



**Two-Day National Seminar
on
RURAL TOURISM IN INDIA: INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND
POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

January 20-21, 2026

CALL FOR PAPER AND INVITATION FOR PARTICIPATION



Jointly Organised by
Department of Rural Development Studies
Department of Folklore
Department of Geography
University of Kalyani
Kalyani-741235, Nadia, West Bengal, India

Convener
Professor (Dr.) Udaybhanu Bhattacharyya
Dean, Faculty of Arts & Commerce & Head, Department of Rural Development Studies

Coordinator
Professor (Dr.) Sujay Kumar Mandal
Professor, Department of Folklore & Joint Director, Centre for Culture Studies
University of Kalyani

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THE UNIVERSITY OF KALYANI: A PROFILE

The township of Kalyani, established in the early 1950s by Chief Minister Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy as a satellite town for the Calcutta Urban Agglomeration, prioritised education in its master plan. Consequently, the University of Kalyani was founded in November 1960 as a unitary university with faculties including Arts, Science, Education, and Agriculture.

Evolution and Expansion

A significant change occurred in 1975 when the Faculty of Agriculture was bifurcated to form the separate Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya. The University of Kalyani reorganised, expanding its 12 initial departments by the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s and 1990s, introducing subjects like History, Commerce, Environmental Science, and Computer Science.

In 1998, the University transitioned from a unitary institution to an affiliating university, discontinuing its undergraduate programs. It extended its jurisdiction to the districts of Nadia and Murshidabad, affiliating 37 colleges.

Modern Growth and Commitment

The University has since continued its robust expansion, establishing the Faculty of Engineering, Technology, and Management and adding six new departments in the early 2000s, including Microbiology and Rural Development & Management (renamed “Rural Development Studies” in 2016). Recent developments include a new Faculty of Music and Fine Arts, and the establishment of various research centers. With a new Faculty of Law in process, the University of Kalyani is committed to being a premier institution, dedicated to high-quality teaching, research, and extension activities to meet the educational and socio-economic aspirations of the region.

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Rural tourism holds immense promise as an engine for economic growth and cultural preservation in India's heartland. It offers an alternative to traditional livelihoods, helping to combat rural-to-urban migration by creating new opportunities for local communities.

This seminar brings together three key disciplines—Rural Studies, Folklore, and Geography—to promote and address an interdisciplinary dialogue on these critical aspects.

Rural Studies will provide insights into the socio-economic impacts and community-based development

models, examining how tourism can be integrated into the existing rural economy without disrupting traditional lifestyles. The discipline of Folklore will examine into the cultural implications, focusing on the preservation and presentation of local traditions, arts, and narratives, while also addressing concerns related to cultural authenticity and representation. Meanwhile, Geography will contribute by analysing the spatial patterns of rural tourism, assessing the role of natural and built environments, and exploring issues of landscape management, resource utilisation, and regional disparities.

Join us for a two-day national seminar exploring the multifaceted world of rural tourism in India. We'll inquire into its potential for sustainable development while addressing the complex challenges it presents. This seminar is a unique platform designed to provide a special opportunity for people from different academic fields to connect and collaborate with each other and develop a holistic understanding of how tourism impacts rural communities.

THEMATIC AREAS FOR DISCUSSION

We invite scholarly papers and presentations that address the following themes, categorised by the core organising disciplines:

From Rural Studies

- Community-based and pro-poor tourism models.
- The role of micro-enterprises and local entrepreneurship in rural tourism.
- Socio-economic impacts of tourism on rural livelihoods.
- Tourism's role in addressing rural unemployment and migration.
- Governance and institutional frameworks for rural tourism planning.
- Integrating tourism with rural agricultural and artisanal economies.

From Folklore

- Cultural commodification and the ethics of representing local traditions.
- Preservation and promotion of intangible cultural heritage through tourism.
- The role of folk art and craft, folklore performing art, music, dance, and storytelling in creating unique tourist experiences.
- Authenticity and the construction of identity in tourism narratives.
- Participatory research methodologies in documenting and showcasing folklore.

From Geography

- Spatial patterns and distribution of rural tourist destinations.
- Tourism infrastructure and connectivity in remote areas.
- Environmental impact assessment and carrying capacity studies.
- Geo-spatial analysis for identifying new rural tourism circuits.
- Landscape management, conservation, and its nexus with tourism.
- The role of natural and human resources in attracting tourists.

Additionally, any other related topics that fall under the purview of the main subject may be considered.

TARGET GROUPS

Researchers, professionals, and experts from around the nation working on issues related theme and sub-themes are invited to contribute papers for the upcoming seminar. While selected scholars and experts will be invited as resource persons, a broader group of researchers, academics, and stakeholders are encouraged to contribute and participate.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS GUIDELINES

Extended Abstract Guidelines

- **Length:** Maximum 500 words.
- **Language:** English
- **Content Must Include:** Research objectives, methodology, key findings, and policy recommendations.
- **Plagiarism:** Authors must ensure all submissions are original and strictly plagiarism-free.

