



**27 February 2026**

**11:00 AM - 7:00 PM (IST)**

***Health Geography in India: Building a community of health Geographers Across India***

## **Guidelines & Programme Schedule for the Participants**

The online symposium will be held via Microsoft Teams in one plenary room & five breakout sessions, 100+ participants and 58 presentations across diverse and related themes, including: **Health Geography || Urban Health || Migration and Health || Gender and Health || Climate Change and Health || Environment and Health || Infectious Diseases and Health || One Health**

Welcome to the inaugural symposium dedicated to the formation of a National Health Geography Group in India. This first national-level initiative has been organized by the **International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Health and the Environment (CHE)** in response to requests from Indian colleagues, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening the field of health geography in India. We are delighted to bring together researchers, scholars, practitioners, and students from diverse backgrounds and regions on this shared platform.

Health geography sits at the intersection of place, people, and wellbeing. In a country as socially, culturally, and geographically diverse as India, building a collaborative and connected community around health geography is both timely and essential. This symposium marks an important first step toward creating a space for dialogue, learning, and collective action at the national level, while also strengthening engagement with the international health geography community.

Over the course of this event, we invite you to engage openly, share your experiences, explore new perspectives, and connect with others who share a commitment to understanding health through a geographical lens. We hope this gathering sparks new ideas, meaningful collaborations, and the start of a lasting network that extends well beyond today's conversations.

By bringing together Ph.D. scholars, early-career researchers, and established academics from across the country, this initiative aspires to build a cohesive national community of Health Geographers. Through this open and accessible digital forum, participants will be empowered to share perspectives, form research partnerships, and collectively advance the scope, visibility, and impact of Health Geography in India.

*This symposium is a small but important step toward building a national community of health geographers in India. We come from different research paths, but today we meet on a shared platform to learn from one another, connect across institutions and borders, and imagine what we can build together. We hope this experience is enriching, collaborative, and the beginning of a long and meaningful network for health geography in India.*



## How to access:

Enter the **Microsoft Teams** link below. You will be directly in the plenary room. You can assist with the event taking place in the plenary or go to a breakout room.

## Online Link and access details:

**Join the symposium 10 minutes before the start**

Conference Link Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/36164965226561?p=j5H9JqIPnYWCjgtchV>

**Meeting ID:** 361 649 652 265 61

**Passcode:** n5Mw3Cj6

## How to work with the Microsoft Teams platform:

Although you can connect virtually with **Microsoft Teams** Meetings without installing the software, we do recommend that you download and install it. No registration or fee is required for you to join a meeting via **Microsoft Teams**.

If you are not familiar with the platform, kindly see the following videos to learn the basic controls (e.g., navigate between breakout rooms, share screen, switch on/off mic and camera):

- Joining a **Microsoft Teams** Meeting via link: <https://youtu.be/xBuEiGActgQ?si=etIEcWTjbZWrQGDs>
- Screen Sharing (for presenters): <https://youtu.be/nqT59hoky04?si=Zl84pS8u4rQnDIVn>
- Breakout rooms: [https://youtu.be/ilUdDZ2QPvc?si=V43\\_BVIJsCZr8vLu](https://youtu.be/ilUdDZ2QPvc?si=V43_BVIJsCZr8vLu)
- Make sure your full name is listed as a participant. This is particularly important for all chairs who need to join the panel discussion, as we need to assign your seat.



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## Guidelines for presenters:

- Each presenter has a fixed time for their presentation, 10 minutes for the presentation, followed by a 5-minute question and answer/comments session.
- Presenters are encouraged to use their time wisely. Each plenary session will be overseen by a chair who will coordinate the session.
- The presenter's name is mentioned in the programme schedule; authors and co-authors will be included in the Abstract Volume.
- Details of the presentations should include a **problem statement, research methodology, study findings/results/implications, and conclusion.**
- Presenters must make their presentations (in PDF format) available to the conference organizers via email ([indiaiguiche@gmail.com](mailto:indiaiguiche@gmail.com)) on or before Monday, **24<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**
- Certificates will be provided to the presenters after the symposium and sent to their designated email addresses. Attendance at the full symposium is mandatory to receive the certificate.
- Presenters will receive feedback forms at the end of the symposium (Please provide your full name, as it will be displayed on the certificate). Kindly take a moment to complete them; your input is highly valuable.
- Confirm your internet connection and video and audio settings prior to your session.
- Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at ([indiaiguiche@gmail.com](mailto:indiaiguiche@gmail.com))

