



GEOGRAPHERS' NEWS LETTER

Association of Punjab Geographers

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20th APG Meet and National Conference

Department of Geography, Govt. College, Hisar, Haryana is hosting 20th APG Meet and National Conference under the academic banner entitled 'Ecological Sustainability, Regional Development and Geo-Spatial Technology' on Oct. 11-12, 2019. The thrust area of this conference highlights three major issues and challenges of modern developing world like Ecological Sustainability, Regional Development and Geo-Spatial Technology. In fact, it focuses upon the type of actual development i.e., Ecological Sustainability; what should be the level of such development i.e., Regional level; and how it can be shaped out and achieved by i.e., Geo-Spatial Technology.

These issues become the most important key factors of development especially in a country like India, being the second largest country in terms of population and growing economy, which has experienced fast industrialization and development during recent past. Like other developing countries, in India, the reckless exploitation of natural resources has resulted in adverse impact on the environment and ecological conditions on a large scale but in little span of time. Here the only best option is to implement the model of integration of different dimensions of sustainable development on the regional levels by using Geo-spatial technology, tools and techniques for resource mapping, planning and environment modeling. This integrated approach will result in economic growth and social justice without endangering the rare resources of India. Otherwise, in absence of harmonizing of three elements i.e., economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection, the so-called economic development will not be proved as blessings to the Indian society. Therefore, the aim of this National Conference is to provide a forum to the geographers, social scientists, academicians, researchers and students for deliberations and dissemination of contemporary research on issues related to the main theme and sub-themes. Its outcomes will prepare not only a concrete pave for human welfare of this country, but these will also be a model

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for other developing countries in the form of policies and planning in practical manners.

For brochure of the conference, visit: www.apgorg.org

Contact:

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Coordinator, Promising Geographer Award	Dr. Vishwa B. S. Chandel
Coordinator, Inter-State Geographical Quiz	Dr. Manoj Kumar

Dr. Saminderjit Singh Young Geographer Award- 2019

Original research papers, along with biodata of the authors who have done Masters' in Geography and have not attained the age of 32 years, are invited from all over India and SAARC countries for the Young Geographer Award Competition. A soft copy of the paper prepared in English according to the format of 'Punjab Geographer' should be submitted to Dr. B.R. Thakur, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, H. P. University, Shimla (E-mail- brthakur53@gmail.com Mob-09418065518). The papers received later than 30th August, 2019, will not be considered for evaluation. For detailed rules visit www.apgorg.org.

Prof. B. Hema Malini Promising Geographer Award-2019

Under this award, Poster Presentation Competition is organized. Young Geographers, who have done Masters' in Geography and have not attained the age of 28 years, are invited from all over India and SAARC countries for the Promising Geographer Award competition. The aspirants of this award shall submit soft copies of their original posters, along with bio-data, in English to Coordinator of this award, Dr. Vishwa B.S. Chandel, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh, (E-Mail: vishwa.geoinvader@gmail.com. Mob: +91-9872833637). The posters received later than 20th September, 2019 will not be considered for evaluation. For detailed rules and regulations visit: www.apgorg.org.

Devinder Singh Raina Memorial Meritorious Student Award 2019

To promote the subject of Geography, the Association of Punjab Geographers has instituted Meritorious Student Award, in the memory of Sh. Devinder Singh Raina, Department of Geography, University of Jammu, Jammu. The student standing First in M.Sc. Final year examination, 2019 of the Department of Geography of University of Jammu, will be honoured with this

awarded at 20th APG Meet and National Conference hosted by Department of Geography, Govt. College, Hisar, Haryana on Oct. 11-12, 2019. The Deptt. of Geography, University of Jammu, should intimate to the student and provide details to General Secretary APG, so that award could be prepared, and the student may be invited for this Award.

Punjab Geographer

Original research papers are invited for publication from the members. Members can contact Dr. H. S. Mangat, E-mail editor@apgorg.org. Please visit website of APG: www.apgorg.org to see the guidelines for the authors and format of the paper.

