

CALL FOR PAPERS



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

Environment and Indigenous Knowledge System in South Asian Context

Organised by the Department of English
in collaboration with
IQAC, NGC & WWF-INDIA

24-25 MARCH, 2026

NOWGONG GIRLS' COLLEGE
NAGAON, ASSAM



**HYBRID MODE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR INTERNATIONAL
PARTICIPANTS (LIMITED SEATS).**

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The term ‘environment’ not only signifies the natural world, but also the physical surroundings, as affected by human activity. As most of the indigenous communities of the South Asian nations were subjected to colonial exploitation, and cultural imperialism, such exploitation also involved exploitation of the environment, biodiversity and indigenous knowledge. The communities’ dependence on the environment that surrounded them made them acquire the knowledge of its biodiversity. But this knowledge has been transmitted verbally to successive generations without any written document and viewed as primitive, folkloric, and unscientific by the West. This ignorance and inferiorization of indigenous peoples has been the consequence of colonial and neocolonial relations. It is only when the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted in 2007 that a renewed interest in indigenizing the Western-dominated academia gained impetus in the late 1990s.

In the South Asian region, the knowledge of the indigenous communities generated through experiential processes has ensured the sustainability of its rich biodiversity and environment. But, the measure of the protected ‘sacred groves’ in the region are significant examples of how indigenous knowledge has helped in the conservation of the environment. The indigenous communities

who dwell in forested areas of the region still hold and follow a variety of nature-based religious beliefs and practices but the West fails to recognize the spiritual explanation that conceals conservation strategies. Indigenous peoples, on the other hand, are often critical of Western science and technology because, from their perspective, these methods tend to control and interfere with nature.

Keeping in mind such crucial issues, Nowgong Girls’ College is planning to organize an international conference titled “Environment and Indigenous Knowledge System in South Asian Context”. What is the role of Indigenous knowledge in the conservation process? How does the western academia view such local knowledge? Can the compartmentalization of indigenous/ western knowledge facilitate in sustainable development? These pertinent issues shall be the concern of the conference.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Prof. Charmalie Nahallage

University of Sri Jayewardenepura
Sri Lanka

Professor Charmalie Nahallage is a Senior Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. With a strong interdisciplinary foundation bridging the natural and social sciences, she has actively engaged in collaborative research related to diverse fields in Anthropology and published extensively in reputed international journals. Her outstanding scholarly contributions have been recognized through Presidential Awards and Merit Awards from the National Research Council of Sri Lanka. She is also a recipient of both the Commonwealth Fellowship and the Fulbright Professional Fellowship. In 2024, she was honoured with the National Educator Gold Award for excellence in teaching, research, and national contribution to the social sciences.

Professor Nahallage has held several key administrative positions, including Head of the Department of Anthropology, Director of the Center for Multidisciplinary Research, and Chairperson of the Research Committee of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. She has also served as Chairperson of the Social Science Study Board of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. In addition, she was Chief Editor of the Vidyodaya Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences and a member of the Editorial Board for the Centenary Volumes of Humanities and Social Sciences (1921–2021).

PLENARY SPEAKER



Dipak Gyawali

Pragya (Academician), Nepal Academy of Science and Technology
Former Chair of Nepal Water Conservation Foundation
Former Minister of Water Resources of Nepal

Dipak Gyawali is an academician of the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and a political economist whose work focuses on the interface between water, energy, technology, and society. As Nepal's Minister of Water Resources (2002–2003), he led reforms in the electricity and irrigation sectors emphasizing decentralization and rural participation, and initiated Nepal's first national review of laws against the World Commission on Dams guidelines. Trained as a hydroelectric power engineer (Moscow Energy Institute) and a political economist (University of California, Berkeley), he brings decades of experience across government, private, and civic sectors on water, energy, irrigation, community forestry, poverty alleviation, climate change, and transboundary river systems across the Himalaya–Ganga, Ayeyarwady, and Mekong regions. Grounded in neo-Durkheimian pluralist institutionalism (Cultural Theory), his work emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches to water deeply intertwined with climate change, society, culture, and education, advocating for a much-needed global water response to the climate crisis.

PLENARY SPEAKER



Prof. Anjali Daimari

Gauhati University
India

Dr. Anjali Daimari is Professor and Head of the Department of English, Gauhati University. She completed her postgraduate and M.Phil degrees at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and earned her Ph.D. from NEHU, Shillong. Her academic interests include fiction, communicative English, African writing in English, contemporary South Asian literature, life writing, translation studies, writings from Northeast India, and Bodo life and literature. Her recent publication is *Interpreting Literature from Northeast India* (Bloomsbury, 2024), co-edited with Margaret Pachuau, along with several notable translations and critical essays in edited volumes and peer-reviewed journals. She has guided twelve Ph.D. and over ten M.Phil scholars. Prof. Daimari has served as a language specialist and trainer for the Airports Authority of India since 2010, was a Visiting Faculty at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad (2014–2022), and was Editor of English Forum, a UGC-CARE listed journal, from 2019 to 2024.

SUB-THEMES

1. Indigenous Knowledge and sustainable Development
2. Indigenous Knowledge System versus western knowledge system
3. Media, environment and indigenous knowledge system
4. Indigenous Knowledge, biodiversity conservation and our future
5. Gender, environment and indigenous knowledge system
6. Indigenous knowledge and climate change adaptation
7. Environmental pollution and indigenous knowledge system
8. Anthropocene and Indigenous Knowledge System
9. Human History and Natural History
10. Environmental Ethics and Indigeneity
11. Animism and Physical Environment
12. Population, Environment and South Asia
13. Technology and Indigenous Knowledge System
14. Rivers, Nation-State and South Asia
15. Everyday life, Environment and Indigenous practices

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract submission last date:
24th February 2026

Notification of Acceptance: **1st March 2026**

Full Paper Submission: **20th March 2026**

Last date of Registration: **10th March, 2026 (Online)**

Date of conference: **24-25 March 2026**

REGISTRATION DETAILS

The registration fee covers participation in the seminar, conference kit, refreshments, and lunch during the programme.

Accommodation will be arranged by the participants at their own discretion. However, the organising committee may assist by suggesting suitable hotels, lodges, or homestays located near the seminar venue, subject to availability.

Fee structure

- International Participants: USD 40
- National Participants:
 - Faculty Members: INR 2,000/-
 - Research Scholars: INR 1,000/-

Attendance Only:
Teachers: INR 300/-
Students: INR 100/-

N.B. Registration fee is non-refundable

Guidelines for submission of abstracts

Submission Guidelines

- File Format: Microsoft Word (.doc / .docx)
- Style Sheet: MLA Handbook, 9th Edition
- Font: Times New Roman
- Font Size: 12 pt
- Spacing: Double-spaced throughout
- Alignment: Justified

Content Requirements

- The paper must clearly mention the Name of the Presenter and Institutional Affiliation below the title.
- Word Limit: 300–500 words (Abstract)
- Keywords: 5 keywords (placed after the abstract/content)

Submission Details

- Deadline: 24th February, 2026
- Send to: <https://forms.gle/Rm1R1TBXphj9zPDeA>

Publication Information

Selected papers will be published as an edited volume with ISBN.

CONFERENCE CONVENERS

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