



**National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj  
(Ministry of Rural Development, Gov. of India)**

**North Eastern Regional Centre  
Khanapara, Guwahati - 781 022**

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Two-day National Seminar on**

**IN SEARCH OF CULTURAL POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT WITH IDENTITY IN  
NORTH EAST INDIA: ISSUES AROUND DEMOCRACY, ETHNICITY,  
AUTONOMY & DEVELOPMENT**

**24-25 March 2018**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

*“Development divorced from its human or cultural context is development without a soul”  
Our Creative Diversity, 1995*

Development is a cumulative outcome of several process function in a given socio-cultural, political and economic settings. While culture is an ideas, belief, art, morals, law, language, customs, social behaviour and other manifestations of human intellectual achievement of a particular society which is learned, acquired, accumulated and transmitted to the next generation as an asset and a resource. The “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, with 17 ambitious, universal goals to transform the world views that culture is who we are and what shapes our identity. It further views that no development can be sustainable without including culture. It observes that culture is a driver and enabler of sustainable development and essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda as it contributes to human and socio-economic development, quality education, social inclusion, sustainable cities, environmental sustainability, and peaceful societies. Noted economist Amartya Sen has also said that cultural matters are integral parts of the lives we lead. If development can be seen as an enhancement of our living standards, then efforts geared to development can hardly ignore the world of culture.” It means that development is essentially a cultural process and also indicates that the cultural elements that are the basis of identity formation of the community must be the integrated into the policy formulation and development planning.

Coming to the North East India, which is congregation of eight states i.e, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim distinctively shaped by the history and geography together characterised by the distinctive

location from the mainland, diverse geographical landscape, ethnic diversities, different historical and political experiences, economic backwardness and uneven level of development. Living with these characteristics, the development trajectories of the regions becomes unique and quite complex. In this context, the economic viewpoint of development that primarily focus on the state-owned infrastructure and income generation activities has a significant limitation because of the living characteristics which are distinct in nature and scope. These characteristics have been significantly influencing the holistic development of the region since a long time.

Moving to the focus areas of the seminar which are Democracy, Ethnicity and Autonomy form the basic premises for the formulation of development policy for the North Eastern States.

Ethnicity is one of the core issues which represents a relation of power in North East India. Since 1950s ethnic conflict and politics have been influencing the peace and development of the region. The aspirations of the ethnic groups and expectations to get control their natural resources and political system based on their distinctive ethnic identity has resulted in generating strife in this region. Therefore, the ethnic dynamics which plays a very significant role in making development policy for the diverse ethnic group dominated the region. In fact, ethnicity not only remains an important part of the reality but it also happens to be the source of a series of major problems.

Similarly, autonomy represents freedom from external control or influence. Autonomy is the right or condition of self-government which born out of various socio-cultural, economic and geo-political process and experiences pertaining to the preservation of the ethnic identity. In North East India, several groups have received Autonomous Councils and even State based on their long ethnic-based autonomy movement. The North Eastern states are still experiencing the ethnic autonomy movements run by several hills and plains groups. Each ethnic community seems to have its own world-view and have always attempted to be independent of other ethnic communities, and hence urged for autonomy- within or outside the constitutional framework. The strong urge for autonomy and independent existence has led to the formation of regional political parties for the articulation of their aspirations by a specific ethnic community or group of communities

Democracy is a system of government or an institutional process to get control over the power and authority. The modern form of democracy is a nation-state led institutional mechanism to form a government of majoritarian by the elected representatives. This form and process are not well-matched with practice and worldview of the many ethnic groups residing in the North Eastern States who by nature believes in the community government and collective decision-making process. In spite of these differences, most of the states and their inhabitants have successfully negotiated with nation-state formwork by agreeing to form the Autonomous Councils and creation of ethnic group based State under the Union of India. These constitutional and administrative changes were evolved to meet the

ethnic aspiration. However, the failure to accommodate the various ethnic communities in the constitutional framework of India's nation-building created an atmosphere of distrust and a historical suspicion. Which is, finally, obstructing the pace of development. Hence, the conflicting relationship between democracy and ethnicity is an open secret in North East India.

