DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND

North Eastern Council
Government of India

NAGALAND UNIVERSITY
ESTD 1994
LABOR et HONOR

TWO-DAY

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

on

Eco-Tourism, Development and Livelihood in Northeast India

19th & 20th November 2026

Venue: Nagaland University, Lumami





ORGANISED BY

Department of Sociology and **Department of Geography**
Nagaland University

SUPPORTED BY

NEC, Govt of India,
Department of Tourism, Nagaland and
Nagaland University

Invitation

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

NAGALAND UNIVERSITY

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ECO-TOURISM, LIVELIHOOD AND DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHEAST INDIA.

Conference Hall, Department of Sociology | 19 November 2026 | 10:00 AM

Supported and sponsored by NEC GoI, Tourism Department GoN & Nagaland University

International Seminar

on

Ecotourism, Livelihood and Development in Northeast India

19th – 20th Nov. 2026

Organized by

Department of Sociology &

Department of Geography, Nagaland University

Inaugural Program : 19th November 2026 Venue: Conference Hall, Dept. of Sociology, NU Time: 9.30 AM – 11AM Registration: 9.30 AM	
Chairperson	**Dr. Neizo Puro** *Dept. of Botany, NU*
Rükhyo Sharü *(Traditional Lotha Victory Dance)*	
University Song	
Welcome Address	**Prof. Toshimenla Jamir** *Co-convenor*
Felicitation of Guest	
About the Seminar	**Dr. Sandeep Gupta** *Co-Convenor*
Short Speech	**Prof. Jagadish K. Patnaik** *Vice Chancellor NU* *& Chief Patron of Seminar*
Sustainable Development, Eco-cultural Tourism.	**Kovi Meyasi** *Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Tourism, Govt. of Nagaland*
Keynote Address	**Ashish Kothari** *Environmentalist, working on development-environment interface, biodiversity policy, and alternatives*
Vote of Thanks	**Dr. Kedovikho Yhoshü** *Organizing Secretary*
High Tea: 11:00 AM to 11:15 AM	

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Ecotourism, Livelihood and Development in Northeast India

19–20 November 2026

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Organised by the Departments of Sociology and Geography
Nagaland University, Lumami

DAY 1 | 19 NOVEMBER 2026

INAUGURAL SESSION

10:00 AM–11:00 AM | **Venue: Conference Hall, Department of Sociology, Nagaland University**

Registration: 9:30 AM

PROGRAMME	DETAILS
Chairperson	**Dr. Neizo Puro**
Rapporteur	**Roselyn Kithan**
	Rukhyo Sharii (Traditional Lotha Victory Dance)
	University Song
Welcome Address	**Prof. Toshimenla Jamir**, Co-convenor and Head, Dept. of Sociology
Felicitation of Guests	
About the Seminar	**Dr. Sandeep Gupta**, Co-Convenor
Short Speech	**Prof. Jagadish K. Patnaik**, Vice Chancellor, NU & Chief Patron of Seminar
Sustainable Development, Eco-cultural Tourism; Best practices of Nagaland	**Kovi Meyase**, (NCS) Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Tourism, Govt of Nagaland
Keynote Adress	**Ashish Kothari**, Environmentalist, working on development-environment interface, biodiversity policy, and alternatives
Vote of Thanks	**Dr. Kedovikho Yhoshu**, Organizing Secretary

High Tea: 11:00 AM to 11.15 AM

PANEL DISCUSSION 1: Environment, Livelihood & Traditional Knowledge Systems in Eco-Tourism

11:15 AM–12:45 PM | Chair: Prof. Lanusashi Longkumer, Department of Geography, NU | Rapporteurs: Imlikokba Kichu and Viketozo Zao | **Venue: Conference Hall, Department of Sociology**

