



International Geographical Union Thematic Conference

ON

21st Century Urbanizing World: Emerging Challenges, Circulations, Connectivity

Organized By
Department of Geography
Faculty of Science
Aligarh Muslim University
Aligarh INDIA
www.amu.ac.in

Under the aegis of Internal Geographical Union (IGU) Commissions

Commission on Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering
Commission on Gender and Geography
Commission on Geography and Sustainability
Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity
Commission on Hazards and Risk
Commission on Mountain Studies
Commission on Geo-Heritage and Parks
Commission on Research Methods in Geography
Commission on Young and Early Career Geographers

November 3-5, 2026

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About The Conference

With over half of the world's population now residing in cities, urbanization is changing the planet at a rate never seen before. This shift represents one of the most significant demographic trends of our time, reshaping economies, societies, and environments worldwide. The future statistics are staggering. UN forecasts indicate that the urban population among developing areas is predicted to double between 2000 and 2030, bringing in around 2 billion additional city dwellers. By 2050, this suggests that nearly 70% of the global urban population will reside in developing nations. While established urban centers continue to develop into intricate mega-agglomerations that defy conventional planning frameworks, developing regions are witnessing accelerated urban growth. Alongside the challenges that are involved with increasing global urbanization, there are also amazing opportunities for sustainable development.

Ideally, the process of urbanization is associated with improved living standards; however, the current expansion of cities in developing areas often happens without adequate economic opportunities. This results in a phenomenon known as "urbanization without growth," a troubling scenario in which populations in cities increase without the financial resources to support new residents. Due to a lack of formal job opportunities, migrants are compelled to take on insecure informal work, with inadequate urban services and infrastructure worsening the urban environment. This poses challenges for contemporary urban societies, leading to rising inequality and pervasive poverty. These situations creates unprecedented challenges in governance as the conventional city administrative boundaries often do not correspond with functional urban regions, resulting in fragmented governance scenarios. This fragmentation makes it difficult to effectively coordinate service provision leading to higher inequalities. In the absence of effective governance frameworks and resource crunch, urban areas confront issues such as inefficient infrastructure development, environmental decline, and uneven economic growth. In the Asian context, urbanization is unfolding at an unprecedented pace, with the region home to some of the world's largest and fastest-growing cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Shanghai, Jakarta, and Manila. Asia alone accounts for nearly 60 percent of the global urban population, and by 2050, its urban centers are projected to absorb more than half of the world's additional city dwellers. This rapid expansion has created both immense opportunities and daunting challenges. On one hand, cities in Asia serve as engines of economic growth, innovation, and cultural exchange; on the other, they are sites of profound inequality, environmental stress, and infrastructural inadequacies. Phenomena such as "urbanization without growth," sprawling informal settlements, climate vulnerability, and fragmented governance are particularly acute in Asian cities. These challenges necessitate region-specific strategies that go beyond conventional planning and emphasize adaptive governance, sustainable infrastructure, and social inclusivity. By situating Asia at the heart of discussions on 21st-century urban transitions, the conference underscores the continent's pivotal role in shaping global urban futures.

Therefore, the intricate problems of modern urbanization are beyond the scope of conventional urban planning techniques. The disconnect between aspirational goals and their actual execution is a persistent challenge in urban development. There are emerging models that acknowledge the distinct settings of various urban regions with prioritizing sustainability, inclusion, and adaptability. Consequently, closing the gap between planning and implementation is imperative. More effective approaches that prioritize progressive implementation, smart interventions, and iterative planning above exhaustive master planning. The conference seeks to foster dialogue, share knowledge, exchange ideas and explore innovative solutions to address the multifaceted challenge of accelerated urbanization especially among developing countries.

About the Host Institution:

Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) occupies a unique position amongst universities and institutions of higher learning in India. Established in 1920, a leading and vibrant institution of excellence in teaching, research and innovation with a vision to achieve the national goals of a self-reliant, technologically strong and modern India and build an integrated modern system of education, in accordance with the New Education Policy for sustainable development of society and better future for all. It draws students from all states in India and from different countries, especially Africa, West Asia and Southeast Asia. Aligarh Muslim University has distinct national and international character as an institution of excellence. It has more than 35,000 students, 1,700 teachers and some 6000 non-teaching staff on its rolls. The University now has 13 faculties comprising 117 teaching departments, 3 academies and 21 centres and institutes. A special feature of the University is its residential character with most of the staff and students residing on the campus.

