

**Summer Field School [Online] on  
MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
19-28 September, 2021**

*Lecture Outline (Deadline for Submission: 10 August 2021)*

Name of Faculty Member (Facilitator)	Saibal Sengupta
Technical Session Group No.	7.3
Technical Session Group Name	Mountain-Based Conventions; SDGs & Mountains; Mountain Sustainability
Topic	Impact of Urbanization in mountains an Indian Scenario
Sub-Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban definition varies from countries to countries</li> <li>• urbanization refers to the population shift from rural to urban areas</li> <li>• It is the process through which cities grow</li> <li>• Urbanization is closely linked to modernization industrialization, and the sociological process of rationalization.</li> <li>• Living in a city can be beneficial since it can provide greater opportunities</li> <li>• There are also harmful social &amp; environmental phenomena</li> <li>• Mountains are endowed with rich biodiversity</li> <li>• Urbanization and population pressure in mountains are two of the most important threats to biodiversity</li> <li>• Urbanization in IHR (Indian Himalayan Region) is rapidly occurring</li> <li>• Decadal growth rate in IHR is higher than national average</li> <li>• Significant deforestation has been experienced in IHR which impacted climate and productivity adversely</li> <li>• Wetlands and lakes decreased substantially</li> <li>• Relationship of population and environment is influenced by several factors</li> <li>• alteration in breeding time and extinction of species.</li> </ul>
Synopsis (if any) (max. 100 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is currently no universal definition of what 'urban' means. The countries adopt very different definitions of urbanization. Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural to urban areas. It is predominantly the process by which towns and cities are formed and become larger as more people begin living and working. Urbanization is closely linked to modernization industrialization, and the sociological process of rationalization and creates enormous social, economic and environmental changes. Till 18<sup>th</sup> century, the ratio of rural to urban population remained at a fixed equilibrium. This relationship was finally broken and an unprecedented growth in urban population took place over the course of the 19th century, both through continued</li> </ul>

	<p>migration from the countryside and due to the tremendous expansion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cities offer a larger variety of services, including specialist services not found in rural areas. These services require workers, resulting in more numerous and varied job opportunities. Elderly people may be forced to move to cities where there are doctors and hospitals that can cater to their health needs. Varied and high-quality educational opportunities are another factor in urban migration, as well as the opportunity to join, develop, and seek out social communities. However, there are also harmful environmental and social phenomena which include population decline in rugged mountains, alienation, stress, increased cost of living, and mass marginalization that are connected to an urban way of living</li><li>• Mountains are endowed with rich biodiversity both in terms of flora and fauna. With the increasing of population and urbanization of many of the rural centre there is pressure exerted on these natural resources for the livelihood as there is hardly any alternative available.</li><li>• Urbanization in IHR (Indian Himalayan Region) is rapidly occurring. Unplanned and haphazard growth in all capital Himalayan cities, leading towards urban densification as well as dispersion in the periphery causing development of suburban areas</li><li>• Decadal growth rate of IHR is higher as compared to the national average. Population density of IHR as a whole is less 181 /km<sup>2</sup> (2011) but it showed a phenomenal increase</li><li>• High population density and growth have frequently been associated with forest loss and species extinction. The removal of forest had adverse effect on land cover and is responsible for big land cover conversion in the landscape. There is already a vast degradation of soil, water, air biodiversity and even light/temperature. Due to urbanization and population pressure the traditional shifting cultivation (jhum), which is still the only livelihood of many areas of the Eastern Himalaya have been converted into permanent cash crop areas. Due to the introduction of economically sound plantation crops native diversity of the forest area is in the verge of extinction and there is increase in Human Animal conflicts. Many large HAWs (High altitude Water Areas) and their surroundings have emerged as centre of attraction for unregulated tourism activities thereby leading to environmental issues. Unplanned urbanization is causing significant changes in land use and land cover and reducing the recharge areas of springs the Indian Himalayan region</li><li>• Changes in habitat quality associated with urbanization cause a</li></ul>
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	<p>reduction in the size of habitat patches supporting indigenous fauna, the invasion and planting of alien flora, the increasing isolation of these remnant patches from other similarly “green” areas, an increase in the level of air pollutants due to road traffic and industry, and an increase in physical disturbance in and around the habitat fragments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban habitats generate break in the ecological continuum of many living organism</li> </ul>
<p>List of Learning Material (Files to be availed to us before 31 August 2021)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PPT/Presentation</li> <li>▪ Published/Unpublished Article 1</li> <li>▪ Published/Unpublished Article 2</li> <li>▪ Bibliography (further reading)</li> <li>▪ List of weblinks (further reading)</li> </ul>