

# 45<sup>TH</sup> INDIAN GEOGRAPHERS' MEET 2024



**45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meet of the  
Institute of Indian Geographers' (IIG)  
and  
International Conference on  
MAPPING THE FUTURE:  
GEOGRAPHY FOR A BETTER WORLD  
Celebrating 100 years of Geography in India  
(19-21 December 2024)**

***FIRST CIRCULAR***



**Organized by  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY  
NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY  
SHILLONG 793022  
MEGHALAYA, INDIA**

Conference Email: [45thiig@gmail.com](mailto:45thiig@gmail.com)



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## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Chief Patron:** Prof. P. S. Shukla, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NEHU, Shillong.

**Patron:** Prof. Devesh Walia, Dean, School of Human & Environmental Sciences, NEHU, Shillong

**Co-Patron:** Prof. D. K. Nayak, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

**Chairman:** Prof. L. Cajee, Head, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

**Convener:** Prof. Sunil Kumar De, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

### Organizing

**Secretary:** Prof. P. K. Rynnga, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

### Joint Organizing

**Secretary:** Dr. Abhishek Ghosh, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

**Treasurer:** Prof. H. J. Syiemlieh, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

### Members

Dr. S. Purkayastha, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

Dr. V. Saravanabavan, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

Dr. Chandrakanta, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

Dr. Pankaj Thapa, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

Mr. Subhajit Sarkar, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

Dr. Danny M. Synnah, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

Mr. Savingstar Kharphuli, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong

## INSTITUTE OF INDIAN GEOGRAPHERS (IIG)

The Institute of Indian Geographers Established in 1979 with the Department of Geography, Savitribai Phule Pune University as its registered headquarters, IIG strives to promote geographical knowledge by research, teaching and related academic and social activities as 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 UGC CARE. IIG regularly organises the annual Geographers' meet in different parts of the country, and topical seminars from time to time. IIG at present has more than 1200 Life Members, Institutional Members, Annual Members and regular subscribers to the Journal.

## IIG GOVERNING COUNCIL

**Patron:** Professor K. R. Dikshit

**President (2024-2025):** Sachidanand Sinha, New Delhi

**Vice-President:** Sudhakar Pardeshi, Pune

**Vice-President:** Bimal Kumar Kar, Guwahati

**Vice-President:** Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan, Kolkata

**Vice-President:** B. Srinagesh, Hyderabad

**Secretary General:** Ravindra G. Jaybhaye, Pune

**Secretary:** Bikramaditya K. Choudhari, New Delhi

**Secretary:** Sulochana Shekhar, Thiruvapur

**Secretary:** Amit Dhorde, Pune

**Treasurer:** Hemlata Patel, Pune

**Editor:** D. K. Nayak, Shillong

**Managing – Editor:** Avinash Kandekar, Pune

### Regional Representatives (Ex-officio Members)

Rajeshwari, Kurukshetra

Sunil Kumar De, Shillong

N. Chendrayudu, Tirupati

Seema Jalan, Udaipur

### Members

Sambhaji Shinde, Kolhapur

Ajay Gawari, Pune

Shahab Fazal, Aligarh

S. R. Jog, Pune

Praveen Kokane, Mumbai

B. R. Thakur, Shimla

Sachin Deore, Pune

Atiqur Reheman, New Delhi

H. S. Sharma, Jaipur

Sarfaraz Aalam, Varanasi

B. W. Pandey, Delhi

Virendra Nagarale, Pune

Ashok Hanjagi, Bangalore

Nandkumar Sawant, Goa

Sibabrata Das, Cuttack

In an era marked by rapid globalisation, technological advancement, and environmental challenges, understanding the intricate landscapes of our world is essential for shaping a better future. The central theme of the conference revolves around harnessing the power of geography to navigate the complexities of the modern world and pave the way for a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable future. Needless to say, geography serves as the foundational framework for understanding the world we inhabit. It encompasses the spatial relationships between people, places, and environments, providing invaluable insights into the complex dynamics shaping our planet. Geography teaches critical thinking skills, fosters spatial awareness, and encourages us to see the world through a broader lens. The beautiful, bountiful and diverse Earth has its face smothered beyond recognition. While one may go on playing the blame game but the reality of millions going to bed hungry and thirsty. There is adequate resources for all but very minuscule numbers consume and control gigantic proportions of it transcending boundaries. Geography as an institutional discipline began to subserve the interests of colonialism, but in due course it became a liberal anticolonial tool in the hands of the people. The contemporary call is to reinvent Geography that could help address the contemporary challenges and redefine the future.

