



GEOGRAPHERS' NEWS LETTER

Association of Punjab Geographers

(Registered under Societies Act xxi of 1860 No. 1902 of 1998-99)

Vol. 15 No. 1

January, 2014

Editor: Shubh Prem Brar, Principal
Co-Editor : Dr. Jaspal Singh

In Memoriam



Prof. Emeritus Gurdev Singh Gosal (1927-2014)

It is extremely painful to write an obituary of a person who has been your teacher, mentor, close associate and above all a family friend. Born in a farmer's family in Goslan village (Mohali District, Punjab) on 1st April, 1927, Prof. G. S. Gosal departed from all of us on 3rd January, 2014. He had his schooling at Khalsa High School, Kurali where he topped in matriculation examination in 1943 which earned him government open merit scholarship for pursuing college education at Khalsa National College, Lahore. He did his Post-graduation from Govt. College, Ludhiana in 1950 bagging first class first position in Panjab University, proving true to the expectations of his father who had wished that his son should always emerge *Awwal* (First).

Much of his education was from Panjab University except his Ph. D. for which he was awarded Whitbeck Fellowship, a great honor as he was one of the only two to be awarded the said fellowship in 1953 at the University of Wisconsin, USA. Availing the fellowship, he joined Wisconsin University in 1953 and there was no looking back. He worked hard to survive in the challenging competition that lay ahead. The metal in him helped him in always remaining at the top with best ever grades. For his doctoral work he consciously chose Population Geography over Agricultural Geography which could have been a much easier choice for a person with farming background. Population Geography was then a newly emerging field initiated by G. T. Trewartha, his teacher to be. His commitment to the pursuit of knowledge and best grades which he continued to earn, helped him not only in earning fellowship for the second year but also a Wisconsin University general fellowship for the third year of his Ph. D. programme, which was a rare honour.

He was first among the select batch of 20-25 scholars drawn from different countries taking up Ph.D. at Wisconsin University in 1953 to complete his Ph.D. in just 3 years in 1956. His return to India as first trained population geographer marked the beginning of the new era in Indian geography which till then had remained bi-polar (urban geography and agricultural geography confined). It suddenly became tri-polar with Population Geography emerging as the third pole- a very significant sub-field in Indian context as India then was passing through the most explosive stage of demographic transformation and all eyes were focused on country's performance in demographic

field. The department of geography Panjab University, Chandigarh emerged as a new school of thought in Indian Geography with population as a pivot of all geography. The first thought that came to my mind when I received the news of his departing from all of us was that the Indian Geography which was blessed to have scholar of his kind had lost the pioneering Population Geographer. Prof. Gosal was one of the few outstanding geographers the country has produced over the last half a century who influenced both young and old geographers alike with his writings, well articulated speeches/lectures and his thought provoking interactions at seminars/conferences and above all with his friendly and warm interaction with friends/colleagues. He shall always be remembered by all and his absence at all such deliberations will be felt by all of us.

He started his teaching career in April 1950 at government college, Ludhiana as a regular lecturer. In 1959, three years after his return from U.S.A., he joined the department of geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh as a Reader and was elevated to the post of Professor in 1965. The much talked about and much envied healthy environment prevalent in the department that earned it the best department status on the University campus had the stamp of his pleasant positive personality and his extremely conscious and fair selection of his colleagues to be. He also served Panjab University in such administrative capacities as Dean University Instructions (2 years), Dean Student Welfare (1967-1972), nominated member of Senate for five terms (20 years), elected member of Syndicate (over a decade). He was nominated member of International Geographical Union's Population Commission (1968-1972). He founded Association of Population Geographers of India in 1978 and was its founder President to date. He retired from Panjab University on 31st March 1987 and joined the department again as Professor Emeritus on 2nd Sept., 2004.

He was offered Vice-chancellor's position thrice: twice of G.N.D.U. Amritsar and once of Punjabi University, Patiala which he most humbly declined maintaining his priority and love for geography. This, of course, surprised the then Chief Minister of Punjab, who expressed his amazement at the decline but appreciated his commitment to research. His love for studies, his commitment to research and pursuit of knowledge shall always be remembered by all those who have had a close association with him as a student, colleague, family friend and who will genuinely miss him whenever they meet at seminars/conferences and other academic events. It is indeed an irreparable loss for the bereaved family especially Mrs. Gosal, we all share the family's grief and pray to God for giving enough strength to the family to bear the loss.

