काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय

BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

AN INSTITUTION OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE ESTABLISHED BY AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT

Third Circular

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

Integrating Urban, Rural, and Tribal Development for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Vision for Viksit Bharat@2047

OCTOBER 9-11, 2025

ORGANISED BY

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
VARANASI (INDIA)
www.bhu.ac.in

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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Integrating Urban, Rural, and Tribal Development for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Vision for Viksit Bharat@2047

The theme of the international conference stands as a critical platform for addressing the multidimensional challenges and opportunities inherent in realizing a developed India (Viksit Bharat) and a developed world (Viksit Vishav) vision. It aims to bridge the developmental gaps between diverse geographical and socio-cultural landscapes, while aligning with the global agenda for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations have laid the foundation for global development with a focus on ending poverty, safeguarding the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all. India, as one of the most populous and diverse countries in the world, faces unique challenges in integrating urban, rural, and tribal development to meet these global objectives.

India's development trajectory must address the needs of diverse populations across different geographies, ensuring that no one is left behind. This requires integrating urban, rural, and tribal areas in a way that fosters inclusivity, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social justice. The Government of India, under the vision of "Viksit Bharat @ 2047," seeks to position India as a developed nation by its centenary of independence. To realize this vision, it is imperative to design and implement a holistic approach that connects urban, rural, and tribal regions in a sustainable manner.

Viksit Bharat @ 2047 envisions a future where all regions, including rural, urban, and tribal areas, develop harmoniously, ensuring balanced growth, equitable opportunities, and resilience. With over 68% of India’s population residing in rural areas and about 10% belonging to tribal communities, the need to bring these segments into mainstream development is essential for achieving true national development. Urbanization and rural-tribal integration present complex challenges but also offer opportunities to create a harmonious ecosystem for sustainable development.

This conference recognizes the distinct developmental trajectories of urban, rural, and tribal regions, while emphasizing the imperative of integrated strategies among the three domains. Urban centers, which are often perceived as economic growth engines, also grapple with challenges of rapid urbanization, infrastructural deficits, industrial pollution, and environmental degradation. Countryside rural areas, considered as the backbone of agricultural economies, usually face issues of poverty, lack of access to essential services, and climate vulnerabilities. Tribal communities, considered as custodians of invaluable cultural heritage and ecological knowledge, do encounter marginalization, resource exploitation, and threats to their traditional living. Integrating all three disparate domains

(i.e., urban, rural, and tribal) is not merely a matter of administrative convenience; it's a fundamental necessity for achieving sustainable development. For instance, urban areas depend on rural and tribal regions for food, water, and natural resources; conversely, rural and tribal communities benefit from urban infrastructures, technologies, and market access. A comprehensive and integrated approach is therefore essential to ensure that developmental initiatives and policies and mutually reinforcing and contribute to a balanced and equitable society.

International conference on the theme: "Integrating Urban, Rural and Tribal Development for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Vision for Viksit Bharat@2047", targets to provide a platform to national and international academicians, policymakers, community leaders and scholars to discuss, debate and devise actionable strategies for attaining integrated growth and sustainable development by achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, comprising the 17 SDGs, provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the national and global challenges. The conference aims to align urban, rural and tribal development strategies with these SDGs, focusing on areas such as poverty eradication; food security; health and well-being; quality education and gender equality; cleaner energies; decent work an economic growth; innovations, industries and infrastructure; reducing inequalities, sustainable and resilient cities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; biodiversity conservation; peace, justice and stronger institutions; and partnerships for achieving these goals. The main objectives of this international conference are:

- To analyze the present scenario of urban, rural, and tribal development and find innovative strategies to integrate these sectors in achieving sustainable growth and the SDGs.
- To highlight the role of technology, traditional knowledge, and innovations in achieving the SDGs and sustainable development.
- To empower women, youth, and marginalized groups in urban, rural, and tribal areas, ensuring active participation in the development process.
- To discuss how inclusive development, bridging the urban-rural-tribal divide, is key to achieving a developed India by 2047, along with exploring and promoting international collaborations for achieving the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision.