State Level Geographical Quiz Contest 2019

APG took an historical initiative to spread the soul of Geography among all the students across the State by organizing Zonal Geography Quiz Contests since last year. This is done for a wider coverage and to make the subject more popular among students. The State Level Geographical Quiz Contest was conducted in two stages. In the first stage, Zonal Level Quiz Contest was organized by different zones namely; Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Mohali, Patiala and Bathinda. All the colleges with departments of geography falling under these five zones competed at Zonal Level in the month of February and early March 2019. Students of Govt. College Hoshiarpur won from Jalandhar Zone, SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana from Ludhiana Zone, SGTB Khalsa College Anandpur Sahib from Mohali Zone, Govt. Mohindra College from Patiala Zone and Govt. Rajindra College Bathinda from Bathinda Zone respectively. The winners at zonal level competed for State Level Quiz Contest conducted on 23 March 2019 at SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana. The host team emerged winner at the State Level while Govt. Mohindra College ended runners up.

Inter State Geographical Quiz Contest 2019

Creating an exemplary milestone in its endless efforts and fruitful results to promote geography across the region, APG organized First Inter State Geographical Quiz Contest-2019 for undergraduate students of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh in collaboration with Institute for Spatial Planning and Environmental Research, Panchkula (ISPER) on 31st March, 2019. Winner and runner up teams from different states participated. From Punjab: SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana and Govt. Mohindra College, Patiala participated. Similarly, Govt. College Hansi and Govt. College Narnaund, participated from Haryana. Himachal teams could not participate as State level quiz could not be conducted in time, session being late due to winter. In this quiz, SCD Govt. College, Ludhiana secured First Position, Govt. College Hansi stood Second and Govt. Mohindra College, Patiala was at third position. Sh. Kanwar Surjit Singh, Secretary General of ISPER and Dr. H.S. Mangat, gave away the prizes to the teams.



Winner Teams at Inter State Geographical Quiz

News about the Members

Dr. K.V. Chamar, Professor, Department of Geography, M.D.U. Rohtak, took over as **Chairman of the Department** on 03 July, 2019 for a period of 3 years.

BR Thakur, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, H.P. University, Shimla has been awarded with a major research project titled **"Impact of Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojna on Rural Development in Churah Tehsil of Chamba District, Himachal Pradesh"** funded by ICSSR, New Delhi, under a prestigious **Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS) Scheme** recently launched by Government of India.

Dr. Daljit Singh, Associate Professor in department of Geography, Doaba College Jalandhar has been awarded Ph.D. degree on his work entitled **"Field Patterns in Punjab: A Geographical Analysis"** by Lovely Professional University (LPU), Phagwara.

News from the Departments/Colleges

Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra

The 21 days Capacity Building Summer Training Programme on *'Geospatial Technologies'* supported by Natural Resources Data Management System (NRDMS), Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi was organized by Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra from 27th May to 16th June, 2019. The main objective of this training programme was to build knowledge and adaptation capacity of geospatial technologies at various levels by utilizing open platform of Geospatial data and softwares. It was attended by 25 participants from 6 states of India, which were selected by DST through centralized application form in January, 2019. The participants were largely teachers and researchers from different disciplines working in different Govt. and non- Govt. organizations. During this training programme, the participants were trained to process the remote sensing data of various satellite sensors and to integrate it with GIS and GPS using open source software, namely GIS. The participants have also been

working on 5 mini projects using the open platform data and techniques which they learnt during 21 days of training. The training program was inaugurated by Prof. K C Sharma, Vice Chancellor of Kurukshetra University. The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. V S Arya, Director, Haryana Space Application Centre, Hisar, by giving an overview of Indian Space Programme and its application. On its valedictory function, Dr. Rajeshwari, Coordinator of the programme thanked all the supporting agencies, resource persons, participants and members of the faculty for their active support to make the workshop a grand success.



