



**Call For Papers**  
**Two Days National Seminar**  
On  
**Social Lives of Infrastructure in Northeast India:  
Navigating Diversity, Connectivity, and Resilience**  
**(27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025)**

**Organized by**  
Department of Sociology,  
Nagaland University, Lumami

**Sponsored By**  
Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi  
Hon'ble MP Sh. Supongmeren Jamir  
Nagaland University

**Venue:**  
Department of Sociology, Nagaland University, Lumami HQRS



**Abstract Submission**  
**20<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Important Dates:**  
**Acceptance of Abstracts**  
**27<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Submission of Papers**  
**20<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

## Concept Note

Infrastructure serves as the backbone of modern society, facilitating the functioning of communities, economies, and everyday life. While often viewed through technical or economic lenses, the sociology of infrastructure delves into the intricate social dimensions intertwined with the development, maintenance, and usage of infrastructure systems. This seminar seeks to unravel the complex interplay between infrastructure and society, shedding light on the ways in which infrastructure shapes and is shaped by social processes, power dynamics, and cultural norms.

Nestled amidst the eastern Himalayas, Northeast India embodies a rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and traditions. This diverse region, however, grapples with unique socio-economic challenges, where the sociology of infrastructure assumes paramount importance in shaping daily life and development trajectories. The rugged terrain of North East India presents formidable obstacles to infrastructure development. Steep hills, dense forests, meandering rivers, and scattered inhabitation patterns often hinder the construction of roads, bridges, and communication networks. Remote areas contend with landslides, floods, and seismic activity, underscoring the need for resilient solutions.

Infrastructure in North East India extends beyond physical connectivity; it encompasses bridging the digital and socio-economic divides. While urban centres enjoy modern amenities and digital connectivity, rural communities lack access to basic services like electricity, healthcare, and education. The digital infrastructure gap exacerbates disparities, hindering socio-economic progress. Cultural identity and representation infuse infrastructure projects with symbolic significance. Communities vie for recognition and representation in planning processes, with projects like the Bogibeel Bridge or the Imphal-Moreh Highway reflecting regional integration and connectivity aspirations. The region's history is marked by decades of insurgency and conflict, leaving scars on its social fabric and infrastructure landscape. Projects become targets of violence, facing challenges from security concerns and political instability. Yet, amidst adversity, communities exhibit resilience, fostering solidarity and community-driven initiatives.



As North East India pursues inclusive and sustainable development, the sociology of infrastructure emerges as a critical lens. By engaging communities, respecting cultural sensitivities, and embracing participatory approaches, planners can pave the way for infrastructure to foster social cohesion, economic prosperity, and environmental stewardship. In North East India's socio-cultural tapestry, infrastructure serves as both a thread that binds communities and a mirror reflecting their aspirations and challenges. Through inclusive and context-sensitive development, the region can leverage its diversity as a source of strength, ensuring a brighter future for generations to come. By delving into the socio-cultural dimensions of infrastructure development, policymakers gain critical insights into crafting more inclusive and sustainable policies tailored to the region's diverse communities. These insights can inform infrastructure planning and implementation strategies that prioritise equitable access, cultural sensitivity, and environmental sustainability. Moreover, the seminar provides a platform for stakeholders to engage in collaborative dialogue, facilitating the co-creation of policies that address the unique challenges and aspirations of North East India. Ultimately, the seminar aims to catalyse policy reforms that enhance the quality of life, foster social cohesion, and promote resilient development in the region. Understanding the social dynamics embedded within infrastructure systems is paramount as we navigate an increasingly interconnected and technologically driven world. This seminar provides a platform for critical reflection, scholarly inquiry, and collaborative action to advance our understanding of the complex relationship between infrastructure and society, ultimately contributing to more equitable, sustainable, and resilient communities.

### **Objectives of the Seminar:**

- I. Examine the socio-cultural factors influencing infrastructure planning, design, and implementation.
- II. Explore the role of infrastructure in shaping social inequalities, access to resources, and spatial organisation.
- III. Investigate the different ways in which communities interact with and perceive different forms of infrastructure, including transportation, communication, and utilities.
- IV. Discuss the implications of technological advancements and digital infrastructure on social relations, privacy, and surveillance.
- V. Analyze case studies and empirical research illustrating the social lives of infrastructure and reflecting upon its development and management across diverse contexts.

### **Sub Themes:**

1. Power, Politics, and Infrastructure Governance
2. Gender and Infrastructure
3. Social Justice and Access to Infrastructure
4. Community Participation and Co-Production
5. Disaster Resilience and Infrastructure Vulnerability
6. Health and Wellbeing Impacts of Infrastructure
7. Heritage, Tradition and Memory in Infrastructural Landscapes
8. Urbanization, Mobility, and Transportation Networks

9. Rural-Urban Linkages and Infrastructure Divide
10. Data Governance and Digital Infrastructure
11. Environmental Sustainability and Community Resilience
12. Cultural Representations and Symbolism of Infrastructure
13. Infrastructure, Inequality and Social Movements
14. The Temporal Fragility of Infrastructure: Decay, Maintenance, and Repair
15. Policy pathways for equitable infrastructure Development in the region.

### **Abstract Submission:**

- Abstract length: Maximum 300 words
- Font: Times New Roman, size 12
- Title, presenter name, and institutional affiliation should be included
- Submit the word file only
- Full paper length: Around 5000 words
- Abstract Submission Link: <https://forms.gle/5vsBf8oN38Zt4goA7>

### **For any queries contact:**

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### **Accommodation and Travel Assistance:**

Accommodation will be arranged on a shared basis for all participants. Travel assistance (TA) will be provided as follows:

- For participants traveling from outside Nagaland: Sleeper class train fare or bus fare.
- For participants within Nagaland: Taxi fare (only shared taxi i.e. sumo etc.).

### **Registration Fees:**

- Research Scholars: ₹1000
- Faculties: ₹1500

Note: Registration fees include seminar kit, refreshments, and accommodation.

### **Chief Patron**

Prof. Jagadish Kumar Patnaik , Vice-Chancellor

### **Patron**

Prof. M. K. Sinha, Dean, School of Social Sciences, NU

## **Organising Committee**

### **Convenor:**

Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, NU, Lumami

### **Organising Secretary:**

Dr. Suraj Beri, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, NU, Lumami

### **Members:**

Prof. Athungo Ovung, HoD

Prof. Toshimenla Jamir

Prof. Temjensosang

Dr. Pitheli K Jimo

Dr. Yamsani Srikanth

Dr. Dipika Paul

## **About Nagaland University**

Nagaland University, a Central University established in 1994 is spread across three campuses in three districts. The University Headquarter is located in Lumami, situated in Zunheboto District of Nagaland state. It is about 20 kms from Mokokchung Town. The campus offers basic amenities with Shopping Complex, Health Centre, Post Office, Bank with ATM etc.

## **About the Department**

The Department of Sociology was established in the year 1997 and over the years it has conducted several programmes and events as part of their academic extension activities. The Department has both Postgraduate and Ph.D. program. The Department also has a Tribal Research Centre to carry out various inter disciplinary research projects on tribal issues in the region.

## **How to reach Nagaland University, Lumami Campus**

The nearest railway station is Mariani, Assam. While Jorhat is the nearest airport located in Assam. From Mariani and Jorhat it takes roughly 4 hours, via shared taxis, to reach Mokokchung town by road. If your journey route touches Guwahati then there are direct overnight buses services (Network and Blue Hills) to Mokokchung town. Tickets are available at ISBT Bethkuchi, Guwahati. From Mokokchung town, it takes 40 minutes to reach NU Lumami campus via taxi.