

An Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) sponsored two-day Hybrid-Mode National Seminar organized by the Department of Political Science, Tetso College, Nagaland

CALL FOR PAPERS

Changing Landscape of Governance in Northeast India: Trends and Perspectives

22 & 23 OCTOBER, 2026



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
4TH OCTOBER, 2026

ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION
7TH OCTOBER, 2026

FULL PAPER SUBMISSION
18TH OCTOBER, 2026

CONCEPT NOTE

The Northeastern region of India, comprising the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, and Sikkim, occupies a strategically significant yet historically complex position within the Indian Union. Characterized by extraordinary ethnic, linguistic, and cultural diversity, the region has long experienced political turmoil, identity-based movements, and fervent demands for autonomy.

The frontier character of the region, stemming from 'patchwork' colonial governance driven by economic interests and geopolitical concerns, has had a profound impact on its post-colonial formation, subsequent territorial reorganization and development. In the aftermath of independence, the region continued to grapple with challenges of geographical isolation, economic backwardness, (in)security, insurgency and counter-insurgency, citizenship, migration, state-building and state capacity, raising important questions about the nature and effectiveness of governance in the region.

In recent decades, the Northeast has witnessed significant transformations, including peace negotiations with insurgent groups, expansion of physical infrastructure and connectivity, and increased attention from the central government through policies such as the Act East Policy. Notably, the region has been placed at the centre-stage of the transregional connectivity network scheme aimed at integrating the most remote border areas with Myanmar and Southeast Asia through ambitious ventures like the tri-lateral highway and the multi-modal Kaladan project for trade and commerce, tourism, transit and transport.

The introduction of broad-gauge railway lines in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and most recently in Mizoram signals the centre's commitment to further integrate the region, boost local economies and foster growth. However, it also raises important questions about the potential implications of a rapid influx of goods and people into these vulnerable areas and whether their multi-layered governance structure—combining special constitutional arrangements

and long-term indigenous safeguards such as the inner line permit system—will remain effective.

Besides, the region continues to experience governance challenges manifested in violent outbursts of ethnic conflicts, administrative inefficiencies, entrenched “localized autocracy” and corruption. Added to these are bureaucratic hurdles for development projects, tensions surrounding land, resource and identity, inter-state border disputes and their occasional flare-ups, and the larger tensions between state institutions and local communities. Moreover, in states like Mizoram, Meghalaya and Nagaland, the role of the Church as a parallel power structure merits attention as an agent actively shaping electoral outcomes, political alliances and public policy—blurring the lines between religious authority and democratic governance.

The deep-seated political crises in Myanmar and Bangladesh, which share long international borders with the Northeast, also pose significant security challenges and other risks to the region in the light of large refugee influx, cross-border illegal immigration and trade, rampant smuggling activities, militant movements and arms trafficking. While northeastern states generally boast significant human capital and strong indicators of social development, the political and administrative conditions remain highly volatile in various pockets of the region. These obstinate realities have led scholars, policymakers, and observers to reflect on and debate whether the region is experiencing a broader “crisis of governance.”



People queue to cast votes at a polling booth in Manipur
(Image Courtesy - PTI)

OBJECTIVES

The seminar seeks to:

- Examine the major governance challenges confronting Northeast India both from a historical and contemporary lens.
- Analyze emerging political, social, and administrative trends shaping governance in the region, taking into account new and changing circumstances.
- Explore multiple perspectives—including those of policymakers, scholars, civil society actors, and local communities—on governance issues.
- Assess the effectiveness of existing institutional arrangements, including autonomous governance structures and confront failures or shortcomings.
- Identify possible pathways for improving governance and strengthening democratic institutions in the region.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Abstract: **150-300 words (must include five keywords)**

Abstract submission: **4th October, 2026**

Acceptance Notification: **7th October, 2026**

Full paper: **4000-6000 words**

Deadline for full paper submission: **18th October, 2026**

Email ID for submission:

icssr2026@tetsocollege.edu.in

Dates of the Conference: **22nd & 23rd October, 2026**

THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

The conference invites academicians, scholars, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to submit their original and unpublished papers for consideration on any one of, but not limited to, the following thematic areas in the context of Northeast India:

