



ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR ON

"Anthropocene, Development and Fragile Ecologies: Himalayan and Sub Himalayan Regions in Perspective"

19th SEPTEMBER, 2025

Sponsored by Higher Education
Department
Government of West Bengal



Organised By

Gorubathan Government College
in
Collaboration with
IQAC
Gorubathan Government College

For details contact:

+918101476023

+917679451167

or log into

<http://gorubathangdc.co.in>

About the College

Located in the picturesque foothills of the Eastern Himalayas, Gorubathan is a serene town, an administrative block in the Kalimpong district, renowned for its lush tea gardens and verdant landscapes. Situated approximately 61 kilometers from Siliguri Junction, 70 kilometers from New Jalpaiguri (NJP) railway station, and 79 kilometers from Bagdogra airport, it offers an invigorating climate and breathtaking scenery, making it a haven for nature lovers seeking respite from urban life. Rich in cultural heritage, Gorubathan is home to a blend of diverse communities that celebrate vibrant traditions and festivals. The region's dense forests and meandering rivers add to its enchanting allure, providing an ideal setting for eco-tourism and adventure. As a gateway to the pristine Neora Valley National Park and the Dooars region, Gorubathan offers unparalleled opportunities for trekking, bird watching, and exploring untouched natural habitats. It embodies the harmonious coexistence of nature and culture, offering a unique and enriching experience for academicians, visitors and residents.



Concept Note

हिमाली र पर्वतीय भू-प्रदेशहरू जैविक विविधता, सांस्कृतिक सम्पदा, र परम्परागत पारिस्थितिक ज्ञानका धनी क्षेत्र हुन्। तथापि, मानव केन्द्री युग (एन्थ्रोपोसिन) -मा तीव्र औद्योगिकीकरण, सहरीकरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन, र पर्यावरणीय प्रदूषणका कारण यी संवेदनशील पारिस्थितिकीय प्रणालीहरू गम्भीर संकटमा परेका छन्। मानव-प्रकृति अन्तर्क्रिया विघटन हुँदै गइरहेका सन्दर्भमा, परम्परागत ज्ञान प्रणाली, साहित्य, लोकवार्ता र सामुदायिक अभ्यासहरूले दिगो विकास र पारिस्थितिक सन्तुलन पुनःस्थापित गर्न सक्षम माध्यमको रूपमा कार्य गर्छन्। उक्त सन्दर्भमा, यस सङ्गोष्ठीले बहु-आयामिक दृष्टिकोणबाट हिमाली तथा पर्वतीय सन्दर्भको विश्लेषण गर्ने उद्देश्य राख्दछ। विकास नीति, पारिस्थितिक न्याय, गैर-सरकारी पहल र वातावरणीय साहित्यका अन्तर्वस्तुहरू समेट्दै यस गोष्ठीले पर्यावरणीय संकटको सैद्धान्तिक र व्यवहारिक समाधानको खोजी गर्नेछ। यसले मानव-प्रकृति सहअस्तित्वलाई सुदृढ गर्दै, पारिस्थितिकीय स्थायित्व र सामाजिक न्यायबिच सन्तुलन कायम गर्ने वैकल्पिक दृष्टिकोण प्रस्ताव गर्ने लक्ष्य लिएको छ।

The Himalayan and Sub- Himalayan Regions presents a rich tapestry of historical, political, cultural and ecological biodiversity. It now, however, finds itself entwined within the fabric of global environmental challenges. Emergence of the epoch of the Anthropocene, and its impact upon the ecosystem has posed multiple challenges to environmental biodiversity, particularly in the Himalayan and Sub- Himalayan Regions.

Intensification of anthropogenic activities on earth has undermined and disrupted human- nature interactions in maintaining ecological balance through traditional practices and knowledge systems with the advent of Enlightenment, modernity, development policies of both the colonial as well as the post-colonial state

This has led to ecological imbalances, climatic change and geological vulnerabilities, including glacier retreat, changing monsoon patterns and increase in natural disasters such as landslides, floods including glacial lakes outburst flood. Such myriad challenges necessitate a multifaceted approach towards devising techniques of sustainable management that includes robust environmental governance, national and regional policies.

It is essential to balance economic growth with ecological sustainability taking into account the role of non-state actors including NGOs and civil society organizations in fostering public-private partnership and community participation in conservation initiatives.. These areas characterized by unique geographical and cultural landscapes also serve as repositories of rich literary, oral and cultural traditions. The seminar seeks to explore the intersection of ecological concerns and cultural narratives, emphasizing how literature, folklore, and oral traditions engage with themes of environmental fragility, human resilience and sustainable development. Through an examination of linguistic and cultural traditions, the seminar will highlight the ways in which literature and folklore document ecological wisdom, critique environmental degradation and envision alternative futures.

Further, the seminar highlights the critical issue of environment pollution and its profound impact on biodiversity in the ecologically sensitive Himalayan and Sub- Himalayan regions. The current status of biodiversity, species vulnerability, habitat degradation in these regions along with management strategies to mitigate the effects of pollution in these fragile ecosystems demands immediate attention.

The seminar will provide a platform for interdisciplinary discussions by bringing together insights from ecology, politics, history, literary studies, cultural anthropology and scientific management strategies in biodiversity conservation. Through a focused deliberation, the seminar seeks to take steps towards the preservation of these fragile ecologies and ensure a harmonious balance between nature and human beings in the face of the ever-growing penetration of developmental discourse. To discuss these broad issues this National Seminar invites academicians, researchers and scholars to submit their valuable papers exploring the complex challenges confronting the Himalayan and Sub- Himalayan regions.

