

ABOUT THE HOST INSTITUTION

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University) is the premier institution for higher education in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, located at the picturesque tabloid of Rono Hills approximately 25 km away from the state capital Itanagar. Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the University on 4th February 1984 at Rono Hills. Ever since its inception, the University has been trying to achieve excellence and fulfill the objectives as envisaged in the University Act. The University was recognized as a Central University in the year 2007, established under the Act of Parliament. Being the only Central University of the State, at present there are forty-three (43) Departments and two (02) Institutes functioning under nine (09) Academic Faculties. University has been recognized as a Centre with Potential for Excellence by University Grants Commission (UGC).

ORGANISING DEPARTMENT

With a humble beginning since its inception in 2004, the Department of Mass Communication has grown from strength to strength. Beginning its academic journey with Post Graduate Diploma in Mass Communication (PGDMC) in the academic year 2004-05, the department currently offers PGDMC, M.A. in Mass Communication and Ph.D. Programmes. The department runs the RGU community radio station, Radio Rono 91.2 FM since 2023. It also has the state-of-the-art Broadcast and Digital Media Resource Centre (BDMRC) which is a high-tech media facility featuring an advanced TV studio and post production facilities.

COLLABORATING DEPARTMENT / INSTITUTION

Saint Clare College (Autonomous), Ziro (SCCZ) is located on a picturesque and serene green-spread at Salaya, Old Ziro in the Lower Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh, the land of dawn-lit mountains. Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi (Central) University, Doimukh, SCCZ is the first Autonomous College in the state and it has been accredited with Grade 'A' by National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2016 and 2023, making it the only college in the state to have such a distinction. The College currently offers 12 undergraduate degree programmes including Bachelor's in Arts/ Science, Commerce, Mass Communication, Business Administration and Social Work. The college also offers Postgraduate Degrees in Political Science and Geography.

The Department of Mass Communication at SCCZ was established in 2013 with the introduction of the Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication. It was the first full-fledged undergraduate professional Mass Communication programme offered in Arunachal Pradesh under RGU. The Department offers a balanced combination of theoretical knowledge and practical training. The department also encourages creative and experiential learning through student-led media initiatives such as The Resonance Post and The Claretine Gazette.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The North-East India is home to over 200 distinct tribal communities, each carrying a unique linguistic, cultural, and political heritage. From the Khasis, Garos, Nagas, and Mizos to the Bodos, Nyishi, and Apatani, the region represents one of the most ethnically, culturally and geographically diverse landscapes in the world. Historically, tribal identities in this region have been forged through oral traditions, customary laws, clan structures, and place-based relationships with land and nature.

The rapid penetration of mobile internet and social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter), into even the remotest corners of North-East India has created a new arena for cultural expression, political mobilization, and identity negotiation.

Social media is not merely a communication tool; it is increasingly a site where tribal communities assert visibility, contest stereotypes, recover cultural memory, and resist state and mainstream narratives. At the same time, digital platforms introduce new tensions: the commodification of indigenous culture, the erosion of local languages in favour of dominant tongues, exposure to cyber harassment, and the risk of misrepresentation.

Research has shown that social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram are increasingly used by tribal youth in North-East India for small-scale entrepreneurship, cultural promotion, and community networking.

Studies also confirm that digital engagement among tribal women is contributing to subtle yet meaningful social change, even as structural constraints like geographic isolation, infrastructural deficits, and digital illiteracy etc., mediate these experiences. Meanwhile, social media has become a powerful force in shaping identity politics and ethnic nationalism in the region, with ethno-linguistic diversity and the complex socio-political context demanding deeper scholarly attention.

Despite this growing significance, there remains a critical gap in interdisciplinary / multidisciplinary academic engagement with the conjoint themes of tribal identity, digital / social media, and North-East India. This conference seeks to bridge that gap by bringing together scholars, activists, policymakers, practitioners, and community voices in a rigorous and inclusive dialogue.

DIGI-TRIBIDENTITY-2026

An Interdisciplinary National Conference
"Digital Frontiers and Indigenous Voices"



Organised By

Department of Mass Communication
Rajiv Gandhi University
Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh, India



In Collaboration With

Department of Mass Communication
Saint Clare College (Autonomous)
Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh, India

Supported By



Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
North Eastern Regional Centre
NEHU Campus, Shillong - 793022

KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

Department of Mass Communication / Journalism of



Date: 2nd & 3rd November 2026

Venue: Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh
Mode: Hybrid (Physical/ Online)

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chief Patron
Prof. Shivraj
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor
Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh, India

Collaborating Patron
Dr. P. A. Alwyn Mendez
Principal
Saint Clare College (Autonomous), Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh, India

Advisory Members
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Prof. M. Amarjeet Singh, Director, Centre for NE Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi
Prof. G. P. Pandey, Former Head, Department of Mass Comm. & Journalism, Assam University, Silchar
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Dr. Shripriyash Pal, Coordinator, Dept. of Mass Com and Journ., University of Ladakh, Kargil Campus

Convener
Dr. Nawaz Khan Thosha, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Comm., Rajiv Gandhi University
Co-Convener
Ms. Geeta Zirdo, Head, Department of Mass Comm., Saint Clare College, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