[Aligarh Muslim University | AMU](https://www.amu.ac.in) <https://www.amu.ac.in>

About The Department

The Department of geography at Aligarh Muslim University known as Mecca of Indian geography was established in 1924, the oldest department in India. Initially the department imparted education up to undergraduate level, subsequently the post graduate courses started in 1931 while the first PhD was produced in 1941. The Department has organized more than 50 national and international conferences with publications of more than 500 text and reference books and about completed nearly 50 research projects.

The main thrust area of the Department is in the field of Agriculture Geography, Population Geography and Environmental Geography as identified by the University Grants Commission for Special Assistance Programs since 1975. The significant contribution made by the department in the field of teaching and research the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, New Delhi also sanctioned FIST Programme from April 2019. Some of the notable organs of the department to strengthen teaching and research, includes - The A.M.U. Geographical Society, a vibrant forum founded in March 1925, is a vibrant group that aims to foster students' interest in geography and help them develop their skills and aptitude by planning various extracurricular and academic programs. Since 1926, the internationally renowned refereed research journal The Geographer (ISSN: 0072-0909) has been published biannually under the auspices of the AMU Geographical Society. A flourishing Geographical Research Group is another resource that promotes the growth of geographical knowledge, research concepts, and skills. Faculty and students engage in discussion and interaction during the group's biweekly meetings. Research students can use it as a platform to showcase their research publications and ideas. The Departmental library, with one of the largest collections of geography books and journals (39 International and national periodicals and over 30,000 text and reference books) is another important treasure. The department's computer lab, GIS lab, survey lab, and cartography lab are all fully equipped and furnished with modern and relevant equipment.

<https://www.amu.ac.in/department/geography>

Sub-Themes

The conference invites sessions sponsored by IGU Commissions, Research Groups, University Departments, and scholars on the following suggestive themes.

In addition, workshops and roundtables are also proposed.

Governance and Policy

- **Urbanization without Growth:** Poverty, inequality, and informal economies in expanding cities.
- **Governance and Fragmented Urban Regions:** Institutional challenges and metropolitan coordination.
- **Finance and Urban Economies:** Sustainable financing models for inclusive urban growth.
- **Comparative Perspectives:** Urbanization trajectories in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Sustainability and Environment

- **Sustainable Urban Futures:** Innovations in climate-smart, inclusive, and resilient urban planning.
- **Climate Change, Risk, and Urban Vulnerability:** Disaster preparedness, mitigation, and adaptation strategies.
- **Environmental Decline and Urban Ecosystems:** Addressing air, water, and land challenges.

Technology and Infrastructure

- **Urban Infrastructure and Service Delivery:** Closing the planning– implementation gap in housing, transport, and services.
- **Smart Cities and Digital Transformation:** Leveraging ICT, AI, and geospatial tools for urban management.

Social Dimensions and Human

- **Migration, Demography, and Urbanization**
- **Diversity:** Mobility, labor markets, and cultural integration.
- **Health, Wellbeing, and the Urban Poor:** Tackling disparities in access to healthcare and living standards.
- **Gender and Urban Spaces:** Ensuring safety, inclusivity, and accessibility for women in cities.
- **Youth, Innovation, and the Future of Urban Governance:** Harnessing young populations for transformative urban change.

Other Events:

Pre conference one day orientation programs for young geographers:

- **Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity**
- **Commission on Mountain Studies**
- **Commission on Gender and Geography**
- **Young Geographer and Early Career Geographer Meet**

Abstract Submission

Payment of Registration Fees

- ❖ Registration fees must be paid online only via debit card credit card net banking or UPI
- ❖ Registration fees are non-refundable and non-transferable under any circumstances
- ❖ **No registration after 30th October will be accepted**

Abstract Submission

- ❖ Abstracts must be submitted only through the online registration portal
- ❖ Email or offline submissions will not be accepted
- ❖ Only the corresponding authors should submit the abstract to avoid duplication

Abstract Acceptance

- ❖ Abstracts will be peer reviewed by the program committee for originality clarity and relevance to the conference themes
- ❖ Notification of acceptance of abstract will be made in advance to complete the registration
- ❖ Accepted abstract authors are required to submit full paper before the deadline for its inclusion in the conference proceeding

