

IIG INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR . 2026



INSTITUTE OF INDIAN GEOGRAPHERS (IIG)

International Seminar on **GEOGRAPHY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: NAVIGATING TRENDS, TACKLING CHALLENGES**

DATE : 19TH TO 21ST FEBRUARY, 2026

REVISED CIRCULAR

Organised by
**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & APPLIED GEOGRAPHY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL**

Siliguri-734013, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

The University of North Bengal was established by an Act of the Legislature of West Bengal in 1962 with the mission “to encourage and provide for instruction for teaching, training and research in various branches of learning and course of study; to promote advancement and dissemination of knowledge and learning and to extend higher education to meet the growing needs of society.” The University campus covers an area of 315.99 acres of land at the foothills of the Himalayas with a fascinating glimpse of the Kanchenjunga peak, tea gardens and forest cover. The University of North Bengal has established its 2nd campus at Jalpaiguri for widening the scope of higher education and research in this area.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: <https://www.nbu.ac.in>

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & APPLIED GEOGRAPHY

The Department of Geography & Applied Geography, University of North Bengal was established in 1962 along with the establishment of the University. The Department offers Master's Degree (both at NBU & Jalpaiguri Campus) and Ph. D in Geography & Applied Geography. The Department has successfully completed the UGC SAP DRS I and II programmes. The Department offers specialisation in Applied Hydrology, Applied Pedology, Cartography, Fluvial Geomorphology, Population Geography, Tourism Geography and Urban Geography at the Postgraduate level. The Centre for Geo-Spatial Sciences, University of North Bengal also comes under the umbrella of this Department. At present, the Department has 2 Professors, 3 Associate Professors and 3 Assistant Professors as permanent faculty members. The faculty members are actively associated with various fields of research, incorporating both physical and human geography. The Department has a state-of-the-art GIS laboratory with 40 terminals, which are equipped with various GIS software and used by the students and research scholars. Currently, more than 50 research scholars of this Department are drawing their fellowships as JRF/SRF under various schemes of UGC, State and Central Government.

INSTITUTE OF INDIAN GEOGRAPHERS (IIG)

The Institute of Indian Geographers was established in 1979 with Department of Geography of Savitribai Phule Pune University as its registered headquarter. IIG strives to promote geographical knowledge by research, teaching and related academic and social activities that will directly or indirectly lead to the growth of Geography. Since its foundation, IIG has been regularly publishing the bi-annual journal, the ‘Transactions, Institute of Indian Geographers’, listed in SCOPUS and the UGC CARE list. IIG regularly organises the Annual Geographers’ Meet in different parts of the country, and topical seminars from time to time. IIG currently has more than 1200 life members, institutional members, annual members, and regular journal subscribers.

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF IIG

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CONCEPT NOTE

Geography as a discipline has evolved from being ‘a study of the earth’ to a ‘study of the relationship between man and environment’. According to Steffen (2007), human activities have become so pervasive and profound that they rival the great forces of nature. The earlier dichotomy of Determinism and Possibilism places man within the ambit of the environment, but the greater debate was on whether man is a passive agent or an active force in interacting with the environment. Given the profound human impact on the Earth’s land, oceans, and biosphere since the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions, the idea of a new geological epoch—the Anthropocene—though debated, is increasingly accepted. As a result, 21st-century Geography has become a multidisciplinary and multiparadigm field.

