



GEOGRAPHERS' NEWS LETTER

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The 10th APG National Conference concluded at Govt.(State) College of Education, Patiala on 1st November, 2009. The conference carried a clear and loud message to all the geographers of the country to unite for the promotion of quality teaching and research in geography.

The conference was inaugurated by S. Jasbir Singh IAS, Commissioner, Patiala Division on 31st October, 2009. He said that geographical knowledge about the areas is essential for any kind of planning but geographers' views are not taken into consideration while planning by the government and non-government agencies. He expressed concern about it.

Dr. H.N. Misra from University of Allahabad presented the Keynote address.

Dr. Jasbir Singh, Professor Emeritus, Kurushetra University, Kurushetra presided at the inaugural session.

Special Lectures

Three special lecturers were delivered to the participants by the following resource persons:

1. Dr. B.S. Sokhi, from IIRS, Dehradun discussed "The Application of Geo-physical Technology in Geographic Education".
2. Dr. K.K. Das from IIRS Dehradun in his lecture dwelt upon "The Role of Remote Sensing and GIS Technology for the Study and Analysis of Resources".
3. Dr. S. Adhikari, from Patna University, presented his views on the "State of Teaching of Geography in Schools and Colleges of Bihar" during the Inaugural Session of the conference.

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2010

**WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

Panel Discussion

A new feature of the 10th APG conference was the introduction of panel discussion.

Two sessions of panel discussion were held in the afternoon of 1st Nov. 2009. The first session was devoted to the theme : "**Teaching and Research in Geography at University Level**". This session was chaired by Dr. Gopal Krishan, Professor Emeritus, Punjab University, Chandigarh. Dr. B.S.Sokhi, Dr. K.K. Das, IIRS ; Dr. S. Hasan Ansari, Rohtak ; Dr. B. S. Marh, Shimla ; Dr. Krishan Mohan, P.U. Chandigarh, Dr. S.P. Kaushik, K.U.K and Dr. Dharm Singh Govt. College, Ludhiana were the panelists.

The second session on the theme : "**Problems and Prospects of Teaching of Geography, in Colleges and Schools**" was chaired by Dr. R.C. Chandna, Professor (Retd.) Punjab University, Chandigarh. Dr. Dharm Singh, Dr. Joginder Singh from the host college, Dr. Rampal Singh, G.N. Khalsa college, Karnal, Dr. V.K. Bhardwaj, B.B.D. Govt. P.G. College, Chimanpura, Rajasthan, Dr. Lakhvir Singh, Khalsa college for women, Sidhwan, Dr. Inder Singh, S.J.K. college, Kalanaur, District Rohtak, Mr. Sukhjinder Singh, Govt. Sr. Sec. School for Girls, Faridkot and Mr. Sukhbir Inder Singh, District Institute of Education & Training participated in the discussion.

Observations and Suggestions Emerged from the Panel Discussion and Different Presentations on the Conference:

University Level

1. At the university level there is a need to review the courses and contents of syllabi. We have not updated ourselves regularly. For example in case of RS, GIS, GPS we became active only when others have already gone far head in these technologies. In this age of computer based cartography we are still relying on old methods of cartography.

2. Latest technologies like Remote Sensing, GIS, GPS etc. should be incorporated and courses like B.Tech. and M.Tech. in geography should be introduced to make the subject more employment oriented.
3. Efforts should be made to make the research more applied in nature.
4. Like Punjabi University, Patiala ; the Punjab University, Chandigarh and Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar should also award M. Sc. degree in Geography instead of M.A. in Geography.
5. Colleges running PG courses do not have adequate facilities in Morphometric Analysis, Remote Sensing and GIS. Similarly, these colleges run this course without regular faculty thereby compromising the quality of education.
6. Like the department of Panjab University other PG departments should also be developed as resource centres for dissemination of Remote Sensing and GIS technology.
7. Neglect of physical geography has done great harm to geography. Our weakness in handling planning, disaster management, environmental management etc. is due to this neglect.
8. It is suggested that like Indian Economic Services Examination and Indian Geological Examination there should be Indian Geographical Services Examination to appoint district level Planning Officers.