PANELIST	TOPIC
Amba Jamir Senior Policy Analyst & Development Strategist	Governing the Living Commons: Anchoring Ecotourism in Customary Tenure, Agrobiodiversity, and Indigenous Food Systems in Northeast India
Jose Antony Abundance Advisory LLP The Exponential Foundation The New Venice	From Ecotourism to Community-Governed Visitor Economies: Local Self-Reliance, Cultural Resilience and the Circulation of Value
Gam Angkang Member, UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Role of Community Initiative, Customary Institutions, Consent, and Local Ownership in Eco-Tourism, Conservation and Traditional Knowledge Systems
Prof. Anuradha Banerjee Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences JNU, New Delhi	Who Cares, Who Gains? Gender, Labour and Unequal Value Creation in Nagaland's Eco-Tourism

LUNCH | 12:45 PM–1:30 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION 2: Governance, Political Ecology and Tourism

1:30 PM–3:00 PM | Chair: Prof. Temjensosang, Department of Sociology, NU | Rapporteur: MD Ziaur Rahman & Sentinungba | **Venue: Conference Hall, Department of Sociology**

PANELIST	TOPIC
Vimeto Vakha, President, Nagaland Tourism Association	Impact of Eco-Tourism on Rural Economy
Wekoweu Tsuha, Independent Consultant - Gender, Ecology, Livelihoods	Reimagining Ecotourism: Lived Experiences, Community Stewardship, and Regenerative Models in Nagaland
Margaret Zinyu, Designer, Founder of Woven Thread	Living Heritage, Living Futures-Rethinking Tourism, Places and Cultural Continuity
Mr. Nedup Tshering, Executive Director, Clean Bhutan	Balancing Tourism Growth and Waste Governance: Lessons from Bhutan
Mr. Sonam Tobgay, Board of Director, Clean Bhutan	Bhutan's Sustainable Tourism Model: Policy, People and Practice

TEA BREAK | 3:00 PM–3:15 PM

TECHNICAL SESSION 1: Heritage, Identity and the Cultural Politics of Eco-Tourism

3:15 PM–4:45 PM | Chair: Prof. Athungo Ovung, Department of Sociology, NU | Rapporteur: Poushali Goswami | **Venue: Lecture Hall 1, Department of Sociology**

SL. NO.	NAME	PAPER TITLE	AFFILIATION
1	**Dr. Rashi Bhargava** **Invited Speaker**	Why is Ecotourism trending? Sociological explorations into the field of Ecotourism in North-East India	Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology, NEHU Shillong
2	Lemya Konyak & Prof. Toshimenla Jamir	From Seed to Plate: Konyak Women's Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, Cultural Heritage and Community-based Ecotourism	Research Scholar, Faculty, Dept. of Sociology, Nagaland University
3	Chijanbemo M. Ezung	The Construction of Ethnic and Cultural Hierarchy in Nagaland's Tourism Space	Research Scholar, Science and Humanities (Sociology) NIT Nagaland
4	Asha Saikia	Cultural Practices as Catalysts for Tourism Development: A Case Study of Majuli, Assam	Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Nagaland University
5	Kevino Krose, Dr. Repakaba Tzudir & Ropfuvino Krose	Whose Heritage, Whose Meaning? Textiles, Festivals and the Making of Tourist Culture in Angami Villages of Nagaland	Research Scholar, Dept. of History & Archaeology, Nagaland University, Independent Researcher, Research Scholar, Dept. of Sociology, NIT, Nagaland

Discussion & Q&A

TECHNICAL SESSION 2: Livelihoods, Rural Economies & Agrarian Transformation

3:15 PM–4:45 PM | Chair: Dr. Yamsani Srikanth, Tribal Research Centre, NU | Rapporteur: Hiya Barma **Venue: Lecture Hall 2, Department of Sociology**

