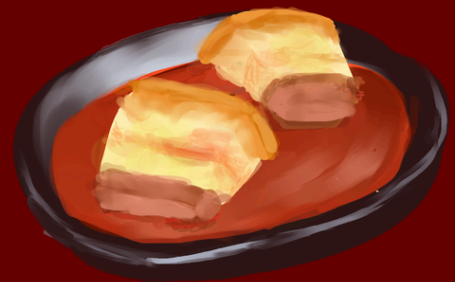
## CONCEPT NOTE

The exploration of this theme intends to foreground food as a political and cultural marker. It reflects how cuisine carries stories of ancestry, migration, land, and ecology, while also becoming a terrain of negotiation within the larger state alongside nationalist ideologies and religious influences. To ask what fits in the “Northeast plate” is to inquire what it means to belong in India.

Food in this context becomes layered with questions of caste, tribe, gender, and class. Recipes and rituals embody collective memory, while changing consumption patterns reveal processes of urbanisation, globalisation,

and climate shifts. What dishes are celebrated, what ingredients are stigmatised, and how food travels beyond the region all play a part in shaping identities.

This session's edition of Laizom seeks to address these questions through writings, reflections, and creative expressions under the title: **POLITICS OF CULINARY TRADITIONS IN THE NORTHEAST: CULTURE, IDENTITY, AND BELONGING IN INDIA.**





# LAIZOM

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Articles | Essays | Folktales | Poems | Personal Anecdotes | Paintings | Photography | Photo Essays

### POSSIBLE SUB-THEMES

- Food and memory: Oral histories and recipes
- Meat politics: Stereotypes, religion, and cultural resistance
- Markets and modernity: Street food, urbanisation, and global influences
- Indigenous food systems and ecological sustainability
- Food taboos: Gender, purity, and community boundaries
- Migration and the plate: Reimagining home in new geographies
- Festive cuisines and collective belonging
- The politics of representation: Media, cookbooks, and “exoticising” NE food
- Agricultural practices and food sovereignty
- Food as resistance: Identity assertion through culinary practices

Writers are welcome to interpret the theme and write on topics beyond the aforementioned sub-themes. Entries and submissions about original research articles/essays, book reviews, artworks, vernacular poetics (with English translation), personal anecdotes, and photo narratives are also welcome.

**Kindly note:** Original research articles should include 4-5 keywords.





## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Can be single-authored or co-authored (maximum 2 authors).
- Word limit: 3000 words (including bibliography) for research articles and essays; 500–700 words for poetry; 1200 words for personal anecdotes.
- Font: Times New Roman, size 12, line spacing 1.5, alignment – justified.
- Submissions must follow Chicago style referencing.
- Only original work will be considered; any form of plagiarism will lead to immediate rejection of the submission.
- Each submission should include author(s) name, college, course, academic year, contact details, and a short bio-note (150–200 words).
- All submissions are to be made in English.

**All entries to be mailed to [ethniceighteditorial@gmail.com](mailto:ethniceighteditorial@gmail.com)  
(cc: [chetiaharshita3@gmail.com](mailto:chetiaharshita3@gmail.com))**

**Subject line:** Name – Laizom Submission 2025

This magazine will be edited by the members of Laizom and published by Ethnic Eight, the North East Society of Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi.



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