

ICSSR-ERC SPONSORED 2 DAY'S NATIONAL SEMINAR



**TWO DAY'S ICSSR-ERC SPONSORED NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
*URBANIZATION, URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND
SUSTAINABILITY IN HIMALAYAN AND SUB-HIMALAYAN
REGION***

Date: 1st & 2nd July, 2023



Organized by
**Department of Geography & Applied Geography
University of North Bengal
Raja Rammohunpur, Darjeeling, 734013**

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 of North Bengal campus covers an area of nearly 315.99 acres of land at the foothills of Himalaya in close proximity of vast plains around it 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>.

How to Reach: Siliguri is well connected to all important cities i.e., Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi, Gauhati, Kathmandu, Gangtok, Thimpu, etc. by means of different types of transport and communication system. New Jalpaiguri (NJP) Railway Station is the nearest main Railway Station. It is on the Gauhati/Dibrugarh - Kolkata/Chennai/Hyderabad/Pune/Delhi main line and being a major station, all trains have a stop at this station. Bagdogra Air Port is only 4 km away from our University Campus. The University Campus is located by the side of AH-02 and it is only 7 km and 10 km away from Siliguri and NJP Railway Station respectively.

Department of Geography & Applied Geography, NBU

The Department of Geography and Applied Geography, North Bengal University was established in 1962 along with the establishment of the University. The Department offers teaching in the Post Graduate level (both at NBU Campus & Jalpaiguri Campus) and offers Ph. D programme. The department has successfully completed UGC SAP DRS I and II programme. The department offers specialization in Applied Pedology, Cartography, Fluvial Geomorphology, Population Geography and Urban geography at the P.G. level. This department is enriched further as the Centre for Geo-Spatial Sciences is attached to it. At present the department has 2 Professors, 2 Associate Professors and 4 Assistant Professors permanent faculty member. 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 softwares and used by the students and research scholars of the department. At present more than 50 research scholars as JRF/SRF are drawing their fellowships from various organizations like UGC, ICSSR and NBU.

ICSSR-ERC

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), was established as an autonomous organisation in 1969, by the Ministry of Education (now known as the Ministry of Human Resource Development), Government of India. The primary objective of the ICSSR is to promote and fund research in the social sciences. The Eastern Regional Centre (ERC), established in Calcutta (at 10, Lake Terrace, Calcutta - 700 029) with the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC) as its host institution, started functioning from 1973. In May, 2012 the office of the ERC was shifted from 10, Lake Terrace, Kolkata - 700 029 to its new building at 1/R1, Baishnabghata Patuli Township, Kolkata - 700 094. The ERC covers the states

of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal along with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The organization aims to provide a platform for the social scientists of the region to come together for promotion of social science research and to serve as a nodal point for promoting interaction between social scientists of the region with national and international communities of social scientists.

Organizing Committee

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|----------------------------------|--|
| Chief Patron | Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of North Bengal |
| Patrons | Registrar, University of North Bengal Prof. Subhas Ch. Roy, Dean, Faculty of Science, NBU Prof. Rathin Bandopadhyay, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law, NBU Dr. Swapan Kr. Rakshit, Joint Registrar, NBU Prof. Deepak Kr. Mandal, Head, Department of Geography & Applied Geography, NBU Prof. Ranjan Roy, Department of Geography & Applied Geography, NBU |
| Convener | Dr. Arindam Basak, Associate Professor, Department of Geography & Applied Geography, NBU |
| Organizing Secretary | Dr. Indira Lepcha Nee Lama, Associate Professor, Department of Geography & Applied Geography, NBU |
| Co-Organizing Secretaries | Dr. Snehasish Saha, Assistant Professor, Dr. Indrajit Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, Dr. Riti Moktan, Assistant Professor, Dr. Rupak Kr. Paul, Assistant Professor Department of Geography & Applied Geography, NBU |

