



Rajiv Gandhi University
Centre for Development Studies
Department of Economics

Call for Papers

National Seminar

On

**‘Dynamics of Economic Development in
North Eastern Region of India:
Present Status, Emerging Issues and Future Prospects’**

12th to 13th March, 2026



Background

North Eastern Region (NER) of India, which consists of eight States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, is one of the most diverse region of the country. The region accounts for about 8 per cent of the total geographical area and 3.78 per cent of the total population of the country (Census of India, 2011). Most of the people live (81.73 per cent) in rural area and derive their livelihood from the agriculture and allied activities. The region is inhabited by numerous groups of people with different language, culture and tradition. It is a home to over 200 ethnic groups and each group has unique dialect, socio-cultural and economic practices and indigenous knowledge system. The traditional economy of the region consists of shifting cultivation, livestock rearing and forest based activities.

The region is a late starter of development process. Before independence of the country, the region was kept as a buffer zone and developmental activities were undertaken mainly to fulfill the aims of the colonial power. The process of the development in the hilly parts began in real sense only after the reorganization of the region and creation of new States in 1970s and 1980s. The economy of the region is predominantly agriculture based as majority of its people are engaged in agriculture and allied sector. Due to various interventions and initiatives, the region has undergone changes in various dimensions of development. The region has witnesses significant progress in various front of development like, education, health, transport and communication, banking and finance, agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, tourism. The economy of the region has progressed by leaps and bounds as indicated by increase in per capita income, standard of living, decline in poverty and gender disparity. For example, Sikkim has emerged as the State with the second highest per capita income (at constant prices) in the country (RBI, 2024), and Mizoram is ranked second in the country in terms of literacy rate. Further, the region has witnessed significant structural change in its economy with substantial increase in share of services sector in GSDP as well as in employment.

The region is rich in mineral resources. However, due to geographical diversity, the distribution of minerals in the region is not uniform. Eastern part of Assam has a rich deposit of petroleum. Lower Assam has reserves of sandstone and a mediocre band of shale with two meter thick coal seams.



Meghalaya Plateau is rich in coal, granite rocks, iron ore, cement, phosphate, dolomite, uranium and quartz. Mizoram has rich reserves of rare minerals. Manipur has reserves of platinum, thorium and uranium. Sikkim has reserves of copper and traces of gold. Arunachal Pradesh has reserves of coal, petroleum, cement, dolomite, lead, zinc, iron, copper and marble. Nagaland has a good reserves of coal and limestone. Tripura is rich in oil and natural gas. Thus, the region possesses a good opportunity for development of mineral based industries. However, there are only few industries in the region, and most of them are located in Assam.

The hill areas of the region have conducive climatic conditions for cultivation of various high value vegetables (tomato, beans, soya beans, capsicum, squash, cauliflower) and fruits (kiwi, apple, orange, pears, persimmon, pineapple, avocado, dragon fruits), spices (large cardamom and ginger) and plantation crops like tea and rubber. These crops are increasing being cultivated by the farmers. Thus, there is an ample scope for agricultural diversification as well as for development of agro-based industries. The different parts of the region are endowed with herbs and medicinal plants, which gives opportunities for pharmaceutical industries and traditional healing practices.

The region is criss-crossed by several voluminous rivers, which gives the region a good advantage for development of hydropower. In fact, region accounts for 40 per cent of total hydropower potential of the country. The hydropower can bring huge economic benefits, if the potentials are tapped judiciously. The region has high tourism potentials due to its archaeological and religious sites, scenic natural beauty, mesmerizing river valleys, rich biodiversity and wilderness areas, orchids, cultural diversity as well as hospitality. Nature-based and community based tourism can significantly boost rural economy. People of the region are experts in traditional handlooms and handicrafts. These activities can be promoted and linked with tourism to generate income and employment opportunities. Further, it has an opportunity for cross border trade with China, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Despite having high potentials for development, the region has been facing several issues and challenges of development. Some of the emerging issues are; high youth unemployment rate, high incidence of poverty, inequality, inter-state disparity, gender disparity, low agricultural productivity, inadequate access to credit, inadequate access to health and education, low tax





base and inadequate internal revenue, inadequate investment and low level industrial development. Industrialization is considered as a prerequisite for economic development of any region. However, the region is having a very poor industrial base and it is considered to be an industrial desert. In case of infrastructure development, there are issues of inferior quality of infrastructure, disparity, land acquisition and compensation, delay in project completion.

The two day national seminar is expected to address various emerging issues and challenges of economic development in the region and come out with valuable policy prescription for promoting holistic economic development on the region.

