



Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi 110 025

In association with



SMU SIKKIM
MANIPAL
UNIVERSITY

Accredited by NAAC

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Sikkim Manipal University
Sikkim 737102

National Conference
Political Economy of Tourism in the North Eastern States of India

CALL FOR SUBMISSION

Globally, the tourism industry has been exponentially growing in the last two decades. For the sixth consecutive year, the tourism industry has outpaced the growth of the global economy and has been exceeding important economic sectors such as oil exports, food productions and automobiles.

In the Indian context, a total of 10.56 million (provisional) foreign tourists visited India during 2018 with an annual growth rate of 5.2 percent contributing Rs. 1,94,882 crores from its foreign exchange earnings to the country's GDP. Tourism is arguably one of the important tools for fuelling country's economic growth. It showed how the increased in the tourism activities, particularly foreign tourist arrivals increase foreign exchange earnings which in turn boosting the overall economic growth of the country.

Tourism may be argued to have been always part of Indian culture, particularly in the form of religious pilgrimage, for which millions of people from all the walk of life travel to different sites of religious significance. Rigveda mentioned, "there is no happiness for him who does not travel". Post-liberalisation era which fostered the development of consumerist culture in India saw another wave of tourism coming into being. The movement of domestic tourists in India has increased manifold, a total of 1,854.93 million domestic tourists visited different states and union territories of India during 2018, which is 11.9 percent increment from the previous year. This talks a lot about the prospects of the Indian tourism industry. India being geographically and socio-culturally diverse society has numerous advantages and prospects for the growth of the tourism industry to fuel the economic engine further. Some aspects of tourism, besides the traditional view, that can successfully establish are rural tourism, medical tourism, coastal and cruise tourism, adventure tourism related to mountain climbing and trekking, wellness tourism, and echo and safari tourism.

This brings us to how the North East region of India holds great prospects to contribute to the overall tourism development of India. To an extent, the region has opened itself to the prospects that tourism can bring, rising above the decades-old economic backlog and backlashes resultant of political turmoil and struggles. The battle of the region to construct and develop itself is further backed by the policy framework of the Government of India through its Act East policy framework.

Besides the potential contribution of tourism in terms of economic growth, there are also growing concerns on the social front, particularly the price a community or society has to pay. Such a perspective on the ills of tourism is rarely found in the literature of the Indian tourism sector. With these dimensions in mind, questioning the various socio-economic forces that interplay in the objectification and large-scale commercialisation of tourism as a marketable product is the essential topic of the discourse of our time, and also to understand the power relations in the decision-making process. The question about local communities' participation and control over their natural resources for which exploitation is being done in the name of tourism, also the various conflicts and inequalities that arise. However, the literature survey reveals that scholarship on tourism in the north-eastern states is insignificant.

OBJECTIVE

With the background in mind, the objective of the conference is to bring out the interplay of various stakeholders in a more humane and sustainable approach to tourism assisted development. It will also provide a platform for meaningful dialogue among the scholars, state officials and policy planners engaged in the nuance of the political economy of tourism in the region. Through this conference, we want to achieve the following objectives:

1. To bridge the knowledge deficit that exists in our understanding of tourism in different parts of India's North East. At the practical level, the conference will help develop accurate and reliable information and provide the policy-makers with information that will allow them to implement more effective programmes.
2. Understand the expectations and challenges of North East India as well as explore the expectations of the local communities.
3. It will also bring out the specific needs and priorities of the states of the region?
4. To bring together scholars and officials who could present new materials based on current research.

The proposed conference has national importance with significant policy implications.

Given below are the sub-themes of this conference:

1. Investment, entrepreneurship and tourism economy;
2. Cultural tourism- festivals, performance and sports;
3. Food, identity, & tourism;
4. Eco-tourism and sustainable development;
5. Gender, media & tourism;
6. Widening inequalities, conflict & tourism;
7. Covid pandemic and tourism

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT

Important Dates

Deadline for the submission of abstract: Sept 30, 2021

Notification of shortlisted proposals: Oct 4, 2021

Deadline for the submission of final paper (4,000 words): Nov 4, 2021

In view of the uncertainties due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the conference will be held virtually on Google Meet.

The organising committee invites interested scholars, writers, and students to submit abstract (about 500 words) of their proposed paper to amarjeetdelhi@gmail.com & yumnamsurjajeevan@gmail.com.

Kindly indicate in which sub-theme you wish to present. Your submission should be original and unpublished. The submission and presentation shall be in English only.

Only the shortlisted abstracts will be contacted to submit original paper.

For more information, please contact:

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