



Indian Council of  
Social Science Research

**NATIONAL SEMINAR  
ON  
ETHNIC DIVERSITY OF  
NORTH EAST INDIA  
AND INDIAN DEMOCRACY**

*Sponsored by*  
**INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH**

**DATE : NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> & 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**



*Organized by*  
**FURKATING COLLEGE, FURKATING**



**Furkating College, Furkating  
P.O. Furkating Dist.: Golaghat – 785 610  
Website: [www.furkatingcollege.edu.in](http://www.furkatingcollege.edu.in)**



# INVITATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

It gives us immense pleasure to inform you that Furkating College is organizing an ICSSR sponsored two-day National Seminar on Ethnic Diversity of North East India and Indian Democracy on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. The seminar intends to provide a platform to academicians, scholars, researchers to interact and exchange their views on the topic.

We, therefore, cordially invite you to actively participate and contribute a research paper in the seminar.

Hope your cooperation would make our endeavour a success.

With regards,

**Dr. Apurba Saikia**

Principal, Furkating College

&

President, National Seminar  
Organizing Committee

**Dr. Amulya Kr. Borah**

HoD, Political Science

&

Coordinator, National Seminar  
Organizing Committee

## Profile of the College:

Furkating College was established on 6th August, 1991 representing a thickly populated area of the Assam-Nagaland border of Golaghat district of Assam. Affiliated to Dibrugarh University in 1993, the College obtained Grant-in-Aid status in 1996 and eventually been provincialized in 2005. Having the both Arts and Science stream in H.S. level, the College presently offered Honours Courses in as many as seven subjects in Humanities and Social Sciences. It has also introduced a number of certificates, vocational courses besides having successfully run study centres of KKHSOU and DODL.

The College has been relentlessly striving for excellence and this has been reflected in its 3rd cycle of assessment and accreditation by NAAC in 2016 with a B++ grade



We look at the question of ethnic diversity and democracy in the N.E. India, everybody wants to look it as the problem of democracy and we see it from a limited angle. Normally, we have the tendency to see any effort or political safeguard for the ethnic identity, as the law and order problem and threat to democracy. We try to solve the problem accordingly. The problem of threat to democracy or national integrity in North Eastern states lies elsewhere. But we have treated ethnic diversity as a problem and have taken one pain killer without any positive outcome. The ethnic diversity of North East India is a resource for an ideal democracy. It is a fact by considering the historical data that in the eight states of North East India including Sikkim there are nearly 300 different communities in this small corner of the country. There is hardly one or two special cases of communal class compare to the rest of the country in the last 70 years of independent India.

This part of the India is one the best examples where the different communities live peacefully. Almost all the communities have their own cultural identity and had their own political set-up before the advent of the British. These small states can be termed as ethnic state. In the medieval period these states were dependent on the big states of the Brahmaputra valley like Ahom, Koch etc. In the colonial role for the first time the whole North East India comes under one administrative umbrella. During these days the different ethnic political administrative practices were not responded in the British administration. Therefore, different ethnic groups revolt time to time against the British administration seeking independence of their own states. In these political processes they lost their cultural identity & administrative power. They lost the right to use their own tribal language in the administrative work. After independence, the state formation process also failed to protect the ethnic identity of different tribes of the North East India. In the process of searching for the ethnic identity almost all the tribes of North East India seeking special constitutional safeguard or own state where they can rule their own people. In an ideal democracy, fight for constitutional right in a democratic way is not the threat to the democracy. Going to the roots of the problems of democracy in the North East India is not a very easy task. Though it is said that the constitution of India has created a unitary state with federal features, yet in reality the unitary structure is dominant. Under the prevailing system smaller states have virtually nothing to say over policy matter. For instance most of the northern states have only one or two MPs in Parliament. In fact all the North Eastern has lesser number of MPs than larger states like Bihar, U.P. etc. In this situation the voice of the region is often not heard. The constitution had tried to overcome these problems by creating the upper house or Rajya Sabha but the purposes were again defeated when equal representation for all states was not given.



This political inequality has also led to severe economic problems for instance all the financial matters of the states are made by center. Development not comes into force similarly. There are many other roots of the problem threat to the democracy in the North East India. No study about any field of democracy found defines ethnic diversity of the North East India as the causes, problem or threat to the democracy.

The unique ethnic diversity of North East India is a resource for the Indian democracy. But the preservation of this unique culture of the country is a big question to reply. The every community has the right to get respect for their own cultural identity in all sphere of life. It can be advocating that the special constitutional safeguard for a limited period such as special economic zone, special cultural package, some short of rights in case of land reservation etc should be given, so that the people of North East India can go forward with faster development along with the rest of the country. We feel that the federal structure of the Indian constitution will serve the purposes of all the states.

#### **Call for Papers:**

Seminar papers are invited from University/ College teachers, research scholars, academicians, students on the theme of the seminar. However, the sub-themes mentioned below are only illustrative in nature and may include any paper covering the main theme of the seminar. Communication of acceptance will be sent to authors for presentation. Co-authorship is also allowed, but each author is required to register and pay the stipulated registration fee individually.

#### **Sub Themes:**

1. Traditions and customs of various ethnic tribes of North East India.
2. Ethnic tribes and their space in Indian democratic set-up.
3. Assimilation in the larger narrative of Indian Democracy.
4. Policy-making for overall development of tribes of North East India.
5. Ethnic Relations in North East India
6. State and Ethnic Conflict
7. State and Civil Society
8. State, Market and Development
9. Ethnic Literature of North East India
10. Ethnic culture of North East India
11. Any other topic related to the main theme to the Seminar

#### **GUIDELINES FOR PAPER CONTRIBUTORS:**

1. Original research Papers and Abstract written in English must be sent to the co-ordinator of the seminar organizing committee on or before the stipulated dates.
2. The length of the Abstract and Full Paper should be within 300 & 3500 words respectively.

3. The Abstract as well as the Full Paper must be prepared in Times New Roman in 12 Font Size with 1.5 Line Spacing.
4. Accommodation may be arranged subject to prior request on payment basis.
5. No TA/ DA will be provided to the participants with or without papers.
6. Abstract and Full Paper may be sent to: **seminarfkgc19@gmail.com**

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

1. Abstract Submission : By October 20, 2019
2. Full Paper Submission : By October 30, 2019
3. Date of the Seminar : November 8 & 9, 2019

#### REGISTRATION FEES:

Registration Fee may be paid in cash in the spot registration.

Participants	With Paper (in Rs.)	Without Paper (in Rs.)
Faculty & Others	800/-	500/-
Research Scholar	600/-	400/-
Student	400/-	300/-

#### HOW TO REACH FURKATING

By Road : Approx. 9 Kms from Golaghat, the district headquarter

By Train : Furkating Railway Junction is about 1 Km away from the college.

By Airways : Nearest Airport is Rowrah, Jorhat located at 45 Kms.

#### Address for Communication

**Dr. Apurba Saikia, Principal**  
Furkating College, Furkating, Golaghat  
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Seminar Organizing Committee  
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#### Mailing Address

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