



# ***IASTA National Aerosol Conference 2024***

*December 17-20, 2024  
Doon University, Dehradun*



**Conference  
Proceedings of IASTA - 2024**

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## **PREFACE**

Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital and Doon University, Dehradun, is hosting the National Aerosol Conference 2024, from 17-20 December 2024, under the flagship of the Indian Aerosol Science and Technology Association (IASTA). IASTA-2024 focuses on broad topics covering aerosol/air pollution climate effects, indoor air quality and human health impact, cloud-aerosol interactions, aerosol/air quality modeling, nuclear and radioactive aerosols, aerosols for medical applications, bioaerosols, air quality control, clean energy, and sustainability development, aerosol instruments. The aim of IASTA-2024 is to provide an excellent platform for young researchers, technocrats, and policymakers to exchange their knowledge/ideas. IASTA-2024 will allow participants to interact, collaborate, and contribute toward the growth of aerosol science and technology. The conference will also provide an opportunity for the industries to showcase their technologies, different products, and innovations in the field of aerosol and air pollution. The scientific and technical program of the IASTA-2024 conference includes keynote addresses, Plenary Lectures, Invited Talks, contributed papers, and posters (108 platforms, 48 lightning, and 150 posters), along with a technical exhibition of different products and systems related to aerosol research and technology and allied areas. The conference also includes panel discussions on the topic “Air Quality in Uttarakhand” and popular lectures.

On behalf of the IASTA, the technical program committee thanks all the invited speakers, panelists, authors of the contributed papers, and sponsors who have supported in finalising the scientific and technical programmes. The committee thank all the persons involved in bringing out the proceedings, well in time for IASTA 2024. We take this opportunity to wish all the delegates interactive and fruitful discussions during the conference.

(Technical Programme Committee)  
IASTA 2024

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

S. NO.	TITLE	PAGE NO.
<b>KEYNOTE TALK</b>		
1	Aerosol Science and Technology: From A Brief History to Opportunities for The Future	15-16
<b>PLENARY TALKS</b>		
2	Health Impact of Fine Aerosols: A Multiparametric Approach	18-20
3	Aerosol Research in South Asia: Questions for The Next Decade	21
<b>INVITED TALKS</b>		
4	The Impact of Aerosol Particle-Borne Chemical Compounds and Their Internal/External Mixing State on Climate and Health and How to Measure These Parameters	23-24
5	Extreme Aerosol Phenomena in The Era of Climate Crisis: Dust Storms and Severe Wildfires	25
6	Modelling Air Pollution Exposure Using Geospatial Techniques and Its Applications in India	26-27
7	Bioaerosol Research Over India: Past, Present, And Missing Link	28
8	Nuclear Aerosol Studies for A Sustainable Energy Future	29
9	Attaining Closure Between Emissions and Sourceapportionment of Atmospheric Aerosol Pollutants for Effective Mitigation: Integrating Observations and Source- Receptor Modelling Approaches	30-31
10	Low-Cost Sensors, Satellite Imagery, And Deep Learning: The Future of Improving Environmental and Human Health	32
11	Aerosol-Cloud-Precipitation Interactions: A Major Uncertainty in The Climate System	33
<b>THEME 1: INDOOR AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH RISK IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>		
12	Is Indoor Air Pollution More Hazardous Than Outdoor Air Pollution? Health Risk Assessment and Infiltration of PM 2.5 Bound Metals	35-37
13	Mortality Risk Associated with Particulate Matter Over the Entire Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP)	38-40
14	Indoor Air - Bioaerosol Monitoring and Its Potential Risks in Air-Conditioned Gyms	41-43
15	Trace Elements in PM2.5 Over a Semi-Urban Region at IGP: Temporal Variations and Risk Assessment	44-46
16	Evaluating PM Distribution and Calibrating Low-Cost Sensors for Precision in Outdoor and Laboratory Settings	47-49
17	Health Risk Evaluation from Exposure to Ambient PM and Volatile Organic Compounds in Different Functional Areas of Lucknow City	50-52
18	Quantification of the Transport-Induced PM Emissions Over the Non-Attainment City: Contribution of Exhaust and Non-Exhaust Sources	53-54
19	Assessing Particulate Matter Concentration in Indoor Air: Intervention Study on Improved vs. Traditional Cookstoves	55-57
20	Investigating a Wide Range of Indoor Aerosols Concentration During Festive Seasons in Urban Households	58-60
21	Computational Fluid Dynamics-Based Assessment of Exhaust Fan Placement for Improved Indoor Air Quality	61-63
22	Establishing Infection Risk from Airborne Diseases in Classrooms Through Real-Time CO2 Monitoring	64-66
23	Assessing Indoor Air Quality in Polluted Urban Environments: A Case Study of Prayagraj	67-70
24	Enhancing the Accuracy of Low-Cost Sensors and Its Applications to Assess Indoor Air Quality Exposure	71-73
25	Invisible Threats: Assessing Indoor Air Quality Risks for Young Women in Polluted Urban Environments: A Case Study of Uttarakhand	74-75

