ICSSR
Indian Council of Social Science Research

# RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY
## RONO HILLS, DOIMUKH
(A Central University)

in collaboration with

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi

# NATIONAL SEMINAR

## GST Reforms and Socio-Economic Transformation in North-East India:
### Pathways to Inclusive Growth and Regional Development




**Dates**
6th – 7th November 2026

**Venue**
Conference Hall, Department of Commerce
Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh
Arunachal Pradesh

Submission E-mail: commercergu.gstseminar2026@gmail.com

## INVITATION

The Department of Commerce, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, cordially invites research papers for the ***ICSSR-Sponsored National Seminar on "GST Reforms and Socio-Economic Transformation in North-East India: Pathways to Inclusive Growth and Regional Development"*** scheduled to be held on **November 6th and 7th, 2026**. The seminar aims to critically examine how Next-Generation GST reforms reshape the economic structure, sectoral development, employment patterns, revenue generation, and social well-being of the North-East region.

We welcome academicians, researchers, industry professionals, policymakers, and development practitioners from India and abroad to contribute empirical and conceptual works on the region-specific opportunities and challenges emerging from GST reforms in North-East India.

**The seminar seeks to foster an interdisciplinary platform for dialogue and collaboration, encouraging evidence-based deliberations on how GST-driven formalisation, digitalisation, and fiscal restructuring can support inclusive growth, sustainable livelihoods, and balanced regional development in the eight North-Eastern states. Participants will have the opportunity to share research findings, best practices, and policy perspectives relevant to the evolving GST landscape.**

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

**Rajiv Gandhi University**, accredited with **'Grade A' by NAAC**, stands as a leading institution of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh, committed to academic excellence and social development. Located at Rono Hills, Doimukh, the University's foundation stone was laid by Late Smt. Indira Gandhi on **4th February 1984**, and it was accorded Central University status on **9th April 2007** through an Act of Parliament.

A vibrant centre of learning, Rajiv Gandhi University is dedicated to academic excellence, innovative research, and holistic development, with **45 academic departments** and **2 institutes** under **13 faculties** actively engaged in cutting-edge scholarship and community outreach. Nestled amidst the picturesque hills of Rono Hills, the University plays a pivotal role in shaping knowledge, fostering inclusivity, and driving sustainable development in the North Eastern region and beyond.

## ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Established in **1995**, the **Department of Commerce** has emerged as a leading centre for commerce, business, and management education in North-East India. With **10 dedicated faculty members and 3 Teaching Assistants**, the Department offers **M.Com.**, **PG Diploma in Banking and Insurance (PGDBI)**, and **Ph.D. programmes**, and has produced educators, researchers, bankers, civil servants, and entrepreneurs serving across sectors.

Actively engaged in **research, innovation, and capacity building**, the Department regularly organises national and international academic events, consultancy, and outreach programmes, fostering a culture of rigorous inquiry and practical relevance. It focuses on areas such as taxation, finance,

entrepreneurship, regional development, and digital transformation, with special emphasis on the North-Eastern region.

## ABOUT THE SEMINAR

**The North-East region of India—comprising Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura—presents a distinctive economic landscape marked by rich natural resources, agricultural abundance, indigenous entrepreneurship, and cultural diversity. The implementation of Next-Generation GST Reforms (effective from 22 September 2025) opens new avenues to strengthen economic resilience, formalise informal sector activities, and integrate North-Eastern industries with national and global markets.**

**While GST implementation in 2017 simplified India's indirect tax regime, the North-East's sectoral composition—dominated by agriculture, tea and spices, handicrafts, bamboo industries, sericulture, aquaculture, tourism, and traditional manufacturing—requires region-specific analysis. The new phase of GST reforms, focused on simplified compliance, technological integration, and sectoral rationalisation, has the potential to: formalise informal economies, empower MSMEs and start-ups, enhance revenue mobilisation, and support agricultural and artisanal sectors central to regional identity and livelihoods.**

**This seminar aims to provide a scholarly platform for researchers, policymakers, administrators, and practitioners to deliberate on the transformative potential of GST reforms for North-East India. It encourages analytical contributions on revenue dynamics, employment and livelihoods, digital compliance capacity, sectoral development, inter-state trade, and governance frameworks, with the objective of generating actionable policy recommendations tailored to the region.**

## AIM OF THE SEMINAR

To foster rigorous academic research, policy dialogue, and stakeholder engagement on the implications of Next-Generation GST reforms for North-East India's economic structure, sectoral development, employment patterns, revenue generation, and socio-economic transformation, with a view to promoting inclusive growth and balanced regional development.

