

Important Dates

Last date of submission of abstract (250-300 words)	: 10.11.2026
Last date of notification of accepted Abstract	: 16.11.2026
Last date of full papers (4000-5000 words)	: 10.12.2026
Last Date of Registration	: 25 th November, 2026
Date of Seminar	: 19 th & 20 th January, 2027

Registration

Kindly send your abstracts and full papers, with the required details, exclusively by email to tupolscienceseminar27@gmail.com and CC to biplabdeb@tripurauniv.in.

REGISTRATION FEES

Faculty & Academicians	Rs. 1500/-
Research Scholars	Rs. 1000/-
Students	Rs. 500/-

The fees shall include a conference kit, certificate and working lunch & snacks for the seminar days. The process of registration shall be communicated after the acceptance of abstract.

For Any Query:

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Website:
<https://tripurauniv.ac.in/site/index.php/en/political-science-home-en>

Organising Committee

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Ms. Monalisa Roy, Mr. Bipul Chakma (Research Scholars, Dept. of Political Science, MBBU)



Two Day National Seminar On

Politics, Identity, Gender and Development in North-East India: Challenges, Policy & Praxis

19th & 20th January, 2027

Organised by
Department of Political Science
TRIPURA UNIVERSITY
(A Central University)

In collaboration with
Department of Political Science,
Maharaja Bir Bikram University &
Women's Study Centre, Tripura University

Knowledge Partner
Research Committee on North East Indian Studies,
INDIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
(IPSA)

Venue
Department of Political Science, Tripura University



Email: tupolscienceseminar27@gmail.com

Concept Note

Northeast India, comprising the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, is known for its rich cultural diversity, varied conglomeration of ethnic communities, and unique geographical features. The political history of North-East India changed significantly after India's independence, when these culturally distinct territories became part of the Indian Union. The process of integration was not without challenges as the region, since independence, is confronted with intricate intersections of ethnic identity claims, historical political alienation, evolving gender dynamics, and top-down development models that is having a profound impact on the politics of the region.

Home to more than 200 ethnic groups, each with its own language and culture, identity plays a crucial role in shaping political behaviour and public policies. Prolonged historical boundaries and multi-ethnic cohabitation spark fierce debates over indigenous rights, majorities versus minorities, and "indigenous" vs. the "outsiders." This has not been helped by cross-border and internal migration, that have influenced demographic patterns, access to land and resources, electoral politics, and ethnic identities. Multiple ethnic-based political organisations have emerged that advocate for the interests of specific communities. Identity issues have aggravated longstanding conflicts, making the region what Subir Bhaumik described as a "troubled periphery".

The heavy footprint of security measures and special legislation has historically constrained civil liberties and local democratic praxis. The implementation of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in several parts of the region has generated continuous debate over the balance between national security, law enforcement, and the protection of human rights. Over the past two decades, the intensity of insurgency has declined considerably in many parts of the region owing to peace accords, negotiations, and improved security measures. However, the recent ethnic violence in Manipur has reopened important debates on the nature of conflict and state-building in North-East India. The conflict raises fresh questions about whether the region continues to experience what Sanjib Baruah connotes as "durable disorder"- a condition in which recurring instability persists despite periodic efforts at conflict resolution and development.

Civil society groups and various indigenous women's federations actively challenge state militarisation, human rights abuses, and social injustices. Consequently, identity and security issues have also rekindled the debates on gender as a complex paradox: while women often enjoy higher workforce visibility and social freedom than the national average - and specific groups like the Khasi in Meghalaya practice matrilineal descent - deep-seated patriarchal norms, political exclusion, and development gaps still limit true gender equality.

North-East India's location along the international borders with China, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Bangladesh adds to its strategic importance and plays a prominent role in India's external engagements. Mainstream national policies such as the "Act East" policy, Neighbourhood First policy, Indo-Pacific Strategy frame the region as a strategic gateway to Southeast Asia and beyond, prioritising large infrastructure and hydropower projects. At the same time, the Northeast's geo-strategic location has created security challenges such as cross-border insurgency, illegal migration, smuggling, and other forms of transnational crime. These political and security challenges have had a direct impact on the region's development and governance. Although North-East India possesses abundant natural resources and significant economic potential, its development has been

constrained by inadequate infrastructure, administrative weaknesses, and prolonged conflicts.

Despite these challenges, Institutions have been playing a crucial role in shaping the developmental trajectory of North-East India by fostering political stability, regional cooperation, and socio-economic transformation. Institutions like the North Eastern Council (NEC), the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (MDoNER), and the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFi) have sought to address the region's unique developmental needs while accommodating its ethnic diversity. Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) drive development in Northeast India by building core energy, transport, and mining infrastructure, creating local jobs, and supporting regional agriculture. Major firms like ONGC, NHPC, and NRL boost local economies, while specialised agencies like NERAMAC and NEHHDC market local crops and crafts. There are also potential for investment in education, skill development, and human capital that can transform North-East India into a centre of knowledge, entrepreneurship, and a hub of regional economic cooperation. Cross-border connectivity projects have been set up that open up avenues for the Northeast to integrate with the countries of South, Southeast Asia and beyond.