College level

1. It has been found that out of 182 colleges of education in Punjab geography as teaching subject is available only in 2 colleges. In other words teaching of geography is taught in 1 per cent colleges in comparison with economics in 86 per cent, history 47 per cent & political science in 29 per cent colleges.
2. Out of 25900 B. Ed. students in the current session ie.2009-10 only 30 students have been admitted in teaching of geography.
3. It has also been found that the students studying geography as one of the teaching subject in B. Ed. are not considered well prepared for teaching of social studies which is totally unjustified.
4. In the colleges a compulsory subject 'Environment Study' has been introduced. About 90 per cent contents of the syllabus are associated with geography & more books on this subject are written by geographers than others. But for teaching this paper the teachers of botany are preferred. Therefore, it requires some intervention. For teaching of environment paper a lecturer having post graduation in geography should be appointed.
5. Surveying should be re- introduced and it should be more specialized in nature, based on the modern instruments of surveying.
6. Combination of geography with physical sciences is not provided at undergraduate level. However, it is very common in Rajasthan and University College at Kurukshetra, Haryana has also introduced geography combination with subjects like botany, zoology, maths, physics etc. from the current session and received a good response.
7. Self-financing colleges are not serious about quality in teaching of geography.
8. Out of 267 colleges in Punjab geography is taught only in 47 colleges when in the neighbouring state of Haryana it is very common subject at college level. Thus there is much scope for its expansion if the authorities are convinced.
9. There is also much scope for its expansion in the colleges managed by S.G.P.C. and D.A.V. managements.

School Level

1. Out of 1339 Sr. Sec. Schools in Punjab geography is taught only in 125 schools.
2. Out of 10590 posts of lecturers in schools geography has only 177 posts against 1172 in economics, 1100 in political science and 774 in history.
3. Up to 2005 when ever there was upgradation of schools, no post for geography was provided as a result before 2006 there were only 62 posts of lecturers in geography in Punjab.
4. Geography should be made compulsory subject at 10 + 2 level or many more posts should be provided in these schools.
5. In the syllabus of social study up to 8th class the share of geography is 40 per cent while that of history and political science is 30 per cent each.
6. At matriculation level the syllabus content of geography and history is 30 per cent each while that of economics and political science is 20 per cent each.
7. Thus in the syllabus of social study the share of geography is more but social study is mostly taught by teachers who have not studied geography at any level. As a result geography becomes a dry subject and the students depend highly on memorization rather than on understanding. Thus, an interesting subject becomes boring, the students find it difficult and do not opt for it at higher level.
8. A paper on environment studies is compulsory at the school level also. To teach this paper a geographer should be appointed because about 90 per cent contents of this paper are related to geography. Thus a lecturer in geography can teach both geography and environment more effectively than any other teacher.
9. It has also been observed that syllabus of geography has not been revised from last 20 years. At 10 + 2 level the 'Economic Geography' is taught ignoring the local areas particularly the State of Punjab. There is need to review the contents of courses at school.
10. Schools do not have adequate infrastructural facilities like Lab. and teaching aids to teach geography.
11. S.G.P.C. and D.A.V. managements can be approached to introduce geography in the schools under their management.

DIETs Level

District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) provide training to the primary level teachers. Apart from this these institutions also hold training camps for in-service teachers. It has been observed that these institutions invariably are also without geography teacher and therefore geography is being taught by teachers of other subject. One can well understand how much geography these new teachers under training will teach to

their students in the schools.

In the paper of environment studies most of the syllabus is related to geography but this paper is also taught by non geography teachers.

Like degree colleges there should be a provision of refresher courses for the teachers of DIETs so that they may remain in touch with the latest developments in the subject.

Follow-up

A committee comprising senior geographers has been constituted to look into the above observations and take up these issues with the concerned authorities wherever possible.