Registration Fee*		No Spot Registration
	Registration before 1 st September 2026	Registration after 1 st September 2026
National		
Research Scholars/Women	Rs 2,500/-	Rs 3,000/-
Faculty Members/Scientists	Rs 3,000/-	Rs 4,000/-
Accompanying Person	Rs 3,000/-	Rs 3,000/-
International		
Research Scholars/P G Students	USD 75/-	USD 100/-
Faculty Members/Scientists	USD 150/-	USD 200/-
Accompanying Person	USD 150/-	USD 150/-

Registration Fee* will be accepted starting from 6th July 2026

Account Details will be shared on 1st July, 2026

Celebrating the Legacy of Geography at AMU

Emerging Geographer Award (Men) – Prof Shafi Award

Emerging Geographer Award (Women) – and Prof Abha Singh Award

Young Geographer Award – Open to all enrolled research scholars

The Conference wish to recognize and honour emerging researchers who have done notable research work. The nominations for emerging geographer are invited from geographers below the age of 35 years highlighting the candidates research publications and achievements. The Young geographer award is open to all enrolled research scholars, required to submit original research papers and present it in a special session during the conference.

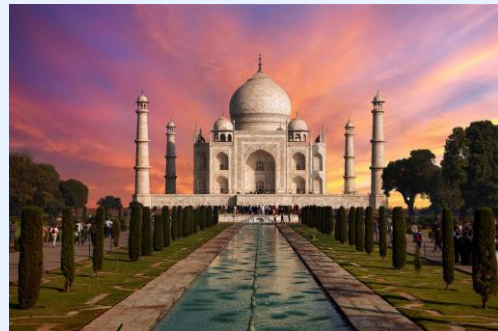
General Information

- ❑ Registration charges (excluding accommodation) for participants / attendees cover access to all sessions and presentations, meals, conference kit and a certificate of participation / attendance.
- ❑ Registration charges (excluding accommodation) for accompanying persons cover venue access and meals only.
- ❑ Limited accommodation on a sharing basis in the university campus guest houses or nearby locations will be provided to participants / attendees and their accompanying persons on a first come first serve basis.
- ❑ Accommodation will not be available for registration after 30th October 2026 or for spot registrations.
- ❑ A post conference Field visit (voluntary) has been arranged on 10th and 11th November 2026 Provided that a sufficient number of participants enrol.
- ❑ Registration is compulsory for all participants. After the intimation of acceptance of abstracts, the participants are required to pay the registration fee. The registration fee can be paid online through RTGS/NEFT/Direct Transfer to the Bank Account. A scan copy of the deposit/transfer slip has to be sent to the conference e-mail i.e. amu.geographyconference2026@gmail.com along with the registration form.

Post-Conference Excursions

Post conference excursions may be planned as given below to historical sites and tourist attractions. These are not included in registration and are on payment basis for the delegates and accompanying persons. Rates depend upon number of persons per group.

- **Agra (100 km)** – World-renowned for the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, symbolizing eternal love. Agra also houses the Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and nearby Fatehpur Sikri, the majestic Mughal capital with splendid palaces, mosques, and courtyards.
- **Delhi (140 km)** – The capital city of India, blending history with modernity. Attractions include the Red Fort, Qutub Minar, India Gate, Lotus Temple, Humayun’s Tomb, and the dynamic cultural, shopping, and diplomatic hubs.



- **Jaipur (300 km)** – Known as the Pink City, Jaipur is famous for its Amber Fort, City Palace, Hawa Mahal, and Jantar Mantar (UNESCO site). It offers a vibrant mix of Rajput architecture, colourful bazaars, and cultural heritage.



- **Mathura / Vrindavan (50 km)** – Renowned as the birthplace of Lord Krishna, Mathura is a spiritual hub with sacred ghats and temples. Nearby Vrindavan is dotted with temples like Banke Bihari Mandir and ISKCON Temple, attracting devotees from around the world.



- **Lucknow (300 km)** – Known as the City of Nawabs, Lucknow is famous for its rich culture, heritage, and cuisine. Highlights include the Bara Imambara, Chota Imambara, Rumi Darwaza, and its traditional craft of Chikankari embroidery.



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