

International Speakers



Prof. Ramesh “Zimbo” Boonratana

Conservation Biologist & Primate Conservation Specialist, Thailand

Prof. Ramesh ‘Zimbo’ Boonratana is an internationally acclaimed conservation biologist, primatologist and anthropologist. He is a Retired Professor of Conservation Biology at Mahidol University, Thailand, and has extensive experience in biodiversity conservation, wildlife research, protected-area management, and capacity development. He holds a Master’s degree in Anthropology from Punjab University, India, where he studied the social behavior of *Rhesus macaques*, and a PhD in Biology from Mahidol University, Thailand, focusing on the ecology and behavior of proboscis monkeys in North Borneo. Prof. Boonratana has worked with the Wildlife Conservation Society and as an international conservation consultant across South, Southeast and East Asia. Following a distinguished academic tenure at Mahidol University International College, he transitioned to full-time global philanthropy and high-level conservation consulting. His research and professional interests include primate conservation, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem protection, ecological justice, protected-area management, and sustainable tourism. He has also served as Regional Vice-Chair of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group and Editor-in-Chief of the Asian Primates Journal.



Inov Sectionov

Program Director, International Rhino Foundation (IRF), Indonesia

Inov Sectionov is a distinguished conservation scientist and the Indonesia Program Director for the International Rhino Foundation (IRF). With over two decades of dedicated field experience, he oversees critical on-the-ground operations, anti-poaching initiatives, and habitat restoration programs aimed at saving Indonesia's critically endangered Javan and Sumatran rhinoceros populations. His leadership bridges the gap between field-level biological research and global conservation strategies, making him a pivotal figure in Southeast Asian wildlife preservation. An academic expert in tropical ecology, Mr. Sectionov holds a Bachelor of Forestry from Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) in Indonesia and a Master's degree in Conservation Biology from the University of Queensland, Australia. His extensive research includes studying dietary competition between Javan rhinos and wild cattle, as well as managing invasive plant species to restore natural habitats.



Dr. Ganesh Pant

Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment, Kathmandu, Nepal

Dr. Ganesh Pant is a wildlife conservation scientist associated with Nepal's conservation sector and with academic work involving Tribhuvan University. He has a PhD and has worked with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Nepal. His research profile describes him as an ecologist specializing in protected-area management, biodiversity conservation, human dimensions of conservation, and climate-change impacts on wildlife. He has published research on human–elephant conflict in Nepal, with an affiliation to Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. He has also contributed to research on buffer-zone programs and conservation benefits for communities around Nepal's protected areas. As of May 2026, he was identified as Chief Warden of Chitwan National Park and participated in a national workshop on Nepal's Bird Red List.

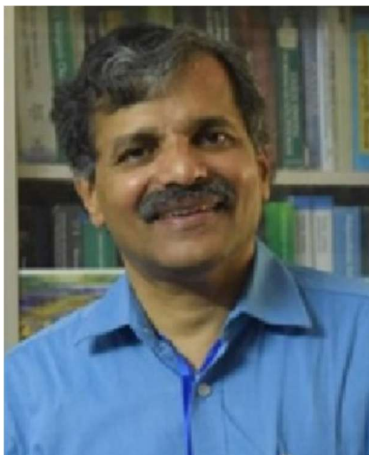


Dr. Nimisha Thakur

Lecturer in Anthropology, Princeton University, USA

Nimisha Thakur is a cultural anthropologist whose research focuses on climate change, state-making and environmental ethics in South Asia. Her dissertation examines how agrarian communities living along the River Brahmaputra in the Eastern Himalayan region of Northeast India, articulate ecological ethics in their negotiations for equitable environmental governance in an era of climate change. Integrating approaches in political and environmental anthropology, she focuses on conceptions of environmental justice that develop alongside historical struggles for land rights and sovereignty. Her research has been supported by the American Institute of Indian Studies, the Charlotte Newcombe Foundation and the National Science Foundation. She is committed to humanistic and public-facing scholarship. Her work has appeared in the journal *Anthropology and Humanism*, SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine and a Springer book volume. She envisions the classroom as a space for collaborative knowledge formation. She recently completed her PhD in Anthropology at Syracuse University. She is beginning to work on her first book project “Fluid Lives: Property, Precarity, and Ethics in the Eastern Himalayas”, which focuses on how local knowledge and ecological ethics shape claims for both equitable land rights and environmental governance in the north-eastern region of India.

