



# **International Conference on Sustainable Development: Emergent Issues**



**Jointly Organized**

**by**

**The Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, Palli-Samgathana  
Vibhaga (PSV), Visva-Bharati**

**&**

**Foundation of Practising Geographers, Kolkata**

**March 20 & 21, 2024 (Wednesday – Thursday)**

**Venue:**

**Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension**

**Palli Samgathana Vibhaga**

**Visva-Bharati**

**Sriniketan**



## About the Conference:

Sustainable development has evolved from a concept to a global imperative, guiding policies, practices, and perspectives across diverse sectors. However, as we navigate the complexities of the modern world, emergent issues continue to shape and redefine our understanding of sustainability. From climate change and resource depletion to social equity and technological advancements, the landscape of sustainable development is constantly evolving, demanding our vigilance, innovation, and collaboration.

As we convene to delve into the realm of sustainable development, it is essential to acknowledge the evolving landscape that shapes our discourse. The concept of sustainable development, once confined to environmental considerations, has expanded its horizons to encompass a myriad of emergent issues that demand our attention and action.

The urgency of addressing climate change has never been more pronounced in today's world. The effects of climate change, ranging from severe weather events to biodiversity decline, resonate through ecosystems and societies alike, emphasizing the crucial need for united efforts. How we adapt and lessen these consequences will shape the resilience of our communities and the sustainability of our planet.

In pursuing sustainable development, it is paramount to recognise the pivotal role that rural areas play in shaping the future of our societies. As we gather to deliberate on the theme of Sustainable Rural Development, it is essential to confront the emergent issues that define the trajectory of rural communities worldwide. Rural areas are bastions of cultural heritage, traditional livelihoods, and engines of economic growth and environmental stewardship. However, they face a myriad of challenges that necessitate urgent attention and concerted action.

One of the foremost issues confronting rural development is the imperative to address poverty and inequality. Despite hosting a substantial part of the world's population, rural areas frequently encounter unequal poverty rates, restricted access to essential services, and limited economic prospects. It is vital to bridge the gap between rural and urban regions and promote comprehensive growth to unleash the complete potential of rural areas and safeguard the welfare of their residents.

Moreover, the sustainability of rural development hinges on effective natural resource management and environmental conservation. Climate change, deforestation, soil degradation, and water scarcity threaten rural livelihoods and ecosystems, underscoring the need for holistic approaches that balance economic growth with environmental stewardship. Sustainable agriculture practices, renewable energy initiatives, and community-based conservation efforts are indispensable in mitigating these challenges and building resilience in rural areas.

Additionally, the digital gap continues to pose a major obstacle to fair progress in rural areas. The scarce availability of information and communication technologies (ICTs) obstruct educational opportunities, entrepreneurial growth, and market reach, perpetuating poverty and marginalisation cycles. Bridging this gap through investments in digital infrastructure, capacity building, and digital literacy programs is essential for empowering rural communities and unlocking their innovative potential.

It is important to note that perception gaps in the assessment of development requirements at the ground level are visible in the form of failed imposed development. The generation of a firsthand rural assessment database will be of great use towards a comprehensive bottom-up approach in rural development to mitigate existing disparities and perception gaps.

Given these emerging challenges, policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders need to work together to develop sustainable solutions customised to rural communities' specific requirements and goals. By embracing innovation, fostering partnerships, and amplifying the voices of rural inhabitants, we can chart a path towards inclusive and sustainable rural development that leaves no one behind.

As we begin this expedition, let's be inspired by the perseverance and creativity of rural communities across the globe. Let's pledge to create a future where rural development flourishes alongside nature, enriching the well-being of everyone.

This conference provides a vibrant stage for researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and advocates to come together, share ideas, and outline directions for a more environmentally sustainable future. Through insightful discussions, interdisciplinary dialogues, and shared experiences, we aim to illuminate the emergent issues shaping sustainable development agendas worldwide.

### **About Visva-Bharati:**

Founded by the first non-European Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Thakur (popularly known as Tagore) in 1921, Visva-Bharati was declared a central university and an institution of national importance by an Act of Parliament in 1951. The President of India is the Paridarsaka (the Visitor) of the University, the Prime Minister of India acts as the Acharya (the Chancellor), and the Governor of West Bengal is the Pradhana (the Rector).