Target participants

Researchers, academicians, scholars across a broad range of multidimensional and multidisciplinary subjects, not limited to geography, sociology, economics, psychology, political science, history, disaster studies, environmental science, sustainability studies, ecology, environmental sciences, urban-rural studies, tribal studies, public health, demography, and other allied disciplines. Varied participants from Policy institutes, think tanks, NGOs, and various government organizations.

Requirement: Valid ID Proof (for Students and Scholars), Passport, and Visa (International Participants). For the Visa procedure, foreign participants are requested to go through the Indian Embassy Website for visa fees and exemptions, which may vary depending on the country of origin. A Letter of Acceptance will be sent to the participants upon acceptance of the abstract/paper to facilitate getting their visas and attending the conference. However, it is the responsibility of the participants to do the whole process in the Indian Embassy located in their respective countries.

FOCAL THEME

Integrating Urban, Rural, and Tribal Development for achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Vision for Viksit Bharat@2047

SUB-THEMES

Integrated Urban, Rural, and Tribal Developments

- ✓ Bridging the Urban-Rural-Tribal divide: Programmes, Policies and Practices
- ✓ Community participation in Urban, Rural and Tribal area and integration
- ✓ Cultural Integration and Heritage preservation
- ✓ Education, Health and Human Development
- ✓ Environment, Climate and resilience
- ✓ Remote Sensing/GIS applications in Urban, Rural, Tribal Development, SDGs for Viksit Bharat@2047
- ✓ Role of AI and ML in achieving Sustainable Development Goals towards vision Viksit Bharat@2047
- ✓ Smart cities, smart villages and smart people
- ✓ Socio-cultural and economic integration
- ✓ Sustainable livelihoods
- ✓ Technology and Innovation towards vision Viksit Bharat@2047

Urban

- ✓ Enhancing community participation
- ✓ Enhancing urban livelihood
- ✓ Environment, Energy & Climate action
- ✓ Governance & Citizenship participation
- ✓ Health, Education and Social equality
- ✓ Inclusion of all sections of society
- ✓ Inclusive & resilient urban planning
- ✓ In-migration
- ✓ Pollution and sustainability
- ✓ Programmes and policies of urban development (AMRUT, DAY-NULM, Smart City, NUDM, PMSAY, PMSS etc.)
- ✓ Slum development
- ✓ Slums and sustainable urban development
- ✓ Social Inequalities
- ✓ Sustainable urban infrastructure
- ✓ Unplanned Growth
- ✓ Urban Crime
- ✓ Urban-Rural Differentials

Rural

- ✓ Access to Services
- ✓ Economic Opportunities
- ✓ Empowered and inclusive rural governance
- ✓ Environment and resource Management
- ✓ Health and Education
- ✓ Inclusive Economic Growth
- ✓ Livelihood diversification and skill development
- ✓ Out-migration
- ✓ Poverty and Inequality
- ✓ Programmes and policies of rural development (MGNREGA, PMAY, PMGSY, DDU-GKY, NSAP, NRLM, SPMRM, SAGY, Antyodaya, etc.)
- ✓ Rural infrastructure and basic services of health
- ✓ Rural-Urban Linkages
- ✓ Sustainable agriculture and food security
- ✓ Technological Innovation
- ✓ Technology & innovation for rural Transformation

Tribal

- ✓ Cultural erosion
- ✓ Displacement and land rights
- ✓ Education and digital inclusion
- ✓ Empowering tribal community
- ✓ Health and nutrition
- ✓ Health, Nutrition and wellbeing
- ✓ Lack of access to resources
- ✓ Land, forest rights and governance
- ✓ Poverty, exploitation and economic marginalization
- ✓ Preserving tribal identity
- ✓ Preserving culture, heritage and indigenous knowledge
- ✓ Programmes and Schemes of Tribal Development (PM JANMAN, DAJGUA, AMSY, ASRY, DAPST, PVTGs, PMJVM, PMAAGY etc.)
- ✓ Sacred locations and preservations
- ✓ Sustainable livelihood and economic empowerment
- ✓ Traditional knowledge and conservation practices
- ✓ Tribal handicrafts and products