Presentation of Awards

The APG presented the awards of honour to the following personalities for their valuable services to the discipline of geography:

1. Dr. D. S. Dhaliwal, former Principal Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Karnal for his services and contribution for the promotion of geography, particularly in G.N. Khalsa College, Karnal.
2. S. Gurmeet Singh Dhaliwal, MD Baba Farid Institute of Higher and Foreign Studies, Deon, Bathinda was honoured for starting geography at undergraduate level in the Baba Farid College, a constituent college of the Institute. The Institute also hosted 9th APG National Conference and provided liberal help for the construction of Geographers' Bhawan.
3. Sh K. Surjit Singh, Secretary General ISPER was honoured for continuously facilitating the publication of "Punjab Geographer" by the ISPER. ISPER also hosted 8th APG National Conference and regularly provided desired support to the APG.
4. Mrs. Aradhna K. Singh, Principal Govt. College of Education, Patiala was honoured by the APG for hosting 10th APG National Conference in the college.

Exhibitions

Delegates took keen interest in the Exhibition of maps and topographical sheets organized by the Director, Punjab Circle, Survey of India, Chandigarh. Similarly an exhibition cum-sale of geography books was organized by the R.K. Book Sellers and Publishers, New Delhi for the benefit of the delegates.

Cultural Evening

The host Institution organized a cultural evening for the recreation of the delegates. A musical programme of *Gazals* and *Film Sangeet* was held by some talented students of the college. Dr. Inder Singh from Rohtak presented tit-bits, and jokes in *Haryanavi* language. This programme made the evening colourful and light after a long day of hard work. The delegates were taken out to the Maharani Club, *Barandari* Gardens for dinner hosted by M/S Walia Creative Architects, Patiala.

Valedictory Session

Dr. Lakhvir Singh General Secretary APG presented the proceedings of the conference. Dr. Seet Singh, President APG thanked all the delegates and participants for making the conference a success. Dr. J.S. Rana, convener of the conference thanked the APG for providing an opportunity to the college to host a national conference.

He also thanked the delegates for their cooperation to

make the conference a great success.

Vote of Thanks

A vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. I.N. Chawla for the Principal, staff and students of the State college of Education.

Top 10 Polluted Areas

1. Ankleshwar, Gujarat
2. Vapi, Gujarat
3. Gaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
4. Chandrapur, Maharashtra
5. Korba, Chhatisgarh
6. Bhiwadi, Rajasthan
7. Angal-Talcher, Orissa
8. Vellore, Tamil Nadu
9. Singrauli, Uttar Pradesh
10. Ludhiana, Punjab

Punjab Geographer

Members of the APG are requested to submit their original research work not authored by more than two persons and planned as per guidelines for the contributors given in the journal for the current issue not later than 31st July, 2010.

11th APG National Conference

An emergent meeting of the executive committee of the APG was held on 1st November, 2009 just after the concluding session of the conference to decide about the venue of the 11th APG National conference. Dr. S.H. Ansari, Head, Department of Geography, M. D. University, Rohtak informed that his department is willing to host the next APG conference. His offer was accepted by the committee

News from the Colleges/Departments

Department of Geography, Punjab University, Chandigarh is conducting following activities in the department:

1. Workshop on Remote Sensing and GIS

The department is organizing a three days workshop on Remote Sensing and GIS from January 21-23, 2010 for the school and college teachers. The workshop is being convened by Dr. Navneet Kaur.

2. National Seminar

The department is organizing a National seminar on "Population Environment Linkages in North West India" on 11-12 March, 2010. Prof. (Mrs) Smita Bhutani and Dr. Gaurav are conveners.

4. NAGI

The department is hosting 32nd Indian Geography Congress on "Globalization, Population and Regional Development" on 19-21 November, 2010.

Geography Help-line Service

The department has started a geography help-line service from January 1, 2010 till the date of Social Studies Board Examination of geography paper of class X. The students can contact the Geography Department using following modes:

(i) E-mail: geogdept@pu.ac.in

(ii) Telephonically, on all the working days from Monday to Friday between 4-5 p.m. on telephone No 0172-2727714.