Prof. R. C. Chandna

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ISSUE

IN Memoriam; Condolence Resolutions;
1st APG International Conference; Awards;
Inter-State Geographical Quiz-Contest;
News About the Members; News from Departments;
New Decisions of APG.

Befitting Tribute to Dr. Gosal (Guru Ji)

Guru Ji was a source of inspiration for me. He inspired me for pursuing Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Geography from Edinburgh University.

Guru Ji is no more with us, but:

- His fondest and unforgettable memories will always make us to smile and his fragrant smile and presence will be missed by us all;
- Till memories fade and life departs, Guru Ji will remain in our mind and hearts;
- Pray to the Almighty for departed soul's rest in peace and comforts in the heavenly abode; and
- May God take care of Guru Ji as he did for us all!

Dr. Jasbir Singh, Professor Emeritus
Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra

In Memoriam

I am pained to know about the sad demise of eminent geographer, Ex President and Fellow of the NAGI, Professor G.S. Gosal. When I got this sad news, I recalled my first meeting with him during my practical examination in Population Geography at Banaras Hindu University from where I did Masters in Geography in 1976-77. Since first meeting I always attracted towards his soft spoken, open hearted, helpful to known people and friendly behaviour. After that I met him several times when I visited Chandigarh as he was very regular working in the Panjab University, Chandigarh as Emeritus Professor. His name was synonyms with Population Geography of India. Starting a journal (Population Geography) and sustaining it until is a great monumental work for the World Geography in General and Indian Geography in particular. I enjoyed his writings specially one of his research papers on "Implications of Globalisation for Geography" appeared in Annals of NAGI during my tenure as Secretary General and another paper on "Urbanisation in Punjab" co-authored with Prof. Gopal Krishan appeared in a book by Kosinski and Pothero entitled "People on Move". He was much respected person among his students and colleagues as I saw many senior administrators touching his feet with deep sense of gratitude. When 32nd NAGI was held at Chandigarh in 2010, I was lucky to escort him to the dais in order to Honour him. I was present in Patna NAGI when EC and General Assembly elected him unanimously as Fellow of NAGI. On behalf of Department of Geography, University of Delhi, IGU and NAGI, I send our condolences to family in grief and pray to God to give strength to his family, friends, colleagues and relatives to face this great loss. May his soul rest in peace.

Dr. R.B. Singh

Department of Geography,
University of Delhi

Association of Punjab Geographers Condolence Resolution

The Association of Punjab Geographers deeply mourns the sudden demise of Dr. Gurdev Singh Gosal, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh who left us for his heavenly abode on January 3, 2014. By his departure the Association of Punjab Geographers has lost a dedicated teacher and a scholar working for the cause of Geography even after his retirement.

The APG shares grief with the family and sends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prays to the God for peace to the departed Soul and to give strength to the bereaved family to bear this loss.

General Secretary

President

Institute for Spatial Planning and Environment Research, India Condolence Resolution

The Institute for Spatial Planning and Environment Research, India Panchkula (ISPER) shares the heartfelt condolences on sudden demise of our most revered teacher Dr. Gurdev Singh Gosal, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh who left for his heavenly abode on January 3, 2014. ISPER shall always remain indebted to this most pious soul for inspiring, guiding and leading ISPER to understand and disseminate the meaning of Land Use and its impact on the biosphere, understanding the philosophy of 'Man is part of Nature, understanding what is meant by' Cities do not grow up of themselves, it is the countryside that sets for them the task to be performed'. He made us to understand the Earth as home of man and as the base for all historical events. With his sudden demise ISPER has lost a friend of humankind which is the irreparable loss to ISPER in pursuing the logical research.

The Institute for Spatial Planning and Environment Research, India Panchkula prays to the God for peace to the departed Soul and to give strength to the bereaved family to bear this loss.