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- ✓ Environmental Hazards, Vulnerability, and Disaster Research for Development
- ✓ Sustainable Cities and Communities
- ✓ Sustainable urban/rural water management practices
- ✓ Sustainability in the Built Environment
- ✓ Papers related to individual themes on urban/rural/tribal developments with respect to SDGs.
- ✓ SDG 1: No Poverty
- ✓ SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- ✓ SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- ✓ SDG 4: Quality Education
- ✓ SDG 5: Gender Equality
- ✓ SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- ✓ SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- ✓ SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- ✓ SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- ✓ SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- ✓ SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- ✓ SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- ✓ SDG 13: Climate Action
- ✓ SDG 14: Life below Water
- ✓ SDG 15: Life on Land
- ✓ SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- ✓ SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals

Viksit Bharat@2047

- ✓ Addressing gender disparities through policy interventions
- ✓ Climate Change and Sustainability Issues
- ✓ Emerging Geopolitical Issues: International Relations/Trade, Terrorism, and National Security
- ✓ Gender and Development for Viksit Bharat
- ✓ Geopolitics and International Relations for Viksit Bharat
- ✓ Geoinformation Science for Geographers and Development: From Data to Artificial Intelligence
- ✓ Geographical Information System and Environmental Sustainability
- ✓ Global Environmental Challenges and their Management
- ✓ Green Infrastructure: Blue, Green spaces and Green Economy
- ✓ Institutions and Governance for Viksit Bharat
- ✓ Inter-Community and Inter-Cultural studies
- ✓ Land and Water Ecosystem for Viksit Bharat
- ✓ Oceans: Resource Potential Regions
- ✓ Population, Migration, and Development
- ✓ Promoting organic farming and sustainable agricultural practices
- ✓ Promoting women's leadership in sustainable development
- ✓ Social inclusion through equitable development practices
- ✓ Socio-Cultural Perspectives on Natural Resource Management
- ✓ Strategies for reducing urban-rural and tribal inequalities
- ✓ Strengthening healthcare access in underserved areas
- ✓ SDGs and Viksit Bharat (Developed India)
- ✓ SDGs and Viksit Vishav (Developed World)

- ❖ **Case Studies from other countries with reference to integrated developments and SDGs**
- ❖ **Any other relevant topic related to the main theme & sub-themes**

Call for Papers

Original research papers are invited for oral/ poster presentation on the various themes and sub-themes, exclusively thematic papers/ empirical studies, working papers, research papers, review papers, policy papers, concept papers, and case studies. The abstracts should be in editable MS Word format, Times New Roman, font size 12, 1.5 spacing & should not exceed 300 words. The full papers should be between 5000-7000 words. The research papers should adhere to the standard academic format, clearly outlining the following sections in this order: the need for the study, objectives of the study, methodology, data analysis techniques, findings/results, conclusions, and references. This structure will ensure clarity and consistency in presenting the research.

Interested participants will have to register for the said conference using the following Google Form, along with the abstract (in case participating with a paper/ poster presentation). Once the abstract is accepted by the committee, the corresponding/ presenting author will be informed by email for the payment of the registration fee*(non-refundable).

Link to Google form- https://forms.gle/cFBmeUkM7e7BBEaU8

In case of any query, please contact: Dr. Harpreet Singh (9763767107)

Publication

Accepted full papers will be published in a book with an ISBN by a national/ international publisher. The publication fee will be Rs. 800/- per paper. Selected high-quality papers will be published in the Scopus edited volume, and the corresponding/ presenting author will be informed accordingly.

Registration Fee

Faculty / Professionals	Rs. 3000/- (Without accommodation)
	Rs. 6000/- (With shared accommodation)
Research Scholars	Rs. 2500/- (Without accommodation)
Students	Rs. 2000/- (Without accommodation)
Foreign Delegates	US$ 60 South Asian Countries (With shared accommodation)
Foreign Delegates accommodation)	US$ 80 Other Asian and African Countries (With shared
Foreign Delegates	US$ 120 Rest of the World (With shared accommodation)
On Spot Registration	Rs. 4000 / US$ 150

The registration fee includes conference kit, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and high tea during the conference. The accompanying person will have to pay Rs. 2500/- and have to pay for accommodation separately as per standard norms. Accommodation may be provided based on availability, with charges applicable.

