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POLITY & ECONOMY

Agenda for Contemporary
North East India

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C. Joshua Thomas
(Ed.)

This book is the offshoot of a regional seminar organized by the ICSSR North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong at the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) at the beginning of the millennium. It deals with some of the major social, political and economic concerns and issues which have a very special place in the current understanding on north-east and it sets a tone for the agenda on the vital issues for further debate and research. It calls for a wider readership cutting across the policy makers, activists, north-east watchers as well as academia.

Rs. 400/-

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Polity and Economy Agenda for Contemporary North-East India

Edited By

C. Joshua Thomas



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Preface

It was on the eve of the millennium at the Indian Council of Social Science Research, North Eastern Regional Centre's Screening Committee we had a discussion to host a round table conference inviting eminent scholars to have a brainstorming session on Society, Polity and Economy of North Eastern Region: Agenda for the Twenty-First Century. Despite our best efforts we could not hold this programme during the 2001 due to some unavoidable reasons. However, we could hold this seminar at the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, during 28th and 29th August 2003, with the financial assistance from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi.

The Seminar was inaugurated by Professor Mrinal Miri, Vice-Chancellor, NEHU and Chairman, ICSSR-NERC and it had three lively academic sessions on Society, Polity and Economy of North Eastern Region. Professor Sanjib Baruah, The Centre for Northeast India, South and Southeast Asia Studies (CENISEAS), Professor P.S. Ghosh, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD) and Professor D.R. Syiemlieh, Department of History, NEHU, chaired the three academic sessions respectively. The seminar had resource persons and participants from sociology, political science, history, economy, philosophy and other social science discipline. Each contributor's concern is different, yet each of these concerns has a very special place in the current understanding on north-east and set a tone for the agenda on the pertinent issues on north-east.

We are indeed happy to present the various papers presented in the seminar after the necessary modification, revision in the light of the discussion that we had for wider deliberation among the scholars and the general public in the form of *Polity and Economy: Agenda for Contemporary North-East India*.

We are thankful to Professor Mrinal Miri for being an instrumental in the various activities of the Centre and more particularly for the valuable intellectual input which he had shared in this seminar while inaugurating and also writing the foreword for this book.

We are grateful to all our resource persons: *H. Srikanth, Sajal Nag, Samir Kumar Das, Konsam Ibo Singh, L.S. Gassah, K.C. Baral, M.N. Karna, A.K. Agarwal, Gurudas Das, Rajesh Dutta* and *Monirul Hussain* for extending their cooperation in presenting their papers and also submitting the full paper for publication. We appreciate much Dr. Siby George, State Resource Centre, NEHU for his copy editing assistance in putting the manuscript in the present format.

We put on record the financial assistance extended to this programme by the ICSSR, New Delhi and my colleague, Mr. K.L. Khera, Coordinator, NE Programme, ICSSR, is commended for his constant support to our programmes.

My younger colleagues in the Centre, Ms. Christine Blah and Ms. Narisha Kharbuli deserve special thanks for shouldering most of the works pertaining to this seminar and also patiently typing the manuscript. Lastly, we are grateful to Mr. A.K. Verma, Regency Publications, New Delhi, for his constant reminder without which this volume would not have seen the light of the day.

C. Joshua Thomas