**Annexure III**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, NEHU, SHILLONG**

 Three-Day National Seminar On

**PUBLIC POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA**

**WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NORTH-EASTERN STATES**

***Concept Note***

North-East India comprising of eight States is unique compared to the rest of India. Inhabited mostly by Mongoloid people, speaking over 200 languages belonging to three different linguistic families, the north-eastern States have diverse culture and history, and are at different stages of economic development. While some States are populated predominantly by the tribal population, one can see substantial non-tribal population in some States. Some parts of the northeast were part of British India and actively participated in freedom struggle. A couple of them were previously princely States which enjoyed some internal autonomy from the British rule. Along with them, there were also territories which were earlier declared as excluded or partially excluded areas, which were not touched by Constitutional Reforms and Indian nationalism. It is only after independence, by an accident of history these diverse parts of the region became integral parts of the Indian Union, and came under common political and administrative role. This diverse history of the northeast has bearing on the nature of social movements, ethnic dynamics, economic development and governance.

Surrounded by five neighbouring countries, this peripheral, landlocked region did not experience rabid economic development in the early decades. The nationalist elite created new Constitutional political and administrative institutions / arrangements for the administration of parts of the northeast. But they looked at the region more from security point of view and did little to develop adequate infrastructure. The rise of insurgency and the growth of ethnic and regional movements have led to change of political map of the northeast. Yet the economic development of the region was neglected. Intra-ethnic conflicts have created law and order situation and affected human security in the region. The ethnic processes have affected the bureaucracy and the nature of politics in the States. The problems of illegal immigrants, refugees and internal displacement of the people influence the nature of politics and governance in the region.

After the Assam Agitation, the Government of India has started showing greater interest in economic development of the region. Several thousands of crores of rupees have been pumped into the region to contain militancy and initiate economic development. The government has established North-Eastern Council (NEC) and has created DONER, a separate Ministry for development of the north-eastern States. Of late, the Look East / Act East policy have compelled the central government to emphasize on creating infrastructure and developing connectivity with the rest of India and also the neighbouring countries. The state governments either on their own or with the help of central government, have been initiating and implementing different policies for socio-economic development of the peoples and territories within the region.

Are these policy initiatives contributing to the development of the region? How far the governments – central as well as state – have succeeded in implementing different policies and programs in the region? How efficient are the administrative and political institutions in taking up the tasks? What role the NGOs and civil society organizations have been playing in implementation of the development programs? How do insurgency, ethnic conflicts and movements affect the nature of governance? What are the effects of the government interventions on problems of poverty, education, unemployment and other human development indicators? Have the development interventions able to ensure peace, harmony and unity among the communities within the north-eastern States?

In order to find answers to some of these relevant questions raised above, as part of UGC-SAP, the Department of Political Science, NEHU, Shillong proposes to organize a two-day national seminar on the theme, “Public Policy, Governance and Development in North-Eastern States” in March 14-16, 2019. The seminar proposes to bring together academicians, policy makers, NGOs and civil society activists on a common platform to discuss the following sub-themes:

**Sub-Themes:**

1. Changing nature of governance, development and public policy –Indian and regional perspectives.
2. Constitutional, legal, political and development institutions and their roles in the northeast.
3. Society, Culture and governance in North-Eastern states
4. Implementation of development and welfare policies in north-eastern states.
5. Role of Political Parties, civil society organizations and NGOs.
6. Managing diversity and inter-community interests.
7. Security Concerns and Negotiations with insurgents and ethnic militants.
8. Dealing with the issue of citizenship: Problem of Illegal immigrants and refugees.
9. Gender and ethnicity in governance.
10. Human Rights, Human Security and Human Development in the northeast.

**Invitation for Abstracts**

**The academicians, scholars and the invitees are requested to send your abstracts to polscsapseminar2019@gmail.com by January 2019. The members whose abstracts are selected will be informed about the Committee’s decision by February 7, 2019.**

**Prof. H. Srikanth Prof. K. Debbarma**

Program Coordinator Seminar Coordinator