General Secretary

President

1st APG International Conference

To think about setting a milestone is important, but the greatest task is to establish that milestone gracefully. Such an exemplarily milestone in the history of APG has been founded when Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra organized 1st APG International Conference focusing on the central theme "Disasters, Natural Resource Management and Socio-economic Development" on 4th and 5th October 2013 at Kurukshetra University. Emerging issues like extensive use of spatial maps, use of special space science techniques, judicious use of natural resources and need to have detailed deliberations on natural disasters and mitigation were discussed comprehensively in this mega geographical event.

412 delegates from five different countries and 15 different states of India participated in this international conference. During 20 technical sessions of this conference 230 researchers made their presentations concentrating 17 sub-themes under three major themes of disaster, natural resources management and socioeconomic development.

Prof. Arun Kumar Saraf, Head Department of Earth Science, IIT Roorakee, discussed about various aspects of fog formation, mapping through satellite technology and inconveniences caused by these, specifically in south-east Asia region, while presenting the keynote address. He underscored the need of converting it for the benefit of mankind. He made very interesting observations about fog as Hazard or Menace and he also presented the model of radiation Fog prediction in North India.

Chief Guest of the Conference, Dr. Prithivesh Nag, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi emphasized the role of geo-information technology in map preparation and geo-resource base.

Dr. H.S. Mangat Patron APG congratulated the organisers for setting an exemplary milestone by organising such mega event in the history of APG. Sh. K. Surjit Singh in his presidential address portrayed the spatial dimensions and distribution of disasters in the world. He also highlighted how the disasters influence the socio-economic conditions in a hilly region.

Prof. Girish Chopra, Dean Academic Affairs, Kurukshetra University, in his remarks as a chairperson of the inaugural session emphasized on the environmental conservation and eco-development. In his view this would also help in investigation of natural as well as human induced disasters.



Inaugural Session of 1st APG International Conference

Dr. Shahnawaz, Department of Geo-informatics Z_GIS, University of Salzburg, Austria; Professor Milap Chand Sharma, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Professor B. Hema Malini from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam made special presentations. Dr Krishan Chand Ralhan, Registrar, Kurukshetra University, presided over the valedictory session of the conference on 5th October 2013 while, Dr Harjiit Singh, professor, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi, presented valedictory address. Prof. M.S. Jaglan, Organizing Secretary presented the brief report of the conference while, Prof. S.P. Kaushik, Convener of this conference presented a vote of thanks.

Winner of Dr Saminder Jit Singh Young Geographer Award, 2013

Among 7 participants for the competition of Young Geographer Award-2013, Sh. Tejpal, Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University was adjudged as recipient of this award by the Jury. His presentation was on "Monitoring and Evaluation of Ecological Health: A Case Study of Dohan Watershed".

Call of Papers for Young Geographer Award, 2014

All those young geographers who have not attained the age of 33 years are invited for this competition. They should send three copies of their original research paper along with bio- data to Dr. B.R. Thakur, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, H.P. University, Shimla, E-Mail- brthakur53@gmail.com Ph. 09418065518. The last date for submission of paper is **September 10, 2014**.

Inter - State Geographical Quiz Contest

To encourage inter-regional interaction among the students of geography at undergraduate level, APG has decided to organize Inter-state Geographical Quiz Contest. Prof. Harbans Singh, PG Department of Geography, SD Govt. College, Ludhiana, Dr. B. R. Thakur Department of Geography, H.P. University, Shimla, and Dr. Manoj Kumar, Govt. P.G. College, Hisar, will coordinate at state level while Dr. Dharm Singh, Principal, Govt. College Tanda, Punjab will coordinate at inter-state level. The Final will be held at DAV college, Chandigarh/ ISPER, Panchkula.

News about the Members

Dr. M. S. Jaglan, has taken over as Chairperson Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, kurukshetra.

Dr. Rajeshwari has joined as Professor in the Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

Dr. Gurinder Kaur, has taken over as Chairperson of Department of Geography, Punjabi University, Patiala.

Dr. Shahab Fazal, Associate Professor Department of geography, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh has been awarded **Fulbright Fellowship** by United States-Indian Education Foundation (USIEF). The fellowship has been awarded under **Environment Leadership Program** for conducting research in USA. He would be conducting research on 'Land transformation issues in Connecticut urban fringe and evaluate the concept of "Smart Growth"'.