SL. NO.	NAME	PAPER TITLE	AFFILIATION
1	**Dr. Revati Pandya**, **Invited Speaker**	Political Ecology of Ecotourism in India	School of Development, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru
2	Aditia Bordoloi	Karbi Cuisine, Ecotourism and Alternative Livelihood: A Study of Choran Ahem, Assam	Research Scholar, Dept. of Sociology, Nagaland University
3	Ropfuleno Thorie	Eco-Tourism and Rural Livelihood Linkages in Nagaland: Evidence from Selected Villages in Kohima District	Research Scholar, Economics Department, Nagaland University
4	Aradhana Nath	Eco-Tourism, Livelihood and Forest Conservation: A Study of Jaramkhuria Village of Rural Assam	Research Scholar, Sociology, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University

SL. NO.	NAME	PAPER TITLE	AFFILIATION
5	Supongsangla Walling & Dr. L. Merensangla	Power and Participation in Emerging Community-Based Eco-Tourism: A Case Study of Meraküm Tzüin Nagar Van at Mokokchung Village	Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Nagaland University & Jubilee Memorial College

Discussion & Q&A

DAY 2 | 20 NOVEMBER 2026

TECHNICAL SESSION 3: Ecological Foundations and Tourism Potential

10:00 AM–11:30 AM | Chair: Prof. Sangyu Yaden, Department of Geography, NU | Rapporteur: Maongsenla | **Venue: Conference Hall, Department of Geography**

SL. NO.	NAME	PAPER TITLE	AFFILIATION
Welcome Address		Prof. Virendra Kumar, HoD, Department of Geography, NU.	
1	Kevino Ringa & Dr. Kedovikho Yhoshü	Development of Community-Based Eco-Tourism in Kohima, Nagaland: The Benefits and Challenges	Research Scholar & Faculty, Dept. of Geography, Nagaland University
2	Dr. Gyati Yam & Vieneite-O Koza	Ecosystem Vulnerability and Biodiversity Conservation for Sustainable Livelihoods Across Forest Types in Phek, Nagaland	Faculty & Research Scholar, Dept. of Forestry, Nagaland University
3	Dr. Viheno Iralu	Phenology and Population Structure of Malus indica (Wall.) B.B. Liu, an Economic Wild Fruit Tree of Nagaland	Faculty, Centre for Biodiversity Studies, Nagaland University
4	Megovino Kehie	Who Governs Ecotourism? Exploring Local Institutional Mechanisms of Community-Based Ecotourism in Khonoma and Shergaon	Research Scholar, Department of Social Work, Tezpur University

Discussion & Q&A

TECHNICAL SESSION 4: Community-Based Eco-Tourism and Livelihood Resilience

10:00 AM–11:30 AM | Chair: Dr Kuldip Singh Panwar, Head, Department of Law, NU | Rapporteur: Bidisha Bhuyan | **Venue: Hall 2, Department of Geography**

SL. NO.	NAME	PAPER TITLE	AFFILIATION
1	Avinuo Khoubve & Dr. Kedovikho Yhoshu	Assessing the Landscape Condition for Sustainable Eco-Tourism: Excerpts from Peren, Chumoukedima and Kohima Districts in Nagaland, India Using Geospatial Approach	Research Scholar & Faculty, Department of Geography, Nagaland University

SL. NO.	NAME	PAPER TITLE	AFFILIATION
2	T. Penthungo Lotha	Reconciling Conservation and Livelihoods: A Multi-State Analysis of Community-Based Ecotourism in Northeast India	Research Scholar, Studies, Dept. of Political Science, Nagaland University
3	Dr. Sunny Rawat	Community-Based Ecotourism and Livelihood Resilience in the Darjeeling Himalaya: A Case Study of Lepchajagat and Chatakpur	Faculty, Department of Geography, Southfield College, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling
4	Tiasunep Ozukum & Prof. Wangshimenla	Community-Based Ecotourism and Sustainable Livelihoods: A Case Study of Satoi Connect, Zunheboto, Nagaland	Research Scholar & Faculty, Dept. of Geography, Nagaland University
5	Bijaya Sarmah	Constructions, Communities and Contradictions: The Conservation Conundrum in Kaziranga	Research Scholar, Dept. of Political Science, Dibrugarh University