### **About the Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension:**

Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (Rural Extension Centre) is one of the oldest departments under Visva-Bharati. It has been actively improving the villagers' condition since the inception of the Sriniketan Experiment (1922). Over the years the department has been giving emphasis to extension and mass education programmes to encourage the villagers to become self-reliant. From its inception, the department has been advocating for the cooperative way of living with integration, local initiatives, local leadership, and local self-governance in every aspect of public life as envisaged by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Considering the growing demands of society, the Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (REC) also spread its area of work. Presently, the department provides extension and field outreach services to 65 villages scattered in two Community Development Blocks and under eight Gram Panchayats for holistic development. During the convocation lecture on 25th May 2018, our Hon'ble Acharya (Chancellor) and Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi appreciated the initiators, being informed regarding the development works carried out in the surrounding villages through Visva-Bharati. In his address, he extended hope and expectation that the university seeks to reach the initiatives in 100 villages by 2020-2021, celebrating the completion of 100 years of the University as well as the Sriniketan experiment.

### **About the Foundation of Practising Geographers, Kolkata:**

The foundation of Practising Geographers, a registered scientific body under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act of 1961, formerly known as the Indian Geographical Foundation, was established by Dr Arun Kumar Singh, Dr Ashoke Kumar Sen, and Professor Arabinda Biswas in the year 1964. Its basic aim is to promote scientific research, training, and publication in the field of Geography and allied disciplines like Anthropology, Sociology, History, Development Economics, Rural Studies, and Environmental science. It focuses on research around the marginal regions and their people and tries to understand the mechanism of the man-environment relationship. It has been publishing a well-acclaimed journal named 'Practising Geographers' and has credit for publishing several books like Environment and Health Frontier Ahead, Decoding Geography, Dreaming Geography, and Socio-Economic Environment of the Tribes of India.

It has organised several National and International Seminars of its own and also in collaboration with the Department of Geography, Visva Bharati, in 2010 and 2014, the Department of

Geography, Aliah University, in the year 2019, Department of Geography, Admas University, in the year 2022 and with the Department of Geography Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University in 2023.

## **Advisory board:**

**Chief Patron:** The Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati

**Patron:** The Principal, Palli Samgathana Vibhaga (PSV), Visva-Bharati

### **Organizing Committee:**

**Convener:** Prof. Amit Kumar Hazra, Head, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Visva-Bharati

**Organizing Secretary:** Prof. Sujit Kumar Paul, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Visva-Bharati

**Joint Organizing Secretary:** Dr. Sumit Mukhopadhyay, President, Foundation of Practising Geographers, Kolkata

**Joint Assistant Secretaries:** Dr. Subhrangsu Santra, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Visva-Bharati and Prof. Uma Sankar Malick, Foundation of Practising Geographers, Kolkata

**Finance Secretary:** Mr. Bhaswar Nandy, Junior Program Officer, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Visva-Bharati.

**Assistant Finance Secretary:** Smt. Arati Sen, Treasurer, Foundation of Practising Geographers Kolkata

**Seminar Directors:** Dr. Arun Kumar Singh, Secretary, Foundation of Practising Geographers, Kolkata, and Dr. Bikash Majhi, Program Officer, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Visva- Bharati

### **Members of the Committee:**

Mr. Uday Das, Research Scholar, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Visva-Bharati

Mr. Tapas Bagdi, Research Scholar, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Visva-Bharati

Ms. Sudeshna Mitra, Research Scholar, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Visva-Bharati

Ms. Arpita Hazra, Research Scholar, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Visva-Bharati

Mr. Buddhadeb Biswas, Research Scholar, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Visva-Bharati

Mr. Sourodeep Sarkar, Research Scholar, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Visva-Bharati

Mr. Adrish Dey, Project Assistant, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Visva-Bharati

### **Members of the Advisory Committee from the Foundation:**

1. Professor Premangshu Chakraborty, Department of Geography, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.
2. Professor Manjari Bhattacharjee, Head, Department of Geography, Visva Bharati Santiniketan.
3. Professor Gopa Samanta, Department of Geography, University of Burdwan, Golap Bagh, Purba Bardhaman.
4. Professor Sanat Gucchait, Department of Geography, Golap Bagh, University of Burdwan, Purba Bardhaman.
5. Dr. Abarna Mukhopadhyay, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Ranaghat College, Nadia.

