



GEOGRAPHERS' NEWS LETTER

Association of Punjab Geographers

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13TH APG NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Department of Geography Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla organised 12th APG National Conference on **“Mountain Environment and Natural Resource Management”** on 08-09 October, 2011. Prof. D. D. Sharma, chairman, Department of Geography and convener of the event welcomed the dignitaries, guests and the participants of the conference. The conference was inaugurated by Shri Narendra Bragata, Hon'ble Minister of Horticulture, Technical Education and Industrial Training Himachal Pradesh. He stressed upon the need of maintaining harmony with nature and exhorted the NGOs, planners, scientists, urban development authorities and administrators to work efficiently to minimize the natural calamities and utilize the natural resources judiciously. The key note address was delivered by Professor Dr. R. C. Chandna an enlightened geographer of the country, retired from PU Chandigarh. Principal J. S. Kaliana President APG welcomed the delegates of the conference, while Prof. H.S. Mangat introduced the APG and highlighted its activities. The presidential remarks were given by Prof. A. D. N. Bajpai, Patron & Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, HP University, Shimla.

About 250 delegates from different states of India namely Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, UT Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Goa participated. There were also overseas participants from Czech Republic, Germany and Sweden. In all 12 technical sessions, six on each day, on various sub-themes were conducted. In this

2012

WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

academic event, about 117 delegates presented their research papers. The first technical session on Mountain Environment and Natural Resource Management was chaired by Prof. H. P. Bhat, HNB Central University Garhwal. Second technical session on Natural Hazards and Disaster Management was chaired by Prof. B. S. Marh, HPU, Shimla. Third technical session on Bio-Diversity, Land and Water



A view of the audience in the Valedictory Session of the 12 APG National Conference, at H.P. University, Shimla

Resources-Issues and Challenges was chaired by Prof. Samita Bhutani, Panjab University Chandigarh. Fourth technical session on Built-up Environment and Ecological Considerations was chaired by K. Surjit Singh, former Chief Town Planner, Haryana & Secretary General, Institute for Spatial Planning and Environment Research (ISPER). Fifth technical session on Climate Change-Impacts and Options was chaired by Dr. M. S. Jaglan, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. Sixth technical session on Mountain Communities Livelihoods and Carrying Capacity was

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chaired by Prof. Ashwani Luthra, School of Planning, GNDU Amritsar.

On second day the seventh technical session was on Geospatial Technologies and Natural Resource Planning and Management was chaired by Mr. A N Gautam, State Town Planner, Himachal Pradesh. Eighth technical session on General Perspectives in Geography was chaired by Prof. Neelam Grover, Panjab University Chandigarh. Technical session ninth on Mountain Environment and Natural Resource Management was chaired by Prof. R. C. Chandna. Tenth technical session on Natural Hazards and Disaster Management was chaired by Dr. I G Nagpal, Associate Professor Govt. P.G. College Karnal. Eleventh technical session on Mountain Communities Livelihoods & Role of Geospatial Technologies in Natural Resource Planning and Management was chaired by Prof. R D Gurjar, Department of Geography, University of Rajasthan. The last technical session on General Perspectives in Geography was chaired by Dr. S P Kaushik, Chairman, Department of Geography, K.U. Kurukshetra.

The valedictory session was chaired by Prof. K R Dhiman, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr YS Parmar, University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan. He thanked Prof HS Mangat, Patron APG for providing the opportunity to Department of Geography to host this event. K. Surjit Singh, President Elect thanked the Vice chancellor H.P. University for facilitating 12 APG meet in the university. He also congratulated the Department of Geography for organizing such a successful conference which has broken all the previous records of the APG.

It was observed from two days deliberations that all the changes in last few decades in the mountain environment call for a detailed vulnerability mapping of the entire Himalayan belt so as to set the regional priorities and to prepare a comprehensive regional plan for management of eco-fragile mountain areas. It was also inferred collectively that the development activities have telling effects on the low lying areas therefore their development must also be taken into consideration by local communities, administrators, planners and policy makers.

YOUNG GEOGRAPHER AWARD-2011

Dr. Saminderjeet Singh Young Geographers Award Competition was organised for the first time in a special session of the 12th APG National Conference. The session was chaired by Prof. R. D. Gurjar, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. Six young participants contributed their papers and Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, Research Associate, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, MHRD, Mohali, was conferred upon Dr. Saminderjeet Singh Young Geographers Award for his presentation "Assessing environmental and socio-economic impacts of under construction hydropower projects and strategies to strengthen in the upper Beas basin, Northwestern Himalaya".