Discussion & Q&A

TECHNICAL SESSION 5: Tourism, Sustainability and Cultural Changes

10:00 AM–11:30 AM | Chair: Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Department of Sociology, NU | Rapporteur: Asha Saikia | **Venue: Lecture Hall 1, Department of Sociology**

SL. NO.	NAME	PAPER TITLE	AFFILIATION
1	**Megha Bhatt** **Invited Speaker**	Governance, Institutions, and the Politics of Policy Implementation	Independent Researcher
2	Palak Bhargava	Promoting Ecopreneurship: Policy Perspectives for Sustainable Development	Research Scholar, Central University of Rajasthan
3	Naorem Nandajit Singh	From Farms to Eco-Tourism: Agrarian Livelihood Diversification, Local Economies and Sustainable Rural Development in Manipur	Research Scholar, Special Centre for the Study of North East India, Jawaharlal Nehru University
4	Dr. Nabanita Baruah & Moni Saikia	Ecotourism, Community-Based Livelihood and Challenges in Assam: A Study in Manas National Park	Faculty, Department of Sociology, Bhattadev University
5	Dr. Rajinder Kumar & Shamlee Borchetia	Evolving Landscape of Eco-Tourism Research in Northeast India	Faculty, School of Studies, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi & Independent Researcher

Discussion & Q&A

TECHNICAL SESSION 6: Governance, Consent, Equity and Conservation

11:30 AM–1:00 PM | Chair: Prof. Wangshimenla Jamir, Department of Geography, NU | Rapporteur: Dangmendemla | **Venue: Hall 2, Department of Geography**

SL. NO.	NAME	PAPER TITLE	AFFILIATION
1	Aninji Mihu	Tourism-Livelihood Linkages and Governance Gaps in Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh: A Community and Stakeholder Perspective	Research Scholar, Dept. of Geography, RGU, Arunachal Pradesh
2	Tania Anya & Dr. Rumi Dhar	From Consultation to Consent: Reimagining the Legal Governance of Eco-Tourism under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 in Northeast India	Research Scholar/Faculty, Department of Law, Nagaland University, Lumami Campus.
3	Dr. Rishikesh Singh Faujdar	Inner Line Permit and Eco-Tourism in Northeast India: Protection of Land or Barrier to Livelihood?	Faculty, Department of Law, Nagaland University-Lumami
4	Jarmoty Romin	Tourism Development, Social Inclusion and Local Development in Shi-Yomi District, Arunachal Pradesh	Research Scholar/ Dept. of Geography, Rajiv Gandhi University
5	Mohan Sharma	Paradox of Nature Tourism in Dibang Valley: A Brief Commentary	Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Sikkim University

Discussion & Q&A

TECHNICAL SESSION 7: Heritage, Connectivity and Destination Development

11:30 AM–1:00 PM | Chair: Prof. Ashutosh Tripathi, Department of Environmental Science, NU | Rapporteur: Viketouzo Zao | **Venue: Conference Hall, Department of Geography**

SL. NO.	NAME	PAPER TITLE	AFFILIATION
1	Numili Mimi	Women's Participation in Community-Based Eco-Tourism and Livelihood Diversification Among the Idu Mishmi of Lower Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh	Research Scholar/Department of Geography, Rajiv Gandhi University.
2	Dr. Temjensangla Pongener & Sashikokla Jamir	Cultural Heritage and Ecotourism Potential: A Comparative Study of Süngratsü and Longkhum Villages in Mokokchung District, Nagaland	Faculty, Department of Geography, Fazl Ali College, Nagaland University
3	Dr. Kironmoy Chetia	Traditional Knowledge System (TKS) and Tea Tourism in Jorhat, Assam: Prospects for Sustainable and Community-Based Tourism	Faculty, Department of English, CKB Commerce College, Jorhat, Assam
4	Bamang Doya	Ecotourism Resources and Development Potential in Kurung Kumey District of Arunachal Pradesh: A Geographical Assessment	Research Scholar, Rajiv Gandhi University, Department of Geography