How to reach Gorubathan

1. **From Siliguri – Distance: ~65/74 km | Time: 1:30–2:00 hrs**

- **By Road:** Direct buses, private taxis and shared Jeeps through Sevoke Road, Odlabari, Damdim and then Gorubathan
- **By Rail:** Board a local train from Siliguri Junction/New Jalpaiguri (NJP) to Malbazar (New Mal Junction) or Damdim Station, then take a road transfer to Gorubathan.

2. **From Darjeeling – (Distance: ~ 90/100 kms) | Time: 4–4.5 hrs**

- **By Road:** Darjeeling → Teesta Bazaar → Coronation Bridge → Damdim → Gorubathan (90 km)
- Or via Darjeeling → Rohini Road → Siliguri → Damdim → Gorubathan (100Kms)

3. **From Kalimpong – Distance: ~ 55/61kms | Time: 2–2.5 hrs**

- **By Road:** Kalimpong → Algarah → Lava → Gorubathan (55 kms)
- Or via Teesta Bazaar and Damdim → Gorubathan (61 kms)

4. **From Gangtok (Sikkim) – Distance: ~ 102/138 kms | Time: 3:45–4:15 hrs**

- **By Road:** Gangtok → Rangpo → Coronation Bridge → Damdim → Gorubathan (102 kms)
- Or via Rangpo → Kalimpong → Algarah → Lava → Gorubathan (138 kms)

Sub Themes

- Human- Nature Interactions, Climatic and Geological Vulnerabilities
- Political Economy of Development, discourses on modernity, impact of colonial development policies, urbanization and technological shifts on the fragile landscapes and ecosystems.
- Climate Change Politics, Role of Non- State Actors, Disaster Management and Environmental Security and Justice.
- Patterns of resource utilization, conservation and traditional environmental practices among indigenous/local communities, Indigenous Rights
 - Urbanization and Public Policy
- Sustainable Urban Planning, legislative and judicial frameworks to ensure long- term ecological preservation and justice
- Nature and Literary Imagination, Eco- Criticism in Literature, Eco- Feminism, Ecology and Folklore of Himalayan Communities
- Assessing Biodiversity in the face of pollution, Challenges and Solutions in Himalayan Ecosystem, adaptive management strategies and community participation in biodiversity conservation
- मानव-प्रकृति अन्तरसम्बन्ध, जलवायु सङ्कट, विकास र सहरीकरणको प्रभाव, समकालीन साहित्य, लोकवार्ता र जनजातीय दृष्टिकोणको सन्दर्भमा हिमाली तथा पर्वतीय पारिस्थितिकीयको बहुआयामिक अध्ययन
- Ecosystem and Folklore of Kirat Stock and other indigenous communities in the Himalayan Region
- Any other related sub-theme

Important Dates

Submission of Abstracts: **16th Aug to 25th Aug (midnight)**

Intimation for Acceptance: **28th August, 2025**

Last date for submission of Full Paper : **10.09.2025**

Submission Guidelines

- For Abstract: 250-300 words with Keywords
- Font Style: Times New Roman

Important Information

- Registration is mandatory for all participants
- Registration should be completed within the stipulated time
- Faculties, Research Scholars and Students can register
- There will be no Registration Fee
- No TA/DA will be provided to participants
- Last Date of Registration: 25.08.2025

Click on the link below to Register

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cjcPASWEhUTNOgfrJLEqD56-17-JulT5whsEyIjYhE/edit>

Organising Committee

President - Shri Shyamal Haldar, Officer-in-Charge

IQAC Co-ordinator - Dr. Alina Pradhan

Organising Secretary - Dr. Pemu Tshering Lepcha

Members:

- Dr. Gyanendra Subba - Teachers Council Secretary
- Mr. Prashan Kr. Chhetri (Joint Convenor)
- Mr. Pratit Tamang
- Mrs. Arpana Kalden
- Dr. Raju Subba
- Mr. Amrit Sharma
- Dr. Ritesh Biswa
- Dr. Saswata Kusari
- Dr. Deepak Kumar
- Mr. Debesh Mandal

Treasurer - Mr. Rajendra Mistri

Special Guest



Dr. Ranjita Chakraborty
Professor and IQAC Co-ordinator
Department of Political Science, NBU

Resource Persons



Dr. Vimal Khawas
Professor
Special Centre for the Study of North-East India
JNU, New Delhi



Prof. Sanjay Rai
Professor,
Department of Nepali, NBU



Dr. Anup Shekhar Chakraborty
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
NEHU, Shillong



Dr. Padam Nepal
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
St Joseph's College



Dr. Rujas Yonle
Associate Professor
Department of Zoology
Darjeeling Government College



Dr. Swarnendu Roy
Assistant Professor,
Department of Botany, NBU



Dr. Abrona Lee Pandi Aden
Assistant Professor,
Department of English, Sikkim University



Dr. Basudeo Thapa
Assistant Professor,
Department of Nepali,
Kalipada Ghosh Tarai Mahavidhyalaya



Valedictory Address

Sri. Manprasad Subba
Poet and Critic, Darjeeling