Dr. Sanjeev Sharma

YOUNG GEOGRAPHER AWARD-2012

All the heads Department of Geography in various universities are requested to encourage their old students/ research scholars to participate in the Dr. Saminderjeet Singh Young Geographer Award instituted by the APG and conducted during the annual national conference. The details will be published in the June 2012 issue of the News Letter. However, the interested scholars can contact Dr. B.R. Thakur, Department of Geography, H. P. University, Shimla, Coordinator Young Geographer Award. E-Mail: brthakur53@gmail.com Mobile: 09418065518.

13th APG NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Department of Geography, Govt. College, Karnal is hosting 13th APG National Conference on **October 6-7, 2012**. The themes for the deliberations are:

Main Theme:

Challenges and Concerns of Geography

Sub-themes:

1. Regional Planning and Development: Models, Techniques and Approaches
2. Natural Resources Consumption, Depletion and Conservation
3. Promoting and Nurturing a Green Economy-Sustainable Agricultural Pursuits
4. Integrated Rural Development A Persistent Dilemma
5. Urban and Peri-urban Continuum
6. Governing and Managing the Extractive Industries

Dr. I.J. Nagpal, Associate Professor of Geography, Govt. P.G. College, Karnal (E-mail ID-nagpalij@yahoo.co.in, Mobile- 9416285027) is coordinator of the conference.

NEWS ABOUT THE MEMBERS

Dr. Shahab Fazal, Department of Geography, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh has been awarded a prestigious research fellowship by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), Government of Netherlands under the bilateral exchange program.

Dr. Gurinder Kaur has joined as Professor, **Dr. Baljit Kaur and Dr. Shivjeet Kaur** as Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Punjabi University, Patiala

Prof. B.S. Marh, has taken over as head Department of Geography, H.P. University, Himachal Pradesh.

Dr. Dharma Singh, Head Department of Geography, SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana has been selected by the Punjab Service Commission for the appointment as Principal in the Punjab Education Service.

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGES/DEPARTMENTS

Department of Geography, Punjab University, Chandigarh

Dr. Karanjot Kaur Brar has been promoted as Professor and also taken over as Chairperson.

Dr. Krishan Mohan has been promoted as Professor.

Professor Surya Kant has been elected President INCA, 2011.

Professor Dhian Kaur has received IRCDG grant for 2012 from SICI

UGC Major Research Project 2011-13: 'Socio-economic transformation of scheduled caste population in northwestern states', Prof Surya Kant and Prof Krishan Mohan are Principal Investigator and Co-investigator respectively.

NEWS ABOUT SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

1. **Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh** is organizing National Seminar on February 23-24, 2012.

Main Theme: North West India: Issues in Sustainability

Sub-Themes:

1. Population Dynamics, Sustainability and Environment
2. Sustainable Agriculture
3. Environment Sustainability
4. Sustainable Cities
5. Food Security
6. Water Issues

Contact: Dr. Karanjot Kaur Brar, Chairperson & Convener, E-mail-geogconference2012@gmail.com

2. **Department of Geography, Govt. P.G. College, Karnal** is organizing a National Seminar on February 24-25, 2012.

Main Theme: Sustainable Management of Land Resources in India

Sub Themes:

1. Urban Expansion - Necessities and Implications.
2. Population Pressure and Land Management.
3. After-effects of Green Revolution — Environmental Concerns.
4. Policies, Practices, and Challenges to Land Resource Management.
5. Land - Human adjustment and Productivity relationship: Some Experiences.

Last date for receiving abstracts: 31.1.2012

Last date for full papers: 10.2. 2012

Venue - Government (P.G.) College, Sector-14, Urban Estate, Karnal (132001)

Coordinator - Dr. I.J. Nagpal, Associate Professor in Geography

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Mobile - 94162-85027

PUNJAB GEOGRAPHER

Members are requested to send their original research papers for publication in the next issue of the Punjab Geographer to Dr. H.S.Mangat, # 337, Urban Estate, Phase-2, Patiala. E-mail hsmangatrackkeys.com, Ph. 175-2286606. To begin

with they can submit a single hard copy; followed by two hard copies for the referees after incorporating the suggestions if asked for; followed by single hard copy after incorporating the suggestions of the referees along with a soft copy. The author must submit original copy/print of maps/figs. indicating the quality of impression. The paper can be withdrawn even from the press if the reproduction of the maps/figs. is not satisfactory. The authors must read the guidelines for the contributors before communicating their paper.

Note: The authors should note that until they receive the press copy of their papers from the Editor and return it with OK report, the paper may not be considered as accepted for publication. Taking into account the interest of the members and encourage inter-disciplinary cooperation in research, APG has decided to consider the papers authored by more than two persons for publication.

STATE LEVEL GEOGRAPHICAL QUIZ CONTEST

P.G. Department of Geography, SCD Govt. College Ludhiana will organize State Level Geographical Quiz Contest under the aegis of the Association of Punjab Geographers for under graduate classes in the 2nd week of February, 2012. All departments of geography of different colleges of Punjab are requested to participate. For details contact Dr. Dharam Singh, Head Department of Geography Govt. College, Ludhiana and coordinator Quiz Contest Mobile-09463352523.

DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES

Forests, water and soil are the main stay of our life. Their over use and constant depletion have been ignored for too long in the pursuit of higher GDP growth. Development needs to be redefined.

Anil P.Joshi

WATER WARS

Wars are rarely cost-effective or susceptible to reason. With water becoming increasingly scarce, water wars can no longer be dismissed as a figment of imagination. Dialogue is necessary and based more on need rather than right.

M.S. Menon

MILLENNIUM GOALS PROMISES AND PROGRESS

The Millennium Declaration adopted by 189 United Nation Member states in 2000 promised a better world. With 2015 dead line how much progress has been made?

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4. Reduce child mortality

Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8. Develop global partnership for development

GEOGRAPHICAL NEWS

Alarming Trends: Arctic may be ice free in the summer months in 30 years. Scientists blame it on human-induced global warming. Sea ice reached its lowest point this week (Sept. 20, 2011) since satellite observations started in 1972. Area covered by Arctic sea ice shrank to 4.24 million square kilometer on September 8. Arctic temperatures have risen more than twice as fast as the global average over the past 50 years.

P.T.I.

Cities Growing Faster: Population in the cities of Punjab is growing almost four times faster than rural areas. Population has touched 2.77 crore of which 62.51 per cent is living in rural areas and 37.49 per cent in urban areas. The population in urban areas has grown by 25.72 per cent as compared to an increase of only 7.58 per cent in rural areas over the last decade.

P.T.I.

Marcoule Nuclear Explosion: Explosion at French nuclear site of Marcoule in southern France occurred on September 12, 2011. Blast occurred in oven used to melt radio active metallic waste at the Waste Treatment Site.

The Tribune

What keeps the Earth Cooking: We all know the Earth runs on massive amount of heat- enough to melt iron in the outer core, create magnetic field, spread the sea floor and move the continents. According to a new research only half of our planet's internal heat stems from natural radioactivity. The rest is primordial heat left over from the planets' formation and possibly others.

Nature Geo-science ANI

Journey into uncharted Milky Way: NASA's Voyager-1 space craft is about to become the first man-made object to leave the Solar System. The Voyager-1 space probe which has traveled about 11 billion miles since its launch in 1977, has entered the cosmic equivalent of the doldrums, where the high-speed solar winds die down at the very edge of the Solar System.

The Independent

Dead Sea is drying up: Sediment cores, drilled about 900 feet in the centre of the Dead Sea's muddy basin- an environmental record stretching back 2,000,000 years- have shown that the giant lake has dried out in the past. Researchers said their finding suggest that the entire water cycle in the region is being destabilized by the over abstraction of water from the rivers that drain into the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee. The Dead Sea is already drying up because humans are using so much water.

The independent

The Durban Climate Meet: U.N. Climate negotiations struck a compromise deal on a road map for an accord that will for the first time legally force all major carbon emitters to cut green house gas emissions. The new pact is to be finalized till 2013.

- i. The pact will for the first time bring India and China under the ambit of a legal mechanism guiding emission cuts.
- ii. The accord will come into effect only from 2020.
- iii. The developed nations agreed to a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol.
- iv. The talks on the new legal deal covering all countries will begin next year, when the Kyoto Protocol expires.

The Tribune PTI

An Earth Quake between two Faults: An earthquake of 6.9 magnitude recorded in Sikkim claimed more than 100 lives. It occurred between two transverse faults represented by Teesta and Gangtok lineaments and was therefore different from most Himalayan tremors.

The Tribune

Typhoon Tragedies: Typhoon Washi' hit the southern Philippines in December, 2011 claiming 400 lives affecting 800,000 in Mindanao island. While Typhoon Durian affected central Philippines by triggering land slides.

Japan's Sea of sorrow: A Tsunami originated on 11th March, 2011 in the Sea of Japan after an earth quake of high magnitude (8.9 Intensity) killed at least 1000 persons. It also caused an explosion in Fukushima nuclear plant. Five nuclear plants shut down.

The Tribune

Our New Neighbour: US space telescope kepler pointed out a planet Kepler 22b orbiting another sun. It is about 2.4 times the size of the Earth and closest object (Planet) to the Earth. Conditions on the new planet are neither too hot nor too cold.

The Tribune

Climate Change and Greenland: Hot melting season in 2010 accelerated ice loss in southern Greenland by 100 billion tones. Large portion of the island's bedrock rose an additional quarter of inch in response to the heat.

PTI

APPEAL:

Members are requested to send their suggestions and activities report of the college/department and change of address if any to Dr. H. S. Mangat, E-mail hsmangat@rackeys.com , phone 0175-2286606

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