SL. NO.	NAME	PAPER TITLE	AFFILIATION
5	Mousumi Gogoi & Prof. Sangyu Yaden	River, Connectivity and Destination Development: Assessing the Sustainable River-Based Tourism Potential of Bogibeel, Dibrugarh, Assam	Research Scholar & Faculty, Department of Geography, Nagaland University

Discussion & Q&A

TECHNICAL SESSION 8: Community Participation, Consent and Governance

11:30 AM–1:00 PM | Chair: Dr. Manasi Debnath, Department of Geography, NU | Rapporteur: Cherry Ezung | **Venue: Lecture Hall 2, Department of Sociology**

SL. NO.	NAME	PAPER TITLE	AFFILIATION
1	B. Fatima Ahmed	Dynamics of Community Participation in Sustainable Tourism: Case of Meghalaya	Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University
2	Dr. N. Yanpothung Ezung	Ethics of Tourism: Representation, Consent, Community Rights and IPR	Faculty, Sociology Department, Bailey Baptist College, Wokha
3	Dr. Petevilie Chasie & Dr. Bindhu Jose	Ecology and Tourism: Exploring the Eco-Tourism Potential in Garo Hills of Meghalaya	Faculty, Department of History, Loyola College, North-Eastern Hills University (NEHU)
4	Dr. I. Koktiba	Mungmung Festival: Preserving Heritage, Promoting Ecotourism	Faculty, Political Science, Mount Tiyi College, Wokha
5	Purvi Narayan	Gender, Livelihood and Community Ownership: Reimagined Eco-Tourism through Women's Participation in Northeast India	Independent Researcher

Discussion & Q&A

LUNCH | 1:00 PM–1:45 PM

TECHNICAL SESSION 9: Infrastructure, Digital Visibility and Commodification

1:45 PM–3:00 PM | Chair: Prof. Somenath Bhattacharjee, Department of Anthropology, NU | Rapporteur: Elizabeth | **Venue: Lecture Hall 2, Department of Sociology**

SL. NO.	NAME	PAPER TITLE	AFFILIATION
1	Olivia Kikon	Dimapur as a Gateway to Eco-Tourism in Nagaland: Infrastructure, Connectivity and Spatial Transformations in a Fragile Urban-Environmental Corridor	Research Scholar, Dept. of Sociology, Nagaland University
2	Nokentula Jamir & Prof Temjensosang	Trans local Taste: Food, Digital Visibility, and the Culinary Tourism of Nagaland's Hornbill Festival	Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Nagaland University
3	Shubhankar Sarma	Hills, Reels, Meals: Platform Tourism and the Political Economy of Indigenous Visibility in Dima Hasao, Assam	Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya
4	Bhargav Gogoi	Commodified Nature and Monetising Rural Tourism: An Ethnographic Lens into the Lives of the Locals and Brokerage in Dawki of Meghalaya, India	Research Scholar, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati

Discussion & Q&A

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION	Strategies for Community Initiatives for Sustainable Livelihood through Eco-Tourism

1:45 PM–3:00 PM | Chair: Gam Angkang, Member, UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People | Rapporteur: Hiya Barma & MD Ziaur Rahman
Venue: Conference Hall, Department of Sociology

TEA BREAK | 3:00 PM–3:15 PM

VALEDICTORY SESSION

3:15 PM–4:30 PM | Conference Hall, Department of Sociology, Nagaland University | Chair: Dr. Yamsani Srikanth, Tribal Research Centre, Rapporteur: Nisha Dutta

Venue: Conference Hall, Department of Sociology, NU

PROGRAMME	DETAILS
Report on the Seminar	Dr. Suraj Beri, Organising Secretary
Valedictory Address	Prof. Lanusashi Longkumer, Convenor
Feedback from Participants	Participants
Vote of Thanks	Dr. Pitheli K Jimo, Department of Sociology, NU

Unwinding Session & Dinner

Emcee: Dr. Repakaba Tzudir