Mode of Payment of Registration Fee

The registration fee (non-refundable) can be sent through electronic transfer in favor of the International Conference on "***Integrating Urban, Rural and Tribal Development for achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Vision for Viksit Bharat@2047***"

NAME OF THE ACCOUNT HOLDER:

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ACCOUNT NO: **44075674997**

BANK IFSC: **SBIN0000211**

BRANCH CODE: **00211**

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SCAN & PAY

Important Dates

Last date for submission of abstract	**31st August 2025**
Intimation of acceptance of abstract	3rd September 2025
Last date for submission of full paper	8th September 2025
Payment of registration fee	**8th September 2025**
E-mail address for query, if any	geobhu.sdg@gmail.com



ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Banaras Hindu University (BHU), situated in the holy city of Varanasi, is a prestigious institution of higher education renowned worldwide and recognized as one of the eight public institutions declared as an Institute of Eminence by the Government of India. Spread across 1,300 acres of lush green campus, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) holds the distinction of being the largest residential university in Asia, accommodating over 30,000 students, including 18,000 residing on campus. Founded in 1916 by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, a prominent nationalist and visionary, the university has grown into a comprehensive institution with an impressive array of academic and research facilities.

BHU comprises six Institutes, 14 Faculties, 144 Departments, four Interdisciplinary Centers, a Constituent College for Women, and three Constituent Schools, covering a vast range of subjects across all branches of humanities, social sciences, technology, medicine, science, fine arts, and performing arts. The university also boasts six Centers of Advanced Studies, ten Departments under the Special Assistance Program, and numerous specialized research centers, further cementing its reputation as a hub of academic excellence and innovation.

Known for its sprawling campus and architectural beauty, BHU provides a serene and inspiring environment for learning and growth. The university's commitment to holistic education, coupled with state-of-the-art facilities and highly qualified faculty, continues to attract students and scholars from around the globe. BHU remains dedicated to upholding its legacy as a beacon of knowledge and excellence, making significant contributions to education and research on both national and international fronts (https://www.bhu.ac.in).



About the Department of Geography, Banaras Hindu University (BHU)

The Department of Geography at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has a distinguished history and a strong reputation for academic excellence and research contributions: Established on 19th August 1946, with Professor H. L. Chhibber as its founding Head, and later led by Prof. R. L. Singh, the department has been pivotal in shaping geographical studies at BHU. Renowned for its facilities and academic rigor, the department attracts students not only from across India but also from countries such as Japan, Iran, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Bangladesh, the Middle-East, and the West Indies.

The department has garnered international recognition through its significant contributions to geographical research, particularly concerning India. Currently, it boasts a faculty team of 22 members dedicated to teaching and research. The department offers a comprehensive range of academic programs, including BA/BSc (Honours), MA/MSc in Geography, a PhD program in Geography and allied disciplines, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (RS & GIS).

In addition to the extensive resources available at the Central Library of the University, the department maintains its own specialized library with a collection of approximately 10,000 books covering diverse branches of Geography. It also houses six laboratories equipped for advanced research in spatial analysis and environmental monitoring.

Notably, the department is home to the office of the National Geographical Society of India, one of the oldest geographical societies in the country. The department's commitment to scholarly excellence and research dissemination continues to uphold its stature as a leader in geographical education and research both nationally and internationally. (**LINK**)



HOW TO REACH VARANASI?

Banaras Hindu University is conveniently accessible by air and road from all parts of the country, including major cities of India such as Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Mumbai.