Background of the Seminar

The process through which cities expand and more people relocate to the cities is known as urbanization. Urbanization involves complex economic, demographic, social, cultural, technological and environmental processes that increase the proportion of a territory's population living in towns and cities, population concentration in larger settlements, and population density within urban settlements. While levels of urbanization are closely correlated with economic development, urbanization rates are inversely correlated. Immigration, migration, and natural population growth are important determinants of urbanization, but other processes, especially structural economic change, underpin them. Urbanization patterns result from the interaction of these processes, which are influenced by feedback effects from changing urban systems, urban ecology, and urban political economy. Only about half of global urban population growth can be attributed to urbanization, while the other half to natural population growth. Between 2000 and 2010, the world's population grew by 1.2% per year, urbanization grew by 1.0% per year, and urban population grew by 2.3%. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (UN DESA) World Urbanization Prospects, 2018 research predicts that future growth in the world's urban population will be concentrated in a few nations. India, China, and Nigeria collectively will account for 35% of the world's urban population increase between 2018 and 2050. By 2050, India will record

additional 416 million urbanites. In 2011, India's population was 1210 million, and 31.1% were urban (Census of India 2011). With the increase in the rates of urbanization, urban poverty gets exacerbated. Increased rates of urbanization pose threat to the urban environment which gets manifested in the form of increased air pollution as a result of concentrated energy use coupled with increased emissions from automobile result in higher lead levels in urban air which consequently pose threats on human health. Additionally, large quantities to unattended wastes also lead to multiple health hazards. Urbanization, if unplanned also increases the likelihood of water logging as well as flash floods in plain areas. Moreover, with intensive urbanization, cities gradually become concrete jungle with declining tree cover in urban regions. Since population in urban areas tends to be relatively higher, presence of sustainable urban environment for urban dwellers/settlers becomes essential. India being one of the fastest growing economies in the world, cities and urban centres of India are increasingly recognized as crucial protagonists in her journey towards becoming an economic superpower. The Himalayas and the sub-Himalayan region have undergone substantial urban expansion over the past three decades, despite being some of the world's most geologically active, populous, and fragile mountain ranges. Improved road connectivity, promotion and marketing of new tourist sites, and the resultant growth in domestic and international tourism, the expansion of horticulture, economic globalization, gradual shift from primary resource development practices to those of the secondary and tertiary sectors, and the lack of an urban land use policy have all contributed towards rapid urbanization of previously inaccessible areas. Thus, there has been a tremendous increase in the size, area, number, and complexity of urban settlements in the Himalayan and sub-Himalayan region, leading to the expansion of urban processes (i.e., the expansion of urban land use in surrounding agricultural zone, forests, and rural environments) and the increase in the intensity of urban land use (i.e., the increase in the density of covered area, density of building, and increase in the density of population within the towns). Sprawling urban growth in fragile mountains has interrupted the fundamental ecosystem services while also creating employment opportunities, a variety of socio-economic services, and expanded infrastructure, all of which aid in the development of their extensive hinterland via trickledown effect. Rapid, unplanned urbanization has led to forest loss, biodiversity loss, higher risks of natural disasters in cities and their surrounding peri-urban areas, and increased vulnerability of mountain residents in terms of water, food, livelihood, and health insecurity. In addition, the frequency, severity of extreme weather events has all increased as a result of climate change, further stressing urban ecosystems. In the Himalayan and sub-Himalayan area, like in the rest of the world urban expansion cannot be halted or slowed, but it may be guided in a more sustainable manner through integrated urban-rural land use planning. Forests, biodiversity, water supplies, and agricultural land all need to be protected and conserved, thus it is important that we develop and execute effective land use policies. The purpose of the seminar is to provide a forum in which participants can discuss the complex relationship that exists between the various facets of urbanization and the environmental impacts that result from it. Participants will be then prompted to express their perspectives on the viability of potential solutions through sustainability to the issues that have been raised.

Sub-themes of the Seminar

- ✚ History of Urbanization, Migration and Demographic Changes in the Himalayan and Sub-Himalayan Region.
- ✚ Population Growth and urbanization and its relation with sustainable development.
- ✚ Spatio-temporal quantification and identification of urban growth and its characteristics.
- ✚ Urban society and their livelihood vulnerability.
- ✚ Quantitative Assessment of urban ecosystem services using RS & GIS.
- ✚ Assessment of sustainable urban resource management.
- ✚ Geospatial technology in urban renewal and environmental monitoring.
- ✚ Issues related to the urban basic services like health, education , infrastructure etc.

- ✚ Tourism and its sustainability in the Himalayan and sub-Himalayan region.
- ✚ Urban Geomorphology.

