**Two days training programme on Snow Cover and Glaciers in X1V IGU- India Conference on AGRICULTURE, FOOD, WATER, BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH IN CHANGING CLIMATE, BURDWAN, India 6th-8th March 2020.**

**Report by Dr Pankaj Kumar**

The IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity continues to participate and support IGU activities in India. Therefore, the XIV IGU Conference on Agriculture, Food, Water, Biodiversity, and Health in Changing Climate was organized by the Department of Geography, The University of Burdwan, West Bengal, India, during 6-8 March 2020.

IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity with the logistic support from the local organizer of the conference conducted a two-day snow cover and glacier related training for the early stage MPhil/Ph.D. and Master’s final semester students given its long term study field ‘ecosystem response to the global change’. The hand-on training with some individual case studies and examples allowed participants to learn the state of the art methods to understand high altitude snow cover dynamics, snow line change, glacier change, which lead to cascading impacts downstream, including flora, fauna, biophysical and socio-economic systems. Dr. Pankaj Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi and Dr. Suraj Mal, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College were the two instructors imparted training to the Participants in the overall guidance of IGU Secretary-General and Treasurer Professor R.B Singh as the mentor of the training program. The two-day snow cover and glacier training started at 9 am on 7th March 2020 with the inaugural lecture of Professor R.B Singh. Two days of training was divided into two segments, forenoon focusing primarily on the theoretical aspect while the afternoon scheduled for hands-on exercises. A total of 15 research scholars, as well as few faculty members, received training on snow and glaciers using QGIS, RStudio, and ArcGIS platform. The training program used open-source data to perform hands-on training. Participants demonstrated their keenness to explore and learn more on the snow and glacier. After successful completion of the two days training a certificate has been provided to each participant. Feedback received at the end of the training program depicted picture that it was highly successful.