- Ethnic Conflict, Identity Politics, and Governance Challenges
- Insurgency, Peace Processes, and State Legitimacy
- The Role of Autonomous Institutions under the Sixth Schedule
- Borderland Governance and Transborder Security Issues
- Trade and Infrastructure Development in Border Regions
- Challenges of illegal migration, citizenship and refugee accommodation.
- Corruption, accountability, and administrative capacity.
- Civil society and grassroots perspectives on governance.
- The impact of national policies such as the Act East Policy on regional governance.
- Emerging trends in political leadership and electoral politics.
- Environmental Governance, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development in Northeast India
- Gender, Governance, and Women's Political Participation
- Digital Governance, Technology, and the Changing State–Citizen Relationship
- Economic Governance, Development, and Regional Inequalities
- Land, Natural Resources, and Community Governance
- Media, Public Opinion, and the Politics of Representation in Northeast India
- Education, Youth, and the Future of Governance
- Public Health, Social Welfare, and Governance in the Northeast
- Urbanisation, Migration, and Changing Patterns of Local Governance
- Culture, Indigenous Knowledge, and Governance in a Changing Northeast

DETAILS TO BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH THE ABSTRACT

Name, Designation: (Ph.D. Scholars, Assistant/Associate Professor, Independent Scholar)

Institutions/Organization of Affiliation (with address), Email, Contact number

GUIDELINES

- Authors must ensure that the papers are original works, have not been published and are not currently under consideration of any other publication. They must warrant that their contribution does not infringe on any copyright or trademark right of other authors.
- Authors must follow the APA style guide.
- Certificates will be awarded only to those presenters who submit their full paper, pay the registration fees, and present during the seminar.
- Mode of the seminar - hybrid (presenters from Nagaland must present their papers on campus, others can opt for online presentation)
- In case of two or more co-presenters, the names of all the presenters will be mentioned in the certificates.
- Shortlisted papers will be published in an ISBN book to be published by Kethu Publishing House.



Village Councils in Nagaland form the Grassroots Level Governance (Image Courtesy: Nagaland Tribune)

REGISTRATION FEES

Paper Presenters	Faculties/Working Professionals	₹1100
	For co-presenters (Faculties/Working Professionals)	₹450 per additional presenter
	Researchers/Independent Scholars	₹650
	For co-presenters (Researchers/Independent Scholars)	₹350 per additional presenter
	PG & UG Students	₹500
	For co-presenters (PG & UG Students)	₹300 per additional presenter
	- The registration fee covers seminar kit, lunch, refreshments and digital certificate. - Registration fee is to be paid only after the confirmation of selection of the abstract. - Link for payment will be included in the abstract acceptance email.	
Seminar Attendees (Open to all)	₹300 (Attendees will receive seminar kit, digital certificate, lunch, and refreshments)	
Registration Link	ICSSRreg	



In Mawklot, Meghalaya, the community comes together to sign the Green Charter, pledging environmental stewardship.
(Image Courtesy: Project Management Unit, MCLLMP)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Professor Jagannath Ambagudia

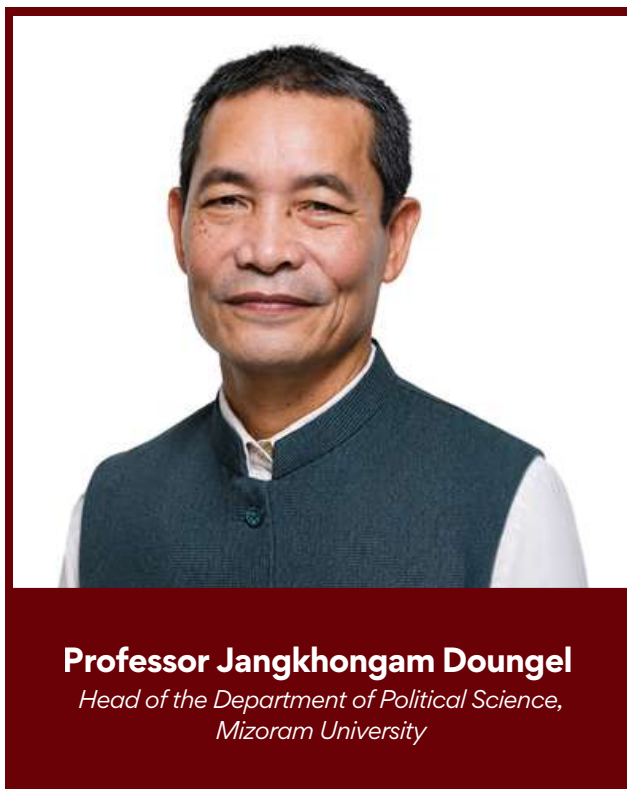
*Campus Director & Professor,
Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies,
School of Social Sciences and Humanities,
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Guwahati Campus)*

Professor Jagannath Ambagudia is the Campus Director of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati Campus and Professor at the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati Campus. He was also the Deputy Director of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati Campus; Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, and the Chairperson of the Unit for Research and Development at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati Campus. Previously, he taught at Rajdhani College, University of Delhi; National Law School of India University, Bangalore; and ARSD College, University of Delhi. He specialises in the areas of Indian Politics with a focus on Politics and Social Justice.. He is an alumnus of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

He is a lifetime member of the International Political Science Association and also the Officer/Board Member of the International Political Science Association Research Committee on Political Elites. He is also a Member of the Executive Committee, Assam Labour Welfare Society, Government of Assam; Member of the Steering Committee, Indian Public Policy Network; and a Member of the Advisory Committee, The Energy and Resources Institute, Guwahati.

