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## Title of the Talk

# Where Thousands Stars Sparkle: Galactic Polity in the Eastern Frontier of Medieval India



### About the Speaker

**Prof. (Dr.) Sajal Nag** is Distinguished Professor of History at Assam Royal Global University, Guwahati, and a former Senior Professor, Head of the Dept. of History and Dean at Assam University, Silchar. He was the first Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Chair Professor at Presidency University, Kolkata, and has held prestigious fellowships at Queen's University Belfast, the University of Cambridge, and the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. A leading historian of Northeast India, his extensive publications address frontier history, nationalism, ethnicity, environment, religion, and medieval-colonial encounters. He presided over the Modern Indian History section of the Indian History Congress in 2023.

## Second Jadunath Sarkar Memorial Lecture

Organized by the Dept. of  
history in Collaboration with  
IQAC, Gour Mahavidyalaya

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Date : 30.01.2026

Venue: Sir Jadunath Sarkar  
Seminar Hall

Time: 1 P.M. Onwards

This lecture situates the eastern frontier of medieval India within, yet distinct from, the wider Persianate world that dominated Asia between the eleventh and nineteenth centuries. While empires such as the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals shaped a transregional Persian cultural and political ecumene, Northeast India developed alternative, non-Persian political formations. Focusing on the Tai-Shan migration from Southeast Asia, the study examines the Ahom state in the Brahmaputra Valley, which sustained an indigenous model of polity for nearly six centuries with minimal reliance on Persianate ideas. The paper further explores the region's "Galactic Polity," marked by multiple coexisting political forms—Ahoms, Koches, Meiteis, Tripura, Kacharis, Jaintias, Chutiyas, and other tribal and Himalayan states—characterized by layered sovereignty, mobility, and tributary relations. Collectively, these formations illuminate a frontier political cosmos that sparkled independently within a Persianate age.



**Patron: Dr. Ashim Kumar Sarkar,  
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