National Speakers



Prof. Sabu Thomas

FRSC, FEurASc, DSc(UL, France), DSc(UBS, France)

Prof Dr Sabu Thomas is an eminent academician, researcher and internationally recognized expert in the field of materials science and nanotechnology. He has been serving as a Full Professor since 25 March 1998 and has also held the position of Professor at the University of Lorraine, Nancy, France as well as the former Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, London, a Fulbright Fellow, USA, and a Foreign Fellow of the European Academy of Sciences (EurASc). He has an impressive research record of around 1,000 publications, over 50,000 citations on Google Scholar, and an h-index of 103 on Google Scholar and 89 on Scopus, his contributions having made a significant impact internationally. He holds 15 patents, including 3 granted patents and 12 filed patents, and has edited over 138 books. His research excellence is further reflected in his involvement in numerous research projects and his receipt of several prestigious recognitions, including the Best Faculty Research Award in 2018 and the TRILA Academician of the Year Award in 2018. He has been recognized among the Most Productive Researchers in India, ranked fifth in 2008, and was listed among the Most Cited Researchers in Materials Science and Engineering based on Elsevier Scopus data in 2016. In addition to his research accomplishments, he has served as Chief Editor of *Nanostructures and Nano-Objects* published by Elsevier and as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of ACS Macromolecules. His outstanding academic career, extensive research contributions, and international recognition make him a highly distinguished figure in the scientific community.



Prof. Sasanka Deka

Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi.

Professor Sasanka Deka is a Professor of Chemistry, Nanochemistry and Advanced Materials for Energy Conversion and Storage (ECS) in the Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi. He did his Doctorate degree from National Chemical Laboratory (NCL-Pune) and postdoctoral research from National Nanotechnology Laboratory, CNR-INFM, Lecce, Italy and Italian Institute of Technology (IIT), Genova, Italy. He has been awarded the TMS Foundation 2008 SHRI RAM ARORA AWARD, by the Minerals, Metals & Materials Society (TMS), Warrendale, USA; DAE-BRNS Young scientist research award 2011, RSC best talk-2015, Institute of Physics (IOP), UK best cited paper-India 2019, RSC best cited paper in 2020, International Innovation & Research Excellence Award 2021, DU-IoE research publication award. Dr. Deka has published more than 80 highly cited research papers in different international high impact journals, 3 patents, and also wrote 2 books and 3 book chapters published by international publisher. He has successfully handled several extramural research projects from DST, CSIR, SERB, DBT, DAE, DAAD, IoE-DU. His current research interest deals with synthetic nanochemistry, Manipulation at the Interface and crystal facets, Advanced nanomaterials for energy conversion and storage (sustainable development); Green hydrogen, Nanomaterials for catalysis.



Prof Anghsuman Nag,
Professor of Chemistry, IISER, Pune

Professor Anghsuman Nag is an associate professor of ISSER, Pune in the department of Chemistry. He completed his Master of Science in Chemistry from IIT Guwahati in 2003 and went on to obtain his Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, in 2009. Following his doctoral studies, he pursued two postdoctoral research positions, first at IISc Bangalore and subsequently at the University of Chicago. In 2012, he established his independent research group at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune as a Ramanujan Fellow. He has also been awarded with National Prize for Research in Chemical Physics from C.N.R Rao Education foundation for the year 2024 and Distinguished Lecturship Award at the Chemical Society of Japan Asian International Symposium.



