



2 DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

“A DECADE OF ACT EAST POLICY: GRASSROOT PERSPECTIVES FROM NORTHEAST INDIA”

MODE ▶ BLENDED (OFFLINE & ONLINE)
DATES ▶ 5TH & 6TH MARCH, 2026
VENUE ▶ RAYBURN COLLEGE, MANIPUR

**Organized by
RAYBURN COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
and
INDO-MYANMAR BORDERLAND INSTITUTE**

**In collaboration with
INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Avinash Paliwal

Reader in International Relations, Department of Politics & International Relations, SOAS, University of London

PLENARY SPEAKERS



Sabyasachi Dutta

Co-founder & Executive Director, Asian Confluence



Professor Kishalay Bhattacharjee

Professor and Dean, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, Award Winning Journalist and Author Director, New Imaginations



Zomuana

Member of Mizoram State Planning Board & Committee
Member on KMMTTP



Dr. Fr C.P. Anto

Principal, Northeast Institute of Social Science & Research



Dr. Thongkholal Haokip

Assistant Professor, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University



Professor Samrat Sinha

Professor at Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal Global University



Professor Priyanca Mathur

Professor, Political Science and International Relations and Head, Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE), JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)

SPECIAL SESSIONS



Dr. Jasnea Sarma

Senior Lecturer and Researcher at Department of Geography,
University of Zurich



Dr. Constantino Xavier

Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy and Security Studies, Centre for
Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi



Dr. Aditya Kiran Kakati

Post Doctoral Fellow, International Institute Asian Studies
(IIAS)

CHAIRPERSONS



Golan Naulak

Co-founder, Indo-Myanmar Borderland Institute



Dr. Tunchinmang Langel

Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs



Dr. Thongkholal Haokip

Assistant Professor, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University



Dr. Paolenthang Khongsai

Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Political Science, Rayburn College



Dr. Nehkhomang Haokip

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Rayburn College



Dr. Siambiakmawi

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Rayburn College

DAY ONE: 5th March 2026

Arrival and Registration

9:30 am – 10:00 am

INAUGURAL SESSION

10:00 am – 11:30 am (Main Auditorium)

Session Host	Emmanuel Lalneimawi Hmar Assistant Professor, Rayburn College
Welcome Remark 10:00 am – 10:05 am	Session Host
Inaugural Address 10:05 am – 10:10 am	Dr. Samuel G. Ngaihte Chairperson, Organizing Committee
Message from Collaborating Institute 10:10 am – 10:20 am	Dr. Tunchinmang Langel Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs
Launching of Conference 10:20 am – 10:25 am	Rev. Dr. Khen P. Tombing Principal, Rayburn College
Special Song 10:25 am – 10:30 am	Zenggaihsang B.A. English
Keynote Address 10:30 am – 11:15 am	Dr. Avinash Paliwal Reader in International Relations, Department of Politics & International Relations, SOAS, University of London
Vote of Thanks 11:15 am – 11:20 am	Dr. Kh Thianminlian Vaiphei Vice Principal, Rayburn College
Tea Break 11:20 am – 11:30 am	Ushering Team

PLENARY SESSION

11:30 pm – 4:30 pm (Main Auditorium)

A Decade of Act East Policy: Dialoguing Perspectives

Chair: Golan Naulak

Co-founder, Indo-Myanmar
Borderland Institute

Rapporteurs: Lyna H. Misao and Livia
Tinglianhoi

**Acting East: India and the
Northeast**

11:45- 12:15 pm

Professor Kishalay Bhattacharjee

Professor & Dean, Jindal School of Journalism
and Communication

**Role of Bay of Bengal in India's
Act East Policy**

12:15 pm – 12:45 pm

Sabyasachi Dutta

Executive Director, Asian Confluence

12:45 pm – 1:30 pm: LUNCH BREAK

**Act East Policy in Practice: A
Grassroots Assessment of
Impacts of the Major
Connectivity Projects in
Mizoram**

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Zomuana

Member, Mizoram State Planning Board &
Key Committee Member, KMMTTP

**Towards an Inclusive Act East
Policy: Engaging Local
Perspectives**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Dr. Thongkhohal Haokip

Assistant Professor, Centre for the Study of
Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru
University

Professor Samrat Sinha

Professor, Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal
Global University

**Act East Policy and Peace-
Building in the South Asian
Neighbourhood**

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Dr. Fr. C.P. Anto

Principal, Northeast Institute of Social
Science and Research

The Malaise of 'Bordeorosis': The India-Myanmar: Refugee Influx and Securitization Dilemma 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Professor Priyanca Mathur Professor and Head, Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE), JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Interactive Q&A and Concluding Remarks 4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Golan Naulak Co-founder, Indo-Myanmar Borderland Institute
Vote of Thanks 4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Dr. Paolenthang Khongsai Coordinator, Organizing Committee

DAY TWO: 6th March 2026

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

10:30 am – 3:00 pm (Main Auditorium & Conference Hall)

ONLINE SESSION

FIRST SESSION 10:00 am - 11:30 am (IT Block)

