Brief Report of the 46th INCA International Congress

On
Smart Cartography for a Sustainable Common Future
Organised by
Department of Geography, Gauhati University
19-21 Nov, 2026

The 46th Annual Congress of the Indian National Cartographic Association (INCA), along with an International Seminar, organised by the Department of Geography, Gauhati University concluded successfully on Friday after three days of academic deliberations, research presentations and cultural activities. Held from November 19 to 21 in academic collaboration with the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau, the event was centred on the theme "Smart Cartography for a Sustainable Common Future" and brought together eminent geographers, cartographers, researchers, academicians and students from India and abroad.

The inaugural session was held on November 19 at the Birinchi Kumar Barua Auditorium of Gauhati University. Professor (Dr.) Pinakeswar Mahanta, Director of the National Institute of Technology, Meghalaya, attended as the Chief Guest and delivered the inaugural address. Professor (Dr.) Nani Gopal Mahanta, Vice-Chancellor of Gauhati University; Shri Shailesh Kumar Sinha, Surveyor General of India; Professor Dr. Hermann Kreutzmann of Freie Universität Berlin, Germany; Rear Admiral Piyush Pawse, Chief Hydrographer of India; and Professor Dr. Pua Bar (Kutiel) of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel attended as Guests of Honour. In their addresses, they highlighted various dimensions of cartography and its significance in promoting sustainable development.

Professor (Dr.) Prasanta Bhattacharyya, Head of the Department of Geography, Gauhati University and Chairman of the Organising Committee delivered the welcome address. Professor (Dr.) Bimal Kumar Kar, President of INCA and senior Professor of the Department of Geography, Gauhati University outlined the activities of the Association and the objectives of the congress.

The inaugural ceremony also witnessed the release of the Souvenir, Abstract Volume, Indian Cartographer, the Journal of INCA. Rear Admiral Piyush Pawse, Chief Hydrographer of India were felicitated being nominated as INCA Fellow for 2026. The prizes for the National Map Quiz 2026 were also distributed.

The academic programme on the first day featured the Todarmal Memorial Lecture and the Prof. S.P. Chatterjee Memorial Lecture. Shri Shailesh Kumar Sinha, Surveyor General of India delivered the Todarmal Memorial Lecture on "From Land Measurement to Effective Land Administration." Professor Dr. Abani Kumar Bhagabati, retired Professor and former Head of the Department of Geography, Gauhati University delivered the Prof. S.P. Chatterjee Memorial Lecture on "From Meghalaya to the Himalayas: Geography of the Land of Seven Sisters." A special popular lecture programme was also organised for school students.

A major highlight of the congress was the presentation of 187 research papers across 25 technical sessions. The programme also featured poster presentations, scientific exhibitions and industrial exhibitions. The papers addressed a broad spectrum of contemporary issues, including smart cartography, geospatial technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing, disaster management, floods and riverbank erosion, urban planning, environmental management, agriculture and sustainable development.

The first Plenary Lecture Session, held on November 20, featured distinguished experts from Israel, Germany, Romania and India. The presentations covered important areas such as geoinformatics, Himalayan cartography, mapping of urban heritage and the application of geospatial intelligence in the age of Artificial Intelligence. A panel discussion on “Role of Geo-spatial Technologies on Spatial Mapping for Resource and Environment Management” was also organised on the same day.

The first day's programme concluded with a colourful cultural evening at the Birinchi Kumar Barua Auditorium. Students of Gauhati University presented a vibrant cultural programme showcasing the rich cultural heritage and diversity of Assam's various ethnic communities.

The second Plenary Lecture Session, held on November 21 featured eminent academicians from India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Their deliberations focused on cartography, spatial justice, disaster risk reduction and coastal environment mapping. The day's programme also included technical sessions, industrial presentations and the Annual General Meeting of INCA.

The valedictory session was held on the afternoon of November 21 in the presence of academicians and researchers from India and abroad, several of whom appreciated the Organising Committee for successfully hosting the international academic event. The valedictory session was presided by Prof. Bimal Kumar Kar, President, INCA. Dr. Dhanjit Deka compered the session, while Professor Dhrubajyoti Sahariah of the Department of Geography, Gauhati University, presented a brief overview of the research papers presented during the technical sessions. On the occasion, 25 researchers were awarded Best Research Paper honours in recognition of their contributions.

At the formal concluding ceremony, Organising Secretary Dr. Dhanjit Deka delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all those who contributed to the successful organisation of the three-day event. Special thanks have been given to North Eastern Council (NEC), Survey of India, ANRF, DST, Govt. of India, CSIR, ISRO, NRSC, NESAC, ESRI, Indian Oil, NRL, and PFEPL for their financial support. A visit to Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary was also arranged for the delegates and participants as part of the congress programme.

The three-day congress provided a significant international academic platform for exchanging ideas and sharing recent advances in cartography and geospatial sciences. It also opened up new avenues for research in modern cartography, geospatial technologies and environmental conservation, particularly through the application of Artificial Intelligence. The deliberations underscored the growing importance of these emerging technologies in sustainable development, resource management and environmental protection, while fostering greater international academic cooperation.

Glimpses of 46 INCA International Congress








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46th INCA INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
(INDIAN NATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION)
ON SMART CARTOGRAPHY FOR ASUSTAINABLE COMMON FUTURE
November 19-21, 2026
PLENARY LECTURE SERIES
Organised by Department of Geography, Gauhati University
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November 19-21, 2026

Inaugural Programme

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Todarmal Memorial Lecture

Speaker: Sh. Shailesh Kumar Sinha,Surveyor General of India

Title of Lecture: From Land Measurement to Effective Land Administration

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