



**Department of Sociology
Panjab University, Chandigarh**



in collaboration with

Research Committee Urban Studies (RC-19)

Indian Sociological Society (ISS)

Organises

**National Workshop on
*Urbanization, Planning & Ecological Challenges***

9th March 2026 (Time: 2:00 pm-5:00 pm)

(Le Corbusier Centre, Sector 19)

&

One Day National Seminar (10th March 2026)

On

***Sociology of Environment and Contemporary Crisis in
India: Navigating the Anthropocene and Local
Realities***

Seminar Venue: ICSSR Complex (9:30 A.M. Onwards)

Panjab University, Chandigarh

**Prof. Renu Vig
Chief Patron
Vice Chancellor
P.U. Chandigarh**

**Dr. Vinod Kumar
Chairperson
Department of Sociology
P.U. Chandigarh**

About the Seminar

Sociology of Environment and Contemporary Crisis in India: Navigating the Anthropocene and Local Realities seeks to critically examine the complex relationship between society and environment in an era increasingly described as the Anthropocene, where human activity has become a dominant force shaping ecological systems. In the Indian context, environmental crises such as climate change, air and water pollution, biodiversity loss, agrarian distress, displacement due to mining and infrastructure projects, and rapid urbanization are not merely ecological issues but deeply social phenomena embedded in structures of inequality, caste, class, gender, and regional disparities. Cities continue to struggle with severe air pollution, while rural and tribal communities face displacement and livelihood insecurity due to developmental interventions. Institutions such as the National Green Tribunal highlight the evolving framework of environmental governance, yet significant challenges remain in ensuring justice and sustainability. This seminar aims to bring together scholars, researchers, students, activists, and policymakers to deliberate on the sociological dimensions of environmental crises, explore grassroots responses and indigenous knowledge systems, and reflect on pathways toward environmentally just and socially inclusive futures in India.

About the Pre-National Seminar Workshop

A Pre-National Seminar Workshop entitled “Urbanization, Planning & Ecological Challenges” will be organized on 9 March 2026 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The workshop will include an exploration of the spatial, architectural, and urban planning framework of the city of Chandigarh, whose conceptual design was laid out by Le Corbusier and his team.

During the session, delegates will be familiarised with key issues related to urbanization, planning, and ecological challenges. As part of the workshop, visits

will be arranged to the Le Corbusier Centre (Sector 19) and the Maison Jeanneret (Pierre Jeanneret Museum, Sector 5), both located in Chandigarh. Various urban experts will further discuss critical issues related to housing, slums, and urban poverty.

About Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology, located in Arts Block-IV on the Panjab University Campus was established in 1960. It has the distinction of being one of the leading centres of teaching and research in the northwest region. For its academic and research excellence, the University Grants Commission recognized it for Special Assistance Program (SAP) in 1977. The department also earned the honour of being the *'first' department from among the Social Science departments of Panjab University, Chandigarh* to be selected by the UGC under the Assistance for Strengthening the Infrastructure of the Humanities & Social Sciences (ASIHSS) programme for a period of three years w.e.f. April 2004. More recently, the Department after successfully completing four phases of 'Special Assistance Programme' in March 2006, has been the *"First" among the Sociology Departments of the country during the last three decades and the Social Science departments of Panjab University, Chandigarh to be upgraded as "Centre for Advanced Studies" (CAS)* by University Grants Commission, New Delhi. The department has earned this rare distinction in recognition of its concerted efforts in areas such as intellectual environment encompassing both teachers & students, reminiscent interaction between faculty & students, collaboration with other teaching departments, government and non-government organizations apart from research institutes, infrastructural development and futuristic vision.

About Panjab University, Chandigarh

One of the oldest Universities in India, the Panjab University (PU) initiated at Lahore in 1882, has a long tradition of pursuing excellence in teaching and research in science and technology, humanities, social sciences, performing arts

and sports. The University supports excellence and innovation in academic programmes, promotes excellence in research, scholarship and teaching. The University is committed to attract and support the best students and faculty, who excel at teaching and research. In independent India, Panjab University with its Campus at Chandigarh and nearly 202 affiliated colleges in Punjab state and Chandigarh U.T., has served various societal needs with distinction. The glorious traditions of the University established during the period of more than 140 years of its long service to the nation since its inception are a source of inspiration for the present generation of faculty members and students. By virtue of its history, experience, achievements and philosophy, the Panjab University has a national character and it enjoys an international stature drawing both faculty and students from all over the country and different parts of the globe. Its faculty includes some of the most distinguished scientists and academicians. It continues to attract celebrated scholars at the campus. Over the years, the reputation of the Panjab University has grown to emerge as an institution at the pinnacle in innovative teaching, research and community outreach.

Sub-themes of the Seminar

- Climate Change and Social Inequality in India
- The Anthropocene and Environmental Justice
- Water Crisis, River Politics and Community Rights
- Agrarian Distress, Farmers' Movements and Ecological Change
- Urbanization, Pollution and Sustainable Cities
- Tribal Communities, Forest Rights and Displacement
- Industrialization and Environmental Conflicts
- Gender, Ecology and Ecofeminism
- Environmental Movements in India

- Waste Management and Circular Economy
- Public Health, Environment and Pandemic Lessons
- Policy, Governance and Environmental Law in India
- Globalization, Development and Ecological Crisis
- Energy Transition, Renewable Energy and Social Impacts
- Food Security, Water Security and Environmental Sustainability
- Media, Environment and Public Discourse

Research Papers Presentation

Research papers are invited from experts, academicians, environmental practitioners, interdisciplinary scholars, researchers, research scholars, and students from diverse fields. Contributions are welcome on theoretical, empirical, policy-oriented, and interdisciplinary perspectives related to environmental crisis, sustainability, climate change, ecological justice, development, governance, and human–nature relations in the Indian and global context.

Abstract Submission Guidelines:

- Last Date: 9th March 2026, before 5:00 P.M.
- Submission Mode: Send the abstract via email to seminarsociology2026@gmail.com
- Word Limit: Maximum 300 words
- Abstract must include:
 - Title of the Paper
 - Keywords (4-5)
 - Name(s) of the Author(s)
 - Institutional Affiliation
 - Contact Details

- Requirement: The abstract should clearly align with the themes of the seminar.

Note

- There is no registration fee for the seminar.
- No TA/DA will be provided to the participants.
- Certificates will be given to all participants.

Convener

Dr. Vinod Kumar
Chairperson
Department of Sociology
P.U. Chandigarh

Co-Conveners

Prof. Kulwinder Kaur (Dept. of Sociology, JMI, New Delhi)
Dr. Shamsheer Singh (Dept. of Sociology, P.U. Chandigarh)
Dr. Medhavi Gulati (Dept. of Sociology, P.U. Chandigarh)

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