Dr. Shaik Iftikhar Ahmed, Assistant Professor, CRRID, Chandigarh presented a paper entitled 'Flood Management: A Study of Two Punjab' at international conference on Socio-economic Cultural Relations between India and Pakistan' organised by Department of History and Pakistan Studies, University of Punjab, Lahore (Pakistan) on 26th November, 2013.

Dr. V.K. Bhardwaj has been deputed by the Govt. of Rajasthan as Nodal Officer for Smart/ E-class Programme, at the Directorate of College Education, Jaipur.

New Arrivals

A book titled "Human Trafficking in South Asia", jointly edited by Dr. Vinod K. Bhardwaj and Dr. Sherap Bhutia of Govt. College Darjeeling is published by the G.B. Books, New Delhi.

News from Departments

Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra
Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University organised 2nd Alumni Meet of the Department on December 7, 2013. About 250 alumni of the Department working in various fields assembled to

share their experience and nostalgia. Addressing the distinguished alumni and students, Major General (Dr) Ranjit Singh alumnus of the Department and presently Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Haryana, Mahendergarh, underlined the importance of teachers and institutions in building the nation and inspiring the students. Former teachers of the department including Professor Jasbir Singh elaborated on the development of Geography Department in Kurukshetra University. The present chairperson, Professor M S Jaglan highlighted the achievements of the department during last decade. This meet provided opportunity to students to interact with alumni and get encouragement.

Govt. College Ajmer, Rajasthan

An international interdisciplinary Conference was organized by the Govt. College Ajmer on "**Human Resource Development in South Asia: Efforts, Achievement and Challenges**", on December 19-21, 2013. There were more than 80 paper presentations in the conference. Delegated from USA, Nepal and about 9 states in India attended this conference.

Govt. College, Tadong, Sikkim

An international interdisciplinary Conference was organized by the Department of Geography, Sikkim Govt. College, Tadong, Sikkim on "**Human Resource Mobility in South Asia: Implications, Exploitation and Remedies**", on October 18-19, 2013. About 46 selected papers were presented on this conference.

Important Decisions of the APG

In its meeting held on October 5, 2013 in the Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra the executive committee of APG took following decisions:

i) Young Geographer Award

To encourage young talent in research, APG has enhanced the cash prize of 'Young Geographer Award' from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000/- with immediate effect.

ii) Share of APG in the Registration Fee of the Conference

The APG share in registration fee of the APG conference has been enhanced from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200/- for members & 250/- to 300/- for non members from 2014.

iii) Life Membership APG

Life membership fee of the 'Punjab Geographer' has been enhanced from Rs. 1500/- to 2500/- from January 1, 2014.

Seminars/ Conferences

Institute for Spatial Planning and Environment Research, Panchkula, in collaboration with Association of Punjab Geographers and Built Environment Research Institute, University of Ulster, UK is holding two days National Seminar on April 23-24, 2014. The Theme of the seminar is "**Immortal Cities: Past and Future Concepts, Changing Morphology and Sustainability**". Since, the theme spans wide range of facets of the urban phenomena therefore, the focus is not limited to any specific sub-theme and scholars from different disciplines are invited to provide insights. For APG members the abstract of the paper should be mailed on isponline@gmail.com by February 15, 2014 and full paper by March 10, 2014. The paper selected for presentation will be published in a book to be released on the seminar. For details visit www.isponline.com

Call for Papers for Punjab Geographer

Original research work is invited for publication in the 'Punjab Geographer'. The authors are requested to send soft copy of the papers to the Editor at hsmangat@rackeys.com. Papers received after 30th June will not be considered for the current issue.

Appeal

Members are requested to send information for the News letter to

Dr. Jaspal Singh

E-mail: geogjaspal@gmail.com

or to

Dr. H.S. Mangat

at hsmangat@rackeys.com

Printed Matter Book - Post

Stamp

To,

General Secretary

112, Salaria Vihar

Urban Estate, Phase-I

Patiala - 147001