The key objective of the conference is to a) explore spatial dynamics that shape our world, from urbanisation and migration to resource distribution and environmental degradation; b) showcase innovative technologies such as Geographical Information Systems, remote sensing, and artificial intelligence in revolutionising the way we map and analyse geographical data; c) examine the role of geography in promoting sustainable development goals, including equitable access to resources, climate action and bio-diversity conservation; d) highlight the importance of community engagement and participatory mapping in fostering local knowledge, resilience and empowerment and e) address the policy implications of geographic insights, from spatial planning and disaster risk management to territorial disputes and geo-political tensions.

Extended Reality (XR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are changing how we understand and interact with the world's geography. It's not just about fancy maps and data anymore; it is about making this information come alive in ways we have never seen before. Geography in India has completed one hundred years of its existence as an institutionalised discipline. The conference is expected to provide a unique platform to the scholars to reflect on the accomplishment of the discipline and deliberate on the future challenges.

The conference is designed to address diverse issues in a range of sessions, including memorial lectures, keynote addresses, panel discussions, workshops and poster presentations apart from technical sessions and competitions. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with leading experts, policy makers, practitioners, and researchers from around the globe.

## SUB-THEMES

The conference invites abstracts and full papers on the following sub-themes but not restricted to the list:

1. Geography in India during the last 100 years
2. Professional issues in Geography
3. Contemporary concerns in Geography: Institutional, curricular & pedagogical
  4. Geomorphological and Geological processes, landforms and hazards
  5. Climate change: measurements, vulnerabilities and mitigation
  6. Technology and mapping: application of GIS and AI in Geography
  7. Urbanization, migration, urban planning and right to the city
8. Rural development & banking: agriculture, land, water & non-farm activities with special reference to micro-finance
  9. Spatial analysis for sustainable development
  10. Socio-spatial equity and justice
11. State, federalism and governance in the neoliberal world
  12. Population dynamics and environment
  13. Economic and Social Geography
  14. Geography of diseases and health care
  15. Spatiality and gender
16. Role of indigenous and local knowledge in sustainable development
  17. Young Geographers' Competition

## MEMORIAL LECTURES

### 1. PROFESSOR A. B. MUKERJI MEMORIAL LECTURE

The IIG since 2016 has initiated the Prof. A. B. Mukerji Memorial Lecture as a tribute to the eminent Indian Geographer Prof. A. B. Mukerji (1929-2011) who was the doyen of cultural geography in India. Prof. Mukerji taught at Punjab University, Chandigarh over four decades, and contributed immensely to teaching and research.

### 2. PROFESSOR AIJAZUDDIN AHMAD MEMORIAL LECTURE

Since 2024 IIG in association with the Institute of Human Geography, USA and Prof. Aijazuddin Ahmad Memorial Fund for Social Geography has initiated Professor Aijazuddin Ahmad Memorial Lecture as a tribute to the renowned Geographer and academician. Professor Ahmad in his long career spanning over four decades taught at Aligarh Muslim University and Jawaharlal University and held prominent positions in several nationally reputed councils and institutes. Professor Ahmad stands tall among the stalwarts of Social Geography in India.

### 3. BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF PROFESSOR MOONIS RAZA

It is our great pleasure that along with the celebration of 100 years of Geography in India, IIG and the Department of Geography, NEHU will also be celebrating the birth centenary of Professor Moonis Raza. Professor Moonis Raza was one of the chief architects in the academic planning of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and the founding Chairperson of the Centre for the Study of Regional Development at JNU. He was also the Vice Chancellor of Delhi University and Director of the National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration, New Delhi.