**We look forward to seeing you all soon!**



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## Programme Overview

Date	Time (IST)	Plenary Room	Breakout Room 1	Breakout Room 2	Breakout Room 3	Breakout Room 4	Breakout Room 5	
<b>27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (Friday)</b>	11:00 - 11:15	Welcome Address & Opening Remarks	*	*	*	*	*	
	11:15 - 12:00	Lightning Talks	*	*	*	*	*	
	<b>SESSION - 1</b>							
	12:00 - 1:00	*	Climate Change & Health	Urban Health	Gender & Health	Health Geography	Gender & Health	
	1:00 - 1:30	<b>Panel Discussion-1 (Session Chairs' Reports &amp; Discussion)</b>						
	1:30 - 2:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>						
	<b>SESSION - 2</b>							
	2:00 - 3:00	*	Health Geography	Migration and Health & One health	Health Geography	Gender & Health	Environment & Health	
	3:00 - 3:30	<b>Panel Discussion- 2 (Session Chairs' Reports &amp; Discussion)</b>						
	<b>SESSION - 3</b>							
	3:30 - 4:30	*	Health Geography	Infectious Diseases & Health	Urban Health	Health Geography	*	
	4:30 - 5:00	<b>Panel Discussion- 3 (Session Chairs' Reports &amp; Discussion)</b>						
	5:00 - 5:15	<b>Break</b>						
	5:15 - 5:45	Publication Discussion with Journal Editor	*	*	*	*	*	
	5:45 - 6:45	Plenary Session	*	*	*	*	*	
	6:45 - 7:00	Closing Session	*	*	*	*	*	

\* Breakout rooms are closed



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## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> February(Friday), 2026**

**Time: 11:00 AM -07:00 PM (IST)**

Time (IST)	OPENING SESSION	
11:00 - 11:20		
Plenary room	Welcome address and remarks on behalf of International Geographical Union (IGU) - Commission on Health and the Environment (CHE)	<p><b>Eva Pilot</b> <i>Scientific Secretary and Steering Board Member of the IGU-CHE</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Asrafal Alam</b> <i>Assistant Professor, Serampore Girls' College, University of Calcutta, West Bengal, India</i> <i>Steering Board Member of the IGU-CHE</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Shahnaz Basheer</b> <i>Assistant Professor, Dept. of Disaster Management, Loyola College of Social Sciences, Trivandrum, Kerala India</i></p>
		<p><b>Prof. Pradip Chouhan</b> <i>Dept. of Geography, University of Gour Banga, West Bengal, India</i></p>
11:20 - 12:00	Lightning Talks <b>Chair:</b> Eva Pilot	<p><b>Urvashi Prasad</b> <i>Director in the Office of the Vice Chairman at NITI Aayog, the Govt. of India</i></p>
		<p><b>Prof. L. N. Satpati</b> <i>Professor of Geography, Director, UGC HRDC, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India</i></p>



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12:00 – 1:00		SESSION - 1
<b>Breakout Room 1</b>	<b>Climate Change and Health</b>  <b>Chair: Dr. Dhanjit Deka</b>	<p><b>Climate Change and Emerging Health Challenges in Jharkhand: An Overview</b> <i>Aashiya Khanam</i></p> <p><b>Mapping the Climate Change and its impact on psychological health of expecting women: A systematic review</b> <i>Shierie Fatma</i></p> <p><b>Mapping Micro-regional Variations in Climate Variability and Vector- Borne Diseases in Golaghat, Assam, India</b> <i>Haridra Bora</i></p> <p><b>Rising Temperatures and Thermal Discomfort: Implications for Heat- Health Vulnerability in Kerala, India</b> <i>Diya Vinod Kumar K</i></p> <p><b>An analytical study on the impact of climate change on health in Uttarakhand</b> <i>Dr. Nandi Gariya</i></p>
<b>Breakout Room 2</b>	<b>Urban Health</b>  <b>Chair: Dr. Ranjan Karmakar</b>	<p><b>Spatial Modelling of Urban Health Vulnerability to Waterborne Diseases Using Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis: A Case Study of Delhi, India</b> <i>Rahul Raturi</i></p> <p><b>Air Pollution and Psychological well-being: A Longitudinal Geographical study of Anxiety, Stress and Sleep Disturbance among Children and Adults in Delhi National Capital Region</b> <i>Saman Nusrat</i></p> <p><b>Urban EcoScore Index-Based Assessment of Biophilic Conditions and Natural Habitability of Kolkata Metropolitan Area using Enhanced Indices and Machine Learning</b> <i>Md Saharik Joy</i></p> <p><b>Impact of Changing Food Habits on Different Age Groups in Urban Area: A Case Study of Siwan Town</b> <i>Dr. Archana Kumari</i></p>