## SUB-THEMES (INDICATIVE) (Papers related to non-NER will also be accepted)

**Track A: GST Reforms and Regional Agricultural Transformation: Tea, Spices, and Agri-Products**

- GST reforms and regional agricultural transformation: tea, spices, and agri-products
- GST compliance and smallholder farmers, FPOs, and agro-processing units
- Tax exemptions, value addition, and export competitiveness of North-Eastern agri-products
- GST, rural livelihoods, and food security in North-East India

**Track B: GST and North-East Indigenous Industries: Handicrafts, Bamboo, and Sericulture**

- GST and North-East indigenous industries: handicrafts, bamboo, sericulture
- Formalisation of artisanal clusters and market access through GST
- GST rates, GI tags, and competitiveness of traditional products in domestic and global markets

- Capacity-building for artisans and cooperatives in GST compliance

**Track C: MSMEs, Start-ups, and Regional Entrepreneurship: Operationalising GST in NER**

- GST and ease of doing business for MSMEs and start-ups in North-East India
- Digital compliance (e-invoicing, e-way bills, digital payments) and MSME clusters
- GST registration, access to formal credit, and entrepreneurial ecosystems
- State-level incentives and ecosystem support for GST-compliant enterprises

**Track D: GST Reforms and Regional Revenue Dynamics: State Fiscal Impact & Resource Mobilisation**

- GST reforms and state fiscal impact in North-Eastern states
- Revenue mobilisation, compensation mechanisms, and fiscal sustainability
- Region-specific revenue leakages and measures to strengthen tax administration
- Cooperative federalism, fiscal autonomy, and next-generation GST reforms

**Track E: Impact of GST on Employment, Social Protection, and Inclusion**

- Employment and livelihood implications of GST in rural and urban North-East
- Formalisation, social security, and welfare of informal workers under GST
- Skill gaps and capacity-building for GST-driven digital and formal sector jobs
- Gender, youth, and vulnerable groups in the GST reform discourse

**Track F: Digital Transformation and Compliance Capacity - Technology Integration in the NER**

- Digital infrastructure readiness and GST technology integration in the North-East
- Connectivity constraints, digital literacy, and inclusive compliance models
- Offline-enabled GST systems, handholding, and institutional support
- Role of state governments, industry associations, and civil society in capacity building

**Track G: Impact of GST on Trade, Logistics, and Regional Integration**

- GST's impact on regional commerce and inter-state trade in North-East India
- Participation of North-Eastern states in national value chains post-GST
- Cross-border trade, logistics, and trade facilitation measures under GST
- Tourism, services, and e-commerce as engines of regional growth in the GST era

**Track H: Governance, Legal Framework, and Comparative Perspectives**

- GST implementation in Sixth Schedule areas and special legal-administrative contexts
- Institutional capacity, dispute resolution, and governance challenges in the region
- Comparative lessons from other Indian and international regions on indirect taxation
- Integrated tax policy and regional development strategies for the North-East

**Track I: Sectoral Growth Potential: Tourism, Services, and E-Commerce**

- GST and competitiveness of tourism and hospitality sector of NER
- Role of e-commerce in integrating North-Eastern products into national markets
- GST on strengthening professional and business services
- GST and investment in North-East India's services infrastructure

**Track J: Comparative Regional Analysis: Learning from Peer States and International Contexts**

- Federal tax systems in comparable international contexts, regional disparities & formalisation
- Regional development strategies and integrated tax policy with growth objectives

## CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite original research papers, case studies, policy analyses, and conceptual papers aligned with the main theme and sub-themes of the seminar. Interdisciplinary contributions from economics, commerce, management, public policy, law, ICT, and social sciences are highly encouraged.

**Abstract Submission:** 250–300 words including background, objectives, methodology, key findings/expected contribution, and 4–5 keywords.
**Full Paper:** 4000–8000 words.

## PAPER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

### Structure of Full-Length Research Papers

The authors must follow the following standardized structure for paper submissions to ensure academic rigor and publication readiness:

1. **Title of the Paper**
2. **Abstract (250–300 words)**
3. **Keywords (5–7 keywords)**
4. **Introduction**
5. **Review of Literature, Research Gap etc.**
6. **Objectives of the Study**
7. **Hypotheses (where applicable)**
8. **Research Methodology (Data Sources, Sampling Design and Tools & Techniques etc.)**
9. **Data Analysis & Interpretation**
10. **Findings and Discussion**
11. **Policy Implications / Practical Relevance**
12. **Conclusion**
13. **References (APA 7th Edition Format)**

### Structure of Extended Abstracts for Seminar Submission

- Title of the Paper
- Author(s) Details (Name, Affiliation, Email)
- Abstract (1000 words maximum) covering Background/Context, Objectives, Methodology, Key Findings, and Policy Implications (*with separate sub-headings*)
- Keywords (5–7)

### Peer Review and Screening Mechanism

- A **two-stage review process** was approved:
  - **Stage 1:** Screening of abstracts by the Peer Review Committee
  - **Stage 2:** Review of full papers by subject experts
- Evaluation criteria will include:
  - Originality and relevance
  - Methodological rigor
  - Theoretical and empirical contribution
  - Policy relevance
- A plagiarism threshold of **less than 10% (excluding references and Similarity range of 10 Words)** and **0% AI Content** was agreed upon. Authors may be required to submit a **declaration of originality along with a Similarity Report and No AI Content Report** from *Drillbit* or *Turnitin*.
- Authors must adhere strictly to formatting guidelines aligned with SCOPUS-indexed journal requirements.