## YOUNG GEOGRAPHERS' COMPETITION

A competition will be held among the young Geographers during the conference. The winner of the said competition shall be awarded a certificate and a cash prize. The criteria for the said competition:

1. The competitor should be below 30 years of age.
2. The competitor should be an Indian National.
3. A single-authored abstract and full paper should be submitted within the deadline mentioned in the abstract submission section. The date for submitting the full paper will be communicated with the second circular.
4. A bonafide certificate either from the Head of the Department/Supervisor should be submitted along with the abstract.
5. Copy of the institutional identity card.

## **NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY**

The North- Eastern Hill University (NEHU) was set up by an Act of Parliament and notified on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1973. The objective of the University, as laid down in the act, is “to disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in such branches of learning as it may deem fit; to pay special attention to the improvement of the social and economic conditions and welfare of the people of the hill areas of the North-Eastern region, and in particular, the intellectual, academic and cultural advancement”. NEHU has been re-accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) as an ‘A’ grade University in 2017. NEHU has also been adjudged as a ‘University with Potential for Excellence’ in 2006 by the University Grants Commission making it one of the top few Universities of India.

## **DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, NEHU**

The Department of Geography, under the school of Human and Environmental Sciences was established in June 1976 with the appointment of Prof. R. C. Sharma as the Head of the Department and the Dean of the School. Under his leadership, the Department offered M.A./M.Sc./Ph.D.

The present (2024) composition of the Faculty Members includes five Professors, two Associate Professors and two Assistant Professors. In the light of great diversity of specializations, Geography has branched into many fields and sub-fields. Current approved strength of the Department is 13 positions, 9 filled-up and 4 positions vacant.

The Department also offers a PG Diploma course on Geoinformatics with two contractual Faculty members.

## **VENUE**

1. The inaugural session, memorial lectures, key-note lectures, young geographers’ competition, cultural programme and valedictory session will be held in Multi-use Convention Centre, NEHU, Shillong
2. Technical sessions will be held in the Non-Science Cluster classrooms (having 120 seating capacity in each room)

The distance between Multi-use Convention Centre, NEHU, Shillong and Non-Science Cluster classroom is about 250 meters.



## TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

Meghalaya is directly connected with Guwahati by road. The distance of Shillong from the Guwahati Railway Station is about 100 km and from Guwahati Airport about 125 km (about three hour's journey).

Regular bus and shared taxi service between Guwahati to Shillong are available. Approximate shared taxi fare from Guwahati Airport to Shillong (PB) is Rs. 750/, while the rate from Guwahati railway station is Rs. 600/-. Full hired taxi from (4-seater) from Guwahati Airport to NEHU is Rs. 3000/- and from Guwahati Railway Station to NEHU is Rs. 2000/-. Tata Sumo shared vehicles are also available at cheaper rate. Shillong bound shared taxi will drop at Polica Bazar from where another local taxi needs to be hired for reaching NEHU. Daily bus service from Agartala, Silchar, Siliguri, Coochbehar, and different places of Assam are also available. Shillong is also directly connected with Kolkata, Delhi and many north-eastern states by air (6-days service by Indigo and Air Alliance). For availing cheap fare, participants are requested to book their air tickets as quick as possible.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be arranged in different Guest Houses in the Permanent Campus of the University as well as some hired accommodation in Shillong during the Conference. Free-shared accommodation for the registered participants will be available from 18<sup>th</sup> December (afternoon) to 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2024 (morning). Request for accommodation before and after those dates will be chargeable as per the concerned guest house/ hotel tariff. On request, hotel accommodation can be arranged in the city with advance payment.

## WEATHER IN SHILLONG IN DECEMBER

December in Shillong brings chilly winter days, with average temperatures ranging from approximately **9°C to 17° C**. The temperature may suddenly drop to **6/7° C**, if there is any rain. Therefore, delegates are requested to bring **heavy woollen clothes/jackets and an umbrella**. Moreover, it is advisable to bring **thermal inners** also.