<p><b>Breakout Room 3</b></p>	<p><b>Gender and Health</b> Chair: Dr. Rukhsana</p>	<p><b>Gender Differences in Bone Health: A Geographical and Lifestyle Perspective</b> <i>Mohd Danish</i></p> <p><b>Role of antenatal care on safe delivery and neonatal health among tribal women in Dakshin Dinajpur district, West Bengal</b> <i>Banshita Basak</i></p> <p><b>Exploring the Roles of Male Involvement and ASHA in Antenatal Care Utilization: A Case Study of Tribal Women in Dakshin Dinajpur District, West Bengal, India</b> <i>Asit Halder</i></p> <p><b>Maternal Educational Inequalities and Child Undernutrition among the Muslim Community in Bankura District, West Bengal</b> <i>Dr. Sk Anamul Hoque</i></p>
<p><b>Breakout Room 4</b></p>	<p><b>Health Geography</b> Chair: Dr. Jayanta Gour</p>	<p><b>Health Inequality and Patient Mobility: Assessing the Outflow of Healthcare Seekers from West Bengal to Other Indian States</b> Tanmoy Basu</p> <p><b>The Uneven Geography of Healthcare in Maharashtra, India: A Socio- Spatial Analysis of Inequalities</b> Komal Laxman Turkar</p> <p><b>Pattern and Determinants of Patient Mobility from Malda District of West, Bengal in India</b> Naba Kumar Bera</p> <p><b>Does unhygienic disposal of children's feces increase the risk of diarrhea among rural Indian children? Findings from the 5th National Family Health Survey</b> Koyel Majumder</p>
<p><b>Breakout Room 5</b></p>	<p><b>Gender and Health</b> Chair: Dr. Shatarupa Dey</p>	<p><b>Health, Environmental Sustainability, and Period Poverty: An Analysis of Contemporary Menstrual Hygiene Solutions</b> <i>Saptadipa Chakraborty</i></p> <p><b>Urbanization and Mental Health of Women in Delhi</b> <i>Ojasvi</i></p> <p><b>A Cross-Sectional Study Of Menstrual Hygiene Practices and Beliefs Among Adolescent Girls at Higher Secondary Level in Selected Schools of Rural, Semi Urban and Urban Regions of Palakkad District, Kerala, India</b> <i>Sreelakshmi Vathmikam</i></p> <p><b>Effect of water crisis on rural women: a review of Indian perspectives</b> <i>Sumaiya Khatun</i></p>



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1:00 - 1:30		PANEL DISCUSSION - 1	
Plenary Room	<b>Session Chairs's Report &amp; Discussion</b>		
	<b>Panel Chair:</b> Eva Pilot <b>Panel Discussant:</b> Dr. Dhanjit Deka, Dr. Ranjan Karmakar, Dr. Rukhsana, Dr. Jayanta Gour, Dr. Shatarupa Dey		
1:30 - 2:00		Lunch Break	
2:00 - 3:30		SESSION - 2	
Breakout Room 1	<b>Health Geography</b> <b>Chair:</b> Dr. Meghna Maiti	<b>Utilization of Ante Natal Care Services among hilly and non-hilly areas of India: Evidence from National Family Health Service-5</b> <i>Ankit Gupta</i>	
		<b>Socio-Economic condition and Occupational Health hazards among the Rag-Pickers Workers in Malda district of West Bengal: A Micro Level Analysis</b> <i>Dr. Md Areful Hoque</i>	
Breakout Room 2	<b>Migration and Health &amp; One Health</b> <b>Chair:</b> Dr. Shilpi Yadav	<b>Investigating the Unfair Concentration of Unskilled Birth Attendants among Lower Wealth Households in India: A Study of Predictors and Wealth-Based Disparities</b> <i>Mithun Sarkar</i>	
		<b>Decomposing the Spatial Inequalities of Child Full Immunization Coverage Among Children Aged 12-23 Months in India: A Fairlie Decomposition Analysis</b> <i>Tanmoy Ghosh</i>	
Breakout Room 2	<b>Migration and Health &amp; One Health</b> <b>Chair:</b> Dr. Shilpi Yadav	<b>Impact of Migration on Physical and Mental Health</b> Babita	
		<b>Determinants of Functional Decline Among Older Adults in India: A Comprehensive Analysis of ADL and IADL Difficulties by using LASI Wave 1 Data</b> Md Mohsin	
Breakout Room 2	<b>Migration and Health &amp; One Health</b> <b>Chair:</b> Dr. Shilpi Yadav	<b>One Health Spatial Analytics for Antimicrobial Resistance in Indian Watersheds: A Systematic Review</b> Dr. K. Katturajan	
		<b>Knowledge, Attitudes, and Health Impacts of Long COVID in Rural Ballia, Uttar Pradesh: A Cross-Sectional Analysis</b> Kriti Tiwari	





