



Thakur Ramsingh Itihas Sodh Sansthan

Organized by

**Indian Council of Historical Research
(ICHR), New Delhi**

Sponsored by

NATIONAL SEMINAR

Historical and Contemporary Perspectives of Environment in the Northwestern Himalayas

**Kali Samvat 5128, Vikram Samvat 2083,
Kartik Shukla Panchami–Shashthi
(14–15 November 2026)**

VENUE

**Thakur Ramsingh Itihas Sodh Sansthan
VPO Neri, Teh. & Distt Hamirpur (HP)– 177001
E-mail : seminarneri@gmail.com**

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GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

- The research paper must be entirely **original and unpublished** and must not have been presented or published in any other seminar, symposium, conference, or journal.
- Research papers will be accepted in **Hindi or English**.
- A **300–500 word abstract** and **5–7 keywords** must be submitted along with the research paper.
- The full research paper should be approximately **3,000–5,000 words**.
- Research papers should preferably be typed in **Unicode (Mangal/Aparajita) font**. For Hindi, **Kruti Dev 010, font size 14**, and for English, **Times New Roman, font size 12**, are recommended.
- Each research paper will undergo peer review/evaluation by experts.
- Selected research papers will be considered for publication in the seminar proceedings or an edited research volume.
- The decision of the organizers shall be **final and binding**.
- Research papers may be sent by email to:
seminarneri@gmail.com

FORMAT OF THE SEMINAR

Research Paper Presentations, Special Lectures, Panel
Discussions, Interactive/Dialogue Sessions

IMPORTANT DATES FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

Particulars	Date
Submission of Short Abstract	: 15 th Sep., 2026
Submission of Full Research Paper	: 30 th Sep., 2026

REGISTRATION FEE Category : Fee

Research Paper Presenting Scholar	: ₹ 700.00
Research Scholar	: ₹ 300.00

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account Name : Thakur Ramsingh Itihas Sodh Sansthan

Account Number : 11500110080245

Bank : UCO Bank, Hamirpur, (HP)

IFSC Code : UCBA0001150

UPI ID : thakuramsingh80245@ucobank

REGISTRATION LINK :

<https://forms.gle/AWwztrfn5tsVL8va9>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accommodation and meals for participating scholars and research scholars will be arranged by the Institute. Local transportation facilities will also be provided by the Research Institute, as required.



National Seminar

Historical and Contemporary Perspectives of Environment in the Northwestern Himalayas

Thakur Ramsingh Itihas Sodh Sansthan

The **Thakur Ramsingh Itihas Sodh Sansthan, Neri**, is situated in Neri village, approximately 10 km west of the district headquarters of Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, in the picturesque valley of the Shivalik hills, on the banks of the Kunah Khad (river). The Research Institute has been working on various dimensions of the **Indian Knowledge Tradition** as part of its ongoing research activities. At present, the Institute is undertaking a research project entitled “**A Comprehensive History of Himachal Pradesh**”, with the support of the **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi, Ministry of Education, Government of India**. This project is expected to become a milestone in the field of regional historiography. The founder of the Institute, **Thakur Ramsingh**, was a great thinker, scholar, and visionary of history. Owing to his tireless efforts and dedication, the Institute is gradually emerging as an important centre of research for scholars from India and abroad. The Research Institute provides researchers with facilities including a rich library, reading room, archives, guest house, internet connectivity, and other academic amenities.

INTRODUCTION

The **Northwestern Himalayas** constitute an invaluable heritage of India, not only geographically but also from historical, cultural, and ecological perspectives. Since ancient times, this region has been a remarkable example of the balanced coexistence of human beings and nature. The region has held special significance since antiquity owing to its distinctive geographical features, rich biodiversity, cultural traditions, and historical heritage. Its rivers, mountains, forests, lakes, glaciers, sacred groves (*Dev Van*), traditions associated with local deities, pilgrimage sites, agricultural systems, and folk practices reflect an environmental consciousness in which nature is regarded not merely as a resource but as the foundation of life, culture, and spirituality.

This environmental consciousness of Himalayan society has been preserved in inscriptions, copper-plate grants, archival records, religious texts, manuscripts, folk narratives, folk songs, architecture, sculpture, and oral traditions. These sources contain numerous indications of water conservation, forest management, biodiversity

protection, balanced utilization of natural resources, and environmental conservation. Such historical knowledge can serve as a source of inspiration for addressing contemporary challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, bio diversity loss, and environmental crisis.

At present, the Himalayas are facing unprecedented environmental challenges. With these objectives in mind, the **Thakur Ramsingh Itihas Sodh Sansthan, Neri**, in collaboration with the **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi**, is organizing this National Seminar. The seminar will provide a common academic platform for scholars, researchers, teachers, and students from across the country to engage in serious and meaningful deliberations on the environmental history, cultural heritage, and contemporary challenges of the Northwestern Himalayas.

CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

The Northwestern Himalayas are currently facing numerous complex environmental, social, and cultural challenges. Global climate change, rapid urbanization, unplanned development, glacier degradation, drying water sources, biodiversity loss, increasing tourism pressure, indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources, and the decline of traditional knowledge are raising serious questions about the future of the region. These factors are continuously affecting the ecological balance of this sensitive mountainous region. At the same time, traditional water-management systems, community-based forest conservation traditions, sacred groves (*Dev Van*), indigenous knowledge, and nature-based cultural values are gradually declining. Modern concepts of development have, in many places, pushed local ecological knowledge and sustainable lifestyles towards extinction. Consequently, along with environmental imbalance, the cultural heritage of the region is also being adversely affected. Under such circumstances, it is essential to revisit the historical environmental consciousness, cultural heritage, and traditional knowledge systems of the Northwestern Himalayas. For this purpose, scholars from diverse disciplines such as History, Archaeology, Environmental Studies, Geography, Sociology, Anthropology, Folklore, Cultural Studies, and Policy Studies should come together on a common platform for discussion and deliberation. Such interdisciplinary dialogue can help develop practical and long-term approaches for the conservation and sustainable development of the Northwestern Himalayas.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

- To study the historical dimensions of environmental consciousness in the Northwestern Himalayas.
- To analyze the interrelationship between cultural heritage and environmental conservation.
- To reassess traditional environmental knowledge and conservation systems in Himalayan society.
- To study climate change and environmental crisis from a historical perspective.
- To analyze environmental concepts reflected in inscriptions, archival records, manuscripts, folklore, and archaeological evidence.
- To establish dialogue among policymakers, researchers, and local communities.
- To develop suggestions for the sustainable and balanced development of the Himalayan region based on historical experiences.

SUB-THEMES

1. **Environmental History of the Northwestern Himalayas**
2. **Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas and Environmental Traditions**
3. **Environmental References in Inscriptions, Archival Records, and Manuscripts**
4. **Himalayan Rivers, Water Sources, and Traditional Water Management**
5. **Local Deity Traditions and Nature Conservation**
6. **Biodiversity, Forests and Ecological Balance**
7. **Climate Change and the Himalayas**
8. **Natural Disasters: History and Present**
9. **Himalayan Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainable Development**
10. **Role of the Traditional Indian Knowledge in Environmental Conservation**
11. **Himalayan Architecture and Ecological Adaptation**
12. **Environmental Policy and the Future of the Himalayas**

PARTICIPANTS

Teachers, researchers, experts, social workers, cultural activists, research scholars, and students from the fields of **History, Archaeology, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Environmental Studies, Geography, Folklore, Cultural Studies**, and other related disciplines are cordially invited to participate in this National Seminar.