E-mail ID for Submission of Abstract: seminartourismku@gmail.com

REGISTRATION FEES (Last Date of Registration: 10 January 2026)

Participant Category	Fee (INR)	Fee with Accommodation (INR)
Research Scholars	1500/-	2500/-
Faculty (College/University)	2000/-	3500/-
Other Participants (NGO/GO/Individual)	3000/-	4500/-
PG Students	500/-	N/A

This covers the tangible items and hospitality provided in exchange for the registration fee.

Seminar Kit/Materials: A folder or bag containing:

- ✓ **Program/Schedule Book:** A hard or soft copy of the detailed event agenda.
- ✓ **Abstract/Proceedings Book:** A soft or hard copy containing abstracts of all accepted papers.
- ✓ **Writing Materials:** A notebook and pen.
- ✓ **Identification:** A registration badge/ID card.

Refreshments and Meals: Catering for the duration of the 2 days, which typically includes:

- ✓ **Two Lunches** (one for each day).
- ✓ **Four Refreshment Breaks** (Morning and Afternoon Tea/Snacks on both days).

Accommodation (If applicable): For outstation participants who pay a higher fee that *includes* lodging, a clean

and safe accommodation arrangement will be provided for the night between the two seminar days.

IMPORTANT DATES & VENUE

- **Abstract Submission Deadline: December 28, 2025**
- **Abstract Acceptance Notification: January 02, 2026**
- **Participant Registration Deadline: January 12, 2026**
- **Full Paper Submission Deadline: January 20, 2026**

Venue: The main event will take place in the **Vidyasagar Sabhagriha and APC Hall** of the Administrative Building, University of Kalyani, Kalyani-741235, Nadia, West Bengal. Session-wise paper presentations will be simultaneously held in the respective academic departments.

31 **Dates: 20th –21st January 2026** 📍 **Venue: University of Kalyani**

MODE OF SEMINAR: Blended (Physical and Online/Virtual Attendance)

SUBMISSIONS GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPANTS

The filled registration form and payment receipt must be sent to the Coordinator via the online submission link provided on the university website. Applications that are incomplete are subject to rejection.

LINK FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScyoL-
So2wyDBWALL5DW9k95wnG9HRBiXb_ZUa5aVgak05C5A/viewform?usp=publish-editor](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScyoL-So2wyDBWALL5DW9k95wnG9HRBiXb_ZUa5aVgak05C5A/viewform?usp=publish-editor)

For more information, please contact:

Professor (Dr.) Sujay Kumar Mandal, Coordinator (Mob: +91 7003654837)

E-mail: seminartourismku@gmail.com

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REGISTRATION & PAYMENT PROCESS

1. **Payment First:** Registration fees must be deposited through the online "**SBI Collect**" system.
2. **Access Form:** Using your Google email ID, access and complete the online registration form (Google Form).
3. **Submission:** Before final submission, you are required to upload the deposit receipt (soft copy in PDF or JPEG format) to the Google Form.
4. **Verification:** Ensure the transaction ID or reference number is correctly mentioned in the designated field on the form.