## STUDY TOUR

A one-day study tour may be arranged on a payment basis if a sufficient number of candidates enrol. Details will be provided in the second circular.

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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

### GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING ABSTRACTS

1. Title: A brief title within 20 words is suggested. It should be in bold type, capitalizing the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of all words of four letters or more
2. Author(s): The family name(s) should be typed in CAPITAL letters and the first and middle name with first letter capital.
3. 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.
4. Text: The abstract must clearly indicate the problem, methodology and result of the work **within 300 words/2000 characters** (Abstracts above this limit will not be accepted).

**(Abstract should be submitted in Google form link:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/INPeTJGawwFlsaACinl9nozs3gfjQufzXF-JGft5DMc/edit>)

### OTHER INFORMATION

- Abstracts, registration fee and IIG Headquarter fee should be submitted through google form link mentioned above latest by **15<sup>th</sup> September, 2024**.
- Hard copy/Email submission of abstracts will not be accepted.
- All author (s) will be required to register for the Conference in order to ensure their abstract (s) is/are included in the technical sessions(s) and abstract volume.
- Acceptance of abstracts will be mailed to the corresponding author on or before **30<sup>th</sup> September, 2024** by e-mail only.
- Full papers for Young Geographers' competition should be submitted by **15<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**.
- Sessions may not be held if there are insufficient abstracts submitted; abstracts submitted in any session that is not held will be re-allocated to a different session by the Program Committee.
- We have planned to publish the conference proceedings if sufficient number of good quality papers are received. The date of submitting full papers will be informed in due course.
- **No participation certificate will be issued to the non-participating delegates even if they are registered.**

## REGISTRATION

Category of Registration	Early Bird Registration* (Before October 31, 2024)			Late Registration* (After October 31, 2024)		
	Indian (INR)	SAARC Countries (INR)	Foreign Delegates	Indian (INR)	SAARC Countries (INR)	Foreign Delegates
Regular (Member)	3500	5000	\$100	4000	6000	\$125
Student/ Research Scholar/ Retired Teacher (Member)	3000	4500	\$75	3500	5000	\$100
Accompanying Person	3000	4500	\$75	3500	5000	\$100

\*Non-member participants will have to take either **Annual or Life Membership** of the Institute of Indian Geographers' (IIG). Moreover, an additional amount of **Rs. 250/-** will have to be deposited to the IIG account by every participant as **IIG Headquarter Fee**. Both the membership fee and Headquarter fee shall be directly remitted to the account of IIG, Pune. **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.**

### Regular, Retired Teacher and Student Registration includes

Participation, Conference Kit, Abstract Volume; Accommodation and Food

### Accompanying Person's registration includes

Accommodation and Food

### Student Registration

Student Registration Fee is applied to the persons below 30 years of age and continuing their M.Sc./M.Phil. /Ph. D. as a Full-time student/scholar. A copy of an ID document is required (Institutional ID card or a letter from the Departmental Head or Research Supervisor) to avail the student's registration facility.

### Refund of Registration Fee

**There is no provision of refunding the registration fee**

## MODE OF PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEE

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE

Registration fee is to be deposited directly to the conference account through online banking (**A/C No. 43004425421**) payable in favour of "**45TH IIG CONFERENCE**", State Bank of India, **NEHU Branch (Branch Code 4295, IFSC Code: SBIN0004295)**. Participants are requested to retain the copy of the deposit slips for completing the registration process.

HEADQUARTER FEE (for all participants) and IIG MEMBERSHIP FEE (for non-members only). Account details is given below:

**Institute of Indian Geographers**

**Account number: 20063001604**

**Bank and Branch: Bank of Maharashtra; Pune University Branch (Code:1355)**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

For further information please reach us:

Prof. Sunil Kumar De, Convener (9862009202)  
Prof. P. K. Rynnga, Organizing Secretary (9856041804)  
Dr. Abhishek Ghosh, Joint Organizing Secretary (9732026387)

Conference Email: [45thiig@gmail.com](mailto:45thiig@gmail.com)