<p><b>Breakout Room 3</b></p>	<p><b>Health Geography</b> Chair: Prof. Rashid Aziz Faridi</p>	<p><b>The Association Between Domestic Violence and Antenatal Care Utilisation Among Ever-Married Women in India: Evidence from NFHS-5</b> <i>Subhankar Singha</i></p> <p><b>Applications of GIS and Spatial Analysis in Health Research: A Comparative Systematic Review of India and China</b> <i>Pankaj Roy</i></p> <p><b>Integrated health vulnerability assessment using RS-GIS and MCDA: A case study of Barrackpore - Bidhannagar subdivision, North 24 Paraganas, West Bengal</b> <i>Priyanka Dasgupta</i></p> <p><b>Prevalence of Hypertension and Risk Factors Among Women of Reproductive Age Group (15-49 Years) in Flood-Affected Districts of India</b> <i>Abhishek Agarwalla</i></p>
<p><b>Breakout Room 4</b></p>	<p><b>Gender and Health</b> Chair: Dr. Bikash Das</p>	<p><b>Uneven Health Landscapes: Spatial Vulnerability to Anaemia among Women (Age 15-49 years) in Bihar</b> <i>Ms Richa Jha</i></p> <p><b>Abortion as a reproductive justice among unmarried women in Maharashtra- a narrative analysis</b> <i>Pravin Kokane</i></p> <p><b>Socio-demographic correlates of adequate menstrual health and hygiene practices among young tribal women in India</b> <i>Husnara Sarkar</i></p> <p><b>Emotional Intimate Partner Violence as an Under-Recognized Risk Factor for Hypertension Among Women of Reproductive Age in India</b> <i>Dr. Apurba Sarkar</i></p>



<p><b>Breakout Room 5</b></p>	<p><b>Environment and Health</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Dr. Margubur Rahaman</p>	<p><b>Environment and Health</b>  <i>Neha Rani</i></p> <p><b>Significance of Health Geography in Mitigating the Age-Old Health Issues and Managerial Challenges in Remote Islands of Tropical Deltas: Special Reference to Sundarban Delta in India</b>  <i>Dr. Jayanta Gour</i></p> <p><b>Smell and the City: A Spatial Olfactory Planning Framework</b>  Lakshya Gupta</p> <p><b>A Study of BMI and Carbon Footprint among Students and Staff: Evidence from Government Arts and Science College, Tholanur</b>  Safiya P.K</p>
<p><b>3:00 - 3:30</b></p>	<p><b>PANEL DISCUSSION - 2</b></p>	
<p><b>Plenary Room</b></p>	<p><b><i>Session Chairs's Report &amp; Discussion</i></b></p> <p><b>Panel Chair:</b> Dr. Asraful Alam  <b>Panel Discussant:</b> Dr. Meghna Maiti, Dr. Shilpi Yadav, Prof. Rashid Aziz Faridi, Dr. Bikash Das, Dr. Margubur Rahaman</p>	
<p><b>3:30 - 5:00</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION - 3</b></p>	
<p><b>Breakout Room 1</b></p>	<p><b>Health Geography</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Prof. Swati Rajput</p>	<p><b>Spatial Disparities in Public Health Care Infrastructure and Accessibility: A District-Level Study of Jhajjar, Haryana</b>  <i>Ashika Kadian</i></p> <p><b>Socio-Economic and Spatial Inequalities in Cancer Incidence in Nalbari District, Assam</b>  <i>Parismita Goswami</i></p> <p><b>Health care Accessibility Measures Using Network Analysis Technique of GIS –A case study of a Rural District of South India.</b>  <i>Dr .K. Rajakokila</i></p> <p><b>Kernel Density Estimation in Assessing Primary Healthcare Performance and Patient Perception in Madurai District</b>  <i>Vinothini C</i></p>