### Ethical and Quality Standards

- All submissions must be **original and unpublished**.

- Proper citation and referencing must be ensured.
- Any instance of academic misconduct will lead to rejection.

**Submission E-mail:** ***commercergu.gstseminar2026@gmail.com***

## PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

**ICSSR shall publish multi-volume proceedings, policy briefs and recommendations, working papers, media notes, and key takeaways** emerging from seminars, conferences, and conclaves on GST reforms, which will be shared with relevant government departments, regulatory bodies, academic institutions, industry associations, and other stakeholders to inform evidence-based policymaking and practice. **Selected high-quality papers presented at the seminar shall be considered for publication by the ICSSR**, subject to their review and acceptance policies. Authors will be invited to revise and expand their papers in line with the requirements and timelines specified by ICSSR.

## IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|---|---|
| Abstract Submission Deadline: **10th September 2026** | Acceptance of Abstracts: **15th September 2026** |
| Full Paper Submission: **15th October 2026** | Seminar Dates: **6th- 7th November 2026** |

## REGISTRATION DETAILS

| Category | Registration Fee (INR) | Category | Registration Fee (INR) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Academicians | 1500 | Students | 300 |
| Research Scholars | 500 | Other Participants | 200 |
| Accommodation (Shared) | 1000 per day | Accommodation (Full) | 1500 per day |
| For non-paper presenting accompanists | | Accommodation shall be provided against registration only. | |

- **Details of registration procedure and accommodation (if any) will be shared along with acceptance mail**.
- Co-authors must register themselves to receive a certificate, and to be eligible for publication opportunities.
- Non-married couples are not allowed as accompanist.
- All non-Arunachalee participants must apply for an e-ILP online through the provided link (**https://www.eilp.arunachal.gov.in/preTuristEIlpKYC**), as it is mandatory for entry into Arunachal Pradesh.
- Please carry your Aadhaar Card or any Government issued identity card for accommodation purposes.

## PAYMENT DETAILS

Name: **DEAN FACULTY OF COM AND MANAGEMENT**
A/C Number: **83420100006769**
IFSC Code: **BARB0VJARUN** *(5th letter is ZERO)*
Bank Name: **BANK OF BARODA**
Branch: **ARUNACHAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS BRANCH, DOIMUKH**
UPI (VPA): **dean7002769@barodampay**
Registration Link: **https://forms.gle/GCJuBPxyghWyGMa17**

## CONTACT

**Prof. Sanjeeb K. Jena**
Dean, Faculty of Commerce & Management
Seminar Convenor
Department of Commerce
Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh
Email: deancommmgmt@rgu.ac.in
Mobile: +91 7002393335 / 9437375088

**Prof. Ram Chandra Parida**
Head, Department of Commerce
Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh
Email: hod.commerce@rgu.ac.in

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

**Patron:** **Prof. Shivaraj, Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University**
**Seminar Coordinator:** **Prof. Sanjeeb K Jena, Professor & Dean (FCM), Rajiv Gandhi University**

**Prof. R. C. Parida**
**Prof. Tasi Kaye**
**Prof. Otem Padung**
**Dr. Vinod Kumar Yadav**
**Dr. Devi Baruah**
**Dr. Philip Modi**
**Dr. Atege Linggi**
**Dr. Sunil Nandi**
**Dr. Olympia Kurmi**
**Dr. Anil Payeng**
**Ms. Karjum Riba**
**Ms. Nang Chanika Longphoi**

## HOW TO REACH

***By Air:*** The nearest airport is **Donyi Polo Airport, Hollongi (HGI)**, located approximately 45 km from the University campus, with regular flights to major cities such as **Delhi (DEL)**, **Kolkata (CCU)**, and **Guwahati (GHY)**. Another nearby option is **Lilabari (IXI) Airport** in Assam (about 50 km away), which offers regular flights to Kolkata.






***By Train:*** The nearest railway station is **Naharlagun (NHLN)**, situated about 9–10 km from the campus, with direct trains to New Delhi and Guwahati. **Harmuti (HMY)** Railway Station in Assam, around 10 km away, is also a convenient alternative, and some trains halt at **Gumto (GMTO)** Railway Station, which is only about 5 km from the campus.

***By Road:*** Rajiv Gandhi University is well connected by road to major towns in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The campus is approximately **18 km from Itanagar**, **12 km from Naharlagun**, and **3 km from Doimukh**, and university buses and taxis/ autorickshaws are available from key locations for the convenience of visitors.



**https://maps.app.goo.gl/uBvP9ipGEkQVUgeR9**