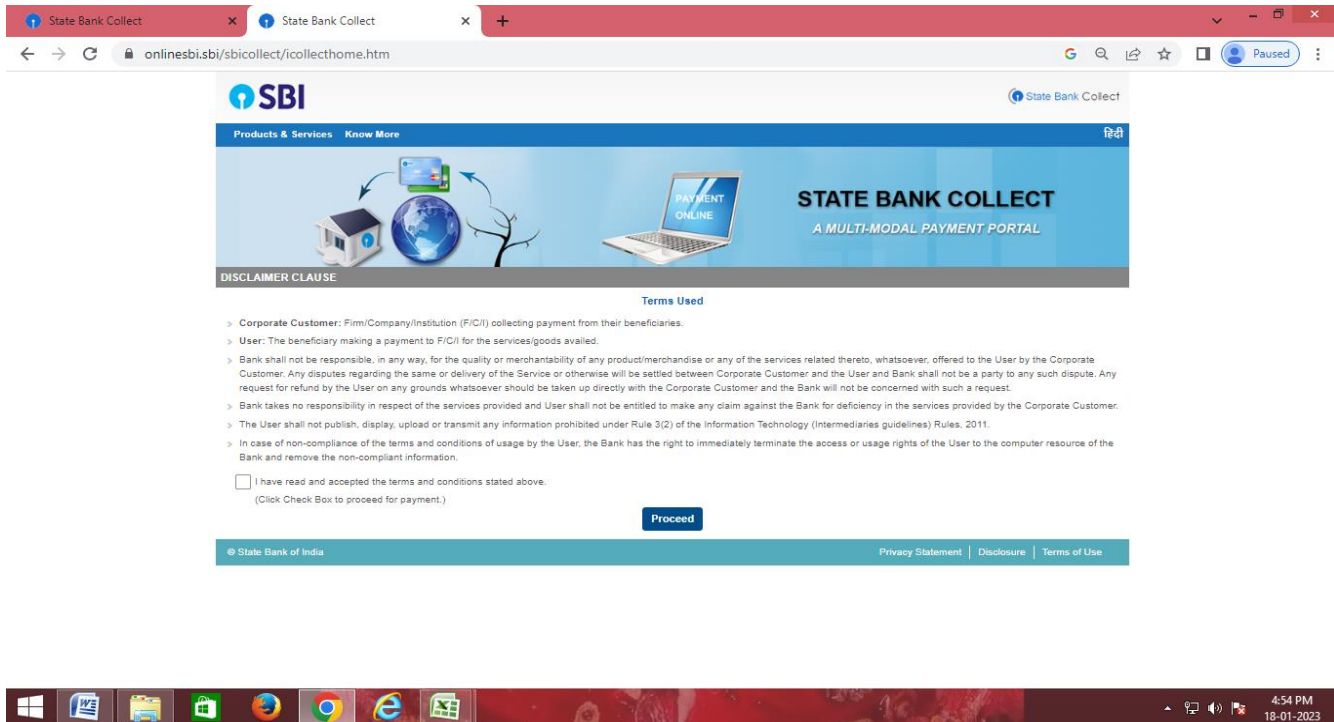
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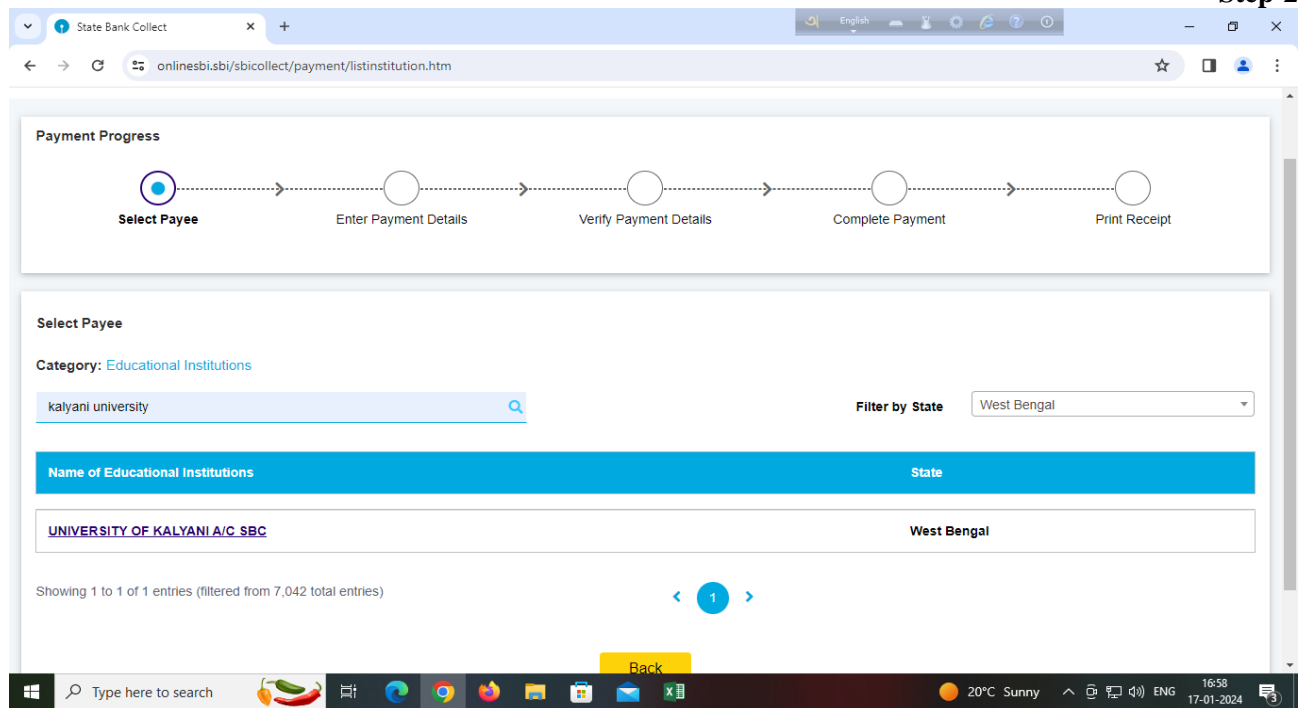
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Step-2



Step-3

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