

One day National Seminar

on

**“UNDERSTANDING INDIA’S NORTH EAST: ETHNICITY, IDENTITY
AND ISSUES OF CONFLICT”**

24th March, 2020

Organized by

Department of Political Science,

Rajiv Gandhi University

Arunachal Pradesh

Venue: Conference Hall, Department of Political Science, RGU.

About Rajiv Gandhi University:

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University) being the oldest university in the state of Arunachal Pradesh is located atop Rono Hills on a picturesque tableland of 302 acres overlooking the river Dikrong. Located at 27^o 08’50” N 93^o 46’01” E, the university is 6.5 km away from the National Highway 52 A and 25 km away from the state capital Itanagar. The easiest way to reach the campus is to travel by road. The distance from Guwahati to Itanagar is 327.3 km that can be covered in 8 to 9 hours of time and the nearest railway station is located at Gumto that is a 10 minutes’ or Naharlagun which is 30 minutes away from the campus. Lilabari airport, Lakhimpur being the closest airport is around 48.7 km from Doimukh which can be covered at around an approximate time of 1 hour and 30 minutes. The department and entire faculty members of the university have been actively involved in research activities with financial support from UGC and other funding agencies. Various Seminars, Workshops and Conferences including visits by eminent scholars and distinguished guests from various institutions and places are frequently held.

About Department:

Department of Political Science was established in 1988 as one of the pioneering departments under erstwhile Arunachal University, Pasighat. The department progressed year after year and has been engaged in generating human resources for the State and dissemination of analytical understanding in tuned with the objectives of Rajiv Gandhi University. Presently the department is offering M.A, M.Phil and Ph.d courses.

About the Seminar:

India is the home to different ascriptive groups based on race, religion, language, caste and tribe, which makes it one of the world's most complex and comprehensively pluralistic ethnic societies. The Archaeological Survey of India in its project 'The people of India' estimated that there are nearly 4,599 separate communities in India with as many as 1652 languages and dialects in 12 distinct language families and some 24 scripts. The north eastern region of the country alone is in itself home to people from different ethnicities with more than 200 ethnic communities and more than 220 dialects it constitutes to be one of the richest ethnically.

The north-east region is the eastern most part of India, well known for its natural beauty, diversity, rare and unique wildlife, people and culture. It comprises of eight states –Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, which put in together accounts for 8% of the country's geographical area. The region also plays a very important strategic role, located between Bangladesh to the west, Myanmar to the east and Bhutan and China to the north. It represents both political administrative and geographical division of the country. It is connected to the main land through a narrow corridor popularly called as the 'chicken neck' passage. The region is also a catbird seat for the southeast Asian market provided it gets the required development efforts are made towards it.

Identity has become a very important phenomenon in the contemporary period. The identification of members of a group on the basis of sharing common attributes on the basis of language, religion, culture and ethnicity etc. indicates the existence or formation of identity. Ethnicity is seen as an essential section of identity but the importance of ethnicity differs situationally as well as occasionally. According to Liebkind ethnicity refers to a sense of belongingness to a particular ancestry and origin. An ethnic group therefore is thought to exist whenever the belief in common descent is used to bind people together to some degree. In short ethnic identity refers to an individual's sense of self in terms of membership in a specific ethnic group.

The identity and ethnic issues transforms into different phases sometime into a violent form resulting into conflict situations on many occasions. The various insurgent movements in the North-East are rooted in the idea of preservation and protection of the ethnic identifies. The debate on the article 371, the ongoing protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 among all states of the North-East India, the demand for ILP in rest of other north-east States, the NRC imbroglio are apparent manifestation and quest for preservation of identities among the people of the North-East India. North East issues and concern about recent political development of the country is not of the ideology but of the fear psychosis of losing their own identity and ethnicity. Therefore it is need to understand the identity and ethnicity of north east India with a holistic approach and scholastic views to resolve the issues.

Objectives of the Seminar:

In the light of the aforementioned note broadly the objectives of the seminar are:

1. To understand the dynamics of ethno-centric stand of India's North East
2. To illustrate on the areas of conflict related to the identity politics in North East
3. To comprehend the ethnicity and identity questions of North East India.

Sub Themes:

1. Citizenship laws (CAA and NRC) and the issue of identity.
2. Autonomy Movements and Autonomous Councils.
3. Regional Political Parties and party politics.
4. Pressure groups.
5. Legal and constitutional protections (ILP, Article 371, VIth Schedule) of North East.
6. Separatist movement in North East.
7. Language and Cultural identity.
8. Refugee issues.
9. Boundary issues and conflicts.
10. Interface of traditional self governing institutions and modern political institutions.
11. Ethnology of tribes.
12. Identity politics.
13. Gender and identity.
14. Identity and demography.

Call for papers:

Papers are invited from academicians, research scholars and others who are interested to participate in the national seminar on the above mentioned theme and sub-themes on any topics relevant to the title of the seminar. Participants are requested to send abstracts to punyo.yarang@rgu.ac.in /david.gao@rgu.ac.in. Abstract should include title of the paper, keywords, author's name and affiliation, contact no. and email address.

Important Dates:

- Last date for submission of abstract/full paper : 19.03.2020
- Notification of acceptance: 20.03.2020
- Final date of intimation for registration by email: 22.03.2020

Registration fees:

1. Academicians and others: Rs.1000
2. Research scholars: Rs.500

- Registration fee includes seminar kit, working lunch and tea, no T.A and D.A will be paid to the participants for participating in the seminar.
- Accommodations shall be arranged for participants at their own costs.
- Registration shall be done on the day of seminar from 8:30 onwards.

Publication: Selected papers will be published with ISBN.

Guideline for Submission of Abstract/ Full paper

1. The medium of research paper shall be in English. Both abstract and full papers should be prepared in a4 size and times new roman 12 font sizes with double spacing in ms word.
2. Abstract within 250 words and full papers not exceeding 3000 words including cover page and references. A hard copy of the full paper will have to be submitted at the time of registration.

Communication:

Regarding submission of abstract/full length paper and other queries be made through the

Email id: punyo.yarang@rgu.ac.in (8787808025) / david.gao@rgu.ac.in
(9436270520/8257982056)