Thus, Geography in the 21st century stands at the crossroads of innovation, policy, and societal transformation. It is no longer confined to the study of landforms and spatial distributions alone; modern geography integrates cutting-edge technologies, environmental consciousness, and social inquiry to address the world’s most pressing challenges from climate change and biodiversity loss to rapid urbanisation, disaster vulnerability, and socio-economic inequalities. This international seminar aims to bring together the academic fraternity to explore the evolving landscape of geographical thought and application in the present era. The event will focus on highlighting the increasing relevance of geography in shaping sustainable futures, fostering inclusive development, and informing effective decision-making through geospatial intelligence. Castree (2014), had highlighted the need for radical interpretive voices as we look into the impact of humans on the environment, with a pertinent question of what should be done? To address this question, this seminar will feature a diverse range of themes encompassing both physical and human geography. Key areas include fluvial geomorphology and river dynamics, soil erosion and land degradation, sustainable management of aquatic and coastal resources, and biogeography with a focus on conservation. Special attention will be given to the unique geographies of the Himalayas and high-altitude regions, along with region-specific issues focusing on climate variability and its socio-economic impacts in North Bengal. Participants will also engage in discussions on climate change, global disaster hotspots, and vulnerability mapping—critical areas where geographic insights will delve into resilience and adaptation strategies. Human-centered themes will include spatial inequalities in health, education, and employment; gender and space; population transitions; rural and urban development; and the changing dynamics of agriculture and livelihood systems. Recognising the significance of technological advancement today, the seminar will focus on the transformative role of GIS, remote sensing, artificial intelligence, and machine learning in geographic research and planning. These tools are reshaping how we understand, analyse, and solve spatial problems at local, national, and global scales. Furthermore, the seminar will explore themes related to urban sprawl, smart growth, regional disparities, sustainable tourism, pollution geographies, and cultural transformations. Through these conversations, we aim to reaffirm the significance of geography in policy-making, environmental management, and community empowerment. As India advances toward the vision of *Viksit Bharat*, geographers are uniquely positioned to contribute through innovation, critical thinking, and spatial expertise. This seminar provides a vital platform for sharing ideas, strengthening collaboration, and redefining geography’s role in shaping a better future.

We warmly invite researchers, educators, students, development professionals, and policymakers to join us in this academic journey to rethink, reimagine, and strengthen the role of geographers. As Gould noted the 21st century which is often called the ‘spatial century’ has renewed geography’s importance in society.

SUB-THEMES OF THE SEMINAR

1. Fluvial Geomorphology and River Dynamics: Processes, Patterns, and Human interactions.
2. Soil Erosion and Land Degradation: Causes, Consequences, and Conservation Strategies.
3. Sustainable Management of Groundwater, Aquatic Resources and Coastal Zones: Need for conservation for future generation.
4. Biogeography and Conservation: Understanding Biodiversity Patterns and Protecting Ecosystems.
5. Geographies of the Himalayas and High Altitude Regions: Challenges and Opportunities.
6. Climate Change and Sustainable Futures: Challenges and Geographic Solutions.
7. Global Disaster Hotspots and Vulnerability Mapping: Hazard Exposure and Potential Impacts.
8. Climate Variability and Its Impact on Livelihoods and Landscapes in North Bengal: Exploring Vulnerabilities and Adaptation Strategies.
9. Population, Place, and Movement: Exploring Spatial Dimensions of Demographic Transition.
10. Spatial Inequalities in Health, Education, and Employment: A Human Geography Perspective.
11. Gender, Space, and Society: Exploring Inequality and Empowerment through Geography.
12. Social Inequalities and Cultural Transformation: The Interplay of Space, Place, and Power.
13. The Geographies of Conflict and Cooperation: Exploring Geopolitics in the 21st Century.
14. Regional Variations in Agricultural Systems: Challenges to Productivity and Food Security.
15. Modernisation and Technological Advancements in Agriculture: Their Impact on Rural Societies.
16. Understanding Rural Development: Livelihood Diversification, Access to Services and Infrastructural Growth.
17. The Urban Fabric: Understanding Spatial Patterns of Growth, Infrastructure, Environment and Livability in Cities.
18. Urban Sprawl to Smart Growth: A Geographical Exploration of Innovation and Governance in Inclusive Urban Development.
19. Regional Disparities in Development: Policies, Planning, and Local Solutions.
20. Sustainable Regional Development: Balancing Inclusive Economic Growth and Environmental Resilience.
21. Tourism in Transition: New Trends, Regional Opportunities, and Environmental Concerns.
22. Toxic Geographies: Spatial Patterns of Pollution, Their Impacts and Policy Interventions.
23. Geospatial Data and Analytics: Transforming Geography with GIS and Remote Sensing.
24. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Geography: From Spatial Patterns to Predictive Modelling.
25. Mapping the Path to Viksit Bharat by 2047: The Role of Geographers.