(iii) Through personal contact on Saturday between 11 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the department.

Centre for Advance Studies

The Department of Geography, Punjab University, Chandigarh has been recognized as Centre for Advance Studies by the U.G.C. Prof. Smita Bhutani shall be the coordinator and Dr. Karanjot shall be Deputy Coordinator.

Alumni Directory

The department is preparing a directory of its Alumni beginning from 1960. All the alumni are requested to provide their latest information to the department on its e-mail: geogdept@pu.ac.in

Govt. College for Men, Ludhiana

PG Department of Geography, Govt. College for Men, Ludhiana is organizing State Level Geographical Quiz Contest under the aegis of APG in the 2nd week of February, 2010. For details contact Dr. Dharm Singh Ph. 9872421451

S. R. Govt. College for Women, Amritsar

PG Department of Geography, S.R. Govt. College for Women, Amritsar helped the geographers from the University of Rajasthan, go round the Historic City of Amritsar. Arranged accomodation & Transport.

Punjabi University, Patiala

Academic Staff College, Punjabi University, Patiala is conducting a refresher course for the university and college lecturers in geography from 11 to 30 January, 2010 in the Department of Geography, Punjabi University, Patiala. For details visit punjabiuniversity.ac.in

News from the Members

Dr. Krishan Mohan, Head Department of Geography, Punjab University, Chandigarh has been elected as the Vice-President of the National Association of Geographers, India (NAGI).

Dr. Vinod Kumar Bhardwaj, lecturer in Geography of B.B.D. Government college, Chimanpura (Shahpura), Rajasthan presented a paper on “Indo-Nepal Open International Border: Challenges and Management” at the **Fourth Himalayan Policy Research Conference (HPRC)** on October 22, 2009 at the University of Wisconsin. He also chaired a technical session (Session I-B).

Geographical News

State of World Population Report :

A. Global Warming – Climate Change & India

1. Change in summer monsoon will affect 42 per cent of 1.2 billion people.
2. Impact on agricultural production will be felt in 51 per cent of the rain-fed area.
3. Seventy per cent of the agricultural workforce is women. Therefore more women will be affected.
4. Drought and erratic rainfall force women to work hard

for food. Girls may drop out from schools to help mothers.

5. Majority of dead in 2008 flooding in Bihar and 2004 tsunami were women and children.
6. Climate change impact will be 500 times more on poor than on rich.

HT

B. Global Risks

1. Thirty per cent of plant and animal species could become extinct, if temperature rises by 2.5 degree Celsius.
2. A third of the reef building corals will be extinct.
3. Sea level will rise by 43 cm by the century end, risking livelihood in cities like Mumbai, Shanghai, Jakarta and New York.
4. One in six countries will face food shortage every year because of droughts.
5. By 2075 between 3 and 7 billion people could face chronic water shortage.
6. Seven of ten disasters whose number have doubled, reported in the last 20 years have been linked to climate change.

HT

India's Water Demand to Double by 2030, Conserve Now

The water demand of the country will double by 2030 from 700 billion cubic metres to 1498 billion cubic metres due to increasing domestic need for rice, wheat, sugarcane, with more and more people adopting a middle class diet. Supply on the other hand will be half of that demand. The biggest deficit will be in the most populous river basins- Ganga, Krishna and Indus (Sutlej Basin).

HT

Ocean Turning Acidic-UN Study

Seas and oceans absorbs about one quarter of the carbon dioxide spewed into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and other human activities. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) — describes an alarming picture of possible ecological scenarios and adverse impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity.

HT

The developed world – home to 15 per cent of the world population—emits 45 per cent of the green house gases but has failed to meet targets of emission reduction under Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

COP-15, HT

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, 3037, Urban Estate, Phase-2, Patiala, e-mail: hsmangat@rackeys.com, Phone 0175-2286606.

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To,

Prof. I.N. Chawla
124-C, Civil Lines,
Patiala - 147004

Stamp