Themes of the Seminar

The themes of the seminars are as follows:

- ◆ Growth and structural change of the economy
- ◆ Infrastructure development in the region: achievements, challenges and future prospects
- ◆ Industrial development in the region: Issues and Challenges
- ◆ Organised and unorganised enterprises
- ◆ Agricultural and allied sectors development in the region
- ◆ Tourism development in the region
- ◆ Border trade and development related issues in the region.
- ◆ Social sector development: Health and Education sectors
- ◆ Financial sector development: banking, insurance and financial inclusion
- ◆ Rural informal credit market in the region.
- ◆ Public finance and fiscal performance of NER States
- ◆ Employment, labour market and migration issues in the region
- ◆ Skill development and human capital formation in the region
- ◆ Gender and development issues in the region
- ◆ Livelihood pattern and diversification in the region
- ◆ Food security and nutritional health of the people in the region
- ◆ Environmental issues in the region
- ◆ Social capital and development in the region

The above themes are suggestive in nature and not exhaustive. The scholars can present papers in any theme which is relevant in the context of social and economic development of the North Eastern Region.





About Rajiv Gandhi University

Rajiv Gandhi University, formerly Arunachal University, is the premier institution for higher education in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The University is accredited with Grade A by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council in 2024. It was established in 1984 as a State University and was converted to a Central University on 9th April, 2007. The University consists of 44 Departments/Institutes and 45 affiliated colleges are affiliated to it. The campus is located on a panoramic table land locally known as Rono-Hills, Doimukh in the outskirts of Itanagar. The campus is located at a distance of 25 km from Itanagar. Itanagar is well connected to the rest of the country by National Highways, Railways and Airways. The Hollongi Airport is located at a distance of 45 km from the University Campus. The city is connected by the airways with Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai. The nearest railway stations are Gumto (around 6 km), Harmoti (10 km) and Naharlagun (13 km). The trains which connects Itanagar are; Dony-Polo Express and Shatabdi Express, which run between Guwahati and Naharlagun. Arunachal Express connects Itanagar with Dew Delhi. Naharlagun-Tinsukia Express connects the capital city of the State with Dibrugarh and Tinsukia towns of Assam. Itanagar also has its own regular chopper service from Guwahati. Shared/Reserved taxi is also available from Guwahati to Itanagar (7 hours journey). Itanagar experiences a pleasant weather during February-March.

About the Department of Economics and the Centre for Development Studies

The Department of Economics made its beginning in July 1991. The main objective of the Department has been to impart socially relevant education at the Post Graduate level by judicious mix of theory and empiricism. The Department of Economics has the distinction of acting as the nodal Department for the preparation of first Human Development Report (HDR) of Arunachal Pradesh as well as the Arunachal Pradesh State Development Report. The department also executed several consultancy projects funded by Finance Commission of India, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and National Commission for Women (NCW). The Department has organised several conferences and seminars. The 63rd annual Conference of Indian Society of



Labour Economics (ISLE) was organised by the department in March 2023, in which distinguished scholars from across the world participated and presented their papers. It organised annual Conference of North Eastern Economic Association (NEEA) on three occasions. Recently, it organised a National Seminar on 'Women and Employment in India: Issues and Challenges' in September, 2024. In the seminar, the invited papers were presented by distinguished scholars from across the country.

The Centre for Development Studies adjunct with the Department of Economics was established in 2013 with generous grant-in-aid Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The corpus fund was given in recognition of its contribution in the field research and policy documents.

The CDS regularly conducts workshop and training programmes, special lectures and national as well as international seminars/conferences. The Centre also provides financial support to the faculty members for attending national seminars and also for conducting research projects in the relevant areas of study. The Centre has published numerous working papers and research articles. CDS also sponsored several conferences, such as 63rd annual Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics.

Submission of Abstract

Abstract of the paper (within 500 words) may be submitted through email to seminar.cds.eco@gmail.com.

Submission of Full Paper

Full paper (within 4000 words) should be in MS Word, Font Times Roman, 12 font size, 1.5 line spacing, APA style of referencing. The full paper must be submitted through email to seminar.cds.eco@gmail.com. Only those scholars who submit full paper will be invited to present their paper in the seminar.

Important Dates

Seminar Date	:	12th-13th March, 2026
Last date for submission of abstract	:	31st January, 2026
Last date for submission of full paper	:	20th February, 2026

Accommodation

Accommodation and Travelling Allowances (Bus fare/3AC railway fare) will be given only to one participant per accepted paper for presentation.

Registration

Registration fee for each participant is Rs. 500/- for academicians and Rs. 200/- for Research scholars.





Organising Committee

Advisors

Prof. S. K. Nayak
Vice-Chancellor (Acting)
Rajiv Gandhi University

&

Prof. Vandana Upadhyay
Professor, Department of Economics
Rajiv Gandhi University

Organising Chairman

Prof. Lijum Nochi
Head, Department of Economics &
Coordinator, Centre for Development Studies

Organising Secretary

Dr. Ashi Lama
Associate Professor
Department of Economics
Rajiv Gandhi University

Joint Organising Secretaries

Dr. Prasenjit Bujar Baruah
Associate Professor
Department of Economics
Rajiv Gandhi University

Dr. Anup Kumar Das
Associate Professor
Department of Economics
Rajiv Gandhi University

Dr. Bil B. Gurung
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Rajiv Gandhi University

