



# EASTERN HIMALAYAS CONFERENCE 2026

Re-imagining the Eastern Himalayas:  
Narratives, Belongingness and Representation

24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2026

## CONCEPT NOTE

The Eastern Himalayas, a critical juncture of unparalleled biodiversity, complex geopolitical dynamics, and rich cultural tapestry, stretches across a wide arc that includes eastern Nepal, Bhutan, southern Tibet and the diverse hill ranges of northeast India. Within this larger landscape, the Darjeeling-Sikkim region forms a distinctive cultural and ecological zone marked by linguistic diversity, rich traditions, and complex histories of migration, trade, and adaptation. Despite growing academic attention to Himalayan studies, much of the Eastern Himalayas remains insufficiently understood in terms of how local knowledge, everyday practices, and regional histories engage with questions of governance, ecology, and culture, and social change. Long viewed mainly through the lens of its scenic allure and colonial past, the region also continues to negotiate and/or navigate forms of neo-colonial power, where plantation economies, extractive development, environmental degradation, digital transition, tourism circuits and shifting identities demand renewed academic engagement.

While the Himalayas have often been discussed as peripheries of the nation-state, they are, in truth, dynamic centres of intellectual, social, and environmental negotiation. This conference aims to bring these realities to the forefront by situating the Eastern Himalayas as a vital field for contemporary academic discourse and interdisciplinary engagement, establishing it as a centre for Himalayan research that connects local experience with global scholarship.

## OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH

The Himalayas today are not only static terrains of ecology and culture but also dynamic spaces of negotiation, communication, innovation, and policy. From storytelling traditions and oral narrative to digital platforms and artificial intelligence, the ways in which people produce, share, and preserve knowledge are transforming rapidly. New media narratives are redefining how the mountains are seen and represented, while questions of policy, governance, and sustainability demand urgent attention amid environmental and demographic pressures.

By drawing upon the strengths of the humanities, social sciences, and emerging technologies, the conference aims to establish a space of dialogue that embrace both the tangible and the conceptual dimensions of Himalayan life. It invites reflection on how identity, belonging, and knowledge are mediated through art, language, media, and governance in a rapidly changing world.

## INDICATIVE AREAS OF DISCUSSION (BUT NOT LIMITED TO)

Ecology, environment, and climate change  
Plantation Histories, labour, and changing land-use practices  
Communication, journalism, and new media  
AI, technology, and digital transformation  
Literature, language, and translation as modes of cultural memory  
Cultural Heritage, Oral traditions and folklore  
Gender, ethnicity, and intersectional perspectives  
Citizenship, Governance and politics of identity & belongingness

## SUBMISSIONS / QUERIES

[dhuconference@gmail.com](mailto:dhuconference@gmail.com)

CALL  
FOR  
PAPERS

Tourism, urbanisation, and political economy  
Art, and visual narratives of the Eastern Himalayas  
Memoir, Local Archives, and emerging practices of digitization  
Borderlands, migration and trans-Himalayan linkages  
Resistance, trauma and violence  
Pedagogy, Education and knowledge production  
Decolonial discourse on representation of Eastern Himalayas  
Exoticisation, spirituality and sacred geographies





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## CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite Postgraduate Students, Research Scholars, Faculty Members, Early Career Researchers, Post-Doctoral Fellows, Practitioners and International Participants to submit original research papers for presentation at the conference.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission Opens: 20 June 2026

Last Date for Abstract Submission: 31 July 2026

Notification of Selected Abstracts: 14 August 2026 with Acceptance Intimation.

### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstracts should clearly outline the research objectives, methodology, findings, and significance of the study.

Only original and unpublished work will be considered.

Selected abstracts will be invited for full paper submission and presentation.

### FULL PAPER SPECIFICATIONS

Maximum Length: 3,000 to 5,000 words

Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Line Spacing: 1.5

Citation Style: APA Style (7th Edition)

Maximum of 2 maps and 4 figures permitted within the paper

### REGISTRATION DETAILS

|                                              |        |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|
| Postgraduate Students<br>& Research Scholars | ₹1,500 |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|

|                                                                      |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Post-Doctoral Fellows, Early Career<br>Researchers & Faculty Members | ₹2,000 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|

### SUBMISSIONS /QUERIES:

|                         |                     |      |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------|
| dhuconference@gmail.com | Attendees/Observers | ₹300 |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------|

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| International Participants | USD 30 |
|----------------------------|--------|





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## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Postgraduate Students

Research Scholars

Post-Doctoral Fellows

Early Career Researchers

Faculty Members

Independent Researchers

Practitioners

International Participants

Interested Attendees

CALL  
FOR  
PAPERS

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### By Air

The nearest airport to the conference venue is Bagdogra Airport (IXB), located approximately 2.5 hours from the venue. Taxis and shared transport services are readily available from the airport.

### By Rail

The nearest major railway stations are: New Jalpaiguri (NJP) Railway Station and Siliguri Junction Railway Station. Both stations are well connected to major cities across India and offer convenient road connectivity to the conference venue.

### By Road

The venue is accessible by road from Siliguri, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Gangtok, and other towns of the Eastern Himalayan region. Regular taxi and shared vehicle services are available.

## ACCOMMODATION

The Conference Accommodation Committee will assist participants in identifying and arranging suitable accommodation options near the venue.

Please note: Accommodation expenses must be borne by the participants themselves. Accommodation will be allotted subject to availability and prior request. Participants are encouraged to contact the Accommodation Committee well in advance to facilitate booking arrangements.

### Attendee Registration Includes

Conference Participation, Lunch, Conference Notepad and Materials

We look forward to receiving your scholarly contributions and fostering meaningful academic dialogue.

### VICE-CHANCELLOR



Professor (Dr.) Tejimala Gurung Nag

### REGISTRAR



Dr. Sujata Rani Rai

### CONVENER



Dr. Upasna Chettri  
Dept. of History  
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### CO-CONVENER



Dr. Smriti Rai  
Dept. of Mass Comm  
+91 98320 76784

Venue : Darjeeling Hills University, ITI Campus, Bhasmey, Mungpoo, Darjeeling, West Bengal