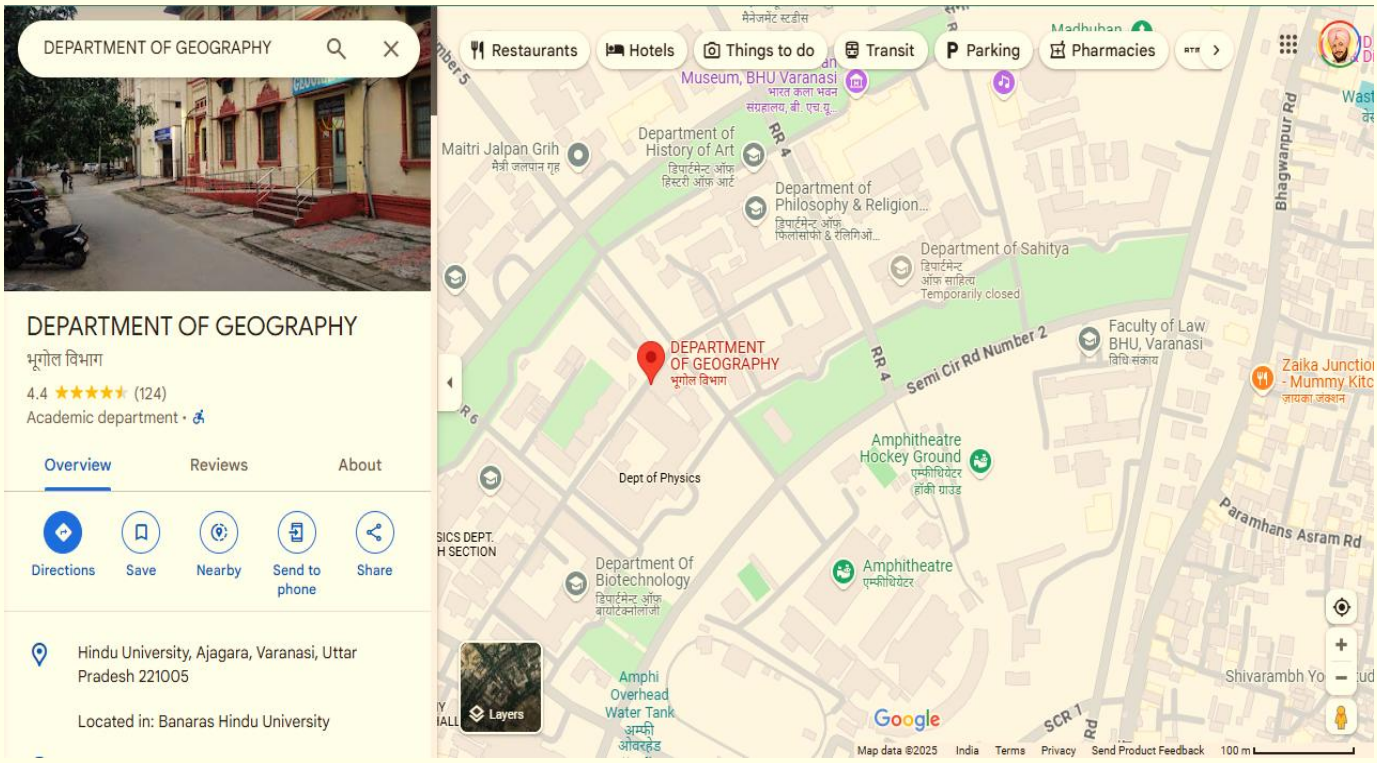
By Air: Fly to Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport (Varanasi Airport), which is approximately 30 kms from BHU. From the airport, taxis and car rentals are available for transportation to the university. (https://www.aai.aero/en/airports/varanasi)

By Road: Varanasi is well-connected by road networks to major cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Mumbai. You can reach BHU via national highways and state highways, with ample parking facilities available on campus.

By Rail: Varanasi is connected to major cities in India via rail as well. Varanasi Cantt. railway station (BSB) about 10 Kms from BHU; Banaras railway station (BSBS) about 5 Kms from BHU, are the two main railway stations to reach Varanasi. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction is another station about 20 kms from BHU campus.

https://vdavns.com/about/varanasi-map-location

Location of the Department



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

Integrating Urban, Rural, and Tribal Development for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Vision for Viksit Bharat@2047

9th-11th October, 2025

Organized By

Department of Geography, Institute of Science
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi-221005
Uttar Pradesh, INDIA

REGISTRATION FORM

Link to Google form- https://forms.gle/cFBmeUkM7e7BBEaU8

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