Participants, Organisers & Resource Persons at the Workshop

Department of Geography, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla

Department of Geography, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla coordinated **2-week Refresher Course in Geography and Geology** w.e.f. **20-05-2019 to 01-06-2019**. The department also organized 21 days **"Capacity Building Training Programme on Geo-spatial Technologies"** w.e.f. - **18.06.2019 to 08.07.2019**. This training programme was funded by NRDMS, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Department of Geography, Govt. College S.A.S Nagar

Department of Geography, Govt. College S.A.S Nagar observed **World Water day-2019** among all the students of this institute on 22nd March 2019. Dr. Jaspal Singh, head of the department delivered a value lecture 'How to Save every drop of Precious Water in our surroundings and he focused his thrust on slogan 'Leaving No One Behind'. Principal Komal Broca motivated the students to take pledge throughout the life to save and manage this natural wealth.

Geographical and Environmental Issues

1. India's only active volcano on the boil again in Andaman and Nicobar

The Barren Island volcano, India's only active volcano, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has begun to spew lava and ash. Geologists observe that the eruption could be linked to the recent earthquake that rocked Indonesia.

2. The International Energy Agency (IEA) report on carbon dioxide emissions, India emitted 2,299 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2018. India has witnessed an increase of 4.8 per cent from last year.

3. Goldman Environmental Prizes 2019

Six grassroots environmental activists from around the world received prestigious Goldman Environmental Prizes 2019 held at San Francisco Opera House in California. Their names are, Linda Garcia (US), Ana ColovicLesoska (North Macedonia), BayarjargalAgvaantseren (Mongolia), Alfred Brownell (Liberia), Jacqueline Evans (Cook Islands) and Alberto Curamil (Chile).

4. A new model suggests lost continents for early Earth

Scientists at the University of Adelaide have published two studies on a model of rock radioactivity over billions of years which found that the Earth's continental crust may have been thicker, much earlier, than current models suggest, with continents possibly present as far back as four billion years.

5. How trees could save the climate

Around 0.9 billion hectares of land worldwide would be suitable for reforestation, which could ultimately capture two-thirds of human-made carbon emissions. A study shows that this would be the most effective method to combat climate change.

6. By 2050, climate change may threaten human existence

A report released by the Breakthrough National Centre for Climate Restoration, an Australian think tank, warns of a threat to human existence because of climate change. Unlike previous reports on the matter, including the IPCC report, this report flags that scientific predictions, till now, have

underestimated the severity of the crisis, and says the world is on the path to 3 degree Celsius or more warming by 2100.

7. Exotic trees eating up Western Ghats' grasslands

The New Year herald's bad news for the high-altitude grasslands of the Western Ghats. Over four decades, the country lost almost one-fourth of these grasslands and exotic invasive trees are primarily to blame, find scientists. Though grassland afforestation using pine, acacia and eucalyptus ceased in 1996, the exotics still invade these ecosystems, confirms a study published on January 2, 2019 in the International Journal on Biological Conservation.

8. Sahara swung between lush and desert conditions every 20,000 years, in sync with monsoon activity

The Sahara Desert is one of the harshest, most inhospitable places on the planet, covering much of North Africa in some 3.6 million square miles of rock and windswept dunes. But it wasn't always so desolate and parched. Primitive rock paintings and fossils excavated from the region suggest that the Sahara was once a relatively verdant oasis, where human settlements and a diversity of plants and animals thrived. Now researchers at MIT have analysed dust deposited off the coast of West Africa over the last 240,000 years, and found that the Sahara, and North Africa in general, has swung between wet and dry climates every 20,000 years. They say that this climatic pendulum is mainly driven by changes to the Earth's axis as the planet orbits the sun, which in turn affect the distribution of sunlight between seasons -- every 20,000 years, the Earth swings from more sunlight in summer to less, and back again.

**Printed Matter
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To,

Stamp

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