Prof. Ambagudia's current research revolves around the evolving relationship between Scheduled Tribes and Democracy in India, particularly analysing the role of tribal political representatives at the decision-making level within the state and national domains. He is the author of *Adivasis, Migrants and the State in India* (London & New York: Routledge, 2019) and co-editor of *Handbook of Tribal Politics in India* (New Delhi: SAGE, 2021). Prof. Ambagudia's writings are also published in *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Asian Social Work and Policy Review*, *Social Change*, *Studies in Indian Politics*, *International Review of Social Research*, *Conflict Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Social Inclusion Studies* and *National Law School of India Review*, among others.

VALEDICTORY SPEAKER



Professor Jangkhongam DOUNGEL is the Head of the Department of Political Science, Mizoram University. He is a life member of many professional academic bodies, such as, Indian Political Science Association (IPSA), North East India Political Science Association (NEIPSA), North East India Council for Social Science Research (NEICSSR), North East India History Association (NEIHA), Mizo History Association (MHA), Mizoram Political Science Association (MIPSA) and Kuki Research Forum (KURF). His area of specialization is Autonomous District Council, Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, Local Government and Politics of North East India. He presented 131 papers in International, National, Regional and State Level Seminars across the country. He authored 4 books, edited one book and co-edited two books. He published 49 papers in journals, 32 papers in edited volumes and 4 papers in proceedings. He completed one UGC Minor Research Project in 2010 and ICSSR Major Research Project in 2016. He went to USA on Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship 2020-2021 and was affiliated in the Department of Political Science, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio State wef April 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021.

Professor DOUNGEL was also a member of the Mizoram Local Government (Panchayati Raj) Drafting Committee, Mizoram State Boundary Committee and Mizoram Village Council Bill Drafting Committee. He is a regular panellist in TV discussions on Northeast Live Channel, Guwahati, Zonet Cable Network, Aizawl, LPS, Aizawl and Doordarshan, Aizawl. He was also interviewed by national and international media, including the BBC and other channels. He was a Member of the Research Core Team, established by the Home Ministry Commission on Centre-State Relations dealing with projects on the Autonomous District Council with Prof. David R. Syiemlieh as the Convenor. The report was submitted to the Centre State Commission of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in June, 2009. The said report is now one of the important sources for the proposed amendment of the Sixth Schedule provision by the Parliament.

SEMINAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Tetso College

EMAIL FOR QUERIES

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Digital Empowerment for the Apatanis: The Ziro Valley Community Network is providing WiFi to four schools and one community health center, in the valley of Arunachal Pradesh
(Image Courtesy -Digital Empowerment Foundation)

ABOUT TETSO COLLEGE



Established in 1994, Tetso College is a premier multidisciplinary institution in the vibrant commercial hub of Dimapur-Chumoukedima, the gateway between Northeast India and Southeast Asia. Affiliated with Nagaland University, registered with AICTE, NAAC-accredited, and recognised under Sections 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956, the college delivers holistic, career-oriented education spanning undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Its comprehensive academic portfolio spans professional streams - including BBA, BCom, BCA, BSW, BPA, and MBA - alongside robust offerings in the humanities and social sciences. Demonstrating national excellence, Tetso College achieved All India Rank #198 among top Bachelor of Arts institutions in the India Today-MDRA Best Colleges Survey 2026, marking its maiden entry into India's top 200 rankings.

The institution integrates academic rigour with modern digital learning, industry internships, and community engagement. Driven by a global perspective, it nurtures extensive partnerships across domestic and international universities, government agencies, corporate organisations, media, and NGOs. Tetso College maintains an inclusive, cross-cultural environment, enrolling diverse students and faculty from across India. To support talent, it provides merit- and need-based financial aid to its students. Its vibrant alumni network actively contributes to academia, public administration, corporate sectors, and social enterprises globally.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Science offers comprehensive undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. It provides a rigorous foundation in political theory, governance, international relations, and comparative politics. The department emphasizes critical thinking, analytical skills, and understanding contemporary global and local dynamics. Committed faculty incubates intellectual curiosity through debates, research, and discussions. The curriculum blends theory with practice, preparing graduates for diverse careers in civil services, law, research, journalism, NGOs, and academia, equipping them for active and conscious citizenship and professional achievement.

CONTACT US

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