



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

The Ocean Speaks Back: Ecological Resistance and Cultural Crisis in the South Asian Anthropocene (Hybrid Mode)

19-20 February 2026



Organized by

The Department of English Studies, Akal University,
Talwandi Sabo

Chief Patron

H.E. Baba (Dr.) Davinder Singh Ji
Chancellor, Akal University

Patron

Prof. Gurmail Singh
Vice Chancellor, Akal University

Co-Chief Patron

Registrar, Akal University, Talwandi Sabo

Convenor

Dr. Shantanu Siuli, Head, Dept. Of English, AU

Co-Convenor

Dr. Tajamul Islam, Assistant Professor, AU
Dr. Aparna Jith, Assistant Professor, AU
Ms. Binderpal Kaur, Assistant Professor, AU

INTRODUCTION

The sea is never still. It bears within it the whispers of history, the thunder of storms, and hushed melodies of societies that live along its shore. For South Asia, the sea has always been other than geography: a grand chronicler inscribing epics of trade and migration, exile and settlement, loss and resurrection. However, in the Anthropocene era, this chronicler speaks in a vocabulary of rising tides, eroded coastlines, and disrupted lives. Its waters pound against our shores not only as natural cycles but as messages, urgent and relentless.

This is the paradox we'd like to ponder: sea as a cultural storehouse of memory, and bearer of crisis. With the South Asian Anthropocene, coastal living is disrupted—the coastlines submerge, cyclones wipe out fisher people's songs, and old ways disappear in development. But out of this turmoil, a resilience emerges: campaigns against power, indigenous knowledge, re-imagining in poetry, and artworks that reassert a horizon of survival for the sea. This event listens to the sea both as a witness and a speaker, and invites researchers, authors, policy-makers, and activists to join in thinking about how South Asia will negotiate its entangled waters between cultural crisis and environmental protest. This conference, by encompassing the South Asian oceanic entanglements and the indomitable natural challenges, aims to redefine the most possible and practical ways of hindering the decay of eco-biological marine life diversity, as well as to utilise the natural resources in such a way as to maximise the sustainability and livelihood for future generations, and marine species.

Objectives

1. To reframe the ocean as a cultural and ecological interlocutor in the Anthropocene.
2. To delve into how crisis, protest, and memory intersect in coastal South Asia.
3. To draw upon literature, oral history and arts as a stock of knowledge.
4. To enhance inter-disciplinary exchanges between policy, humanities & social sciences.
5. To produce knowledge for sustainable governance emanating from cultural contexts.

Relevance

In bringing cultural imagination and policy imperative together, this conference directly engages ICSSR's mandate. Displacement, livelihood insecurity, inequality, and governance—the very concerns at the core of India's and South Asia's socio-political dilemma—are dealt with. It does this while placing these within a literary and cultural perspective, enriching scholarship while providing routes to actionable policy.

KEY THEMES

1. Ocean as Memory, Myth, and Metaphor
2. Currents of Resistance: Songs, Stories, and Struggles
3. The Blue Economy and Its Coastal livelihoods
4. Waves of Imagination: Aesthetics of the Anthropocene
5. Tidal Entanglements: Intersections of Class, Caste, and Gender
6. Science, Technology, and the Sea of Tomorrow
7. South Asia and the Global South: Oceans of Solidarity
8. Storms, Cyclones, and the Poetics of Disaster
9. Witnessing the Ocean: Ethics, Justice, and Responsibility
10. Cinematic representation.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Vipan Pal Singh
(Professor, Central
University of Punjab)



Dr. Tanu Gupta
(Professor, Central
University of
Haryana)



Dr. Rashmi Attari
(Professor, AMU
Aligarh)



Dr. Vandana Sharma
(Professor, Central
University of Jammu)



Dr. David Higgins
(Professor, University
of Leeds)



Dr. K. C.
Lalthlamuani
(Professor, Mizoram
University)



Dr. Maryam Mirza
(Asso. Professor,
Durham University)



Dr. Punyashree Panda
(Asso. Professor, IIT
Bhubaneswar)



Dr. Anupama Mohan
(Asso. Professor, IIT
Jodhpur)



Dr. Samantha Spence
(Asso. Professor,
University of
Staffordshire)



Dr. Avishek Parui
(Asso. Professor, IIT
Madras)



Mr. Sudip Sen,
Indian Poet, Recipient
of R.N. Tagore Literary
Award (2021)

PUBLICATION

All the participants have the opportunity to publish their papers with Bloomsbury, for which a separate review process will take place and will also require an additional payment. Shortlisted authors will be informed about the review process in due course of time.



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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please submit an abstract of approximately **300-350 words**, including a short bio-note of 50 - 100 words, to icosberccsa-2026@auts.ac.in

All abstracts must be written using a **12-point Times New Roman** font.

Mention the **theme/s of the conference** that the abstract aims to address in the Subject line of the email during Abstract submission. Participants are strictly advised to mention the **category of participation (online/offline)** and their nationality for the smooth completion of registration.

Selected participants can register and pay through the shared link. Authors are also strictly advised to use the **APA citation style** during the procedure of the full paper (approximately 6000-8000 words; **proof of below 5% Plagiarism Report is to be attached mandatorily along with the Full Paper**)

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

Registered participants will need to arrange travel and accommodation as per their budget. If you need assistance in arranging your accommodation, please contact the organisers for the affordable hotels nearby.

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission Deadline: **15 November 2025**

Intimation of selection of the Abstract: **20 November 2025**

Registration Deadline: **25 November 2025**

Submission of the Full Article: **10 January 2026**

REGISTRATION DETAILS

A. Paper Presentation

Registration Fees	Indian Participants	
	Offline	Online
Faculty	2500 INR	2000 INR
Ph.D Scholars	1800 INR	1500 INR
PG Students	1200 INR	1000 INR
UG Students	800 INR	500 INR
Listeners	300 INR	300 INR

B. Poster Presentation (UG Students only)

Registration Category	Registration Fees (Offline)
UG Students	600 INR

PAYMENT BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account Name: Akal University
Account Number: 36112706739
Bank: State Bank of India
Branch: Talwandi Sabo
IFSC Code: SBIN0050058
SWIFT Code: SBININBB767



PAYMENT & REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://forms.gle/yF1xwResX8BETXXR9>

For further assistance (if any), please contact: icosberccsa-2026@auts.ac.in