In this background, a distinct pattern of development is required and also the demand of time.

### **Objectives:**

- To provide a platform to share national and regional experiences on the issues around Democracy, Ethnicity, Autonomy & Development
- To arrive at strategies and action framework for cultural policy for development with identity
- To provide inputs to the concerned Central Ministries and State's Department about policy through recommendations of the Seminar.

### **Broder Themes:**

- ❖ Culture, Identity and Development
- ❖ Democracy, Ethic issues, and Development
- ❖ Ethnicity, Ethnic Conflict and Resolution
- ❖ Cultural and Economic Determinants of Ethnic Conflict
- ❖ Democracy, Ethnic Self-government Institutions and Development
- ❖ Democracy, Ethnic Identity & Politics and Development
- ❖ Ethnicity, Ideology and Separatist Movements
- ❖ Ethnic-Based Identity and Autonomy Movements
- ❖ Historical and Political Experiences of the Community
- ❖ Identity, Indigenous Assertion and Nationalism
- ❖ Insurgency, Counter-insurgency Experience and Development
- ❖ Insurgency and Peace Building
- ❖ State Initiatives in Conflict Resolution
- ❖ Development Constraints and Action Planning

### **Outcomes expected:**

- Discussion will be generated on important aspects of indigenous knowledge system and its role in poverty alleviation and sustainable rural development.
- Inputs for policy will be provided through recommendations of the Seminar which will be presented to the concerned Central Ministries and State's Department.
- The papers presented will be published in the form of a book

### **Papers and Participation :**

Papers are invited on the above mentioned themes from Government Officials, Policy makers, Planners, Faculty members and Research Scholars from the different/concerned departments of Universities, Colleges, National/State level Research Institutions and Research organisations; Members from reputed NGOs, Corporate Sectors; Independent Researchers, Practitioner, and Social activist working in this area.

**Participation Fee :**

There is No Participation Fee. Free board and lodging will be provided to all participants in the Institute's Guest House

**Guidelines for Papers :**

It is also recommended that the length of the abstract and full paper should not exceed 300 words and 6,000 words, respectively, excluding preliminary pages, annexure and references. It should be written in Times New Roman, 12 pt. and line spacing- 1.15 lines. For reference we recommend the APA style

The abstract should include the title of the proposed paper, name of author/s, institutional affiliation (if any), email address and postal address, key words upto six and finally a paragraph of not more than 300 words summarizing the main findings and the argument of the proposed paper, and its significance.

*The full paper should be arranged as follows: Title page, the presenter's name, institutional affiliation (if any), email address and postal address, Abstract, Key-words, Introduction, Methods, Findings, Discussion, Citations and references*

**IMPORTANT DATES :**

*Interested participants may send their abstracts and full papers through email on [mkshrivastava.nird@gov.in](mailto:mkshrivastava.nird@gov.in) and [training.nirdprghy@gmail.com](mailto:training.nirdprghy@gmail.com) by 15 March 2018*

**Duration : 24-25 March 2018**

**TRAVEL :**

*AC Train/ Bus/Shared taxi fare will be reimbursed to the selected Participants*

**BOARD & LODGING :**

Free board and lodging will be provided to all participants in the Institute's Guest House

**VENUE :**

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## REGISTRATION FORMAT

**Title of the Seminar:** In Search of Cultural Policy for Development with Identity in North East India: Issues around Democracy, Ethnicity, Autonomy & Development  
**24-25 March 2018**

**Last date of Registration: 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**

1. Name of the participant :
2. Designation & present assignment :
3. Department/Organization :
4. Title of Paper :
5. Address for communication :

Tel.: (0)

Fax:

Mobile:

**Email:**

6. Age :
7. Educational Qualification :
8. Hostel Accommodation Required? : YES/ NO

Date :  
Place :

Signature of the sponsor  
with office seal