6. Dr. Umesh Kumar, Sr. Ecologist, Anthropological Survey of India (Government of India), Kolkata and Vice-President, Foundation of Practising Geographers.
7. Dr. Ayan Dasgupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Chandannagar Government College, Hooghly.
8. Dr. Aznarul Islam, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Alliah University, Kolkata
9. Professor Ashish Sarkar, Retd. Professor of Geography, Presidency College, Kolkata.
10. Professor G.K. Panda, Emeritus Professor, Department of Geography, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
11. Professor Jagannath Ramaswamy Gowda, Head, Department of Geography, University of Madras, Chennai.
12. Professor K. Kumaraswamy, Head, Department of Geography, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu.
13. Professor Bhagwan Roy, Chairman, IBRAD, Kolkata.
14. Professor Mallik Akram Hossain, Department of Geography & Environment & Dean Faculty of Science, Jagannath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
15. Professor Mujibor Rahman, Environment Science Discipline, Life Science School, Khulna University, Khulna, Bangladesh.
16. Professor Davendra Nayak, Department of Geography, North-East Hill University, Shillong.
17. Professor Piyal Basu Roy, Department of Geography, Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, Cooch Behar.
18. Professor Partha Basu, Department of Geography, Adamas University

## Call for Papers

### International Conference on

### Sustainable Development: Emergent Issues

**March 20 & 21, 2024 (Wednesday – Thursday)**

Participants are requested to send their abstract (not more than 300 words) based on original research by 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to the conference email [vbugeographers@gmail.com](mailto:vbugeographers@gmail.com). The abstract should be typed in Times New Roman (12 Font Size) with 1.5 Space with the title of the paper, name of the author(s), affiliation, and e-mail address beside the content. The corresponding author will be informed through e-mail about the acceptance of the abstract by March 10, 2024. All accepted papers will be published in the Abstract Proceedings of the Conference. Those communications with enough quality may be further considered for publication in the edited volume of a reputed publication.

**Conference email:** [vbugeographers@gmail.com](mailto:vbugeographers@gmail.com) **Website:** <https://visvabharati.ac.in>

**Important Dates:** Registration last date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Registration e-mail: Registration Link (through Google Form or use the QR code below):**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKCaFBzg7uMquGE863iU-2Yg5DgQ831bdm7laubN31FILIQg/view\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKCaFBzg7uMquGE863iU-2Yg5DgQ831bdm7laubN31FILIQg/view_form)



**Sub Themes:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Circular Economy                             | 10. Agroecology and Sustainable Farming Practices          |
| 2. Sustainable Rural Development                | 11. Rural Electrification and Energy Access                |
| 3. Biodiversity Conservation                    | 12. Digital Connectivity and I T Solutions                 |
| 4. Renewable Energy Transition                  | 13. Community-Based Natural Resource Management            |
| 5. Water Security and Water Resource Management | 14. Rural Entrepreneurship and Economic Diversification    |
| 6. Social Equity and Justice                    | 15. Sustainable Tourism and Cultural Heritage Preservation |
| 7. Education, Health, and Well-being            | 16. Gender Equity and Social Inclusion                     |
| 8. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems     | 17. Climate Change   |
| 9. Responsible Governance and Partnerships      |  |

**Registration Fees for Faculties & Others: Rs. 2000**

**Registration Fees for Research Scholars, and Students: Rs. 1500**

**(All transport, conveyance, accommodation, and dinners will be borne by the delegates)**

Registration Fees will be accepted only through IFSC/Account transfers/ UPI etc. to the Bank Account of '**Foundation of Practising Geographers**'.

**Bank Account details:**

S/B Account of: FOUNDATION OF PRACTISING GEOGRAPHERS

Bank Name: ICICI Bank

A/c No. 237401000247

IFSC Code: ICICI0002374

Branch: PICNIC GARDEN, KOLKATA

**Hotels & Homestay: For the benefit of the outside participants here are some names:**

1. The Creek Boutique Resort: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/v8nBmt6YfwkqXxvc8>
2. Club Central Hotel, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/HWXEvEEE9XM1qGrp9>
3. Kharimati Resort, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/xeoXQNBgLnLx11V37>
4. Hotel Orchid and Adda Family Restaurant, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/svdfYq4774zwgpBz7>
5. Shantiniketan Home Stay, 9800089428 / 7001992537

**Location of the department:**

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/QzroH6LVavxLdAHDA>

For any further assistance or information please call

**Dr. Subhrangsu Santra**

Contact No: 7001405641

**Dr. Sumit Mukhopadhyay**

Contact No. 9433153582