Against this backdrop, the conference seeks to provide an interdisciplinary platform for scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and research scholars to critically examine the changing dynamics of identity, governance, institutions, and development in North-East India. The conference seeks to be a forum where participants explore the opportunities and devise ways of mitigating the problems that can enhance Northeast India's role as an important stakeholder towards Viksit Bharat.

Sub - themes

- **History, heritage and historical transformations**
- **Theorising state and society.**
- **Tribal identity, ethnic mobilisation and the politics of belonging.**
- **Development through India's external engagements: 'Act East,' 'Neighbourhood First, Indo-Pacific Strategy'.**
- **Migration, mobility and political change.**
- **Gender, women and political participation.**
- **Environment, ecology and sustainable development.**
- **Security, conflict and peacebuilding: challenges and emerging perspectives.**
- **Electoral politics, democracy and political behaviour.**
- **Role of Industries (MDoNER, NEC, NEDFi, ONGC, GAIL etc.),**
- **Entrepreneurship and pathways to economic transformation.**
- **Space, geopolitics, and regional development.**
- **Inclusive development and regional aspirations.**
- **Political economy and democratic institutions.**
- **Marginalised communities, social justice and social transformation.**
- **Education, knowledge and human capital.**
- **Emerging trends and future trajectories.**

About Tripura

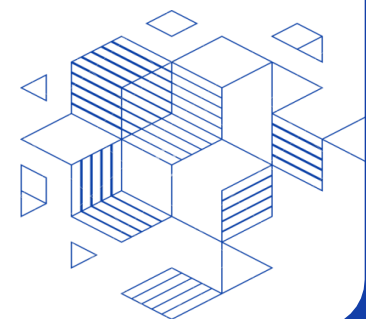
Tripura is a beautiful hilly state located in Northeast India. Despite being one of the smallest states in India, Tripura possesses remarkable geographical, cultural, and historical diversity. Its capital is Agartala, and the official languages are Bengali, Kokborok, and English. Administratively, the state is divided into eight districts with a total population of approximately 36 lakh as per Census 2011. With a literacy rate of about 95.6%, the state is among the most literate in India. The state officially recognises 19 indigenous communities that live alongside a majority Bengali population. The indigenous people of the state are granted self-autonomy through the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC). The state possesses renowned natural sites such as the Ujayanta Palace, Tripura Sundari temple, Unakoti, Jampui hill, Neer Mahal Water Palace, Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary, Chabimura etc

About Tripura University

Tripura University (A Central University) is the premier institution of higher education in Tripura and an important centre of learning and research. Located at Suryamaninagar, approximately 8 km from Agartala, the university was established as a Central University under the Tripura University Act, 2006, with effect from 2 July 2007. It is committed to promoting quality education, research, and technological innovation while contributing to the overall social, cultural, and economic development of the state and the region. The university provides a conducive academic environment through its scenic, picturesque campus, which supports teaching, learning, and research activities. Tripura University currently offers a comprehensive range of academic programmes, including 13 undergraduate programmes, 48 postgraduate programmes, 3 postgraduate diploma programmes, and 45 doctoral (Ph.D) programmes. In addition, 71 colleges are affiliated with the university, making it a major centre of higher education in the state.

About the Department of Political Science, Tripura University

The Department of Political Science at Tripura University was established in 1994 and is one of the university's largest departments. It offers Integrated Master's Degree (IMD), Master of Arts (M.A.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) programmes designed to equip students with both conceptual knowledge and practical research skills. Besides other areas of political science, the department gives particular emphasis to teaching and research on the politics and society of North East India.



About the Department of Political Science, MBB University

The Department of Political Science, Maharaja Bir Bikram University, Agartala, began its academic journey on 10 August 2016. The Department offers M.A. and PhD programmes in Political Science. The Department is committed to developing a strong understanding of political institutions, theories, governance, public policy, and contemporary political issues. Through quality teaching, research, discussions, and academic activities, the department encourages critical thinking, democratic values, and analytical skills among students, preparing them for academic and professional careers.

About the Women's Studies Centre, Tripura University

The Women's Studies Centre, Tripura University, was established as a cell in 2006 and was recognized by the UGC in 2011. The Centre focuses on research, teaching, training, legal advocacy, documentation and awareness regarding women and gender issues, particularly in Tripura. It also conducts seminars, workshops, outreach programmes and gender-related research.