<p><b>Breakout Room 2</b></p>	<p><b>Infectious Disease Health Geography</b> Chair: Prof. Praveen Kumar Pathak</p>	<p><b>Spatial Assessment of Dengue Risk Zones in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu using the AHP Approach</b> <i>Dr. D. Balaji</i></p> <p><b>Prevalence and Determinants of Multimorbidity among Older Adults in India: Evidence from LASI Wave 1 (2017–18)</b> <i>Gwmsath Mushahary</i></p> <p><b>Spatial Epidemiology of Dengue in West Bengal</b> <i>Sujay Mondal</i></p> <p><b>Integrating Flood Susceptibility Mapping and Health Risk Zonation for Dengue and Leptospirosis in Ernakulam District</b> <i>Dr. Neethu.V.V</i></p>
<p><b>Breakout Room 3</b></p>	<p><b>Urban Health</b> Chair: Prof. Lancelet T.S</p>	<p><b>The ‘Green’ Prescription: Evaluating the Impact of Urban Public Spaces on Mental Well-being in Modern Cities</b> <i>Sristy Raj</i></p> <p><b>Urban Waterlogging and Public Health: An Assessment of Health Awareness and Preventive Practices in Urban-Flood Areas</b> <i>Akansha Yadav</i></p> <p><b>Precarious Livelihood, Vulnerability and Health Risks among Gig Workers in Delhi</b> <i>Sangeeta</i></p> <p><b>Socio-Economic Determinants of Gender Disparities in Healthcare Access in Kolkata.</b> <i>Moumita Kundu</i></p>
<p><b>Breakout Room 4</b></p>	<p><b>Health Geography</b> Chair: Dr. Pravin Kokane</p>	<p><b>Public Health Vulnerability During ‘Nautapa’: An Empirical Study in East-Central India</b> <i>Moumita Pal</i></p> <p><b>Perception of Menstrual Hygiene among College-Going and Non-College- Going Girls in Ara, Bihar: A Primary Survey</b> <i>Dr. Dweepika Shekhar Singh</i></p> <p><b>Spatial Inequality in Healthcare Access in Labpur C.D. Block of Birbhum district of West Bengal: A Geographic Overview</b> <i>Pallabi Mondal</i></p> <p><b>Public Health Impacts of Riverine Pollution: A Demographic Study of Disease Patterns Along the Hindon River in Shimlana Village, Western, Uttar Pradesh</b> <i>Kamakshi</i></p>



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4:30 - 5:00	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION - 3</b>
<b>Plenary Room</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Session Chairs's Report &amp; Discussion</i></b></p> <p><b>Panel Chair:</b> Dr. Shahnaz Basheer</p> <p><b>Panel Discussant:</b> Prof. Swati Rajput, Prof. Praveen Kumar Pathak, Prof. Lancelet T.S, Dr. Pravin Kokane</p>
5:00 - 5:15	<b>BREAK</b>
5:15 - 5:45	<b>PUBLICATION DISCUSSION WITH JOURNAL EDITOR</b>
<b>Plenary Room</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair:</b> Dr. Varun Goel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dr. Michael Widener</b> <i>Co-Editor in Chief: Health and Place</i></p>
5:45 - 6:45	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b>
<b>Plenary Room</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Next steps towards a Health Geography National Group in India</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair:</b> Eva Pilot <i>IGU CHE</i></p>
6:45 - 7:00	<b>CLOSING SESSION</b>
<b>Plenary Room</b>	Concluding Remarks & Way Forward



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## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

- Dr. Asraful Alam** - Serampore Girls' College, University of Calcutta, India (alam5asraful@gmail.com)
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- Dr. Varun Goel** - Geography of geography, University of South Carolina, United States (varungoel@sc.edu)
- Mr. Zainul Abedin** - Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, India (zainul2008897@st.jmi.ac.in)

*This symposium marks the first step toward creating a warm, inclusive, and safe digital space for building a National Health Geography Group in India. We come together from diverse research journeys, institutions, and regions, each bringing unique perspectives to the shared goal of strengthening health geography in the country.*

*We hope this platform offers meaningful opportunities for international exposure, interdisciplinary learning, and rich professional networking. More importantly, we envision this symposium as the beginning of a strong, collaborative network of health geographers across India, one that fosters dialogue, mentorship, and sustained partnerships.*

*May this gathering be a fruitful and inspiring experience for all participants today, and a foundation for future collaborations that advance health geography research, policy engagement, and practice in India.*