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Dr. Sanil Kojima, Sr. Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication, Rajiv Gandhi University
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Mr. Donye Nang, Asst Prof., Dept of Mass Comm., Saint Clare College, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

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Dr. Arvind Kumar Pal, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication, Rajiv Gandhi University
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Organising Team Members
Research Scholars, Department of Mass Communication, RGU
Mr. Pranjit Doley
Mr. Doli Eie
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Mr. Chandramouly Pandey
Ms. Metu Dada
Mr. Kakul Doley
Ms. Taba Yater
Ms. Tongmak Dada
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Mr. Deva Tsering
Ms. Margaret B. Lowang
Mr. Rahul Bepari
Mr. Thangjam Bobby Singh
Mr. Thangjam Sangi Mento
Ms. Khoda Yapi

SUB-THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference will engage with, but not be limited to, the following thematic clusters-

SUB-THEME 1: IDENTITY, CULTURE, AND DIGITAL EXPRESSION

- Social media as a platform for tribal cultural assertion and revival
- Indigenous languages, oral traditions, and their digital life
- Representation and misrepresentation of tribal communities in digital spaces
- Cultural tourism, indigenous aesthetics, and commodification of identity online

SUB-THEME 2: YOUTH, GENDER, AND SOCIAL CHANGE

- Games & Sports and Tribal Identity formation mediated by digital platforms
- Tribal youth, social media, and the politics of belonging
- Women's digital engagement: empowerment /vulnerability in tribal communities
- Generational shifts in identity formation mediated by digital platforms
- Social media, education, and livelihood among tribal youth

SUB-THEME 3: POLITICAL MOBILISATION AND ETHNIC NATIONALISM

- Social media, ethnic nationalism, and identity politics in North-East India
- Digital activism, protest movements, and tribal rights
- Fake news, misinformation, and conflict in tribal digital spaces
- Social media's role in peace-building and conflict transformation in the region

SUB-THEME 4: LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES

- Digital archives of tribal knowledge and oral literature
- Tribal writers, bloggers, and content creators as new cultural agents
- Translation, transcription, and the digital preservation of indigenous languages
- Social media and the emergence of new literary forms in tribal languages

SUB-THEME 5: POLICY, DEVELOPMENT, AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Digital India and Tribes in NE India: Gaps between policy and ground reality
- Social media and the governance of tribal areas under the Sixth Schedule
- Financial inclusion, e-commerce, and social media in tribal economies
- Ethical dimensions of digital data collection in indigenous communities

SUB-THEME 6: METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS IN TRIBAL CONTEXTS

- Digital ethnography and netnography in tribal contexts
- Mixed-method approaches to studying social media in indigenous communities
- Participatory action research with tribal communities in the digital age
- Big data, content analysis, and discourse analysis in North-East India studies

ANY OTHER AREA RELATED TO THE CENTRAL THEME & CONTEXTS

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Opening of Online Registration: 11th September, 2026
Opening of Abstract Submission: 11th September, 2026
Last Date of Abstract Submission: 20th October, 2026
Last Date of Online Registration: 20th October, 2026
Last Date for Submission of Full Papers: 28th October, 2026
Date of Conference and Paper Presentations: 2nd & 3rd November, 2026

For any query please contact: 6009005173, 8119091152
Email: digitribidentity2026@gmail.com & nawaz.khan@rgu.ac.in

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstract Submission

Abstract of paper intended for presentation must be submitted in English in about 200-300 words with 4-5 keywords arranged in alphabetical order. It must contain the title of the paper, author(s) name(s) and designation with affiliation(s), mobile number and email IDs, and the body of the abstract.

Full Paper Submission

Authors are requested to submit their full papers in 3,500-4,500 words (including references). The papers must contain the title, name and designation of the author/s, an abstract, 4 to 5 keywords arranged in alphabetical order and the body of the paper arranged in a logical manner starting from Introduction to the Conclusion with notes and references.

Format: Abstract and full paper should be in MS Word using Times New Roman font (Size: Title-15, Headings-14, Subheadings-13, Body- 12) with single line spacing. Citation and referencing style should be in APA 7th Edition.

Submission Email: Both the abstract and full paper may be submitted to digitribidentity2026@gmail.com with a copy to nawaz.khan@rgu.ac.in

REGISTRATION

Please Click the Link / Scan the QR code for Registration

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/PvJsey3uK31D8psCA>



Category for Registration:

Research Scholars: ₹ 500
Faculty / Academicians/ Delegates: ₹ 1000

Registration fee should be deposited through online transfer in favour of: HOD, Mass Communication, Rajiv Gandhi University
Account Number: 83420100002869
IFSC Code: BARB0VJARUN (Fifth character is Zero)
Name of the Bank: Bank of Baroda, Arunachal University Branch

The registration fee receipt should be submitted along with the Abstract as per the stipulated dates.

ACCOMMODATION

Self-funded Travel / Accommodation for Offline Paper Presenters / Participants / Delegates

They are to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. However, arrangement for paid accommodation may be made at the Guest Houses of Rajiv Gandhi University and other nearby institutes, subject to availability of rooms at the time of the event. On prior information, accommodation arrangements in economy and luxury hotels in Naharlagun and Itanagar may also be made.

For Accommodation Contact: 8413833219