<b>THEME 2: BIOAEROSOL AND THEIR IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH</b>		
26	Exposure & Health Risk of PM <sub>2.5</sub> at Toll Plazas in the Agra Region	77-78
27	Airborne Bacterial Communities Enriched with Pathogens Over New Delhi Exhibit Strong Dependency on Temperature and Pollutants in Winter	79-80
28	Long-Range Transported Desert Dust Perturbing Eastern Himalayan Atmospheric Bacterial Biodiversity	81-83
29	Long-Term Exposure to Ambient Fine Particulate Matter and Its Constituents on Depression and Anxiety in Indian Adults	84-86
30	Fungal Growth and Diversity on Fruits and Vegetables in Relation to Estimation of Passive Spore Release	87-89
31	Exploring the Bioaerosol Over a Lenti Ecosystem in an Urban Area in Eastern India	90-92
32	Photocatalytic Disinfection of Bioaerosols Using TiO <sub>2</sub> Based Nanoparticles	93-95
33	Evaluation of Bioaerosol Pollution in the Indo-Gangetic Plain: Impacts and Insights	96-97
34	Evaluating Deposition Efficiency in Respiratory Systems Using a Combined Loss Function and Optimization Method	98-100
35	Effects of Ambient Air Pollution on Learning Outcomes Among School Children in India	101-103
36	Air Quality and Associated Health Risk Assessment Over a Metropolitan City in Eastern Himalayan Foothill	104-109
37	Estimating Long and Short-Term Premature Mortality Attributable to Crop Residue Burning in Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi	110-111
38	Health Risk Assessment of Bioaerosols and Particulate Matter Isolated from Dumping Sites, Dehradun, India	112-113
39	Ambient Bioaerosol Concentrations and Health Risk Assessment on Char Dham Yatra Route in Gauchar, Uttarakhand, India: A Study from a Hilly Region	114-115
40	Microbial Concentration on the Natural Surface of Tulsi ( <i>Ocimum Sanctum</i> )	116-118
41	Evolution of Antibiotic Resistance in the Indoor Bioaerosols via Exposed Animal Diversity	119-120
42	Bioaerosols Over Waste Treatment Facility and Its Impact on Human Health: An Anthropogenic Source Emission	121-122
43	Wintertime Characteristics of Aerosols in Middle Indo-Gangetic Plain and Its Toxicity Assessment	123-124
<b>THEME 3: APPLICATION OF GEOSPATIAL TECHNIQUES IN AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE</b>		
44	Mapping Diwali's Environmental Impact: Air Quality Monitoring in Agra Using QGIS	126-127
45	Decadal Changes in Aerosol Pollution Over Different Parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain and Himalayas	128-130
46	Analyzing the Impact of Urbanisation on Vegetation and Air Quality Over a Semi-Arid Environment	131-132
47	Trends in Aerosol Optical Depth Over Uttarakhand During the Last Twenty Years	133-134
48	Recent Changes in Satellite-Derived PM <sub>2.5</sub> Over India	135-136
49	Assessing Uncertainties and Validating MERRA-2 Ozone Data Across India: Insights from 2004 to 2022	137-139
50	Spatial Heterogeneity in Aerosol Chemical Composition and Morphology Over Eastern Himalayan Region	140-142
51	Climatological Analysis of Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) in Bhavnagar District: Long-Term Trends and Impacts	143-145
52	Emissions of Carbon-Containing Trace Gases from Forest Fire Over South Asia	146-148
53	Exploring Urban-Rural Gradient in Aerosol Loading	149-151

## SPATIAL HETEROGENEITY IN AEROSOL CHEMICAL COMPOSITION AND MORPHOLOGY OVER EASTERN HIMALAYAN REGION

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**KEYWORDS:** TSP, SEM, EDX, Biogenic, Geogenic, Anthropogenic.

### INTRODUCTION

Northeast India (NEI) is influenced by natural aerosols, especially biological aerosols (Pathak et al., 2022), as well as is altered by remote aerosols from Indo Gangetic Plain (IGP) and West Asia. The complex topography makes the region vulnerable to resuspension of all kinds of aerosols, mainly in the post-harvesting period when crop residue burning, and favourable meteorological conditions lead to the increase in the concentration of anthropogenic fine-mode particles. In the aerosol type discrimination, most aerosols could not be identified and remained as mixed types, which were supplemented by the identified biological aerosols like culturable microbial populations, pollens, animal debris, and fungal spores in different seasons. However, a quantitative study on aerosols' chemical composition or morphological properties over the location has not been addressed so far and thus this study aims to explore the same.

