



# **GEOGRAPHERS' NEWS LETTER**

## **Association of Punjab Geographers**

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Editor : Principal Shubh Prem Brar

Co-Editor : Dr. Jaspal Singh

### **View Point**

The world changes: Geography changes with it, argued Freeman 1961, Taylor 1985, Johnston 1991. There is a symbiotic relation between the two. Geography is a practical discipline concerned with understanding the world and transmitting that understanding to a wide audience to change the world at all scales. The relationship is reciprocal. The change in the external world is a major stimulus to change in the discipline; in theoretical apparatus, in research methodology, in educational curricula and in its contribution to influencing change (Johnston).

The relationship sounds like a happy marriage, but the things are not as simple as they seem to be from words, symbiotic relationship and reciprocity. Physical environment, created environment and society the main topical concerns of geographers are in such a complex interaction and changing at such a pace that the challenges to the discipline are really big. The intensity and pace of change are thus important foci for geographical research, as the created environment is continually recreated.

'Developing world' is all the more vulnerable in the present time. Punjab, in this scenario can be called the laboratory of the third world. What is happening here today will happen in the rest of third world if 'Business as usual' continues. Punjab is drawing so heavily on its basic resources; land, water, biodiversity and cultural capital that thresholds are clearly visible. Farmland is the most extensive portion of created environment and is also the most intensively used in the state. Hardin's tragedy of the commons thesis seems very true. Garrett Hardin suggested two remedies; the state control of the commons or privatization.

But there is an antidote to this thesis, 'The co-operative management of the commons' worked out by Elinor Ostrom (Nobel laureate in economics). It is a task for the geographers to study and understand the crisis in the state and suggest measures. The discipline must show its relevance.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> APG International Conference**

Geographically speaking, if you expand the time and space of your creativity, you grow in exemplary manners, but if you infuse your potential in such process qualitatively and produce the remarkable results, the domain of wisdom salute you as a trend setter. Again, APG and its associates like **Guru Ramdass School of Planning, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar** have set a milestone by taking an initiative to host the 2nd APG International Conference on **October 10-11, 2014.**

### **Guru Ramdass School of Planning**

Guru Ramdas School of Planning, located in lush green environs of NAAC accredited 'Five Star level' Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, was established in 1972 with the moto "Shape Spaces to Shape Future". The school is third oldest planning school in India. It is one of the premier institutions in North-West India to impart education & training in Urban, Regional and Infrastructure Planning.

### **Amritsar: The Holy City**

Founded by Fourth Guru of Sikhs Guru Ram Das ji, Amritsar is second metropolis of Punjab and a premier tourist destination. It is the spiritual centre for the Sikh religion and the administrative headquarters of the Amritsar district in the State of Punjab. Inhabited by about 1.5 million souls, it is an important regional market centre for many products. Amritsar is situated 462 kilometres northwest of Delhi, the National Capital. It is well connected through roads, railways and air links with Delhi and rest of the world. Amritsar is located 28 kilometres east from the Wagah border with Pakistan. Lahore, the second largest city in Pakistan is only 50 km away from Amritsar.

Presence of many religious sites such as Golden Temple, Durgiana Mandir, Ram Tirath etc. has earned it the

status of internationally known Holy city. Pressures have been building to declare it as Heritage City due to its feet in medieval architecture. The city is known for eatables and woolen as well as cotton textile trading. Average day time temperature in October is 18-32°C.

**Focal Theme:**

**Folk, Place and Work Dynamics Determine Rural & Urban Planning and Design**

Mankind's interest in creating livable habitats is evident from the dawn of civilization wherein he pursued, evolved and practiced traditions and methodologies influenced by cultural and natural factors in planning and design of human settlements. Through the sands of time, these timeless rituals shaped the settlements largely underpinned by folk traditions, places of living and occupational pursuits so precisely revealed in the Geddesian legacy of 'The Triad' of folk-place-work in Patrick Geddes iconic work, 'Evolution of Cities' in 1915 wherein he encapsulated the idea of cities as organisms in constant flow and change. While the tradition continued to assert itself through the ages, it somehow got lost after the onset of the automobile-industrial age propelling the sporadic expansion of the city to limitless proportions, bursting at its seams to accommodate more people and activities and acquiring neo-modernist terminologies and classifications as metropolis and megapolis.

