



AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American Geographical Society Awards 2026 AGS Council Fellowship to Mr. Monojit Saha

Description: The American Geographical Society (AGS) awards Mr. Monojit Saha, a Ph.D. student at University of Maryland, College Park, a 2026 AGS Council Fellowship.

[New York City, NY] – [April 16, 2026] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced the recipients of the 2026 AGS Council Fellowships to support master’s and doctoral research. The recipients are Ms. Khojasteh Hashemi, a Ph.D. candidate at Kent State University, Mr. Matthew Hielt, a Ph.D. candidate at University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, Ms. Mahboobe Safaei Mehr, a Ph.D candidate at University of Texas, Austin, and Mr. Monojit Saha, a Ph.D candidate at University of Maryland, College Park. Masters and doctoral students from American universities are eligible to apply for the Fellowships. Established in 2013, each recipient receives a \$2,000 award for their graduate research project. AGS will recognize the four Fellows during its annual Fall Symposium, Geography 2050, to be held November 19-20, 2026 in New York City.

Mr. Saha will use this fellowship to fund his project, *When Satellites Can't See: Bridging the Near Coastal Sea Ice Monitoring Gap in Arctic Indigenous Communities*. He wrote, “This research asks: Why are near coastal Arctic regions excluded from satellite monitoring, and can we develop community validated methods to close this critical data gap? Beginning from the premise that current systems reproduce geographic inequality by providing excellent coverage of uninhabited central Arctic waters while excluding inhabited coastal regions, this project develops improved methods for extending reliable monitoring into near coastal zones that matter most to Arctic peoples.” He remarked: “As a broadly trained geographer now specializing in polar science, receiving the AGS Council Fellowship from the American Geographical Society is an incredibly meaningful opportunity. This support allows me to bridge geographic perspectives with polar research, and I am deeply grateful for AGS’s commitment to nurturing interdisciplinary and field-driven scholarship.”

Dr. Marie Price, President of AGS and Chair of the Selection Committee, remarked, “The Council of the American Geographical Society is pleased to award four research grants to student members of the society. In our effort to support the next generation of scholars and practitioners we began the Council Fellowships ten years ago. We have awarded 49 Council Fellowships since 2014. Our intent is to expand the program in coming years to fund more awards through partnering with the AGS Champions program. Congratulations to this year’s winners.”

The AGS is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. The vision of AGS is to be the foremost champion of geography for the benefit of society. The mission of AGS is to convene a diverse global community of innovators, thinkers, and practitioners; create and curate geographical knowledge, learning, and exploration; and advance geographic knowledge and technologies to address society’s challenges and opportunities. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States and is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.



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