YOUNG GEOGRAPHERS' COMPETITION

The Young Geographers' Award is an exciting competition that aims to identify and honour a promising young geographer through a rigorous selection process. To participate in this competition, entrants need to meet a set of specific criteria, ensuring that the event maintains a high standard of fairness and excellence.

1. Competitors must be under 30 years of age and hold Indian Nationality, which ensures representation and opportunities for young Indian geographers.
2. Participants are required to submit a single-authored abstract by the deadline specified under the abstract submission section, demonstrating their ability to independently research and articulate their ideas.
3. The deadline for submitting the full paper is the same as the deadline specified under the abstract submission section.
4. A bonafide certificate from either the Head of the Department or Supervisor(s) must accompany the abstract, attesting to the authenticity and credibility of the participant's academic standing.
5. A copy of the participant's institutional identity card is also required, which serves as a verification of their affiliation and status. These requirements collectively ensure that the competition draws dedicated and credible young talent from across the nation.

BEST PAPER PRESENTATION AWARDS

The organisers have established a recognition program to acknowledge the exceptional work of researchers. For each technical session held during the seminar, a Best Paper Presentation Award will be bestowed upon outstanding presenters. To be considered for this recognition, participants must submit a completed registration form, along with their abstract by the specified deadline.

SCIENTIFIC MODEL COMPETITION

As part of the International Seminar, we cordially invite researchers, academicians, students (UG & PG) from a wide array of institutions, and participants from various colleges to showcase their pioneering and avant-garde models. These presentations should explore the latest advancements in geographical studies and underscore their potential contributions to societal improvement.

To acknowledge and laud exceptional contributions, a winner will be declared and celebrated with an award during the seminar's valedictory ceremony.

POSTER COMPETITION

In conjunction with the seminar we are delighted to unveil a Poster Competition offering a splendid opportunity for researchers, students, and professionals to exhibit their work and contribute to the progression of geographical studies. The competition aspires to foster creativity, innovation and the effective communication of research findings through visually captivating posters.

Competition Details

1. Participants are encouraged to submit posters on any facet of geographical studies.
2. Posters should adeptly convey research findings, methodologies, and key insights.
3. Poster dimensions: 3 ft (horizontal) x 4 ft (vertical), to be printed on a flex.
4. Presenters will have the opportunity to display their posters during dedicated sessions at the seminar.
5. A panel of esteemed judges will appraise the posters based on criteria such as content, visual allure, and presentation skills.
6. Winners will be announced and lauded during the seminar's closing ceremony.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Organising Committee seeks submissions of abstracts of original contributions on any topic related to the scientific programme sessions. If you wish to submit an abstract for consideration, kindly follow the instructions outlined below:

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING ABSTRACTS

1. The abstract must be written in English, mentioning the sub-theme.
2. Abstract should be typed in MS Word (Compatibility Mode) only.
3. Title: A brief title not more than 20-30 words. It should be in bold type, capitalising the 1st letter of all words of four letters or more. Indent 12 point and Times New Roman font.
4. Affiliation of the author(s) should be listed by number, and add the number in superscript form after the name(s). Put a '*' mark on the corresponding author. Indent 10 point and Times New Roman font.
5. Text: Normal, Times New Roman Font & 11-point indent. The abstract must indicate the problem, methodology, and results of the work within 200-250 words (Abstracts above this limit will not be accepted).
6. Paper(s) may be presented through any one of the following means: Oral/ Multimedia Presentation.
7. For the Presentation, the participants will be given 10-15 minutes.