Prof. Komol Singha

Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

Dr. Komol Singha is a Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, specializing in Development Economics. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics and his research focuses on Northeast India's economic development, urbanization, and ethnic politics. He has authored numerous books and published widely in top-tier academic journals. With previous tenures at Sikkim University and ISEC Bengaluru, Dr. Singha has directed major ICSSR-funded projects and currently serves as Executive Editor for the journal *Asian Ethnicity*



Dr. Phanindra Goyari

*Professor of Economics (teaching and research), School of Economics,
University of Hyderabad*

Prof. Phanindra Goyari is a Professor of Economics at the University of Hyderabad with over 25 years of teaching experience. Holding an MA from Gauhati University, an MPhil from IGIDR Mumbai, and a PhD from the University of Hyderabad, he specializes in econometrics, agricultural, energy, and development economics. He completed his postdoctoral research as a UGC Raman Fellow at Texas Christian University, USA. A prolific researcher, Dr. Goyari has authored four books and published over 56 research papers in refereed journals. He has successfully mentored numerous PhD and MPhil scholars who now serve at premier Indian academic institutions.



Dr. Tushar Kanti Dutta
*Senior Scientist, Division of Nematology,
ICAR- Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi*

Dr. Tushar Kanti Dutta is a distinguished agricultural scientist and faculty member in the Division of Nematology at the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. He completed his M.Sc. in 2007 and earned his Ph.D. in 2010 through a collaborative program between IARI and Rothamsted Research, UK, where he received the IARI Merit Medal for best doctoral thesis as well as a UKIERI fellowship. Dr. Dutta's pioneering research focuses on plant-nematode interactions, nematode physiology, and molecular diagnostics. His key methodological contributions include designing a modified Y-tube olfactometer for root chemotaxis bioassays, establishing soil-less pluronic gel systems for nematode culture and infection screening, tracking exogenous biomolecules, and analyzing nematode neuromuscular pathways via gene knock-down and in situ hybridization. A recognized leader in plant protection, he is a Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellow (UC Davis), an Associate Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), and an ICAR Jawaharlal Nehru Award recipient. Dr. Dutta actively contributes to the global scientific community, serving on the editorial boards of prominent journals such as *Scientific Reports*, *BMC Genomics*, *BMC Plant Biology*, and *PLOS ONE*.



Prof. Xavier P. Mao
Department of Philosophy, NEHU, Meghalaya

Prof. Xavier P. Mao is a Professor in the Department of Philosophy at North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong. He holds a PhD and has 31 years of academic experience. His areas of specialization include Existentialism and Ethics. He has published 25 works and has supervised two PhD scholars. He is also a member of ICPR (Indian Council of Philosophical Research). In 2025 he was the keynote speaker at an International conference on the Indian Knowledge System for achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Bongaigaon, Assam.

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Prof. Pankaj Bharali

Department of Chemical Science, Tezpur University

Professor Pankaj Bharali is currently serving as a professor in the Department of Chemical Science of Tezpur University. He has made great contributions in field of Inorganic Nanomaterials, Electrocatalysis, Heterogeneous Catalysis. He has published in reputed journals like, ChemCatChem, Energy & Fuels, ACS Applied Nano Materials. He has been awarded with Rev Fr. L. Yeddanapalli Best Thesis Award of Catalysis Society of India, Dr. D.S. Kothari Postdoctoral Fellowship, UGC New Delhi and Postdoctoral Research Scientist position at AIST Kansai, Japan



Dr. Kusum Kumar Bania

Department of Chemical Science, Tezpur University

Professor Kusum Kumar Bania is serving as a Professor, in the Department of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University, Assam. He has made great contributions in the field of Inorganic Chemistry, Heterogeneous Catalysis, Electrocatalysis. He has published in reputed journals like ACS Applied Nano Materials, Energy & Fuels, Green Chemistry, ACS Applied Energy Materials. He has been awarded with J.N. Baruah Memorial Award (CSIR- NEIST), Indo-Australia Early Mid-Career Research Fellowship by INSA, Govt. of India ACS-Membership Award by American Chemical Society, Outstanding Reviewer Certificate by Journal of Colloid and Interface Science, Applied Organo Metallic Chemistry, Elsevier, Reviewer Certificate by Royal Society of Chemistry, Reviewer Certificate by American Chemical Society.



Dr. Swapnali Hazarika

Scientist G at CSIR-NEIST

Dr. Swapnali Hazarika is a Scientist G at CSIR-NEIST holding a Ph.D. in Chemistry. Her core academic expertise lies in membrane science, polymer nanocomposites, and sustainable separation technologies for water treatment and the petroleum industry. She is a prolific researcher leading multiple high-profile institutional projects, backed by several patents and high-impact publications. Recognized globally, her prestigious accolades include the NESA Fellowship (2025), Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC, 2023), and the CRSI Bronze Medal.