### METHODS

The study was conducted over seven locations based on the nature of the site in the NEI over the North bank of Brahmaputra Valley comprising from the easternmost location (EL) (Sadiya) to the westernmost location (WL) (Dhubri). A high-volume sampler (STAPLEX, TSP-2) was used to sample TSP on glass filter paper (8×10 inch) at a 1 m<sup>3</sup>/min flow rate from Oct-Nov 2023 during fair weather conditions. 3 samples were collected from each location. Morphological and elemental analysis has been carried out using a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) (JEOL JSM 6390 LV), an Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectrometer (EDX), and an INCAx Sight microanalysis system (Oxford Instruments, Model 7582). The categorization of the biogenic aerosols is done by the following clustering rule (Coz et al., 2010) based on the constituent element's weight percentage: (C+O) > 75% and 1% < P; K; Cl < 10%.

### RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS

The weight percentage (wt.%) of different elements has been evaluated by using EDX. The wt.% of major elements such as C, O, and Si is in the range of 20-45% in all the locations along with minor elements: Na, Mg, Al, P, S, Cl, Ca, K, Fe, Cu, Zn, Sb and Ba have also been observed (wt.% < 10%). High Carbon content in Sadiya (32%) and Dhubri (30%), followed by Guwahati and Itanagar, which reflects the dominance of carbonaceous aerosols emitted primarily from biomass burning and fossil fuel combustion. Based on the single compound analysis, Majuli has the highest contribution of biogenic aerosols (70%), followed by Dibrugarh (35%). This region has an abundance of vegetation and is surrounded by the almighty Brahmaputra River making the region less vulnerable to remote aerosols. Further, biogenic were classified based on their microstructural features. The highest percentage

contribution of pollens/fungal/animal debris has been seen over Dibrugarh/Majuli/Bongaigaon. Moreover, the contribution of geogenic aerosols is significant in all locations except River Island Majuli. The highest percentage contribution is found in Guwahati (68%) followed by Itanagar (50%). Being a hilly region, it often has exposed rock surfaces and is subject to weathering and erosion processes that release particulate matter into the atmosphere. These regions have less vegetation cover, which can lead to increased soil erosion and dust generation which leads to the abundance of geogenic aerosols. Apart from that, Anthropogenic aerosols with high Carbon content in Sadiya (32%) and Dhubri (30%) have been observed (Figure 1).

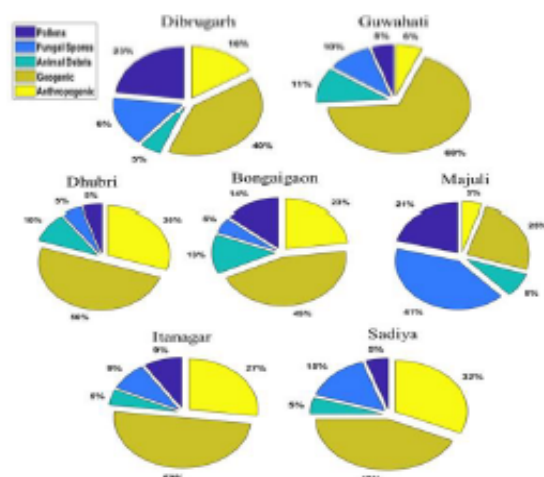


Figure 1. Percentage contribution of different groups: Biogenic (Pollens, Fungal, Plant/animal debris), Geogenic, and Anthropogenic in the total PM during different locations.

Enrichment Factor analysis confirms that C, Al, Cl, Cu, Zn, Sb, and Ba are non-crustal ( $EF > 10$ ) in all the locations. A Strong correlation between Ca, Mg, Si, and K, exists in EL (Sadiya, Dibrugarh, etc) derived from soil or resuspension of road dust. The same between Cu, Zn, Al and Ba exists over WL (Dhubri, Bongaigaon, etc) indicating vehicular emissions, and industrial activity. Principal Component Analysis reveals that Dibrugarh, Majuli, and Sadiya have a mixed source of crustal and industrial origin, whereas Itanagar, Bongaigaon, and Dhubri are from industrial and vehicular emissions.

## CONCLUSIONS

The study highlights that Total Suspended Particles (TSP) have a wide distribution of aerosol chemical composition leading to variability in types, that can be well evaluated based on single particle spectrum analysis along with morphological features. A dominance of anthropogenic aerosols, particularly carbon-rich particles in Sadiya and Dhubri, while Majuli and Dibrugarh have significant biogenic contributions. Based on Source apportionment we can conclude that biomass-burning/fossil fuel-generated aerosols dominate eastern locations/western locations.

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