Chair: Dr. Tunchinmang Langel

Rapporteurs: Dr. Mary Chiindeihkim Simte and Pauginlun

Dr. Shivangi Kaushik	Symbolizing Act East Policy, Understanding Subjectivities and Personhoods Undergirding Borders and Borderlands
Pricilla JC Chawngmawii and Dr. Suwa Lal Jangu	India-ASEAN Security Cooperation Under the Act East Policy: A Perspective from Northeast India
Reuben Paulianding	Flows and Stops: The Ontological Politics of India's Act East Policy
Kamkholal Sithou and Dr. Zoumunmawia	Provincialising Act East Policy and the Limits of State Sovereignty

SECOND SESSION 11:40 am – 1:00 pm (IT Block)

Chair: Dr. Paolenthang Khongsai

Rapporteurs: Dr. Mary Chiindeihkim Simte and Pauginlun

Dibyajyoti Gogoi and Preeti Sikha Thakuria	Border Trade and Socioeconomic Interactions in Northeast India: A Thematic Analysis of Traders' Experiences in Assam-Nagaland Haat
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T. Thuamlianding	Beyond English: Sociolinguistic Dimensions of Youth Engagement in ASEAN Connectivity from Northeast India
Tanjeeta Acharyya	Environment, Human Settlement and Social Sustainability in Northeast India: The Role of Community Engagement
T Robert Suankhanthang and Jennifer R Marak	India's Act East Policy and the Free Movement Regime: Rethinking Border Connectivity from a Grassroots Perspective in Northeast India

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm: LUNCH BREAK

THIRD SESSION 2:00 – 3:00 PM (IT Block)

Chair: Dr. Nehkhomang Haokip

Rapporteurs: Dr. Mary Chiindeihkim Simte and Pauginlun

C. Vanlalawmpuia	Cross-Border Cultural Memory of the Mizo People: A (Re)reading of Lalthangliana's <i>History of Mizo in Burma</i>
SL Hatlalbiak Vaiphei and Kanagaraj Easwaran	Finding Meaning in Uncertain Times: Reflections on Displacement and Resilience Through Viktor Frankl's <i>Man's Search for Meaning</i>
Dr. Hatchingthem Haokip	The Body Keeps the Score: Violence and Trauma of Female Survivors of the Kuki-Meitei Conflict
L. Do Sian Mung	Peace For Our Time: Enquiry into the Act East Policy in Indo-Myanmar
Chinkhanmuan Samte	Reading the Backyards: Zo Epistemic Texts Against the Post-Colonial Front Yard Erasure

OFFLINE SESSION

FIRST SESSION 10:00 am - 11:45 am (Room No. W3-03)

Chair: Dr. Thongkholal Haokip

Rapporteurs: Dr. Niangpi Guite and Hosea Lalremrout

Rachel Lhingkhovah and Prof. Lokanath Mishra	Education for Peace and Environmental Sustainability in Manipur Border Settlements Under Act East Policy
James Tunglut	Distance as Responsibility: A Normative Critique of the Act East Policy
Dr. Nehkhomang Haokip	Grassroots Governance and the Act East Policy: Local Participation and Development in the Hill Areas of Manipur
Dr. Mary Nengneichong Baite	Livelihood Transformation: Importance of India-Myanmar Border Trade
Dr. L. Letkhomang Haokip	From Policy to Protest: People's Response to the Scrapping of the Free Movement Regime in India's Northeast
Dr. Ginnehching Simte and Dr. Esther Lalremkim	India's Economic Relations with Myanmar: A Case Study of Churachandpur-Behiang Border
Aasima Banu Sheikh	Fortification Frontiers: Architectural Shifts in India-Myanmar Border and Act East Policy

SECOND SESSION 11:45 am - 1:00 pm (Room No. W3-03)

Chair: Dr. Siambiakmawi

Rapporteurs: Dr. Niangpi Guite and Hosea Lalremrout

Man Lun Kim and Dr. Chingbiakmawi	Stories From the Hills: Select Zo Tribals in Popular Culture in Northeast India's Act East Journey
Mansonkim	Singing Border Violence from the Domestic Sphere: A Reading of Zo Nationalist Songs
Thangkhanlal Ngaihte	Emerging Issues from The Northeast: Insights from a Review of the Literature
Hosea Lalremruot and Livia Tinglianhoi	Beyond Strategy: A Study on Food and India's Act East Policy
Dr. Mongneilam Kipgen	A Rereading of Cultural Trauma: Exploring the Act East Policy and its Reiterations in Select Festival from the Northeast
Hnunbiaklian Tangpua	Beyond Biblical Authority: Indigenous Traditions, Moral Formation, and Grassroots Identity in the Era of India's Act East Policy

VALEDICTORY SESSION

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Main Auditorium)

Welcome 3:00 pm – 3:10 pm	Dr. Samuel G. Ngaihte Registrar, Rayburn College
Valedictory Address 3:10 pm – 3:30 pm	Dr. Thongkholal Haokip Guest Speaker
Handing out of Certificates 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Dr. Dorothy Lalneizo Coordinator, Conference Committee
Vote of Thanks 3:45 pm – 3:55 pm	Dr. L. Letkhomang Haokip Coordinator, Organizing Committee