Prof. Kalyan Raidongia
*Department of Chemistry,
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati.*

Dr. Kalyan Raidongia is a professor in the department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati. His research primarily focuses on materials science, nanofluidic, and nanomaterials. He earned his Ph.D. from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in Bangalore. Following his doctoral studies, he expanded his expertise through post-doctoral research in the Materials Science and Engineering Department at Northwestern University in the United States. Throughout his academic career, Professor Raidongia has made notable contributions to the field of nanotechnology, authoring numerous research articles that advance the understanding and application of nanoscale materials.



Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar

Founding member and Secretary General & CEO of Aaranyak

Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar is an eminent Indian conservation biologist and environmental leader, and a founding member and Secretary General & CEO of Aaranyak. Since 1989, he has dedicated his career to wildlife conservation, particularly the one-horned rhinoceros. His innovative work in rhino monitoring, anti-poaching, K9 sniffer-dog units, habitat restoration, and community conservation has strengthened wildlife protection. He chairs the IUCN/SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group and has authored 50+ research publications. Dr. Talukdar was named an Ashoka Fellow in 2007, received the IUCN SSC Chair's Citation in 2008, and was honoured with the prestigious Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership in 2024.



Dr. Manas Das
Department of Zoology, Gauhati University

Dr. Manas Das is an Associate Professor in the Department of Zoology at Gauhati University, specializing in Animal Physiology, Biochemistry, and translational biomedical research. His work integrates computational biology and experimental pharmacology to discover and validate therapeutic compounds from Northeast India's medicinal plants for chronic metabolic, renal, and cardiovascular disorders. Dr. Das has authored nearly sixty peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and academic textbooks across molecular pharmacology, toxicology, and aquaporin physiology. Notably, he holds an Indian patent for a novel polyherbal anti-obesity formulation, translating regional biodiversity into scientifically validated phototherapeutics.



Dr. Mrinal Kanti Dutta

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati

Dr. Mrinal Kanti Dutta is a Professor of Economics in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati. His research focuses on the intersections of agricultural economics, environmental policy, and regional economic development, with a particular emphasis on Assam and North-East India. A dedicated scholar, Professor Dutta has made significant academic contributions to his field, authoring numerous peer-reviewed publications, several book chapters, and books that provide valuable insights into rural-urban linkages, farm household dynamics, and structural changes within the Indian economy.



Dr. Arupjyoti Saikia

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.

Arupjyoti Saikia is a Professor of History in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. He holds a PhD from the University of Delhi and completed postdoctoral research at Yale University. His research focuses on the economic, environmental and political history of modern Assam. His major works include *Forests and Ecological History of Assam*, *A Century of Protests: Peasant Politics in Assam Since 1900*, *The Unquiet River: A Biography of the Brahmaputra*, and *The Quest for Modern Assam: A History, 1942–2000*.



Dr. Priyankoo Sarmah

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Centre for Linguistic Science and Technology , Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.

Priyankoo Sarmah is a Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Centre for Linguistic Science and Technology at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. He received his PhD in Linguistics from the University of Florida. His research focuses on phonetics and phonology, particularly vowels and tones, Tibeto-Burman languages, speech perception, speech recognition, and language technology. His work covers languages including Assamese, Bodo, Dimasa, Mizo, Rabha, Tiwa and Angami. He has also led research projects on speech technology and low-resource languages.



Prof. Pradip Phukan

Department of Chemistry, Gauhati University

Dr. Pradip Phukan is a distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Gauhati University, specializing in organic synthesis, catalysis, and computational chemistry. Consistently recognized among the world's top two percent of scientists by Stanford University, his illustrious career is marked by prestigious accolades, including the Alexander von Humboldt and Ramanna Fellowships, and his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. A prominent leader in the Indian scientific community, he serves as Vice President of the Chemical Research Society of India. Furthermore, Dr. Phukan has mentored Indian delegations at the International Chemistry Olympiad and holds numerous top cited publication awards.