The abstract should be submitted via the registration link only.

OTHER NECESSARY INFORMATION

- The last date for registration fee submission is **31st December 2025**.
- Hard copy/Email submission of abstracts will not be accepted.
- All author(s) will be required to register for the Seminar to ensure their abstract(s) is/are included in the technical sessions(s) and abstract volume.
- Acceptance of selected abstracts will be notified to the corresponding author by email within a week after registration.
- After receiving full-length papers, we plan to publish an edited book/volume/seminar proceedings from any reputed national or international publisher. The last date for submitting full-length papers is **15th January 2026**.
- Details coming in subsequent circulars.
- Submit the full-length paper to the seminar convener at iignbu2025@gmail.com

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

REGISTRATION FEE DETAILS

Category	Early Bird Registration (Upto 30th November, 2025)			Late Registration (Upto 31st December, 2025)		
	Indian (INR)	SAARC Countries (INR)	Foreign Delegates	Indian (INR)	SAARC Countries (INR)	Foreign Delegates
Regular (With Accommodation)	4300	5300	125 USD	5300	6300	150 USD
Regular (Without Accommodation)	3200	4200	100 USD	4200	5200	125 USD
Student/ Research Scholar/Retired Teacher (With Accommodation)	3500	4500	102 USD	4500	5500	130 USD
Student/ Research Scholar/Retired Teacher (Without Accommodation)	2500	3500	80 USD	3500	4500	105 USD
Accompanying Person	3500	4500	102 USD	4500	5500	130 USD

PAYMENT DETAILS FOR REGISTRATION FEE

ACCOUNT NO: 925020026806419

ACCOUNT NAME: DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & APPLIED GEOGRAPHY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

BANK: AXIS BANK

IFSC: UTIB0003586

BRANCH NAME: SHIV MANDIR

OR

ACCOUNT NO: 41912044266

ACCOUNT NAME: ICSSR ERC SEMINAR

BANK: STATE BANK OF INDIA

IFSC: SBIN0002096

BRANCH NAME WITH CODE: NBU CAMPUS BRANCH (02096)

OTHER NECESSARY INFORMATION

- Regular, Retired Teacher and Student/ Research Scholar Registration includes Participation, Seminar Kit, Abstract Volume, and Food.
- Accommodation for the participants will be provided for the selected 3 days by the Seminar Organising Committee.
- Accompanying Person's registration includes Accommodation and Food.
- **Student/ Research Scholar Registration:** Applicable to those continuing their M. Sc/ M. Phil/ Ph. D as a full-time student/ scholar. A copy of ID (Institutional ID card or a letter from the Head of the Department/ Supervisor) is required.
- **Refund of Registration Fee:** There is no provision to refund the registration fee.

REGISTRATION LINK

<https://forms.gle/eGForkA6cJ1KwfF86>



PAYMENT OF HEADQUARTER FEE AND IIG MEMBERSHIP FEE

1. **Non-member participants** will have to take either the Annual or Life Membership of the Institute of Indian Geographers (IIG) in advance. For more details, visit: <https://iigo.org/membership/>
2. An additional amount of **Rs. 250/-** will have to be separately deposited to the IIG account by every participant as the IIG Headquarter Fee. The IIG headquarter fee is mandatory for all participants.
3. Participants are required to produce evidence of any amount deposited by them as membership fee, headquarter fee or registration fee in case of any dispute.

The headquarter fee and IIG membership fee can be paid online using the bank transfer as given below:

ACCOUNT NO: 20063001604

ACCOUNT NAME: INSTITUTE OF INDIAN GEOGRAPHERS

BANK: BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

BRANCH NAME WITH CODE: PUNE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS (1355)

IFSC: MAHB0001355

SEMINAR VENUE

The three-day International Seminar will be held at the Department of Geography & Applied Geography and in the Rabindra Bhanu Mancha of the University of North Bengal, Raja Rammohunpur Campus.



TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION

The University of North Bengal (NBU) is situated in Raja Rammohunpur, approximately 8 km from Siliguri and 5 km from Bagdogra Airport, making it easily accessible by various modes of transport. Nearby railway stations include Bagdogra (4.2 km), Siliguri Junction (8 km), and New Jalpaiguri Junction (12 km). Bagdogra Airport offers domestic flights connecting to major cities like Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Guwahati. The Tenzing Norgay Central Bus Terminus is situated around 6 km away from the University, serves both state-owned and private buses connecting to various destinations within and outside the state. From these transport hubs, taxis, auto-rickshaws, and local buses are readily available to reach the University Campus.

WEATHER INFORMATION

In February, Siliguri experiences the end of the winter season, characterised by cool and pleasant weather. Average daytime highs are around 25°C with nighttime lows near 15°C. The month sees about 7 to 8 hours of daylight daily, with a very poor probability of rainfall. Overall, February in Siliguri is pleasant during daytime and cool at night, with lush greenery and a vibrant atmosphere. Hence, carrying warm woolens is highly advisable.

STUDY TOUR

A one-day study tour may be arranged on a payment basis if there are sufficient number of participants on 22.02.2026.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to contact the organisers regarding any queries.

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Convener and Head

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Dr. Indira Lepcha (Nee) Lama

Organising Secretary

Department of Geography & Applied Geography, University of North Bengal.

Mob: 8637897648

Email: iignbu2025@gmail.com

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr. Raka Shree Rai, Southfield College

Dr. Nima Doma Lama, Siliguri College

Dr. Ranjan Sarkar, Siliguri College of Commerce

Dr. Madhusudan Karmakar, Maynaguri College

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Dr. Suprakash Roy, Educationist

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Ms. Harikala Chhetri, Research Scholar, NBU

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Ms. Sova Rani Das, Research Scholar, NBU

Mr. Krishna Barman, Research Scholar, NBU

Mr. Debasish Mandal, Research Scholar, NBU

Dr. Debanjan Basak, Research Scholar, NBU

Mr. Surajit Paul, Research Scholar, NBU

Mr. Shuba Das, Research Scholar, NBU

Ms. Puja Kirttiniya, Research Scholar, NBU

MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS NEAR UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

Siliguri (Distance: 9 km): Acts as a strategic junction connecting the hills of Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan, Nepal, and the northeastern states of India. Popular attractions include: Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, ISKCON Temple, North Bengal Science Centre, Sevoke Coronation Bridge, Bengal Safari Park.



Darjeeling (Distance: 67 km): Famous for its scenic beauty and tea gardens. Located in the Lesser Himalayas. Major attractions include: Tiger Hill, Batasia Loop, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling Zoo, Toy Train (UNESCO World Heritage).



Kalimpong (Distance: 75 km): Known for serene environment and educational institutions. Once a gateway for trade with Tibet. Popular attractions: Durpin Monastery, Neora Valley National Park, Deolo Hill, Cactus Nursery.



Dooars (Distance: 50-160 km): Located in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas. Renowned for rich biodiversity and lush green forests. Wildlife sanctuaries and national parks: Gorumara National Park, Jaladapara Wildlife Sanctuary, Buxa Tiger Reserve.



Coochbehar (Distance: 150 km): Historic town with royal heritage. Influenced by Western architecture during the Koch dynasty rule. Attractions include: Coochbehar Royal Palace, Sagar Dighi, Madan Mohan Temple.



Sikkim (Distance: 120 km): Northeastern state known for its natural beauty and spiritual significance. Offers views of the Himalayas and rich cultural heritage. Attractions include: Gangtok, Changgu (Tsomgo) Lake, Nathula Pass, Yumthang Valley, Silk Route.