About the Indian Political Science Association (IPSA) and the Research Committee (RC) on North East Indian Studies

The **Indian Political Science Association (IPSA)**, established in 1938, is a leading professional association promoting the study, teaching, and research of Political Science in India. It facilitates conferences, seminars, academic discussions, and scholarly collaboration among teachers, researchers, and students. In this academic framework, the **Research Committee (RC) on North East Indian Studies**, established in 2025, focuses on the region's political dynamics, identity, ethnicity, governance, conflict and peace processes, democracy, and development.

The **Research Committee (RC) on North East Indian Studies** functions as a specialised academic forum within the **Indian Political Science Association (IPSA)**. Its role is to advance Political Science scholarship on North East India by bringing together scholars, researchers, teachers, and students working on the region. The RC facilitates research collaboration, academic discussions, panels, seminars, conferences, publications, and knowledge exchange, while contributing region-specific perspectives to broader debates within Indian Political Science.

How to Reach

Tripura University is located at Suryamaninagar in the West Tripura district, approximately 9 km from Agartala city and about 20 km from Maharaja Bir Bikram (Agartala) Airport. It is well connected to the rest of India by air, road and rail networks from Kolkata, Guwahati, and Delhi.

Connectivity by Air: The nearest airport is Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport (Agartala), located about 20 km from the university campus. Agartala is well connected by regular direct flights from Kolkata, Guwahati, Delhi, and several other major cities in North East India.

Connectivity by Train: Tripura University can be reached by rail through Agartala Railway Station, which is connected to Guwahati, Kolkata and other parts of the country. The railway station is located at a distance of 4 kms from the university campus.

Connectivity by Road: The University is well connected by road via Agartala and other parts of Tripura. Regular AC and non-AC bus services operate between Agartala and major cities such as Guwahati, Silchar, and Shillong.

Weather: Tripura experiences a moderate climate throughout the year. During the summer season, the average temperature in Agartala is around 30°C, while in winter it generally remains close to 15°C.

Invited Speakers

Prof. (Dr.) Raka Arya

President, IPSA & Professor (Political Science), The National Law Institute University Bhopal & Former Member, Law Commission of India, New Delhi

Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma

General Secretary & Treasurer, IPSA, Former Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari (Bihar) & Professor, Department of Political Science, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh

Prof. Jayanta Krishna Sarmah

Dept. of Political Science, Dean, Arts & Commerce, Gauhati University, Assam.

Prof. Jyotiraj Pathak

Dept. of Political Science, Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University

Prof. T. T. Haokip

Dept. of Political Science, North Eastern Hill University, Meghalaya

Prof. Soma Bhowmick

Editor (IPSA), Vice-Chancellor, William Carey University, Meghalaya

Prof. Nani Bath

Dept. of Political Science, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh

Prof. Pratip Chattopadhyay

Dept. of Political Science, University of Kalyani, West Bengal

Prof. Jitendra Sahoo

University of Gour Banga, West Bengal.

Prof. Imankalyan Lahiri

Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University

Prof. T. Sadashivam

Dept. of Public Administration, Mizoram University, Mizoram

Call for Papers

Research papers are invited from Faculty and Academicians, Research Scholars, Students, Government Officials and Policy Makers.

Submission Guidelines

1. The abstract must not exceed 250 words and should include relevant keywords (Maximum 5 nos). It must also incorporate the following information: Title of the paper, Name(s) and designation(s) of the author(s), with the presenting author's name underlined, Institutional affiliation and email address, Contact number (preferably WhatsApp enabled).
2. The document should be prepared in MS Word format (.doc or .docx), using Times New Roman, 12-point font, with 1.5 line spacing.
3. All submissions will undergo a quality review by the organising committee. Notifications regarding acceptance will be sent to the corresponding author via email. Full paper submission: By 10th December 2026.
4. The Department of Political Science, TU may take the initiative to publish selected papers from the seminar as part of an edited volume book or a research journal.
5. All submissions—including both the abstract and full paper—must be sent via email exclusively to tupolscienceseminar27@gmail.com and CC to biplabdeb@tripurauniv.in.
6. The full-length paper should include the following components: title of the paper, subtitle of the seminar, abstract, introduction, objectives, research questions or hypotheses, methodology, results, discussion, conclusions and references.
7. Manuscripts must be prepared in MS Word format (.doc or .docx), using Times New Roman, font size 12, and 1.5 line spacing throughout. A standard referencing format, such as APA style (7th Edition), must be followed for citations and references.
8. Kindly ensure that your submission is original, unpublished, plagiarism & AI free and has not been presented in any prior forum.

Accommodation

Paper presenters have to make their own arrangements for travel. The organisers may arrange accommodation for paper presenters at the University Guest House upon payment in accordance with the guest house tariffs.

