



**OFFICE OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE
XXII ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NORTH EAST INDIA POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
Organized by
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, GAUHATI UNIVERSITY
Guwahati – 781014, Assam, India**

Concept Note

Theme: “Public Policy and Politics in North East India: Issues and Challenges”

Recent writings in Indian politics on the working of democracy in India pose a few issues and challenges which need to be explored and explained. Firstly, it is in the procedural sense of the term that India’s democracy has succeeded and the success of India’s democracy is less about its substantial accomplishments and more about its procedural accomplishments. The existing gap between the procedural and substantive views on democracy in India is quite interrogating and needs explanation and understanding. Secondly, though the public faith in norms and values of democracy has increased yet there has been decrease in public trust in the political parties and elected representatives. The decline in public perception for institutions of political governance has much to do with aspect of non performance of institutions which seriously challenges democracy in India. Thirdly, India has been witness to emergence of myriad of social movements and movement centric politics which though has strengthened democracy yet a profound recognition and redistribution with respect to social goods remains elusive. Social Movements have remained diverse in terms of engaging state as well as with respect to their social and ideological base which has imparted distinctness to social movement politics in India.

The Northeast presents its own uniqueness when it comes to address issues and challenges in regard to politics and public policy in India. The grounding ideas and practices which shape politics in North East India has always remained a key concern in understanding the challenges and uniqueness characterizing politics in India. The deep diversity and the level of socio economic development in the region has always attracted the attention of social scientist to offer explanation and understanding on the crisis, change and continuity that marks politics in Northeast India. The recent announcement by the Government of India of the Act East Policy has further made it imperative to engage Northeast in a more profound and substantive terms and

to understand issues and challenges facing policy making and policy implementation in Northeast India. In this regard it is hereby proposed to study the grounding ideas, constitutional foundation and innovation with respect to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policy in India's North East. It broadly seeks to understand the nature and pattern of diverse set of interactions that exist among actors involved in public institutions, political processes, civil society, social movements and media politics in North East India. Studying public policy at the backdrop of the uniqueness and pitfalls characteristic of the politics in India's North East holds potential to offer explanation and understanding on the challenges and limitations facing effective and efficient implementation of public policy and thereby enhancing quality of democracy.

In keeping with above mentioned objectives, the conference proposes to have following subthemes:-

- 1.) Public Policy in North East India : Issues and Challenges**
- 2.) Public Institutions & Policy Making in North East India**
- 3.) Policy Implementation & Policy Evaluation in North East India : Bridging the Gap**
- 4.) Civil Society, Social Movements & Public Policy in North East India : Role and Limitations**
- 5.) India's Act East and North East India: Prospects and Pitfalls**