Registration Details

| Categories of Participants | With Accommodation | Without Accommodation |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Faculties | Rs. 2500/- | Rs. 2000/- |
| Scholars/Students | Rs. 2000/- | Rs. 1500/- |
| *Registration fees include Seminar Kit, Abstract Volume, 2 Breakfast, 2 Lunch and 1 Dinner. | | |
| ** Accommodation to the participants will be provided for 2 days by the Seminar Organizing Committee. | | |
| ***There is no provision of refunding the registration fees. | | |

Registration fees will have to be paid **only through electronic transfer** to the given Bank A/C Number:

Bank A/C Name: ICSSR ERC SEMINAR
 Bank A/C Number: 41912044266
 Name of the Bank: State Bank of India
 Branch Name with Branch Code: NBU Campus Branch (02096)
 IFSC: SBIN0002096

A scanned copy of the transaction receipt should be uploaded to google form and sent to the mail id of the Seminar.

Important Dates

LAST DATE OF REGISTRATION & ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: 15TH JUNE, 2023

DATE OF SEMINAR: 1ST & 2ND JULY, 2023

LAST DATE OF FULL PAPER SUBMISSION: 15TH JULY, 2023

National Advisory Committee

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| Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Formerly in CSRD, Jawaharlal Nehru University | Prof. Subir Sarkar, Formerly in University of North Bengal |
| Prof. Ashis Sarkar, Formerly in Presidency University | Prof. Sunando Bandyopadhyay, University of Calcutta |
| Prof. Anuradha Banerjee, CSRD, Jawaharlal Nehru University | Prof. Sushma Rohatgi, Formerly in University of North Bengal |
| Prof. Sanat Kr. Guchhait, The University of Burdwan | Prof. Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan, Jadavpur University |
| Prof. Lakshminarayan Satpati, University of Calcutta | Prof. Narayan Ch. Jana, The University of Burdwan |
| Prof. Ramkrishna Maiti, Vidyasagar University | Prof. Subhamita Chaudhuri, West Bengal State University |
| Prof. Sujit Mandal, Diamond Harbour Women's University | Prof. Pradip Chouhan, University of Gour Banga |
| Prof. Suman Paul, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University | Prof. Sohel Firdos, Sikkim University |
| Prof. Piyal Basu Roy, Coochbehar Panchanan Barma University | Prof. Shasanka Kr. Gayen, Coochbehar Panchanan Barma University |
| Prof. Nuruzzaman Kasemi, Raiganj University | Prof. Namita Chakma, The University of Burdwan |
| Dr. Uttam Mukhopadhyay, Vidyasagar College, Kolkata | Dr. Sudip Kumar Bhattacharya, Formerly in University of North Bengal |

Local Advisory Committee

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|---|---|
| Dr. Nima Doma Lama, Siliguri College, Darjeeling | Dr. Suprakash Roy, Ex-Chairman, Siliguri Primary School Council |
| Dr. Prabir Kundu, Siliguri Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Darjeeling | Dr. Ranjan Sarkar, Principal, Siliguri College of Commerce |
| Dr. Bipul Ch. Sarkar, Anandra Chandra College, Jalpaiguri | Dr. Santanu Das, Coochbehar Panchanan Barma University |
| Dr. Tamal Basu Roy, Raiganj University | |

Guidelines for Submission of Abstracts & Seminar Presentation

Guidelines for preparing abstracts

1. Abstract must be written in English mentioning the sub-theme.
2. Abstract should be typed in MS Word (Compatible Mode) only.
3. Title: A brief title not more than 20-30 words. It should be in bold type, capitalizing 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 clearly indicate the problem, methodology, and result of the work within 150-200 words (Abstracts above this limit will not be accepted).
6. Paper(s) may be presented through any one of the following systems: **Oral/ Multimedia Presentation.**
7. For the Presentation the participants will be given 10-15 mins time.

Resource Persons



Prof. Amitabh Kundu
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Jawaharlal Nehru University



Prof. Subir Sarkar
Formerly in University of North
Bengal



Prof. Ashis Sarkar
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*All the willing participants are requested to submit the **Abstract & Registration fees** within the stipulated date only through the Seminar E-mail ID & Google form:



Seminar Email ID: icssrgeonbu2023@gmail.com



Google form Link: <https://forms.gle/Q48CbymBDRRQQVp29>