Invoking new urbanism principles in contemporary planning and design, the Conference seeks to bring to fore the need to revert to the triad and especially the folk as its central component. At the same time the idea is also to enable a discourse and argumentation on creation of hybrid realms that can integrate such like vital concepts with contemporary concerns in human settlement planning and design.

**Sub themes:**

1. History built the city : cultural-historical traditions in planning and design of settlements
2. Religious-cultural influences on morphology of settlements
3. Geospatial Technology and Settlement Planning
4. Folk-place- work interface in planning and design of settlements
5. Geo-spatial determinants of settlement morphology

6. Rural settlement planning and Community living
7. Industrial corridor and urbanization
8. Harmonious living: human needs and nature

**For details**

The participants can communicate with Ms Kiran Sandhu, convener of the conference for any enquiry and submission of abstract of the paper at [apgamritsar@gmail.com](mailto:apgamritsar@gmail.com) . Her contact number is +91 9501244377. Participants are also free to contact Sh. Gopal Kumar Johari, coordinator of the conference on his mobile number: +91 9356002636.

**Submission of Abstract:** Abstract of the paper not exceeding 300 words must reach the convener before 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.

**Accommodation:** Participants must convey about the requirement of accommodation along with the abstract of the paper to enable the organizers to make arrangements accordingly. On the spot request for accommodation may create inconvenience both for the participants and organizers.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ISSUE

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> APG International Conference
2. State Level Geographical Quiz Contest-2014
3. Young Geographer Award
4. Papers for Punjab Geographer
5. News from Department/Colleges
6. Conferences/ Seminars
7. News from the Members

### State Level Geographical Quiz Contest-2014

As a sole partner of APG, the P.G. Department of Geography, SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana successfully organised State Level Geographical Quiz Contest on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2014. Representing all the corners of the Punjab state, seven teams participated in this gala event gracefully. Preliminary test was conducted to short list the participating teams. Five teams qualified to participate in the final quiz..

The host SCD Govt. College Ludhiana won first prize followed by Govt. Rajindra College Bathinda and Government Mahindra College Patiala getting second and third prize respectively. Principal of the college

congratulated the winners and gave away the prizes. Dr Lakhvir Singh Gill on behalf of APG, Prof. Navjot Singh Govt. Mahindra College Patiala and Prof. Gurdit Singh Govt. College Karamsar also graced the occasion. Prof. Harbans Singh, Head of Geography Department presented vote of thanks. Mrs Deepika and Miss Sandeep Kaur students of M.A-II Geography, acted as quizmaster very well.

### **Dr. Saminderjeet Singh Young Geographer Award – 2014**

All those young Indian geographers who have not attained the age of 33 years are invited to send three copies of their original research paper along with bio- data to compete for Dr. Saminderjeet Singh Young Geographers Award 2014. The paper should be submitted in English language to Dr. B.R. Thakur, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, H.P. University, Shimla. Please contact him on E-Mail- brthakur53@gmail.com Ph. - 09418065518 for further details. The last date for submission of paper is September 10, 2014. The name of the author and department should be mentioned in the covering letter and not on the paper to keep secrecy. Apart from the certificate and memento specially created for this award, the winner will also be given Rs 5000/- as cash prize. The paper presented can be considered for publication in the 'Punjab Geographer' if recommended by the referees.

### **Call for Research Papers for Publication:**

Papers based on original research in the discipline of Geography and allied subjects are invited for publication in "Punjab Geographer", a peer-reviewed and referred Journal of the Association of Punjab Geographers. Book reviews, geographical notes, articles and abstracts of doctoral dissertation and research projects sponsored by UGC, ICSSR or any other organization are also invited for publication. Authors can contact Dr. H.S. Mangat, Editor Punjab Geographer at E-Mail: hsmangat@rackeys.com , Ph. 084279-47650.

### **News from the Departments/ Colleges**

**Professor D.D. Sharma** has taken over as Chairperson, Department of Geography, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla w.e.f. March 2014.

### **Geoinformatics Courses:**

Department of Geography University of Pune has introduced Geoinformatics Courses; i) P.G./B.Sc (Applied): Remote Sensing & Geographic Information System, 12 months duration ii) M.Sc. Geoinformatics, 24 months duration. M.A. Geography with 50 per cent marks can apply, Entrance Exam.

Contact: e- mail- bhoogol@unipune.ac.in ; and geoinfo.unipune@gmail.com Phone-020-25601364

### **Parishkar College for Global Excellence, Jaipur**

An Interdisciplinary National Seminar on "Integrated Regional Planning and Human Resource Development in India: Efforts, Achievements and Challenges" on Feb. 10-11, 2014 was organized by the Department of Geography Parishkar College for Global Excellence, Jaipur in collaboration with the Indian Human Ecology Council (CHEC- India), India Chapter of Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, London. More than 200 faculty members and research scholars, belonging to 8 states (West Bengal, Punjab, Delhi, MP, UP, Maharashtra, Goa, Rajasthan) in India participated in this seminar. A total 34 papers, including 5 special invited lectures, were presented and discussed in 4 plenary and 5 Technical sessions. Dr. Manoj K. Saini, Head, Department of Geography was convener of the seminar while, Dr. Vinod K. Bhardwaj acted as Organising Secretary.



### **Survey of Morni Hills by M.Sc Geography Students of Kurukshetra University**

Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, organizes a detailed survey of selected area each year, as a part of academic curriculum. This year from November 9 to 15, 2013, 55 students of M.Sc. Geography

including 14 girls, did extensive socio-economic survey of scattered settlement on Morni Hills and collected household level data under the supervision of Dr. Omvir Singh and Dr. Anju Gupta. The students also collected data and information about various government schemes and programmes carried out in this hill region and assessed their impacts on the society.

### Conferences/ Seminars

#### 36th Indian Geography Congress-2014

Department of Geography, University of Rajasthan is hosting 36th NAGI on November 17-19, 2014. Focal theme of the congress is “Urban Systems, Rural Livelihoods, Security and Resource Management”. The members can contact Dr. R.D. Doi, Convener, Mobile - 09461162059, e-mail: doi36nagijpr@gmail.com; Congress E-mail: nagiconferenceos2014@gmail.com

#### 46th Regional Science Conference

The Department of Geography, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong is going to organize the 46th Regional Science Conference during 6-8th November, 2014. Contact Dr. Sunil Kumar de, E- Mail: desunil@yahoo.com, (Mob-1) +91 98620 09202, (Mob-2): +91-94339 02268.

#### National Seminar

Rhenok Govt. College, East Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim is organizing a National Seminar on September 5-6-2014. Main Theme: Rural Empowerment in India: Efforts, Achievements and Constraints. Contact: Sonam Bhutia E-mail: ruralseminar2014@gmail.com Ph. 09002007188

### News from the Members

**Dr. Shahab Fazal**, Department of Geography, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh has joined as Professor of Geography on 1st March, 2014.

**Dr. B.R. Thakur**, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, has received a major research project titled “Dynamics and Spatial Pattern of Infrastructural Development in India-1971-2011,” sponsored by ICSSR, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

### APG Meet-2015

Department of Geography of any University or a College willing to host APG meet in the form of an International or National conference in 2015 may contact:

Dr. H.S.Mangat Patron: hsmangat@rackeys.com  
Ph.: 084279-47650

Sh. K.Surjit Singh, President: isperonline@gmail.com,  
Ph.: 092150-14411

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ddsharma100@rediffmail.com Ph.: 094180-76763

Dr. Lakhvir Singh Gill, General Secretary:  
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### Appeal

Members are requested to send information personal and of the departments for publication in the News letter to: Dr. Jaspal Singh  
E—mail: geogjaspal@gmail.com

### Printed Matter Book - Post

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